UWE celebrates Chinese New Year
Middle class angst and secondary schools

What is the ‘best’ option?

Middle class parental angst about secondary school choice, the decision to pay for their children's education or move house for a ‘better’ state school are the issues at the heart of a recent collaborative study carried out by researchers at the UWE, the University of Cambridge and the University of Sunderland. The study focuses on the opposite to so-called ‘white flight’, looking at those white urban middle class parents who have made the conscious choice for their children to be educated at their local state secondary whatever the league table positioning.

The research team, jointly led by Professor Diane Reay from the University of Cambridge, Professor Gill Crozier from the University of Sunderland and Professor David James at the UWE, was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council as part of a larger nationwide programme of research on identities and social action.

Entitled ‘Identity, Educational Choice and the White Urban Middle Classes’, the study covers a 30-month period and was conducted in London and two cities (one in the North of England, the other in the South) that have been given the names Riverton and Norton to protect the identities of the families and schools that have taken part.

Professor James (left) explains, “Lots of middle class people move house, decide to pay for private education, rediscover religious allegiances or even rent a new address to get the secondary schooling that the market appears to hold up as ‘best’. But we wanted to discover what motivates parents who instead choose to send their children to local comprehensives which appear to be performing poorly on the conventional measure, which is the proportion of pupils who attain at least five GCSEs at grade A* to C. Most children who have had this choice made for them by the parents taking part in this study have gone on to perform brilliantly in GSCEs, A-levels and then on to university entrance, including a much higher than average entry to Oxbridge.”

Professor Crozier added “We used in-depth interviews to explore motivations surrounding identity, confidence, community spirit and social diversity. Findings demonstrate that the parents making the positive choice to send their children to the local school are in general very highly educated (83 per cent have degrees with 23 per cent also having studied at Postgraduate level).

“Schools were seen to make special efforts to accommodate the children. Parents are very involved with the schools with many taking active roles on school governing bodies. The children often get special attention as they are nurtured by teachers who are keen to give extra help to improve the school's results. Children from these families are very often placed on the Gifted and Talented programmes giving them an advantaged access to resources compared to many children in schools that have better results overall but where there is more competition for the limited places on such schemes. Feedback from parents shows that there is a healthy cynicism surrounding league tables. However, our analysis also shows that many of these parents are making a calculated investment which, whilst it feels risky to them, has very high returns because their children tend to be very well supported and to do very well.”

The study also looked at the sorts of advantages that the choice of school seemed to bring.

Professor Reay added, “In general we found that parents were keen that their children experienced social diversity though developing friendships with children from a wide spectrum of social and ethnic backgrounds. As one parent put it – ‘experience of a wide social mix will make my daughter a better doctor’. In this sense the choice of a particular school could be seen to pay dividends in terms of the child's exposure to a wide range of backgrounds, equipping them to be better citizens or professionals in later life. However the study also found that although the children were engaged in a social mix, in general 'social mixing' did not occur and the children mostly formed friendships with the other white middle class children inside and outside their school.

“Like higher-risk financial investments, counter-intuitive school choice is monitored very closely. People move house, decide to pay for private education, rediscover religious allegiances or even rent a new address to get the secondary schooling that the market appears to hold up as 'best'. But we wanted to discover what motivates parents who instead choose to send their children to local comprehensives which appear to be performing poorly on the conventional measure, which is the proportion of pupils who attain at least five GCSEs at grade A* to C. Most children who have had this choice made for them by the parents taking part in this study have gone on to perform brilliantly in GSCEs, A-levels and then on to university entrance, including a much higher than average entry to Oxbridge.”

A report summary is available at http://imp.uwe.ac.uk/imp_public/displayEntry.asp?URN=3684&pID=19&return=false
Science comic makes Chemistry fun

UWE’s Science communication experts have teamed up with ‘Horrible Science’ illustrator David Smith to develop a series of ten comics designed to make Chemistry fun for primary aged children.

The comic is based on a character called ‘the Chemedian’ and focuses on presenting chemistry in an accessible format. Evaluation of a pilot comic strip ‘The Chemedian and the crazy football’ match showed that both children and teachers liked the idea of a chemistry comic.

The team has just won £72k from the Engineering and Physical Science Research Council Partnerships for Public Engagement Fund to take this idea further and create nine new adventures for the Chemedian that will be supported with teaching resources.

Emma Weitkamp explains, “We want to engage school children with science by providing teachers with a set of tools that can be used across the curriculum and that will be exciting for young children. We are hoping that reluctant readers will tune into the comic strip approach and that it will inspire others to engage with science through this different format.

“The comics will focus on a range of adventures that weave science into the story. One idea that we are exploring for the series, created by Dr Norman Ratcliffe in, is a time travel adventure where the Chemedian is sent back in time to the age of the dinosaurs. The landscape was redder then and the Chemedian wears blue clothes. She will have to use chemistry to change the colours of her clothes to avoid being eaten by a dinosaur. We will integrate ideas around acids and bases into the story in a seamless way to help readers assimilate the science as they go.”

“Our school serves an area of high social need and we are looking for innovative ways to raise standards in science and work more collaboratively. We are really excited to be participating in this type of project.” Mrs Gwen Clifford, Chineham Park Primary School, Basingstoke.

The Chemedian comic project started in January 2007 and teaching packs will be ready in 2009.

UWE celebrates the Chinese New Year

UWE celebrated the Year of the Rat with a spectacular Lion Dance performance on 17 February, as part of a series of public events organised by the Centre for Intercultural Communication (CICC) to promote cultural diversity within the University and in the city of Bristol. The Lion Dance was the culmination of a week of events including films, talks, language lessons and martial arts demonstrations.

The week of events (9 – 17 February), was promoted by CHINA NOW, the UK’s largest ever festival of Chinese Culture, which will continue from Chinese New Year through to the Beijing Olympics.

Organiser Rosie Gilmour says the event was a huge success, “This is the biggest and best celebration that UWE has ever held for the Chinese New Year. We hope to improve cultural communication through events, placements, courses and working opportunities to ultimately create a better understanding of different cultures. The Chinese New Year has given us a great start as UWE has a growing number of Chinese students and there is a thriving Chinese community in the City of Bristol.”

Dr Jianxiang Bi, Principal Lecturer in Chinese Studies, gave two talks during the week entitled, ‘The Myth of Terracotta Warriors’ and ‘What is Taoist Longevity?’.

He said, “The Chinese New Year is the biggest event in the Chinese calendar and this is a time when we celebrate and have fun! As well as being informal and entertaining these events provided insights into so many different aspects of Chinese culture.”

The programme of activities also featured a film of a trip by five young Bristol artists to Guangzhou in China as part of a Real Ideas Organisation young cultural leaders programme. Shawn Sobers (Creative Arts) accompanied the group on the trip and worked with them to produce the film.

Mousavi Martial Arts Academy based in Bristol gave a Kung Fu display and the Bristol School of Tai Chi gave a demonstration. Mandarin lessons were given by Yanwen Liu, an experienced teacher from the University and Dr Stuart McClean (HSC) and Grace Philippa-Walsh, a Shiatsu Practitioner, gave a presentation entitled ‘Chinese Medicine: from ‘tradition’ to models of integration and collaboration with Western medicine’. There was also an extremely informative talk from Michel Lee, Curator of the Museum of East Asian Art in Bath. His talk was about the current exhibition in the museum, entitled ‘Shen: Chinese Icons of Divinity’.

Mousavi Martial Arts Academy gave a Kung Fu display and talk
UWE hockey coach to train England Universities Ladies Team

Chris Roberts, Head of Hockey at UWE has been appointed the Head Coach for England Universities Ladies Hockey Team for the forthcoming British University Games. Chris overcame tough competition and a lengthy selection process to be appointed and is delighted with the news.

Chris said, “This is a fantastic opportunity to work with the elite female hockey players who are currently studying at universities in England. My first job will be to assess the squad at their first training session on 20 January at Birmingham University. Currently 50 players have been short-listed, two of whom currently play hockey for the UWE team.

“It will be my job to select only 16 players for additional training sessions which will be held at UWE on the fantastic new all weather pitch during February and March in the build up to the games. The games will be held in Edinburgh in April 2008 with us competing with national teams from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.”

Stuart Vanstone, Head of the Centre for Sport said, “These Games are the catalyst for a huge amount of junior sports development activity for the University. We aim to provide a sustained legacy for all the sports competing at the games, not just those hosted on the Frenchay Campus. UWE is a key stakeholder in the sport network across the West of England and following the development of the new Centre for Sport and the Olympic standard all-weather pitch we are confident that the Games will be a success. We have built up excellent relationships with the national governing bodies of hockey and badminton and along with UWE’s sports facilities, 2,000 residences and hospitality facilities on campus, we are now able to provide an excellent location for training camps and competition.”

At the launch of the UK School Games in Bath, Olympic champion, Jason Gardener, said, “I am proud that the UK School Games will be held in my home region in 2008. It represents a fantastic opportunity for the best young competitors to gain invaluable experience of future multi-sport competitions. I hope all those welcomed to Bristol and Bath in August will seize the opportunity to compete to the very best of their ability in fair and good-spirited competition. Getting used to this kind of event from an early age can give you a huge boost to go on and excel in future international competition.”

This year the UK School Games will be complemented by an exciting community sport and cultural programme. Hundreds of school-aged children across the region will take part in festivals of sport and in Bristol’s harbourside there will be a dazzling showcase of urban sport from 30-31 August combining demonstrations and workshops from renowned skateboarders, aerial performers, trial bikers and climbers.

£6 million from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport has been awarded to the Youth Sport Trust through Legacy Trust UK, to develop the UK School Games in Bristol and Bath in 2008 and each year until 2011. See www.youthsporttrust.org for more information.

For details of volunteering opportunities for staff and students or tickets for the events contact stuart. vanstone@uwe.ac.uk

Jason Gardener pictured at the launch of UWE’s Centre for Sport in 2006
‘Bin of the future’ winners chosen

The winning student team in the ‘Bin of the future’ design competition for final year Product Design students has been chosen by top housewares brand Brabantia, the project sponsors. The winning team members are Oliver Bowen, Darrel Meason, and Sebastien Chung. The two runners up teams were: Richard Walters, Chris Rees and Darrin Colfer; Hannah Sheppard, Simon Bradshaw and Duncan Iraci.

David Slater (Sales Director, Brabantia), said, “Product design is very important to us as we continually strive to combine functionality, durability and style. We were very impressed with the designs the students presented and the depth to which they had researched the kitchen waste market. They really got to the core of some of the issues and developed some excellent solutions and achieved a very high standard of product design.”

The students had their work reviewed halfway through the design process by Brabantia’s waste category manager David Cornelis, who offered important guidance and helped the students develop their best ideas further. The results of the collaboration will be exhibited at this year’s New Designers Exhibition in London in July. As part of their prize the winning team will visit Brabantia’s factory and new product development centre in The Netherlands, where they will be able to see kitchen bins in production.

Tod Burton, Course Director and competition organiser, said, “This has been a very successful project both for the students and the sponsors. Our students have now had first hand experience of presenting professionally to the managers of a very well established brand. All the students have benefited and the winners will get a deeper insight into the design process when they visit the factory.

“The tutors here feel very proud of the students and their achievements. We also hope they will make the most of the opportunity this offers them.”

42 final year students on the Product Design programmes started the project in November and looked at aspects of waste management such as how the kitchen bin has evolved, new technologies in waste storage and environmental aspects related to recycling household rubbish.

Brabantia is one of the top three housewares brands in Europe, and its UK head office, manufacturing and logistics facility is at Nailsea, west of Bristol. The company also has factories in Holland, Belgium, Germany and China.

