



THE SUNDAY TIMES

UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR

2011-12

Library

Entrance

Library
University Reception
and Security

Library
University Reception
and Security

Annual Review



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH



Our mission is to deliver world-class research and teaching, educating our graduates to become future leaders and innovators, and benefiting the wider population through our research, enterprise and influence.



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Welcome from the Vice-Chancellor



External recognition of the excellence of the University of Bath is greater now than it has ever been. Awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education 2011; designated University of the Year 2011-12 in *The Sunday Times*; and achieving the 2011 Gold Award in the NUS evaluation of our Students' Union – a hat trick of achievements of which any university would be proud. Other accolades have come thick and fast over the year. The Development & Alumni Relations team was named 'outstanding university fundraising team' by *Times Higher Education* and we had teams shortlisted for 'outstanding support for early career researchers', 'outstanding contribution to leadership development' and 'outstanding leadership and management'. We also received a gold award and were designated 'Employer of the Year' in the West of England Travel Plan Awards.

Success and recognition on this scale does not happen by accident. It comes about as a consequence of a long-term commitment to excellence, not just in teaching and research – though these are fundamental – but also in

every aspect of the University's extracurricular activities, professional services and infrastructure. The Bath Advantage may not be captured by a simple slogan but one that might come close is: Excellence with Impact.

We want our research to be truly innovative, and we want it to be taken up and used to change the lives of individuals, communities, companies and whole industrial sectors. Our work on child poverty and support for vulnerable people, which won the Queen's Anniversary Prize, is just one example of such research. Focusing on the fields of poverty and wellbeing and involving different discipline groups, this research has international profile and impact, with studies in developing countries helping to shape national strategies.

We want our students to have a great experience while they are here at university. We expect them to engage with the arts, sports and community volunteering, and to graduate with first rate degrees, but we also aim to offer them the range of skills that make them the first choice for the best employers. Our graduate employment rates

are among the best in the UK. We firmly believe this is because we offer high quality professional placement opportunities, embedded in our undergraduate programmes and developed over many years with the support of a broad range of employers.

Because we achieve excellence with impact, I believe the University of Bath deserves the recognition it is receiving. In reality, I believe it deserves even more. Acknowledging that we need to promote ourselves more in an increasingly competitive higher education global market, we have recently appointed a new Pro-Vice-Chancellor for internationalisation and a new Director of Marketing & Communications. Many people have told me we do not shout enough about our achievements – we have now decided to give voice!

As always, in closing, I would like to thank all of my colleagues, our students, our alumni and the friends of the University for giving us so much to shout about.

**Professor Dame Glynis Breakwell
DBE DL
Vice-Chancellor**



A world-class University....

Our beautifully landscaped campus

overlooks the historic City of Bath. With excellent learning resources and outstanding sports facilities, student satisfaction levels are high.

Our research tackles

challenges of global significance, generating scientific and technological solutions and influencing policy debates. Outputs include new cancer treatments, disease-resistant crops, and fuel efficient cars.

Our international outlook

attracts students, researchers and strategic partners from around the world. Our 80,000 alumni and 15,000 current students represent over 100 countries.

....in a world heritage city

Delivering excellence

Influential research on poverty and wellbeing received a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education 2011.

Our Vice-Chancellor, Glynis Breakwell, was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours List 2012.

The Sunday Times named us **'University of the Year 2011/12'**, ranking us fifth in its UK university league table.

84 per cent of participants in the 2011 Staff Survey thought the University was **a good place to work**. We employ around 2,600 people.

The 2011 National Student Survey showed the overall student satisfaction level to be at a **record high of 91 per cent**.

Our Students' Union won a Gold Award in the national Student Union Evaluation Initiative, one of only four to achieve this standard.

Alumnus Tom Pellereau became Lord Alan Sugar's latest business partner when he won the popular BBC One TV series *The Apprentice*.

89 per cent of our 2010 graduates went straight into employment or further study.

The Paralympics GB team have been holding **regular preparation camps** in our £35 million Sports Training Village in advance of the London Games 2012.

400 metre hurdler Dai Greene, who trains on campus, won Gold at the 2011 Athletics World Championships held in South Korea.

Our Development and Alumni Relations team was named **'Outstanding University Fundraising Team'** at the *Times Higher Education* Leadership and Management Awards 2011.



The James Dyson Foundation pledged £250,000 for scholarships to encourage students to study design and engineering.

We were **one of 12 leading universities selected by Ford**, a longstanding research partner, to receive student scholarships to mark its centenary celebrations.

A network of around 6,000 employers, representing the public, private and voluntary sectors, supports our well-established placement scheme.

