Ye Chen (Economics 2007- ), one of the many students featured inside
Welcome

Students are the life-blood of any university and Bristol’s are no exception. This issue of *Nonesuch* – the third in our centenary series – celebrates Bristol’s student body by taking a look at it under a microscope.

The make-up of Bristol’s student population changes with every fresh intake in September. We’ve delved deeper into the records than ever before to produce some striking snapshots of the student body as it has evolved over time. Some of our current students contributed to the research and writing – credit is due to them. I hope you find it as illuminating a read as I did.

Another first for *Nonesuch* – and a highlight of this issue – sees the Vice-Chancellor spar with Will Hutton (BSc 1972, Hon LLD 2003) over one of the most contentious and pressing questions in higher education: how universities will be funded in the future. They conducted their furious debate via email – their “e-xchange” begins on page 24.

One more milestone to note: we have just thrown the biggest celebration in our history, with record-breaking numbers of alumni gathering in Bristol for the Centenary Alumni Weekend. Were you one of them? You can see photos and read stories from the weekend, hot off the press in this issue’s centre spread.

Dr Stuart Goldsmith (BA 1966, Hon LLD 2007) Chairman of Convocation

PS: Share your experiences of the Centenary Alumni Weekend, other centenary events or your own friends’ mini-reunions, with us. Send your photos and stories to alumni-web@bristol.ac.uk.
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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.
The big picture

An artist’s impression of Bristol University as a global institution. The University was welcoming a handful of overseas students from the Commonwealth as far back as 1928. Thirty years on, Bristol’s reach had broadened, its student intake representing North America and parts of Africa and the Middle East. Now Bristol’s network spans the world: 2008’s new students arrived from nearly 100 different countries.

The areas where Bristol students have come from appear in Bristol red, but can you name all the countries? Turn to page 34 for a list.
If you would like regular news updates, why not sign up for our enewsletter? Email 'enewsletter' to alumni@bristol.ac.uk.

Earth Hour

The University pulled the plug on the Wills Memorial Building’s night lights between 8.30pm and 9.30pm on 28 March, plunging the tower into darkness. The symbolic event was part of Earth Hour, organised by the World Wildlife Fund. Over two-and-a-half thousand towns and cities in 83 countries joined Bristol to show the importance of taking action to tackle climate change. Earth Hour also marked the start of the University’s 100-day energy efficiency campaign, giving advice to its staff and students on how to save energy.

Chemical reaction

Bristol has launched a new centre to foster the next generation of scientific innovators. The Doctoral Training Centre for Chemical Synthesis, in the University’s School of Chemistry, aims to produce world-class synthetic chemists equipped to solve the diverse molecular problems of the future, including developing greener and more efficient processes for making new drugs and materials.

The Centre is Bristol’s first of four backed by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the UK’s funding body for science and engineering. Collectively they aim to tackle some of Britain’s biggest challenges such as climate change, energy and healthcare for our ageing population.

Student wins Fulbright Award

Research student Mike Shaw (Chemistry 2005-) has gained a prestigious Fulbright Commission Distinguished Scholarship Award to carry out research at the Scripps Research Institute in California, where it is hoped his work will lead to the development of powerful new clinical medicines. Only two such awards are offered to UK academics or professionals each year.

The molecules Mike will be working on are among the most potent anti-cancer agents ever discovered; it only takes a single one of these molecules to destroy an entire cancerous cell. Unfortunately, these molecules have a very low natural abundance: only five milligrams can be isolated from over 250g of Japanese Sea Squirts. As there are ethical and practical issues surrounding the harvesting of these molecules from their natural source, Mike seeks to develop a way to synthesise these molecules in the laboratory, which will make them available for further biological testing and, eventually, clinical use.

An ap-pealing composition

On 8 May the University enjoyed the first performance of The Sheltering Bell, a piece of music specially commissioned for the University’s centenary and composed by Geoffrey Poole, Professor of Composition in the Department of Music.

The title is a reference to Great George, the bell that sits high in the tower above the Great Hall in the Wills Memorial Building. Professor Poole’s composition starts on an E flat – Great George’s note.

Speaking about his inspiration, he said: ‘The Wills Tower chimes its bell every hour, yet if you listen from different directions and in different weather its tone and resonance can seem to vary enormously. My string quartet composition plays on this idea, striking a symbolic hundred chimes – some of them familiar and some quite new – as diverse as the thousands of research and learning experiences that coexist in the University of Bristol and ultimately create it.’

The piece was performed and professionally recorded by the Brodowski Quartet. You can listen to it online at www.bristol.ac.uk/centenary/listen/music.html.
Seeds of tranquillity

Sir Roy Strong opened the University’s new centenary garden on 8 May, created by former Bristol student and garden designer Anne de Verteuil (MA 2008). The garden, adjacent to the Wills Memorial Building, uses local stone and native hedging and provides a peaceful, green retreat for the public, staff and students alike.

Speaking about her inspiration for the design, Anne said: ‘When you’re working with a building that has a character as strong as the Wills Tower you have to think very hard about how you reflect it back. I chose to extract one element of the architecture – its strength and monumentality – as a basis for the design.’

Centenary bookshelf

Two new books have been published to tie in with Bristol’s centenary year.

_A Palladian Villa in Bristol – Clifton Hill House and the People who lived there_ tells the story of Bristol’s oldest hall of residence. Written by the current warden Annie Burnside, the book is bursting with history, imagery and reminiscences from former residents and staff.

**The Development of the Faculty of Engineering – A History to mark its Centenary** has been written by Emeritus Professor Roy Severn. All proceeds from the sale of this extensive and informative book will be used to support the Faculty of Engineering as part of the University’s Centenary Campaign. For more details please go to [www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/events).

Local heroes receive centenary degrees

As part of its centenary celebrations, the University has awarded honorary degrees to four local heroes: Caroline James, a children’s nurse at Frenchay Hospital; Sue McMullen, of the Vassall Centre Trust; Batook Pandya of Support Against Racist Incidents (SARI); and John Wilkins, a fundraiser for Wallace and Gromit’s Grand Appeal.

The University launched the project in January, in partnership with the _Bristol Evening Post_. Readers were asked to nominate individuals who make a significant contribution to their community, often without public recognition or reward. From more than 50 nominations, four were selected to receive an honorary Master of Arts degree. They were conferred in the Great Hall of the Wills Memorial Building on 15 July.

Tony success

Two Bristol graduates have won Tony awards: Peter Darling (BA 1985) for Best Choreography in a Musical (Billy Elliot) and Matthew Warchus (BA 1988) for Best Direction of a Play (God of Carnage).

Matthew Warchus was also nominated for his production of _The Norman Conquests_, the first time since 1942 that a director has been in competition with himself for the award.

Material girl

Bristol alumna Amy Kimber (BA 1999), whose landmark linen prints featured in the Winter 2007 issue of _Nonesuch_, has extended her range. She’s designed this beautiful Wills Tower tea towel for the University’s centenary. The eagle-eyed will spot that the red used is Pantone 187 – Bristol University red.

If you’d like a little bit of Bristol hanging on a peg in your kitchen, you can buy Amy’s work at the Here Gallery in Stokes Croft or the Architecture Centre on the Bristol Docks, or online at [www.arcticcircles.co.uk](http://www.arcticcircles.co.uk).

Above: Peter Darling (left) and Matthew Warchus (right)
**News**

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**A gift of life**

The last issue of *Nonesuch* reported on a stem cell isolation method, developed by Bristol’s Professor Anthony Hollander and his team, which was used to engineer a replacement windpipe that saved the life of patient Claudio Castillo.

Since then, the James Tudor Foundation has donated more than £45,000 towards research to identify cartilage-producing stem cells to help treat osteoarthritis and other joint diseases, which affect 20 million people in Europe.

The James Tudor Foundation has been a generous supporter of Bristol over a number of years. A spokesperson said: ‘It’s been particularly pleasing to demonstrate the Foundation’s commitment to the University with a grant in its centenary year to continue the work of Professor Anthony Hollander’s team on stem cell isolation.’

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**Alumni raise £350,000 for Law Library**

The University is aiming to develop a School of Law for the 21st century, which includes redeveloping the Law Library to meet the needs of students.

The project is actively supported by a Law Board, whose members include alumni David Frank (LLB 1976), Tim Herrington (LLB 1975), Charles Martin (LLB 1982) and Dan Schaffer (LLB 1986). They aim to help the University raise funds of up to £2.5 million. With support from the Law Board and many other alumni and friends of the University, over £350,000 has already been raised.

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**When is a cow not a cow?**

Veterinary students need hands-on practical experience with the animals they’re being trained to treat and, increasingly, universities use life-size manikins to teach students some surgical procedures and handling techniques. Generous annual donations from alumni totalling over £25,000 and an £8,000 gift from the Langford Trust (which has made donations totalling more than £1.3 million to the University over the past 10 years) have gone towards purchasing Bristol Vet School’s very own Haptic Cow – a simulator for training vet students in internal abdominal examinations, which uses touch-sensitive, or haptic, technology.

