Campus Update - plans for the future
Election Special - who gets your vote?

plus: profile of Tim Ibell and behind the scenes with BUCS
Twenty-nine academic appointments funded

The University has announced that, as detailed in the February issue of Insider, twenty-nine new academic appointments and fifty new postgraduate posts are to be funded by the University’s Strategic Investment Fund at a cost of £1.25 million.

The funding has been made available as a result of the University’s much improved financial situation. In addition, over £100,000 has been allocated to the Library and Learning Centre.

The allocation of funds was decided in line with the Future Academic Shape of the University - Next Steps document that identifies areas in which the University needs to promote its world-class research. The newly-funded posts have been selected from bids made by every academic department across the University.

This is the first stage in an investment plan which identifies and invests in projects that either enhance the University’s current areas of strength or develop areas with potential for growth and innovation.

Bursaries worth £1,500 offered

The University has announced that from October 2006 it is to offer an unlimited number of bursaries worth up to £1,500 to new students from families with low incomes. These bursaries are expected to help around a third of the University’s students. Like almost all English universities, Bath has decided to charge the maximum permitted variable fees of £3,000 a year to its undergraduates.

Bursaries of £1,500 will be paid to students from homes where the total earnings are below £16,000. Students will not have to repay these bursaries. Students from homes where total earnings are between £16,000 and £33,553 will receive bursaries of between £300 and £1,200. All Bath bursaries will be paid in cash instalments and will normally be available for each year of full-time study.

Additional tuition fees are to be introduced in the autumn of 2006 for almost all undergraduate students beginning their courses in that year. Those who took a gap year in 2005/06 will be exempt provided they meet the Government’s eligibility requirements.

From Exeter to Bath

The University has invited about 50 students studying chemistry at Exeter to continue their courses here when their department closes. First year students will be funded by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE), second and third year students will be funded by Exeter. The University of Bath has invested over £12 million in its chemistry facilities over the last five years, and the number of students is expected to reach 350 in the next four years.

The University’s Safety, Health and Environment Unit has announced a 40 per cent increase in recycling in halls of residence on campus. Peter Adams, Safety, Health and Environment Adviser, says: “We have trialled a range of schemes this year and couldn’t have done it without the cooperation and patience of the portering and housekeeping staff.” Previous schemes relied on student goodwill rather than the segregation of waste at source. The trial received funding of £100,000 from the Community Recycling and Economic Development Fund and the final results and approved scheme will be decided in July.

In early March the University heard that its funding for research and teaching is to be increased by 9.3 per cent to £42.3 million in the next academic year. The increase in grant goes some way towards compensating universities for the fall in Government funding for teaching in the 1990s. The research part of the Higher Education Funding Council grant - around £16 million - represents a rise of about 20 per cent. The new grant will apply from August 2005, the beginning of the next academic year. For more information, see the Vice-Chancellor’s comment on p11.

The deadline for nominations for the Chancellor’s Prize, awarded to the best final year undergraduate student is 20 May. The nominated student should have demonstrated academic excellence, together with a contribution to the life, academic reputation and general work of the University. Further information and nomination forms are available from Sarah McInnes, Registrar’s Office.

Calls have been made for nominations for the Higher Education Active Community Fund Volunteering Awards. The awards recognise community work done by staff or student volunteers. For more information, see www.heacf-awards.ac.uk
Grant of £2.7m awarded to Physics team

A grant for over £2.7 million has been awarded to scientists of the Photonic Materials Group in the Department of Physics to further their research into an important new area in the field of photonics.

A group of eight academics led by Professor Philip Russell began work on the project in April after receiving £2.7 million grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The University is also adding extra funding of £50,000 to the project.

The four-year research grant will enable the team to recruit four full-time postdoctoral research staff and around ten PhD students, and provide them with the necessary technical support.

The fundamental work to be done over the course of the project will have an impact in many areas of engineering and technology, from optical telecommunications to astronomical imaging. For more information, see 3 West North in the Estates Update on p4.

Photonic crystal fibre was first proposed in 1991 by Professor Russell, and has been continuously developed by the Photronics and Photonic Materials Group over the past eight years. It consists of a hair-thin strand of glass with a series of tiny microscopic air channels running along its length. The air holes transform otherwise normal glass into an extraordinary optical material with radically unique properties, enabling optical effects which were previously thought to be impossible.

