Exclusive – who will be moving into the new 4 West
A dying art – the Centre for Death & Society
When education and health meet
Gold medals at Games

TeamBath returned from the Commonwealth Games with an impressive haul of medals, including five for swimming.

Ross Davenport (pictured) won gold in the 200m freestyle and as part of the 4x200m medley relay, plus silver in the 4x100m medley relay.

Matt Clay won gold in the 50m backstroke and Darren Mew took silver in the 50m breaststroke.

Pamela Cookey, Rachel Dunn and Geva Mentor helped England win a bronze medal for netball.

Ged Roddy, Director of Sport, said: “We’re extremely proud of all those with University connections who achieved so much in Melbourne.”

Adam Hart-Davis kick-starts National Science Week

TV personality Adam Hart-Davis gave a free lecture on campus to launch National Science Week. Dr Hart-Davis has been acclaimed by scientists and the public alike for bringing science and engineering subjects to a wider audience. In July 2004 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University for his work popularising science.

The University organised a range of events to celebrate Science Week, including the annual Bath Taps Into Science fair, a two-day event which gave over 400 local pupils from the Bath area an introduction to science.

New integrated imaging, design and print service

Staff and students can now get all their print, design and photographic requirements from one department: Imaging, Design and Print Services has been brought together to offer the complete service from design right through to the finished printed product.

Now headed by Louise Paton, the department offers a one-stop shop for logo, poster, web, brochure and newsletter design; event, brochure and portrait photography; high speed black and white photocopying, high-quality colour copying, binding, large-format poster printing, litho printing and finishing.

If you require a quote or wish to discuss any of the services in more detail please ring Louise on ext 6150 or Design on ext 6926, or Photography on ext 5478.

ICIA launches webpage to update staff on Arts Complex

Staff can keep up-to-date with the plans for the Arts Complex on the newly designed webpage: www.bath.ac.uk/icia/artscomplex

The plans for the Arts Complex were originally drawn up two years ago, and since then it has become clear that to maximise its potential another level needs to be added. Over the next few months the original plans will be reworked and staff and students will be invited to give their feedback.

Students have already shown their support by showcasing their talents at the first Arts Societies Fundraising Gala, which played to a packed house. As well as raising awareness of the plans, the scheme launched the fundraising with all proceeds going towards the new build.
Anxious fathers increase caesarean pain for mothers

Fathers who are anxious during a caesarean may increase the pain experienced by the mother after the delivery of their baby, according to new research by Dr Ed Keogh, Department of Psychology.

The study found that the way their birth partners felt during the operation affected the woman's own levels of fear and anxiety, which increased the amount of pain they felt immediately after the operation.

Dr Keogh said: "Anecdotally a number of birth partners told us that they had little choice in attending the caesarean and felt ill prepared. However, birth partners can have beneficial effects and rather than removing them from the operating theatre altogether, it would be better to target their emotional wellbeing to help reduce the anxiety and fear experienced by the mother."

Pioneering phone technology trialled in Bath city centre

The £1.6 million Cityware project, developed by researchers in the Departments of Computer Science and Psychology, is turning Bath city centre into a 'pervasive' computing zone where users have access to computer services wherever they are and at all times.

The city-wide wireless computing network includes pioneering technology that incorporates navigation tools, interactive city-wide games and cultural activities, and information services.

Dr Danaë Stanton Fraser, one of the investigators on the project, explained: "Over the next three years volunteers will work with the project to see how these technologies affect their lives."

Their preferences will guide the world's high-technology firms in how to develop the next generations of applications for mobiles, computers and laptops.

Bangladesh study shows families are key to happiness

Eight out of ten people in one of the poorest countries in the world describe themselves as 'happy', and they cite the strength of their relationship with loved ones as the key, according to a study by the Economic and Social Research Council Wellbeing in Developing Countries (WeD) Research Group.