The Vet School also hopes to purchase a Haptic Horse with Campaign support.

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**Campaign gathers momentum**

January saw the public launch of the University’s Centenary Campaign, which aims to raise £100 million by the end of 2014, and we’re delighted to report that it’s going from strength to strength. Here are just a few of the ways in which your generosity is making a difference.
Driving debate

The Bristol Institute of Public Affairs was set up in 2006 to develop social science research that will inform policy-making and contribute to national and international public debate. Donations help to ensure that its sound data and knowledge is shared with more policy-makers and the wider public.

The late Dr Derek Zutshi (MB ChB 1957) – a former Chairman of Convocation – has left a legacy of over £1.8 million, part of which has endowed a series of biannual public lectures to promote international understanding and religious tolerance. The lecture series is due to start in 2010.

Lasting legacies

An increasing number of alumni and friends of Bristol are pledging to support the University with a gift in their wills. Over the past 10 years, legacies have boosted all areas of University life, from scholarships to research, from buildings to equipment, from libraries to the endowment of Chairs.

Recently, the late Alice Harris’s (BA 1952) legacy became the seed of the University of Bristol Endowment Fund, which should generate unrestricted income to tackle pressing needs in years to come. Many alumni and friends have embraced the idea of their legacy having a long-lasting effect on the life of the University and an increasing number are pledging to support the fund so that their gift will live on.

Government giveaway

Every £1 you give to your University could be worth £1.66. How?

In support of the work that universities do, the UK government has launched a programme to increase the value of donations made to English universities by a third until August 2011. If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim the tax you have already paid on this gift through Gift Aid, increasing the value of your £1 to £1.25. The Government Gift Match will then increase the value of your £1 again by adding a third to your Gift Aid donation, increasing the value of your original gift by two-thirds.

Gift Aid only applies to UK taxpayers but, if you are not a UK taxpayer, or donating from overseas, the UK government will still match your gift.

Thank you

A total of 9,500 alumni donors, and another 2,500 non-alumni donors (including parents, friends, trusts, foundations and corporations), have given since Centenary Campaign counting began. That makes a tremendous number who have thus far given and pledged over £45 million to Bristol’s Centenary Campaign. All of these supporters are helping to ensure that Bristol enters its second century stronger and more successful than ever before. What an achievement!

www.bristol.ac.uk/centenarycampaign
The young ones
100 years of Bristol’s students

What distinguishes a Bristol student? Today’s students elude classification; their origins, talents and interests are diverse. Arguably, the only thing they have in common is that so many of their peers want to be in their shoes; Bristol has more applicants to the place than almost any other UK university. To mark Bristol’s centenary we thought you’d like to know a little more about the student body to which you once belonged. So we’ve delved into the archives (starting in 1928 when records begin to become reliable) and unearthed some statistics, which chart Bristol’s expanding and evolving student body over a hundred years. Combined with your stories from across the decades — which touch on many aspects of students’ lives, the interests that shaped them and the outside events that have affected the student experience — a fuller picture of student life at Bristol emerges, which is reproduced in the following pages.

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<td>218</td>
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<td>What qualification did they study for? (undergraduate, postgraduate, Certificate/Diploma)</td>
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<th>Certificate/Diploma (%)</th>
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<td>1958</td>
<td>UG 74%</td>
<td>PG 14%</td>
<td>C/D 12%</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>UG 53%</td>
<td>PG 22%</td>
<td>C/D 25%</td>
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How many were female? 42%

How many were male? 58%

How many came from within 30 miles of Bristol? 50%

How many came from overseas? 5%

from 3 countries

from 27 countries

14% from 98 countries

* 17% pay full tuition fees

www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni
The new University of Bristol had scarcely celebrated its fifth anniversary when the outbreak of war in Europe drained the city of its students. More than a thousand men from the University Training Corps served in the Great War. A plaque in the Wills Memorial Building lists over a hundred men whose lives were lost, including medical student, Lieutenant Hardy Parsons, who was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The impact of war in Europe was keenly felt back in Bristol. In 1916 the military took over the Arts Department in Woodland Road and students were transferred to the newly built Baptist College. Numbers halved in departments such as Chemistry. The degree programme for 19 October 1917 lists just 41 graduates, all but a handful women. Even after Armistice was signed, women students far outnumbered men in most departments, until demobilisation took effect and the city filled with returning soldiers.

The late Gladys Hart (BA 1920), a student in Clifton Hill House, remembered: ‘Meals were a problem at that time of rationing. There were small scales on the dining room tables so that students could verify that they were not eating more than their fair share of bread. A favourite pudding – alas, served all too rarely – was a turnover pie made from potato flour and containing a filling of mashed potato soaked in treacle. We loved spam, but how rarely we saw it ...

As the prospect of another world war loomed, teaching at Bristol became increasingly focused on the developing sciences of electronics, radio, radar and, later, nuclear physics. After gaining a PhD under Nevill Mott, Dr Klaus Fuchs (PhD 1936) gained particular notoriety: he was convicted of supplying information on British and American atomic bomb research to the USSR.

War interrupted studies, with only medical students being allowed to complete their full courses. Science and Engineering students were allowed to complete the pass degree; those taking Arts courses could only study for one year before joining up or performing other war work. All fit male students were presented with the army uniforms, gas masks and rifles of the Senior Training Corps. Men and women took turns ‘fire-watching’, perched on the roofs of the University buildings. The fire-watchers were paid 1s 6d per night during term time; the side benefit was being allowed out legitimately after curfew hour.

Although a steady stream of students and staff left for the front lines, overall numbers swelled rather than shrank. Under the terms of the University and Colleges (Emergency Provisions) Bill, students from King’s College London, Middlesex, and Guy’s and St Thomas’s were evacuated to the relative safety of Bristol. But on 24 November 1940 the Wills Building was hit by an incendiary bomb. Ironically, King’s had removed its library to Bristol along with its students and, as the Great Hall burned, thousands of its books were destroyed.
Society life
From rambling to RAG, Jennifer Birtill (Politics 2008-) investigates 100 years of student activities.

‘There were no minority political groups, just the odd Communist, and no philosophies to be “into” at the time,’ remarks Elizabeth Marley (née Woods) (BA 1957). Caving, rambling and mountaineering, and hobbies like stamp-collecting, chess and music, were the mainstay of 1950s student activities. Today, there are nearly 200 societies covering interests as diverse as anime and Qigong meditation, including six different political groups, more than 50 Athletic Union clubs, and groups such as student newspaper Epigram, the University radio station, BURST, Student Community Action and the enduringly popular Raising and Giving, or RAG.

The origins of RAG can be traced back to the first ‘Degree Day Rag Procession’ of 1912, when students dressed in various disguises paraded around Bristol to the surprise of passers-by, but officially RAG began in 1925, when the first Students’ Day was organised to collect money for hospital funds. Described by Nonesuch as ‘foolery in the cause of charity’, students took part in a torchlit procession and ‘pub hunt’ around the docks, followed by a night spent dancing to the Canynge Hall Band.

Although abandoned in 1929 for fear that such behaviour was ‘not in accordance with the dignity of the University’, by 1947 RAG was back, having earned the endorsement of the then Chancellor Winston Churchill. It has since taken on many guises, notably the 1953 cycling joust and kidnapping of cabaret singer Sylvia Robin, and the mock-Roman invasion of Bath by Bristol students the following year. Enduring favourites include the Jailbreak, where students are ‘released’ in pairs and given 36 hours to get as far away from Bristol as possible without spending any money – some have got as far as Washington DC – and the 400-mile RAG Hitch from Bristol to Paris, when camping under the Eiffel Tower is a fitting end to a rigorous day’s hitch-hiking.

RAG remains an important part of University life: an impressive £185,000 was raised last year alone. Street collections, or raids, are central to RAG and support from locals comes in more ways than by just giving money. Fe Torrance (Theology 2007-) recounts the kind-hearted action of a member of the public, who, concerned that she would catch a cold from standing collecting on the street corner, ‘went away, and came back half an hour later with a woolly she’d bought for me from a charity shop and a cup of coffee’.
Early student protest in Bristol was thin on the ground. Aside from suffragettes torching the cricket pavilion at Coombe Dingle in 1913 – to which male students retaliated by lighting a bonfire in the middle of Queen’s Road and throwing stink bombs into the windows of the suffragette headquarters – not much made the headlines. By the early 1930s, Bristol’s students epitomised apathy and frivolous enjoyment – one Nonesuch writer complaining ‘the only way a Union society can succeed is to scrap its aims and give a bun fight’.