The work is expected to lead to a dramatic improvement in the power and flexibility of laser technology, giving new sources of light with dramatically enhanced efficiency.

Research could influence binge drinking policy

A research project is to investigate the ways that alcohol advertising might shape young people's identities, for example by encouraging them to see themselves as cool or attractive, manly or feminine if they drink a particular product or a particular brand.

The power of alcohol advertising to shape the way young people think about drinking is to be investigated by a team of researchers from the Universities of Bath, Birmingham and London.

The team will talk to 70 people aged 18-25 to ask their views on alcohol advertising on television, radio, the internet and in magazines, and whether this makes them think they are 'cool' by drinking certain brands.

The project is likely to have significant implications for the Government's Alcohol Strategy as previous research raised concerns by revealing how much young people drink but did not ask in-depth questions on how they feel about particular brands of alcoholic drinks.

The project, entitled Young People and Alcohol, began in April and will finish in September 2007.

New machines may turn homes into factories

Dr Adrian Bowyer from the Centre for Biomimetics, has developed a system whereby everyday household objects could be produced in the home for the cost of a few pounds.

The idea is based on the rapid prototype machine, which is currently used to replicate components for industry, such as vehicle parts. This is achieved by laying down 3D computer designs in plastic. However, conventional rapid prototype machines currently cost around £25,000 to buy.

Dr Bowyer's innovative idea is to create a computer design that would enable a rapid prototype machine to make a copy of itself, which he would put on a website and the public could download for free. The machines could then begin to make copies of themselves until there are so many on the market that the price falls and they become cheap enough for people to buy and use in their homes.

A machine could, for instance, make a complete set of plates, dishes and bowls out of plastic, coloured and decorated to a design. It would not be able to produce glass items or complex parts such as microchips but a digital camera could be made for a few pounds, allowing a lens and computer chip bought separately to be added later.

Dr Bowyer said that he would publish the 3D designs and computer code over the next four years as they are developed, until the entire machine could be copied. He has not taken out a patent and will not charge for creating the design for the machine.

"People have been talking for years about the cost of these machines dropping to about the same as a computer printer," said Dr Bowyer. "But it hasn't happened. Maybe my idea will allow this to occur."

Six researchers, led by Dr Christine Griffin, Department of Psychology, will interview young people in three locations: a large Midlands city, a seaside town and a market town in the West Country. The researchers prefer to keep the locations anonymous.

The team also includes Dr Isabelle Szminig of the University of Birmingham's Business School; Dr Chris Hackley from Royal Holloway College, University of London; and Dr Willim Mistral from the Mental Health Research and Development Unit, University of Bath.

The research is part of a wider series of 25 projects – called the Identities and Social Action Research Programme – carried out in UK universities to study issues of identity in modern Britain and abroad. The £4 million programme, launched on April 14, is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the projects range from the regeneration of coalfields in Durham to a study of street children in Mexico.
The University has doubled in size over the last decade and in order to maintain its world-class position, further expansion is inevitable. Take a walk through the Claverton campus and it is buzzing with building projects, all of which are part of the long-term plan drawn up by the Department of Estates.

In this feature, Insider takes a look at the campus today and the building work being done on your doorstep, as well as the plans for the future, starting with the heart of the campus: the Parade.

4 West and the Parade

The original 4 West building was the second to be built on campus, completed in 1968. Most recently it was home to the Departments of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, and to parts of Physics. It was built quickly to a low-cost standard design and was becoming increasingly expensive to maintain, so in the end it made economic sense to replace the building rather than refurbish it.

The demolition work, which began in mid-December, has progressed well and is due for completion at the end of May. It is running slightly behind the original schedule mainly due to the complexity of large-scale asbestos removal. The proximity of other buildings and noise restrictions also means that the second phase of demolition has had to be done almost entirely by hand. Cost on completion is estimated in excess of £5 million; this figure includes the expense of the relocation of the departments housed in the original building.

Plans for the 4 West replacement are being drawn up by Allies & Morrison Architects – voted Architectural Practice of the Year 2004 – and should be announced by the end of May.

Patrick Finch, Director of Estates, says: “The developing plans seek to maximise the total space that can be built within this area of the campus and will hopefully demonstrate the potential for a significant increase. At the same time, a first phase will need to be defined, for which provisional funding has been set at £15 million. The first phase should meet the University’s immediate needs whilst also making a significant contribution to the improvement of the Parade and the general environment in this part of the campus.”

