Happy birthday Molly! Sharing the University’s centenary in 2009.
Bristol University turns 100 next year – and we’re going to celebrate. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all of us to make merry and mark this key milestone.

This edition of Nonesuch – the first in a centenary-themed series of four – celebrates Bristol’s great past and looks forward to the future. It also gives you a taster of what’s to come in 2009. I hope it makes you feel proud to be part of this great University and inspires you to join in the centenary celebrations. It certainly did me.

There’s a whole host of events planned for 2009, but the highlight for me has got to be the Centenary Alumni Weekend on 3 to 5 July. It’s shaping up to be Bristol’s biggest and best event yet. We’re hoping that at least 5,000 alumni will make the journey back to Bristol for the weekend – perhaps you’ll be one of them?

Our previous reunion weekends have focused on year groups celebrating special anniversaries. But for the centenary we would like everyone to return, regardless of when they graduated. To make sure that there will be people you know at the Centenary Alumni Weekend, why not arrange your own mini-reunion? We may be able to help you trace those you’ve lost contact with over the years.

Another highlight of 2009 is the Centenary Lecture Series, with an impressive range of speakers lined up, including Will Hutton (BSc 1972) and Amnesty International’s Kate Gilmore. There should be something to interest everyone.

If you can’t make it back to Bristol for the celebrations, there will be events taking place all around the world. In addition, we plan to put as many of the events online as possible. Wherever you are in the world, you’ll be able to log on and join in.

A brochure with details about all the centenary events, as well as other ways to get involved, will be sent to you in December. So look out for it in the post, mark the dates in your diary and get ready to celebrate.

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

P.S. Please make sure we have your up-to-date email address so we can keep you informed about the centenary celebrations.

www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni
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Tel: +44 (0)117 331 7496.

www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni
The big picture

A composite of images from *Dance Floor* by Terry Flaxton. The image is part of a remarkable series of installations and single-screen works shot by Terry on an ultra-high-resolution Red 4k camera during his first year as an AHRC Creative Research Fellow in High Resolution Imaging at Bristol University.

Find out more about Terry’s work at www.flaxton.btinternet.co.uk.

www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni
September saw the official launch of the world’s largest scientific experiment, and Bristol scientists were at the forefront. The experiment will recreate conditions that existed just a billionth of a second after the Big Bang, and seek answers to some of the deepest mysteries of the origins and workings of our universe.

Scientists from the Department of Physics have been working for over 15 years to help construct the new experiment as part of a large international team. Apparatus designed and built in Bristol is now operational at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). The LHC particle accelerator is housed in a giant laboratory at CERN, buried 100m below mountains on the Swiss-French border. Tiny particles will collide at almost the speed of light.

Professor Nick Brook explained what they will be looking for: ‘How and why does the Universe exist? Where is the missing key to the laws of nature – the Higgs Boson? Can we identify the unknown particle or phenomenon that makes up over 90 per cent of the Universe? Can we unlock the mystery of anti-matter – why do we live in a world of just matter?’

Now that the accelerator is switched on, work at Bristol will focus on the interpretation of the vast amount of data produced by the LHC. The results, eagerly awaited by scientists around the world, are expected to be announced within a year of the first collisions.

Crucial parts of the two detectors, known as the CMS and LHCb, have been designed and constructed by Bristol scientists and students working locally and in Geneva. The detectors can record the results of particle collisions up to 40 million times per second. The Bristol team has contributed new sensors that can precisely measure the collision fragments, vital for the discovery of the missing keys to the laws of nature.

A second major achievement is the harnessing together, for the first time, of some of the world’s largest computers, including the University’s brand-new high performance computer here in Bristol, to analyse the data from the experiments.

IN BRIEF

100 years on: still pioneering new courses
The University has a long history of training the next generation of doctors and dentists, but this year saw the successful qualification of a new group of health professionals: audiologists. Eleven pioneering students have successfully completed their four-year BSc degree in Audiology, which qualifies them to undertake specialist work with adults and children who have hearing and balance disorders.

Deaf Studies turns 30
The University’s Centre for Deaf Studies – Europe’s first academic institution to concentrate solely on research and education that aims to benefit the Deaf community – celebrated its 30th birthday in October.
Helping the Government tackle inequality

Bristol’s Professor Tariq Modood has been selected to sit on a new Government panel aimed at tackling inequality.

Set up by Harriet Harman, Minister for Women and Equality, the National Equality Panel will consist of academic experts in inequality from across the UK. After gathering and examining data over the last ten years and commissioning new research, the panel aims to provide the Government with an authoritative analysis of inequality in Britain by the end of 2009.

Raised risk of prostate cancer in Black men

Black men living in England are three times more likely to get prostate cancer than White men and tend to be diagnosed five years younger, Bristol researchers have found.

In the study, published in the *British Journal of Cancer*, the difference between Black men and White men could not be fully explained by differences in how long the men delayed before seeing their doctor, in access to diagnostic services, or by the quality of information Black men or White men had about the condition.

Dr Chris Metcalfe, Lecturer in Medical Statistics and collaborator on the project, said: ‘It looks more likely that the higher rate in Black men is due to a biological susceptibility to developing the disease.’

The researchers are now doing further work to see if there are differences in disease progression and survival following diagnosis between the two groups.

Bristol scientists reach out to help schools in Africa

Disadvantaged schools across South Africa’s Eastern Cape could produce the chemists of the future, thanks to a new science engagement collaboration between Bristol and Rhodes University, South Africa.

Bristol’s School of Chemistry is internationally renowned for its outreach work with local schools. In September, staff and students from Rhodes University visited Bristol on a fact-finding mission, during which they observed different types of chemistry workshops and attended a number of outreach activities in the city.

In October, Linda Sellou (PhD 2008) and Preeti Kaur (PhD Chemistry 2006–) travelled to South Africa to work with colleagues at Rhodes University to design two weeks of activities for secondary and primary schools, and helped to train postgraduate chemists in science engagement.

Student entrepreneur off to a flying start

A Bristol student was one of only 11 students in the UK to be awarded a place on the prestigious Flying Start Global Entrepreneurs programme, which includes mentoring from some leading US entrepreneurs.

George Mills (MEng 2008) will spend the first six months of his fellowship at the University’s Centre for Research and Enterprise Development, developing his technology-based business idea. He will then go on to a six-month internship and education programme in the US, working with such innovative companies as Google, Sprint and Cisco.

George said: ‘I am thrilled to have been given this opportunity. I caught the enterprise bug while studying at Bristol and was closely involved in the Bristol Entrepreneurs Society.’
Humans were processing cattle milk in pottery vessels more than 2,000 years earlier than previously thought, according to new research from Bristol. In work published in Nature, Professor Richard Evershed and colleagues describe how the analysis of more than 2,200 pottery vessels from southeastern Europe, Anatolia and the Levant extends the early history of milk by two millennia to the seventh millennium BC.

Bristol alumna and successful television documentary-maker Rebecca Frayn (BA 1984) has produced a short film for the internet about the proposed expansion of Heathrow Airport. When I Grow Up was commissioned for the eco-campaigning organisation Enough’s Enough. Since being posted on YouTube the film has had thousands of hits.

A Bristol alumna has won the grand final of Herbert Smith’s inaugural student law advocacy competition. The event, on 16 September, showcased the talents of five students who had made it through to the final after submitting videos of themselves talking about the competition’s theme of diversity. Hannah Klein (BA 2008), who studied politics and French, won with her discussion of the question ‘Diversity: a bandwagon or real issue?’

Hannah plans to spend the £3,000 prize money on law school fees. The competition is run in conjunction with The Times.

Fresh from an award-winning, 5-star, sell out Edinburgh Fringe and debut West End Show, BBC Radio 1’s resident magician Chris Cox (BA 2005) has taken his Control Freak show on a UK tour. Chris is described by The Guardian as ‘one of the most exciting entertainers in Britain’. The show fuses magic and psychology to create a unique interactive theatrical experience. Find out more at www.chriscox.info.
Just as football fans commiserate with their friends in the pub when their team loses a match, research from the University demonstrates that birds support one another following contests with their rivals.

Dr Andy Radford, reporting in Proceedings of the Royal Society, Series B shows how green woodhoopoes, a South African bird, increase their preening of other group members following conflict with neighbouring groups, especially when they lose a battle or it lasts a long time – the most stressful situations. In particular, dominant birds increase their preening of subordinates, perhaps encouraging them to stand and fight in future conflicts.

IN BRIEF

Remembering Stuart Jackson
Stuart Jackson (BSc 1973), one of the University’s most generous supporters, died in May this year. During his life, Stuart donated thousands of pounds towards hardship bursaries for students. A number of the gifts were made jointly with his sister Eve Jackson, also a Bristol graduate (Dip Ed 1945). The Jackson Scholarships provide awards to undergraduates in need from the Bristol area each year for the duration of their course.

Olympic protest
A Bristol graduate was arrested by Chinese authorities after taking part in a ‘Free Tibet’ protest at the Olympic stadium in Beijing during the Olympic Games earlier this year. Lucy Fairbrother (BA 2007) and three others evaded tight security to smuggle in huge banners and flags calling for a Free Tibet. Lucy became involved with the group after visiting Tibet five years ago.

A major endowment
Colin Green CBE (BSc 1971, Hon DEng 1997), has donated £100,000 to the University of Bristol Endowment Fund. Colin, former President of Rolls-Royce Defence Aerospace, said: ‘I know that growing endowment income is crucial for the University. My endowment gift will help give the University the strength and flexibility to respond to special opportunities when they arise and will benefit Bristol students and staff for many generations to come. I’m proud to help Bristol build towards the future and to reduce its dependence on Government and tuition fee income.’

A theatre company set up by Bristol graduates organised a daring drama event, Showtime Challenge, to raise money for charity.

Eyebrow Productions’ challenge was to rehearse the show Me and My Girl in 48 hours, for a one-night-only production that took place on 26 October at the London Palladium. All proceeds went to the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Me and My Girl is Eyebrow’s third Showtime Challenge and follows on from the resounding success of Into the Woods, hosted by actor and director Mel Smith, and Sweet Charity, hosted by TV presenter Gail Porter.