Historians launch new book on Bristol’s ethnic minorities

Amidst current preoccupations with cultural diversity and community cohesion, historians Madge Dresser and Peter Fleming (HLSS), will formally launch their new book Bristol: ethnic minorities and the city 1000-2001 on Wednesday 12 March 2008 at 16:00 to 18:00.

The event, to be held at Bristol’s beautifully renovated Old Council House in Corn Street, marks the successful completion of a £120,000 Lottery-funded project which began in 2006.

Featuring 1,001 years of Bristol’s relationship with its ethnic minorities, the book and its accompanying website is part of the national ‘England’s Past for Everyone’ initiative funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund under the aegis of the Victoria County History Project at London University's Institute of Historical Research.

Madge Dresser commented, “Our goal has been to make good quality research accessible to a wider public. Taking on 1,001 years of a relatively uncharted aspect of the city’s history has been a real privilege but also a challenge, given the time available. We know how politically sensitive this topic is and we have striven to be fair minded, taking on difficult issues when they arose rather than avoiding them. We hope this book, which builds not just on our work but that of Joe Hillaby, Edson Burton, Forward Maisokwadzo and a team of volunteer researchers and interviewees, stimulates further research and helps teachers and others get an overview of this important subject.”

Over 100 invitees are expected to attend from all over the country, but pride of place will be given to those members of the Bristol public who helped, through their volunteer work, academic contributions and interviews, to make this richly illustrated paperback book possible. The tea-time event will be followed by a public book signing and talk at Waterstone’s at the Galleries in Bristol at 19:00.

Front cover of book
International enamel badge exhibition highlights human rights, unfairtrade and the Holocaust

An international exhibition of enamel badges ‘The Enamel Experience’ by 23 highly regarded artists from the UK, Germany and the US will open on 27 February at the Velvet da Vinci Gallery in San Francisco. Artists have explored many social issues including abuse of human rights perpetrated by governments, a preservation of the memories associated with the Holocaust, the exploitation of workers in the gold trade and the importance of heeding the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The exhibition has been curated and organised by Elizabeth Turrell, an internationally renowned enamel artist and researcher from UWE’s Centre for Fine Print Research.

Elizabeth Turrell said, “The exhibition has just finished an extremely successful showing at Museum der Arbeit (‘of work’) in Hamburg, Germany where over 9,000 people attended. A unique aspect of the museum in Hamburg is the acquisition of an Enamel Badge Factory (Metallwarenfabrik Carl Wild). The Factory produced among other things the majority of badges and insignia for the military including the Iron Cross, societies, commercial organisations and charities during the entire twentieth century.

The artists were invited by the museum to produce a range of enamel badges that took inspiration from the Wild Factory collection. The exhibition provides a wonderful opportunity to experience the versatility of expression that enamelling can produce. What is not known to many is that enamelling can embrace many artistic disciplines so printers, painters, sculptors and photographers can utilise the craft to develop their work as well as jewellers with whom the craft is generally associated.

Kathleen Browne has produced ‘medals’ (above, left) inspired by her opposition to the war in Iraq and the abuses to human rights perpetrated by her government. She says, “My badges commemorate a number of heinous and shameful events that happened during the war in Iraq and by awarding medals for this ‘shameful behaviour’ I hope to highlight the Bush administration’s ability to deflect criticism no matter what they do.”

Bettina Dittmann and Michel Jank have made a copper enamel and nickel silver badge with the words ‘Fair Gold’ emblazoned (above, right). The catalogue urges viewers to look at web sites highlighting the issues surrounding ‘dirty gold’.

Tamar de Vries Winter has commemorated her grandfather, a German Jew who served in the Medical Corps and was awarded the Iron Cross during the first world war. He escaped the Holocaust as the family moved to Tel Aviv in 1933 but the shadow of the holocaust coloured the experiences of her family and friends. The series of badges she has created combine photographs of her grandfather (above, centre) encased in enamel and a badge design that blends the olive branch – a symbol of peace – with the artefact of war – the Iron Cross. She said, “The series of portrait badges I prepared to accompany the exhibition combines the art of the jeweller and the enameller with that of the photographer – a personal reminder of and a tribute to the world we have lost.”

Finally, Elizabeth Turrell has created a series of badges that emulate recent large scale works made to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Elizabeth said, “I find the form of the cross very potent. For me it is a universal symbol from ancient times, still powerful today, both as a symbol and sign. Each of these enamel crosses are markers of incident and conflict and fragments of text from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are used to remind the viewer and wearer that these are words we should all heed.”

‘The Enamel Experience’ will tour the US over the coming year showing in San Francisco, Memphis, Greenville, Pittsburgh, Ohio and New Jersey and return to the UK in 2009.

Travel book funds student’s teaching course

Ross Hamilton, a mature PGCE student is hoping that his witty book about his travel experiences teaching at ‘the flying college’ in China will help fund his course. Just another Lowai – Living, working and playing football in China is a travelogue of a trip made by Ross and his girlfriend to Beijing in 2005.

Ross said, “My book has not been published in the usual way. When I returned from my trip lots of people who had enjoyed the blog I kept said that I should write a book. This coincided with seeing a news report about a new web publisher called lulu.com who specialise in making new writers publishable by printing books on demand.

“I put the two together and Just another Lowai is the result. I need to sell about 1,500 copies to pay for my university fees. ‘Lowai’ is a term given to foreign tourists in China. The book records my time teaching English to a group of students training to become commercial airline pilots at what is known as ‘the flying school’ in Beijing. It also recounts my exploits as a team member in an expat football team called ‘the Beijing Drifters’ and recalls some of the wild experiences I had travelling around the country.”

Ross is enjoying the PGCE course although he says it is very tiring. “I have just completed my first teaching practice in Taunton and I’m shortly off to Wales followed by a stint at the Education Department at the National Archives in Kew, London. The course has given me some really good opportunities and I’m particularly grateful to Dean Smart in the faculty of Education for his encouragement and support.”

Just another Lowai – living, working and playing football in China is published via http://www.lulu.com/content/1328157
Machine vision experts work with MOD to counter hidden threats

UWE’s idea for a portable device automatically to detect and recognise potential threats to troops in war zones has succeeded under the MOD’s Competition of Ideas scheme. The successful idea has won funding to be developed into a prototype in conjunction with partners SEA (Group) Ltd. The idea put forward by UWE’s team of Machine Vision experts, led by Dr Melvyn Smith, could help soldiers detect camouflaged objects or people and could enhance and recognise the shapes of 3D objects such as guns or explosives hidden under clothing.

Dr Smith said, “A soldier equipped with a portable device or goggles using this technology could detect and enhance indistinct or concealed objects by amplifying their 3D shape attributes; and the equipment could automatically compare and recognise threatening objects or people based on known 3D shape signatures.

“The system, based on our expertise in photometric stereo techniques, reveals and enhances subtle shapes and surface details that may not be apparent or are deliberately concealed. Photometric stereo produces a composite image using light from at least three sources linked to a computer to derive detailed information about an object’s surface. For example, it could ‘see through’ camouflage or the pattern of a scarf used to cover the face, or enhance bulges in clothing caused by concealed weapons.”

The Technical Director of SEA’s Defence Division, Peter Cooper, said “Different configurations of the portable device could be used in different task scenarios, for example a compact wearable version could be developed for work at close range, or a portable system for operation by several personnel over greater distances in the field. We look forward to working with UWE on this challenging project.”

The MOD received 467 entries for its Competition of Ideas, over half of which came from universities and small or medium enterprises. Sixty-six of the proposals - about one in seven - were successful and of these 22 contracts were awarded to universities. In all, these projects represent an investment of about £11 million into new ideas to enhance the UK’s defence technology strategy.

Print experts help Trinidad and Tobago conserve land records

Experts from the Centre For fine Print Research have been helping the government of Trinidad and Tobago with the conservation and preservation of its archive of land record documents.

Steve Hoskins, Carinna Parraman and Vikki Hill, from the Centre For Fine Print Research at UWE, along with Sophia Fairclough, a paper conservation expert from Bristol-based firm, Fairclough & Harrison Ltd, have travelled to Trinidad to work on the project. The team are working closely with Richard Baldwin at RBI and Total Solutions Surveying Services Ltd (Trinidad) who are managing the overall project.

The Bristol team spent a week in the country to draw up a consultancy document as to how best to proceed. They undertook a detailed analysis of all aspects of the current archive records, and provided guidelines for implementing appropriate methods for storing and archiving the land records.

Carinna Parraman explains, “All sorts of records are currently held in the land registry. These include ward maps, survey plans, general plans and aerial photography. Some of the documents are 300 years old, and are now in a very delicate state. These documents represent a rich and unique archive of Trinidad and Tobago, and if these documents continue to deteriorate, their historical significance will be lost forever.”

“Some records are kept in books and the spines have become damaged with time. The records are kept on different types of materials including cloth and paper and the documents vary in size, age and condition. Some of the maps are very large, and because they have been folded and refolded so many times, many are now quite brittle and delicate.”

The team have advised on how existing staff can be trained to conservation standards and in document handling. Furthermore, advice has been given as to how the infrastructure of the building can be improved, such as modifications to lighting, air conditioning and storage.

In addition, as there is currently no archive conservation centre in the records office, recommendations were made to set up an in-house conservation department to assist in the reduction of further deterioration of the archive. Most importantly in order to maintain the archive the recommendation included the training and development of locally based staff in the important skills and techniques of archive conservation. UWE is currently liaising with the government about helping with this aspect as well.

This picture shows the detail of the craftsmanship in the maps as well as the handwritten information that is added over time which gives the maps historical significance.
UWE planning course goes global

Urban regeneration experts are developing a unique double planning degree with partners in Italy and the USA. The degree ‘Urban regeneration in globalising cities: a transatlantic undergraduate planning programme’ will be run collaboratively by the School of Built and Natural Environment, the Politecnico di Milano and University of Illinois at Chicago. Students will commence study in September 2008.

The course has been awarded funding of £408,000 and $408,000 by both the European Commission and the US Department for Education respectively under the ATLANTIS programme (Actions for Transatlantic Links and Academic Networks for Training and Integrated Studies).

Dr Laurence Carmichael, EU Project Co-ordinator and Research Fellow in the Cities Research Centre at UWE, said, “We are very excited at the opportunities this programme will offer students. The course will centre on providing students with foundation skills for critical analysis on cross-national urban planning and regeneration. Students will spend one year in Chicago and six months in Milan during the four-year course and will get an MPlan degree from UWE and a BA in Urban and Public Affairs from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Graduates of the programme will be able to make effective contributions to the sustainable development of communities and connect global processes to local policy agendas.”

Janet Askew, Head of Planning and Architecture, said, “The students who will benefit from this exchange are town planners, working towards becoming members of their profession, the Royal Town Planning Institute. The chance to work in America and Europe will give them a wonderful opportunity to understand and compare how planning is practised in other countries, and will undoubtedly offer them an advantage in the employment market when they graduate. This places us in a very good position to attract high quality students to our programmes.

“These exchanges will also enable the development of a programme of international research through workshop activities involving faculty staff from the three universities. We are delighted to win this hard fought ATLANTIS funding, especially as we were awarded the maximum amount under the scheme, which only awarded funds to 25 per cent of applicants this year.”

Laurence Carmichael and Janet Askew

Gold HealthWise award for UWE

The gold level status of the HealthWise Award has been awarded to the university.

Heather Goddard from South Gloucestershire Council presented the award on Thursday 14 February to Vice Chancellor Steve West. The HealthWise award is designed to promote a healthy lifestyle in the workplace.

The University won the award for promoting healthy living through the provision of flexible working schemes, operating a smoke free working environment, providing information and support about healthy lifestyles and providing convenient facilities for employees to engage in physical activity.