“There is a long term plan to improve the general use of space around the campus”

The development of 4 West is a long-term project to be completed over several years, as funding becomes available. The first phase of development will include the refurbishment of the retained parts of the 4 West building fronting onto the Parade, while providing for new accommodation in a linked block to be constructed to the south. This initial phase is intended to be completed by October 2007 and the funding made available is being drawn mainly from the Higher Education Funding Council’s capital grants from under the Science and Research Infrastructure Fund (SRIF) and Project Capital Fund. Work on the Parade frontage is intended to introduce shops and a reception that will revitalise this area, while creating academic space within the new building.

3 West North

Designed by local architects, Stubbs Rich, the new 3 West North building is divided into two zones. The southern zone will provide new and replacement research facilities for the Department of Physics, in particular the fibre optic drawing tower and laser laboratories which were located in 4 West. The northern learning zone will include a new 200-seat tiered lecture theatre for the University and two general teaching spaces, seating 100 and 30 respectively. The teaching spaces will have all the latest audio visual equipment.

The fibre optics tower will allow the Photonics and Photonic Materials Group to continue its work developing photonic crystal fibres, which will have an impact in many areas of engineering and technology, including light sources, optical tele-communications, ultra-violet light and x-ray generation, atomic and quantum physics and astronomical imaging.

Building began in June 2004 and is due to be completed in May, at a total cost estimated at just under £3 million. Again, funding is being provided by HEFCE via its SRIF and Project Capital Funding rounds.

Professor John Davies, Head of Physics, says: “The new building provides the facilities to continue the University’s vital work into photonics. Together with the nanotechnology building, it marks the latest phase in a significant investment in physics at the University of Bath, which has seen the Department placed as one of the best in the country.”

Green belt

It is increasingly clear that there are limited opportunities for further development on the existing built part of the Claverton Down campus. The University believes that the most effective way to allow for further expansion is to explore the possibility of constructing
buildings in that part of the campus which is currently allocated as green belt. Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Council has agreed that the extension of the Claverton Down campus is the most sustainable way for the University to grow and has therefore included the proposal to move the green belt boundary to follow the edge of the University’s ownership at Claverton Down. The exception to this would be Limekiln Field, which would remain within the green belt should these proposals be adopted.

Patrick Finch says: “In order to justify moving a green belt boundary, the University needs to demonstrate that there are exceptional circumstances which should override national planning policy on green belts. The University has, therefore, needed to demonstrate to the Council that its sustained growth plays a vital part in both the regional and national economies and that the University’s international activities support a number of Government objectives in this area. It should also be noted that, of the total acreage to be removed from the green belt, a significant proportion of this zone includes parts of the Sports Training Village, the athletics track and the astroturf sports pitches and associated lighting have already been developed.”

The matter was considered by a Government planning inspector at the Council local plan inquiry on 19 and 20 April. The Vice-Chancellor presented to the inquiry the University’s case for expansion, supported by Patrick Finch and by the University’s planning consultants, transport advisors and architects. Contrary viewpoints were put forward by the Campaign to Protect the Green Belt at Claverton Down, the Bath Preservation Trust and the National Trust, amongst others. A decision on the local plan inquiry is expected in late 2005 or early 2006.

If a new local plan is adopted confirming the relocated green belt boundaries, the next stage will be the preparation of a detailed masterplan and environmental impact assessment for the eastern area of the campus. This would, in turn, be followed by detailed planning applications. Although proposals to develop this land are not yet complete, they are likely to include the provision for up to 2,000 extra student bedrooms and additional space for knowledge transfer on campus. It is likely that additional academic space can be provided within the existing built area of the Claverton campus. Such growth on campus would avoid the extensive problems that will be generated from the developments in the City of Bath. The existing Green Transport Plan would be further developed to minimise the impact of this additional development at Claverton Down. The University has conducted an exhaustive search of further sites within the city but is unable to locate land that would be capable of being developed in addition to Claverton Down in a sustainable manner.

The expansion plans are inline with the University’s national and local priorities for higher education which are identified as: widening participation, recruitment of overseas students, economic development and competitiveness (specifically in world-class science research) and sporting excellence. Bath’s traditional strengths in science and engineering mean that it is particularly well placed to help fulfil these national ambitions.

Green belt boundary plan

The results of the planning inquiry are expected in the autumn.