Eyebrow was created in 2001 by former members of Bristol’s Dramsoc and Opsoc. All members work on a voluntary basis and all profits go to charity. Bristol alumni involved in Eyebrow include: Ian Haig (BSc 2001) (producer), John Sheerman (BSc 2001) (director), Esther Biddle (BA 2002), Leigh Thompson (BA 2000) (musical director), Kate Buxton (BA 2001), Alex Micklewright (BSc 2001), Alex Sutton (BA 2003, MA 2007), Louise Knight (BA 2002) and Sheara Abrahams (BA 2003). Some Bristol graduates also made the cut out of the 500 who auditioned for Me and My Girl.
Hold the Front Page

For the first in a series of special centenary ‘timeline’ features, Josh Burrows (BA 2008), Epigram editor 2007/08, documents the history of the Bristol student press and discovers that in almost 1,000 issues over more than 100 years, the University’s memoirs have been written and updated by its students.

Student News Timeline:

- (1989-1901) The Magnet magazine
- (1908-1910) The Bristol University College Gazette
- (1910-1965) The Nonesuch
- (1945-1972) Nonesuch News
- (1972-1992) Bacus
- (1989-present) Epigram

Josh Burrows at an Epigram editorial meeting
A magnetic attraction (1898-c1901)

Priced at sixpence and published in time for the freshers of 1898, The Magnet magazine was founded by students and staff at University College Bristol and predated Bristol University by a decade. The opening paragraph of this historic first editorial is where Bristol student media began, and it is in this vein that it continues more than a century later:

'We are, in this number [issue], starting that which has for many years been suggested and for many years, for various reasons, postponed, namely, a University College Magazine. We hope it will evoke the support of as large a number as possible of students, both past and present... All are requested to send in contributions of any description and we shall be pleased to place within the covers as many of these as we find room for. It has been affirmed by many that poetry would detract from the value and style of this Magazine, so that we shall put little, if any, into it. We shall be glad to receive accounts of Football Matches, Committee Meetings, and other similar events: so far concerning the Magazine.'

The Magnet was more scholarly journal than news publication, and in this first issue footnotes abound – the first main feature was a ten-page, Latin-prefaced transcript of a lecture on 'England and Rome'.

But though The Magnet began with fearsome intellectuality, it soon cleared a path which its successor publications would happily follow. Features grew lighter and students began to read about themselves in 'Departmental News'.

In 1898, Engineering admits it doesn’t have much to report; Chemistry expresses interest in how ‘the smell of cooking vegetables induces a healthy appetite for lunch’, Arts bemoans how ‘many of the classes in the department are so badly attended’ and, already in time-honoured fashion, sports news brings up the rear.

Unlike the publications that were to follow, however, The Magnet was remarkably silent in its opinions, surely because it was produced by both students and staff at a time when University College Bristol had important expansion plans – so nobody yet saw fit to kick up a fuss. The first photographs were printed in the sixth issue of this first year – it would take more than 90 years before they were in colour – by which time accounts of life in universities around the world had become a firm favourite. So had the Science Faculty’s contributions – including extracts from real exam scripts:

‘Question: What is the difference between a “real” and “virtual” image? Answer: You see a real image every morning when you shave. You do not see virtual images at all. The only people who see virtual images are those people who are not quite right. I can’t give a reliable drawing of a virtual image because I never saw one.’

The combination of some heavyweight features and the softer, more familiar echoes from the University departments – including ‘Iron Filings’, which, as well as being the first published bad student pun, contained short anecdotes from around the college and from the national press – made The Magnet popular, if not essential, reading. It was conspicuously well written throughout (large parts of it by professors) and, as for the cover, the editors altered it in 1900 to be ‘rich but not gaudy’ – a savvy assessment of what still makes good journalistic design.

Though the magazine showed no signs of slowing down – even if the editors had already decided that they had bitten off more than they could comfortably chew and expressed a desire to produce four rather than six issues per year – The Magnet archives come to an unfortunate end with the third issue of 1900/01. It is most likely that with a fully-fledged university on the cards, students and staff alike were already too busy planning for the future than documenting the present.
The new University of Bristol is declared a success

It may, on the whole, truly be said that the session has been one of promise. The students have shown every indication of rising to their new responsibilities, both in the athletic clubs and otherwise. We have to make the traditions of this, the newest of English Universities.'

_The Bristol University College Gazette, Volume 2 Number 7, 1910_

The First World War

‘Few there were, when our editorial of autumn, 1914, was being written, who thought that in the summer of 1917 we should still be under the shadow of war; and fewer still, perhaps, those who thought that the shadow would then be as heavy and as unbroken and as little devoid of suggestion of an approaching end as it seems today.’

_The Nonesuch, Volume 5 Number 19, 1917_

The Wills Memorial Building is completed

_The Nonesuch_ publishes a part of the Chancellor’s opening speech: ‘The building which Your Majesties grace by your presence to-day will, we believe, remain so long as stone endures as one of the architectural glories of your reign’. 

_The Nonesuch, Volume 10 Number 43, 1925_

Winston Churchill becomes Chancellor

‘Such a ceremony has not taken place in Bristol since 1912, and we shall naturally keep this fact in mind when organising our own private celebrations. We think that there is little fear of Bristol students failing to do justice to this unique occasion.’

_The Nonesuch, Volume 12 Number 55, 1929_

A gazette for all (1908-c1910)

The _Bristol University College Gazette_ was founded in 1908 and, like _Bacchus_ 64 years later, was a publication based at (what would soon become) Bristol University but intended for all students in Bristol. The _Gazette_ was an officious journal produced almost entirely by staff but with plenty of student contributions. Its stated aim was to report on the educational progress at the University College before it covered the activities of the students in societies and clubs.

On top of this, the _Gazette_ covered developments at institutions like Bristol Central Libraries and The Bristol Museum of Natural History. The reasoning? If university status was going to be bestowed on Bristol, the local intellectuals had to be on side. It was this university status that both staff and students at the college committed to with every piece of work they produced in the first decade of the 20th century.

Success came in 1908 thanks to the tireless work of academics, students and editors. University status was now imminent, prompting the students running the college magazine to declare what had always been obvious – that the _Gazette_ had done much ‘to influence local opinion in respect to the College’. Yes, it had differed from the stereotypical college journal but ‘may be regarded as the Union’s contribution to the university movement’.

Still in its infancy and already a success, the _Gazette_ grew to cover sports news in short ‘Athletic Notes’, the foundation of the Officer Training Corps and the construction of the Students’ Club building – a forerunner of the Students’ Union buildings hailed in later student newspapers. Features remained strictly purposeful though and, like an expectant mother researching all that she might possibly need to know, the magazine delighted in poring over the finances of European universities and discussing the relative merits of mixed-sex lectures.

Then in 1910, the _Gazette_ reported with deserved joy on the first academic year at the new University of Bristol. This was a day it had worked hard towards:

‘Already many of the ideas with which we started are crystallising, whether into the bricks and mortar of the new chemical and physiology wing, or into the less tangible but equally important new and renewed activities on the part of the students. In this latter respect it may, on the whole, truly be said that the session has been one of promise.’

But in these heady days the editors were aware that mortality weighed heavily on their magazine. Like the catalysts being prepared in the new chemistry wing, The _Bristol University College Gazette_ had served its purpose and was left to fizzle out. In that same triumphant editorial, reality dawned: ‘We hope that as the new life of a University on which we have embarked, is chronicled in this _Gazette_, it may happen that the students, either through the Guild or some other body, will more and more fashion the policy of the _Gazette_ to their own ends.’ Actually, this was the _Gazette’s_ last gasp. In 1911 a publication succeeded it that, in different incarnations, would become Bristol students’ most famous export.
The Nonesuch, flower of Bristol, is born
(1910–c1965)

It was the ‘Flower of Bristol’, the red nonesuch, which gave its colour to the University’s academic hoods and its name to the University’s first true student magazine. Like its botanical namesake, The Nonesuch was to be ‘Cleere, bright and light-giving’. It was founded in February 1910 and survived in its original format for 37 years until a newspaper, Nonesuch News, superseded it in 1945.

The Nonesuch’s first grand editorial set out the stall: ‘We propose to shed our light abroad in the middle of each Term,’ wrote the first editors. ‘To point our readers back to events beyond the immeasurable gulf of the last vacation, and turning, to call to mind what lies before them in the remaining weeks of the current Term.’ For 6d (and free postage) each issue was to be a souvenir of that term’s achievements and misdemeanours.

All too soon though, a familiar malaise had set in, and by only the third issue, contributions were hard to come by. The editorial staff was already concerned that Bristol’s students were not meeting the standards set by those at other universities. ‘Bristol surely is not inferior to the other new universities, and they have flourishing magazines run by students,’ they complained.

Whether it was for lack of more relevant content, or a decline in standards since the days of The Magnet, poetry – and even an occasional full song score – featured in The Nonesuch from its earliest days. The verse was of wildly varying quality but even the worst of it reveals that certain student habits are perennial, such as the ‘five-minute’ rule, as cruelly applied by students to their lecturers:

‘He is very late to-day, I don’t think I’m going to stay. Much more than five minutes past, Well, perhaps my watch is fast.’

As the magazine grew in size and popularity, submissions became shorter and more humorous. Among them were: ‘Advice to Invigilators’, which included the pointer ‘During an exam, take an intelligent interest in all that is going on around you. It is never good to be self-absorbed’, and a piece ‘On Lectures’, where the writer commented that ‘on the whole, the main fault of the lectures at Bristol is their number. How can you be expected to keep your mind clear through five lectures between 9 am and 3 pm?’

The Nonesuch was published only once per term and so ‘news’ coverage was intended mainly for commemoration rather than information. It wasn’t

Historical moments

Wills Hall is opened
‘A weird “bodyguard” escorted [Winston Churchill] and the Vice-Chancellor from the Vice-Chancellor’s residence to the entrance of the grounds. Arms were promptly presented and the air was thick with tree-boughs, fire-irons, mops and hockey sticks while the Chancellor cut the Varsity ribbon.’

The Nonesuch, Issue 56, 1930

The Second World War
‘War is a factor that has made many changes in our University life; numerically it seems to double most things around us. It has approximately doubled the student body at the University, doubled our Union and made our rooms in Hall double rooms. On the other hand we find gaps in our staff and among those friends and faces who were with us last term. We can but wish them success in their mission, God-speed and safe return.’

The Nonesuch, Issue 85, 1939

‘Sir – May I be allowed the publicity of your columns to call attention to the urgent need of a restaurant in the proposed new buildings… I have no doubt that there would be sufficient demand to enable beer to be sold at one penny per pint. I would suggest that the barmaid be chosen by the students.’