Graduate employability is a high priority and **81 per cent of our employed first degree graduates secure top level jobs**, compared with 63 per cent nationally.

Our 24/7 library hosted **Britain's first local DC computer network**, delivering quieter and more energy efficient machines.

Our first ever Saturday Open Day held in September 2011 was a great success, attracting around **7,000 visitors to campus**.

Our campus is a safe, as well as supportive, place to work and study. We were the first university to be re-accredited as a **Secured Environment**, a police-backed certification scheme.

We are currently planning a **new £10 million Centre for the Arts** which will enhance provision for our students and offer a new resource for the local community.

We received a Gold Award and won **'Employer of the Year'** in the West of England Travel Plan award scheme.



....celebrating success



Our research ethos has a strong focus on international impact and we have an extensive network of research partners around the world. Our aim is to create knowledge, innovate and influence for the benefit of society and the economy.

Supporting the poor and disadvantaged

Research into child poverty and support for vulnerable people has led to our Department of Social & Policy Sciences helping to shape UK legislation and develop thinking about the tax credit system, as well as advising the Welsh government on policies to promote child welfare.

These studies have included consideration of child poverty from the children's own perspective and the impact of employment on lone mothers from the perspective of the mothers and their children. The results have attracted interest from academics and policy-makers in other countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Iceland, Finland, Denmark, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. The Department's research is international in its scope, including studies of poverty and social exclusion in Europe and wellbeing in developing countries. It has even contributed to new strategies for tackling extreme poverty in Bangladesh and the formation of Bangladesh's first All Party Parliamentary Group on extreme poverty.

Recently, the national influence and international impact of this research has led to the award of a highly prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education. The biennial award scheme is part of the UK's national honours system and is distinctive in recognising the institution rather than an individual or team. We are particularly proud to be awarded this prize in the 'Diamond Jubilee' (ninth) round of presentations.

Research with a front line impact

Violence and aggression in Accident & Emergency (A&E) departments is a major cost to the National Health Service (NHS). Two leading researchers from the School of Management have been involved in a national project to improve the patient and staff experience in casualty units by developing inexpensive design solutions to ease patient frustration.

The project was commissioned by the Department of Health and the Design Council. Our researchers provided expertise in service design, operations and supply management. The multi-disciplinary team was led by London-based design studio PearsonLloyd Design Ltd.

The research involved interviewing and shadowing medical staff, and observing patients. The result is a series of prototype designs intended to help make patients feel less alienated and prevent factors that could potentially trigger aggression or violence. The designs include a system of environmental signage called 'slices', which gives clear, location-specific information, and screens that provide live and dynamic information about how cases are being handled.

The A&E design toolkit also provides specific advice about lighting, decor and seating for managers who might be planning significant refurbishments. Two NHS trusts are implementing a number of the recommendations. If these pilots are successful, then it is hoped that the ideas will be rolled out across the NHS.