Head of the Centre for Sport Stuart Vanstone said, “The award recognises the work that the university has done to promote a healthy lifestyle in the workplace. Catherine Ogilvie, our Health Development Officer produced the application and is working on many more health related activities and partnerships with the South Gloucestershire ‘Active for life’ team which I am sure will be a success and add value to the UWE "Active for life" team which I am sure will be a success and add value to the UWE staff experience”.

Pictured with student ambassadors at the ice-rink from left to right are Lorraine Green, Steve West, Heather Goddard, Stuart Vanstone and Catherine Ogilvie.

Annual Fullbrook Lecture

The fifth Annual Fullbrook Lecture, a series established to celebrate the work of Professor Kate Fullbrook (right) who died in 2003, was delivered by Professor Richard Gray, FBA, on 31 January 2008. In a wide-ranging lecture attended by 100 or so and entitled ‘The Ugly Fact: An Intertextual Approach to the Literature of the American South,’ Professor Gray focused on the extent to which all literary texts, and especially those associated with the American South, are in a complex dialogue with each other. Professor Gray began by quoting Cormac McCarthy’s observation that ‘the novel depends for its life on other novels,’ and that the ‘ugly fact’ is that ‘books are made out of other books.’

Challenging fading, but still persistent, notions of the literary culture of the American South as being isolated and isolationist, the lecture emphasised the extent to which Black and Native American writing, as well as ‘white’ texts, relate and interact.

The fiction of Eudora Welty was at the centre of the lecture’s increasing emphasis on the transnational dimension of the texts under consideration. If the trauma of the Civil War, Professor Gray went on to argue, is central to the literature of the South, it is part of a deep structure of tragedy and loss whose transformations can be detected in a range of work that includes the Vietnam War poems of Yusef Komunyaka, among others.
A team of architects from the School of the Built and Natural Environment has won the Europan 9 competition with a project to develop a neighbourhood of 200 houses on the outskirts of Milton Keynes. Tom Russell, a part-time lecturer in Architecture, Victoria Emmett a Visiting Lecturer to UWE and Oliver Leonard who is currently studying at UWE, collaborated on proposals that form part of the first phase of the Western Area expansion of Milton Keynes and will set design standards for the later phases that follow.

Tom Russell, said, “We are delighted to win this competition as it is often very difficult for small architecture practices to get a look in with big projects. The Milton Keynes project will be the biggest that we have managed so this will have obvious positive impact on our practice. I have worked on a number of entries to Europan in the past so it’s great to win this time.

“Our proposal set out an idea for a compact and pedestrian friendly neighbourhood that can act as a good model for the area. The project re-evaluates the city plan of Milton Keynes as a ‘city in the forest’ (the 1960s planned city has 20 million mature trees), to a ‘forest in the city’, an approach that aims to provide a denser, more urban setting for community life.

“The project is organised into perimeter housing blocks with internal courts, a shared protected community space under a canopy of trees, on which mews units are located. The mews building is intended to be for various uses that can be adapted over time: covered parking, home working or extra bedrooms. The housing to the south is of a higher density, presenting a more urban edge to the main road in the extension area.”

The Europan 9 competition was launched in January 2006, across 73 sites put forward by towns and cities in 22 European countries. Over 1,750 entries were received by the close of the competition in July 2007. Europan is a biennial competition for young architects and urban design professionals, under 40 years of age, to design innovative housing schemes for sites across Europe. As Europe's largest housing competition, it is the best-known opportunity for an architectural first break in the continent.

For more information see http://www.europan.org.uk/europan9/miltonkeynes/

UWE architecture team winners of Europan 9

Student brings Bristol waterside to life with mobile technology

An MA Media student has created a vivid and engaging artwork which brings to life a walk along the New Cut in Bristol using the latest mobile technology.

Jackie Calderwood is one of a number of postgraduate students whose work was shown at the MA Media Showcase at the Watershed on Tuesday 5 February 2008. The MA Media programme offers strands in animation, graphic arts, interactive arts, and screenwriting.

Speaking about her work Jackie says, “As a final year student on the MA Interactive, I am interested in how new technologies can engage the community and create a rich individual experience. Using mobile technologies I developed an audio-visual waterside walk along Bristol’s New Cut for a UWE project with the Southville Community Centre. The walk uses global positioning satellites to trigger information about the natural and local history, and even specific bridges and buildings, as you pass by.

"I’ve also recently been working with museum users to create an interactive touch screen as interpretation for a national touring exhibition, currently showing in Bristol. Over the next few months I will be bringing these ideas together to make an outdoor media experience that explores ways to link work in a gallery or museum to work created through location."

Another MA student showing her work is Finnish student, Hanna Meriläinen, who produced a feature film screenplay called ‘Platforms’ set on a train in the icy wastes of Finland.

Details of this and all the MA students’ work can be seen at: www.mamediashow.uwe.ac.uk.

Programme leader, Eileen Elsey, says, “This event is an ideal opportunity for our students to show their work and to network with leading players in the industry. The event included an animation showreel, script-in-hand performances, and presentations on graphics and interactive art. This year there has been some very exciting work, especially as the course allows collaborative work between different specialisms – for example a screenwriting student working on a project together with an animation student.”

An image from Jackie’s audio visual walk
MA students who have completed their studies in Art, Media and Design showed their work at an exhibition entitled ‘Degrees of Difference’ at the Bower Ashton Campus form 29 January to 6 February 2008.

Work from the forefront of sculpture, interactive media, illustration, print, painting and installation was on show. The artists whose work was on show include, Stephanie Black, Katie Devenish, Andrew Henon, Elena Koulla and Per Pegelow.

Stephanie Black’s work is informed by her interest in natural history, drawing and the possibilities of introducing black humour. Her exhibition work includes drawing, 3-D collages and a series of small (A6) books, based on the ‘chapbook’ format of the 1800s.

Stephanie explains, “The ‘Time Well Spent’ series is my own take on the ‘chapbooks’, especially those produced for Scottish audiences as small easy-to-read pocket books. The ten hand-made books are about birds and contain illustrations, superstitions, stories, rhymes and naming conventions about familiar and disappearing birds. I’m motivated by conservation, but I try not to let the books become preachy; I wanted to encourage people to become emotionally engaged with birds through stories and humour. I am an experienced wildlife artist, but my work also aims to show character and humour.”

‘Gating - the Migration of Industry’, by Per Pegelow, is an interactive installation which deals with the relationship between place and non-locality. Per explains, “An important topic of this installation is the drift of industry from Europe to Asia. The fact that whole steelworks are being sold and shipped from one place to another fascinates me. The exhibition has three layers of information which viewers can interact with.” See http://www.gating3.info/ for details of the project.

Barbara Hawkins, Head of the Graduate School, said, “I am delighted to see the first mid-year show completed by our full-time postgraduate students. The work is of a high standard, and is a tribute to the quality of the relationships formed between teaching staff and students on our MA courses. The exhibition stretches the imagination of the viewer to consider the dynamic relationship of these diverse practices.”

Janet Askew represents UK at Erasmus conference in Bonn

Janet Askew recently represented the UK at a major European conference held to discuss Erasmus Intensive Programmes. The UWE programme, run in conjunction with four European partners in sustainable spatial planning has been funded since 1991, and is one of the longest-standing in Europe.

As a result, Janet Askew was invited to attend the conference in Bonn to talk about good practice in intensive programmes, representing the only British university.

There is no doubt that the programmes, which bring together students from different nations across Europe, have been a huge success story with thousands of students participating since 1990. There are currently 271 programmes in Europe, and 12 in the UK, and the aim is to promote more. Contributors at the conference were able to feed their views directly to those who judge intensive programmes and allocate the money.

The breadth of subject matter is awe-inspiring, ranging from a programme in dance studies in Trondheim involving 13 nations; remote engineering technologies in Austria; inter-cultural training for business students in Ghent and Hannover; and of course our own in sustainable spatial planning and water management.

Twenty five countries were represented at the conference and the commitment and enthusiasm from the universities was unrivalled. What is clear is that the EU programme has started to deliver its aims of encouraging true multi-culturalism and international working across European borders. It has now been extended to include the eastern states of Europe, who are enthusiastic about becoming involved. The value to student participants was stressed over and over, with many anecdotes about the quality of work and the many relationships which ensue as a result of it. Lessons about good practice were learned, and hopefully these can be applied to our next bid for the 2009 project, the subject for which will be spatial planning and climate change.
Bristol Business School launches new website

Bristol Business School launched its new and improved website earlier this month.

The overall design of the new website was developed by the Academic Technologies Group and implemented by the web editor in BBS. It is the first stage of improvements to the School's web presence, with the next stage focusing on the development of more interactive content such as video material to bring the courses and student experience to life.

Emma O’Connell, (Marketing Manager, BBS) said, “We have done a lot of work in developing an approach for our printed materials which focuses on the success and experiences of individual students and alumni in quite a distinctive way and we were keen to bring this approach to the website.

“The website is a really important recruitment tool for us particularly for full-time and international students where we undertake a number of on-line marketing campaigns. As well as the fresh new design we have also made improvements to the navigation and content and to make it easier for users to find their way around and get the information they need”.

The new website can be seen at www.uwe.ac.uk/bbs

Carfree Communities: The Challenge for Ecotowns and Healthy Cities

One Day Conference, 20 May 2008, Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel, College Green, Bristol

Keynote Speaker: Rosie Winterton, Minister of State for Transport

The University and Carfree UK have joined forces to organise a one-day conference entitled ‘Carfree Communities – the challenge for Ecotowns and Healthy Cities’ at the Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel, College Green in Bristol on 20 May 2008.

Speakers will include Transport Minister Rosie Winterton who will talk about the potential for transport innovation within the Ecotowns and elsewhere. Markus Heller, an architect from Berlin will describe the German experience of car free developments, illustrated with examples from several cities (see www.autofrei-wohnen.de). Steve Melia of Carfree UK will relate this to UK conditions, drawing on his involvement with the Sherford development near Plymouth and his research into potential demand amongst home buyers. Anna Francis of Bioregional will set out the perspective of a UK developer already engaged in car free and eco developments, and Peter Lipman of Sustrans will talk about their engagement with the Ecotowns programme, and the potential for modal shift towards walking and cycling.

Conference organiser Steve Melia, who is currently studying for a PhD at UWE investigating the potential for car free development in the UK, is a long time advocate of the benefits of car free living. As part of his research he has made two trips to European car free towns and he believes that we have a great opportunity with government plans to develop Ecotowns to emulate some of the best ideas.

Steve said, “There are many advantages to car free towns. People can enjoy a cleaner, safer and more social environment. The kind of community life that many leave cities for, thinking they can find this in the countryside, can easily be emulated in cities. We have an opportunity to influence planners, architects and construction companies about the advantages of car free development. By taking the car parking element away from design it is possible to build a higher densities, increasing the potential revenue for developers and creating a better environment for residents: a win-win situation.”

Carfree neighbourhoods have been appearing across several European countries in recent years, but ‘car free housing’ in the UK has all been small in scale, so far. The guidance for the Ecotowns programme, due to be published in a few weeks, is expected to change all that.

The conference will look at what constitutes a car free neighbourhood, how they work in other countries, the advantages and problems they bring and investigate how ready the UK market is for such innovations. This conference is a must for anyone with an interest in the Ecotowns, urban regeneration or healthy cities.

