

Students

Every year, Bristol's students reach beyond the basic requirements of their studies and demonstrate their initiative, energy and enthusiasm in a tremendous range of different contexts – academic, sporting, business and volunteering, to name just a few. The University endeavours to provide a supportive environment for such talented individuals to thrive and excel in every aspect of their lives at Bristol. It is committed to providing a full range of services and facilities that will enable students to make the most of their university career and equip them to become tomorrow's leaders and pioneers.

The University's priorities in this area are to:

- ensure a fair and transparent system of student representation that provides students with the opportunity to shape their educational and extra-curricular experience;
- support a vibrant, active and democratic Students' Union;
- ensure the provision of learning and skills opportunities that enhance students' future employability;
- offer a rewarding extra-curricular experience that provides for students' health, well-being and personal development;
- provide advice and support for students' personal welfare and ensure effective integration into the University and local community.

Bristol students in the charitable and voluntary sector

The Students' Union emphasises to its members the importance of escaping the 'student bubble' and engaging with the local community in a positive way. The University of Bristol Union's (UBU) Raising and Giving (RAG) and Volunteering programmes offer a tremendous range of opportunities for charitable work, along with related training and personal development courses to help students complement their academic work and enhance their CVs.

RAG

In the year 2011/12, RAG activities raised over £134,000 through a varied programme that included street collections, skydiving, an overnight soccathon, building 'Britain's Biggest Burrito', and the traditional RAG procession through the streets of Bristol.

Volunteering

During 2011/12, UBU Volunteering ran 41 student-led projects involving over 1,000 students, and ran training programmes for over 400 volunteers, with sessions including 'Learning Disability and Autism Awareness', 'Effective Communication' and 'Working in Schools'.

Long-running events such as a Christmas party for local children and a dinner dance for disadvantaged residents are joined on the roster by new student-led initiatives including a project providing literacy and numeracy support for the long-term unemployed.

Extraordinary success for Bristol engineers

More than a quarter of the national Royal Academy of Engineering Leadership Advanced Awards were awarded to students at Bristol. The ten students in the Faculty of Engineering selected as 'inspirational role models to the next generation of engineers' were: Peter Cooper, Arthur Mitchell and Thomas O'Neill (Engineering Design); Dominic Chapman and Shashitha Kularatna (Aerospace Engineering); Matthew Oliver, William Thurston and Benedict Sayer (Civil Engineering); and Marcus Scaramanga and Macdara O'Shea (Mechanical Engineering). The students competed in a challenging selection event against over 200 students from UK universities to win the award.

Students and alumni excel at Olympics

Bristol students past and present triumphed at the London 2012 Olympic Games, collecting a total of five medals.

Laura Bechtolsheimer (BSc 2007) won gold as a member of the dressage team plus an individual dressage bronze; sailor Hannah Mills, a student in Mechanical Engineering, secured a silver in the women's 470 sailing with partner Saskia Clark; Iain Percy (BSc 1998) and his partner Andrew Simpson took a silver medal in the star class sailing; and hockey player Georgie Twigg (BA 2012) helped the women's GB hockey team win a bronze.

The closing ceremony (designed by Bristol alumna Es Devlin (BA 1993)) included a performance by Bristol student RAG Morris dancers, who accompanied Eric Idle. The

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Juliette Denny with local children in Kenya.

ceremony ended with a tribute to all the volunteers who helped ensure the success of the Games, including a number of Bristol University students and staff members.

A sporting legacy for Kenya

Juliette Denny, a postgraduate Geology student, helped to sow the seeds for a lasting Olympic legacy in Kenya. She spent four weeks there in 2011 with other young volunteers from Bristol, promoting sport and community ties as part of Umoja, the Bristol-Kenya Partnership. Together they built a football pitch, two netball pitches, a volleyball pitch, a cricket pitch and a long jump track and pit for a local community to use.

Umoja, from the Swahili word for 'togetherness', was formed as a result of the friendship between Bob Reeves (MEd 1982) (former Director of Sport Exercise and Health at Bristol) and renowned Kenyan athlete Kip Keino (Honorary LLD 2007). The charity fostered sporting, educational, cultural and commercial links between Bristol and Kenya ahead of the 2012 London Olympic Games. The entire Kenyan squad based themselves in the city for their pre-Olympics training camp.

Student awards and prizes

Bristol engineer receives 'Student of the Year' award

Stephen Thompson (MEng 2011), a student in the Department of Civil Engineering, was one of the winners of the international 2011 Science, Engineering & Technology Student of the Year awards. Stephen received the Laing O'Rourke Award for 'Best Civil Engineering Student' for his project entitled 'Redevelopment of the Colston Hall', supported by Arup's Bristol office. Record numbers of entries were received from every major university in Europe; two other Bristol students were also shortlisted for the awards, which are supported by industry and leading research institutions including Airbus, BP, Kraft Foods, National Grid, and Lloyd's Register Educational Trust.

Tom Flynn named Best Student Journalist

Tom Flynn, the editor of the University's student newspaper *Epigram*, was awarded Best Student Journalist of the Year in the National Union of Students (NUS) Awards 2012. The award ceremony was the culminating event at the NUS Students' Unions 2012 summer conference in Exeter.

PhD student wins dissertation prize

Stefano Longo (PhD 2011), who completed his PhD in the Dynamics and Control Research Group at the Queens School of Engineering, won the 2011 Institution of Engineering and Technology's (IET) Control and Automation Doctoral Dissertation prize for his work on 'Optimal and robust scheduling for networked control systems'. The IET Ambition and Achievement Awards recognise some of the world's most outstanding engineers and technologists and acknowledge the talents of exceptional students and young professionals.

Fulbright Award for complex approach to music

Matt McVicar (MSc 2008, MRes 2010), a PhD student at the Bristol Centre for Complexity Sciences (BCCS), has gained a prestigious Fulbright Award to pursue research into developing automatic methods of musical analysis. His research has already shown that taking account of the complexity of interactions between aspects such as the chords, key, bassline and beat structure leads to greater accuracy of chord recognition. The award will allow Matt to spend a year at Columbia University in New York, with Professor Dan Ellis at the Laboratory for Recognition and Organization of Speech and Audio.

Archaeology student strikes gold

Jimena Lobo Guerrero Arenas, a postgraduate student in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, was awarded a Short Term Research Grant from Harvard University for research into early colonial gold-working in Colombia. Her project, which involves fieldwork and archival research, focuses on metallurgy and mining after the 16th-century Spanish conquest. It includes the study of individual craftsmen and workshops, the reconstruction of the technology and organisation of metal production, and the roles played by metal items in the cultural milieu of the period.

Award for fighting food poverty

FoodCycle Bristol, an initiative run by students at Bristol to help alleviate food poverty in the city, was named Best Social Enterprise at the SETSquared Partnership's second annual student enterprise awards. FoodCycle Bristol provides free meals for the community using food which would otherwise be thrown away. The scheme, established in 2009, serves free three-course meals to beneficiaries in Easton every Sunday from its base in Easton Community Centre.

It is co-ordinated by students and volunteers from throughout the community who help run the kitchen and collect the waste food using bicycle trailers. FoodCycle hopes to set up a second community kitchen in the near future.

Low-carbon research wins first prize

Jo Humphrey (MSc 2012), a final-year undergraduate in the School of Chemistry, was awarded first prize in a competition that recognises outstanding student research in the area of low-carbon technologies. Jo's work with the Electrochemistry Group involved finding new materials for fuel cell applications, and she focused on developing specialist low-cost diamond powders, which can replace conventional electrocatalyst coatings and offer significantly improved lifespans for fuel cells.

The competition is sponsored by Low Carbon South West, a partnership between businesses, academia, and local authorities promoting the growth of the environmental technologies and services sector in the South West.

Economics student goes global

Shaun Miller (BSc 2012), a final-year Economics undergraduate, was named a Kauffman Global Scholar after winning a competition organised by the SETSquared Partnership. Shaun's winning entry was a motion tracking device that connects with mobile phones and computers, which will have a wide range of applications.

Kauffman Global Scholars is a fully funded, 15-month programme that includes a six-month stay in the USA with fellow scholars, during which they will visit Stanford and Harvard Universities and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This is then followed by a three-month internship at a technology company to understand the real-life challenges and



Tom Flynn

rewards of entrepreneurship. Before going to the USA, Shaun will be the 'Entrepreneur in Residence' at Bristol, with an opportunity to develop his business concept while networking with entrepreneurs, investors, and service providers in the UK. He will also encourage and enable students to work on their own entrepreneurial ideas.

SPAIS undergraduates head to Canada

Four students from the School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies (SPAIS) were accepted to give papers at the Tomorrow's Ideas, Now (TIN) International Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Conference at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, in August 2012. Luke de Noronha (BSc 2012), Lizzie Packham (BSc 2012), Alice Peck (BSc 2012) and Mara Ruse (BSc 2012) were among some 80 applicants for this international event. This initiative came about as a result of co-operation between Bristol's Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) and its equivalent at Alberta, the Kule Institute for Advanced Studies,



Adam Smith, Co-ordinator of Food Cycle, Bristol receives the SETSquared award from Simon Woodroffe OBE, founder of YO!

and the students will be co-funded accordingly.

Best lectures go free-range

Free Range University, a social enterprise started by Bristol students and alumni, is expanding to universities across the UK, giving members of the public a unique opportunity to experience inspirational teaching for free.

Tom Corfield (MEng 2009) developed the Best of Bristol Lectures (BoB) idea after he decided to sit in on some of his friends' favourite lectures. Over 2,000 students voted on which teachers from across the University they felt were the most interesting and engaging, leading to a series of lunchtime lectures attended by more than 6,000 students, staff and members of the public. He graduated in 2009 and secured funding from the University and from social enterprise charity UnLtd to turn the BoB concept into the Free Range University, or Fruni (www.fruni.org.uk), an online platform which allows students at any university to replicate the model.