The summer issue:
• Are we damaging ourselves with too little sunshine?
• Pay for your carbon with a credit card
• How will the University earn £2 million this summer?
Plus - how staff spend their holidays
**Former Dean is recognised in honours list**

Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell CBE, former Dean of Science, became Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of her services to science in the Queen’s Birthday Honours announced on 16 June. 

**University buys prize winning art**

The winning entry in the University of Bath Painting Prize, Fiona Robinson’s [Opposite ends of a possible path](#), is to hang in the recently refurbished Wessex Restaurant.

In May, the University launched a painting competition on the theme of Innovation & Enterprise. The competition was judged by Professor Glynis Breakwell; June Mendoza, a painter and honorary graduate of the University; and Dr Alexander Sturgis, Director of the Holburne Museum.

In a statement about why they had chosen Fiona’s painting, they commented upon the artists’ interesting use of formal qualities; subtle colour variation, with skillful layering of paint marks and charcoal, and the way in which repeated viewing reveals new tones.

Fiona described her abstract piece as being: “about possibilities - it is a record of a memory of a walk.”

In addition to the University of Bath Painting Prize, Piers Ottey won the University Choice Prize of £500 by gaining the most votes from staff and students for his piece [Williamsburg and the East River from Times Square with a bit of Norman Foster](#).

Piers said: “I’m absolutely thrilled to win the ‘people’s prize’ and am delighted that my painting has been acknowledged by staff and students at the University.”

**Young people give university a go**

Over 100 young people from across the south west will experience life at university at two free week-long summer schools next month.

The pupils, who will live on campus for the week, will attend academic ‘taster’ sessions and social activities, and will spend time with undergraduate student ‘helpers’.

They will also get guidance on choosing courses and applying to higher education, and information about support services and student finances.

Stephanie Gan, Widening Participation Officer at the University, said: “By the end of the week the pupils are in a much better position to decide whether university is for them, and they feel more confident about exploring the wide range of choices and opportunities in higher education.”

**Students design new bridge for Quarry Road**

Final-year students from the Department of Architecture & Civil Engineering have drawn up design proposals for a new footbridge to be built across Quarry Road, in the west of the University campus.

The geology at the site is classed as a ‘Site of Special Scientific Interest’ and the design brief specified that the bridge should be planned with sustainability and the local environment in mind.

The intention is that one of the bridges will be built after the chosen design has been worked up in detail by a civil engineering consultant.
Children’s mobility toy is launched

An electric mobility toy designed specifically for two-to-five year olds will give children with disabilities the chance to make their own way around the house and garden.

The Wizzybug, developed by engineers at the Bath Institute of Medical Engineering in the University’s School for Health, has taken over three years to develop. The engineers have worked closely with children with disabilities, their parents and occupational therapists from the Royal United Hospital in Bath to make sure the Wizzybug meets their needs.

The mobility vehicle works both indoors and out, so gives the children an opportunity to explore and take part in a wide range of activities.

Research update

Finger length helps predict exam results

Research by Dr Mark Brosnan, Head of the Department of Psychology, has revealed that the results of numeracy and literacy tests for seven-year-old children can be predicted by measuring the length of their fingers.

In a study published in the British Journal of Psychology, scientists compared the finger lengths of 75 boys and girls with their Standardised Assessment Test (SAT) scores. They found a clear link between a child’s performance in numeracy and literacy tests and the relative lengths of their index (pointing) and ring fingers.

The scientists believe that the link is caused by exposure to different levels of testosterone and oestrogen in the womb, hormones thought to affect the relative lengths of our index and ring fingers. Testosterone is thought to promote the development of the areas of the brain often associated with spatial and mathematical skills, while oestrogen is thought to do the same in the areas of the brain which are often associated with verbal ability.

Project explores link between acne treatment and depression

A new £365,000 project will investigate how a drug used to treat severe acne may cause depression.

The project builds on work published last year by Drs Michelle Lane and Sarah Bailey in the Department of Pharmacy & Pharmacology which showed that the drug Roaccutane caused depressive behaviour in mice.

Now researchers are set to investigate exactly how the active molecules in the drug might cause depression. They have already collected preliminary data, which suggests that the drug could target a neurotransmitter called serotonin which helps send messages between different nerve cells in the brain.

Low levels of serotonin are believed to be linked with depression. Initial studies have suggested that cultured nerve cells may produce less serotonin in the presence of retinoids, the family of vitamin A-related medicines to which Roaccutane belongs. Understanding how this group of drugs acts on the brain is important for the refinement of existing medication and the development of possible treatments in the future.

