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• how we’re helping international students feel at home
• research into wellbeing and pain management
• plus new staff and the secret lives of colleagues
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Campus makes it big on the small screen

The storyline:
Each episode focuses on an archaeological discovery from a different period in history, from the excavation of murdered 18th century slaves to the possible discovery of the True Cross. Each programme aims to be both a window on a period of history and a reflection of how we live today. The factual advisor on the series is Dr Mark Horton, Reader in Archaeology at the University of Bristol, a specialist in the archaeology of historical societies around the world.

**release date postponed until June**

Writers:
Matthew Graham & Ashley Pharoah (writers and creators of the Life on Mars series) Tom MacRae, Jack Williams

Director:
James Strong (Dr Who), Nick Hurran, Sarah O’Gorman

Actors:
Julie Graham (Dalziel & Pascoe, William & Mary) is Gillian, a feisty Celt who heads up a team of archaeologists working out of the University. Adrian Lester (Hustle, Ballet Shoes, Primary Colors) is Dr Ben Akomfrah, a forensic expert who brings an objective understanding to the team. Hugh Bonneville (Notting Hill, Miss Austen Regrets, Tsunami) is the encyclopaedic but terminally louche Professor Gregory Parton. Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Spooks, Doctor Who) is the eager, young, post-grad Viv Davis.
There’s nothing unusual about having new academics on campus, what’s different about this team is that they are from a fictional archaeology department.

The new team is the cast of Bonekickers, the BBC One drama series set in Bath. Written into the script from the start, the University, which is referred to as Wessex University, is key to the storyline. Here, Insider speaks to the location manager about the challenges of filming on campus.

The University is the most important location in Bonekickers, it’s absolutely fundamental to the storyline. The writers are local and it was written into every episode from the very beginning.

Lengthy negotiations with the University followed, primarily between the Bonekickers team, the Press Office and the University Secretary, to decide: when and where we could film, our requirements, the cost, and how it could be done with the least disturbance to staff and students.

We decided to film on Sundays between December and March, avoiding the student exam period. By filming at weekends we aimed to create less of a disturbance on campus, and it gave us more access to East car park to house the huge BBC trucks.

We used four main locations on campus: the library, the lake, the Parade and the office of Professor Nick Mitchell, as home to a senior academic in the series (see above). We’ve also filmed in University Hall and Wessex Restaurant.

Despite the extensive preparatory work we did, there were, as always, last minute issues that arose once we arrived on campus with the crew to start filming. I seemed to be constantly on the phone to the Press Office to help resolve the little problems that can’t be predicted before filming starts, when the scripts and schedules change and the weather dictates what action can happen where.

For example, we needed to find alternate routes for cameras because they didn’t fit into the lift, and for the lighting trucks that didn’t fit under the Parade; we had to turn the lights off the Christmas tree by the lake because it wasn’t scripted as being Christmas, and the fountain off because the noise was being picked up by the microphones; then an angle changed during filming and we had to move some of the umbrella’s in the Parade bar because they carried advertising – something the BBC are very strict on avoiding.

Security was really helpful throughout the filming. One of the ways we’ve been able to thank them is to offer for them to come and eat with the crew – our catering truck is part of our hard currency. It feels like we’re giving something back when people are running around on our behalf.

Visually the University is a gift to shoot in because it is built on different levels. It makes a very interesting backdrop. It’ll look stunning on television and will do a lot to promote Bath as being much more than just Georgian architecture. It provides a real contrast of the old and the new, showing that Bath is a living, breathing city.

I think that Bonekickers could lead to lots more modern-day productions being filmed in Bath. The Bath Film Office, part of the Bath Tourism Office, helps production teams and location managers sort out the logistics of filming locally.

Modern day filming in Bath is more straightforward than period drama in some ways, cars don’t need to be moved and front doors and railings changed. It has its own challenges though, arranging filming at the University was the easy bit, I needed to find a Birmingham street and an Iraqi desert in Bath. We ended up filming the Birmingham street scene in Keynsham, and a local quarry set the scene for the Iraqi desert.

We’re already looking at the scripts for the next series. I’m confident that it’ll be a real success – the writers have great pedigree and have come up with an original idea.

Professor Nick Mitchell’s office, 2 East 2.10, which overlooks the Parade at ground level was chosen as the home of the fictional head of the archaeology department.

Professor Mitchell said: “I’m really looking forward to seeing the programme. From what I hear it’s going to show academics in a positive light – something that’s not really been done before! It’s also going to make an interesting, original story when we show students round the department on UCAS days.”
International students: part of the community not academic tourists

What do our international students really think of the University? The results of the first waves of the International Student Barometer (ISB), the survey of international student satisfaction, have been analysed and the International Office, working together with the Students’ Union, has taken innovative steps in addressing some of the issues raised.

The ISB takes an in-depth look at the overall international student experience - living, learning and support, and the University has been involved since its launch in 2006. In the most recent autumn wave, 32 per cent of the University’s international students completed the survey.

Many of the issues that international students raised about learning and living are the same as those raised by home students. To monitor progress in response to the results, there is a ‘you said, we did’ resource available online, see: www.bath.ac.uk/news/2008/1/31/studentenhancements.html

When compared to other universities in the ISB benchmark group, Bath ranks highly in terms of facilities, support from the International Office and quality of teaching. All students are valuable ambassadors and our international students are happy to recommend us to potential new students in their home countries.

One area that the International Office is focusing on as a result of the survey is the difficulty international students say they have in making friends with home students. Students consider ‘host friends’ to be a very important part of their student experience, but find it hard to broaden their friendship base beyond other international students.

Nicola Peacock, who recently took up the new role of International Student Support Manager with the remit of enhancing the international student experience on campus, said: “The survey highlights the need to improve integration between diverse student groups on campus and facilitate better interaction.

“Friendships with home students help to make international students feel a part of the University. If they feel like an academic tourist they are less likely to feel involved at the University. The University community is also an amazing resource for both home and international students to learn about different cultures as they prepare for the global job market.”

In an innovative move, one of the International Student Adviser (ISA) roles has been split between the International Office and the Students’ Union. The ISA continues to advise students on a range of matters from the International Office, and additionally provides advice and guidance to staff and students in the Union, and helps with the coordination of events and projects across both. “We are not aware of other universities working to this model - it is potentially very exciting,” said Nicola. “By working together, we can improve our understanding of how our international students use the Union, identify ways in which we can encourage them to use it in more diverse ways, and develop events that provide opportunities for integration.”

Working with the SORTED team, the International Office is already looking at training students in the skills needed for multi-cultural group work, and recruiting more home students to help with the induction and orientation of new students. It has begun to collaborate with the student societies to broaden the theme of events, so as to widen their appeal across the student community.

The latest ISB survey was launched at the end of April. For questions about this, and results of previous surveys, please contact Nicola Peacock on N.Peacock@bath.ac.uk or call ext 5805.
The School for Health has established a new Centre for Pain Research (CPR) to provide a home for its team of researchers investigating optimal methods for helping people learn how to live with incurable pain.

In the UK, eight per cent of adults report a significant period of severe pain lasting longer than three months, and one per cent of adults have incurable pain continually. Unable to engage in normal activities, their daily existence is dominated by the interruption of painful and distressing sensations, and the overwhelming sense of hopelessness and helplessness that grows with failed attempts to cope.

Perhaps more shockingly it is now known that one per cent of teenagers also have this chronic debilitating pain. Many children in Britain have their childhoods stolen by pain, living closeted and restricted lives, dependent upon medicines and on the support of families.

Researchers at the CPR are at the forefront of developing new technologies for the assessment and treatment of pain and disability. Currently, very little is known about pain in children in comparison with adults.

Professor Chris Eccleston, Director of CPR, said: “A large part of my job is in helping researchers achieve their ambition of improving the lives of people in pain. We have many excellent ideas for growth, but the challenges are significant. We are almost completely run on external funding, either from research grant awards, or from charitable donations.

“Sometimes this is frustrating because we know that some discoveries are not far away. For example, we are close to having methods established for paediatricians to easily measure pain and its impacts, and of discovering the core attentional processes involved in pain processing.

“That is why we will be increasing our fundraising efforts, to help us fulfil our mission of enabling people to reduce the impact of pain on their lives.”

The centre is home to staff from a number of different disciplines: nursing, paediatrics, pharmacology, physiotherapy, psychology and rheumatology. By coming together the centre provides facilities, but, more importantly, it provides support for ideas, invention, innovation, and development of new methods. Critically, it also provides a home for young researchers and postgraduate students to work in a supportive and intellectually challenging environment.

The centre is involved in a series of research programmes, including:

Young people in pain: Working with clinical partners, researchers have developed the first ever intensive treatment programme to help young people learn to live with incurable pain.

What causes chronic pain?: Experimental research focusing on brain mechanisms for the perception of pain, and how it achieves priority over other demands for attention. Discovering central mechanisms for switching attention to pain will lead to new targets for therapies that disallow this switch.

Complex Regional Pain Syndromes: Developing specific sensory feedback systems to help people achieve pain relief for Complex Regional Pain Syndromes, particularly painful and distressing rheumatological conditions that affect both adults and teenagers.

Improving access to treatment: Developing remote access therapy systems that people can use from their home, using communication technology, meaning they do not have to travel to hospital.

Human drug delivery system: Working with clinicians and industry on how best to promote optimal use of effective treatments - helping patients overcome their fear of medicines, and educating on how best to use them.

To learn more about the work of the University of Bath Centre for Pain Research visit www.bath.ac.uk/health/pain If you would like to support the work of Professor Eccleston and his team, or can help with fundraising, please contact Gavin Maggs on + 44 (0) 1225 383 054 or g.maggs@bath.ac.uk
I’m working on the pilot of a national project that aims to encourage 16-25 year olds to think about what could be done to improve their local community. The project, called Junction 49, is led by young people who discuss their ideas in a blog before applying for funding from Timebank, a national volunteering charity.

The project has already exceeded its targets with over 600 projects being suggested. There’s been a really good response from students, who have suggested a range of on-going and one-off ideas.

Recently, a conservation project was awarded £500 to help maintain Sirius Woods in Bath, woodland planted by local children in conjunction with the Avon Wildlife Trust and the Trafalgar Project. Another project was run by URB, the student radio station, where they helped launch Culverhay School Radio, training and mentoring the children as they learnt to use the equipment and present on radio.

Before joining the team here, I was an administrator for the Millennium Volunteer project based at the Council. I was also involved with the Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme and I worked closely with University students on both projects. The University is unusual in having a Volunteer Centre and I think that’s helped develop a real culture of volunteering at Bath.

When students volunteer, not only do they give something back but they also gain a huge amount from the experience. I think it’s important they realise that even working for free can have real value.
My research focuses on large-scale metrology - measuring big objects as accurately as possible. I work mainly in the aerospace industry and objects such as aircraft are too big to be measured accurately with a single instrument. Therefore, traditionally, a network of several measuring tools is interrelated together.

Inherent in any measurement is a ‘variability’. Using a network of tools makes it difficult to evaluate the variability of the overall measuring system. Precise measurements are crucial during the manufacture and assembly of large scale objects, such as aircraft, spaceships, rockets and ships, and they are taken constantly during the process.

Methods usually utilised in this field measure the positional coordinates of specified points on a component while assembling a product. In this way the different components can be assembled correctly into the final product. The idea is to increase the efficiency and efficacy of the process, enabling the manufacture of products with higher quality specifications at a lower cost.

Currently, most of the assembly operations are performed manually, so adjustments can be made during this process based on the skills and experience of the engineers. The research challenge is to increase the degree of automation in these assembly processes, while maintaining the flexibility of on-line product adjustments.

Before coming to Bath my experience of metrology was at the other end of the dimensional spectrum - I worked at Cardiff University on micro-manufacturing, producing parts with sizes smaller than the diameter of a human hair. Although the scale is very different to my current work, many of the methods are the same.
I’m in a new post, dedicated to relationship management and liaison with senior management, academic departments and the service teams. Within BUCS, I have a key role in ensuring that business and customer requirements are integrated into our prioritisation and investment decisions.

There are 36 people in my team, incorporating all the ‘customer-facing’ BUCS services: the audio-visual team, help desks, IT supporters, IT training and the dedicated IT purchasing team in the library.

As a priority I will be seeking to enhance the quality of staff and student experience of BUCS – from initial contact through to final solution of problems and issues. I will shortly amalgamate our two technical help desks and some IT supporter functions into one integrated whole, offering a wider range of support, dedicated hours of opening and defined levels of service.

The University is a complex and organic organisation. If I sit behind my desk, I cannot hope to understand the breadth and depth of issues you all face, or know how best to assist you. If you have any matters of support, or wish my input into projects you hope to undertake, please stop me on campus, invite me over, or drop in and talk to me.

Andrew Lee
Assistant Director (User Services)
BUCS
I grew up in Bath so I understand the importance of the University’s role in the community. Over the years, the number of local initiatives has grown dramatically, but I’m not sure that local awareness has grown with it. My role is to promote the work we do to help build awareness and engagement.

Although best known locally for our sports and arts, there are a huge range of community events that happen on and off campus. Since starting here I have written about student entrepreneurs involved in local projects, networking events and cultural evenings.

Since the Bath Chronicle, one of our major local news outlets, has gone weekly we are working more closely with other local media and exploring new opportunities. One of the challenges we have is getting enough notice from departments of events to promote them in local magazines, such as Bath Life, which need the information up to six weeks before publication.

Before joining the Press Office I worked at GWR, the local radio station, so I’m used to working with local media. Life’s a bit more frantic on a news station with lots of very short deadlines. Working here there are more opportunities to be strategic. I hope to develop a really comprehensive knowledge of all the events on initiatives that the University is involved in and to get that message out as widely as possible.

Please fell free to contact me in the Press Office about anything you are doing with the local community. I'm particularly interested to know of outreach events in schools.
Gliding instructor
Robert Brain
Technician, Department of Chemical Engineering

I was flying solo before I was old enough to drive a car. I’ve been a fully qualified instructor for about 12 years, and have completed over 1,500 flying hours.

A glider is like an airborne toboggan travelling down hill. It flies without an engine, using the lift its wings generate due to their passage through the air, and is able to stay airborne by flying in rising air. Normally the best conditions for flying are found on a typical summer’s day with lots of cumulus clouds. These clouds are often an indicator of where the warm air is rising, known as ‘thermals’. Thermals can give climbs of hundreds of feet per minute.

I love looking at the countryside from the air. It makes you feel differently about your local area once you’ve seen it from the sky. I fly at the Bannerdown Gliding Club which is close to the Westbury White Horse and Westbury cement works chimney, more commonly known as ‘Smokey Joe’. These ground features stand out very dramatically from the surrounding countryside and are often visible from many miles away.

When you fly cross-county, skill and experience is used to read the prevailing weather conditions. There’s always the risk of not being able to stay airborne due to the weather deteriorating unexpectedly. Sometimes it is not possible to fly back to the launch site or other suitable airfield and the decision is then taken to land in a farmer’s field. A field landing requires quick thinking and a lot of skill to ensure a safe landing.

I’ve flown many types of glider and am a capable aerobatic pilot, but my real passion is training new pilots to fly. It’s a time-consuming hobby and you need to be dedicated to build up the hours and launches to go solo, but it’s not that difficult – if you can drive a car you can learn how to fly.

Gliding is a popular sport with over 85 clubs in the UK and we have some of the world’s top glider pilots. It such a quiet sport that lots of people don’t realise how many of us there are.

Robert flies at Bannerdown Gliding Club, situated between Westbury and Devizes. During the summer he organises Friday night trial lessons for groups of 8 to 15 people. In previous years, he has organised social nights out for departments which cost from £45 per person with food and drink available afterwards. For more information, please contact Robert on ext 4857 or 3173 or email him on R.V.Brain@bath.ac.uk
Soprano soloist

Jane Hunt
BBA Course Administrator, School of Management

For me, singing is an expression of my personality. It’s always been very much a part of my life and I love the connection I feel with the audience when I perform.

I’ve sung in choirs since I was a child, but it wasn’t until about ten years ago that I started having lessons. It opened up a whole new world and gave me the confidence I needed to perform as a soloist. I am a classical soprano, although I do some popular repertoire. I have a fairly wide personal taste from 17th century songs to quite quirky modern pieces.

I always get an adrenalin rush stepping up onto the stage. There’s always the sense of occasion that you can’t rehearse for. Singing solo in the Abbey, in front of an audience that included the composer, was one of the most nerve-wracking (but also exciting) performances I’ve done. Every piece of music is different and that alone means each performance is a unique experience.

Part of what I love about singing is all the different aspects that come together to make a great performance – including learning the music and the lyrics, which can often be in a different language; looking after my throat with the right diet; warming up properly; and getting the breathing right. It’s a constant challenge.

On average I perform every month and I hope to start studying for my second singing diploma next year. I like to keep pushing myself and to feel I am always improving.
WeD presents a summary of its research findings

For the past five years, the Economic & Social Research Council has funded the large Wellbeing in Developing Countries (WeD) research programme. The research group, based in the Department of Economics & International Development, was established to research the idea of ‘wellbeing’ in developing countries.

Wellbeing is defined as: ‘a state of being with others, where human needs are met, where one can act meaningfully to pursue one’s goals, and where one enjoys a satisfactory quality of life.’

Understanding what wellbeing means to different people and how they seek to achieve it, is crucial to improving understanding of why poverty persists, why many programmes fail and how to achieve a better quality of life. A key challenge for international development in the 21st century is to promote ‘wellbeing’ as the primary goal.

Earlier this year, WeD presented its key findings and policy implications to MPs, policy makers and representatives of non-governmental organisations in the Palace of Westminster.

The Rt Hon John Battle MP, head of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Overseas Development, chaired the event. Dr Allister McGregor, Director of the WeD Research Group, presented the findings and Simon Maxwell, Director of the Overseas Development Institute, led the discussion.

The following issues, based on the major findings, were presented for debate:

- **Wellbeing, poverty & conflict**: International development needs a practical concept of ‘wellbeing’ if it is to address the major and inter-linked challenges of poverty, conflict and sustainability.

- **Wellbeing indicators**: The UN Millennium Development Goals are not enough, they need to be combined with indicators based on how poor people think and feel. The briefing explained how to measure people’s own wellbeing goals and their satisfaction with progress towards them.

- **Wellbeing and the rotten foundations of a development success**: Bangladesh is a development success according to conventional indicators, yet these have not translated into wellbeing and the country is faced with conflict and political breakdown.

- **Social policy for sustainable wellbeing**: Social policies must be rooted and grow in local soils; there are few ‘one-size-fits-all’ policies. Developing countries should carry out their own social policy analysis, adapting the WeD framework of wellbeing regimes, rather than importing Western analysis wholesale.

The following discussion asked how the proposed ‘wellbeing audits’ were to be integrated into development practice. These audits are a means of engaging with the realities of the lives of poor people and more effectively promoting the factors that enable people and communities to thrive. Adopting the WeD wellbeing perspective changes how we think about development policy and forces us to ask: ‘How are we to live together in our neighbourhoods, and nation states, and in the global community?’

Wellbeing will continue to be a strong research theme at the University, with ongoing research and funding on a range of issues including religion and wellbeing; education and wellbeing; and wellbeing and consumption. In addition, the WeD group will continue to operate as members of the group publish further results from the work; consolidate its database; and engage with a major network of development policy-makers, practitioners and policy-focused academics. There is a burgeoning interest in wellbeing as a goal of public policy within Britain, across Europe and in many developing countries and the WeD research has ensured that Bath academics are well placed to play a role in this.

The full text of these briefing papers can be found at: www.welldev.org.uk/research/briefings.htm
For further details contact j.a.mcgregor@bath.ac.uk
Kilter specialises in creating theatre that engages audiences in issues surrounding the environment, social justice and English heritage in Bath.

A theatrical bicycle trail on the Bath-Bristol cycle path

Saddle up and join the caravan for a provocative and playful insight into the post-oil future of transport. Peddle into a world imaginatively forged from the old railway path to Saltford, where you can see Kilter’s trademark designs made with recycled materials.

Performances:
Saturday 24, Sunday 25, Thursday 29, Friday 30 & Saturday 31 May; & Sunday 1, Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 June, 11am & 3pm each day

Starts:
Brassmill Enterprise Centre, the start of Bath-Bristol Railway Path

Bookings:
Via Bath Festivals Box Office on 01225 463362; tickets: £6 (with own bike), £9 (includes bike hire – advance booking essential). There is an accompanying event Back in the Bike Shed where you can question guest-speakers, see behind-the-scenes materials, and have your bike looked at by a skilled mechanic.

Dates:
Thursday 29 & Friday 30 May; Wednesday 5, Thursday 6 & Friday 7 June, drop in 7pm-9pm.

Venue:
John’s Bikes Workshop, Walcot Street, Bath

Price: by donation

For more information, see www.kiltertheatre.org or www.bath.ac.uk/icia/events
When you have finished with this leaflet please recycle it.