Alumni distinctions and honorary degrees

Bristol alumni excel in many fields across the globe. We highlight some of those whose contributions were recognised by external organisations in 2010/11:


Julia Donaldson (BA 1970, Hon Dlitt 2011) was confirmed as the new Children’s Laureate.

Dr Martin London (MB ChB 1977) received the 2011 Peter Snow Memorial Award for his contribution to rural health in New Zealand.

Dr Peter Muir (BSc 1985) received the 2011 AVMA/AKC Career Achievement Award in Canine Research.

Honorary degrees

Bristol now benefits from the third group alone contributed almost staggering 31% this year, to 381. £1.8 million to Bristol, and we list generosity. This year, 98,000 individuals, companies, and foundations made donations to the University, Campaigns and Alumni Relations raised over £6.25 million, with the help of colleagues across the University.

In 2010/11:

• With the help of colleagues across the University, Alumni Relations raised over £2.5 million – the highest amount raised to date. The Mandir & Mitchell archive was given to the University, with an estimated value of at least £3.5 million. Additional gifts from philanthropic sources across the University were worth more than £3.5 million. Altogether, this was Bristol’s best performance ever in philanthropic cash income.

• Over 7,000 individuals, companies and foundations from 66 countries made donations to the University, including more than 6,200 alumni. Bristol now benefits from the third highest rate of support among UK universities.

• Bristol’s Centenary Campaign, launched in 2009, has now broken the £70 million barrier in cash and pledges, driving us towards our 2014 goal of £100 million.

• The number of Bristol Pioneers (individual donors who give £1,000 or more in a year) rose by a staggering 31%, to 581. This group again contributed almost £1.8 million to Bristol, and we list them here in recognition of their generosity.

In 2010/11:


Dr Malcolm R Williams [BSc 1975] Dr Peter M A Robertson [PhD 1994]

Dr Andrew S Mackenzie [BSc 1981, PhD 1987] Professor Stephen E Halder [BSc 1987, PhD 1991] Professor Lelia Huber [BSc 1987, PhD 1991]

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August

Fire and fingerprints
Dr Tim Buckton from the Department of Computer Science leads a collaboration project with the White Shark Trust to build a virtual database of Great White sharks. The project will involve developing a computer vision identification system to be able to recognize and archive the features of the world’s most dangerous predator, helping researchers to track individual sharks.

September

Giving wind power a spin
A team of staff and students from the Faculty of Engineering have built and powered an electric vehicle to compete at the Aeolus Wind-Powered Car race. The project was led by Dr James How, with support from the University’s Sustainability Office. The vehicle will help to further understanding of wind and renewable energy technologies.

October

Tiny blooms
Amborella trichopoda, the world’s most ancient flowering plant, has been grown successfully on the University of Bristol’s horticulture farm. The project was led by Dr James How, with support from the University’s Sustainability Office. The plant will help to further understanding of plant evolution.

November

Pictures from an eruption
Dr Tilo Burghardt from the Department of Computer Science launched a collaborative project to study volcanic eruptions using satellite imagery. The project will involve developing a computer vision identification system to be able to recognize and archive the features of the world’s most dangerous predator, helping researchers to track individual eruptions.

December

Art takes on science
Work by the winners of the Art of Science Competition – the annual award by the Faculty of Medical Sciences – is on display at the University’s Student Centre. The competition was open to all University staff and students, and featured a range of scientific and artistic works.

January

Wikipedia creator visits Bristol
Wikipedia co-founder Jimmy Wales made a visit to the University of Bristol to discuss the future of the online encyclopedia. The visit was part of the University’s celebration of the 150th anniversary of the University’s Medical School. Wales discussed the role of Wikipedia in education and the importance of open access to knowledge.

February

Robotics Lab wins World Cup hosting bid
A team of students from the University of Bristol has been selected to host the 2013 FiRa/taRos Congress, one of the world’s leading conferences on robotics. The project was led by Dr Tilo Burghardt, with support from the University’s Sustainability Office. The hosting bid will bring together the world’s leading experts in robotics.

March

Dylan’s back pages
Bob Dylan on the occasion of his 70th birthday. The event was attended by the UK’s foremost Dylan scholars and attracted considerable media attention. Alongside this, a major scientific conference, the FiRa/taRos Congress, will bring together the world’s leading experts in robotics.

April

Bristol pupils go Olympic
Bristol pupils to the 2011 Bristol Festival of School Sport and Culture. During the three-day event, pupils from across the city tried a range of sports, met world-class athletes, and got the chance to see the 2012 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in London.

May

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June

Yam Invasion at Science Museum
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July

Stream of successes
Stream of successes

Council members

University members (10)

Professor Eric Thomas – Vice-Chancellor
Professor David Claxton – Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Professor Avril Waterman-Pearson – Pro Vice-Chancellor
Professor Guy O’Doherty – Pro Vice-Chancellor
Elected members of the academic staff

Professor Peter Hitchcock
Professor Tim Bond
Professor Richard Hawkes
Professor Michael Burrell
Professor Anne Cooke
Professor Helen Featherstone
Professor John Hearn
Professor John Howse
Professor John Howse
Professor John Howse

Elected members of the non-academic staff

Mr Robert Maitland
Mrs Fiona Lawrence-Archer
Students (3)

Mr James Ainslie-Bell – President of the Students’ Union
Mr Andrew Higginbotham – Vice-President of the Students’ Union
Mr Tim Steward – Vice-President of the Students’ Union

Lay members (19)

Mr James Redcliffe – Treasurer
Cllr Christopher Davey – Bristol City Council
Mr Tony Bun – Society of Friends of the University (Cheltenham)
Bill Ray – Convocation

Elected by Court

Mr Roy Cherry
Mr Colin Green
Dr Mark Hallett
Dr Ronald Kerr
Dr John Hawkes
Mr Bob Morton (Vice-Chair)
Mr George Barlow
Mr David Sidell
Mr Andy Price
Mr Mohammed Saidji
Mr Andrew Collins
Mr Anne Stephenson
Mrs Cathy Waddle
Mr James Rees

2010/11: The year in pictures

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