Electronic displays could power packaging revolution

A thin film of plastic which conducts electricity and produces light could be the basis for a revolution in the way we package our food and design our clothes.

An £850,000 international research project, led by Dr Alison Walker in the Department of Physics, could help develop organic light-emitting devices.

Because the devices are thin and flexible, lighting and electronic display screens could, for the first time, be created on almost any material, so that clothes and packaging can display electronic information.

Other potential uses include improving the efficiency of lightbulbs, and beer cans that display the latest football results.

At present, the devices are not reliable enough for larger screens. The project aims to increase efficiency enough to enable mass market production.
Most people know that excessive exposure to the sun causes premature ageing and skin cancer, but what about the health risks caused by staying out of the sun? Professor Rex Tyrrell, an expert in ultraviolet radiation in the Department of Pharmacy & Pharmacology, tells Insider about the heated debate surrounding sunshine.

Research in the 1950s proved that sunlight is a carcinogen. Population epidemiology looked into the cancer occurrence in people living at different latitudes and demonstrated that the majority (greater than 95 per cent) of all skin cancer is caused by sunlight. This added to the evidence that it is the more sun-exposed parts of the body which develop the most cancers.

However, sunlight is also the primary source of vitamin D, which is recently thought to protect against some forms of cancer, as well as playing a vital role in building bone density and the absorption of calcium by the body. Vitamin D deficiency can result in rickets in children, osteoporosis in adults and has been associated with skin conditions such as psoriasis.

So, whilst sunlight can clearly cause a mutation of skin cells that can lead to cancerous growths, not getting enough sunlight and suffering from vitamin D deficiency can be equally damaging. This dilemma is the subject of an impassioned debate amongst researchers and health experts.

Professor Rex Tyrrell became interested in solar rays when he was a student at Bath in the late 1960s. As part of his PhD he conducted some of the first research on long wavelength ultraviolet A (UVA) rays – the invisible rays in sunlight which, like the higher energy medium wave UVB rays, can also damage the skin. UVC rays are the most dangerous type of ultraviolet light but they are filtered out by the atmosphere.

The name 'ultraviolet' translates as 'beyond violet', so named because the wavelengths are even shorter than violet, the shortest wavelength colour in the visible spectrum, and so are invisible to the human eye. Some animals, such as birds and bees, can see ultraviolet rays which make many fruits, flowers and seeds stand out more strongly from the background.
Professor Tyrrell said: “The health impact of ultraviolet light on skin is a complex story. Whilst UVB is known to be the major cause of skin cancer and both UVA and UVB rays lead to skin damage, such as wrinkles, both rays also have protective antioxidant and anti-inflammatory qualities.”

“Over the last decade there has been a real push by the government and health organisations to encourage people to always protect themselves using a sunscreen that contains a high sun protection factor (SPF) which acts as a barrier to UVB rays.

“This is where the debate lies – and in all the time I’ve been in science I’ve never heard people so bitterly opposed to each other. On one side you’ve got dermatologists saying that sun is bad for you, on the other side you have researchers saying that current advice about the use of sunscreen is actually putting people’s health at risk by starving them of vitamin D.”

The widely-used UV index, the international measurement of how strong UV rays are at a particular time and place, was introduced as a guideline to help people understand the level of SPF needed to protect them.

“However, many argue that the level of the index above which protection should be used has been set too high and could lead to people getting too little vitamin D synthesised in the skin – the main site where this crucial compound is manufactured in the body,” said Professor Tyrrell.

When vitamin D was discovered in the early twentieth century during research into the cause of rickets, the recommended daily allowance (RDA) of the vitamin was set. But now scientists believe that that level was grossly underestimated and that the real requirement for adequate protection against a variety of diseases is much higher. In practice, this means that the individual capsules containing vitamin D sold over the counter contain doses that are several times lower than the latest research recommends.

Recent epidemiology studies have shown that there is an ‘inverse latitude gradient’ for cancers other than skin cancer – meaning that the closer you are to the equator the more cases of skin cancer there are, but the fewer the cases of the different types of cancer. This supports the suggestion that vitamin D has a role in protecting against these other types of cancer, such as breast and colon cancer.

Professor Tyrrell said: “Part of my work has involved researching alternative ways of protecting the skin. I coordinated a £1.3 million project, funded by the European Commission, which looked at food components that may have general protective properties against diseases, including cancer.