The Nonesuch, Volume 2 Number 6, 1913

Continued over page
until the late 1940s that editorial staff took matters into their own hands and hired students to go out and report. Until then the magazine relied entirely on the hard work of its editors and the industry of its readers. There was minimal commissioning and little sub-editing. Three times a year, Bristol students were treated to a publication full of fun and originality, from the opening editorial to the poems and society reports that filled the 52 pages.

Slowed but not halted by the First World War, trade unionists in 1925 and perceived student apathy, The Nonesuch continued to roll off the press, covering the opening of the Wills Memorial Building, the physics laboratories and Wills Hall and the founding of the Student Health Service. It carried adverts for Wills Gold Flake cigarettes (‘the “quality” packet’) and provided wryly ‘Hall whispers’ and ‘Union News’, as well as yearly degree congregation photos which grew satisfyingly in size year upon year. Art deco illustrations were incorporated as its design was developed.

Under different editors the magazine branched in different directions, occasionally to be accused of losing its way. In 1933 correspondents complained that their magazine had become too political and religiously extremist. However, there were those who approved of the heavyweight editorial policy – ‘After all, who really wants to know what Alfie said to Marjorie in the refectory?’ wrote one. The kind of religious slander that the magazine had begun to include was of the sort only student journalists ever think they can get away with and it drew complaints from one of the founding editors; ‘The method of attack, I deplore,’ he wrote of the magazine into which he had once poured his heart and soul.

By 1934, editorial tensions had reached breaking point. For the first time the Union stepped in to try to enforce a modicum of editorial restraint. It was to the disgust of the editor, PG Lucas (now BSc 1933). ‘A certain amount of the balderdash which until now we have taken pleasure in putting aside, has gone to print,’ he spat. Lucas, like every editor before and since, had to learn that, to paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, ‘You can please some of the people all the time, all of the people some of the time, but you can never please all of the people all of the time.’ In short, it wasn’t a preponderance of faux-intellectualism, it was a lack of sports reportage that the correspondents would complain about. And they did.

As well as a devastating fire in the Victoria Rooms where the magazine was produced, The Nonesuch survived the Second World War (though the magazine could only produce one issue a year during it). Following VE Day it could not escape the spirit of ambition and constructivism that infected the country. Winston Churchill, Chancellor and now war hero, wrote to the magazine and a new influx of students showed that interest in The Nonesuch had never been stronger. There was even demand for more regular output, and in 1945 Bristol University could support two central student publications. The Nonesuch did what it had always looked more comfortable doing and specialised as a literary magazine, flourishing in this new style well into the 1960s.

Meanwhile, the printing wheels of a new publication were being put in motion. Bristol students soon had their first proper newspaper.

UNION VERSUS PAPER FLASHPOINTS

1933
The editor retorts in inimitable fashion as the Union partially censors his increasingly radical magazine: ‘Our despoiled contributors have failed to complete their thankless task, and a certain amount of the balderdash which until now we have taken pleasure in putting aside, has gone to print,’ he spits.
The Nonesuch, issue 68

1950
The ‘Produced under presidential censorship’ strapline provokes a letter: ‘It seems to me that the presidents are making a mistake in taking away from the Editor of Nonesuch News the very freedom which has been so freely granted to them.’
Nonesuch News, issues 28 and 29

1967
‘Nonesuch Editor censured’ rails the front page when the Union proves that a front page story about RAG finances—which makes national papers—is inaccurate. ‘Disorganisation of RAG brought bad publicity, not Nonesuch News,’ claims the paper.
Nonesuch News, issue 206

1976
An article entitled ‘Richard Lamming, Union President—and the people he wants to sack’ prompts Lamming to oppose Bacus’ far-left editorial policies. ‘In the past two years [Bacus] has repeatedly slid into an extremist left-wing broadsheet which tailors the facts to meet the editor’s version of the truth…You have a position of power which you currently abuse from the supposed safety of your office—that may not continue forever…’
Bacus, issue 102

1977
In face of motions to censure the paper, Bacus gleefully publishes a letter from former editor Tom Archer (BA 1975): ‘Bacus is at present seriously threatened by the right wing. They want to cut its finances…and are manoeuvring into bureaucratic positions where they can do just this. They would rather see Bacus dead than red. I would rather see it red and read…’ I’d like to see [the critics] all go *** themselves because I know damn well that
99 per cent of them will continue their whining and eventually the Tories will take over Bacus just as they are doing the University Union.' 'The far-left policies of the paper weren’t universally accepted or popular,’ Tom later admits.

Bacus, Issue 108

1984
Following allegations of unfair coverage of the sabbatical elections, Union Council votes almost unanimously to ban issue 208 from the Union building. ‘Elections are a very important issue and students have a right to know what’s going on,’ says editor Tony Halpin (now BA 1983).

Bacus, issue 209

Tony, who is now Moscow Bureau Chief for The Times, remembers the ban. ‘The Students’ Union forbade any coverage in Bacus of the annual elections for sabbatical officers. Their view was that the elections were too important to be left to coverage by untrustworthy student hacks. This seemed absurd to me, so I decided that we would challenge it by covering the elections. I was summoned to appear before the committee where I was harangued by various officers. They got very worked up, as I recall, and eventually voted to ban that issue of the student paper from the Union. As you might expect, it was a big help - we stood outside the Union handing out copies of “the paper they tried to ban” and it was easily the best-read edition of my time as editor.’

1985
The Union seizes 2,000 copies (Headline: ‘Danger: democracy at work’) for flouting election rules. ‘The editorial board had instructed me to ignore the ruling, and I hope whoever’s editor next year will do the same,’ says the editor, Susanna Voyle.

Bacus, issue 222

1997
After criticising a Union safe sex campaign, editor Andy Dangerfield (now BSc 1998) barricades himself in the Epigram office and daubs the words ‘F*** THE UNION AND THEIR PETTY RULES AND REGULATIONS’ on the ceiling. The Union general secretary accuses the editor of assault and vandalism and he is forced to resign (and run the story for three issues).

Epigram, issue 92

Continued over page
‘Readers, we introduce to you Nonesuch News!’
(1945-1972)

In December 1945, diligent students of the Union made a brave decision and began to publish a newspaper to replace the single broadsheet that had previously hung in a corner of the Students’ Club in the Victoria Rooms. For 1d, students were offered a two-sided sheet of hall and society reports. By the third issue (almost a year later) the paper had doubled in size and in price, and by 1949, the small team of student editors were producing ten issues a year, each issue costing approximately £15 to produce and making a grand total of £7 in sales – the deficit funded by the Students’ Club.

An early redesign went down badly with some readers. ‘Must our newspaper follow the standards set by so much of present-day journalism?’ asked one. ‘The old Nonesuch News was sometimes said to be boring to read but at least it was always a pleasure to look at.’ But it wasn’t long before the editor found herself in hot water for more serious misdemeanors.

The censorship issue reared its head in autumn 1950 when for two issues the front page of Nonesuch News wailed: ‘Produced under presidential censorship’. The letters page immediately became the front line in this Union-versus-paper war of words. ‘Certain articles appeared in Nonesuch News which were of an insinuating and personal nature and directed towards certain individuals,’ wrote the President of the Union. The editor, Jane Ewing (now BA 1951), hotly defended her paper: ‘It seems a shame to suggest that as soon as students are elevated to Union Council post, they have to close. The editorial point of view? ‘This University stinks – and YOU APATHETIC LOT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STENCH.’ Issue 282, 1970

‘Strike a success’
The triumphant culmination of a term’s striking. About 95 per cent of students nationwide comply with an NUS call for an anti-government strike. Approximately 1,500 Bristol students march through the city and many picket the Wills Memorial Building. ‘Many on the picket lines were obviously experienced militants for they displayed a calmness that only results from previous involvement in student protest.’ Issue 301, 1972

‘Sir – Is it not preposterous that so many people seem to be reverting to primitive states of dress? The whole tribe resembles a kindergarten of South American head hunters. For heaven’s sake, wake up and return to well-dressed sanity.’
Nonesuch News, Issue 134, 1960

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A vervet monkey named Alf escapes from the Psychology Department. Hungry but free he swung from branch to branch watching the many photographers who gathered around his tree,’ reports the paper. Several months later, Professor of Psychology, KRL Hall, who was bitten by Alf during his escape, dies after a three-week coma. There is speculation that it was due to the bite he sustained.
Issues 184 and 187, 1965

‘Rumours of delay and frustration unfounded as new Union ready in nick of time’
The latest and most luxurious addition to the Bristol skyline’ is completed in time for the freshers of 1965. ‘From dream to reality’ reads the headline on page 2.
Issue 187, 1965

‘University to be closed down?’
Manual workers strike over pay and Union Council advises students not to do any work usually done by those on strike. There are fears that the Union and even halls of residence may have to close. The editorial point of view? ‘This University stinks – and YOU APATHETIC LOT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STENCH.’ Issue 282, 1970

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those students should develop overnight pomposity and self-importance to a ridiculous degree.’

Helen Howard (now BA 1952, Cert Ed 1954), who followed Ewing as editor, remembers her predecessor well: ‘Jane Ewing was very political,’ Helen recalls. ‘I was a good little girl, unlike Jane who was a feisty lady.’ Generally Helen has only fond memories of her time in charge in 1951/52, the beginning of a decade in which RAG exploits filled the most column inches. The flour-and-water wars on the steps of the Victoria Rooms made exciting front-page photos and the annual parade, pedal car races and kidnap stunts were perfect material for colourful reporting.

‘It was very well received and at two pence a copy, even students could afford it,’ Helen says, recalling how a business manager had to traipse around Bristol finding adverts to help pay for the paper’s print costs. ‘It was quite hard work and how the heck we got it all together every fortnight...’ She remembers the worry of having to study as well as produce a paper (which she still thinks looked good for its time). ‘It was great fun. Happy memories.’

More than any previous publication, Nonesuch News changed tone and focus depending on its editor. With Barry Clarke (now BA 1961) at the helm in 1960/61, the paper became a deeply political animal. ‘We are not interested in paint-daubing, trophy-snatching or the perennial round of childish escapades,’ he wrote. Under Vivian Stern (now BA 1963, MLitt 1968, Hon LLD 1990) in 1961/62 the design made marked improvements and began to make some use of white space. And with Del Mercer (now BA 1966) in charge in 1965/66, the paper found a new enthusiasm for reporting on RAG. It used any excuse to put photos of attractive RAG queens on the front page.