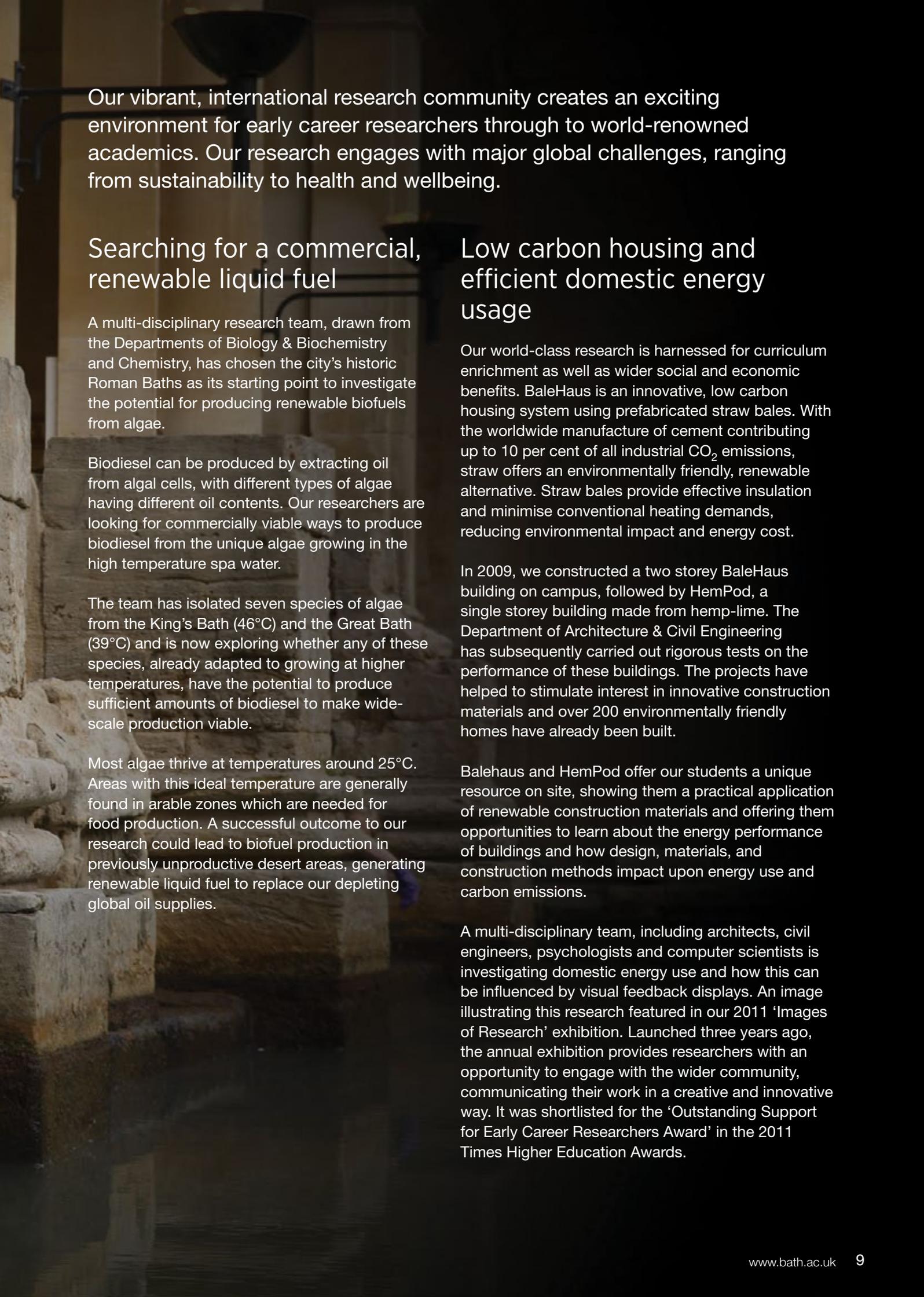
The Bath Advantage: Research. Realised.

গ্রন্থাগার চত্বর
ধূমপান মুক্ত এলাকা





The Bath Advantage: Knowledge. Created.



Our vibrant, international research community creates an exciting environment for early career researchers through to world-renowned academics. Our research engages with major global challenges, ranging from sustainability to health and wellbeing.

Searching for a commercial, renewable liquid fuel

A multi-disciplinary research team, drawn from the Departments of Biology & Biochemistry and Chemistry, has chosen the city's historic Roman Baths as its starting point to investigate the potential for producing renewable biofuels from algae.

Biodiesel can be produced by extracting oil from algal cells, with different types of algae having different oil contents. Our researchers are looking for commercially viable ways to produce biodiesel from the unique algae growing in the high temperature spa water.

The team has isolated seven species of algae from the King's Bath (46°C) and the Great Bath (39°C) and is now exploring whether any of these species, already adapted to growing at higher temperatures, have the potential to produce sufficient amounts of biodiesel to make wide-scale production viable.

Most algae thrive at temperatures around 25°C. Areas with this ideal temperature are generally found in arable zones which are needed for food production. A successful outcome to our research could lead to biofuel production in previously unproductive desert areas, generating renewable liquid fuel to replace our depleting global oil supplies.

Low carbon housing and efficient domestic energy usage

Our world-class research is harnessed for curriculum enrichment as well as wider social and economic benefits. BaleHaus is an innovative, low carbon housing system using prefabricated straw bales. With the worldwide manufacture of cement contributing up to 10 per cent of all industrial CO₂ emissions, straw offers an environmentally friendly, renewable alternative. Straw bales provide effective insulation and minimise conventional heating demands, reducing environmental impact and energy cost.

In 2009, we constructed a two storey BaleHaus building on campus, followed by HemPod, a single storey building made from hemp-lime. The Department of Architecture & Civil Engineering has subsequently carried out rigorous tests on the performance of these buildings. The projects have helped to stimulate interest in innovative construction materials and over 200 environmentally friendly homes have already been built.

Balehaus and HemPod offer our students a unique resource on site, showing them a practical application of renewable construction materials and offering them opportunities to learn about the energy performance of buildings and how design, materials, and construction methods impact upon energy use and carbon emissions.