“Although there is no direct evidence to show that eating your five fruit and vegetables a day will protect against cancers linked to sunlight such as melanoma, all the evidence would point in that direction. Certainly epidemiological studies have shown that there is a link between people who eat the recommended foods and a reduced risk of many other types of cancer. So, the research strongly supports advice from the World Health Organisation that eating these types of foods would be good as a long-term recommendation.

“The vitamin D story has led to considerable confusion over the correct recommendations on sun protection. There is a real need for more research; for example, we still don’t know accurately how much vitamin D is actually produced by sunlight – there just isn’t the data – which is strange considering it’s the primary source.

“If you look at the UV index in the newspaper, three is the barrier – that’s when they say you should use sunscreen. While it is estimated that you only need 10 minutes in the sun in early summer to get the RDA of vitamin D, if you put the recommended amount of SPF sunscreen on you would need to stay out for three or four hours to produce enough.

“The current message about sunlight has been oversimplified – recommending that people wear sunscreen all the time and putting it into cosmetic moisturisers ignores the benefits of vitamin D. Until science catches up and we really understand how best to stay safe in the sun, my advice would be moderation – like only using sunscreen when staying out in strong sunshine – UV index greater than three – for more than 10 or 15 minutes, and having a low-fat diet with lots of fruit and vegetables. It’s been shown that a healthy diet can protect from certain types of cancer so the chances are that it will also protect from skin cancer – it just hasn’t been proven...yet.”

In June 2007, both The Cancer Council Australia and The Canadian Cancer Society made their first recommendations for people to increase their intake of vitamin D supplements to protect against other diseases.

Recommendations from The Canadian Cancer Society include that adults living in Canada should consider taking vitamin D supplementation of 1,000 international units a day during the autumn and winter and adults at higher risk of having lower vitamin D levels should consider taking vitamin D supplementation of 1,000 units per day all year round. This includes people who are older, people with dark skin, those who don’t go outside often, and those who habitually wear clothing that covers most of their skin.
The latest initiative for reducing carbon emissions takes the idea of carbon offsetting one step further with the introduction of a credit card system enabling people to 'buy' the carbon they need. Professor Geoff Hammond, Director of the University’s International Centre for the Environment, looks at the concept of carbon currency and the current state of the climate crisis.

The carbon 'credit cards' could be issued as part of a nationwide carbon rationing scheme where people would be allocated an annual allowance and the card would be swiped when paying for certain items, such as travel, energy or food.

Professor Hammond said: “I think the idea of a personal carbon allowance could have a real impact on carbon consumption. People who used less than their allowance could sell any surplus to those who wanted more, so poorer people who have lower impact lifestyles would benefit.

“Administratively it would be straightforward to implement because it would be run the same way as the credit card system, and could even be run by banks.

“It's hard to predict how much support the scheme will have when Gordon Brown; is in office, although David Miliband, Secretary of State for the Environment, has gone as far as commissioning a feasibility study and suggested that the scheme could be working within five years.

“I think the real risk lies in the way the idea is presented by the media - if the papers get hold of it and say that it's rationing, that could be really damaging.”

Another risk is that it might be associated with the proposed identity cards, which were criticised for limiting civil liberties. However, if organised well, the scheme could successfully empower individuals and communities to tackle climate change, rather than relying on the signatories of the Kyoto agreement.

In 2006, 169 countries signed the Kyoto Protocol, committing them to reducing their CO₂ emissions by 10 per cent by 2010. Eighteen months later, statistics suggest that only the UK and Sweden will achieve these goals.

Professor Hammond said: “The major concern about Kyoto is that the targets set were far too low to have any real impact on climate change. So, the fact that we can’t even meet those could have some dire implications.

“At the G8 Conference held in early June a new target of a 50 per cent reduction of emissions by 2050 was set – a target that would require a dramatic change in behaviour; and whilst the technology is available, I’m not sure consumers, or politicians, are ready for the change in lifestyle.”

Economists would say that the most effective way of reducing emissions is by using ‘price signals’ – increasing the price of fuel so that people use less. It’s a controversial move which could have a huge impact on transport, particularly on airlines who currently don’t pay any VAT and only minimal tax on aviation fuel. Budget airlines, such as Ryanair and easyJet, have been the most vocal about the implications for the industry and the public.

“The debate about fuel prices reflects the conflicting objectives that are running through the government. Politicians see their voters having their holidays reduced because of the increased cost in flying and are worried they’ll lose their support,” said Professor Hammond.