Additional projects

The Sports Training Village is to have a new café-bar from mid-May. Blues Café-Bar will serve hot and cold food and combine a ‘Dolche Vita’ coffee shop with a licensed bar. It will be located on the first floor and replace the temporary café. It will incorporate a separate hospitality area available for functions.

Part of the café at the eastern end of Choices is also to be converted into a ‘Dolche Vita’ coffee shop. Due to open in mid-May, it will open from 8am-18pm and serve sandwiches during the day and a hot menu in the evening.

The history of the campus

The University received its Royal Charter for the Claverton Campus in 1966. The original plan was designed by Enric Miralles. The Parade, a sheltered pedestrian area with service access underneath, was planned as the main focus of the University. South Building (now 1 South) was the first building to be completed. Intended as temporary accommodation, it was renovated in 1995 and is now forty years old. The bus stop and car parking were originally located here and the main approach to the academic buildings ran alongside the lake and up the main steps opposite the Library.

A plan extending the Parade and developing the Eastwood residences and Sports Pavilion was drawn up by the same architects in 1977. This plan included moving the bus stop to the eastern end of the campus, which shifted the main approach to the eastern end of the Parade. During the 1980s, Alison and Peter Smithson were appointed as architects and they added a number of new buildings, including 1 West North and 6 East.

The 1995 plan, drawn up by architects Evans & Shalev, included a huge increase in student residences with blocks to the east and west of the Parade. In 2001, Felden Clegg Bradley drew up a plan which included the Sports Training Village, accommodation and car parking.

Currently Allies and Morrison are updating the 2001 masterplan to revisit the capacity of the existing built areas of the campus and to bring forward initial thoughts on how green belt land might be developed should the opportunity arise.
The University’s joint Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering provides a unique opportunity to its students: it is the only place in the country where architects and civil engineers work together throughout their education, just as they will do in their professional life.

The Department is highly regarded by the construction industry and by its students, and the two groups within the Department are always rated in the top 5 in the Times newspaper league tables. Teaching within the Department has been rated as 'excellent' for architecture and at 22/24 for civil engineering. The Department’s rating in the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise was 5. So its Head, Professor Tim Ibell, has a very high standard to maintain. During his tenure, which began on 1 April, he will take the Department through accreditation processes for both civil engineering and architecture, as well as the Research Assessment Exercise in 2008. In this issue, Insider takes a look at the Department and finds out what Tim will be concentrating on during the following crucial three years.

Bath’s Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering was heavily influenced by Sir Edmund (Ted) Happold, the erstwhile Professor of Civil Engineering and Head of Department. Whilst working on the Sydney Opera House, Ted became increasingly aware of the benefits of architects and civil engineers working together throughout construction projects. He concluded that if the two sets of professional are going to work together,

### The CV:

**Born:** 1967

**Education:** 1988, awarded BSc in Civil Engineering with First Class Honours at the University of Cape Town, followed by a PhD at Cambridge in Structural Engineering in 1992. Returned to Cambridge in 1994 to complete a post-doctorate in Bridge Engineering.

**Career:** Between 1992 and 1994, worked in industry, and in 1997 joined the Department at Bath as a Lecturer, becoming a Senior Lecturer in May 2001, and Professor of Civil Engineering in October 2004. In April 2005, he became Head of Department.

**Interests:** Cricket, Spike Milligan and travel.
about 300 undergraduates. Today there are about 500, and the staff-student ratio is now 1:29. This is about double of comparative departments nationally, and is a real concern for the forthcoming accreditation visits. Tim says: "The accreditation visits look at the progress of students and the quality of output. As part of this, the visiting boards will look at the staff-student ratio, and it will be our challenge to convince the boards that the quality of our graduates has remained at the highest level while our staffing level is worryingly low. My main priority is clearly to increase the level of academic staffing before we are inspected."

Conserving the future
As a joint department, Architecture and Civil Engineering is in a position to research specialised topics that link the two professions. Tim says: "Our graduates are our best asset, but industrially-relevant world-class research is fundamental to our make-up. We conduct research over a broad subject area but the primary topics are sustainability and conservation – two of the main driving forces behind both architecture and civil engineering for the foreseeable future."

Research in these two primary areas covers the use of natural building materials for construction, energy-efficient buildings, façade engineering, conservation of historic buildings, and the strengthening of more modern structures to prolong life. Research into the design and construction of expansive enclosures such as the Millennium Dome has always been a strength of the Department, and continues to be so. Equally, research into the history of architecture maintains its world-class status, while earthquake engineering is becoming an ever-increasing area of expertise.

