

Students





Bristol's students are talented, creative, motivated and enterprising. Here are some of the activities they have been involved with over the course of the year.

SET award in pharmacology

Rosie Hart won a Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Award in September, beating candidates from across the UK. She was awarded the 2006 GlaxoSmithKline Award for the Best Pharmacology Student, judged by the British Pharmacological Society. Hart graduated last summer with an MSci in Pharmacology with Study in Industry. Her project, 'Transcriptional regulation of endothelial lipase gene expression', formed the basis of her nomination for the award.

Meanwhile, two undergraduates were shortlisted in their categories:

Tom Hooper from the School of Chemistry (ICI Award for the Best Chemistry Student, judged by the Royal Society of Chemistry); and **Martin Fish** from the Department of Civil Engineering (AMEC Award for the Best Civil Engineering Student, judged by the Institution of Civil Engineers).

Bristol is the
most popular
university in the
UK in terms of
applications
per place

GE award for Philip Pearson

Philip Pearson in the Department of Mechanical Engineering was awarded a scholarship by the GE Foundation as part of its Scholar-Leaders Programme. The programme was launched in the UK in 2004 in partnership with the Institute of International Education to attract students to areas of study such as engineering and technology, and to help increase access to higher education from the whole community. The £4,000 award is made to low-income, first-year students who have demonstrated academic excellence and financial need, to support them during years two and three of study.

PhD wins neuroscience prize

Karen Luyt, a recent PhD graduate from the Department of Anatomy, was awarded the 2006 British Neuroscience Association (BNA) Postgraduate Prize for the year's best neuroscience thesis in the UK. Dr Luyt carried out her research in the MRC Centre for Synaptic Plasticity. The £500 prize included the opportunity to write an article for the BNA Bulletin. Dr Luyt is now a consultant in neonatal medicine at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, St Michael's Hospital in Bristol, as part of the Neonatal Neurology team. She is also Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University.

IBM Fellowship in Chemistry

Marc Van der Kamp in the School of Chemistry was awarded an IBM PhD Fellowship. The fellowships are awarded to PhD students from a range of disciplines who have shown great potential for research excellence. As a result, Van der Kamp has been able to extend his PhD research and make use of the new high-performance computing facilities, which have been developed in collaboration with partners including IBM and are now online at the University's Advanced Computing Research Centre.

Early Bird catches the worm

Daniel Barker, a second-year Drama student, was one of ten winners of the Royal Court Young Writers' Festival 2007. The festival forms part of the Royal Court Young Writers' Programme, a department of London's Royal Court Theatre. It aims to develop and perform the best in new writing for the theatre, encouraging writers from all sections of society to create contemporary drama, and to promote their work to new and existing audiences. Barker's play, *Early Bird*, examines contemporary family life, 'exposing a mess of lust, lies, and a missing strand of morality'.

Windsurfing win

Bristol students took the individual men's and women's titles at the 2007 British Universities Sports Association (BUSA) Windsurfing Championships in Southampton. Medical student Hugh Sims Williams won the men's championship and Engineering student Tanya Saleh won the women's event. Hugh Sims Williams is the youngest windsurfer in one of the UK's most successful Olympic teams, Skandia Team GBR. He is a member of the University's Advanced Sports Squad, and hopes to compete in the 2012 Olympics in Weymouth.

Surgeons set sail

Two PhD students, Dr Alex Varey, a trainee plastic surgeon, and Dr Victoria Bills, a trainee obstetrician, travelled by river from Bristol to London on a floating operating theatre to raise money for Cancer Research UK and the Skin Cancer Research Fund and to promote awareness of skin cancer in the UK. En route, they invited visitors to view their theatre, complete with a six-foot 'dangerous mole', to highlight what skin changes to look out for and the importance of early detection. The two surgeons designed and built the motor-powered craft themselves, with help from volunteer technical experts.