A multi-disciplinary team, including architects, civil engineers, psychologists and computer scientists is investigating domestic energy use and how this can be influenced by visual feedback displays. An image illustrating this research featured in our 2011 'Images of Research' exhibition. Launched three years ago, the annual exhibition provides researchers with an opportunity to engage with the wider community, communicating their work in a creative and innovative way. It was shortlisted for the 'Outstanding Support for Early Career Researchers Award' in the 2011 Times Higher Education Awards.



The Bath Advantage: Ambition. Fulfilled.

We aim to help each student achieve their full potential, both academically and personally. Our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes are a popular choice for students from around the world.

Placement experience and employability

One of the factors that attract students to our university is the strength and scope of our placement schemes. Undertaking placements can create employment opportunities, enhance career prospects and improve academic performance. Our growing network of international employers means that placement opportunities can now take students around the world, offering enriching cultural experiences as well.

Coach Education & Sports Development student Alice Jefferson spent her placement year with Shelter Box, a charity which provides emergency shelter and lifesaving supplies for families affected by disasters such as the Japanese tsunami and the earthquake in Haiti. Alice helped Shelter Box to co-ordinate operations and communications and was given the opportunity for international travel.

Computer scientist Shane Kingsley spent a year much closer to Bath working for GL-Garrad Hassan, the world's largest renewable energy consultancy. The Bristol-based firm offers independent technical and engineering services, products and training courses to the onshore and offshore wind, wave, tidal and solar sectors. Shane worked with some of the firm's computer software programs including one helping to design the blades for wind turbines.



We offer students a wide range of opportunities to enhance their future success. Our Careers Advisory Service (CAS) is particularly crucial for students planning the next steps on their career paths. The impartial and professional service is in day-to-day contact with employers, connecting them with students and organising employer on-campus visits.

As a result of our focus on future employability, we boast one of the strongest graduate employment profiles in the UK. 89 per cent of our 2010 graduates went straight into employment or further study, with 81 per cent of those moving into employment securing top level jobs compared with only 63 per cent nationally.

An international outlook

Our students help create a truly international community – around 30 per cent come from non-UK countries, representing over 100 nationalities. Students are encouraged to sample their different cultures. One initiative which helps celebrate diversity is Festival on the Hill, a two-week event hosted by the Students' Union. The festival provides a wonderful opportunity for students to share the wealth of their various cultures, and to celebrate and discuss differences.

Our Department of Electronic & Electrical Engineering's innovative 2+2 joint education programme with the North China Electric Power University (NCEPU) graduated its first students in 2010 and a number of these graduates went on to undertake postgraduate study within the department. In 2011, the successful 2+2 model formed the basis of two further strategic partnerships involving the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Harbin Institute of Technology, China, and Taylors University, Malaysia.

Our success in nurturing well-rounded, enterprising individuals with high aspirations is reflected in the wide range of awards and recognition our students receive.

Individual achievement and enterprise

Our students are recognised for their discipline-related attainments and for their contributions to a broad spectrum of extra curricular activities.

Mechanical engineering PhD student, Maria Xi Zhang, won a prestigious Shine Award from the British Council. These awards celebrate the achievements of international students and their contributions to life in the UK.

The terms of the Shine competition required Maria to write a letter home, telling a family member, teacher or friend about her time in the UK. The judges were impressed by her extensive involvement in engineering projects along with her intelligent questioning of Tony Blair at a lecture he gave to the 48 Group Club, a high profile business network which promotes the positive relationship between China and the UK. Maria, who comes from Beijing, gained her Master's degree in aerospace engineering from Bath and received an EPSRC scholarship to undertake a PhD in aerospace manufacturing.

Tom Pellereau (MEng Innovation & Engineering Design 2002) is an example of the entrepreneurial spirit characteristic of our students and alumni. He became one of our most high profile graduates after he was crowned 2011 winner of the BBC series *The Apprentice*. Even before he appeared on the small screen Tom had already shown his entrepreneurial flair with the development of an innovative 'S' shaped nail file which successfully sold in Superdrug stores across the country.

Tom's prize for beating 15 other hopefuls in *The Apprentice* was to become Lord Alan Sugar's business partner, securing a £250,000 investment into a new business venture.

Excellent services from an outstanding Students' Union

Our Students' Union plays a key role in enabling students to make the most of their time at university, providing a range services to help them excel as individual and active members of the community.

Ranked in the top three in the UK by the National Union of Students (NUS), its reputation has been further enhanced with a Gold Award from the Student Union Evaluation Initiative (SUEI).

SUEI criteria require an assessment of how unions engage, represent and support students, as well as the overall management of the organisation. Our Students' Union won Gold for providing its members with an excellent student experience, one of only four students' unions across the country to achieve the top standard.