The 1960s marked the most significant period of protest and change for the University. Following the example of youth rebellion in France, students staged a weekend sit-in at the Union in June 1968, demanding all students in Bristol be given free access to the Union building and its facilities. The protest fizzled out, but, in the new academic year, feelings were still running high. Students broke into Senate House on 5 December 1968, taking over the building for 11 days – the longest sit-in at any British university. They set up camp and used the building’s printing machines to issue ‘revolutionary’ pamphlets; they were only lured out by the impending Christmas holidays.

In the 1970s, reports of marches against government proposals to reduce student grants appeared frequently in the student newspaper Bacus, which encouraged its readers to ‘Make Sure You March’. In 1977, 300 students did just that, besieging Senate House to argue that there should be no fee discrimination between students from home or overseas. Sir Alec Merrison became the first Vice-Chancellor in the country to single students out for punishment for taking direct action in support of the nationwide anti-fees campaign, doling out 27 disciplinaries.

By the 1980s, student loans seemed inevitable; thousands of students marched against the instigation of these loans in 1988 and 1991, bringing traffic to a temporary standstill in the centre of Bristol. But for the most part, political issues which motivated students in the 1960s felt remote to students of the 1990s. Epigram reported in 1991 that ‘the lack of glamour that today’s issues hold is perhaps the reason for the lack of enthusiasm surrounding them’.

Indeed, a Union General Meeting that year was declared inquorate when attended by only 75 people – 245 fewer than at a ballroom dancing meeting happening at the same time.

However, in 1998, over 2,000 students walked out of lectures to protest against the introduction of tuition fees, releasing hundreds of yellow and green balloons to symbolise the numbers of people who would be affected. More than two million students took part in similar protests across the country, the NUS calling it the biggest single student demonstration in history. The Government ignored it.

Since the introduction of tuition fees, the focus of student discontent has shifted towards perceived value for money. In the past three years, more and more stories have appeared in the national press – some of them focusing on Bristol – about allegedly inadequate contact hours and other causes of student dissatisfaction.

Arguably the success of Bristol’s student protest has been limited, but although the issues change, in each generation there are a few who continue to hope that they might be the ones to make a difference. This April, students on campus wore red to highlight the number of people who would be affected by spiralling debt from plans to increase tuition fees and a national online petition is close to containing 30,000 signatures. Watch this space ...
Remembering the 1968 sit-in:

1968 was a time of tremendous protest the Paris riots in May and the Vietnam war, which was at its height. Bristol was quite conservative, compared with left-wing universities like Keele, East Anglia and Sussex. So the sit-in was quite a thing for Bristol University and caused a bit of a stir like we were getting in on the event.”

Norman Casson (LLB 1969)

“It was early evening, after dark. My friend had a toolbox and removed one of the glass panels from the door of Senate House. He said to me, ‘For God’s sake, John, don’t tell anyone it was me!’ It was an orderly entrance, no more than 30 or 40 students at first, but then it took on a life of its own. People were rifling through filing cabinets. It ended up a bit like a squatter’s camp.”

John Andrews (BSc 1969)

“I went with a group of friends to see what was going on. People were finding their political feet testing out their oratorical skills. The politicised ones were haranguing the rest. It was part of being a student, I guess, but I do think that we felt like we could change the world.”

Linda Andrews (née Barker) (BA 1971)
In 1936 the University Grants Committee made what was, in retrospect, a rather grand statement. It claimed that, ‘Compared with lodgings or with many homes, a hall offers an environment where intellectual interests are strong. It offers students exceptionally favourable opportunities for the stimulating interplay of mind with mind, for the formation of friendships, and for learning the art of understanding and living with others of outlook and temperament unlike their own. It can be, and often is, a great humanising force.’

So how does Clifton Hill House, celebrating a hundred years as a Bristol hall of residence, measure up?

In 1907, University College Bristol recruited a Miss Staveley as Tutor to Women Students and Lecturer in History. She set about fulfilling her remit straightaway and in 1909, Clifton Hill House was bought for £5,000 – a sum raised by generous gifts and loans. It housed 15 female students and along with various annexes and houses acquired over the decades, it remained a women-only residence for over 60 years.

An early incumbent paints a bucolic picture. ‘One feels convinced that no hall of residence can be complete unless it contains, as ours does, both a baby and a goat!’, wrote Miss Searle in 1918. The goat in question – Jane – was housed at the bottom of the garden and became quite content as ‘there were a great many people whose main object in life seemed to be to gather for her delicacies of crunchy chestnuts, laurel leaves and ivy’.

Clifton Hill House is one of Bristol’s catered halls of residence but in the 1950s in particular, food was an issue. ‘Meals in hall were not exciting,’ remarks Anne Martin-Carpenter (BA 1956). ‘We in Britain were still living in austerity after all. I remember a dish of boiled, sliced beetroot in a white sauce. The sauce turned pink as the serving spoon grappled with the beetroot. If my friends and I had 1s 6d (7.5p) to spare, we would go to The Nightingale, near Berkeley Square, for egg, chips and a cup of instant coffee – absolute bliss!’ The late Edith Jochim (née Fuss) (BA 1952) recalled: ‘We were selected on a rota basis to eat at high table. My main memory of this social ordeal is that dishes from each course were briskly removed before one had properly finished eating. High table was generally considered to be a hungry and unnerving experience.’

By the 1960s men had become the talking point. Professor Harriet Bradley (née Martindale) (BA 1966) describes the ‘virginal world’ of Clifton Hill House: ‘We were only allowed to have male visitors on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Then we had to entertain them to tea in the common room, with its armchairs and televisions. So if we wanted to learn about the intricacies of romance, we had to visit the male halls.’

To the relief of many students, in 1972 the hall became co-educational.

Men were not allowed in the rooms and a friend remembers what difficulty she had convincing the authorities that the young man in question was her brother! I think they were allowed in on special occasions but my husband, who was then my boyfriend, maintains he never saw the inside of my room!

Sylvia Williamson (née Meiggs) (BA 1964)

On my first day, the chap who showed me to my room was less than enthusiastic about my allocation of floor. When I asked him what G Floor was like, his response was simply, ‘Oh, The Gutter. Err …’. However, throughout the year I found my room to be warm and adequate. Except for the time I found a tramp in my room: ‘I’m here to see Danny’ was his excuse for drinking out of my tap!

Alex Dunlop (MSc 2005)
‘Debt scares me’

What did you live on when you were studying? Past and present Bristol students compare their finances.

Richard Payne (BA Com. 1953) kept accounts for 1949-50, his first year at Bristol.

Unlike many students at the time, Richard didn’t get a maintenance grant. He topped up a £107 annual allowance from his parents with £24 from his Post Office account, £21 5s 11d from a summer job at an accountancy firm and £2 presents.

Not including his accommodation costs Richard spent nearly £170 over a year. Clothing at £30 19s 3d was his largest expense. The second largest came under the heading ‘Smoking’ £23 9d, itemised as tobacco, pipes and pipe repairs, cigarettes and ‘smoking accessories’.

He spent £16 7s 11d on food but more – £19 5s 5d – on drinks and entertainment. Other highlights from his account book include a driving test costing 10s and hire of a morning suit at £1 10s.

Richard’s average weekly expenditure: £3 5s 2d or £3.26

After losing track of what she spent in her first term, Rose Willis (English 2008-) now records her budget every week.

She says: ‘I have a loan to pay my tuition fees, but my parents wouldn’t let me take out a maintenance loan. I worked for part of my gap year and paid rent to my parents, so they’re in a better position to help. They pay my rent, then give me £200 a month to live on. Student debt scares me – and them – so doing it this way means I’ll come out of university with about half the debt I would otherwise have done.

‘I only have seven contact hours a week so I can fit studying around part-time jobs. I get £10 a week working in Durdham Hall bar and do office work for the University for about £30 a week.

‘Some of my friends will probably live on an extra £10-15 a week than me. I’m careful – I buy cheap food and I don’t pay for the gym, I go running instead. When I’m going out I drink at home with my friends and try to avoid buying drinks in clubs. Last night I went to a comedy night which cost me £2 – much cheaper than going clubbing. We only go to student club nights because it’s cheaper and, apart from when it’s late at night, I walk everywhere.’

Rose spends more on drinks and entertainment than food. ‘Going out’ comes to £26.76 a week, on average. Food is a close second at £23.17 a week and mobile phone credit costs £3.57 a week on average.

Rose’s average weekly expenditure: £79.20

The National Archives currency convertor, at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency, states that in 1950, £3 5s 2d would have the same spending worth of today’s £74.22, which means that Rose’s budget is just about the same as Richard’s of nearly 60 years ago!
A night to remember

Relive some of Bristol’s best student venues with Jonny Young (BA 2009), listings editor for University newspaper Epigram.

THE BERKELEY (Park St)
Opened in 1927 and quickly became a favourite haunt of staff and students alike between the wars. Continues to thrive as a reliable Wetherspoons outlet and still features its distinctive whispering gallery, one of only a handful in the UK.