“Another example on a broader scale is the privatisation of energy providers. The aim of the privatisation was to reduce the cost of fuel, but now people believe that the price of fuel needs to be increased to conserve energy. It’s a case of two policies working in opposite directions and the government seems to be at a tipping point about which way to go.

“Unlike the economists, I’m not convinced how much price signals actually work in the environment sector. For example, we’ve had high taxes on petrol for years but it hasn’t had much impact because the private transport sector continues to grow.

“The fact that we know the Kyoto Protocol doesn’t go nearly far enough shows that the size of the problem has been recognised, but we’re still a long way from resolving it. While there are positive environment stories – like the successful reduction of the hole in the ozone layer - I think we’ve got another ten years of research before we really know what we need to do.”

Could carbon credit cards be the solution to the climate crisis?
The University’s £2 million summer

The campus can seem as busy in July, when the students are away, as it does mid-semester. Insider speaks to Kevin McCormick in Accommodation & Hospitality Services about the multi-million pound events business that keeps the campus bustling year round.

This summer, Accommodation & Hospitality Services will generate over £2 million worth of business. Between June and August it will host over 27 national and international conferences, ten weddings, a five-week Open University residential course, an eight-week residential summer school, and local events such as the Ministry of Defence Sports Day. During July, the busiest month, the department will be feeding 1,000 people three times a day.

In addition to providing accommodation and catering for the events, the department will also organise use of the sports facilities and, through its close links with Bath Tourism, arrange activities around the city.

Kevin McCormick, Commercial Hospitality Sales Manager, said: “In the four years I’ve been in the department it has grown by 30 per cent. Flexibility and price are our key selling points – despite not having purpose-built facilities, we can accommodate a huge range of events. The sports facilities and the City of Bath give us a competitive edge.”

The department is completely self-financing, contributing £295,000 annually to the University. The remaining surplus is reinvested in the campus; for example, the department is financing a loan of £32 million to invest in the refurbishment of residences and the construction of 355 new bedrooms at Woodland Court, all due for completion in September 2008. The rooms will be graded by the English Tourist Board along with the other accommodation on campus (Polden, Marlborough and Solsbury Courts are all rated three-star).

The £200,000 refurbishment of Wessex Restaurant was another project funded by the department. The amount of money being generated by the new customers, such as the Local Business Network which meets there fortnightly, will cover the costs of the refurbishment as well as increase the profile of the University as a commercial destination for business users in Bath,” said Mr McCormick.

“Summer is our busiest and most profitable time. Bookings such as the summer school are worth half a million pounds to the department, and we hope to grow this particular business stream over the forthcoming years. That enables us to invest heavily in the campus and improve facilities for the University community as well as our external clients.

“One of our biggest challenges is the availability of teaching rooms on campus; a frustration I know, which is shared by teaching staff. We sometimes receive frustrated emails from staff who think that we book up all the teaching space for commercial events while, in fact, over 50 per cent of our conference bookings actually come from other departments within the University.

“By October 2008 we’ll have nearly 2,500 bedrooms on campus, which will help us grow our service even more. We have recently taken our largest ever booking, which is for a conference for 700 people being run by the Department of Psychology in September 2008, and we are anticipating a gradual increase in bookings in the run-up to the Olympics.

“The next few years are going to be an important time – we need to consolidate what we’ve achieved, identify new opportunities, and continue to provide the best service we can to the University and beyond.”

Other summertime activities on campus

The English Language Centre runs English courses and activities for current and future overseas students (see www.bath.ac.uk/elc for more information). The Sports Training Village organises a range of activities during the summer, including a family fun run and the first K3 Secondary School Games, involving more than 500 young people. Look out for further information on both events on the TeamBath website at www.teambath.com. In September, Recruitment & Admissions will host an open day for prospective undergraduate students, including tours and talks.
As the holiday season approaches, Insider asked staff where they will be heading this season and why

Vox pop

Richard Martin
Research Officer, Department of Physics

“I decide on a destination because of its wildlife and the activities it can offer. Recently, I’ve been cross-country skiing in the Arctic Circle and sea kayaking on a glacier. I’m thinking Norway this year.”

Helen Redfern
PA to director, Division for Lifelong Learning

“I’ve not been abroad for about five years – I don’t really think about it. I normally visit family and have a week’s walking holiday in the Highlands.”

Chris Phillips
Senior Security Officer

“I choose my holidays by putting a pin in a map. This year, I wanted to do a circuit in Europe by rail, and in June I travelled through France, Switzerland and Italy. I prefer rail travel – you see a lot more that way.”