The quality of the Students' Union services and management is also reflected in kite-marks such as 'Investors in People' and 'Investor in Volunteers'.

"It seems that his personality, inventive skills and enterprise won the day. We are sure that Tom's experience as a student at Bath played a significant part in equipping him with the skills that helped him both in his career and in his current success."

Professor Tony Miles
Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The Bath Advantage: Potential. Achieved.



Digital Manufacturing I
Powered by



The Bath Advantage: Enterprise. Promoted.



We value enterprise, innovation and creativity. Our ideas are supporting economic development and business efficiency locally, nationally and internationally.

Creativity harnessed for business efficiency

Researchers from the Department of Electronic & Electrical Engineering utilised the University Library as a test bed for Britain's first local DC micro grid. The 50 computers on the Smart DC network are powered using direct current electricity rather than alternating current (AC). The machines are faster, quieter and have less heat output.

RWE n-power part-funded the project and the balance of funding was drawn from our £3.4 million Knowledge Transfer Account (KTA). It was our recognised strength in knowledge transfer that secured one of only 12 KTAs awarded by the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) in 2009. A further commercial partner, Western Power Distribution, joined the project in 2011.

The research team has demonstrated that a carbon saving of 18 per cent is possible by switching to DC power and operating a battery storage system. The battery storage system allows energy to be stored from the National Grid, taking advantage of low 'off-peak' tariffs. As a result of this success, the University and its commercial partners have been awarded funding under OFGEM's Low Carbon Network Fund to develop similar schemes in the local community.

Promoting enterprise for economic growth

Our Innovation Centre has been nurturing business start ups and managing key sector networks for almost a decade. Its resources have been expanded to include new laboratories which give small and medium sized companies access to the latest technology for testing new products.

The Digital Manufacturing Laboratory showcases RepRap, a three dimensional printer developed by Dr Adrian Bowyer from the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The Silicon South West Laboratory offers a fully equipped RF and Networks testing facility.

Digicity is a new, flexible booking system for co-working space which will be extended to offer reciprocal venues in London and the USA.

One of the first companies to make use of the Innovation Centre, Fitronics, has recently been sold for a seven figure sum to a Canadian company. Fitronics, which now trades as The Retention People (RTP), is still based in Bath and employs six of our alumni.

In 2012, the Bath Entrepreneurship Programme is being offered at the Innovation Centre for the first time. It has been a key part of our award-winning, world-class MBA for over 10 years and is now being made more widely available to support entrepreneurship. The one-week personal development programme includes practitioner sessions from expert entrepreneurs and investors.



L-R: Professor David Tosh, Professor Paul Gregg, Professor Christopher Frost, Professor Tony Jones, Dr Juani Swart, Professor Stephen Pavelin and Professor Jey Sivaloganathan

The excellence of our activities reflects the excellence of our people. We appoint the best, set ambitious targets and nurture talent.

Investing for future success

As a leading UK research university with an impressive academic profile, we are ambitious to achieve greater success on the international stage in the future. Our strategic investment initiative, launched in 2011, aims to recruit world-leading academics with a track record of public engagement in vital policy areas.

Appointments to date have included Paul Gregg, Professor of Economic & Social Policy, who advised the previous government on welfare reform and is now part of a commission tackling youth unemployment, and Professor Paul Cornish, an international security expert formerly based at Chatham House, who is a member of the UK Chief of the Defence Staff's Strategic Advisory Panel.

We are also committed to retaining our existing expertise. In 2011, we commissioned Capita to undertake our latest Staff Survey. The Survey gathered views from colleagues on how they felt about a range of aspects associated with working at the University. The results indicated high levels of job satisfaction, with 84 per cent of participants indicating that they felt the University was a good place to work. All of our departments have now developed action plans to respond to feedback and enhance the staff experience.

Excellence across our academic and professional services departments

Our Development & Alumni Relations department received the 'Outstanding University Fundraising Team' award at the *Times Higher Education* Leadership & Management Awards (THELMAs) 2011. The judges were impressed with the exceptional achievements in 2009-10. Philanthropic donations of £4.3 million were raised, exceeding the team's target by 159 per cent. Our Business Processes Working Group was shortlisted for the 'Outstanding Leadership and Management Team' THELMA for its systematic approach to mapping the key stages in a student's engagement with the university in order to enhance our business processes and the student experience.

We were also shortlisted in three categories for the *Times Higher Education* 2011 awards later in the year. Alex Wright was shortlisted for 'Most Innovative Teacher of the Year'. His new pedagogy for design education has helped the Department of Architecture & Civil Engineering to achieve high levels of student satisfaction and the top ranking for Architecture in *The Sunday Times*' UK subject league table.

The Researcher Development team in the Learning & Teaching Enhancement Office was shortlisted for the 'Outstanding Support for Early Career Researchers' award and the Staff Development team in the Department of Human Resources was shortlisted in the category of 'Outstanding Contribution to Leadership Development'. The latter nomination recognised the team's tailored support for our re-organisation of faculty management and administration. This included leadership and management programmes for the faculty team managers, directors of administration, deans and associate deans.

The Bath Advantage: Leaders. Inspired.

The Chancellor's Roll of Honour is the highest award for philanthropy that the University bestows. It recognises exceptional support to the University and is awarded to only a handful of our alumni and friends.

This year, the Chancellor, Lord Tugendhat, welcomed into the Chancellor's Roll of Honour two special couples who between them have contributed more than half a million pounds to scholarships, research, sports and the arts.

Alumnus Raoul Hughes and his wife Catherine made a gift to support research into dementia and also to fund work into pension reform. Well-respected local philanthropists Brian and Margaret Roper were recognised because of their sustained generosity to the University over a number of years.

Chancellor's Roll of Honour

Mr Raoul & Mrs Catherine Hughes
The Medlock Charitable Trust
Mr Brian & Mrs Margaret Roper
Santander Universities
Professor Raymond F. Schinazi
Mr Roger & Mrs Sue Whorrod
The Wolfson Foundation

Vice-Chancellor's Roll of Honour

Dr Steve & Mrs Carol Huckvale
The Enid Linder Foundation
Dr Bharat Shah
Mrs Hiroko Sherwin & Mr Jim Sherwin

Deans' Roll of Honour

Shane Francis Aherne Trust
The Annett Charitable Trust
Mr Stuart Appleton
Mr Michael Dickson CBE
Mr Robert Drew
Ede & Ravenscroft Ltd
Mr David Embleton
Dr Michael Foggatt
Mr Tony Hall
The Johnsons Group Ltd
Mr John May
Mr Neil McLeish
Moog Inc
Mr Mitch & Mrs Alison Moore
Pfizer
Rolls-Royce plc
Mr Kuldip Salh
Mr Nigel Smith
Mr Constantine Thanassoulas
Professor Wang Wang
Windle Trust International
Mr Peter Wyman CBE



For our students, graduation does not mean it is the end of their relationship with Bath but the beginning of a new chapter.

We proactively stay in touch with the international community of over 80,000 alumni across the world. With the support of the Development & Alumni Relations Department we have international chapters in countries as far afield as the USA, Australia and Hong Kong.

As well as building this community, creating a network of colleagues with a shared experience of Bath, our alumni also demonstrate their generosity and support through philanthropic gifts.

In 2010/11 over 2,000 alumni and other friends made donations towards a range of initiatives at the University, funding research excellence, improving facilities and enhancing the student experience, supporting over 300 students with philanthropically funded scholarships.

One such student who has benefited from support is Susan Mawemuko who overcame numerous challenges to win a scholarship to study here. She had a very traditional African upbringing and her grandfather was a village chief. Before starting her MBA, she worked at Makerere University School of Public Health in Uganda, pouring her energies into an HIV/AIDS programme. Since graduating, she has returned to Uganda to share the skills she has learnt.

In winning the prestigious global award of MBA Student of the Year 2010, notably the only finalist in the competition to have studied at a UK business school, Susan displayed a level of determination and leadership ability that has more than repaid the faith her donors had placed in her.

Susan's scholarship was funded by Dr Steve Huckvale, an alumnus and close friend of the University, and his wife Carol. Steve and Carol said: "As one can imagine, if our scholarship has

helped make it possible for Susan to develop her undoubted talents and grow her knowledge, it is a source of considerable satisfaction to us."

We have also benefited from generous philanthropic gifts from the business world, including The James Dyson Foundation which has pledged £250,000 for undergraduate scholarships and PhD appointments to encourage young people to pursue their interest in design and engineering.