Tim explains bridge engineering, his own area of expertise: "I work with a team to develop realistic techniques of assessing the strength of bridges, and research ways to improve them. We are currently working on the use of polymers to strengthen bridges – carbon fibre polymers are about ten times stronger than steel and can significantly extend the lifespan of a bridge."

Where to from here?
The next three years are important ones for the Department, with an assessment every year (civil engineering and architecture accreditation visiting boards in 2006 and 2007 respectively, and the Research Assessment Exercise in 2008). Although confident that the Department will stand up to these well, Tim has identified areas which need to be focussed on to ensure the best result.

"Professional accreditation is vital to the Department and is far more important to us than rankings in league tables," he says. "Our product, which is our annual cohort of graduates, is judged by industry, not by newspapers. It is crucial that we focus on this priority."

"Sustainability and conservation are growth research areas for the Department. By developing these areas, we will continue to improve collaboration between civil engineering and architecture academics. Of course, time is needed for such research, particularly in terms of grant proposal writing, and an increase in staffing levels is vital to this becoming a reality. Increased research activity always helps to raise one's profile within the industry, and we will also continue working towards raising our profile in schools. During the summer we run a course called Headstart Focus which gives Year 12s an introduction to civil, structural and architectural engineering; it raises the awareness of school kids to the need for creative designers within this era of sustainability."

"In some ways our main research topics reflect my aims for my tenure – we need to sustain and conserve what we've achieved in the Department, and also look at ways that we can make improvements and build for the future."
For many University staff the only direct contact they have with BUCS is a fraught call made to the front-line help desk when assistance is needed. However, this is just one of the services provided by the Department. In this issue, Insider takes a look at some of the work going on behind the scenes.

Background
BUCS was developed out of the South West Universities Regional Computer Centre, based on the campus in the early 1980s. It now provides computer support to approximately 2,500 staff and 11,000 students plus distance learners, conferences and Open University summer schools.

The Department is led by Rod Angood, who has been Director of Computing Services at Bath since 2001. The Department currently has a full complement of staff, with 70 people deployed across three divisions: Systems and Networks - which is responsible for network maintenance and the provision and development of a wide range of network and desktop services; Management Information Systems - which supports and develops the University’s information systems, such as Finance, Student Records and Payroll; and User Services - which is the front-of-house operating the Help Desks, the Audio Visual and IT Purchasing units, and which provides IT support to Central Administration and the Library.

The departmental budget for 2004/5 was set at £3.9 million to cover both operations and salaries but this is reduced by the income that BUCS attracts - around £500,000 per year - from its various hosting and conference support services, and the provision of ResNet (network access in student residences).

Rod says: “The work done by Computer Services underpins the systems crucial to the smooth running of the University. Its three divisions provide very different services and have individual working cultures; however, we share the goals of clear communication and dependability.”

The help desks and beyond
Computing Services is always working on a range of projects at any one time.

Rod says: “Our department not only provides 24-hour service provision for the University but also works constantly to forecast the future needs of our users. As a result there are always new initiatives being developed.”

“Our department not only provides 24-hour service provision for the University but also works constantly to forecast the future needs of our users”

The most recent initiative to be launched by Computer Services gives students with disabilities and learning difficulties free access to state-of-the-art laptops that cater specifically for their learning needs. The Assistive Technologies Initiative (ATI), launched in April, gives students the chance to borrow from a pool of 64 laptops, each of which contains a range of software packages that can do everything from translating speech into written text to helping people map their thoughts and ideas.

“The support on offer to students with disabilities and learning difficulties now goes far beyond the basic minimum standards required through legislation,” says Rod. “We believe that this initiative is unrivalled by any other institution in the UK, and quite possibly overseas, so we are delighted to be the pioneers in making this specialist equipment available.”

Additional projects underway include:
• **Personal Information Project**: a one-stop-shop solution that will allow all staff to enter professional information about themselves and their work, that will be used for a variety of purposes such as the Directory of Expertise, Knowledge Transfer activities and the Research Assessment Exercise in 2008.
• **Research Observatory**: a joint development project with the University of the West of England that will deliver an online resource of information about research methods.
• **Management Accounting and Reporting System (MARS) Project**: the identification, selection, acquisition and eventual
deployment of a new finance system for the University.

- **Student and Applicant Management Information System (SAMIS):** 
  the development and deployment of the Assessments function. This system manages the results of all internal academic assessments run by the University.

- **Disaster Recovery Capability:** the development of solutions and facilities that will enable the University to sustain its information technology and information support capability in the event of a major disaster.

- **Oracle Calendar:** this application has been acquired and is currently under test and development. It will seamlessly upgrade and improve the present Netscape Calendar and provide improved interaction with other services.

- **Library IT Refresh:** the Department will shortly commence the first phase of this cyclical project which aims to replace around 150 of the computers in the Library with updated models.

Alongside technology-based initiatives, Computer Services works constantly to improve its communication, both within the Department and across the University. As part of this, the Department runs surveys on alternate years to elicit feedback from both staff and students. The next survey will be published on the internal site in early May, and the Department would like to hear from as many of their users as possible (responses can be given anonymously). The website can always be used as a communication tool and feedback is welcome at any time.

Rose Green, Personal Assistant to Rod, has launched a quarterly departmental newsletter entitled **Heads Up**. Launched in the summer of 2004 in response to a departmental review, it is aimed at heads of department giving them an update on new technical developments. Rose has also established Network Alert. This is a system whereby if there is a problem with the server, those affected will receive a phone call from the Department giving a summary of the problem, and then within an hour will receive a progress update and prognosis. Rose says: "The Administrative Team here at BUCS is delighted to be a part of this process - it means that we can keep our users informed and updated during any event that impacts on the services we deliver, whilst our technical staff focus on the problem and its resolution. We use the process less and less these days as the resilience and business continuity provision that we have instigated in recent years takes effect."

The future
The technology industry is constantly evolving so the future is hard to forecast. "It’s the pace of technological innovation within the industry that makes it so exciting," says Rod. "My staff and I have made huge progress since I joined in 2001, and there are many more changes in the pipeline. One of the most exciting projects on the horizon is the new campus in Swindon. Starting a new site from scratch means the potential is enormous. We’ll be implementing ground-breaking network technologies and service solutions which from this far out are difficult to prescribe or predict - who knows what will be available?"

Who you going to call?

**The Help Desks**

**a quick reference guide**

User Services supports two help desks based in the Library: MIS and BUCS. These effectively form the front-of-house for the Department. Any queries that cannot be answered here will be referred to a support specialist.

**MIS Help Desk**

Margaret Wootten runs the MIS Help Desk (ext: 3434) along with three members of the Admin Support Team. This is the help desk that most staff deal with. It provides support for hardware and software issues to all administrative departments and users of MIS applications (including, but not limited to, Finance, Payroll and Sports). The Help Desk receives approximately 1000 fault queries per month. Problems can either be reported by phone or logged directly on to the Request Tracker at www.bath.ac.uk/bucs/problem. Margaret says: "We understand that some people prefer to report a problem in person, rather than on the site, so we offer both services to all staff."

**BUCS Help Desk**

The BUCS Help Desk (ext: 3535) provides support for all students and staff. Eighty per cent of its activity is supporting student-owned laptops. Primarily staff queries come from new employees as they register; other major queries include email quotas, increasing user file-space, public PC software and scanning. The desk is manned by Heather Kellaway and her team of postgraduate advisers. "We receive approximately 2,500 calls per month, but during peak times we can receive up to 10,000," says Heather.
The outcome of next week’s election will have an important effect on the future of higher education, so here we set out a quick-reference guide to give our readers an overview of the main party policies.

In general, campaigning on education issues has focussed on schools, rather than universities, with additional tuition fees being the only high profile issue on the agenda. For details on the University’s response to the Government’s policies on additional tuition fees see Details of Bath University’s response to the Government’s policies on the agenda. For details on the

**Conservative**

The Conservatives will scrap the Labour aspiration of getting 50 per cent of 18- to 30-year-olds into higher education.

It has announced plans to increase funding for undergraduate teaching by £900 million from 2006/07, with an extra £3 billion to be spent on modernising teaching facilities.

It will establish an £18 million endowment programme, in which private contributions will be matched by the Government to give universities more independence.

**Additional tuition fees**

The party will discard university fees and replace grants with a new system of Government-funded national scholarships.