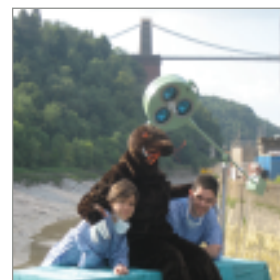
Sporting behaviour

Tom Foley, a Masters student in Civil Engineering, was awarded the Chris Potter Bursary by the British Universities Sports Association, in recognition of his contribution to university sport. His contribution to setting up the first club-based referees' society in the country also resulted in the University Rugby Club winning an award from the Rugby Football Union (RFU). Foley, who helped to run the intra-mural rugby competition for two years, realised the need for more referees in order to fulfil fixtures. With help from the RFU, University coach Pete Johnson and Bob Reeves (Director of Sport, Exercise and Health), he organised referee training courses for students. There are now 21 qualified referees at Bristol, enabling the whole intra-mural competition to take place without help from the overstretched Bristol Referees Society.



Medic heads BMA students' body

Fourth-year medical student Emily Rigby was elected chair of the British Medical Association's (BMA) Medical Students Committee. The committee comprises BMA student members from all UK medical schools who are elected to deal with issues affecting medical students. Members of the committee also sit on policy subcommittees that deal with issues relating to the finance, education and welfare of medical students across the UK.



Clockwise from top: Emily Rigby, chair of the BMA's Medical Students Committee; Alex Varey and Victoria Bills with their cancer awareness-raising 'mole'; Filson Awil (5) and Josie Wilshire (5) at the Teddy Bear Hospital held at St Mary Redcliffe Primary School; Hugh Sims Williams takes to the water.



Teddy Bear Hospital

Medical students Peter Steed and Clare Michell co-ordinated the Bristol Teddy Bear Hospital, a public health project for children affiliated to Medsin and overseen by the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations. The project is a learning exercise both for children and medical students. Children bring their sick teddies into school for a consultation with a student, giving them a chance to become more comfortable with visiting doctors, and giving students an opportunity to practise their communication skills with children.

Law students question influence of expert witnesses

Law students Gabe Tan and Joe Oppenheimer were invited to join a prestigious panel at the Annual Conference of the Society of Expert Witnesses, to discuss the practical influence of expert witnesses in the justice process. Both students also appeared in a BBC One *Rough Justice* programme about the University's Innocence Project and the Simon Hall case.

British Council honour

Politics and Social Policy student Edward Moline scooped a top prize in the British Council International Student Awards 2007. The competition is designed to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of international students in the UK. Moline was named International Student of the Year for the south-west region.

RAG and SCA

The University's student fundraising group, RAG, is now in its 82nd year, and has raised more than a million pounds for local and national charities since its inception. Highlights of the fundraising year include Jailbreak (in which teams have to travel as far away from Bristol as they can for free), the Hogmoney street collection, the RAG parade and the RAG ball.

Student Community Action (SCA), the University's student volunteering organisation, expanded its activities. Since August 2006, SCA volunteers have become involved in four new projects: Think Global, a United Nations education project teaching conflict resolution to year 10 and 11 pupils in local schools; Brightbow Lodge, a residential centre for people with mental health problems; Red Cross ITMS, the International Tracing and Messaging Service that helps refugees and asylum seekers to find loved ones separated by war or national disaster; and Scoot, where volunteers run workshops for youth groups to raise awareness of the health and social implications of consuming drugs and alcohol.

Healthcare Oscar

An innovative nurse call system for people with minimal hand movement, developed by Computer Science postgraduates Ian Anderson and Paul Duff, won a healthcare accolade at the 2007 Medical Futures Innovation Awards. These are designed to encourage, support and reward new ideas and advancements in healthcare that can improve people's lives. The system, called Sensagest®, won awards both for Best Patient Independence Innovation and for Bone and Joint Innovation. It is activated by tiny movements on a touch-sensitive fabric pad. Wearable computing technology is then used to decode the gesture and relay a message to a paging device carried by a healthcare professional. Sensagest® won the University's New Enterprise Competition in 2006.