HIPPODROME (Centre)
The city’s biggest theatre, briefly converted into a sumptuous ‘picture palace’ in the late 1930s. In 1960, Eddie Cochran played his last ever gig here before he was tragically killed in a car crash. Now three years away from its 100th anniversary.

THE NIGHTINGALE (Queen’s Road)
A favourite student haunt in the 1950s and 1960s. Michael Rooksby (BSc 1960, Cert Ed 1961) remembers: ‘I sometimes managed to earn my coffee by playing the piano for an hour or two, though the prospect of having to play Tammy, Tammy, Tammy’s my Love several times in one evening was a deterrent in my efforts to remain sane.’

COLSTON HALL (Centre)
Every generation remembers this venue. Al Bowlly played here in the 1940s, the Fab Four ended their all-screaming 1964 tour here and even Jimi Hendrix graced the stage with his presence. ‘Rollermania’, with its hitched-up baggy trousers, basketball boots, tartan scarves and shrieking girls, came to Bristol in the summer of 1975 and the venue still attracts big names.

MANDRAKE (Frogmore Street)
A clutch of tiny cellars decorated in the psychedelic 1960s; in the late 1990s it billed itself as ‘Bristol’s only bona fide 1970s disco’. Still going strong.

LAKOTA (York Place)
Opened in 1994 and described in Epigram as ‘quite simply the most exciting tribal primeval experience available in Bristol’, this dance club is alive and well.

VICTORIA ROOMS (top of Triangle)
Saturday nights throughout the 1940s and 1950s saw well-attended dance evenings in the old Students’ Union, featuring dances from ballroom to the jive.

Bernard Martin (BSc 1940, MSc 1949) recalls ‘My last year as an undergraduate was during what was called the phoney war. I remember the last “peace-time” Union Ball on 16 February 1940 in the Victoria Rooms. We were all excited and patriotic. Eugene Pini and his tango orchestra provided the music, with Dorothy Carless as vocalist. As we came in, she was singing We’ll Meet Again. It was quite a night to remember.’
Since the Union Building’s move in 1965, its first floor gig space has seen performances as varied as The Who and Robbie Williams, earning it a reputation as one of the best live venues in the South West.

**NEW ENTERTAINMENTS CENTRE**
*(Frogmore Street)*

Towering over the ancient Hatchet Inn and the Georgian and Regency streets nearby, the New Entertainments Centre was enormous. Opening in 1966, it encapsulated 1960s leisure: a dozen licensed bars, an ice rink, bowling lanes, the Craywood Club casino, a night club, a grand cinema and the 2,000-capacity Locarno ballroom with its infamous illuminated ceiling. Its popularity dipped in the 1980s, although the ice rink still survives and the ABC cinema is now the O2 Academy nightclub.

**THE STUDIO**
*(Frogmore Street)*

Hit its heyday in the late 1980s and early 1990s when it played host to the indie club night Klub Kandi, attended by nearly 2,000 people a week. Closed in 1991 and Kandi moved to Bierkeller and Thekla.

**BIERKELLER**
*(All Saints St)*

'People generally wear a lot of black at Bierkeller’, noted *Epigram* shrewdly in 1992, after The Studio’s closure forced many students to find a new clubbing location. Still a popular venue. Still a black t-shirt place.

**WEDGIES**
*(various Waterfront locations)*

Any student in the 1990s and early 2000s will remember Wedgies, a university tradition which brought its peculiarly pungent brand of cheese to various venues for over a decade. As with Marmite, students were divided over the Wedgies brand – those who loved it and those who loathed it.
Keep it in the family

Dr Tawab Daureeawoo (MB ChB 1963) came to Bristol from Mauritius in 1958.

In those days it was very difficult to get into British institutions to study Medicine. I went for an interview at Bristol but I never thought that I would be accepted.

In Medicine there were 12 overseas students out of 60. We dressed very smartly, in three-piece suits usually the lecturers too! I fell in love with Bristol and since then have always kept in contact.

My son Issac (MB ChB 1983) was born in Bristol and I took him back frequently to visit friends, so it was natural that he also got to like the city. He’s now a urologist in Mauritius.

My grandson Ridwan got very good A Levels and went to the UK a few months ago for interviews. He was offered a place to study Medicine at both Glasgow and Bristol. I left the choice to him, but of course I was pleased he chose Bristol making it three successive generations doing Medicine here.

On the map

How did Bristol become a global institution? Rachel Skerry investigates.

By increasing tuition fees, universities risk pricing many British students out of higher education. While this is a valid argument, it should be acknowledged that overseas students at UK universities currently cough up significantly more than their ‘home’ counterparts (whose fee balance is still met through tax-fuelled subsidy). And, despite a 2008 report that, on average, universities in the UK are putting up fees for international students faster than inflation, their numbers are still increasing. As ‘The big picture’ on pages 2-3 shows, students come to Bristol from all corners of the globe. One hundred and twenty different countries are now represented in the total student body; 2008’s intake alone came from nearly 100 countries.

International fee income is something that Bristol, like most other UK institutions, cannot now live without. However, despite Ye Chen’s modest assertion (opposite) it’s clear that international students contribute much more to the University than money. In his debate with Will Hutton on page 24, the Vice-Chancellor states that students from overseas ‘greatly add to the intellectual and social environment in the university and the city’ – particularly welcome in a city like Bristol, which could otherwise feel less than cosmopolitan.

Claire Axel Berg, Head of the University’s International Office, believes Bristol has a long-held reputation for attracting students from across the world. She says: ‘The diversity has been there for a long time. We were actively recruiting overseas students as far back as the 1940s, and our operation has grown rapidly with the growing markets. What is changing is an increasing density of students from certain countries, rather than students from an increasing number of countries.’

This ‘increasing density’ is most evident in the number of Chinese students now studying at Bristol. At 17, Chinese teenagers face one of the world’s toughest tests compared with their peers internationally: the college entrance exam. Intense competition for places at the best universities drives many thousands to study abroad instead. China is now the biggest source of international students across UK universities and Bristol’s figures for the past half decade – showing a dramatic increase of students from China – back up the trend. From the 2008 intake, Chinese (and Chinese Hong Kong) students make up over a quarter of all Bristol’s non-UK students, and nearly eight per cent of the total student intake, more than four times as many as the next largest group, from France.

Q: What links Tulane, Louisiana with Bristol?
A: Tulane University is Bristol’s oldest US partner in the Study Abroad programme. The relationship with Tulane goes back more than 50 years; now Bristol has links with 178 institutions in 28 countries. In 2008-09 we accepted Study Abroad students from the US, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Australia and Singapore.
Ye Chen (Economics 2007- ) has been elected as President of the University’s Table Tennis Society, the first non-Caucasian to hold the position.

“I think I owe this country too much. Why do I say this? Because I get culture, language, life experience, friendship, all from England, and what do I give back? Only money.

‘My first choice was one of the top universities in China but I didn’t do as well in the college entrance exam as I could have done, so I didn’t get in. I didn’t want to go to my second choice, so my parents decided to send me abroad. They’re ok with paying my fees – if I’d had a brother or sister then maybe I wouldn’t have got as much money from my parents.

I studied English for a year – in Cambridge, then Stratford-upon-Avon – before I came to Bristol. At my first breakfast in England my landlady asked me, “Hey, Ye, do you want cereal or toast?”. I didn’t know what cereal was, I didn’t know what toast was, so I said, “Erm, toast”. It was very funny.

‘It’s hard for non-European students to adapt to the culture here. I’m very easygoing, but I had problems communicating at first. But I go to the gym and play basketball and table tennis – next year I’ll be President of The Table Tennis Society. I’ve made a lot of friends so now I’m more relaxed, no matter who I’m with or where I live.’

‘I’m really interested in governments’ economic policies. During this year’s G20 summit I sat in front of the computer for two days reading the news. I’d like to do a PhD in America next. But at Harvard, for example, the basic tuition fee is $30,000 a year for five years. That’s too much – I’ll have to get a scholarship.

‘I’m in the International Affairs Society and a group of us went to see the World Bank in New York at Easter. I’d like to work for the World Bank, or maybe the International Monetary Fund. It’s going to be tough, but I like to take on big tasks.’
The University conferred an honorary Master of Arts degree on Lady Isobel Wood (Molly) (BA 1930) at a special centenary ceremony held in the Great Hall of the Wills Memorial Building on Saturday 4 July. Molly celebrated her 100th birthday in the same year as the University.

Bristol’s **biggest** celebration

1,500 alumni and their guests returned to Bristol

More than 100 alumni events were held across the city

**In honour**

The University conferred an honorary Master of Arts degree on Lady Isobel Wood (Molly) (BA 1930) at a special centenary ceremony held in the Great Hall of the Wills Memorial Building on Saturday 4 July. Molly celebrated her 100th birthday in the same year as the University.
Reunited

I’ve been staying in the same room at Clifton Hill House where I lived as an undergraduate. What a coincidence!
Sheila Millington (née Brown) (BA 1959)

What did you do?