David Mayo
Network/Systems Administrator, BUCS

“My girlfriend and I will be avoiding peak-season and heading to Italy for a city break in September. We’ll be going for the culture and the cuisine and to try somewhere we haven’t been before.”

Hadi Abulrub
Research Fellow, Department of Mechanical Engineering

“I’ll be holidaying in Europe for the first time this summer. I normally visit family and friends in Jordan and the Middle East but next month I’ll be visiting Rome and Paris – I’m looking forward to experiencing new cultures.”

Pat Heynes
Customer Support Librarian

“We like going on walking holidays in the UK. People always used to ask why we didn’t go abroad but now they comment on how very ‘green’ we are!”
Helping orphans in Romania

Last year, Liz Bugg, who works in the Finance Office, saw an article on the University’s website homepage about volunteering opportunities for staff and decided to do something different with her holiday. In June 2006 she flew to Romania and spent a week working with orphaned children.

"I’d never done anything like it before," said Liz. "I had no idea what to expect or what the conditions would be like but I thought it sounded like an interesting project to get involved in. It was all a bit nerve-wracking though."

Liz was one of 20 volunteers from the University who spent a total of five weeks helping orphans with special needs in Romania last summer. The project, which has run since 1999, is organised by the University’s Volunteer Centre through its links with two local Romanian organisations.

The Casa Lumina orphanage, in the Bacău region, north-eastern Romania, was set up by the English charity Cry in the Dark in 1999 after volunteers found local orphans suffering from malnutrition and neglect. Many of the children, aged between five and 12, were seriously ill, or physically or mentally handicapped. Casa Lumina was adapted for the special needs of the children, and the charity provides them with 24-hour care.

During their time in Romania, Liz and the other volunteers spent time playing with the children and helping out with a holiday club. She said: "We would spend the morning playing with the children up on the plateau on the edge of town. It wasn’t always straightforward – cultural differences and the language barrier could make it hard to communicate but it got easier the more confident you got with trying to communicate in different ways.

"I spent several afternoons helping out in the state orphanage. That was hard too, but for different reasons – the children there would have to leave when they reach 18 and it was hard to see what prospects they had. At Casa Lumina the children are looked after for life."

Kathryn Hull, a second-year Sport & Exercise Science student at the University, is coordinating this summer’s visit to Romania. She first became involved in the project in 2006 and this will be the second time she has visited the orphanages.

She said: "I have been asked many times, and have even asked the question myself, ‘what can really be achieved by such a short visit?’ but when you see the children’s faces light up when you walk in, you know that you can make a real difference just by being there and giving them some of the love and attention they miss out on.

“We can’t change their lives but what we can do is provide some fun and happiness and a break from the mundane routine of daily life in the orphanage.”

Cry in the Dark has been caring for disadvantaged children in the Bacău region for nearly a decade. Its two primary projects are Casa Lumina and Casa Albert, currently under development, which is a hospice and community care programme for children suffering from HIV and Aids. For more information see www.cryinthedark.co.uk

All the volunteers paid their own expenses, raised around £3,000 for Cry in the Dark and took so many presents with them they had to get extra luggage allowance on the plane. Liz will be returning to the project this summer, along with 16 members of staff and students. If you would like to know more about the project, or about other volunteering opportunities for staff, please see www.bathstudent.com/volunteering, contact Anna Boneham on ext 3198, or drop into the Volunteer Centre in 1E 3.12.
Scott Blum
HR Manager (Management Information),
Department of Human Resources

I’m in a new role on campus – I have been employed specifically to collate, analyse and provide accurate and up-to-date information about University staff.

The University has always collected information about its staff through various HR administrative processes. One of my first projects will be to improve its quality and quantity.

Once the data is up-to-date and complete, I can supply relevant employment-related information and analytical statistics. For example, the number of academic staff and the male-to-female ratio. There is a growing demand for this type of information to help inform internal departmental and University decisions, as well as from external sources such as governmental agencies.

With over 2,500 staff and a huge volume of information, it’s a big job. But with the help and support of staff across the University, I’m certain we can move forward.

Dr Jennifer Joynt
Research Office
Department of Architecture & Civil Engineering

I was brought in to run a project with the aim of determining the most effective way of engaging local stakeholders in urban design.

Recent planning regulations require that proposals for urban development must incorporate a consultation stage, and I think developers are beginning to realise the value of getting feedback from the public in the early stages of the planning process.

The idea is to develop a digital tool that will enable a straightforward consultation process, with the aim of giving stakeholders a sense of ownership over projects happening in their area. To identify their needs I’m spending time talking to developers about consultation on current projects, from Bath’s Southgate project to the 20-year masterplan for the regeneration of Walthamstow.

I really enjoy the interdisciplinary aspect of urban development – on campus I work with people in Psychology, Computer Science and Architecture and off campus the project is all about getting people to work together.

Andrew Dent
GWR Research Fellow,
Department of Mechanical Engineering

After finishing my degree in Material Science in 2003, I stayed on at the University to do a PhD and now I’m here as a research fellow.

I’m looking at creating synthetic bone material for our ageing population. Calcium minerals would normally be used but using new materials that impart an electric charge has been shown to improve the healing process. I use biological materials as a template and try to develop materials strong enough for clinical application.

A funded research position like this helps bridge the gap between a doctorate and a long-term academic career; it retains skills in academia rather than industry. Great Western Research provides the funding for three years, the University will fund a further two years and if all goes well I’ll be put forward for a lectureship. I’m really excited about a career in academic research; there’s flexibility to be creative and the opportunity to do something really significant.

I’m in the process of moving down from Leicester University where I worked in the Department of Politics & International Relations. My broad interest is international relations, more specifically in threats on European security, from terrorism to foreign policies, and the role of institutions such as NATO and the EU. It’s an area that is widely considered to be a much more important topic now than it was perceived to be ten or 15 years ago, especially with the continuing problems in the Balkans and the Middle East, and with the resurgence of Russia. Student interest and demand reflects the growing interest in these subjects and the department is expanding teaching in that area. Coming to Bath feels like a natural move - I share research interests with several of the academics in the department and it’s exciting to feel part of the critical mass of experts that’s forming here. As someone originally from the south of England, this move also feels like ‘coming home.’

I’m actually a molecular biologist but my position, funded by the Knowledge Transfer Partnership scheme, is in partnership with the Department of Chemistry and one of its spin-out companies, Atlas Genetics. I’m working on a new method of providing patients with on-the-spot diagnoses, meaning they don’t have to wait for test results, which can take up to 48-hours or more. The new technology uses novel electrochemistry methods to identify unique DNA sequences present in clinical samples. Computers can be used to identify any infection caused by a micro-organism, including meningitis, MRSA and chlamydia.

The scheme, partly funded by the Department of Trade & Industry, provides lots of opportunities for career development not traditionally offered to scientists, such as training in business skills, so it’s a brilliant route into a career in industry. Ideally, I’d like to work for Atlas Genetics at the end of my two-year post. It’s exciting to feel really close to the end point in healthcare research – where our work can really change lives.

New staff

Dr Anna Dixon
KTP Associate
Department of Chemistry

Professor Adrian Hyde-Price
Department of European Studies & Modern Languages

Dr Susan Harkness
Senior Lecturer
Department of Social & Policy Sciences
Highlights from a year in the life of ICIA

Walker Dance Park Music signalled the start of the season and sold out. It was the first of four co-commissions presented by ICIA this year.

Abram Wilson Sextet & The Delta Blues Project
A sell out, described by The Guardian as: “Truly astonishing – a fiery colourful trumpeter and a gracefully cajoling singer.”

The University’s Photography Competition had over 200 high-quality entries from across the campus community, followed by an exhibition showcasing selected works.

Seminal performance figure Bobby Baker played for two nights to sell-out audiences. “Bobby Baker is a joy… I would go without food for a week just to get a ticket for her next show” said The Observer.

February brought another ICIA commission and the national premiere of SPACE 50 – a theatrical voyage to mark 50 years of space travel. Nationally reviewed, SPACE 50 is now touring throughout the country.

Henri Oguike Dance Company was another sell-out and the fourth in a series of ICIA co-commissions. “He’s proved himself one of the most versatile dance-makers in the business” said The Guardian.

The Nature of the Beast, ICIA’s first publication, was launched in London. Described as a ‘thoughtful, provocative and very readable account of “black” arts activity and cultural policy’ by Art Monthly, it has also received a number of national reviews.

ICIA & SU Arts Societies Showcase Gala – the Student’s Union Arts Societies worked together with ICIA to produce an action-packed showcase to launch the campaign to redevelop the Arts Complex.

Arts Award winner David Keefe makes his debut concerto performance with Grieg’s Piano Concerto in A minor at a community event promoted by ICIA & the Choral and Orchestral Society.