RAG and SCA 2006/07: the year in numbers

Student volunteers involved in RAG events	5,700
Amount raised by RAG activities	£113,000
Local community groups who received funding from RAG	22
Total number of SCA projects	35
Student volunteers involved in SCA projects	1,000
Total hours contributed by SCA volunteers	70,000

Staff





It was a demanding year on the Personnel front, but progress was outstanding – as were the achievements of individual members of staff.

Reward strategy

Work continued throughout the year on developing a new single pay and grade structure to cover all staff, as well as on objectively evaluating jobs so that they could be correctly positioned on the revised pay scale. In February 2006, the University had offered a new pay and grade structure to the unions based on the outcomes from University-wide job evaluation. Following consultation with their members, the unions rejected the offer, asking that the University review the job evaluation outcomes to test further for equity and fairness.

The University undertook this review and re-entered negotiations with the unions in the latter part of 2006. Agreement was reached, and the results of job evaluation began to be communicated to staff at the beginning of July 2007. The new pay and grade structure came into effect on 1 August for most staff. New harmonised terms and conditions were introduced the year before.

These developments constituted major milestones following years of painstaking work by Personnel Services and Staff Development, managers, the unions and employees across the institution. Thanks to the high level of co-operation achieved, the University now has a modern, unified and equitable approach to pay.

Positive Work Environment

The University maintained the impetus on its Positive Working Environment (PWE) agenda – a process aimed at making working life productive, rewarding, enjoyable and healthy for all staff.

PWE is now a core part of the University People Strategy

Developments over the year included a second PWE Week offering numerous events designed to boost well-being; further policy developments on stress management and diversity; work-life balance improvements through increased flexible working; and the provision of Easter and summer sports camps for the children of staff. Additional resources have been put into the hugely successful Staff Career Coaching Service, together with the appointment of an International Staff Adviser to support the increasing number of colleagues from outside the UK.

Great strides have been taken in further developing the work environment for research staff following the appointment of a Staff Development Manager with responsibility for this key group of

employees. There have been improvements in transferable skills training, careers coaching, communication processes and consultation over key terms of employment, including a reduction in the use of fixed-term contracts.

The second PWE whole-workforce survey took place in January 2007. The results suggest there has been good progress in a number of key areas shown by the original 2003 survey to be in need of attention. An example is that the number of staff responding that 'the University demonstrates that it cares about the people it employs' rose from a disappointing 49 per cent in 2003 to an encouraging 73 per cent in 2007.

The PWE agenda has received favourable attention from local and national media including the *Bristol Evening Post*, *The Independent* and the BBC. The University's achievements received external validation when they won it the Health, Work and Well-being Award in the Business in the Community 2007 Awards (South West) by demonstrating 'a comprehensive approach to the health and well-being of employees'.

Work will continue over the next three years, with a further whole-workforce survey planned for 2010.



Royal Society award for Kathy Sykes

Kathy Sykes, Professor of Sciences and Society, was awarded the Royal Society Kohn Award for her work on encouraging better understanding between scientists and public audiences. Professor Sykes received the award for her work both at an individual and institutional level.

Research nurse awarded lifetime achievement award

Chrissie Israel, a Neonatal Development Nurse Specialist in the Neonatal Unit at Southmead Hospital, won the Neonatal Nurse Lifetime Achievement Award in the BLISS Baby Charter Neonatal Awards. During her 28-year career, she has participated in research with the Avon Premature Infant Project (1990s) and, with Professor Andrew Whitelaw, secured £500,000 funding from the Health Foundation for the Preterm Infant Parenting Study.

Researchers win top SET awards

Two research staff came top in their categories in the SET for Britain awards, which recognise early-stage researchers in Science, Engineering, Technology and Medicine. Dr Jeremy O'Brien, an RCUK (Research Councils UK) Academic Fellow in Physics and Electrical Engineering, won the Cavendish Medal and Ogden Prize for Physics Research. Dr Maciej Klemm, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the Electromagnetics Group in the Centre for Communications Research, won the BP's Engineer's Prize and the 2006 Gold Medal for Excellence in Engineering by an Engineer.