Past and present members of the Bristol University Air Squadron (BUAS) got together at Colerne on Friday 3 July. It was a truly memorable occasion. The present generation of BUAS students we met are a real credit to the University.
Bill Fullagar (BA 1961)

We did a very nice walk around Clifton with an excellent guide. We learned more about Clifton in two hours than in three years at Bristol!
Alasdair MacMillan (BSc 1961)

In a word …

A great success
Fabulous
Superb
Fantastic
Wonderful
Marvellous
Brilliant
Special
Great fun
Nice to be back!

We don’t have space in Nonesuch to feature all your photos and stories, but you can find more memories and photos from the weekend at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni
**SEPTEMBER**

**Thursday 24 September**
Centenary lecture, Bristol
Sir David Attenborough FRS (Hon LLD 1977), broadcaster and naturalist, on Darwin and Wallace.

**OCTOBER**

**Tuesday 6 October 2009**
Centenary alumni forum, London
Health care lottery? (See panel)

**Monday 26 October 2009**
Centenary lecture, Bristol
Lord Ronald Oxburgh, member, House of Lords, on energy systems.

**Thursday 29 October 2009**
Centenary lecture, Bristol
The Rt Hon Lord Waldegrave of North Hill, politician and Provost of Eton College, on trust in politics.

**NOVEMBER**

**Wednesday 4 November 2009**
Centenary lecture of the London Branch of Convocation, London
The Rt Hon Paul Boateng (LLB 1973, Hon LLD 2007), British High Commissioner to South Africa, on ‘Future prospects for Africa’, followed by a reception.

**Wednesday 4 November**
Centenary lecture, Bristol
Professor Stephen Rose, Emeritus Professor of Biology and Neurobiology, Open University, on the future of the brain.

**Wednesday 18 November 2009**
Centenary alumni forum, London
The brain under pressure. (See panel)

**Tuesday 24 November 2009**
Centenary lecture, Bristol
Sir Nicholas Kenyon CBE, Managing Director, Barbican Centre, on nurturing human creativity.

**Saturday 28 November 2009**
Pub night, London
Catch up with other Bristol alumni for festive drinks.

**DECEMBER**

**Thursday 10 December**
Convocation reception, Bristol

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Event: Centenary alumni forum. Health care lottery?
When: Tuesday 6 October 2009, 6.30 pm
Where: London

Tell me more: A panel discussion with Professor Dame Carol Black CBE, DSC (BA 1962, MB ChB 1970, MD 1975, Hon DSc 2003), Chairman, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges; Bill Fullagar (BA 1961), Chairman, NHS Blood and Transplant; and David Redfern (BSc 1988), Chief Strategy Officer, GlaxoSmithKline. Followed by a drinks and canapés reception. Tickets £18 each.

Event: Centenary alumni forum. The brain under pressure
When: Wednesday 18 November 2009, 6.30 pm
Where: London

Tell me more: Stafford Lightman, Professor of Medicine at the University of Bristol, explains his ground-breaking research into stress and the brain. Followed by a drinks and canapés reception. Tickets £18 each.

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Find more information about events, including booking details, at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/events
The Vice-Chancellor’s Centenary International Tour

To mark the University’s Centenary, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004), is embarking on an international tour.

TOUR PROGRAMME

Tuesday 22 September 2009
San Francisco, USA
Venue: City Club, 155 Sansome St, 10th Floor

Thursday 24 September 2009
Vancouver, Canada
Venue: Simon Fraser University

Saturday 26 September 2009
Toronto, Canada
Venue: University of Guelph
Co-hosted by Dr Alastair Summerlee (BSc 1974, Hon LLD 2004), President, University of Guelph

Thursday 1 October 2009
New York City, USA
Venue: The Water Club, 500 East 30th St

Monday 19 October 2009
Hong Kong, China
The Hong Kong Club, Garden Lounge

Wednesday 21 October 2009
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Venue: Mandarin Oriental

Friday 23 October 2009
Singapore
Venue: Tower Club

Sunday 25 October 2009
Melbourne, Australia
Venue: RACV Club, 501 Bourke St

Tuesday 27 October 2009
Sydney, Australia
Venue: Police and Justice Museum & Union Club

Thursday 29 October 2009
Auckland, New Zealand
Venue: TBC

Tuesday 1 December 2009
Paris, France
Venue: TBC

Thursday 3 December 2009
Athens, Greece
Venue: TBC

The events – to be held in nine countries – offer alumni who are based overseas the unique opportunity to hear first hand about Bristol today and its plans for the future. The events will include talks by Professor Thomas and others, with plenty of time for informal socialising with fellow alumni.

We will be sending invitations to those alumni we know to be local to each event in due course. Other alumni may also attend; please let us know if you will be passing through these cities while events are taking place. In the meantime, please mark the dates in your diary.

www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni
Predicting the future: e-debate

Funding is one of the most pressing issues facing universities in the coming years. Economist and broadcaster Will Hutton (BSc 1972, Hon LLD 2003) and Vice-Chancellor Professor Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004) exchanged emails in June 2009, discussing where the money might come from.

“Knowledge cannot be private or privatised. It is a crucial part of the public commons.”

FROM: Eric Thomas  
TO: Will Hutton  
SUBJECT: Tanks off our lawns

Every so often, in the public discourse about university funding, there is an outcry that universities like Bristol should go ‘private’ and not accept the government’s core grant. The belief is that they would become more independent and thus more successful. There are some key realities. First, no member of a government has ever tried to interfere with the operation of the University of Bristol while I have been Vice-Chancellor – we are independent, self-governing and autonomous. Second, there is no large, comprehensive university in the world that does not depend on some public support, including the famous US privates. Third, while a popular university may be able to replace the teaching grant with fees, it is very difficult to see how to replace the core research grant (worth £50 million a year to Bristol).

Finally, and more philosophically, it can be argued that universities are a public good and that voters expect a government to have policy about higher education. There should, therefore, be public financial support as part of a government’s duty to its people and so that the public can have some leverage in policy in higher education: widening participation, for example. Note that I say ‘policy’ not ‘operation’.

So, my first position is that public financial support is good for universities and our future strategy for funding should not be predicated on trying to rid ourselves of such support. Rather we should be aiming to sustain it. What do you think?

FROM: Will Hutton  
TO: Eric Thomas  
SUBJECT: Re: Tanks off our lawns

I am even more fundamentalist. Universities ever since the European Enlightenment – and arguably the Enlightenment happened in Europe because of Europe’s prior investment in its universities – have been critical components of the public realm. And this public realm is a core element in our civilisation.

Knowledge cannot be private or privatised. It is a crucial part of the public commons, which drives forward understanding and wisdom. Of course, universities are the foundation of productivity growth, but that is a spill-over, not their purpose. Knowledge and wisdom are worth acquiring in their own right. The capacity to create knowledge requires freedom, space and investment in knowledge creators. It also requires criticism from peers. One of the indispensable justifications of the university is that it is the institution in our society above any other that fosters all these processes – and then passes that knowledge on to the next generation via its teaching.
For me, the idea that Bristol, as a leading British university, should go private completely misses the point – and would deny the university its vocation. It may or may not be possible to replace your £50 million research grant with private funding, but private funders would necessarily want the right to patent the consequent intellectual property – taking part of what the university does out of the public realm. Interestingly, the very rich, private US universities do as much as they can to reinsert themselves in the public realm – with need-blind admission policies, generous research grants and the like.

The appeal for universities to go private is rather like banks to be subject to light-touch regulation – a deification of the private and non-public. We made a fantastic collective mistake ceding public regulation to private financial markets. Please let’s not make the same mistake with our precious universities.

All this seems to create a Gordian knot. It is beginning to feel as if universities, the acknowledged engine of the innovation drive in our economic recovery, are actually being condemned to slow strangulation.

FROM: Eric Thomas
TO: Will Hutton
SUBJECT: Re: Tanks off our lawns

Don’t worry, I fully understand your last sentence – even universities are not immune to the consequences of the current banking crisis.

However you leave me with a problem – where am I going to get additional resource? The government grant will not increase in real terms. Research income, charitable income and philanthropy will all be constrained in the future. The only two possibilities are additional overseas students and increased student fees.

Bristol already has at least 15 per cent of additional-fee-paying overseas students whom we welcome and who greatly add to the intellectual and social environment in the University and the city. However, if we, say, doubled that percentage, it would completely change the nature and feel of the University and I don’t believe that would be appropriate. It is also a very unpredictable and volatile market; we would be exposing ourselves to greater risk.

I can’t believe that increasing student fees will be popular with families in the middle of a recession or will be politically embraced. Students are also asking how predictable the added economic value of their degree will be in these changed times. Finally, the legislative timetable means that the first opportunity for increased income from fees would not occur until 2013.