Whilst achievement of individual goals and personal wealth remain the most significant contributors to happiness in Europe and North America, in Bangladesh it seems to depend more on the quality of social relationships.

This finding could provide a partial explanation for the lack of success of development interventions in recent years. "A sound understanding of these kinds of issues at local level must become an essential part of future development initiatives," said Dr Allister McGregor, Director of WeD. "Not least because it ensures that interventions are appropriate to the issues that people really need to be addressed."

Contact lenses warn diabetics of danger

The Department of Chemistry has been awarded £120,000 to research and develop contact lenses that use "Sensor Hologram" technology to help diabetics ensure their blood sugar level is not dangerously high or low.

The project, supervised by Dr Tony James and Dr Steve Bull, will develop contact lenses which sense the glucose levels in the tear fluid of the wearer's eye. Changes in the level can be detected by a small device held up to the eye to give an accurate reading.

"This method is the most sensitive of all of the systems that are being developed for diabetics," said Dr James. "When it comes on to the market it will make the lives of many millions of diabetics simpler, safer and less painful."
THE REBIRTH OF DEATH -
an interview with
Dr Glennys Howarth
The Head of Department of Social & Policy Sciences
and Director of the Centre for Death & Society

In October 2005, Dr Glennys Howarth launched the UK’s first Centre for Death & Society (CDAS). She tells Insider that the death debate is not only alive and well, but gathering momentum.

What sparked your interest in death?
People always assume it’s because of something that happened in my personal life but in fact it was a result of studying how people coped with large-scale death during the First World War and seeing how attitudes to death and loss changed from Victorian times to the present.

Was it a popular subject when you began your research in this field?
Unless you were approaching it from a psychological perspective there didn’t seem to be anyone interested in death and dying. I think it’s quite telling that when I started my PhD at the end of the 1980s I was given a supervisor who specialised in crime and deviance - there really isn’t anything less deviant than death! When I completed my PhD I was advised by another academic that if I wanted a career in academia I should “get out of this death stuff”.

How did you find other people interested in this field?
In 1990, while I was at the London School of Economics, I came across a PhD student who was working on a history of cremation - Peter Jupp. We met up for lunch one day and spoke about death in hushed tones in a restaurant on The Strand. From there we went on to establish a series of conferences on death. The first one, held at the University of Oxford in 1992, was well-attended, not just by academics but also by professionals such as bereavement counsellors and funeral directors. That’s when I first felt there was an increasing interest and academic excitement around the subject. Peter and I also established the journal Mortality, which has just celebrated its tenth anniversary, and continues to be the only multi-disciplinary journal of death studies in Europe.

Last year’s conference, held at the University, incorporated an art exhibition - what’s the link between death and art?
Death lends itself to visual representation but it can be an uncomfortable subject for artists and journalists. The coverage generated by last year’s conference highlighted some of the problems around the way death is represented in the media - many of the journalists weren’t sure about how to visually represent it without causing offence, so they used pieces from Barb Hunt’s exhibition.
So, does death need an image makeover?

Not as such, but we will be taking a closer look at death and the media. In particular, the use of religious imagery is increasingly contentious in our multi cultural and multi faith society. Using a crucifix as a symbol can be worse than meaningless, it can be insulting. This is something that journalists and professionals have to be very aware of.

I believe there must be a better way of dealing with the problem of symbolism, and we are working with ICIA on a research proposal to look at good practice in this area. We hope to get funding for research into new ways to represent death in art, ways which will have more meaning for people than the traditional crucifix or poppy.

Death is an uncomfortable subject for many people, however it's represented. Do you think that has always been the case, and is it changing?

People have referred to death as a 'taboo' subject, but I think it's more that people have little knowledge of it so it becomes mysterious. This hasn't always been the case; it probably wasn't until the 1950s that the rituals around death became distanced from the home and the community. For example, today, people tend to die in institutions and bodies are taken away immediately, rather than kept at home for a mourning period; and cremation, which at its peak was chosen by 78 per cent of the UK population, means there is no grave to visit. All of which results in death becoming less visible.