For the first time issues were published weekly and, at 4d, they sold out regularly. The paper now dedicated its centre pages to thoroughly modern student features on careers and fashion, and a reviews section took shape. However, with the dawn of the 1970s, Bristol student media entered its most turbulent phase and there would be little time for the light stuff while the Tories intended to smash outspoken student unions. Up and down the country, through the medium of student papers, belligerent student unions encouraged their students to strike. Students combined nationwide and participated in picket lines, sit-ins and largely peaceful demonstrations. In the interests of the student population at large, Nonesuch (as it had been renamed) and the Union presented a united front. Almost.

At the end of the academic year 1971/72, St Matthias and Redland colleges of education voted in favour of a student paper that would strongly represent the issues of all the students in Bristol. Over the summer, Bristol Polytechnic voted the same way. The new paper, if it was to go ahead, would ‘strengthen the Bristol student community as a whole’, stated issue 311. But though Nonesuch in some form had served the students of the University, improving term on term for more than 60 years, the communitarian spirit of Bristol’s diverse student population now spelled an artificial demise: ‘If the scheme does get off the ground’, reported their paper mournfully, ‘this will be the last issue of Nonesuch...’

It was.

CORRESPONDENTS’ COMPLAINTS

‘Sir - A University magazine which consists of political articles, doctrines of Marxism, student Christian propaganda, and the meaningless meanderings of intellectuals saturated with their own superiority, is hardly the type of thing that the other 889 students of the University require.’

The Nonesuch, Issue 66, 1933

‘Sir - Your editorial in the last issue of Nonesuch News was libellous and would have made me furious had I not been simultaneously laughing at your ridiculous reasoning, and grieving that Nonesuch has been reduced to printing such utter nonsense!’

Nonesuch News, Issue 164, 1963

‘Sir - You have quite conclusively convinced me and students in Bristol that Bacus has definitely declined. In the past two years it has repeatedly slid into an irrelevant newspaper, an extremist left-wing broadsheet which tailors the facts to meet the editor’s version of the truth.’

Bacus, Issue 102, 1976

‘Sir - The “Gay taxi terror” article is the most appalling thing I have seen Epigram publish, and believe me my dear editor, that is saying a lot for your fish wrap of a paper.’

Epigram, Issue 86, 1997

www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni

CONTINUED OVER PAGE
The not so bacchanalian Bacus (1972-1992)

Students returning to Bristol for the autumn term of 1972 were greeted with a new city-wide student newspaper, with a classic front-page story about a lack of student accommodation and an editor determined to produce an area newspaper to rival similar new organs in Exeter and Cambridge. 'We must not fail,' Dave Vickery declared.

Originally called Abacus, Vickery immediately dropped the ‘A’ and made the £600 grant go a long way – in its first year, Bacus was the first Bristol student publication to go weekly. ‘Lunacy’ was how he later described working through the night to produce and fund 26 issues.

In its very early stages, Bacus was far meeker than it was later to become. In place of hard news, students now had an effective listings service, and features took the place of investigations and sports reports. A united city of students may genuinely have been interested to see what power they could wield (and the paper was certainly more attractive to advertisers than Nonesuch had become), but realistically, the plight of those dining in the refectory at St Matthias’s College was not news that even the most politically charged Bristol University students would want to read.

In issue 21, though, Bacus cut its sharp teeth when Vickery dedicated half his front page to correspondence between the University’s Vice-Chancellor Alec Merrison and the President of the Union Hugh Bayley (now BSc 1974) following one of many student occupations of Senate House. ‘I would have thought that the Union should feel it shared with the University authorities the responsibility for seeing that the University is a civilised place in which to live and work and not an unregulated bear-garden,’ wrote the V-C. ‘If the University has become “an unregulated bear-garden”, may I suggest that you are the zoo-keeper and not I,’ retorted Bayley. Bacus had its first scoop, and the paper waded in with a deliberately inflammatory byline. ‘The V-C has shown a fundamental refusal to acknowledge the maturity and autonomy of the student body’, it wrote, ‘and his vacillations must surely have now placed his credibility in question’. The gauntlet had been thrown down.

For the next 15 years, publication dates fluctuated in regularity. Bacus yo-yoed between an eight- to 12-page weekly and a paper was issued whenever the editor could find enough money to print one. Care taken over the design fluctuated – and the quality of journalism did too – but through a succession of like-minded editors the socialist stance of the paper
prevailed. At one stage the paper described a rise in the price of beer at the Union as ‘just another symptom of the crisis inherent in the capitalist system and of the capitulation by Union Council to bourgeois ideology (sic)’.

Under Mark Wyler, threats of legal action proudly made the front page so that the paper could declare ‘We shall not be intimidated’. When industrial action by printers in 1979 delayed Bacus’ publication, even this setback was met with praise by the editor. A box on the front page advertised the fact that the printing was delayed for this reason and declared in block capitals: ‘FIGHT LOW PAY!’

‘The far-left policies of the paper weren’t universally accepted or popular,’ an earlier editor, Tom Archer, later admitted. But the staff must have been doing enough good to survive and Bacus charged into the 80s with a few slogans: ‘Happy New Year! REVERSE THE CUTS! DOWN WITH THE TORIES! VICTORY TO SOCIALISM! KILL THE FASCIST BASTARDS!’

With more coverage of student sit-ins and occupations, the paper won several national media awards and marched towards its 200th issue in 1983. But trouble was never far away and, by 1984, the paper found itself threatened with libel action following a story about an illicit strip show in Wills Hall where the performer allegedly ‘undressed one unfortunate, and very drunk, member of the 25-strong gathering intent on showing him what audience participation was all about’. The front-page report was variously described as ‘totally untrue’, ‘grossly inaccurate’ and ‘fictitious’. Bacus now regularly got out of hand and the Union began to question its £3,500 funding of the mischievous paper. Thus in 1985, Martin Clarke (now BA 1985) quit from his position as editor after only one month in the job, when the Union refused to guarantee funding for the paper beyond Christmas.

By now, the paper was in a curious position: £3,000 in debt, fewer socialists at the helm, subsidised heavily by the Polytechnic and produced almost exclusively by students at the University – despite imploring editorials to try to encourage Poly students to contribute. The end was in sight and though Bacus’ finances did improve, the University Union plotted against the paper. In 1989, in the official University newsletter, the new Union Vice President sounded the death knell: ‘Bacus is an area-wide paper which can only give a very limited coverage to many types of University activity,’ he wrote.

Bacus’ days as a paper were numbered and, though the editor of the time refused to let it completely expire and continued to produce a magazine until 1992, the new paper, Epigram, had already been introduced to its students.

‘Sir – I feel sufficiently incensed to ask you to print this message: WILL THE Miserable Antisocial B****** Who Steals Lamps AND Batteries FROM BIKES UNDER THE UNION PLEASE SERIOUSLY CONSIDER HIS POSITION IN SOCIETY. TO STEAL IS CRIMINAL, TO STEAL FROM STUDENTS EQUALLY POOR IS BENEATH CONTEMPT.’

Bacus, Issue 21, 1973

‘Tapped! Student’s phone fear’
University animal rights activists fear that police may be tapping their telephone. ‘I came to find two men in suits fiddling around with the phone,’ one says. ‘It does seem that every time something happens to a fur shop they come round here. Strange things happen.’

‘Angry mob storms lecture’
A mob of Socialist Worker students breaks down the door in the History Department in protest at Professor John Vincent’s column in The Sun. ‘Professor Vincent, with his wife at his side, used a chair to fend off the intruders,’ reports Bacus.

‘Vincent seven’ are ridiculed in The Sun and eventually let off by the University. Although a distinguished historian, Vincent’s traditionalist stance made him a controversial figure in some circles.

Issue 234, 1986

‘Toytown gunman’
A law student hits the national newspapers when armed police arrest him on Whiteladies Road. The police said if I’d been standing on that corner for another ten minutes, I’d have been shot dead,’ says James Jacobs (now LLB 1988) who was carrying a water pistol shaped like an M16.

Issue 259, 1988

www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni CONTINUED OVER PAGE
Bigger, better and full-colour: Epigram’s continuing reign (1989–present)

Epigram was founded by a man who went on to become one of Bristol’s most high-profile media alumni. James Landale (now BSc 1990, MSc 1992), who is now the BBC’s chief political correspondent, said at the time: ‘It was conceived out of some ridiculous Union politics: the third-floor hacks threw some money at the idea and expected it to appear… Is it a serious newspaper or an entertaining tabloid? I don’t know and I don’t care. As long as it is being read, I don’t mind.’

What Epigram would quickly become was a hybrid of a serious newspaper and a student reviews and features magazine – partly necessitated by its fortnightly (rather than weekly) publication. Compared with the papers of years past, Epigram soon contained more music reviews than Bacus had and almost as many features as the ternary Magnet and early Nonesuch published. Not that the greater prevalence of non-news items affected the quality and coverage of the news in the front of the paper, and sport reportage made a comeback in the back of each issue (though it is a perennial query as to whether the section is actually appreciated for anything other than the training of prospective sports journalists).

From its first issue, Epigram also began to set new standards in design. It was more elegant than both Nonesuch News and Bacus before it, most probably because design was completely in-house and completely computerised – Landale said that his first move was to buy an Apple Mac and desktop publishing software. The first issue may not have been Epigram at its best – ‘to be frank, the whole thing was pretty awful,’ Landale said – but the improvements have come thick and fast since.

Within three years Epigram had become the first student newspaper in Europe to go online and the first student paper in the country to print in colour. The current website perhaps, as ever, in need of renovation, remains the most visited student paper site in Europe. Pullouts have come and gone over the years – this year’s editor, William Irwin (Medieval Archaeology 2005–) has introduced the most recent with The Mix – and the paper even spent three years aspiring to snappy redtop tabloid news writing and design between 2003 and 2006.

In 19 years, Epigram has shown itself to be less concerned with student politics (particularly NUS ones) than its predecessors. It is a stance that reflects growing apathy among Bristol’s students. ‘What march?’ was the headline when thousands of students protested against top-up fees in 1994, not one of them from Bristol; ‘Exams or bombs’ ran the front page in 1999 when the paper stated: ‘As the Balkan crisis worsens, Bristol students cancel anti-bombing protests because “everyone’s got too much work”’. And in 2002, Epigram reported the Union AGM motion: ‘This Union believes that Bristol students don’t care about tuition fees and so the Union should stop spending money on marches and campaigns’ – motion passed.

By contrast, the thrills and spills of the Epicurean bar have always made the news, from colonies of fruit bugs under the carpet to hugely expensive refurb, and the extra-curricular exploits of students and staff alike have been the most consistent
source of copy, whether selling their virginity online, climbing the BRI’s incinerator chimney (‘We were off our faces and eating a kebab’ the students told Epigram) or getting a shotgun marriage in Vegas.