Even universities are not immune to the consequences of the banking crisis.

FROM: Will Hutton
TO: Eric Thomas
SUBJECT: Re: Tanks off our lawns

Gordian knot indeed! But then life isn’t fair. Many other organisations in both the private and public sector in Britain face invidious choices – one of the unpleasant aspects of a recession this deep.

My suggestion is that you develop a two-stage plan to increase your revenues from 2013 onwards. I think you have no option but to increase your fees as long as you make sure that students from low- and middle-income families get assistance. You might have to hypothecate some of the income from the assets you are acquiring from fundraising to alleviate the impact of the fee increase. I am sure that many alumni would want to contribute to your already growing fund on that basis. Second, the University must go all out to develop income streams from the exploitation of its intellectual property – rather as BBC Worldwide exploits the BBC’s rights. The fee mark-up and intellectual property rights revenues would start in the low tens of millions in 2013 but could build up rapidly over the next decade. Between 2010 and 2013 I would borrow to square the circle.
And I would reinforce the work you are doing in the Russell Group to make the government and opposition aware of the contribution universities make. It would be great, for example, to see a proper audit of Bristol University’s contribution to the economy of both the city and wider South West. I suspect you already have indications, but is there more that you could say?

FROM: Eric Thomas
TO: Will Hutton
SUBJECT: Re: Tanks off our lawns

The work about Bristol’s impact on the local and national economy has already been done. Direct impact is about double turnover, ie. £800 million per year. If you factor in the impact of our added value to the human capital we educate – our fantastic students – it is calculated as six times turnover, ie. £2.4 billion per year. These numbers are known and governments are told.

Intellectual property income is a different game. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which is probably the most successful university in the world in technology transfer, only gets two per cent of its income from this activity and does not yet budget it as an income stream because it is so unpredictable. We are a long way from tens of millions of pounds.

I had dinner yesterday evening with a man who gave the Chicago Booth Business School $300 million. Maybe when we see philanthropy of that level we will be more secure. Meanwhile, fees and additional overseas students look to be the most likely options.

These are going to be a challenging three or so years but I have no doubt Bristol will come through it strongly.

FROM: Will Hutton
TO: Eric Thomas
SUBJECT: Re: Tanks off our lawns

I really hope that Bristol comes through the next few years strongly and I am a big supporter of both you and the University. If anyone can, you will. But this is a slightly unsatisfactory way to end our exchange. I have an economist’s suspicion of such high-impact numbers, even though I am sure there are lots of spill-overs from the presence of such a successful university. The creative industries, for example, tell the Treasury that their impact exceeds their spending by some huge factor – the City, manufacturing, Uncle Tom Cobbly and all, say the same thing. They can’t all be right, and it won’t convince the Treasury to ease the fiscal squeeze on you. Nor is philanthropy going to rescue you, although it will build over time. If you think intellectual property will be only of slight help, the only way out in the short term is higher fees, and students are going to demand more tuition and faculty engagement for their money. Indeed, they already are.

One of the most delicate tasks facing Vice-Chancellors in the next few years will be to persuade the academic community to work harder at teaching – and that the old contract (moderate pay for moderate teaching effort) is going to have to give way to a new one in which more is demanded of them. Academics are going to have to help steward our universities through the tough decade ahead. I suspect many are ready to rise to the challenge – if it is presented in the right way. One helluva leadership challenge!

Will Hutton (BSc 1972, Hon LLD 2003) is Chief Executive of the Work Foundation

Professor Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004) has been Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol since 2001
A different take

PhD student Timo Kunkel (Computer Science 2006–) has won a university-wide competition to create a piece of commemorative centenary artwork.

His kaleidoscopic vision, assembled out of two spherical photographic panoramas (one for the day image, one for the night) and showing the Wills Memorial Building, Park Street and the Triangle, now hangs 15 metres wide on the west-facing wall of the Physics Building.

Speaking about his inspiration for the project, Timo said: ‘The idea was to create a small “planet” which is illuminated by the sun from one side while the other side is at night. Due to the unusual projection, the interaction of light sources and shadows creates an interesting ambiene. It also shows the continuation of changes of night and day and therefore represents time.’

Timo and a guest received a prize of a free flight in the University of Bristol balloon, courtesy of the University’s balloon society.
On song

As singer or speaker, he’s at home in front of an audience. Now Societies and Development Sabbatical Officer Owen Peachey (BSc 2008) is warming up for his biggest role yet as President of Bristol’s Students’ Union.
I never set out to be President of the Union. It didn’t cross my mind until one of the other Sabbs said to me, ‘Why don’t you do it?’

Winning was a massive relief. There was shouting and screaming in the bar. I had a bottle of champagne to myself – it was a good evening.

At school I was voted most likely to lead the opposition party in Parliament. I was known as the outspoken, political sort.

We had an overbearing, authoritarian headmaster. As much as I disliked him, I’ve a lot to thank him for because he motivated me to speak out against some of the decisions he made.

I like that Gladiator quote: ‘I don’t pretend to be a man of the people but I try to be a man for the people’. I think a good politician needs to understand people and communicate with them. It’s fundamental.

Being a fellow Londoner, I have a lot of respect for Ken Livingstone – he’s very straight-talking. But I’ve never voted for him!

I’m a worrier, but if you stick me before a crowd I perform. There’s nothing like the buzz of getting a warm round of applause when you’ve spoken well in public.

In my first term in Manor Hall I did a production of Oklahoma. There was a wonderful sense of camaraderie; we didn’t know each other from Adam, but we accepted each other, had fun and put on a good show.

I wanted to go to music college. I got a choral scholarship for Cambridge but didn’t pass the interview. If I trained properly, I think I’d have the voice, but I’m not very good at sight reading.

It took me four years to get a BSc. After two years of single honours philosophy, I switched to joint honours because I missed maths so much. I spent my summer break teaching myself abstract mathematics: analysis and linear algebra. It’s the hardest I’ve ever worked.

If you’re into epistemology and metaphysics, philosophy has a lot of pure maths and logic going on in it. Or if you’re into the philosophy of science, there’s overlap with relativity and Newtonian mechanics.

Bristol students have had a history of campaigning. I think we’ve lost that in recent years. We had a ten per cent turnout for the elections. At Exeter it was in the high thirties. That’s better than some local government elections.

It’s rich when people who never had to pay for their education say the next generation has to. We’re not going to go back to a free education, which is sad, but we can try to limit the damage for the next generation.

It’s like the economic crisis: more debt, more debt, more debt. We’re putting young people on the back foot, just when they’re finding their way in the world. The National Union of Students proposes to restructure student debt by having a graduate tax as opposed to a loan. I’m behind this completely.

Stephen Williams (BA 1988), MP for Bristol West, is now my friend on Facebook. He’s the Lib Dem spokesperson for universities so he’s got a real connection to the issues.

We desperately need a new Union building up on the precinct, to increase footfall and get more students interested in the work we’re doing. Every pound we make through our bars and facilities goes back into activities, welfare and support for students.

The halls of residence are more than bricks and mortar. I’m a tutor at Manor Hall now. There’s no question that it needs a refit. But a lot of alumni – and current students – worry about how change to the halls will affect the pastoral system. Halls represent a community and a home for the people who live there.

Previous Students’ Union Presidents have gone on to work for think-tanks or become politicians. While I’m attracted to that, I’ve also thought about being a maths teacher. I’ve always had a lot of respect for good teachers.

I’d love to go back in time to meet Henry Overton Wills. What was his motivation for giving all that money to the University? I’d be fascinated to see whether he was investing for his own glory, or genuinely wanted to do good with the tobacco fortune he was blessed with!

“A good politician needs to understand people and communicate with them. It’s fundamental.”

www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni
How to … start a degree at 40

Emily Sharpe is in the second year of a Deaf Studies degree.

When I left sixth form in 1985 I wanted to do a teaching certificate and go on to teach deaf children; my dad and I had started to learn sign language many years ago. However, to train as a teacher you need good grades in English and Maths at GCSE or O-level. I’d always struggled with Maths – I only had it at CSE. After two attempts I still wasn’t able to pass.

Timing
Before my dad died in 2001, he said to me, ‘I really think you should give university a go’. That was the catalyst, but then I had my daughter and I wanted to wait until she was older before I started studying. I was working for the NHS, organising training placements for Bristol’s junior doctors, so I got to know the medical teaching staff. I also did an adult teaching certificate while I was working. It took over a year and was the same academic level as a degree, which made me think, ‘Yes, I could do it’. Still, when I applied for a place at Bristol, and got it, I was shocked!

Making it happen
It’s been really difficult covering childcare costs, clothes for my daughter and so on, but the Student Funding Office was really helpful. As a parent student, I got a small grant towards my tuition fees last year. This year my husband was promoted, which was great, but his new wage pushed us just over the threshold to qualify for help. Luckily, my daughter starts school next September, so our childcare costs will go down.