Coach rows to success

Gordon Trevett, High Performance Manager at the Centre for Sport, Exercise and Health, won a BUSA (British Universities Sports Association) 'Coach of the Year' award for his dedication to university sport. Trevett has coached the University's successful rowing team for the past four years and helped many rowers go on to represent Great Britain.



From left: the University rowing team at practice on the River Avon near Salford; Kathy Sykes presenting the BBC's popular science series, *Rough Science*.

Distinctions

Three Bristol academics were honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. **Elaine Kempson**, Professor of Personal Finance and Social Policy Research in the School of Geographical Sciences, received a CBE for services to the financial services industry. **Frances Heywood**, Senior Research Fellow in the School for Policy Studies, received an OBE for services to housing services for disabled people. **Stephen Wotton**, Lecturer in Food Animal Science, received an MBE for services to animal welfare.

New Fellows

Professor Varinder Aggarwal of the School of Chemistry was awarded a Senior Research Fellowship by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. Among other achievements, Professor Aggarwal also received the inaugural Alexander Todd-Hans Krebs Lectureship this year, a joint award of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the German Chemical Society.

Professor Trevor Wooley in the Department of Mathematics was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Professor Andrew Dick of the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine was elected to the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professor Guy Claxton and **Professor Rosemary Deem** of the Graduate School of Education were elected Academicians of the Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences.

Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Awards

Professor Julian Paton

(Department of Physiology),

Professor Nello Cristianini

(Department of Engineering Mathematics) and **Professors**

Andrew Orr-Ewing and Stephen

Mann FRS (School of Chemistry)

each won a Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award.

External appointments

Professor Innes Cuthill of the

School of Biological Sciences was appointed President of the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour.

Professor Andrew Whitelaw,

Clinical Science at North Bristol, was elected President of the Neonatal Society 2006-08.

Professor Peter Mathieson,

Clinical Science at North Bristol, was elected President of the Renal Association.

Professor Richard Dixon in the School of Chemistry was elected Chairman of the Charitable Trust for the United Bristol Hospitals.

Julie Selwyn, Director of the Hadley Centre for Adoption and Foster Care Studies and Senior Lecturer at the School for Policy Studies, joined a Government assessment panel reviewing the impact of the Sexual Orientation Regulations on faith-based adoption and fostering agencies.

New chairs

Chair in Biostatistics

William Browne, formerly Associate Professor in Statistics in the School of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Nottingham

Chair in Neuroscience

Kwangwook (Kei) Cho, formerly Lecturer in Neuroscience in the Department of Biomedical Science at the University of Sheffield

Chair in Computer Science

David Cliff, formerly Professor of Computer Science at the Natural Science Interface, School of Electronics and Computer Science at the University of Southampton

Chair in Genetic and Molecular Epidemiology

Ian Day, formerly Professor of Human Genetics, University of Southampton and Visiting Professor of Genetics and Molecular Epidemiology at the University of Bristol

Chair in Financial Reporting

Sheila Ellwood, formerly Reader in Accounting in Warwick Business School at the University of Warwick

Chair in Vibration Engineering

(also Director of Bristol Laboratory for Advanced Dynamics Engineering)
David Ewins, formerly Professor of Vibration Engineering and Director of the Centre of Vibration Engineering at Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London

Melville Wills Chair in Botany

Alistair Hetherington, formerly Chair in Plant Cell Physiology in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Lancaster

Chair in Philosophy

Susan Hurley*, formerly Professor of Political and Ethical Theory in the Department of Politics and International Studies and associate member of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Warwick; also Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford

Chair in EU Law

Panos Koutrakos, formerly Professor of Law in the Department of Law at the University of Durham

Chair in Political Sociology

Paul Statham, formerly Professor of Social Movements and the Public Sphere and Director of the Centre for European Political Communications (EurPolCom) in the Institute of Communications Studies at the University of Leeds

Chair in Pure Mathematics

Trevor Wooley, formerly Professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

* We are sorry to report that Professor Hurley died on 16 August 2007.