A limited number of bursaries (reducing the cost) will be available for students and voluntary organisations on a first come first served basis. To book a place contact Conference Administrator, Lynne Pearce. Tel: 0117 32 83210, fax 0117 32 82236, e-mail: sc.unit@uwe.ac.uk
Arthritis Research Campaign PhD studentship awarded

A further Arthritis Research Campaign PhD studentship has been awarded to Professor Sarah Hewlett. These prestigious studentships have previously only been offered for laboratory-based projects, but this team has now been awarded their second clinical studentship. The studentship (Learning to live with rheumatoid arthritis) aims to explore emotions, beliefs and adjustment around the time of diagnosis, using qualitative interviews, repeated over the first 12-18 months of the patients’ disease trajectory to see how beliefs change and interact with coping. The studentship is jointly held by Professor Hewlett (HSC), Dr Marianne Morris (Psychology) and Professor John Weinman (Psychology, Kings College, London). The student will be part of the UWE rheumatology research team based in the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

Professor Hewlett’s rheumatology team includes three full-time researchers and the group has had a successful few months. They have had 10 abstracts accepted for the British Society of Rheumatology/British Health Professionals conference in Liverpool, along with a symposium on fatigue and well-being, which will include presentations by the two PhD students (Jo Nicklin and Tessa Sanderson).

In addition, their proposal for a fatigue symposium has been accepted by the American College of Rheumatology / American Rheumatology Health Professionals conference for San Francisco in 2008, at which Professor Hewlett will be presenting. The team is currently running a randomised controlled trial of fatigue self-management, which is also funded by the Arthritis Research Campaign.

In 2007 Professor Hewlett delivered the keynote lectures at both the British Society of Rheumatology/British Health Professionals annual conference, and the Nordic Rheumatology Interdisciplinary Conference in Iceland. The team published six peer-reviewed papers in international journals and already have another six in press for 2008.

Students learn team working is key to success

Student teams from the School of the Built and Natural Environment competed for a £600 cash prize at the annual Dean’s Conference on Frenchay Campus on 31 January. The event challenges students in multi-disciplinary teams to work together to create the synergy that delivers the winning presentation or ‘pitch’.

Tony Westcott said, “We are keen to ensure that our students are prepared for the demands that will be expected of them once they are working with industry customers. Many professionals working in the built and natural environment find themselves operating on complex projects that will demand the ability to collaborate with others across professional boundaries to come up with creative solutions to the sustainability challenges facing us, whether from climate change or social inequality. Good inter-disciplinary presentation ability is a key component in making cross collaborative ventures work.

“This year 404 students from 56 interdisciplinary teams of final year undergraduate students have competed in the annual competition to come up with the best professional presentation designed for an external conference on sustainable development. The five best presentations competed against each other for a cash prize at the Dean’s Conference on 31 January 2008 and this year’s prize was won by the team presenting on renewable energy.”

The annual Dean’s Conference competition is sponsored by the Great Western Branch of the Forum for the Built Environment, a national organisation of multi-disciplinary professionals, who sponsor a £600 prize for the winning team. The competition provides the five finalist teams with the opportunity to present their ideas and be quizzed by an invited audience of A-level Geography students and a panel of judges.

Winning team O3 who presented on renewable energy

Rural Development in Romania

Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI) Visiting Professor Michael Dower is advising the Ministry of Agriculture in Romania on the setting up of a National Rural Development Network.

Professor Dower, an expert in European rural development and a former Director General of the Countryside Commission, will be helping to ensure that 8 billion, awarded to Romania by the EU to spend on rural development between 2007 and 2013, is spent efficiently. His advice will help ensure widespread understanding, among all communities and enterprises in rural Romania, of what rural development is and can achieve.

More specifically, Professor Dower is advising on how the interest and energy of the wide range of stakeholder bodies - farmers, forest owners and managers, local authorities, non-government organisations, chambers of commerce and many others - can be enlisted within the a proposed Rural Development Network. He is also advising on the shape of the network of Local Action Groups to be set up under the LEADER element of the national programme; and, separately, on how the programme can be used to promote the long-term well-being of semi-subsistence farmers, who number nearly one million with an average farm size of about three hectares.

The network will energise the whole process of rural development in this big and varied country, which only joined the European Union in January 2007.
New HLS links with China and Vietnam

Links have been forged by the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences (HLS) with institutions in China and Vietnam, two priority countries under UWE’s international strategy. Thirty-two students have enrolled on a Forensic Science course at Jiangxi Public Security College (JPSC) in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province in China. The course entails two years’ study in China followed by a third year at UWE, leading to a UWE DipHE in Forensic Science. The opening ceremony was attended by Professor John Duffield, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean of HLS and a senior representative from the Ministry of Education in Jiangxi.

Professor Duffield said, “This joint development has resulted from strong commitment from staff at all levels in both institutions to education and training of young people in the intellectual and practical skills that underpin rigorous Forensic Science.”

The International University-Ho Chi Minh City (IU-HCMC) in Vietnam is a well-established partner of UWE, with students already progressing to degree programmes in business studies and IT. A new programme in Biotechnology and Biosciences started in September with 18 students enrolling for a four-year BSc programme consisting of two years in Vietnam followed by two years at UWE. Dr Nguyen van Toan, partnership co-ordinator and Associate Dean in the International University’s School of Biotechnology, recently visited UWE, meeting recently arrived students from his University and successfully gaining his PhD. Dr Toan’s research is developing a more environmentally-friendly technology for producing the commercially useful biopolymer chitosan from recycled shrimp shells and his UWE supervisor was Professor Steven Neill, Associate Dean (International) from HLS.

Dr Toan heard positive feedback from the students and said “I am excited about extending the already successful IU-HCMC-UWE partnership into Biosciences and delighted to have been awarded my PhD by UWE. I hope we can also start research collaborations in addition to our teaching links.”

Jo Midgley, Deputy Director of Admissions and International Recruitment (AIR), commented, “The University has been taking a more co-ordinated approach to internationalisation and it is pleasing to see such partnerships arising through effective teamwork by the Faculty, AIR, the Academic Registry and the University Internationalisation Strategy Group.”

Knowledge Exchange goes east

The School of Life Sciences has just been awarded over €260,000 to work with the Tbilisi State University in Georgia on an EC TEMPUS Joint European Project in Curriculum Development. This Knowledge Exchange project will enable subject specialists and experts in teaching and learning, student placements and quality assurance from the School of Life Sciences to work with Tbilisi State University to develop a new curriculum in biosciences and biotechnology that is fit-for-purpose for the twenty-first century. Other European partners in the project include the Dublin Institute of Technology and Aristotle University, Thessalonika, Greece.

“Biosciences at UWE have an excellent reputation,” said Dr Julie McLeod, Associate Dean (Academic Developments) in the School of Life Sciences. “The QAA awarded us the maximum 24 in the last Teaching Quality Assessment and we have achieved strong results in recent National Student Surveys.” Professor Steven Neill, Associate Dean (International), Head of the School of Life Sciences and TEMPUS Project Manager, added, “This new project is an excellent addition to the Faculty’s Knowledge Exchange portfolio and offers us the opportunity to use our expertise and experience in teaching and learning and quality assurance in the international arena.”

Institute launches new website and briefing

The Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI) has launched a new website and published a new briefing. The 2008 briefing covers the work and activities of the CCRI between December 2005 and December 2007 and can be downloaded from the home page of the new website at www.ccri.ac.uk You can request a hard copy, free of charge, from Jill Harper, e-mail jharper@glos.ac.uk

The CCRI, a partnership between UWE, University of Gloucestershire and Hartpury College, is one the leading specialist rural research centres in the country. The CCRI is currently based at the University of Gloucestershire Park Campus, but a move to a new purpose built building at Hartpury College is planned later this year where it will be co-located with the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC), with whom it is intended that close links will be formed.
CCRI secures research contract to advise Commission for Rural Communities

The Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI) has secured a two month project worth just under £4,000 to advise the Commission for Rural Communities about the policy implications of the post-modern countryside.

It has long been recognised that rural areas are experiencing significant change and that this is influencing the connections that rural people have with the land. The term post-modern has been used over the past few years to describe this change and a change in wider society. The exact nature of the new type of society is the subject of much debate and it is this and the implications for the countryside that will be explored within the project.

The project is being lead by Christopher Short together with Dr Matt Reed and Dr Owain Jones. The first stage is a literature review that will be prepared into a report. This report will be presented at a discussion seminar in March attended by staff of both CRC and the CCRI with a final set of recommendations on the implications and future directions for policy submitted by the end of March.

The Green Tax effect

Less than 5% of UK businesses are taking advantage of environmental tax breaks due to not being aware of them and the complex application process they require, according to new research conducted by Bristol Business School.

The research study: Environment and the Corporate Agenda, which was commissioned by leading accountancy and business advisory firm Smith & Williamson Solomon Hare, sought to establish the companies’ level of awareness and take up of (Environmental) Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs). The study focused on four ECAs and interviewed more than 100 Finance Directors, predominantly from small to mid tier businesses across the UK.

Under the ECA scheme, businesses are able to claim 100 per cent first year capital allowances on approved environmentally-friendly expenditure such as the purchase of energy efficient equipment. Surprisingly, given the high profile of environmental issues over recent years, less than 50% of businesses were aware that the allowances existed. More respondents were aware of allowances for thermal insulation (43%), than for allowances on plant and machinery (36%). Only 14% were aware of allowances on the decontamination of land.

Of those businesses that were aware of ECAs but had failed to take advantage of them, 13 per cent stated that they had been discouraged from applying because the process was ‘too complex’; others (50%) believed that the allowances were ‘not relevant’, whilst some (37%) stated that this type of investment was ‘not a priority for their business’. The BBS research team, which included Dr Richard O’Doherty, Associate Dean at BBS, and Susan Whittaker, lecturer at the School of Accounting & Finance, found that these findings mirrored those provided by Her Majesty’s Customs & Revenue.

There also appears to be a lack of clarity on the channels by which businesses would expect to be informed of this type of tax break. Of those businesses which were unaware of ECAs, the majority (85%) believed that the responsibility lay with the Government to promote the schemes and provide support to businesses.

Also, whilst nearly three quarters of respondents (72%) had taken some practical steps towards becoming more ‘environmentally friendly’, very few had adopted any ‘green policies’ at a higher strategic level.

UWE Bosnia and Herzegovina PASS Project – latest news

On 25 January senior civil servants from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and UWE lecturing staff completed the last of three short courses held in Sarajevo as part of the UWE Bosnia and Herzegovina BiH PASS project. This is a 450,000 project awarded to UWE in October 2006 by the European Union and provides in-depth training for civil servants from state and entity levels of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Public Administration Reform and European Integration. The project is part of the European Union’s aid programme to assist applicant countries and was won by a UWE cross-faculty bid led by Dr Richard Baldwin of RBI with and Warwick Jones, Associate Dean of Bristol Business School, Project Director and Dr Penelope Jones, BBS, Project Manager.

Dr Penelope Jones explains, “Throughout the duration of the project our aim has been to work in collaboration with our partners, the Civil Service Agency of BiH, and in developing a successful relationship we are in particular debt to Hazim Kazi, Assistant Director, D_enana _ivalj, Head of Training, and Anisa Drndar, Senior Specialist, all of the Civil Service Agency. Their very considerable contribution since October 2006 has been fundamental to developing a successful project overall and in particular to designing and delivering the short courses in Sarajevo. Within UWE contributions have come from across the University including staff from Law, from Humanities, Language and Social Science, Research Business and Innovation as well as from Bristol Business School.

Short Course on European Integration, Sarajevo, January 2008
EURA celebrates 10th birthday

The European Urban Research Association (EURA) hosted by the staff in the School of the Built and Natural Environment has celebrated ten successful years of operation.

EURA has played an important part in putting UWE on the international map so far as urban studies is concerned and it has helped to generate major international research grants for the School. EURA was launched in Brussels in 1997 and has developed into a vibrant network of urban scholars.