The highs and lows
I’m a part of a great establishment. Bristol’s Centre for Deaf Studies has a good reputation, and the University is in a fantastic location, neither set in the middle of nowhere nor in a concrete jungle.

The hardest part so far has been doing my second-year exams. I want to do sign language interpretation and work with deaf people in the community, maybe get into legal work, so I need to do really well.

The age gap
A couple of mature students in my year have struggled to adapt and integrate. But I’m young at heart and young-thinking – I go out clubbing with the 20-year-olds on my course.

Juggling
You’re juggling all the time; you can’t just go to the pub after lectures because you’ve got to go home and run the house. Sometimes your life feels like it’s on hold. Still, a positive attitude is everything and the highs outweigh the times when you feel down. I just tell myself, ‘I never thought I could do that’, and now I’m doing it.
If you remember your university days with fondness, chances are your Hall of Residence played a large part in creating those lasting memories.

The University’s Halls of Residence are so much more than just buildings – they’re where lifelong friends are made. They foster a strong sense of community and play a vital role in student life.

Please leave a gift in your Will to help preserve and improve Bristol University’s Halls for future generations of students like you.

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

Robert Eddy (BSc 1956) has recently moved from a solar-powered, mud-brick house in North East Victoria, Australia, to an old weatherboard house in South West Victoria which he is refitting to make it environmentally friendly.

Mauritius get-together

The Bristol University Alumni Mauritius Association held a gala dinner for 64 alumni and their guests on 24 June in Quatre Bornes to celebrate the University’s centenary. Professor Peter Mathieson, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, was guest of honour.

Carol Jeffreys (BA 1959) spent 19 years teaching languages and English full-time. She was a social worker for three years before acquiring her teaching diploma. She is now retired, but still carries out work for Care as well as being involved in church and choir activities.

Rosemary Thomas (BA 1960) is currently President of the Mothers’ Union in the Bristol Diocese.

New York lecture

A lecture given by Professor Mike Benton on 14 May on ‘The greatest mass extinction of all time’ was attended by more than 20 alumni. The event was organised by Jim Rucker (BSc 1978) and hosted by Stephen Lloyd (BA 1972), and was followed by drinks in a nearby venue.

Celia Frances Thimann (BA 1965) has published a short story collection on the themes of music and growing old. Cello and Other Stories relates to her studies at the University.

Midlands events

Nearly 50 alumni attended the Midlands Branch of Convocation event on 30 May where, following lunch, Professor Timothy Mowl gave a fascinating lecture on ‘Fishing, philandering and philosophical contemplation - garden buildings in Middle England’. A special centenary cake was also baked for the occasion!

The Midlands Branch will hold its next lunch event on 3 October at the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, price £6.60 for adults, £5 for seniors. For more information, please phone Carol Southworth (BA 1965) on 0121 705 4958 or email Tim Drakeford (BA 1966) timdrakeford@btinternet.com.

David Cox (BSc 1973, PhD 1977) has left the Medical Research Council to take up the post of Deputy Director – Research Faculty in the Research and Development Directorate of the Department of Health.

Dagmar Wienroeder-Skinner would like to get back in touch with Vanessa McMullen (BA 1983) after having known her in Munich during the 1960s.

Janet Scott (BDS 1978) was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross for Outstanding Achievement as Commanding Officer, Third Health Support Battalion and Senior Dental Officer in the Australia Day 2009 honours list.

Martyn Whittock (BSc 1980) has had his latest book published. A Brief History of Life in the Middle Ages is his 37th published work, of which can be counted several school history textbooks and three medieval historical novels.

Tamany Baker (BSc 1988) has won the Professional Fine Art Conceptual and Constructed category of the Sony World Photography Awards 2009. Her series, Living with Wolfie, depicts the dead animals offered to her as gifts by her cat Wolfie. She was presented with the award in Cannes in April and will have her work published in a book celebrating the awards and shown in a worldwide exhibition.

Daniel Scott (BSc 1993) is proud to announce the birth of his second child, Kayvon, with wife Rozita.

Dr Joseph Gelfer (BA 1995), editor of the Journal of Men, Masculinities and Spirituality, has had his new book Numen, Old Men: Contemporary Masculine Spiritualities and the Problem of Patriarchy published by Equinox.

Professor Syed Tabish (Postdoctoral Fellowship 1997) has published two books, Hospital and Health Services Administration (Oxford University Press, 2001) and Hospitals and Nursing Homes Planning Organization & Management (Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers, 2003).
Sports weekend

The University hosted an alumni sporting weekend from Saturday 25-26 April at Coombe Dingle. Centenary teams made up of past and present students competed against each other in rowing, cricket, football, hockey, netball, lacrosse, rugby and water polo. More than 250 sportsmen and women then attended the Centenary Sporting Dinner.

John Pitts (BA 1998) has released a new CD of piano music, 7 Airs & Fantasias and other piano music. The collection features Steven Kings, Assistant Director of the BBC National Chorus of Wales, as a soloist.

Dan Freedman (BA 1999) has published a new book for children, Golden Goal, the third in his football-themed series. Last year we held a competition to name a character in the book. The winning name was Harry Armstrong, who is godson to John Burrans (MA 2003).

Timmy Gambin (MA 2001, PhD 2005) is currently Director of Archaeology at the Aurora Trust. The organisation is dedicated to advancing understanding of the marine environment.

Melbourne BBQ

The Melbourne Branch of Convocation organised a family-friendly centenary celebration at the Scienceworks Museum, Spotswood on 3 May. The event included a picnic and a barbecue.

Fun at the forum

The centenary alumni forum events are proving to be extremely popular.

Over one hundred alumni attended a debate on ‘The global financial climate’ at HSBC in London’s Canary Wharf on 29 April. The speakers were Angela Knight CBE (BSc 1972), Chief Executive of the British Bankers’ Association, and Tim Herrington (LLB 1975), Chairman of the Financial Service Authority’s Regulatory Decisions Committee, and the discussion was chaired by Professor Paul Grout, Head of Economics at the University.

The Royal Society was the setting for the debate ‘Is a sustainable future within our grasp?’ on 13 May. More than 70 guests joined speakers Tony Juniper (BSc 1983), former executive director with Friends of the Earth and now Green Party parliamentary candidate for Cambridge, and Dr Rich Pancost, Reader in Biogeochemistry at the School of Chemistry.
Vacancies for lay members of Council

Would you like to support Bristol University?

Expressions of interest are sought from individuals wishing to become members of Council, the University’s governing body. Council’s external members bring valuable skills, knowledge and experience to the complex task of running a university.

There are currently vacancies for up to five lay members of Council who would begin their term of office from 1 January 2010. The University is particularly keen to receive applications from candidates with expertise in the following fields:

- Research and development funding
- Healthcare trust knowledge or experience
- Estates and infrastructure (in particular, the construction industry and/or estate programme management)
- Information technology (in particular, successful business systems implementation)
- General experience of governance and/or higher education

The time commitment is around 15 days per year, although there is potential for this to increase for individuals who wish to become more involved. Lay members are elected for three years (with the possibility of re-election for two additional three-year terms). New members are offered an induction programme and other opportunities to learn more about the University. There is no remuneration for these posts, but out-of-pocket expenses are reimbursed. We are keen to improve the diversity of the governing body and would particularly welcome applications from women and minority ethnic groups.

The deadline for applications is Thursday, 27 August 2009. For further information and an application form, please visit www.bristol.ac.uk/council or contact Kelly Archer, Clerk to Council, on +44 (0)117 331 8085 or email kelly.archer@bristol.ac.uk.

The Big Picture (pages 2-3). Students came from the following countries:

in 1928
British West Indies
India
United Kingdom
South Africa
Norway
Pakistan
Poland
Rhodesia
Syria
Trinidad
Turkey
Uganda
United Kingdom
United States
Yugoslavia
in 1958
Bahamas
British Guiana
Canada
Cyprus
Egypt
Ghana
Gibraltar
Hong Kong
Hungary
India
Iraq
Israel
Kenya
Lithuania
Mauritius
New Zealand
Nigeria
Albania
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Belgium
Bermuda
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Ghana
Gibraltar
Greece
Guiana
Hong Kong
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Libya
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Maldives Islands
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Morocco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Peru
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
South Korea
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Syria
Switzerland
Taiwan
Tanzania
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Turkey
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States
Uzbekistan
Venezuela
Vietnam
Zimbabwe
Anguilla
Namibia
Paraguay
St Lucia
St Vincent
Yemen

Corrections

The Annual General Meeting of the Hong Kong Branch of Convocation took place on 19 October 2008, not 19 October 2009 as was previously reported. The photograph featured alongside the piece was taken not at the AGM but at the Hong Kong Club reception in April 2008.
Obituaries

The University extends its sincere condolences to the friends and families of those alumni listed below, in order of degree date, for whom the University has received notification of death.