"Scholarships present opportunities for students who would have otherwise never had an

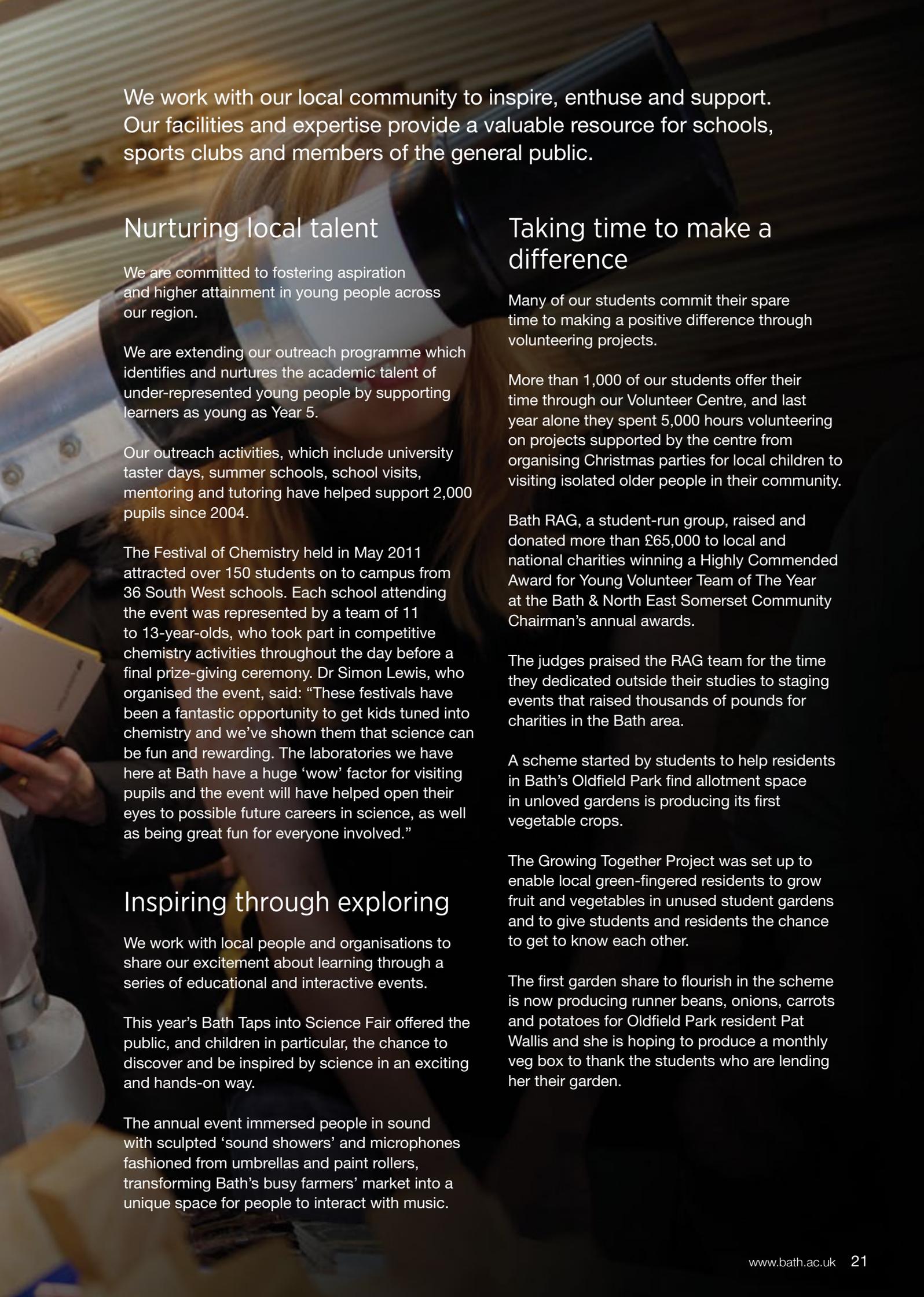
opportunity to study at a world-class university. As a beneficiary, my life will never be the same again."

Susan Mawemuko

The Bath Advantage: Connected. Globally.



The Bath Advantage: Community. Centred.



We work with our local community to inspire, enthuse and support. Our facilities and expertise provide a valuable resource for schools, sports clubs and members of the general public.

Nurturing local talent

We are committed to fostering aspiration and higher attainment in young people across our region.

We are extending our outreach programme which identifies and nurtures the academic talent of under-represented young people by supporting learners as young as Year 5.

Our outreach activities, which include university taster days, summer schools, school visits, mentoring and tutoring have helped support 2,000 pupils since 2004.

The Festival of Chemistry held in May 2011 attracted over 150 students on to campus from 36 South West schools. Each school attending the event was represented by a team of 11 to 13-year-olds, who took part in competitive chemistry activities throughout the day before a final prize-giving ceremony. Dr Simon Lewis, who organised the event, said: "These festivals have been a fantastic opportunity to get kids tuned into chemistry and we've shown them that science can be fun and rewarding. The laboratories we have here at Bath have a huge 'wow' factor for visiting pupils and the event will have helped open their eyes to possible future careers in science, as well as being great fun for everyone involved."

Inspiring through exploring

We work with local people and organisations to share our excitement about learning through a series of educational and interactive events.

This year's Bath Taps into Science Fair offered the public, and children in particular, the chance to discover and be inspired by science in an exciting and hands-on way.

The annual event immersed people in sound with sculpted 'sound showers' and microphones fashioned from umbrellas and paint rollers, transforming Bath's busy farmers' market into a unique space for people to interact with music.

Taking time to make a difference

Many of our students commit their spare time to making a positive difference through volunteering projects.

More than 1,000 of our students offer their time through our Volunteer Centre, and last year alone they spent 5,000 hours volunteering on projects supported by the centre from organising Christmas parties for local children to visiting isolated older people in their community.

Bath RAG, a student-run group, raised and donated more than £65,000 to local and national charities winning a Highly Commended Award for Young Volunteer Team of The Year at the Bath & North East Somerset Community Chairman's annual awards.

The judges praised the RAG team for the time they dedicated outside their studies to staging events that raised thousands of pounds for charities in the Bath area.

A scheme started by students to help residents in Bath's Oldfield Park find allotment space in unloved gardens is producing its first vegetable crops.

The Growing Together Project was set up to enable local green-fingered residents to grow fruit and vegetables in unused student gardens and to give students and residents the chance to get to know each other.

The first garden share to flourish in the scheme is now producing runner beans, onions, carrots and potatoes for Oldfield Park resident Pat Wallis and she is hoping to produce a monthly veg box to thank the students who are lending her their garden.

We are proud to host individuals and squads who are in training for the biggest sporting event Britain has seen for a generation – the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Our top-class facilities and support services, coupled with those offered in partnership with the English Institute of Sport, provide a great base for athletes and their coaches.

Last summer, we hosted a major assimilation camp for Paralympics GB with around 100 athletes from 11 sports familiarising themselves with the environment and systems they will experience when they return in 2012 for their final preparation camp.

We will also be hosting the Malaysian Olympic team's pre-Games preparation camp in 2012 as well as the Chinese swimming team.

British Olympic hopefuls who base their training here include 400m hurdler Dai Greene (pictured) who struck gold at the World Championships in South Korea in 2011, adding to the European and Commonwealth crowns he won in 2010.

Hoping to join him at London 2012 will be Michael Jamieson, a Sports Performance student who combines his studies with training at the University-based British Swimming Intensive Training Centre, as will fellow student and breaststroke specialist Andrew Willis.

Current students and recent graduates will also be well represented at the Paralympic Games. Swimmer and former University of Bath Sports Personality of the Year Kate Grey, and recent graduates Katrina Hart and Ben Rushgrove are all hoping to pick up medals in London. Ben was a silver medallist at the Beijing Paralympic Games while Katrina took gold at the Paralympic World Championships in Christchurch in January 2011. Alexandra Rickham, another of our graduates, has been selected to compete for Britain in the sailing at the Games.

Our Sports Training Village plays host to a number of sporting governing bodies and high performance bases including Great Britain's modern pentathlon team. The squad includes

current Biology undergraduate Freyja Prentice who has achieved the London 2012 qualifying standard in the past year. Other Olympic teams using Bath as their base include Britain's beach volleyball team and rhythmic gymnastics squad, while GB's trampolinists and épée fencing team have held training camps here.

We continue to invest in sport to ensure elite athletes, students, staff, and the local community all have the best possible facilities at their disposal.

Recent improvements include a new state of the art water-based hockey pitch as well as an overhaul of the gym facilities; an investment that saw the installation of nearly 60 new pieces of cardiovascular equipment. A new £100,000 performance gym dedicated to meeting the requirements of world-class athletes has also been created along with an athletes' lounge – a place to relax between gruelling training sessions.

Our Olympic legacy

We aim to create a legacy from our strong partnership with the British Paralympic Association beyond London 2012 by establishing a Centre of Excellence for DisAbility Sport and Health (DASH).

This centre will translate the findings from our work with Paralympic performance athletes to seek benefits for the wider disabled population, including military veterans injured in combat. It will harness academic expertise in the areas of Sport & Exercise Science, Medical Engineering, Health, Psychology and beyond.

The Bath Advantage: Performance. World-class.



Dai Greene in action at the University of Bath in 2011 © rutgerpauw.com/Red Bull Content Pool

Our campus





We are constantly investing in our learning and teaching infrastructure. Recent developments include our £5.5 million Student Centre and the new £16 million East Building which houses the Department of Computer Science and contains a 350-seat lecture theatre, teaching labs, seminar and meeting rooms.



THE SUNDAY TIMES
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