The association has successfully delivered on the aims it set out when it was launched. Firstly the aim to encourage international exchange and co-operation in urban research has been achieved in a wide variety of ways including the organisation of 16 international conferences and workshops, bringing together scholars from different countries, cultures and contexts to share perspectives and learn new insights. The aim to stimulate interdisciplinary and cross-national urban research has resulted in projects such as the PLUS project (www.eura.org/plus-eura) on ‘Participation, Leadership and Urban Sustainability’ as well as ‘Governance for Sustainability’, G-FORS (www.gfors.eu). These are both tangible outcomes of this aim. Finally EURA has succeeded in its aim of contributing to urban policy debates by preparing policy documents for the EC and by raising the profile amongst politicians of the key economic and social contributions that cities make to the quality of life in Europe.

In January a new international journal, Urban Research and Practice, edited by Professor Rob Atkinson was launched. This is an interdisciplinary journal aiming to link urban researchers and policy makers. It will analyse urban issues, policy and developments and aims to explain the variations in urban policy between countries and look at European-wide factors that impact on urban policy. Laurence Carmichael, Julie Triggle and Robin Hambleton have all worked closely with Rob Atkinson to strengthen EURA and prepare the ground for this new international journal.

Rob Atkinson says, “This new journal will aim to bridge the intellectual and geographical divide that exists in the field of urban affairs. As well as traditional academic papers we will include a policy section a project report section and book reviews. We are really excited about this new journal, and hope it will have the same level of success over the coming years as EURA has had.”

Critical multiculturalism - this is how we do it!

A social evening took place at the end of November 2007 at the Octagon, initiated and organised by the core members of Bristol Business School’s MBA management team - Dr Svetlana Cicmil (Director of MBA programmes), Dr Derek Bradnock (Deputy Director) and Dr Hugo Gaggiotti (a representative of the MBA teaching team). This intercultural event presented an opportunity to the three cohorts of executive Master’s students at (the full-time and the part-time MBA cohorts and the group of public sector officials from Bosnia studying the BOSNIA PASS Master’s programme in Management and European Integration) to meet, exchange their academic experiences to-date, socialise and generally network in a relaxed atmosphere.

The relaxed multicultural networking that unfolded during the evening, was supported by a number of cultural artefacts on display, including samples of national food, music, and presentations of regional characteristics prepared by the attendees. Altogether 35 students, staff and guests attended the event, representing 14 different nationalities, including the USA, Iraq, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Jordan, Nigeria, the EU and the UK. The richness and quality of educational, social and cultural experience that the gathering provided, has been acknowledged and appreciated by everyone.

Participants at BBS multicultural evening

EDU staff collaborate on joint publication

Staff in the Department of Primary and Early Years in Education have been working together for two years on a project which has now been published as: Understanding Primary Education. Developing Professional Attributes, Knowledge and Skills, by Routledge.

Dr Penelope Harnett, Dr Richard Eke, Lalit Kumar, Jo Barkham, Jo Miller, Helen Butcher, John Lee, Dr Martin Ashley, Mike Nicholson, Gordon Guest, Helen Mulholland, Dr Jane Tarr, Sue Hughes, Mandy Lee, Juliet Edmonds, Maria Vinney, Alison Bailey, Steve Barnes and Christine Macfarlane are all colleagues who have worked together to produce this book, aimed at supporting trainees and newly qualified teachers.

The book is designed to help new teachers reflect on their professional development through considering such questions as:
- What views of education are held in the twenty-first century?
- What possible alternatives might be envisaged?
- In what ways are children encouraged to be active participants in their own learning within different educational settings and communities?

Speaking about this book, Dr Penelope Harnett said, “Writing this book has been a real collaborative effort. It has enabled us to think about what is important in education and to share our views with colleagues. We have all learned tremendously from this endeavour!”

Pictured from left to right top row are: Michael Nicholson, Gordon Guest, Dr Penelope Harnett, Sue Hughes, John Lee, Dr Richard Eke and Jo Miller. Front row Dr Jane Tarr and Alison Bailey
Professor presents paper at launch of Blenheim Palace Conferences rural conference series

Brian Ilbery, Professor of Rural Studies in the Countryside and Community Research Institute, presented a paper at a one-day conference at the famous Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire on 30 January.

The conference was the first in a series by Blenheim Palace Conferences which aim to cover a range of rural business development issues. This first conference, entitled 'Farming and Estate Diversification: securing the future', attracted a large audience, and Professor Ilbery's presentation was on 'The impacts of CAP reforms on the diversification activities of tenant farmers in England'.

This series of conferences is not aimed at academics and instead focuses on those involved in managing rural property from private farms to estates; those managing the landholdings of public and private institutions; farmers and smallholders who are looking to diversify; those working in rural businesses who want to explore opportunities and rural business advisers.

More details can be found at www.blenheimpalaceconferences.co.uk

Watercolour sessions a big hit

Unison have organised a series of watercolour classes for women, which are held in the faculty of Education. The sessions so far have been well attended with many people glad of the opportunity to do something creative at the end of the working day. The first session was facilitated by Roma Widger.

One of the organisers, Heather Watts, said, "Under Roma’s careful instruction we were introduced to various watercolour techniques. Within a short space of time the magic of watercolour painting had transformed a clean white sheet of paper into a delightful scene - we were all able to paint a spectacular winter snow scene. It was amazing how individual everyone’s work was. We were all beginners and all the women found the evening was very relaxing.”

Unison members will be sent an e-mail to inform them about future sessions.

For further information contact: Heather Watts or Mandy Knock, 2S304 (Education) 32 84260 or 32 84259.

Jonathan Simmons appointed UWE Federation Director

Jonathan Simmons (EDU) (left) has been appointed Director of the UWE Federation. He brings a wealth of leadership of collaborative provision in both FE and HE to his new role. He is also recognised nationally for his research in this field. The Federation Office will give a focal point for the UWE Federation, offering support and guidance to colleagues in partner institutions and at UWE.

Jonathan says, “I am extremely pleased to be appointed to this new post. It brings together so many of my academic and professional interests which include working across organisations, developing links between Further Education and Higher Education and encouraging staff development.

“I want to acknowledge the extensive work which has already been done by academic and professional services staff across the University in setting up the partnerships with FE colleges. A great deal of effort has gone into developing such links and validating a range of foundation degrees. I see my appointment as moving the Federation into the next phase of consolidation and collaboration between UWE and our partner colleges.

“As well as our long standing relationship with Hartpury College we have formal Federation agreements with eight colleges (City of Bristol, Filton, Gloucestershire, New College Swindon, Richard Huish, Stroud, Weston and Wiltshire). We will reach an agreement with Cirencester College this term. The Federation so far offers over twenty five academic programmes, ranging from foundation degrees to postgraduate certificate/diploma. All Faculties have developed partnerships with FE colleges and several have had approval to continue to develop new programmes with their partners.

“The Federation has already contributed to the University’s widening participation agenda and this will continue so that we can provide access to higher education for students who, for personal and employment reasons, will benefit from local opportunities to progress into HE.

“I have started meeting teams within the University and would like to visit all of the teams at UWE and at partner colleges to get a good feel for the way the partnerships are working. I would be pleased for anyone at UWE whose work relates to the Federation to contact me to arrange a meeting or to invite me to relevant meetings. My overall aim is to build on the substantial work which has already been accomplished in order to develop the Federation towards a more consortium based approach.”

Dr Hassan Nouri, Reader in Electrical Power and Energy (BIT) gave a series of lectures to staff and postgraduate students at the Department of Electrical Engineering, Doshisha University, in Japan. The theme of the lectures was entitled ‘The UK Utilities Infrastructure’. The visit, from 8 to 12 January 2008, was sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Education.

Dr Hassan Nouri (left) with students in Japan
Philosophers contribute to Collapse

Collapse is a new internationally distributed journal which has quickly earned a worldwide reputation as the most important English-language journal for cutting-edge philosophy. The journal’s aim is to bring about a philosophical synthesis incorporating disciplines from ‘probability theory to theology, from quantum theory to neuroscience, from astrophysics to necrology’. The most recent edition (III) includes contributions from two of UWE’s philosophy lecturers: John Sellars and Iain Hamilton Grant. Sellars’ contribution is Aion and Chronos: Deleuze and Stoic Theory of Time. Grant appears in the transcription of the first ever annual Speculative Realism conference at which he presented a paper alongside an international panel of scholars, including: Ray Brassier (Middlesex), Quentin Meillassoux (Ecole Normale Superieure, Paris) and Graham Harman (American University in Cairo). The second Speculative Realism conference will be hosted by UWE at the Arnolfini, and is planned for 18 October this year. In addition, Graham Harman presented a paper entitled ‘Weird Ontologies’ to the UWE Philosophy Society on 13 February at St Matthias Campus.

Also planned by UWE Philosophy for September 2008 is a one day seminar on the Philosophy and Cosmology of AN. Whitehead. Isabelle Stengers of the Free University in Brussels, co-author, with Nobel-prize winning chemist Ilya Prigogine, of Order out of Chaos, and James Williams, author of several books on contemporary European philosophy. The UWE Metaphysics Group (Jeremy Dunham, Peter Jowers, Iain Grant and Sean Watson), which has been studying Whitehead for the last two years, will also contribute a panel, along with a fourth unconfirmed participant.

UWE takes a fresh look at refrigeration company’s IT systems

UWE has been commissioned by Bristol based refrigeration and air conditioning specialists Space Engineering Services to review its business processes and IT systems; to identify future requirements and to assist in implementing new or improved processes and systems. In addition, UWE will be carrying out a training needs analysis across the organisation.

Space Engineering Services, founded in 1988, provides refrigeration, air-conditioning, mechanical and electrical services. Its key customers include the major supermarket chains and food processing companies. The company has around 500 employees in several UK locations and it is a member of Beacon South West (which is a SWRDA backed network of the most innovative and successful companies in the region).

The two and a half year project will involve a team from BBS, BIT and RBI including Stephen Batty, Gareth White, Dr Stewart Green, Chris Simons, Clare Rowson, Priya Patel and MBA student Mohammed Qatawneh. Opportunities will also be provided for a high calibre and experienced graduate to be employed for the duration of the project under the Knowledge Transfer Partnership scheme and for a recent graduate to carry out five months work under the RBI Graduate Consultancy Scheme.

Rick Taylor, joint Managing Director at Space Engineering Services commented, “As a company we have grown organically for a number of years, this partnership will help us to invest in the right areas to continue company growth and reputation in an increasingly competitive market place, and therefore provide increased sustainable employment in the South West and around the UK.”

UWE Project Manager Stephen Batty said, “Space Engineering Services is a high growth and forward thinking company and we are delighted to be working with them to help further improve their business performance. It will be great to work with colleagues and combine expertise from both BBS and BIT.”

Rick Taylor concluded: “It will be fascinating to see how the world of academia can bring about benefits to our business that means we are more efficient and effective”.

Health and Life Sciences promote research bids

Bidding for funding is becoming increasingly important as a means to ensure that UWE’s research growth is sustainable. With that in mind, RBI and the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences recently held a Readers and Professors Forum to explore research bidding strategies.

“The intention was to inform and clarify the bidding plans of our research leaders in the faculty and to encourage them to think strategically and proactively” said Professor Robin Means, Associate Dean Research and Knowledge Exchange. “We don’t want to underplay the importance of bidding opportunistically when appropriate but having a clear plan for bidding can lead to more productive results.”

The event, which attracted some 40 readers and professors from across the new Faculty, sought to identify the key factors that helped or hindered staff when applying for research funds. According to Dr Amanda Longley, Deputy Head of R&D in RBI, “We were particularly interested in exploring ways of removing some of the blockages that can inhibit staff from bidding as well as finding out how to best deploy Faculty and RBI resources to support strategic bidding. The outcomes from this event will help steer our plans for future support and cement the increasingly close relationship between RBI and the Faculty”.

As a result of the day, it was agreed that support should be prioritised in particular areas and for key researchers. It was also agreed to roll out the Bidding Action Learning Set model previously developed in Health and Social Care into Life Sciences and to improve the information and systems available to underpin the research bidding process.

The Forum also afforded an opportunity for researchers from across the new Faculty to meet and explore areas of common interest. As a result future events are being planned around specific cross-Faculty themes that will draw in researchers from different disciplines.

Staff discuss research bidding strategies at the Health and Life Sciences Readers and Professors Forum, left to right, Vicky Nash, David Pontin, Norma Daykin, Jane Powell and Chris Alford
UWE works with Prince’s Trust entrepreneurs

UWE is delighted to work with the Prince’s Trust, a UK charity that helps young people overcome barriers and get their lives working. UWE sponsored the Enterprise Award in the Celebrate Success Awards in Bristol and recently hosted a group of winners and finalists from the last two years of the Prince’s Trust Enterprise Awards.

Enterprise Awardwinner 2007, Claire Foster runs Superjuice, based in Taunton, which sells fresh juice made on the spot, with no additives. After 12 months of struggling unsuccessfully to find work, Clare approached the Prince’s Trust for help. She received a grant which helped her open in late 2005.

Talented artist Kerry Day, a finalist in the Prince’s Trust Enterprise Award in 2007, is currently working with the Spike Print Studio, and expanding her skills on UWE courses such as Life Drawing with Movement.

Janene Gray, Enterprise Awardwinner 2006, of media production company Street Scenes, helps young people to make films about themselves and their experiences, tackling real-life stories about knife crime and anti-vehicle crime. Some UWE students and graduates have got involved in these Street Scene projects and even gone on to set up their own businesses themselves.

For more on the enterprise work of the Prince’s Trust visit http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/enterprising/

Purple Nude (detail) by Kerry Day

UWE links with Istanbul Bilgi University

Colwyn Jones (BBS) will make a second visit to Istanbul Bilgi University at the end of April. The first visit in January, with Ufuk Misirlioglu (BBS), explored prospects for collaboration between the Bristol Business School and Bilgi’s (undergraduate) Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences and (postgraduate) Institute of Social Sciences. A range of possibilities was discussed including Erasmus student and staff exchanges, summer schools, double BA/BSc and MA/MSc degrees, joint PhD supervision, and staff research partnerships. On the second visit Colwyn will be developing the partnership, discussing the research interests of Bilgi staff and PhD students, and presenting a seminar paper on ‘Managers’ experiences of globalisation in German manufacturing’.

Bilgi is one of Turkey’s leading private universities where all teaching is delivered on English-language programmes. Apart from Economics and Administrative Sciences it has undergraduate faculties of Arts and Sciences, Communication, and Law, and postgraduate institutes of Natural and Applied Sciences, and European studies. If you would like to learn more about Bilgi visit www.bilgi.edu.tr and if you would like to explore the possibility of linking with this university contact Colwyn.Jones@uwe.ac.uk.

Sultanahmet Mosque and A, a Sofia viewed from the Bosforus (Photograph by Harald Schmidbauer, Bilgi University)

RBI staff to run Bath Half Marathon for the Prince’s Trust

Catherine Thomas and Helen Ward (RBI) will be running the Bath Half Marathon in support of the Prince’s Trust, on 16 March. They have even bought new trainers for the occasion - you may see them sporting these as they train around the Frenchay campus over the next few weeks!

Youth charity the Prince’s Trust needs to raise £1 million a week in order to help change young lives in the UK. The Trust gives practical and financial support, developing skills such as confidence and motivation. It works with 14-30 year olds who have struggled at school, have been in care, are long-term unemployed or have been in trouble with the law. Since 1976 The Prince of Wales’s charity has helped over half a million young people and continues to support 100 more every day.

If you would like to sponsor Helen and Cath please visit: http://www.justgiving.com/helenandcathbathhalf

Cath Thomas and Helen Ward
Ideas Factory open for business

Bring your enterprising ideas to the Ideas Factory at Frenchay Campus.

Make use of the:
- Networked PCs for research and development of ideas
- Wireless Wi-fi
- Desk space to work on your ideas
- Bookable 1 - 1 session

**Book your session now** at ideasfactory@uwe.ac.uk

**Location:** Student Services Office, 2D11, opposite Core24, Frenchay Campus

For more information contact amanda3.smith@uwe.ac.uk or call 0117 32 83973.

Environment conference focuses on health risks

The threat from nanoparticles and other environmental impacts on health was the focus of a landmark conference organised by UWE and Environment Protection UK. This was the tenth annual conference in the series.

Environment Protection UK (formerly the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection) has three key policy areas - air quality and climate change, land quality and noise.

Dr David Muir, chair of Environment Protection UK’s South West Division said, “It is important to address issues that can bring about ill health, rather than simply treating the effects of it. We know that air pollution, even at the levels now found in the UK, is the cause of thousands of early/premature deaths each year and, on average, reduces life expectancy by between six and eight months for each and every one of us.

“Noise is finally being recognised as a factor in ill health rather than just a nuisance, and the potential health impacts of climate change are huge and global.”

UWE’s Air Quality Management Resource Centre is widely recognised nationally and internationally as a leading provider of air quality management information, advice, research and consultancy services. Conference organiser Dr Enda Hayes said, “The conference entitled Environment and Health – Prevention before Cure took place at the Watershed in Bristol. The high profile list of speakers included representatives from the Health Protection Agency, the UK Public Health Association, Barts and the London Queen Mary’s School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Aberdeen, University of Bristol, South West Public Health Observatory, and UWE. The conference was aimed at environmental management practitioners, local authority officers, academics and consultants.”

Andy Mason (ITS) retires

Andy Mason, Strategic Planning Manager in IT Services, retired on 31 January 2008 after 19 years service at UWE.

Andy had a varied career before joining UWE having attended naval school and spending many years both at sea and in shipping management. His interest and use of computing developed over these years and he joined UWE in 1989 to manage the newly formed Micro Support Team. At that time there were about 1,000 micro machines in UWE with only about 500 connected to our fledgling network.

Andy has overseen many of the large scale projects in UWE; the implementation of thin client, MS Office and MS Exchange, Voice over IP telephony and the huge expansion of our data storage and DR capabilities.

In addition to his work at UWE he also acted as Network Manager for the SW regional network which supports over 500,000 users in all HEI’s and FEC’s in the South West from Cheltenham all the way to the School of Mining in Cambourne, Cornwall.

At his recent leaving party Andy spoke highly of the satisfaction his career at UWE had given him and the opportunities that working in a university presented. Whilst he was here he studied as a part time student achieving Certificate and Diploma in Management Studies and finally an MBA through the Bristol Business School.

Andy is pictured with ITS team leaders and his wife at his leaving party (l to r) Christi Hopkinson (ITS), Liz Mason, Andy Mason, Jonathon Barstow (ITS), Alistair Sandford (ITS)
NEWS IN BRIEF

Professor Diana Jeater (HLSS) has been awarded £142,935 by the Arts and Humanities Research Council for the oral history project, “Why did you fight?” Narratives of Rhodesian identity during the insurgency 1972-1980’, to commence on 1 March 2008. This research will run alongside UWE’s existing project to catalogue the Rhodesian Army Association archive, housed in the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum. The recorded interviews will be included in the Rhodesian Army Association catalogue and will be available as recordings and as transcripts in the UWE library. Dr Sue Onslow, will be working with us on this project and will carry out the majority of interviews.

Staff in the media

Dr Michal Nahman (HLSS) was interviewed on 28 January on Radio SalaamShalom, online radio for Jewish and Muslim dialogue, about work supporting The Children’s Freedom Theatre in Jenin and other cross-cultural dialogue issues.

Professor Martin Plant (HSC) gave an interview to KISS Radio on ‘Alcohol Consumption and Alcohol Problems’ on 22 January. Martin also appeared on the Politics Show on BBC 2 in February speaking about alcohol control policies and contributed to a discussion on sex addiction on BBC Radio Bristol on 8 February.

Nicholas O’Regan (BBS) was interviewed by Original FM Radio on 30 January about the Distinguished Executive Address Series.

Professor Diana Jeater (HLSS) gave advice to reporters from BBC and Agent France Press regarding the relationship between Britain and Zimbabwe in advance of the EU-Africa summit in Portugal.

Ann Alston (HLSS) was interviewed on the Good Morning Wales show on BBC Radio Wales on 10 January 2008 regarding BBC One’s screening of their four contemporary retellings of classic fairy tales. The show wanted an expert opinion concerning the place and function of fairy tales in modern day life.

Penelope Harnett (EDU) appeared on the Today programme on BBC Radio 4 on Friday 8 February to talk about research which indicates that children in England begin formal education too early in comparison with schools in other European countries. She was interviewed later on that morning on BBC Radio Bristol on the same subject.

Ann Alston (HLSS) was interviewed on BBC Radio Wales Good Morning Wales show on 10 January regarding BBC One’s screening of their four contemporary retellings of classic fairy tales.

Professor Philip Lawrence (CEMS) was interviewed by BBC Radio Bristol on 16 January about job cuts at Airbus.

Planning inspectorate design champions conference

The School of Planning and Architecture together with the (Commission for Architecture in the Built Environment has just hosted an innovative conference on design quality and the new paradigm in planning for The Planning Inspectorate (6-8 February 2008). Harry Charrington and Mike Devereux shared their expertise in design with 30 inspectors responsible for determining nationally important planning appeals. The event combined hands-on design projects together with inputs from the Commission’s Design Review Panel and invited speakers including Les Sparks OBE and John Callcutt CBE, whose ‘Callcutt Review on Housebuilding’ for the government has just been published.

In closing the event Ben Linscott, the Planning Inspector Manager, emphasised the success of the event in developing the skills needed to judge planning proposals and to raise design quality. Together with Kathy MacEwen of the Commission for Architecture in the Built Environment he also stressed that this was the first of a series of collaborative design events to be organised with the School.

Delegates and speakers at the conference

News in Brief

Professor Robin Means (HSC) recently published the 4th edition of his book Community Care with co-authors Sally Richards (University of Reading) and Randall Smith (University of Bristol). This fully updated and revised edition of the leading textbook on community and social care provides an authoritative account of the evolution of policy and practice and a judicious assessment of contemporary debates and issues. The book is available to purchase through Palgrave Macmillan.

Professor Robin Hambleton (FBE) published Governing Cities in a Global Era (Palgrave), co-edited with Jill Simone Gross of the City University New York. The book examines the impact of global forces on cities worldwide and discusses the diversity of local responses. With contributions from leading scholars covering all continents the book discusses strategies that can lead to prosperous multi-cultural communities - cities that enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

Described by Saskia Sassen of Columbia University as ‘one of the best books on the challenge of governing cities in a global era’ the book attempts to bridge the North/South divide in modern urban scholarship.


Appointments

Professor Geoffrey Channon, Assistant Vice Chancellor, has been appointed to a panel of international experts who will be advising the Danish Government on the allocation of funds to strengthen research in Danish universities. The overall purpose is to strengthen those areas which will give Denmark an advantage in a global context. He will be representing the humanities.

Keith Simpkin (ITS) has been appointed as a member of the new JANET Technical Design Authority (TDA). The TDA is a new national group being set up by JANET(UK) to define and monitor services being carried over JANET, the national education network. The TDA will also produce technical standards and guidance for Regional Network Operators to ensure a consistent service level is delivered across the network.

continued on page 22
Bristol Business School meets the leaders of industry

Lord Stevenson of Coddenham CBE, Chairman of HBOS plc kicked off Bristol Business School's Distinguished Executive Address Series in style on 5 February. Lord Stevenson, who described how he started his career as a 'serial entrepreneur', spoke candidly to the audience about his take on entrepreneurialism and some of the prejudices and clichés surrounding it as well as offering advice for budding entrepreneurs. He also shared some of his thoughts on leadership and work-life balance. The audience then had the opportunity to ask their own questions and a lively discussion followed.