I think there's a sense that we have become disempowered by the mystery of death and I think people want to bring it back, not necessarily into the home, but into our social conscience. This growing interest is reflected both in the number of people who attend our conferences, which has increased four-fold in size since the early 1990s, and in the amount of air-time death is getting in the media - not just on the news and documentaries but in popular entertainment programmes such as Six Feet Under. I get calls from the media almost every other day who are looking at some aspect of death and dying.

Why was this the right time to set up the centre?

It's something I have been thinking of doing since I was an academic at the University of Sydney. Through the journal and the conferences I come into contact with a large number of academics working in this field, many of whom say they still feel quite isolated and marginalised in terms of their work. I recall that was how I felt in the 1980s. By launching the centre we can bring all these people together, and being the first of its kind in the UK means that we are now in a really good position to become a leading centre in death studies.

What are the next steps for the centre?

The idea isn't that we bring all the work here and do it ourselves but that we act as a communication gateway for people. The centre is a good place for people to network and connect up on research projects.

The main aims of the centre are: research, education, social policy development and building community awareness. We already have five funded PhD students working on a range of projects. Four of these are funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, which shows how mainstream dying, death and bereavement studies are becoming. We hope to work with other University departments and at the moment we're sourcing funding for a project with Professor Chris Eccleston in the Pain Management Unit which will look at the culture of pain in dying.

In October we launch the new MSc in Death & Society, which will include a course on death and art in association with the ICIA. We intend to establish a distance learning version of course over the next couple of years. We are also beginning to plan for the 2007 death conference which will be held here in Bath. This time we are collaborating much more with ICIA and so art will be central to that conference.

If you want further information about the Centre for Death & Society or about the new MSc Death & Society, please visit the website: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas
In late 2005, the Department of Education established another research centre that focuses on the impact of social change on learning. It is only the second such centre in the UK. Insider meets its director and learns about its work with cancer patients and at-risk teenagers.

What empowers a patient? In what ways can nurses work as a team? Could teachers do the same? Would that actually improve the service? These are just some of the questions concerning educational psychologist Professor Harry Daniels and colleagues in the new Centre for Socio-Cultural and Activity Theory (CSAT).

Professor Daniels said: “Education is inextricably linked with issues that surround health and welfare. A major part of the centre’s research is to analyse the ways in which professionals and patients work and learn and to help ensure the best possible service is provided.”

A recent project, whose findings informed some of the thinking in a recent White Paper, looked at the ways in which communication and information could help people cope with cancer.

The Department of Health states that two in five of the UK’s population will develop cancer during their lifetime, and one in four will die from it. Therefore, the majority of the population is affected either as a patient or as a friend, relative or carer.

Professor Daniels said: “Research showed that patients and their carers had different needs when it came to the type of information they wanted about the illness and the way it was presented. Correctly targeted information was shown to have a very positive impact on both the patients and their carers, supporting the theory that the well-informed patient is the healthier patient. Our project looked at the best ways to get that information to them, and specifically the role of the internet in the delivery of health information.”

The project surveyed cancer sufferers and their carers to find out how they got their information – for example from medical staff, family and friends, the library, magazines, leaflets or the web.

“Our research showed only 18 per cent of patients actively looked for information on their illness, and only 4.8 per cent used the web. This could be for a range of reasons – perhaps they were too frightened to find out more, or believed that their doctor would tell them everything they needed to know. We discovered that it was mainly the carers that were actively looking for information, but that what they found, especially on the web, wasn’t designed for them.

“By finding out the ways in which patients and carers preferred to find information about their illness, we could identify the most targeted and cost effective ways to get this information to them. Prior to the project a website was set up and its usage monitored, the site is now part of Cancer Research UK and receives 7.5 million hits per month.