Following as it does in well-trodden footsteps, it is no surprise that Epigram has regularly courted controversy, and there is one incident that stands out. In 1997 for issue 92, editor Andy Dangerfield (now BSc 1998) criticised what he felt was a ‘patronising Union campaign’ promoting safe sex. The Union’s general secretary, Naz Sarkar (BSc 1997), asked Dangerfield to drop the article and, in the wake of a bitter disagreement, accused the editor of assault. The Epigram staff rallied touchingly around their top man and barricaded themselves in their office before the Union flushed them out by cutting all power to the now vandalised room. Dangerfield felt obliged to resign, but the paper went to press unaltered. As so often before, the Bristol student paper remained editorially independent and does so to this day.

Looking back now, Dangerfield remembers that he did try ‘to radicalise the paper to stimulate debate’ and admits that the graffiti probably ‘wasn’t [his] finest hour’.

Have standards slipped since 1898 – or since 1989 even? Irwin thinks not. ‘For my money, Epigram is still one of the best student rags in this country,’ he says. ‘And it’s still hugely influential on campus.’ This year Irwin plans to expand both the print edition and the website. Print runs will be longer than ever before and the design has been entirely revamped with over £500 of new typefaces. As for editorial policy – ‘We’ll still kick up a fuss if we reckon there’s good cause,’ he smiles.

Epigram had big boots to fill. If The Magnet had been characterised by its intelligence, the Gazette by its officious reportage, The Nonesuch by its predominantly good humour, Nonesuch News by its well-earned popularity and Bacus by its rampant politics, then Epigram in many ways drew, and continues to draw, on all these traits, creating certainly the most complete media product in the University’s history.

Thanks to the University’s Special Collections Library.

‘Sir – The newly refurbished Epi Bar – a wonderful place! Shame about the loos though. The gents has row upon row of (not so shiny) urinals but only one proper crapper and the paper supplies have always run out by 7:30. Can someone please do something about this?’

Epigram, Issue 14, 1990
As part of the centenary celebrations, the University is producing a major, 300-page book with contributions from some 60 authors ranging from World War One veteran Harry Patch to chef Heston Blumenthal. It will be lavishly illustrated and published to coincide with the annual meeting of Court on 12 December 2008.

This is an edited extract from an article in the book.

Professor Dave Cliff (left) and Professor Nigel Smart

Predicting the future

Over the four centenary editions of Nonesuch, we will be asking experts to predict the future. What do they think the major trends in their field over the next 100 years will be?
Supercomputers, artificial intelligence and disruptions: Professors Nigel Smart and Dave Cliff from the Department of Computer Science look into the future of computing.

Computer science is a fast-moving field. Indeed, in 1984, when the Department of Computer Science was established, no one could have foreseen the changes that computers would make to our lives. So when we were asked to predict the major challenges and trends in computing over the next 100 years, we were cautious. We decided that limiting our divinations to the next 25 years would be the safest bet. There are several trends that we think will influence the next quarter of a century – and beyond.

Once-per-decade disruptions
In 1982, Joel Bimbaum noted that every ten years the computing industry goes through a period of dramatic change or ‘disruption’, and history has borne out this observation. The net and the web are now well established, and the next transition – to powerful computing data centres accessed remotely by users – is underway.

The shifts in coming decades are also beginning to come into focus. It seems very likely that in the future almost all products will have digital sensing, processing and communication capacity built into them. Imagine this scenario: the workplace, the home, the streets and even the body all become the ‘scaffolding’ on which thousands or millions of small computing devices are placed. These devices interact autonomously with one another, communicating by wireless.

Another change that seems inevitable is one that involves the engineering of information processing systems based on materials other than silicon – materials that are alive.

Artificial intelligence remains hard
Research in artificial intelligence over the past 50 years has yet to deliver the machines with the superhuman general intelligence beloved of science fiction writers. Traditionally, artificial intelligence is seen as a subject that tries to build a computer with the type of processing abilities found in the brain. New research, however, is focusing on technology transfer in the other direction. Indeed, insight gained from computer science is now aiding neuroscientists in understanding the workings of the brain.

3D printing and plastic electronics
3D printers are already used for rapid prototyping in manufacturing engineering. A 3D printer starts with a digital specification of a 3D object and produces a 3D physical object made from plastic rather than a 2D pattern of ink on paper.

But it doesn’t stop there. It looks like it will become possible to embed electronics in the 3D object at the time of printing. In this case, the ‘printer’ will determine the object’s electronic and information processing capabilities, as well as its physical appearance and mechanics.

The continuation of Moore’s Law and other curves
Gordon Moore observed in 1965 that the number of transistors that can be placed on a silicon chip doubles approximately every two years. This means that the most powerful digital device that you can afford today will cost half as much in two years’ time. The effect over decades is dramatic: a device bought today for £1,000 will cost less than £1 by 2028.

Over the past 25 years, many people have predicted the imminent end to this cost/performance improvement as certain technological ‘brick walls’ become apparent.

In the future, Moore’s Law, as applied to silicon chips, will start to run into the problem that the transistors on the chips will be so small that they involve very few actual atoms of silicon. New technological breakthroughs will be needed, most likely from the field of quantum physics.

Return of the big machine
Technologies have a habit of going in circles. Universities are now investing in supercomputers again. The reason? Modern science is changing its mode of operation: instead of being empirically driven it is now data-driven.

We have so much data that, instead of sampling and predicting, we can analyse all the data at once – but this requires massive computational resources.

This approach is already used in climate modeling, physics and engineering. In the future, it will also be used by the social sciences and humanities. For example, one can imagine more accurate modeling of the economy using computer models that have access to every monetary transaction performed within a ten- or 20-year period.

We predict that the future will be one of exciting new discoveries and technologies. Whether they are used for the good of mankind or otherwise will depend on how future generations treat the tools that are put in their hands.

The Department of Computer Science will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in the academic year 2008/09. Find out more at www.cs.bris.ac.uk/25/
100 years, one weekend

You are cordially invited to the Centenary Alumni Weekend for graduates and friends of Bristol University.

When? Friday 3 to Sunday 5 July 2009

Where? University of Bristol

Who will you bring?

Highlights of the weekend

Cooking and penguins
Heston Blumenthal OBE (Hon MSc 2007) and Professor Peter Barham (MSc 1973, PhD 1975) will be ‘in conversation’ on Friday night discussing penguins and their shared passion for cooking.

Brunel’s Bristol
Explore Brunel’s Bristol on Sunday with local historian Elvyn Griffiths. Starting at the Clifton Suspension Bridge, this full-day tour will take in the SS Great Britain and Queen’s Square, before finishing at Bristol Temple Meads station.

The University’s Buildings: Past, Present and Future
Visit this exhibition about the University’s buildings, which will take place at Bristol’s Architecture Centre.

Having been at the University for more than a third of its life and two thirds of my own, I will be very pleased to be able to reflect on how the University has allowed me to follow my passions for food and penguins in a conversation with my good friend Heston Blumenthal.

Peter Barham, Professor of Physics

Tour of Theatre Collection
The guided tours of the University’s Theatre Collection feature highlights of the collection not normally on public view, including Sir Laurence Olivier’s signed gloves from The Entertainer and William Poel’s drawing on which the reconstruction of the Globe Theatre was based.

The university owns many of Bristol’s most beautiful and historic buildings. I am very much looking forward to putting together an exhibition on these and the University’s plans for the future, so that alumni and Bristolians alike can learn more about them.

Dr Sarah Whittingham (PhD 2006), curator of ‘The University of Bristol’s Buildings: Past, Present and Future’ held in association with The Architecture Centre.
Lunches

There will be special celebration lunches for graduates from the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and 2000s, as well as a lunch for everyone who graduated before 1960. There will also be a Convocation lunch, which alumni from all decades are welcome to attend. If you are coming to the weekend as part of a special interest group that cuts across the decades, for example a society or sports club, you have the option to attend this lunch as a group.

My family and I are looking forward to flying from San Francisco to attend the university’s centenary celebrations. It may be 100 years for the University, but it’s also the 40th anniversary of my graduation! As a result several of us, who all graduated in 1969, are planning a veritable celebration. As an added incentive for my family to make the trip from California, my oldest daughter, currently attending university in San Diego, had such a great experience ‘studying abroad’ last year at Bristol (how cool is that?) that she is determined not to miss the excitement.

Jon Bond (BSc 1969)

Question: How do you celebrate 100 years of Bristol in one weekend?

Answer: Make sure you have the right ingredients: a beautiful city, interesting talks, favourite professors, current students, old friends, new friends, tours, walks, music, art. And the final factor? Something worth celebrating.

Walks and tours

Gain access to ‘behind-the-scenes’ Bristol with the special tours and walks that are taking place throughout the weekend.

• Special Collections in the Arts and Social Sciences Library
• Open top bus tour of the University precinct and city
• Wills Memorial Building, including the tower
• ‘Makings of the University’ walk
• Royal Fort House with Professor Tim Mowl FSA (BEd 1975)
• ‘Development of Clifton’ walk

This will be a wonderful opportunity to share some of the treasures from the archive with our alumni, and allow them to experience these unique objects first-hand.

Jo Elsworth, Director of the Theatre Collection
Some Halls of Residence will be holding special events over the weekend. Clifton Hill House and Wills Hall are planning dinners for the Saturday night. Other Halls have yet to confirm – watch this space!

Following the successful millennium reunion at Burwalls, we thought the University’s centenary would be an excellent occasion to do a repeat event. We’ll be having dinner at Burwalls and have organised a visit to the Botanic Gardens, leaving plenty of time to participate in the other events going on over the weekend.

Tony Rodger (BSc 1958)

I am looking forward to the celebrations at the Centenary Alumni Weekend and, in particular, the annual Wills Hall Association Dinner. It will be exciting to revisit Wills, where I made so many good friends for life. The atmosphere at dinner is always tremendous and a reminder of the joie de vivre of so many dinners in Hall when we were 18. The room echoes to cheerful conversations that are just as loud now as then! It is good to mix with so many from every generation of Hall life and to hear how current students, so talented and from all backgrounds and subjects, relish the rich opportunities of Bristol. Happy Birthday Bristol!

Richard Cross (BA 1991), Chairman of the Wills Hall Association

Clifton Hill House shares its centenary with the university – it became the very first Hall of Residence for the University in 1909 when this beautiful Palladian villa was bought from the Symons family to welcome 15 young ladies in September that year. We shall celebrate this double centenary with an alumni dinner and dance on 4 July 2009.