Nicholas O'Regan, Professor of Strategy, Enterprise and Innovation who setup the series said, “We are privileged to have had the opportunity to hear from such an experienced and influential speaker as Lord Stevenson as part of this new series which was setup to enable students, staff, alumni and the business community to share in the experience of those heading up major organisations. Lord Stevenson's frank and engaging address proved to be a fantastic start to the series.”

Scoping e-learning: use and development in Health Sciences and Practice

Funded by the Higher Education Academy, Health Sciences and Practice subject centre, this two year project saw its first phase completed in December 2007. Led by Pam Moule, with Rod Ward, Karen Shepherd and input from Lesley Lockyer, the project undertook a survey of e-learning implementation in health sciences and practice disciplines across the UK. It obtained data from 25 higher education institutions relating to their uptake and development in this field. A second stage included data collection at two early and two late adopter sites. Within the case studies, interviews and focus groups were conducted with staff and students and key policy documents were analysed.

The main findings suggest e-learning development and use varies across the sector. Those engaged in e-learning use mainly instructivist learning approaches managed through a virtual learning environment. There is minimal use of Web 2.0 technologies that foster a more collaborative learning approach and encourage users to retrieve, create and edit online materials. Those factors influencing e-learning adoption included: access to external funding, the presence of ‘local champions’, strong institutional support, central and local teaching and learning strategies that embrace e-learning and the presence of local drivers for use, including student and staff demand.

The second year of the project will include further case study work with late adopter sites, continue to develop recommendations for good practice and has a focus on dissemination that will include a UWE hosted conference in the autumn term. For further details contact; pam.moule@uwe.ac.uk

Languages day

The ‘HLSS Languages Day’ for sixth form students will take place on Wednesday 23 April 2008. The day will feature French and Spanish sessions, plenary talks which focus on studying languages at university and other related subjects such as linguistics, European Studies, Chinese Studies and Intercultural Communication. The students will also have the opportunity to take part in taster sessions in other languages including Arabic, Japanese and Italian.
Conferences

Professor David James of the Bristol Centre for Research in Lifelong Learning and Education recently presented three invited papers. At the end of 2007 he gave a keynote talk at the annual Association of Colleges conference, held at Birmingham’s International Convention Centre, entitled ‘How to improve improvement: learning cultures and FE futures’. This drew on the outcomes of the ESRC project Transforming Learning Cultures in FE which he co-directed. Early in 2008 he presented a paper at the annual International Sociology of Education Conference, held at the Institute of Education, University of London. This was based on a just-completed collaborative project (between UWE, Cambridge and Sunderland) and was on ‘Counter-intuitive middle class school choices: A reflexive project of the selfish?’. A third paper, for an invited staff seminar at the University of Gloucestershire, was called ‘Double, double toil and trouble – can assessment be for learning?’. Andrew Pearce (ITS) gave a presentation entitled ‘Achieving High Quality Service Delivery in an Academic Environment’ to the IT Service Management Forum at their conference in Brighton. With a population of approximately 30,000 students and 3,000 staff dependent on IT services for academic delivery and innovation, the IT Services department at UWE is under constant pressure to provide a reliable, responsive and high quality service to its customer base. Andrew discussed why he turned to ITIL to support these requirements, the challenges he faced introducing ITIL practices into an academic environment and the benefits and pitfalls he experienced along the way. The presentation proved beneficial to anyone from a public sector or commercial background considering implementing ITIL within their organisation.

Umut Turksen (Law) presented a paper at the 11th Biannual Conference for the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) in Cairo, Egypt on 7 January 2008. The main theme for the conference was ‘Refugees at Crossroads’ and the paper examined erosion of the procedural rights of forced migrants in the US, UK and Australia in recent years. This multi-disciplinary conference was very well attended and stimulating. The next IASFM conference will take place in Cyprus in June 2009. For further info please contact Umut2.Turksen@uwe.ac.uk.

Umut Turksen and Dr Nick Ryder (Law) gave a presentation to France Telecom and Orange - Fraud and RA Group Managers on 24 January 2008. The presentation was entitled ‘Financial Crime and Corporate Governance’ and was a result of collaborative work between UWE and two consultants, Frost & Sullivan and Malcolm Lewis. It was received well and is likely to lead to a research/consultancy project which will be conducted by Umut Turksen and Dr Nick Ryder.

On 8 January 2008 Professor Robin Hambleton (FBE), visited the Politecnico di Milano, Italy to build research links and meet with faculty. He gave a lecture to students and faculty in the Dipartimento di Architettura e Pianificazione (Department of Architecture and Planning) on the theme ‘Governing Cities in a Global Era’. A key theme in the presentation, and in the discussion, was the need to develop new approaches to city leadership to cope with the new challenges now confronting leaders and managers in all cities.

Mike Jempson (CA) was a guest speaker at the University College Dublin Literary and Historical Society debate on privacy and the media in Dublin on 30 January, alongside Professor Thomas Mitchell, Chairman of the Press Council of Ireland, former BBC political correspondent Nicholas Jones of the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom and Irish media lawyer Pamela Cassidy.

Professor Martin Plant (HSC) gave a lecture in Sweden entitled ‘Binge Britain: Sweden Could be Next’. The lecture was presented to the Alcohol Policy Committee of the Riksdagen (Swedish Parliament) in Stockholm on Thursday 24 January and twice more at the University of Goteborg on 25 January to undergraduates and health professionals and to postgraduates and university staff members.

Kathleen Baird (HSC) was awarded the ‘Ann Wood Award’ for an outstanding contribution to tackling domestic violence in South Gloucestershire. This award from South Gloucestershire Council, and the domestic violence agencies working in South Gloucestershire was for her research and service development contribution in the area of domestic violence in pregnancy. The award committee remarked on her outstanding contribution to raising the professions’ awareness to tackling domestic violence and particularly during pregnancy. It was felt that through her work, knowledge and expertise sharing in this area she continues to raise the profile of subject that has long been considered taboo.

Kate Flynn (SSH) tendered a submission in early February to the Consultative Group on the Past, an independent group established to consult across the community in Northern Ireland on the best way to deal with the legacy of the past. (www.cgpin.org). The submission is based on work in progress on her project, ‘Post-Conflict Settlement, Heritage and Urban Regeneration in South Africa and Northern Ireland: The Redevelopment of the Old Fort and Long Kesh/Maze Prisons’, funded by the Nuffield Foundation.

Dr Richard Hobday, Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Sustainable Buildings (BNE) is due to present ‘Lighting and Fighting Infection’ in May at the Infection Prevention in Hospitals Conference. Frances Burton (Law) gave a paper at the UKCLE Learning in Law Conference at Warwick University on 3-4 January.

Staff Association

Coach Club

**Easter 2008 (Friday 21-Monday 24 2008)**  
Belgium (waiting list)  
£180 members, £185 non-members/guests (single supp. £80)  

**NEW Saturday 12 April**  
Mystery Trip 08  
£15 members, £16 non-members/guests  

**NEW Saturday 14 June**  
BBC Summer Festival at NEC Birmingham  
BBC Gardens, World + BBC Good Food Show + BBC Good Homes + BBC Countryfile plus Beers of the World Live  
£16 members, £28 non-members/guests - for entrance tickets only  
(Presentations £1.50 extra). £15 deposit per seat required, and tickets will only be ordered if there are sufficient numbers by 29 February.  

Due to demand we now ask that everyone pay in full when booking (unless otherwise requested). Your request for seats will only be ‘provisional’ until payment is received and will not be held indefinitely without it if we have a waiting list. If you are interested in any of the above please contact us: Coachclub@uwe.ac.uk, tel: 0117 328 3001  

**Easter Buffet and Raffle**  
18 March, 12.30 – 1.30. Room 3D33  
Entry by ticket only. Tickets from Staffassociation@uwe.ac.uk, ext 82969 or call into FC00, Felixstowe Court, Frenchay Campus.  

Walking Club

New Year’s resolution to keep fit? We aim to have organised walks every three weeks. The walks are usually between five and eight miles and can be local or up to an hour’s drive away. Some are a little strenuous (hilly) but most are suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Up and coming dates: Sunday 2 March; Sunday 30 March; Sunday 29 June; (further details yet to be arranged).

If you would like to know more, please contact Amanda Cooke ext 82267 or e-mail: Amanda.Cooke@uwe.ac.uk
Open Day
University of the West of England
Saturday 8 March
10.00 - 16.00

Are you free Saturday 8 March?

Then why not pop into UWE.
If you are looking to start your degree or start your next one, we’ll be open on Saturday to show you around and support you with the right information to help you make your choice…

...simply register online
www.uwe.ac.uk

start here, go anywhere
Wednesday 5 March - Saturday 8 March 2008 19.30
Saturday Matinee 14.30

The Redgrave Theatre, Percival Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3LE

Conceived for the stage by
Steve Cuden & Frank Wildhorn

Book and Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse
Music by Frank Wildhorn

Orchestrations by Kim Scharnberg
Arrangements by Jason Howland

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with JOSEF WEINBERGER LIMITED on behalf of MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL of New York.

Tickets: £10, £7 (concessions)

Available from: UWE on-line shop:
www.ecommercegateway.co.uk/uwe/store
or by cheque payable to UWE Bristol: Centre for Performing Arts, UWE Bristol, Frenchay, Bristol BS16 1QY

Details of all CPA productions:
0117 32 82067 or e-mail cpa@uwe.ac.uk

www.uwe.ac.uk/cpa
Human Resources Update

UWE appoints new Equality and Diversity Manager

We welcome Angeline Carrozza as UWE’s first Equalities and Diversity Manager. Angeline brings with her five years’ experience as an equalities specialist, three years of which were spent at Bristol City Council. Angeline joins us at an interesting and important time. Nationally, the 2006 Equality Act has been implemented and the new Equalities and Human Rights Commission opened its doors in October 2007. Locally, UWE is updating its equality schemes and mainstreaming impact assessments. Angeline has a big job to do, and she will provide support and advice across all areas of the University’s activities.

Improving the staff experience - human resources strategy 2008-10

HR staff organised a number of ‘listening to’ events during November and December to hear people’s views on what issues should be addressed as part of the HR strategy. The most commonly cited issues were helping to ensure a more even provision of working practices and experiences, providing support for managers to help them apply consistent standards, and providing opportunities for individuals to have a stronger voice in matters affecting them.

Avon Pension Fund - employees account access online

This development allows members of the Local Government Pension Scheme to view their pension records online, submit queries and change address details. Information available to view online is dependent upon your status under the LGPS and is listed below:

- **Current contributors**
  - Personal details
  - Running total of service which your pension is calculated on
  - History of your pensionable employment
  - Financial details – added years and AVCs
  - Nominated beneficiary details

Deferred members and pensioner/dependent members will also be able to view their pension record

Maintaining the security and integrity of all member data is our highest priority and as such online access is subject to the same technology as the major high street banks use for their service.

The service is not available to members of the Teachers Pension Scheme.

Registration and further details can be found by following the link on the Avon Pension Fund website at www.avonpensionfund.org.uk.

Employee Assistance Programme – Right Corecare

Whenever you have a concern or issue, however large or small, Right Corecare’s helpline is on hand to help – in private and at no cost to you.