The communication of important information is at the heart of another of the centre’s recent projects. Newspapers carry stories of children who have slipped between the care services – a communication
breakdown between practitioners can result in delays, distress and much worse. As a consequence, the Government has called for a more ‘joined up’ response from the professionals involved in welfare. Currently, the centre is working on a project which aims to change the way society cares for at-risk teenagers.

The four-year research project, led by Professor Daniels alongside Research Officer and PhD student Anna Popova, and colleagues at the Universities of Birmingham and Oxford, has funding of £800,000 from the Economic and Social Research Council.

“The aim of this project is to understand how professionals learn how to work together,” said Professor Daniels. “The care service involves practitioners who come from very different professional backgrounds and a fluid collaboration is not simply a matter of putting everyone together and calling them ‘a team’. It requires people to learn new ways of working across boundaries.

“Rather than telling people what we, from an outsiders point of view, think they should do, we put a mirror up to their current systems, enabling them to analyse their activities and identify danger areas where communication can break down. Our study involves close examination of the ways in which they look at problems that arise in their work.

Anna Popova has been liaising closely with the project’s case studies - three local authorities varying in size and management style.

She said: "Whatever their size, local authorities appear to suffer greatly from communication problems between strategical thinkers and those who are actually working out in the field. In these situations communication doesn’t appear to flow either down or up and the recent ‘rolling out’ of policy decisions has felt more of a ‘roll over’ for the staff involved, with none of the necessary feedback and training.

“These kinds of communication problems are by no means exclusive to welfare. Rapid growth in any sector is likely to result in a similar breakdown. Our research aims to provide the tools needed to achieve effective communication. At the moment we are looking at creating the best possible support network for at-risk teenagers, but it could be applied to any industry."

The research being done by the centre, and the department as a whole, looks at improving learning wherever and whenever it takes place. With over 80 per cent of staff with research funding and over 150 research students, the department has evolved a long way from simply teaching teachers. Yolande Muschamp, Head of Department, concludes: “Research is a priority in this department and we ensure that our teaching benefits from our research – the two must always link together.”

Staff are invited to attend the centre’s monthly seminars and reading groups. To find out more please email Professor Daniels at H.R.J Daniels@bath.ac.uk.
After months of speculation *Insider* can confirm which departments will be moving into the new 4 West research and teaching centre, and confirm that the building will be leading the way in environmental design.
Since the decision to replace 4 West was announced in 2003, there has been much debate around campus about who would be taking up residence in its new five-storey, £15 million replacement. Planning permission has recently been given by Bath and North East Somerset Council and building work will begin in July 2006. Occupancy of the new building is planned for April 2008. Most of the cost of the building will be met from the Higher Education Funding Council for England’s capital funding allocation.

The University is aiming for an ‘excellent’ environment rating for the new building. The project has been registered with the Building Research Establishment which will assess the energy and water use in the building, its materials and any pollution it may create, together with the ecology of its environment. It will also assess the management of the construction site, promoting a reduction in unused materials and recycling of construction waste.

The building, which has 5,400 square metres of research and teaching space, has the potential to be extended in another three phases. Phase Two could involve a building just south of the new construction, Phase Three could be a small building to the west, and Phase Four a building directly to the south of Wessex House. This would add another 6,800 square metres.

It can be confirmed that the space has been allocated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Department/Space</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
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<td></td>
<td>General teaching area seating 80</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parallelogram-shaped lecture theatre seating 80 (allocated to Department of Mathematical Sciences, but made available to others when not in use)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two general teaching areas seating 25 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 2 (South)</td>
<td>Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 2 (North)</td>
<td>Department of Computer Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 2 (Frontage)</td>
<td>New enlarged Dolche Vita café</td>
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<td>University Reception</td>
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<td>Student Services Help Centre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Postgraduate Centre and meeting rooms</td>
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<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Department of Computer Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Vice Chancellor’s and University Secretary’s suites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Department of Mathematical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Department of Mathematical Sciences</td>
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4 West as we knew it

The 4 West building was constructed as part of the original Claverton Down campus development in 1967/8. For many years, the building provided a home for research and teaching activities in the areas of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Physics.