Annie Burnside (MA 1971), Warden of Clifton Hill House.

Why not make the Centenary Alumni Weekend extra special and organise a mini-reunion for your Hall or society friends, sports team or classmates? The alumni relations team can help you reach friends you have lost touch with.
Look out for full details of the programme and how to book in the 2009 Centenary Alumni Celebrations brochure, which will be mailed to all alumni in December.

Who will you bring?
Gabriel Servini (BSc 1968) organised a reunion for the University’s rugby players from the late 1960s. It took months of investigations to track people down, but the result was worth it as the old rugby crew met up for the first time in 40 years. ‘People came together from all over the UK and even from as far as Australia to attend,’ he says. ‘Despite the time gap the years just rolled back and the camaraderie made it feel as if everyone was on a rugby trip for an away University Athletics Union game. Although forty years had elapsed many old friendships were renewed and we all agreed not to wait another forty years before the next reunion.’

Talk of a reunion for 1960 physics graduates started when Linda James-Lefebvre (née James) and Mike West (both BSc 1960), who had been in touch since graduating, met in St Albans and began to wonder what had happened to their fellow students. In the end, 20 out of a possible 40 gathered for the reunion in Bristol with participants flying in from Canada, Australia, Switzerland and Denmark. For many it was their first visit to Bristol for a long time – for some since 1960. ‘The intervening years seemed to drop away, old friendships were renewed and we even came to know some graduates we had never spoken to before,’ says Linda. ‘I still wonder at the success of our reunion,’ Mike says. ‘I guess one factor is that our Bristol experience has been a solid foundation for our lives and careers for all of us.’

For Joyce Anelay (BA 1968), the Wills Memorial Hall echoed to the sounds of the ‘60s when she returned to Bristol for a reunion of 1968 graduates last June. ‘Eleven of us who graduated in 1968 returned to visit old haunts,’ she says. ‘We renewed our acquaintance with the library. IT has brought Wi-Fi, but at least books were still marshalled on shelves and seats in place for the occasional post-lunch nap. We all have very happy memories of our time at Bristol. It gave us friends for life and a launch-pad for a variety of careers.’

To celebrate the centenary with as many alumni as possible, the University launched its Together Again campaign earlier this year. The aim is to re-establish links with those alumni with whom the University has lost touch over the years. This initiative depends on the support of all alumni. You can help by getting in touch with your Bristol friends, tell them about the centenary, invite them to be part of the celebrations and encourage them to give us their current contact details. You can find lists of alumni with whom the University has lost contact at: www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni.

For years reunions have brought alumni back together again – sometimes after decades of having lost touch with each other. These moments of rediscovery are often very emotional and the beginning of regular contact for years to come.

• In 2004, the University was in touch with 62 per cent of its alumni.

• In 2008, it’s in touch with 71 per cent of its alumni.

Joyce Anelay (BA 1968) and friends at their reunion in June this year
On January 15 1908, Bristol tobacco magnate George Wills received a letter from his father Henry Overton (HO) Wills. That letter promised £100,000 towards the endowment of ‘a University for Bristol’.

For the previous ten years, campaigners had sought to create a true university out of the University College that had been founded in 1876, but had always been plagued by financial difficulties. In January 1906, Lewis Fry announced a new start to the campaign with £30,000 from members of the Fry and Wills families. Everything was going well until the Privy Council demanded proof of another £100,000 in endowments before it would grant a charter for a University of Bristol. In January 1908, the campaigners had still not got much more than the £30,000 and things looked bad. They were saved by HO Wills’ promise in the letter he wrote to his son.

Professor Arthur Tyndall, then a newly appointed young lecturer, has left an account of what happened at the dinner when George Wills read out the letter from his father. ‘We all stood up, waved our napkins and proceeded recklessly to order champagne at 7/6 per bottle!’ Those present pledged many more thousands of pounds before the night was out.

In May 1909, the Privy Council granted the Charter that formally established the University of Bristol.

George and his brothers went on to make gifts to the University that far exceeded those of his father, including the Wills Memorial Building. HO’s letter not only made the University possible; it changed the face of Bristol (see parting shot on page 37).
Play it again

She’s one of the world’s top ranking organists and her phenomenal technique has inspired some of the greatest composers to write for her. As Jennifer Bate OBE (BA 1966, Hon DMus 2007) explains, it’s all about the music.

Jennifer Bate will give a recital and talk in the Great Hall of the Wills Memorial Building on the evening of Tuesday 3 March 2009 as part of the centenary celebrations. This is a unique opportunity for Bristol alumni to hear this internationally acclaimed organist.
Both my parents were very musical. I think I picked up my love of music while I was still in the womb.

I started playing the piano aged two. By 12 I was quite a proficient pianist, but by no means a genius.

I fell into playing the organ almost by accident. My father needed someone to play the organ at the family church service. None of his students was available, so in sheer desperation he asked me to do it. I was instantly hooked.

The organ has such a range of sounds. I found it fascinating.

I applied to do languages at Bristol. Professor Willis Grant from the Department of Music saw my application and asked if I would like to sit the music exam instead. I did, and he offered me a place on the spot.

In some ways it was quite frightening being a student in the Department of Music. I didn’t really have the right academic background. Most of the other students had done music A-level. I had to work like mad.

It was a very intensive course. There were only nine students in the department, so we received one-on-one teaching.

The emphasis was on composition and history. I hardly played the organ the whole time I was at Bristol – five minutes in three years! The professor was very strict about this. He told me: ‘You can already play the organ, this is where you come to learn the things you can’t do.’

I am very grateful to him in the long run, but I do think that if occasionally you are given the opportunity to do the thing you are good at it gives you the confidence to have a crack at things you are not so good at.

The best part of my time at Bristol was the lifelong friends I made.

I loved living in Manor Hall. I moved out in my third year to live in Royal Park, where there were two wonderful grand pianos. Part of the deal of my moving in was that I could play the pianos once a week. I played Schubert on one and Beethoven on the other.

My time at Bristol enriched my playing immeasurably. Olivier Messiaen analysed my complete degree course when he heard me play for the first time. He said he knew what I had studied because my playing was so clear he could hear all the inner voices.

It also taught me how to listen. Playing the organ is a very physical thing; you get embroiled in the mechanics of it. You have to learn to listen and know what the audience is hearing.

I first met Olivier Messiaen in 1975. A BBC producer asked me to play a programme of Messiaen for broadcast. I was hesitant about playing it on a British organ as I was not sure if that was what Messiaen would want. So the producer arranged for me to audition all the work in front of the composer, who then gave me his blessing. That was the start of a 17-year friendship and collaboration.

I gave the first British performance of Messiaen’s Livre du Saint Sacrement and later made the world premiere recording of the work under his personal supervision. I had his co-operation on every note. I play it in exactly the same way to this day.

Messiaen would often be present at my performances of his work. I benefited from his insights and feedback. It gives the performer enormous confidence if the composer is really involved and able to communicate exactly what they want.

I have a trained ear. People tell me that they can hear a lot of details when I play that they do not normally hear.

I take enormous trouble over rehearsals. To make the music exciting you need to understand the acoustics in the building and adjust your performance. I will practice in the building two or three days beforehand for up to eight hours a day to make sure I get it right.

You need to get the very best out of the machine. I always ask for a blueprint of the instrument before a performance. Then I design a programme for that instrument. I have never played the same programme twice in nearly 40 years.

When I was very young, a musician told me: ‘If there is anything else that you are remotely interested in, do that instead’. I was too young to appreciate the wisdom, but I understand it now. Music is all consuming.

Technology moves on. The newer machines offer more flexibility. The programmes can be affected by the touch of a button. Everything in the past was done by hand.

The perfect organ-playing shoes are those that are worn out. You do everything by the feel on the side of your foot – my practice shoes have holes on the side, so they are perfect. But I do think people must look at the state of my shoes and think ‘Poor old thing. She can’t be paid much!’

Whenever I give a concert of a mixed programme, I always like to include something that will intrigue, fascinate or amuse people who have never been to an organ concert before.

If I can express just a bit of my passion for the organ in my concerts, I hope that it will keep people coming back for more.
Events

Event: Behind the Scenes: Evening tasting of Cockburn’s Port
When: Wednesday 3 December 2008, 7.30 pm
Where: Capital Club, London
Who’s invited: All alumni
Tell me more: Go ‘Behind the Scenes’ with this Cockburn’s Port evening. Tickets £18 each. This event has been kindly supported by John Harvey & Sons.

Event: ‘The organ – box of whistles or king of instruments?’
When: Tuesday 3 March 2009
Where: Great Hall of the Wills Memorial Building, Bristol
Who’s invited: Everyone
Tell me more: Internationally acclaimed British concert organist, Jennifer Bate OBE (BA 1966, Hon DMus 2007) will give an evening recital and talk.

Centenary lectures
The University will be celebrating its centenary with at least a dozen public lectures. These will be held throughout the year and the speakers will include historian Professor Linda Colley (BA 1972, Hon DLitt 2006) of Princeton University; Professor Richard Fortey, palaeontologist; Dr Richard Horton of The Lancet; Lord (David) Puttman (Hon LLD 1983), film producer; and Lord (William) Waldegrave, politician.

For more information, visit www.bristol.ac.uk/centenary

Events diary:

Wednesday 3 December 2008
Behind the Scenes: Evening tasting of Cockburn’s Port, London (see above)

Thursday 11 December 2008
Annual Convocation Reception, Bristol
The evening will celebrate the University’s Student Societies and is a great opportunity for alumni to meet with students, other members of Convocation and senior officers of the University. Students who have made an outstanding contribution to either the University or the wider community during the previous year will receive Convocation Awards from the Chairman during the evening.

Saturday 17 January 2009
West Coast get-together, Santa Monica, USA
Professor Nick Lieven, Dean of Engineering, will be guest of honour at this alumni event. Email jbuisted99@comcast.net for more details.

Wednesday 11 February 2009
Centenary alumni lectures, Manchester
Enjoy a talk from a guest speaker, meet with other local alumni and hear about the University today from Vice-Chancellor Professor Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004).

Tuesday 3 March 2009
‘The organ – box of whistles or king of instruments?’, Bristol (see above)

Wednesday 29 April 2009
The global financial crisis, London
A panel discussion about the current financial climate with Angela Knight CBE (BSc 1972), Chief Executive of the British Bankers Association, and Tim Herrington (LLB 1975), Chairman of the FSA’s Regulatory Decisions Committee.