They are specially trained to help you with:

- **Work or career related problems**
- **Personal or emotional problems**
- **Financial, legal or tax difficulties**
- **Marital or family problems**
- **Alcohol or drug problems**
- **Sexual problems**
- **Stress**

Airport transfers can be arranged, price from £43 per night. Contact Michel on 01275 866233 or e-mail limpinnian@aol.com

**Exercise classes** with Laili Brooks on a ‘pay as you go’ basis (£4 per session). Mornings at the Centre for Sport, Fenchhay Campus, and evenings and Sundays at the WISE Campus. See www.exercisewithlailibrooks.com. laili@tiscali.co.uk Tel: 01454 618488 0794 9743477.

**Plumbing, tiling, decorating, kitchen and bathroom fitting**. Reliable, experienced and reasonably-priced work carried out to your instructions. Bristol, Bath, South Gloucestershire and surrounding areas. All work to quotes unless otherwise requested. Call 01454 312535, 07825 81605 or e-mail on rht@vanos.freeserve.co.uk.

**Registered childminder** has a part-time vacancy for one child aged from 18 months onwards. Immediate start, days are Monday to Thursday inclusive. Please contact Jackie on 01454 852658 or e-mail: jacannmiller@aol.com. Alternatively contact Debbie Lewis on ext 83812.
Wednesday 12 March, 2008
19.30
St Mary’s, The Street, Olveston, South Gloucestershire, BS35 4DA

UWE Massive Sax Project, UWE Woodwind and Clarinet Groups and the Brass Consort in concert

Massive Sax Project and Woodwind & Clarinet Groups directed by Valerie Hodges.

Brass Consort directed by Richard Colquhoun.

Admission: Retiring Collection in aid of the church restoration fund.

Contact: Centre for Performing Arts, UWE, Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol BS16 1QY.

Telephone 0117 32 82067
Fax 0117 32 82007 or
E-mail cpa@uwe.ac.uk

www.uwe.ac.uk/cpa
**Opening doors workshop: Introduction to Supervision**

Date: 14 March 2008

John Waite

Venue: Frenchay campus

Admissions: £65 / £50 (concessions)

Contact: Mandy James or Andrew Carter

Tel: 0117 32 82493

Email: mandy.james@uwe.ac.uk

Visit: http://science.uwe.ac.uk/knowledgetransferandcpd/CPDcurrentevents.asp

**Free Teaching Taster Course: Under Represented Groups into Teaching**

Date: 18 - 20 March 2008

Venue: Frenchay campus

Tel: 0117 32 84267

Email: education.courses@uwe.ac.uk


Date: 17 March 2008

Time: 18.30 (refreshments), 19.00 (lecture)

Paul Mayo

Venue: Frenchay Campus, Room 1N05

Admission: Free

**Safety Critical Systems Engineering - How and Why**

Date: 17 March 2008

Time: 18:30 (refreshments), 19:00 (lecture)

Paul Mayo

Venue: Frenchay Campus, Room 1N05

Admission: Free

Contact: Colin Clarke

Tel: 01438 765650

Email: events@theiet.org

Visit: www.theiet.org/local/uk/southwest/bristol/events.cfm

**Night**

Date: 22 March 2008 - 11 May 2008

Venue: Royal West of England Academy; Sharples, Winterstoke, Stancomb Wills, Methuen and Milner Galleries

Visit: www.rwa.org.uk

**UWE Wind Ensembles**

Date: 11 April 2008 (Time: 13.00-14.00)

Venue: Fishponds Methodist Church, Guinea Lane, Fishponds

Admission: Free

Contact: Centre for Performing Arts

Tel: 0117 32 82067

Email: cpa@uwe.ac.uk

Visit: www.uwe.ac.uk/cpa

**UWE Big Band in concert**

Date: 14 April 2008 (Time: 19.30)

Venue: St Andrew’s Methodist Church, Filton, Bristol

Admission: Tickets: adults £6, concessions £4, quid-a-kid

Contact: Centre for Performing Arts

Tel: 0117 32 82067

Email: cpa@uwe.ac.uk

Visit: www.uwe.ac.uk/cpa

**Collections**

The Universities Joint Service collection was £228.23 which was sent to: Bristol Interfaith Group

Bristol Cathedral Carol Service collection was £725.41

Carols on Campus collection was £39.30

Christmas Praise at Broadmead Baptist Church collection was £36.25

Total collections from all carol services came to: £790.96 this will be distributed to the six charities which were: Children in Crisis, Epilepsy Bereaved, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Naomi House, Refugee Action, and Caring at Christmas.

**Questionnaire**

The UWE Centre for Sport aims to provide a fun and enjoyable experience that will encourage youngsters to develop and build on new and existing skills in a safe environment. The camps involve sporting activities such as badminton, football, climbing, cricket, netball, short tennis as well as arts and craft activities such as t-shirt design, collages, treasure hunts and much more.

The camps are tailored for all children aged 8-13 years old. Qualified and experienced staff will support children to engage in age appropriate activities with particular attention paid to personal development, interaction with others and most importantly fun and enjoyment. Bookings can be made at the Centre for Sport for the Holiday Camps from February 2008 for the dates below.

**Easter Camps 2008**

Monday 7 – Friday 11 April

Monday 14 – Friday 18 April

**Summer Camps 2008**

Monday 28 July – Friday 1 August

Monday 4 – Friday 8 August

Monday 11 – Friday 15 August

Monday 18 – Friday 22 August

Contact the Centre for Sport reception on 0117 328 6200 or visit the website www.uwe.ac.uk/sport/sportcamps.shtml

**Early Bird Bookings:** Bookings made for three days or more on one application form for the Easter Holiday camps and submitted by Friday 21 March 2008, will receive a 10% discount and a guaranteed free t-shirt for each child on their first day. Bookings made for five days or more on one application form for the Summer Holiday camps and submitted by 11 July 2008 will receive a 10% discount and a guaranteed free t-shirt for each child on their first day.

**Bulletin deadlines 2008**

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**UWE Hotshots**

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Love: National Gallery Touring Exhibition
Date: 19 January 2008 - 6 April 2008
Venue: Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery
Admission: Free Tel: 0117 9223571
Visit: www.bristol.gov.uk/cm/content/Leisure-Culture/Museums-Galleries/

Shakespeare Festival
Date: 7 February 2008 - 15 March 2008
Venue: Tobacco Factory, Southville
The Taming of the Shrew and Hamlet Tel: 0117 902 0344
Visit: http://www.tobaccofactory.com/

Fair Trade Fortnight
Date: 25 February 2008 - 9 March 2008
A variety of events across Bristol to raise awareness and celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight
Tel: 0117 922 4916
Visit: www.bristolfairtradenetwork.org.uk

UWESU Elections
Date: 3 - 7 March 2008
UWESU use online voting. All registered UWESU students have a vote. Results will be announced on Friday 7 March in the Escape Bar on Frenchay campus.
Contact: Nerys Neath
Tel: 0117 32 82585
Email: nerys.neath@uwe.ac.uk

Fair Trade Fortnight: Rich World Poor World Meal
Date: 3 March 2008 (Time: 12.00 -14.00)
Venue: The Octagon
Admission: £1
Contact: Multifaith Chaplaincy
Tel: 0117 32 82334
Email: chaplaincy@uwe.ac.uk
Visit: www.uwe.ac.uk/chaplaincy

From London to Titan - Atmospheric Electricity Through the Ages
Date: 3 March 2008
Time: 18.30 (refreshments), 19:00 (lecture)
Dr Karen Aplin, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
Venue: Frenchay Campus, 1N05
Admission: Free
Contact: Colin Clarke
Tel: 01438 765650
Email: events@theiet.org
Visit: www.theiet.org/local/uk/southwest/bristol/events.cfm

Lent Lecture - "Religion in the Public Square"
Date: 5 March 2008 (Time: 13.00-14.00)
Professor Roger Trig (Professor of Philosophy at Warwick University)
Venue: The Octagon, Frenchay Campus
Admission: Free ticket
Contact: The Chaplaincy
Tel: 0117 32 82334
Email: chaplaincy@uwe.ac.uk
Visit: www.uwe.ac.uk/chaplaincy/

Meeting Leaders of the Industry: The Distinguished Executive Address Series
Date: 5 March 2008 (Time: 18.30)
Richard Laphorte - Chairman, Cable and Wireless
Venue: The Street Cafe, S Block, Frenchay
Admission: Free, booking required
Contact: BBS Events Team
Tel: 0117 32 82290
Email: BBS.events@uwe.ac.uk
Visit: www.uwe.ac.uk/bbs/news/item07b.shtml

Musical 2008: Jekyll and Hyde
Date: 5 - 8 March 2008
Time: 19.30 (plus Saturday matinee 14.30)
Venue: The Redgrave Theatre, Percival Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 3LE
The CPA's annual musical directed by Alex Turasiewicz, produced and with musical direction from lan Henderson
Admission: Tickets £10 (£7 concessions)
Contact: Centre for Performing Arts Tel: 0117 32 82067
Email: cpa@uwe.ac.uk
Visit: www.uwe.ac.uk/cpa

Groupwork Programme 2007/08: Exam Panic
Date: 6 March 2008 - 24 April 2008
Dawn Bosley
Please phone to book a place
Contact: CPS
Tel: 0117 32 82558
Visit: www.uwe.ac.uk/csa/counselling/groupwork.shtml

"New Work on the Shakespeare Canon"
Date: 6 March 2008 (Time: 17.30)
Professor Brian Vickers
Venue: The Lady Chapel, St Matthias Campus
The Department of English runs several guest lectures which are open to university staff and the public
Contact: Lene Petersen
Email: Lene.Petersen@uwe.ac.uk
Visit: www.uwe.ac.uk/hlss/faculty/news/htm

HLSS Inaugural Professorial Lecture
Date: 6 March 2008 (Time: 19.30 lecture, 19.45 refreshments)
Professor Jonathan Charteris-Black
Venue: Lecture Theatre H124 and Traders, St Matthias Campus
Visit: www.uwe.ac.uk/hlss/faculty/news/профlecture.shtml

Open Day
Date: 8 March 2008 (Time: 10.00-16.00)
Venue: All UWE campuses
Contact: Admissions and International Recruitment
Tel: 0117 32 83333
Visit: http://info.uwe.ac.uk/openday/

Football Varsity
Date: 12 March 2008
Venue: Manor Farm
Admission: £3.50
Contact: Lily Priggs, Sports President
Tel: 0117 32 82915
Email: sports.president@uwe.ac.uk
Visit: www.uwesu.org/ez/index.php/ez site/sports/varsity

National Science & Engineering Week: Science Awareness Day
Date: 12 March 2008 (Time: 10.00-15.00)
Venue: Frenchay Campus
Admission: Free
Contact: Mandy James
Tel: 0117 32 82493
Email: mandy.James@uwe.ac.uk
Visit: www1.the-ba.net/events/

Lent Lecture "Ethics for Business Leaders – Working with integrity: A Christian Perspective"
Date: 12 March 2008 (Time: 13.00-14.00)
Dr Elaine Storkey
Venue: The Octagon, Frenchay Campus
Admission: Free ticket
Contact: Chaplaincy
Tel: 0117 32 82334
Email: chaplaincy@uwe.ac.uk
Visit: http://chaplaincy.uwe.ac.uk/chaplaincy

Meeting Leaders of the Industry: The Distinguished Executive Address Series
Date: 12 March 2008 (Time: 18.30)
Miles Templeman - Director General, Institute of Directors (IoD)
Venue: The Street Cafe, S Block, Frenchay
Admission: Free
Contact: BBS Events Team
Tel: 0117 32 82290
Email: BBS.events@uwe.ac.uk
Visit: www.uwe.ac.uk/bbs/news/item07b.shtml

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Admission: £3.50
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Tel: 0117 32 82915
Email: sports.president@uwe.ac.uk
Visit: www.uwesu.org/ez/index.php/ez site/sports/varsity

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