The student loan system will be reformed with the Student Loans Company being replaced with the Student Loans Trust. The Trust will not be subsidised by the Government, and will use the money to fund endowments and capital investments in universities. Loans will not be means tested and students will pay low commercial interest rates. They will be able to borrow more money to reflect the true cost of living and repayments will start when graduates earn £15,000.

**Labour**

Labour is still working towards its target of getting 50 per cent of 18- to 30-year-olds into higher education.

The party has announced plans to invest heavily in science and research, launching a 10-year plan promising funding of £10 billion. In addition, the Department of Trade and Industry has committed £250 million to improve science facilities in secondary schools.

Labour has identified three areas of research that will receive over £1 billion of Government funding over the next three years, these are: biotechnology, stem cell research and cloning.

A further £1.5 billion has been earmarked for medical research, with another £300m set aside to develop more university spin-out products and £150 million for research related to climate change.

About £500 million a year will be invested in new laboratories.

**Additional tuition fees**

The Funding Bill was passed last year and from 2006 universities will be able to charge tuition fees of up to £3,000 a year. Fees will be paid after graduation when a student’s annual earning reaches £15,000.

As a condition of charging higher fees, universities are required to offer bursaries and incentives to ensure those from poorer backgrounds are not deterred from attending university. Government grants of up to £1,000 are available to students from low income families.

Former Warwick University registrar, Michael Shattock, has been commissioned by the Department for Education and Skills to review the impact of additional tuition fees and whether the cap of £3,000 should be revised. There will be a full review of the system in 2009.

**Green Party**

The party has announced plans for an increase in education funding, especially post-16 and pre-school.

**Additional tuition fees**

Tuition fees will be abolished and student maintenance grants restored. Costs will be met by moves to a more progressive income tax system.

It will introduce maintenance grants of up to £2,000 for students from low income families to help with living expenses. The party plans to fund these proposals by increasing taxes on the highest earners.

**Liberal Democrats**

The Lib Dem party aims to close the gap between academic and vocational education. Universities will be encouraged to create flexible, modular programmes allowing students to incorporate both academic and vocational training.

Students will receive more support than currently available if they opt for a study-break, or want to change university. To encourage students to re-enter higher education, module credits will be transferable between universities.

**Additional tuition fees**

Fees will be abolished for all students.

It will introduce maintenance grants of up to £2,000 for students from low income families to help with living expenses. The party plans to fund these proposals by increasing taxes on the highest earners.

**UK Independent Party**

The UK Independence Party believes that the university sector has already expanded too far and the quality of courses has dropped as a result. It plans a review of all undergraduate courses and will cancel any that are of an insufficient standard. Funds will be reinvested in vocational training at technical colleges both for school leavers and mature students.

There will be a review of grading on all courses and students failing annual exams will not be allowed to continue the course.

**Additional tuition fees**

Additional tuition fees will be cancelled and the Student Loan Scheme scrapped. Maintenance grants will be available. Students from EU countries will pay the same fees as non-EU students.
I wrote in the last edition of Insider about the improvements to the University’s internal financial position, as a result of our own efforts. In this edition, I have some good news to report about the external funding allocations we are due to receive from the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) for 2005/2006 and beyond. Although it sometimes appears that universities are driven far too much by financial imperatives, with consequent possible neglect of our true purposes of scholarship and learning, I am firm in my belief that a university’s finances must be made to serve these greater academic purposes. Establishing sound finances allows academic investment for the future. This is why we have been able to invest in some 29 academic posts, as recently advertised, and also to continue investment in academic infrastructure - the buildings and facilities that enable us to undertake research and teaching.

The total recurrent grant payable to the University by the Funding Council for 2005/06 is due to increase by an overall 9.3 per cent to £42.3 million. Total funding for teaching will increase by 2.6 per cent to £25.9 million and total funding for research will increase by 22 per cent to £16.4 million. This settlement is very welcome news for the University and we believe it to be the seventh highest among all the 77 English universities funded by the Funding Council.

The Funding Council has also announced the capital funding that the University will receive between 2006 and 2008, in support of infrastructure used for research and teaching. A total of £14.3 million is available. Completion of the 4 West replacement building remains the top priority (and, as an aside, it is good to see the real progress that has been made in the demolition of the old 4 West building). This is inline with the Funding Council’s guidance that proposals should focus on the renewal and enhancement of the existing estate. A wide range of other possible priorities are being considered by the University Executive Committee. Improvements to the Library and Learning Centre, IT networks, General Teaching Accommodation and the long-term maintenance of buildings are likely to feature in the final list of proposals submitted to the Funding Council. These would aim to not only enhance facilities for research and teaching, but to improve the general quality of the academic and academic support service facilities we all use on a day-to-day basis across the campus.