Kathleen Cole-Millard (née Beynon) (BA 1934) died 16 March 2009, aged 98.
Eric Ponting (BA 1935) died 31 October 2008, aged 94.
Hetty Philipott (BA 1936, Diploma 1937) died 22 February 2009, aged 94.
John Atkins (BA 1938, Cert Ed 1939) died 31 March 2009, aged 92.
Professor Dennis Walder (MB ChB 1940, MD 1948) died 4 September 2009, aged 79.
Margaret Boucher (née Hawkes) (BA 1941, Cert Ed 1942) died 22 February 2009, aged 89.
Kenneth Hilborne (LLB 1942) died 2009, aged 89.
Joan Meredith (née Pask) (BA 1942, Diploma 1943) died 17 January 2009, aged 87.
Dr Dorothy Persey (née Blake) (MB ChB 1945) died 1 February 2009, aged 86.
Mervyn Vaughan (BSc 1946) died 13 February 2009, aged 83.
Betty Holmes (née Inkpen) (Cert Ed 1947) died 7 May 2009, aged 92.
Dr Francis Downing (BSc 1947, PhD 1951) died 28 December 2008, aged 86.
John Pengelly (LDS 1948) died 22 January 2009, aged 84.
John Counsell (BSc 1950) died May 2007, aged 81.
Edward Dalby (BSc 1950) died 3 November 2008, aged 84.
Dr Geoffrey Herapath (MB ChB 1950) died 4 April 2009, aged 83.
Dr Henry Leigh (MB ChB 1950) died 5 May 2009, aged 82.
Peter Lever (BSc 1951) died 24 March 2009, aged 81.
Alfreda Davies (née Grimmett) (BSc 1952) died December 2008.

Michael Stoodley (BSc 1952) died 11 January 2009, aged 77.
Derek Smith (BSc 1953) died 27 February 2009, aged 76.
John Sykes (BSc 1954) died 10 January 2009, aged 76.
Professor Charles Dahanayake (PhD 1956) died March 2009, aged 81.
Dr John David (BVS 1956, PhD 1965) died 06 December 2008, aged 79.
Charles Chesters (BSc 1957) died 2 October 2008, aged 72.
Dr Malcolm Lewis (MB ChB 1957, MD 1970) died 17 January 2009, aged 75.
Anthony Davies (BA 1959) died 2 March 2009, aged 77.
Dr Norman Smith (BSc 1959, PhD 1962) died 24 March 2009, aged 71.
Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski (Diploma 1960) died December 2007.
Dr John Sebire (MB ChB 1960) died March 2009, aged 72.
Dr Kenneth Day (MB ChB 1961) died 2 June 2008, aged 72.
Brian Barrett (BA 1962) died 4 March 2009, aged 77.
Dr Miriam Hackman (née Pope) (MB ChB 1962) died 12 March 2009, aged 72.
David Pearce (BSc 1963) died January 2009, aged 66.
Dr David Withers (MB ChB 1964) died 21 March 2009, aged 74.
Dr Roy Clampitt (PhD 1965) died 22 February 2008, aged 68.
Yvonne Schmid (BA 1966) died 18 October 2008, aged 64.
Julia Stevens (née Schoenberg) (BA 1966), died 2008, aged 64.
Linda Cecil (née Stockman) (BSc 1968) died 15 February 2009, aged 62.
Reena Bhavnani (BSc 1970) died September 2008, aged 60.
Dr Christopher Molan (MB ChB 1971) died 5 October 2008, aged 60.

Helen Roberts (BDS 1973) died June 2006, aged 57.
Martin Vine (BA 1973) died 8 February 2009, aged 56.
Roger Mills (BSc 1977) died 9 March 2009, aged 52.
Edward Kendall (Diploma 1986) died 27 October 2007, aged 86.
Steven Kenny (Diploma 1986) died 27 October 2008, aged 45.
Wonder Chadambura (MSc 1990) died 14 September 2007, aged 53.
Professor Sir Alan Muir Wood (Hon DEng 1991) died 1 February 2009, aged 87.
Jillian Duhn (née Beale) (BA 1993) died 2009, aged 57.
Dr Olav Beckmann (BSc 1994) died November 2006, aged 34.
Christopher Stunt (BA 1996) died 1 October 2008, aged 69.
Valerie Jack (BSc 1999) died 2009, aged 51.
Paul Monk (BSc 2006) died 18 February 2009, aged 24.
Bronagh Murphy (MSc 2007) died February 2009, aged 51.
Dr Peter ‘Louis’ Sherwood (Hon LLD 2009) died 26 March 2009, aged 67.

Please email any notifications of death to alumni@bristol.ac.uk
Why did you choose Bristol?
C: To be truthful, Bristol’s Vet School was the only one to call me for interview and offer me a place. My veterinary course was my second undergraduate degree. I had a BSc from Aberdeen University.
P: Bristol became my first choice after I was rejected from Oxford, which in hindsight I’m very glad about. Bristol was highly ranked for Biology, it was far enough away from home and struck me as a good place to live.

What were your first impressions?
C: I had only visited Bristol for the interview at Senate House. On arrival at Manor Hall, I was shown to my room by a final year student who helped me with my luggage. We spent a fairly long time together because I’d read the room number from the food locker key! After discovering my mistake, Roy showed me to my room. We became friends thereafter and married in 1985 between my pre-clinical and clinical years.
P: Coming from Cornwall the move to a city was a bit of a shock. I got lost quite a lot during the first few weeks.

What kind of student were you?
C: Unlike my fellow students I didn’t have top A-level grades, having been accepted on the strength of my first degree. Therefore I needed to work hard to keep up. Veterinary Science is a very full course, including farm placements.
P: I’m the kind of person who leaves everything until the last minute, though I always manage to get the work done eventually. I even make it to the majority of my lectures!

And away from study?
C: The social life among the student vets was wonderful and firm friendships have remained down the years. Our class, graduating in 1987, has a reunion every five years. I had some fantastic friends in Manor Hall. Another important part of my life was Christ Church Clifton, which my husband and I attended and where we eventually married.
P: A mixture of TV, books, meals, sleep, pubs and clubs.

Which academics or other members of staff have made a particular impression on you?
C: The Warden of Manor Hall, Dr Martin Crossley Evans, has remained a close friend. We had fabulous lecturers at both Park Row and out at Langford, but Jim Pincent was an especially memorable lecturer at Langford. It was a real privilege to be part of a class of only around 40 in those days.
P: My Biology tutor and his endless supply of doughnuts. Dr Crossley Evans for his wisdom and excellent culinary skills. Eileen, our cleaner, who always goes the extra mile to help.

What about living arrangements?
C: Manor Hall was my home for the duration (in those days you could remain in hall). The garden is so
beautiful. In my clinical years I lived alternate weeks out at Langford in hall there. During those weeks you had to be on site to check animals at night. Living in Manor was great. I was thrilled when Peter chose the same hall.

P: Being a fresher I’ve only lived in halls so far but it’s been a very positive experience. I’m staying in Manor for my second year, as Vice-President of the Junior Common Room.

What were your highlights?
C: Meeting and marrying Roy. The exchange trip to Hannover. The vet class graduation dinner. My dad coming to my graduation (mum came to my first one).

P: The hall formals have been memorable occasions. Weekly meals with everyone on my corridor. The time a group of us almost walked all the way to Bath. Snowball fights up on Ashton Court Estate.

And any low points?
C: A classmate in the first year dying.

P: Not as yet.

Looking back, would you have done anything differently?
C: Perhaps starting revision for anatomy exams sooner and going to bed earlier, but you’re only young once!

What are the key things that your time at Bristol gave you?
C: A husband. A veterinary degree. Many good friends and happy memories.

How has your time at Bristol influenced your career?
C: These days I am a government veterinary inspector, mainly involved with testing cattle for bovine tuberculosis. However, in my days in practice, links to the fabulous Langford veterinary hospital were so useful.

What do you think Bristol’s role is today?
C: Bristol University is rightly renowned worldwide as a seat of academic learning, teaching and research. No dumbing down allowed here!

Do you have any tips or advice for Bristol freshers?
C: Carpe diem! Be wise, though: Jesus said, ‘What profiteth it a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?’. Many of the friendships you will make during your time here will last a lifetime. The ten o’clock shop is very handy when you run out of milk!

P: Make sure you get your free spatula from the Freshers’ Fair. Beware of Exhibition Cider, it really is very strong. Try to avoid staying inside the University bubble; get out and see some of the rest of Bristol.

Sum up your Bristol experience in three words.
C: Stimulating, fulfilling, learning.

P: Challenging, rewarding, fun.
Ye Chen (Economics 2007- ), aged five, in his local park in Luohe, Hunan province, central China.

Time to celebrate! 2009 is the University’s centenary.

www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni