What do the people of Bath think of us?
The changing face of Lifelong Learning

Plus: Christmas Quiz
UK student entrepreneurs meet at Bath

Last month, over 200 UK students attended Student Enterprise '05, a conference to encourage students in business, held at the University.

Highlights included workshops and speeches given by young, experienced entrepreneurs and a reception at the Roman Baths to encourage students to network with mentors and investors.

The free one-day conference was organised by the University’s entrepreneurs club, Banter. The SETsquared Partnership, the collaboration of the Universities of Bath, Bristol, Southampton and Surrey, was the sponsor of the conference and the reception.

Dyson sets up scholarship for inventive students

The James Dyson Foundation is to award an annual scholarship in the memory of engineer Jeremy Fry, an engineer and keen supporter of the University who died earlier this year (pictured above).

Students in the Bath and Bristol area will have the opportunity to apply for the £5,000 scholarship to help with their course fees and living expenses during their four year course.

Mr Fry, founder of Bath-based company Rotork Controls, gave James Dyson his first job. Mr Dyson said: “Jeremy was the most charismatic and inventive of engineering designers. His real brilliance was to nurture and help young engineers to whom he showed huge generosity. This money will go to students who illustrate they have real inventive and ingenious potential.”

Get fit, get free kit

The first 50 staff to join the Fitness Suite in January will receive a free Personal Training session plus a free workout bag, towel and water bottle.

To join, call Miles on ext 5003, e-mail adsmjp@bath.ac.co.uk or visit the main reception at the Sports Training Village.

Correction: In the feature Going Green by Degrees, the proposed cycle way from Combe Down was introduced as a University initiative. In fact the scheme was proposed by B&NES and the University was asked to contribute. The project is currently stalled due to lack of planning permission.
Latest iris research could improve security systems

The accuracy of security systems, for example those used at airports, could be improved thanks to developments in iris recognition that use a new computer algorithm to examine eyes.

Professor Don Monro, Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, who developed the algorithm, said: “Our new algorithm does the same job as the one used by almost all of the commercially available iris recognition systems, it just does it better.”

Iris recognition is seen as the most accurate biometric recognition technology because scientists believe the pattern of the iris offers even greater discrimination between people than their fingerprints.

The Department is looking for volunteers to have their iris’s photographed. Please contact Speed Rakshit on s.rackshit@bath.ac.uk

Childcare cuts kids’ stress, says latest study

Recent research has shown that low job satisfaction in working mothers increases the stress levels of their children, but using more childcare can help overcome these effects. The study measured levels of the stress hormone cortisol in children and surveyed mothers about their workplace conditions and home life over six months.

Dr Julie Turner-Cobb, Department of Psychology, who led the project, said: “Spending more time in childcare makes a big difference to stress levels in children whose mothers have low job satisfaction. It can help protect children from the effects of their mother’s low job quality and emotional exhaustion.”

Hormone offers hope to babies with epilepsy

Hormone-based treatments could have long term development benefits for children who suffer from rare infantile epilepsy. Research by Professor John Osborne, School for Health and the Royal United Hospital, shows that hormone treatment controls infantile spasms more effectively than a conventional anti-epileptic.

Professor Osborne said: “This form of epilepsy is awful for parents as children withdraw and go into a world of their own. Many children develop disabilities as a result. This latest report looked at the children up to 14 months of age. We are beginning a second study which will try and improve things further for these children.”

Carbon-cutting project set up

A new £80,000 research project will identify ways to reduce the amount of climate-changing carbon dioxide currently released by the energy-intensive food industry.

“Addressing this issue will be vitally important as the UK comes to make bigger transformations in the move towards the government’s 60 per cent carbon-reduction target,” said Professor Peter Reason from the School of Management.

Professor Reason will be working with researchers from Bath, Bristol, Nottingham and Manchester and with companies such as Unilever and Northern Foods.
Breakdancing. It’s not something you’d immediately associate with the University. Unless you had been in Oriel Hall in Larkhall on Make a Difference Day this year when student volunteers organised a fun day for local children from troubled backgrounds.

This was just one of the ways in which the University gave something back to the city this year. Staff and students from across the campus have been involved in a variety of schemes that contribute to the local community.

Anna Boneham runs the University’s Volunteers’ Centre. She said: “Our Students’ Union is held in high regard nationally. It is very active and well-developed considering our size. We have had a volunteer centre here since 1996 and now have over 80 local charities on our books. We place students and staff in a variety of roles, as well as organising national and international volunteering opportunities.”

Not all the community work done by students is part of a volunteer scheme. Second- and third-year Management students complete a community project as part of their BSc in Business Administration. The Action Project is aimed at encouraging students to use their business skills to make a responsible contribution to the wider community.

Dr Svenja Tams, one of the project coordinators, explained: “The project gives students an insight into the complex relationship between a business and its community, as well as showing them the impact they can have as individuals.

“The students get really fired up by the project and take on some weighty issues. For example, our students have organised a campaign to raise awareness of homelessness in Bath, an exhibition of artists participating in drug-rehabilitation, and several projects with the RUH children’s ward. Other teams have organised charity events or campaigns directed at fellow students on campus.”

However, it doesn’t tend to be the community work done by students that gets the most coverage in the local press. With approximately 15,000 students living in Bath their presence is keenly felt by residents and it is important that good relations are maintained.

Wali Rahman is the Community Liaison Coordinator for the Student Liaison Committee which was established in 2001. The Committee includes representatives from the University, Bath Spa University, City of Bath College, Norton Radstock College and B&NES.
"Our priority has been to give local residents a voice," said Wali, who is based in the Students' Union. "In October we launched the Student Action Line, a phone line specifically for local residents to report issues regarding student behaviour.

"We have dealt with over 100 calls so far, around 50 per cent have come from the areas with the densest student populations, Oldfield Park and Westmoreland Road. The most common complaints are about too much noise, too much rubbish and that there are not enough parking spaces for students and residents.

"In November we had two public meetings to give residents the opportunity to voice their concerns face-to-face. The meetings were held in the student trouble-spots in town and approximately 150 residents came along. It was the same issues that came up and, although it was a fairly hostile environment, we made some good progress. For example, the parking issue was raised and it was resolved that residents are going to lobby their councillors for more parking spaces."

The University also has an outreach team that runs events to give local schoolchildren a taste of university life. In addition, the team trains and places students in schools as tutors, who provide in-house teaching support, and mentors, who build one-to-one relationships with schoolchildren and help them with wider issues.

Lee Hennessy, who works as Education Liaison Officer in Recruitment and Admissions, said: "We promote higher education in its widest sense - to help raise levels of achievement in schools and encourage young people from all backgrounds to consider progressing on to higher education."

"It is not only the schools which benefit from this work. The skills and confidence our own students gain as student ambassadors, mentors and tutors enables them to aim higher too. Whilst some progress on to accelerated teacher training schemes, others use their skills in industry. For example, Joe McGregor, a Mathematics graduate, has gone on to set up a mentoring scheme for his employer, BP."

"In addition to work done by the University's own departments, we are the only higher education institution..."
in the south-west to host a team from SETPOINT, a scheme that organises events to encourage local children to have fun with science and technology. Wessex SETPOINT, funded by the Department of Trade and Industry, was launched in 2001.

The scheme serves over a thousand schools in the area. Students and staff volunteer from the Faculty of Science, the School of Management and the Department of Mechanical Engineering. They are joined by approximately 200 local industry volunteers who are trained as part of the scheme. John Trickett, Director of Wessex SETPOINT, which is based in Norwood House, said: “In addition to the positive learning experience we provide for the schoolchildren, I believe that the most significant thing we do is to develop the expertise of the teachers.”

Last month the University hosted the third Robotics Challenge, a SETPOINT competition in which sixty-five local schools competed against each other using robots they had programmed. “This was a great celebration of science and technology,” said John. “Robots of all shapes and sizes came together to compete in a series of fun and innovative challenges.”

Richard Whale, Head of Science at Bath’s Hayesfield School, brought a team of year-eleven girls to the competition. He said: “I have been teaching for 29 years and it is not often I have heard students shriek with enjoyment over a science project. The impact of these events on the classroom is tangible. We have been involved with the scheme for many years and it is certainly paying dividends. “SETPOINT events such as the Robotics Challenge, and the contact the scheme gives us with industry volunteers, excite students about the possibility of a career in science and technology. It is no coincidence that this year our A level physics class has grown to 12 students – an exciting first!”

Staff and students give their time and expertise in many ways. If you would be interested in finding out more about volunteering opportunities please contact Anna Boneham on ext 3198

Some other ways in which staff and students have contributed to the community in 2005 (for further details contact insider@bath.ac.uk):

- Bath's Bloomin' Students gardening competition
- Bath University School Together Education Days
- Fireworks displays
- Arugam Bay Housing Project for Tsunami victims in Sri Lanka
- GULP lectures
- ICIA events
- Maths masterclasses
- After School Clubs
- Older Person’s Tea Party
- Oxfam lunches
- Painting of Hillside Community Hall
- Sports Training Village events
"We are in the business of broadening horizons," said Dr Faith Butt, who became Director of the Division for Lifelong Learning in 2003. "In the last eighteen months alone we have greatly increased our range of programmes and the demand in the local community just keeps on growing."

The Division for Lifelong Learning has evolved into one of the south-west’s leading providers of community courses. It continues to grow and in 2004 it launched the Small Business Hub in Oakfield, and established the Learning Partnerships Team to manage the University’s new foundation degrees.
BEHIND THE SCENES

Currently the Division comprises three teams which work together to increase and improve access to higher education and support local business. Following is a quick reference guide to the wide range of activities it undertakes:

CENTRE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING CV:

The Centre’s main activity is to run a wide range of accredited and non-accredited courses and day schools which are open to all and attract more than 5,000 people per year. Available in both Bath and Swindon, these fall into four broad programme areas: art and design; arts and humanities; IT and languages. The accredited programmes lead to a University Certificate and the Certificate of Higher Education. Courses this term include Botanical Illustration, Creative Writing, and Web Design for Beginners.

In January 2006 this programme will be extended to Salisbury and will incorporate residential study weekends as well as the usual range of courses. Caroline Gardiner, Lifelong Learning Manager, said: “Expanding to Salisbury is the obvious next step for us. The continued success of the programmes in Bath and Swindon show we have the formula right and we are ready to expand. We will be working with Salisbury College, which has been a partner college since 1998, and Sarum College.”

The Centre also runs the General University Lecture Programme (GULP), one of the University’s longest standing community initiatives. The free public lectures are run weekly at both the campuses. Subjects this term have ranged from crossing Greenland’s ice cap to the mystery of the ancient Minoans. Earlier this this year the Centre launched a lecture series in Swindon aimed specifically at schoolchildren. The Youth University Lecture Programme (YULP) has a broad science and technology theme.
PARTNERSHIPS AND PARTICIPATION CV:

“Reflecting a national move towards foundation degrees, approximately 90 per cent of our work is to do with managing the foundation degree courses,” said Jenny Newlyn, Assistant Director. In addition, Learning Partnerships manages Higher National Diploma programmes, a Certificate in Education and a Foundation Year programme. All the programmes lead to University of Bath awards but are delivered by local Further Education Colleges and partner organisations.

The University currently offers nine foundation degrees, which can be studied on a full-time (two-year) or part-time (three-year) basis; it has responsibility for quality assurance and student administration. The courses integrate academic and work-based learning. After successfully completing a course, students are given the opportunity to progress onto a vocational one-year top-up programme leading to an honours degree.

The University works with eight regional partner colleges and Clouds, a charity based in Salisbury which provides support for alcohol and drug users. This number will increase next year with the addition of Cirencester College and the beginning of a new computing foundation degree. Other degree courses include Sports Therapy, which is one of four sports-based degrees, Addictions Counselling and Youth Work.

Learning Partnerships also oversees the University’s involvement in the Lifelong Learning Network, a national scheme established to increase uptake in higher education. Currently only approximately 90 per cent of A level students, and 45 per cent of people with vocational education. Currently only approximately 90 per cent of A level students, and 45 per cent of people with vocational qualifications progress into higher education.

Steve Dear, Business Development Manager for the Network, said: “Often the reasons why people choose not to go onto higher education are simple and practical, such as, ‘no one does the course I want to do’ or ‘there’s nowhere local for me to study’. We try and plug these gaps as well as making delivery more flexible to suit different learning styles and work-based learning.

“Our work dovetails neatly with the work being done by the team on vocational foundation degrees, which focuses on flexible learning.”

The Widening Participation Team works with Aimhigher, the Government initiative to encourage participation in higher education. It run projects aimed both at schools, and at employers and employees in support of the foundation degrees. Specific projects include summer schools at Bath for Year 11 and 12 students and Creative Arts Weeks at Swindon for Years seven and eleven.

BUSINESS SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CV:

Now into its second year, the Small Business Hub has continued to develop the free support and training it provides to local businesses and entrepreneurs. Its main initiatives are the Women into Enterprise programme and Entrepreneurs South West. In December 2005 the Small Business Hub received a Flagship Award from Prowess, the UK-wide association working for equal numbers of women and men starting and growing businesses. The award recognises that the work done by the Small Business Hub is of high quality and meets the needs of local women.

Women into Enterprise, part funded by the European Social Fund, offers training and support to women who are interested in starting up their own business, regardless of how undeveloped their business ideas may be. Participants learn how to develop their ideas, starting with creating their own marketing and business plans. Key to the programme are the expertise and experience of its four committed women tutors, the input from the local business community and the provision of networking opportunities for participants.

Amar Basra, Manager of the Women into Enterprise project, said: “All the participants come with the idea of starting their own business and many of them go on to do just that. Our goal is to give people the confidence to move their ideas and their lives forward.”

The Small Business Hub also offers frequent business workshops and seminars for small business owners and employees covering a whole range of business topics and issues. The workshops are run by seasoned entrepreneur, DTI business advisor and University tutor, Roger Croft.

“We like to involve interesting local entrepreneurs who have expertise but are also prepared to share their experiences of learning the hard way,” said Roger.

The next project for the Small Business Hub is a local mentoring and coaching initiative. It is currently delivering a small-scale pilot training programme where local business women act as mentors to women starting in business.
Insider asked a random selection of people who live and work in Bath what they think the University contributes to the city:

“The University’s got a great reputation which reflects well on the city. Some days it really feels like a student town and I think that’s a good thing – it brings in lots of new people who want to make a positive contribution.”

Chris Draper
Local resident

“Personally I think the city benefits from the University’s reputation rather than economically - none of the students have any money to spend!”

Lizzie Lane
Manager of Lush

“I love the students. From a business point of view they make good customers but they also add to the atmosphere – they’re young, positive and full of energy. The bus service is brilliant too. The University gives us more reasons to be proud of the city.”

Mike Watts
Owner of Funtastic Fancy-dress

“For me the University has always been part of the city. Before there was accommodation on campus I had friends who rented out rooms to students, so even from the early days it has contributed to the local economy.”

Dorothy Mansbridge
Local resident

“Bath is made up of lots of villages and I think of the University as another little village. I think people see Bath as a tourist city rather than a student city.”

Zdenka Hendrich,
Local resident

“The University makes a huge contribution to the local economy through student spending and job opportunities. One thing though - I think it would be worth advertising even more that the sports facilities can be used by residents.”

Malcolm Turner
Co-owner of Running Bath
1 Which wealthy and eccentric inhabitant of 19th Century Bath wrote the Gothic novel Vathek?

2 The character of Boythorn in the novel Bleak House is believed to be based on a poet friend of Charles Dickens who lived in Bath. What was his name?

3 Simkin Blunderhead was the protagonist of The New Bath Guide, a popular satirical observation of the Bath social scene published in 1766. Who was the author of book?

4 Which of Bath’s famous crescents was the fictional home of Sir Walter Elliot in Jane Austen’s novel Persuasion?

5 Bath played a significant role in which other Jane Austen novel?

6 Which famous 17th Century diarist’s experience of the Cross Hot Spa led him to comment: ‘It cannot be clean to go with so many bodies together in the same water’?

7 Upon which of Georgian Bath’s founding fathers was the character of Mr Allworthy in Henry Fielding’s novel Tom Jones based?

8 The novels Evelina and Camilla: a Portrait of Youth were written by which of Jane Austen’s early literary heroines who lived in Bath?

9 Oliver Goldsmith, author of She Stoops to Conquer and The Vicar of Wakefield, wrote a biography of one of Georgian Bath’s most influential and colourful characters. What was his name?

10 In whose crime fiction novels might one come across Detective Superintendent Peter Diamond?

11 Which famous historical novelist wrote books featuring Bath such as Bath Tangle, Black Sheep and The Foundling?

12 In which of Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales does one come across the character of Dame Alison?

13 In which of Charles Dickens’ novels does the White Hart Inn in Bath feature?

14 Which architectural landmark in Bath is described in Smollett’s novel Humphry Clinker as ‘Vespasian’s amphitheatre turned outside in’?

15 In which Bath hostelry did Charles Dickens stay in 1835 as a young reporter for the Morning Chronicle?
Performances

Sweet Charity
Bath University Student Musical Society
Wed 8 – Sat 11 Feb
Includes show-stopping songs such as Rhythm of Life and Big Spender

Now gravel is under my shoes; now grass
Bath University Student Theatre
Wed 15 – Sat 18 Feb
A new performance piece inspired by Virginia Woolf’s The Waves

Jacqui Dankworth Trio
Sat 18 Feb
Catch Jacqui in an intimate trio setting

Henri Oguike Dance Company
Sat 25 Feb
Henri Oguike returns with a group of eleven thrilling dancers following a sell-out last year

Exhibitions

Lines of Enquiry 2
Fri 20 Jan – Fri 17 Feb
Work by recent graduates in their first major show

Stephen Gill: Photographs
Fri 3 – Fri 31 March
Don’t miss this chance to view work from two of his exhibitions: Billboards and Invisible

Classes and workshops

The ICIA runs classes and workshops in music, dance and visual arts. All classes start the week of 13 February 2006

Theatre and Dance

Henri Oguike Dance Workshop
Sun 26 Feb
Experience the work of Henri Oguike Dance Company

Propeller Workshop
Sat 18 March
This workshop focuses on ways of looking at the world

Visual Arts

Throwing on the Wheel
Sat 18, Sun 19 and Sat 25 Feb
A chance to focus on throwing pots in a small group, with close tutoring as required

Figurative Sculpture
Sat 25 and Sun 26 March
This two-day workshop explores contemporary creative approaches to figurative sculptural ceramics

African Hand-Building and Paper Kiln Workshop
Sat 4 and Sun 5 March; Sun 19 March
Learn about three different African hand-building methods and weave a kiln structure

Raku
Sat 6 and Sun 13 May
An opportunity to make ceramic vessels and forms

Keep up to date:
For more information, including prices, contact the Box Office on ext 6777 or visit www.bath.ac.uk/icia

To receive a free brochure through internal post or to subscribe to the ICIA e-bulletin, with occasional stop press information and offers, send an email to ICIAinfo@bath.ac.uk