The building was a standard local authority adapted design, constructed quickly and cheaply and for many years fulfilled its purpose well. Throughout the 1990s, however, it became increasingly apparent that the building’s obsolescence and the health and safety difficulties arising from the use of asbestos were becoming increasingly difficult to manage. In 2003 the decision was taken to demolish the building and to replace it.
Meet a colleague off campus and you could find out they are known for much more than their University work.

This month, Dr John Beeching, Department of Biology & Biochemistry, introduces Insider to his world as a street photographer.

My parents were artists. It came as a shock when I chose to study science. But, for me, photography bridges the gap between science and art.

I have developed my own films since I was a teenager. I didn’t have a dark room at first, so I had to wait for a dark night.

Cartier-Bresson was an early inspiration; he opened my eyes to what was possible. I don’t try to copy anyone’s style, or to do something consciously different, but looking at art develops an unconscious way of learning about composition.

I have taught photography but never been taught myself. Everything I learnt was from books and trial and error. I’d like to teach the history of photography again, but not the mechanics.

I was a professional photographer for a while in Mexico City. I stopped enjoying it when it became a job. Now I keep my work, family and photography separate.

Street photography keeps your subject in context. Sometimes, even with a camera, one can be as if cloaked in a mantle of invisibility. If they notice you, a smile is normally enough to put them at ease.

A day at the races is a good place for my style of photography. You turn your back on the event and just photograph the crowd.

Via the internet I am part of an international community of photographers. It’s very stimulating to discuss and critique each others work. When I travel for work we often get together.

I exhibit internationally, and I would like to do so locally. I rarely sell my work, normally I give it away to friends and family.

Bath feels a little small for street photography (I might photograph a colleague!). In the States the streets are often empty apart from cars. The continent is my favourite place to take pictures.

When you paint you start with a blank canvas and add to it. With photography you move closer and remove extraneous material until you are left with the essentials that you want.

Black and white photography lets you see your subjects’ soul, while colour shows you their clothes.

• See John’s photography at http://staff.bath.ac.uk/bssjrb/Photographic/photo.htm
His next exhibition Crosswalks: contemporary street photography will be in the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, 24 May-13 August 2006

If you would like to be featured in Secret Lives please email insider@bath.ac.uk
Higher education is going global. People increasingly move around the world, living and working in all sorts of different cultures and the student experience needs to reflect that.

At Bath, that means looking at the international aspects of our research and our teaching and learning strategies - looking at how we recruit international students and the competition we are up against, and also at how we can best prepare our international and home students for working and living in today's world.

The University already has a strong international ethos. From the outset we have been active internationally, both in research activities and in the make up of the staff and student community. The number of international students has more than quadrupled in the last decade and they are making an increasingly important contribution to the academic and cultural life of the University.

In recent years however international competition has intensified and we now compete not just with other UK universities but with institutions all over the world.

Not only are countries like Australia and America becoming increasingly proactive in recruiting international students but there are a growing number of English-language courses now being offered by European universities. Countries that have been sending lots of students abroad to study in recent years, such as China, are increasingly developing their own high quality provision.

Where does this leave us? Despite the increase in competition, places at Bath have remained in high demand among international students. To stay ahead of the game we need to look at how we can maintain that. In the short term I will be working with our International Office to look at focusing our recruitment activities, and at how our current international students feel about their experiences at Bath, as well as how home students feel about the international aspects of life at the University.

Despite the increase in competition, places at Bath have remained in high demand among international students.