I cannot finish my piece for this issue without mentioning a development that should have a major impact on our learning and teaching. The University of Bath has announced that from October 2006 it will offer an unlimited number of bursaries worth up to £1,500 to new students from families with low incomes. This is part of our response to the variable fee system to be introduced throughout England in October 2006. These bursaries are expected to help around a third of the University’s students. Like almost all English universities, Bath has decided to charge the maximum permitted fee of £3,000 a year to its full-time UK and EU undergraduates under the new regime. The Access Agreement outlining our plans for bursaries was submitted to the Office for Fair Access and has been accepted without revision. I am very grateful for all the work of those staff involved in drafting the agreement.
WHAT’S ON

ICIA

Box Office: 01225 386777

JIM MEDWAY

First Commissions and Other Works
Fri 22 April - Thurs 19 May
ICIA Art Space 1, entrance to Claverton Rooms

Manchester-based artist Jim Medway is well known for his witty images of urban life acted out by cartoon-style cats. His affectionately chronicles figures from teenage subculture through wall drawings and framed works. His pencil and ink drawings (some drawn directly onto the wall) reveal these characters’ hopes, angst and occasionally the perceived threat associated with today’s youth. Jim has exhibited extensively across the UK including The Lowry in Manchester, The Bluecoat in Liverpool, Manchester Art Gallery and venues in Edinburgh, Newcastle and London. Admission free

EARTH FALL

At Swim Two Boys
Sat 14 May, 7.30pm
ICIA Arts Theatre

A free-flowing cascade of water falls onto a shimmering stage completely covered in water ... catch this latest breathtaking dance theatre piece from the ground-breaking Earthfall. At Swim Two Boys is inspired by Irish writer James O’Neill’s award-winning novel set in Ireland in 1916. A tender tale of love, despair and discovery, it charts the relationship between two teenage boys set against a backdrop of political turmoil and slaughter on the Western Front.

Full of emotional power, physical inventiveness, stunning visual imagery and live Irish music, this is Earthfall at its most evocative, Earthfall is Wales’ leading dance theatre company and is in constant demand throughout the world.

“Disturbingly brilliant hi-octane physical dance theatre” Tim Dun
“Earthfall are definitely a 21st century phenomenon!” The Guardian

Tickets £9, £7 concs
£7 University staff, £5 BUSU & BSUC
Co-presentation: ICIA & Arc Theatre, Trowbridge

GRAVITY & LEVITY

in association with E B Projects
and Made in Brighton

Taking Flight - An Aerial Dance Installation Performance
Sat 4 June, 7.30pm
ICIA Arts Theatre and beyond!

Award-winning aerial dance company Gravity & Levity fuse dance, film and sound into a groundbreaking live performance that will astound, amuse and intrigue audiences. Dynamic and suspended movement combine with improbable angles as familiar relationships to the floor, weight and gravity are substantially altered. Winners of the Jerwood Circus Award 2003 and shortlisted for the Camera Award South East Dance 2004 "Arresting and inventive work" Total Theatre

Tickets £9, £7 concs
£7 University staff, £5 BUSU & BSUC
Presented as part of the Bath Fringe Festival

GASP & BUBBA

Sun 22 May, 7.30pm
ICIA Arts Theatre

A night of storming gospel and big band jazz as the University Gospel Choir and Big Band celebrate another busy and successful year.

Tickets £4, £3 concs

MUSIC MATTERS

Wed 25 May, 6pm
Studio 1, ICIA Arts Complex

An evening of informal music-making by those who have been taking lessons during the year. Come and support your friends in an always very varied programme.

Admission free

WORKSHOPS

DIGITAL VIDEO

Sat 7 & Sun 8 May
10am-4pm, University campus

An introduction to digital video-making techniques with an emphasis on creative methods of filming and editing. Over two days, participants work together to create their own video shorts.

£40 University staff, £20 BUSU (for 2 days)

CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS

Sat 30 April & Sat 7 May
10am-4pm, ICIA Arts Complex

Experience the satisfaction of making ceramic vessels and forms over one day, and then return to glaze and raku fire after the bisque firing.

£30 University staff, £15 BUSU (for 2 days)