Saturday 9 May 2009
Bristol medics’ reunion 1974-1979, Bristol
A ‘30 years on’ reunion for 1979 medical graduates. Email annabel.foot@googlemail.com for more information.

Friday 3 to Sunday 5 July 2009
Centenary Alumni Weekend, Bristol
See pages 22-25 of this magazine.

Unless otherwise stated, find out more information about events at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/events
Parkinson’s disease affects 120,000 people in the UK.

One in 20 people over the age of 65 and one in five over the age of 80 suffer from dementia.

Every five minutes someone in the UK has a stroke.

Researchers at the University of Bristol are helping to develop new drugs to combat dementia, and innovative neurosurgical techniques to alleviate Parkinson’s disease and reduce brain damage following a stroke.

By leaving a gift in your Will to support neuroscience research at Bristol you can make a huge impact on saving and changing lives.

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
Bon Voyage from New York

US-based students heading for Bristol this autumn and alumni of all vintages gathered at New York’s TWINS Bar & Grill on 6 August for the annual ‘Bon Voyage’ send-off party. They were joined by the University’s Alumni Volunteer Manager, Declan Hamilton (BA 1993, MA 1995).

Sun, sea and socialising

On a recent holiday in the Seychelles, Adrian Mezzetti (LLB 1965) met Bristol alumni living on the island for lunch at the Alliance Française Club at Mont Fleuri, Mahe. Adrian said: ‘I feel that opportunities should be taken by graduates visiting abroad on holiday to extend or re-establish links with Bristol alumni in a friendly way.’ The University’s alumni relations team helped Adrian make contact with the Seychellois graduates to invite them to the lunch.

Chicago a-go-go

The inaugural event for alumni living in the Chicago area was a huge success, with an impressive representation of alumni from across the decades. Organised by Odette Cann (BA 1997), it was held on 10 September at Rock Bottom in downtown Chicago.

The participants hope that this will be the beginning of an expanding Bristol network in the Chicago area. Should you wish to register interest, please contact Odette at: ocann@carvill.com.

Alumni trip to Aveline’s Hole

Fifteen alumni enjoyed a visit to Aveline’s Hole, the oldest Mesolithic cemetery in Europe, in August this year. This cave in the Mendip Hills, Somerset, is home to an engraving, possibly Mesolithic in date, that was discovered in 2003 by members of the University’s Spelaeological Society. The visit was arranged by Linda Wilson (LLB 1982).

Hockey champions’ reunion

In 1962 and 1963 the men’s hockey team were back-to-back University Athletics Union champions. Richard Jowett, who played in both finals, is planning to celebrate those vintage years with a special reunion during the centenary year. If you were a member of the Men’s Hockey Club 1962/63 and would be interested in meeting up again, please contact Richard at: richardjowett@hotmail.com.

Bristol in the Midlands

The Midlands Branch of Convocation is looking for new members. Around 50 Midlands-based Bristol alumni are members of the group, which meets for regular social events. Past gatherings have included a lunch cruise on the River Avon and a trip to the Walsall Art Gallery. For more information, please contact Carol Southward at cms@kes.bham.sch.uk.

North American gatherings

A small lakeside inn on an island in Lake Ontario was the setting for a gathering of 28 Bristol alumni and guests on the weekend of 12 to 14 September. John Bull (BSc 1958) said: ‘This was the seventh reunion in Ontario. This year saw first-timers Hadi Al-Timimi (BSc 1955) and Frank Waudby-Smith (BSc 1952). In addition, we were pleased to welcome Chairman of Convocation, Stuart Goldsmith (BA 1966, Hon LLD 2007) and wife Elinor, together with Professor Bob Fowler, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, as guests.

The following weekend, the Western Canada Alumni Group and the Western US Group got together for a reunion in Vancouver DC. Thirty-nine alumni and their 20 guests attended. The guest speaker, Stuart Goldsmith, invited all present to come to Bristol next year to join in the centenary celebrations, and issued a challenge from Ontario where they are hoping to recruit 60 alumni to charter a flight to Bristol for the centenary.
Your news

Leonard Dunkley (BA 1952) is looking for Roy Richmond (BA 1951).

Trevor Cradduck (BSc 1958) has recently been made President of the Canadian Society of Telehealth.

Professor David Om (BSc 1958) taught physics at University of Delaware, Newark, US, for many years and has had over 100 papers in physics and physics education published. Since retiring, he has completed Certificates in Ornamental Horticulture I & II and is currently Docent at the Mount Cuba Centre for the Study of Plants Native to the Piedmont of the South Eastern US.

John Welsted (BSc 1958, PhD 1971, Cert Ed 1961) has written an e-book called Manitoba from the Air: A Geographical Interpretation published by the Rural Development Institute of Brandon University. The e-book is the third in a trilogy about this part of Canada in which he used to live and teach.

Alison Mace (née Edwards) (BA 1960) has written poetry since completing her MA in Writing at Sheffield Hallam University. She was recently awarded third prize in Open Poetry’s New International Sonnet Competition.

Okyoung Choe (English 1962-64) taught English at Hankook University, Korea, for 21 years. She retired in 2002 and was made a Professor Emeritus. Since retirement, she has translated Iris Murdoch’s novel, The Sea, the Sea, which will be published shortly.

Gokhan Ugurtas (BSc 1962) retired from Shell International where his last job was Head of Geophysical Consultants (worldwide). He is now a part-time lecturer at the ME Technical University in Ankara, teaching geophysical prospecting and hydrocarbon seismology. He is also a geophysical adviser. Both of his daughters graduated from Bristol.

Una Ryan (BSc 1963) has recently been appointed President and CEO of Waltham Technologies, Inc, which is creating a safe method of bioengineering algae.

Tony Hays (BSc 1965) lives in southern California with his wife and three teenage children. He retired in 2006 but still teaches an aircraft design class at the University of California.

Dr Robin Oakley (BVS 1965) has been Evaluations Programme Director for the European Association of Veterinary Educational Establishments since August 2007. He set up the first permanent office for the organisation in Vienna, Austria.

Steve Reynolds (BA 1965, PhD 1971), who recently retired from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN as Head of the Grassland Group, has been elected Fellow of the Institute of Biology (FiBiol) in recognition of his international grassland work.

Alfred James Martin (MB ChB 1972) is looking for Ken Gould (BSc 1969, PhD 1974).

Rosie Charalambous (née Ogden) (BSc 1974) lives in Nicosia, Cyprus, where she is Motoring Editor of the Cyprus Mail, and producer/presenter on Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation’s English programmes.

Lesley Adkins (BA 1976) and her husband Roy have written Jack Tar: Life in Nelson’s Navy, published by Little, Brown.


Professor Ivan Turok (BSc 1979) has left the University of Glasgow to help set up an African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town.

Jacob Olorunfemi (PhD 1980) is Professor of Geography at the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. He is married with four children and four grandchildren.

Janet Moore (BSc 1981) lives in Long Beach, southern California. After obtaining a Masters in Public Policy at the University of Michigan, she started Distant Horizons – a travel company offering trips to less well-travelled parts of the world. Janet is married and has four children.

Stephen Wade (BSc 1981) completed a DPhil in Geology at Oxford University after graduating from Bristol. Since then, he has worked in the oil and gas industry for BP, Sun, and now Shell. He has lived in Oman, Ecuador, The Netherlands, and, for the past 11 years, in the USA. He now lives with his wife and four children on a farm near Houston, Texas.

Keith Anderson (BA 1982) moved to Berlin in August 2007 and qualified as a city tourist guide.

Jeremy Payne (BA 1982) moved to Brittany after graduating and worked at a local radio station as a presenter, producer and head of music. Jeremy now works for a communications agency as a magazine editor specialising in yachting.

David Gibbins (BA 1983) has written three novels: Atlantis, Crusader Gold, and The Last Gospel. They have sold over a million copies, are being translated into thirty languages and have been New York Times and Sunday Times bestsellers. His fourth novel, The Tiger Warrior, will be published in 2009.

Mark Shearman (BSc 1983) moved to Boston, Massachusetts in 2006 and is Executive Director of Neuroscience at Merck Research Laboratories, Boston.

Giles Watkins (BSc 1986) lives in Jakarta, Indonesia, working in consultancy for McKinsey & Company. He is married and has a son.

Catherine Bindman (BA 1987) lives in Manhattan. She is an editor and an art critic. She is married to an art dealer and they have a boy.

Robert Darden (JYA 1987), Associate Professor of Journalism at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, was named both 2008 Centennial Professor and 2008 Outstanding Research Professor, Colleges of Arts and Sciences at Baylor’s May 2008 Commencement. His latest book, Jesus Laughed: The Redemptive Power of Humor, has just been published.

Craig Walls (JYA 1987) earned his MD and PhD at the University of
Illinois and now practices emergency medicine in California. He is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Medicine. He is married and has two small children.

Abdelhalim Bensouday (MSc 1989) is a lecturer and researcher at Mentouri Constantine University, Algeria. He is married and has four children.

Jose Brito (PhD 1989) worked as a microbiologist for the Brazilian Agricultural Research Service, Embrapa, until his retirement last year. Embrapa recognised him as one of the ten outstanding researchers of 2007. This year, the Brazilian Milk Quality Council gave him an award for contributions to the development of the dairy industry.

Elias Peter (BEd 1990, Med 1991) has taught at various institutions in Mozambique and South Africa since graduating. He is currently a teacher at Maputo International School. He is married and has three children.

Shobha Duff (LLM 1991) returned to India after graduation and worked as a lawyer. In 2001 she met and married an Australian and they now live in Australia. She works for the Queensland Government as a Conciliator with the Anti-Discrimination Commission.

Adrian Hepworth (BSc 1991) is a wildlife photographer living in Costa Rica. He was one of the winners of the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition this year and has just published his book *Costa Rica: A Journey Through Nature*.

James Hider (BA 1991) is *The Times* newspaper’s Middle East correspondent, based in Jerusalem. He has been covering the region for seven years. His first book, *The Spiders of Allah: Travels of an Unbeliever on the Frontline of Holy Wars*, will be published by Doubleday in January 2009.

Muttukrishna Sarvananthan (MSc 1991) is Principal Researcher at the Point Pedro Institute of Development, Sri Lanka.

Mark Moore (Cert Ed 1992) teaches English at Charles University, Prague.

Professor Abu-Hammad (MSc 1993, PhD 1996) has recently been appointed Head of Prosthetic Dentistry at the University of Jordan.