Despite the increase in competition, places at Bath have remained in high demand among international students. I believe the long term future lies in developing our relationships with international institutions. The recent collaborative partnership between our European Research Institute and the Centre for European Studies at Shandong University in China is a good example of this. The partnership will involve academic exchanges and visits for staff and doctoral students, joint postgraduate programmes, joint conferences and seminars and collaborative publications in both English and Chinese. Another exciting development is our link with the University of California (San Diego and Irvine) and our Set-Squared partners (the Universities of Bristol, Southampton and Surrey), aimed at stimulating technology transfer and enterprise activity.

We will also be taking a closer look at how we can respond to the Government initiatives to develop higher education links with India and Africa. There are a lot of politically sensitive issues surrounding relationship building in higher education in these countries and we will be approaching these initiatives cautiously. It is important that relationships are built on the basis of a sustainable exchange of skills and knowledge, at all levels, in both research and teaching. If we can succeed, and this is challenging in many ways, these partnerships can be very enriching for both sides.

As we look to the future and shape our role in the global market 'flexibility' will be at the heart of our strategy. As higher education becomes increasingly international we need to be able to provide the best possible academic and cultural experience for the new, global generation.
Performances

Imitating the dog & Pete Brooks
Hotel Methuselah
Sat 13 May, 7.30pm
ICIA Arts Theatre
Stunning homage to post-war British cinema, this psychological thriller explores fears around mortality and sexuality.

Sue Lee & Kosta Andrea
Theatre Company - Feeling good
Sat 27 May, 7.30pm
ICIA Arts Theatre
Explores how we become caught up in the interfering forces of life. Subtle and quirky, it touches on the depths of human experience.

Exhibitions & symposium

Bobby Baker - Diary drawings
Until Fri 9 June, 10am-5pm
NEW: ICIA Art Space 2 (3WN)
Leading UK performance artist exhibits a series of humorous and moving drawings exploring issues around mental health. Presented by: Student Counselling Service, Students’ Union and ICIA.

ICIA Symposium: trauma / art / representation
Sat 13 May, 10am-5pm
Explores contemporary critical issues around art and lived histories.

Ana Bilankov - Inventing a Space
Mon 15 May – Fri 9 June, 10am-5pm
ICIA Art Space 1
Beautiful, atmospheric video and photographic images by Croatian artist raise questions about location and identity.

Workshops

Raku
Sat 6 & Sun 13 May, 10am-4pm
ICIA Arts Complex
Make ceramic pots and glaze them using the exciting and spontaneous raku firing method.

Imitating the dog workshop
Sun 14 May, noon-2pm
ICIA Arts Theatre
Explores the techniques used by this company renowned for pushing the boundaries of visual theatre.

Student productions & concerts

University Orchestra & Strode College Musicians
Tues 25 April, 7.30pm
Strode Theatre, Street
Features various ensembles from Strode College.

BODYSOC
Wed 26-Sat 29 April, 7.30pm
ICIA Arts Theatre
Exciting work by University of Bath’s vivid dance society.

University Chamber Choir
Reunion Weekend Event
Sun 30 April, 7.30pm
St John’s Church, Frome
Mon 1 May, noon
Bath Abbey.

Lunchtime - platform concerts
Wed 3 May, 1.15pm
Central United Reformed Church, Grove St, Bath
Solo and small ensemble performances to brighten your lunch hour.

GASP Choir & BUBBA Big Band
Sat 6 May, 7.30pm
ICIA Arts Theatre
An evening of energetic gospel music and high-quality big band jazz.

University Wind Band, Orchestra & Alley Barbers
Sun 7 May, 7.30pm
ICIA Arts Theatre
Music for wind band, brass band and male barbershop.

Music Matters
Wed 10 May, 5.30pm
Studio 1, ICIA Arts Complex
Informal concert by soloists and chamber groups celebrating campus music.

ICIA BOX OFFICE
Call ext 6777 for further information and prices
www.bath.ac.uk/icia

FREE BROCHURE
Sign up to receive a free brochure through internal post e-mail: ICIAinfo@bath.ac.uk