Dr Teresiah Wambui Gathenya (MEd 1993) works as an Education Program Management Specialist for USAID/Kenya Mission in Kenya. Previously to this, she worked for the Ministry of Education.

Chieng Ning Chen (LLB 1995) is the managing partner of Messrs Chen Chieng Ning and Aziz Advocates in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. He married Lisa Wong on 11 November 2007.

Richard Grasby (LLB 1995) works as lawyer at Maples and Calder in the Cayman Islands. He is due to relocate to Hong Kong in February 2009.

Gilles Loiseau (MSc 1995) spent four years in Paris as a software developer after graduating. He now lives near Toulouse, France, where he works as a project manager for a software publisher.

Ben Prior (BSc 1995) obtained his MBA at Bath University in 2002, where he also met his wife. Since then, he has lived and worked in various places around the UK, India and Switzerland. He has been settled in Zurich for the last three years, where he works for Rothschild Bank.

Gabatshwane Tsayang (EdD 1995) is Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Botswana.

Emma Turner Trütsch (BA 1995) lives in Switzerland. She gave birth to Gabriel Joseph Trütsch on 30 April 2008.

Juha Kettunen (PhD 1996) is President of the Turku University of Applied Sciences, Finland. Previous to this he was Director of the Vantaa Institute for Continuing Education at the University of Helsinki.

Stefan Seuring (MSc 1996) has been appointed Professor and Head of Department in International Management at the University of Kassel.

Marie Rose Aglae (BEd 1997) teaches at the International School in Seychelles.

Hector Dominguez (PhD 1997) is Reader in Science at the Material Science Institute at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico.

Lauria Joseph (BEd 1997) has been Head Teacher at La Digue School, Seychelles, since 1999.

Jemma Simeon (BEd 1997) graduated in May with an MA in Educational Leadership at Warwick University and currently teaches Business English in the Business Communications Department at the Seychelles Polytechnic.

Dr Amir Hossein Rezaie (PhD 1998) is an academic in the Department of Electrical Engineering at Amirkabir University of Technology, Tehran. He is also an honorary lecturer at Birmingham University. He is married and has two sons.

Jennifer Crane (YA 1999) lives in Sonoma County, California and has a Pinot noir vineyard. After her history degree, she went on to get a degree in viticulture and planted her own vineyard in 2002.

Angela Rouse (BSc 1999) works for Merlin. She set up and currently runs a health care project in Birambozo, a health zone in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, which is heavily affected by the ongoing war.

Christina Bartha (MEd 2000) teaches in schools in Greece. She is married.

Ayman Madieh (MSc 2001) returned to Jordan after graduating and joined the country’s biggest GSM mobile operator (Zain-Jordan) as a RAN planning and optimization engineer. He is now heading up his division. He is married and has two daughters.

Dr Aymen Massd’Deh (PhD 2001) is Dean of Law at Yarmouk University, Jordan. He is married and has one son.

Cary Langer-Donohoe (MEng 2002, PhD 2006) lives in Hamburg, where she works for Airbus.

Elvis Julie (MEd 2005) is Head of International Payments at Barclays Bank in Seychelles.

Andrew Ross (MEng 2005) lives and works in Dubai as a civil engineer. He is currently working on the Dubai Waterfront Project, a new city that...
is planned to house upwards of 1.5m people.

Elodie Windels (MSc 2006) worked with Oxfam in Ghana then with the USAID–funded West Africa Trade Hub after graduating. In 2008, she moved to Liberia to work with the Sustainable Tree Crops Program as Program Assistant.

Felicia Fang Fang (MEd 2007) has worked with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University since graduating, initially as Project Assistant and then Project Associate of the English Language Centre.

Mira Al Hussein (MSc 2008) works as Associate Manager for the Cultural Development Department at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation.

Unfortunately, there wasn’t enough space to feature all the ‘your news’ submissions. If your news isn’t featured, we’ll do our best to include it in the next issue of Nonesuch.

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)


Sir Richard Dilworth Young (BSc 1934) died 16 June 2008, aged 94.

Mr Albert Wilfred French Dalby (BA 1937, Diploma 1938, MA 1949) died 9 January 2006.

Mr Francis Douglas Pearsall (BA 1939, Diploma 1940) died 3 April 2004, aged 86.

Mrs Elsie May Pearsall (née Bauntorn) (BA 1940, Diploma 1941) died 20 March 2007, aged 88.

Mr Edward Arthur Thomas (BA 1940, Diploma 1941) died 30 June 2008, aged 88.

Mrs Gwendoline Marion Wood (née Hebron) (BSc 1940) died 21 December 2007, aged 91.

Dr Edward Cleveland Hamlyn (MB ChB 1943) died 14 August 2007, aged 85.

Dr Margot Joyce Walton (née Copland) (MB ChB 1945).

Professor Norman Martin Gibbs (MB ChB 1948) died 1 May 2008, aged 84.

Dr George William Ardley (BSc 1949) died 28 June 2008, aged 80.

Professor David Cullooden Rowan (BA 1949, DSc 1977) died 26 June 2008, aged 89.


The Rev Eric Bob Hubbard (BSc 1950) died 2007, aged 80.

Dr George Lucas (MB ChB 1950) died 5 August 2008, aged 83.

Dr Monica Beryl Bishop (MB ChB 1951, MD 1964) died 19 August 2008, aged 83.

Mr Kenneth Harris (BA 1951, Certificate in Education 1952) died 2004, aged 76.

Mr John Edwin Roberts (BSc 1951, Certificate in Education 1952) died 3 June 2008, aged 82.

Mrs Janet Mary Boyle (née West) (BA 1952) died 3 July 2008, aged 78.

Mr Cecil Parry (BA 1953) died 5 July 2008.


Mr Alwyne Otley Sutcliffe (BSc 1955) died 15 June 2008, aged 79.

Mrs Avril Darby (née Blackwell) (BA 1956) died 19 July 2008, aged 73.

Dr Michael Brian Ives (BSc 1957, PhD 1960) died 16 April 2008, aged 73.

Mr John Edwin Loder (BSc 1957, MSc 1968) died 13 July 2008, aged 72.

Mr Charles Clifton-Welker (BDS 1958) died 11 June 2008, aged 78.

Mr Hugh Garland (BSc 1958) died 3 August 2006, aged 70.

Dr Rodney Kevan Hassard Parker (MB ChB 1959) died 17 June 2008, aged 74.

Dr Leslie John Rigby (BSc 1959, PhD 1963) died 18 July 2008, aged 70.

Dr Brian Chew (BSc 1961, PhD 1965) died 20 July 2008, aged 69.

Mr Bryan John Simons (BSc 1961) died 2008, aged 71.

Mr John Burdett Stevens (BA 1963) died 7 May 2008, aged 70.


Ms Elizabeth Mary Osborne (née Hansen) (BA 1965) died 2008.


Dr George Richard Herbert Greaves (PhD 1968) died 24 August 2008, aged 67.

Dr Roger Barns (BSc 1970, PhD 1973) died 11 April 2008, aged 58.

Mr Julian Robert Cann (LLB 1971) died 8 May 2008, aged 58.

Dr Damian Patrick Timms (MB ChB 1976) died 2005, aged 53.


Mr Alan Griffin (MPPS 1988) died 9 November 2007, aged 58.


Mr Timothy James Daborn (BSc 1999) died 25 April 2008, aged 29.

Mr William Edward Fearnley (BSc 2000) died 3 July 2008, aged 29.

Mr John Antony Def (LLM 2001) died 4 September 2008, aged 59.

Please email any notifications of death to alumni@bristol.ac.uk
Why did you choose Bristol?
I went to St Austell County School in Cornwall. At that time very few girls went on to university. However, Miss Rich, one of my teachers, had studied at Bristol and she waxed lyrical about it. She urged me to apply.

What were your first impressions?
After St Austell, the architecture, the splendour of the University and the delight of living in Clifton combined to make me realise how lucky I was.

What kind of student were you?
I was very aware that my time at Bristol was an amazing opportunity and I worked hard.

And away from study?
I played in the netball team, I was president of the Literary Society and I sang in the choir – every year on Founders’ Day we used to sing on the top of the Wills Tower at 7 am. I loved the theatre. We used to get seats at the Bristol Old Vic for sixpence.

Were there any academics or other members of staff who made a particular impression on you?
I was thrilled with all the teaching. Professor Crofts and Miss Birkhead were inspiring. I also remember a blind history professor – a remarkable man who made a huge impression on me.

Where did you live?
At Royal Park House. In my first year, I shared a room with three freshers. We had wash stands with screens. The maids brought cans of hot water in the morning and at 6 o’clock in the evening so that we could wash before changing for dinner. In my last three years I had a single room. Manor Hall was built and Royal Park closed the year after I left.

What were your highlights?
The week between the publication of degree results and graduation was a lot of fun. The societies organised many entertainments. I had a wonderful time exploring caves with the Spelaeological Society and going to concerts. It was a happy ending to all the hard toil and I remember feeling free, with everything ahead of me. And I shall never forget the day Winston Churchill was installed as Chancellor.

And were there any lowlights?
Perhaps I am looking back through rose-tinted spectacles, but I cannot think of any.

Looking back, would you have done anything differently?
From this standpoint, it is bathed in a rosy glow and I would not change a thing.

What are the key things that your time at Bristol gave you?
I left as a mature person with the knowledge, understanding and determination to make the most of life.

How has your time at Bristol influenced your career?
It equipped me well for teaching.

What do you think Bristol’s role is today?
It is deservedly up there among the top universities.

Do you ever come back to Bristol?
I used to return for Manor Hall reunions. I should love to come back for the centenary celebrations, but travelling is not so easy for me now.

Do you have any tips or words of advice for Bristol freshers?
Realise from the very beginning how fortunate you are to have a place at Bristol and make the most of all the incredible opportunities.

Sum up your Bristol experience in three words
Brilliant. Life-enhancing.

I was thrilled with all the teaching. Professor Crofts and Miss Birkhead were inspiring. I also remember a blind history professor – a remarkable man who made a huge impression on me.

I left as a mature person with the knowledge, understanding and determination to make the most of life.

It equipped me well for teaching.

It is deservedly up there among the top universities.

I used to return for Manor Hall reunions. I should love to come back for the centenary celebrations, but travelling is not so easy for me now.

Realise from the very beginning how fortunate you are to have a place at Bristol and make the most of all the incredible opportunities.

Brilliant. Life-enhancing.
The changing face of Park Street

Park Street in the early 20th century before the Wills Memorial Building was built
Time to celebrate! 2009 is the University’s (and Molly’s) centenary.

www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni