



Bristol's students: everything from talented young researchers and dedicated volunteers to advocates of justice and budding entrepreneurs.

Left: Pro Bono Award winners (from left) Madeline Williams, Amanda Bell and Jess Wood (see p22)

students

Law School students win Pro Bono Award

Seven students in the School of Law received a 'Highly Commended' award in the category 'Best Contribution by a Team of Students' in the Attorney General's Student and Law School Pro Bono Awards 2008. Gabe Tan, Lindsey Bell, Steve Cheng, Katevan Nakaidze, Madeline Williams, Amanda Bell and Jess Wood (the latter three of whom are pictured on p20) form part of the University of Bristol Innocence Project, set up by Dr Michael Naughton in January 2005, whereby supervised students investigate individual cases in pursuit of valid grounds for a prisoner's application to the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Million-dollar maths prize comes a step closer

Maths student Ce Bian (pictured below) caused a stir at a workshop organised by the American Institute of Mathematics with the announcement of his discovery, made in collaboration with his supervisor Andrew Booker, of a new mathematical object. The two researchers exhibited the first example of a 'third degree transcendental L-function'.

The Riemann zeta-function is the granddaddy of all L-functions and holds the secret of how the prime numbers are distributed. The Riemann Hypothesis, the most important of all unsolved mathematical problems, is an

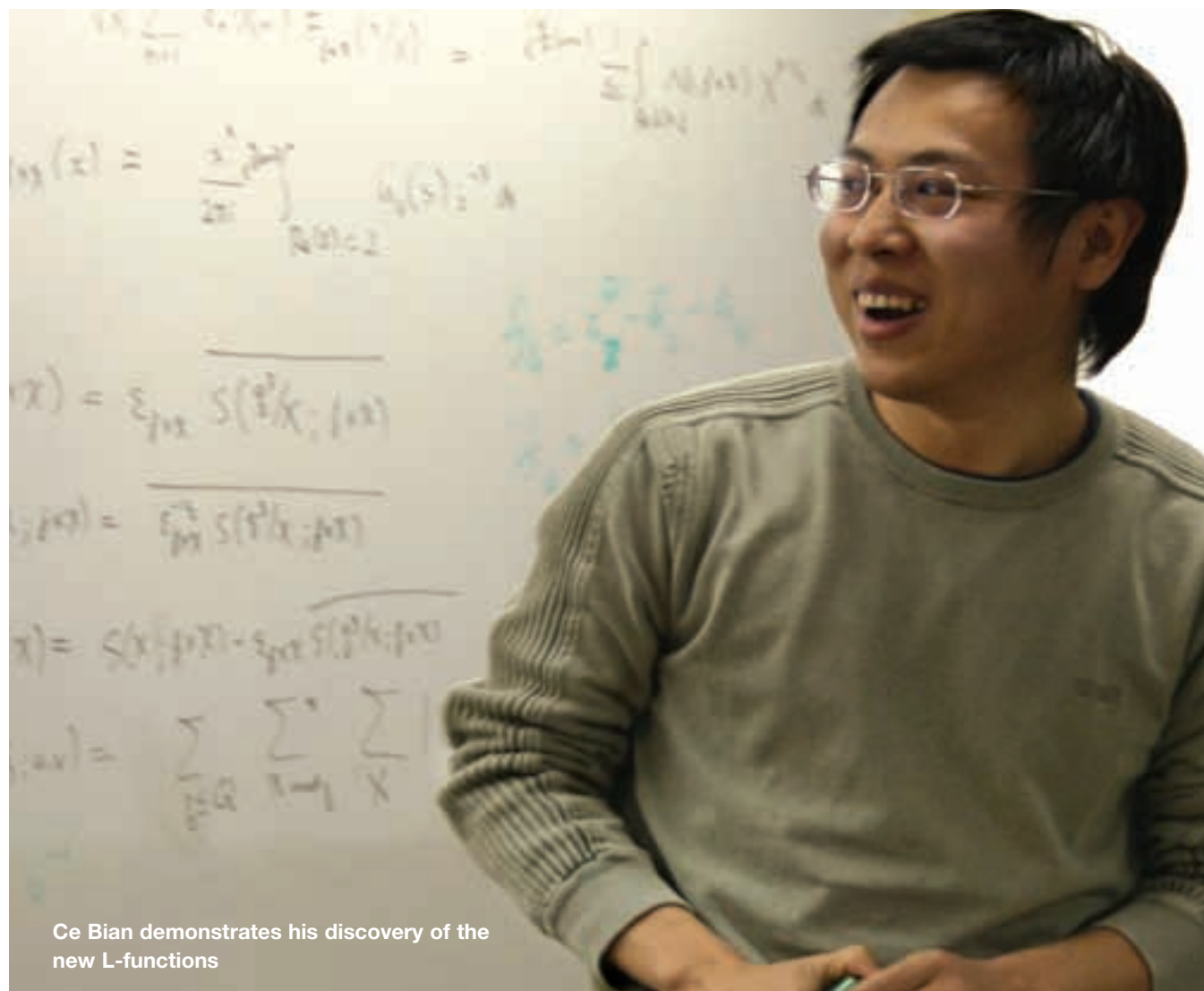
example of something that should be true for every L-function. A million-dollar prize has been offered by the Clay Mathematics Institute for the first correct proof of the Riemann Hypothesis. This discovery brings the prize a step closer.

Double honours in paediatrics

Final-year medical student Jonathan Dunne won both the Neonatal Society's student bursary for a project on diabetes in pregnancy and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Medical Student Prize. The latter is awarded to students who have been recommended for their experience and achievements in paediatrics.



Example of a mosaic from the interior of the Basilica di San Marco



Ce Bian demonstrates his discovery of the new L-functions

The science of medieval mosaics

Diana Edwards, a PhD student in the Interface Analysis Centre (IAC), came second in the final of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining Young Persons' Lecture Competition for a talk on her project, entitled 'Investigation of lime mortar/tesserae adhesion in medieval mosaics from the Basilica di San Marco (Venice)'. This research has sprung out of a longstanding collaboration between Professors Geoff Allen (IAC) and Enrico Ciliberto of the Università degli Studi di Catania, Italy, to investigate techniques that may help restore the Basilica's mosaics.

Engineers ride high in national awards

Engineering students Thomas Greenhill, Eleanor Heath, Alexander Martin and Alexey Likhoded won the national Royal Academy of Engineering Leadership Advanced

awards. The four, described as 'inspirational role models to the next generation of engineers', received £5,000 to implement their personal development plans, which include attending a conference relating to sustainable civil engineering in Dubai, studying business in France, and learning about geothermal energy in Iceland.

Music student scores at Cannes

A short film scored by music student Nathan Britton was shown at this year's Cannes Film Festival. Britton played and recorded a jazz piano improvisation for the film, entitled *Looking for Marilyn*, given only the directors' guidelines, timings and suggestions. The film, one of 175 entries in the 'straight 8' film competition for three-minute films on one cartridge of super 8 mm black-and-white film with in-camera editing only, also featured on Channel 4's 3-minute wonder slot.

Heart Research scholarship a first for Bristol

Daniel Towie, a third-year medical student, was awarded a scholarship from Heart Research UK. The scholarships, worth £7,000 each, were awarded to seven medical students from around the UK undertaking research projects relating to cardiovascular disease. Towie, who is the first Bristol student to be awarded one of these scholarships, is studying the effect of homocysteine (a type of amino acid) on isolated heart cells. The work is being undertaken in the laboratory of Professor Saadeh Suleiman at the Bristol Heart Institute.



Paige Johnson, winner of the Robert Adam travel scholarship

Garden History blooms

Paige Johnson (pictured above), who is studying for an MA in Garden History in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, won a travel scholarship from architects Robert Adam to explore a neglected area of 20th-century garden history. With her proposal, 'Gatsby's garden: in search of the art deco landscape', Johnson is investigating the history of the art deco garden using archival sources and visiting the surviving remnants of 1920s gardens in the USA, England and Europe.

Another Garden History student, Florence Clarke, who is also a Foreign Language Assistant Tutor in the Department of French, was the winner of the 2008 Garden History Society Annual Essay prize with 'The follies of a king-duke', an

exploration into the world of Stanislas Leszczynski, King of Poland (1704-09, 1733) and Duke of Lorraine (1737-66). Judy Preston, another student on the course, was runner-up.

'State of the Art' entrepreneurs

State of the Art, a student team from Bristol led by Georgia Cummings, won a national entrepreneurial contest run by Ernst & Young. The 'Profitunity' competition set the task of identifying, designing and delivering a profitable business venture. Each team received £500 in start-up funds and had four months to complete the venture under the guidance of a mentor. State of the Art put together a student art competition, which culminated in an exhibition and auction. The venture

raised almost £25,000 for The Prince's Trust, a charity to help disadvantaged young people gain the confidence and skills to find jobs.

Making a splash in sport

Bristol's Men's 4 won gold for Britain in the European Universities Sports Association rowing championships in France in September, and both the University's women's and men's waterpolo teams were winners in their sport at the inaugural British Universities Championships in Sheffield in March. The men's team won the Men's Championship Finals, and the women were victorious in the Women's Trophy Final.

Chemists win volunteering award

Five PhD students in the School of Chemistry won a Higher Education Student Volunteering Award for their outstanding commitment to volunteering activities. Natalie Stear, Phyllis Fiadzomor, Joe Beames, Clare Galvani and Claire Rosling won the award for organising and helping to carry out two community challenges: the interior decoration of Weston Park Primary School and the creation of a landscaped garden at Stockwood Community Centre.

Celebrating aerospace talent

Etienne Coetzee, a PhD student in the Department of Engineering Mathematics, won the top prize for Outstanding MSc Dissertation in the inaugural Achievement Awards ceremony of the Bristol and West of England Consortium for Continuing Professional Development in

Aerospace. Coetzee's project, on how an aircraft on the ground can move as fast as possible yet safely between the runway and the gate, was carried out with Professor Bernd Krauskopf and Dr Mark Lowenberg.

RAG and SCA

More than 100 people took part in the University's 83rd annual RAG (raising and giving) procession, raising over £1,300 for local Bristol charities. Members of PantoSoc

(pictured below) performed on a lorry donated by I J McGill Transport Ltd.

Student Community Action (SCA) continues to be involved in a wide range of activities. New projects include the Twins and More Club, which provides an opportunity for parents of multiple-birth children to meet; and Young Persons' Mentoring, where volunteers mentor young people with housing difficulties.

RAG and SCA 2007/08: the year in numbers

Student volunteers involved in RAG events	1,500
Amount raised by RAG activities	£193,421
Local community groups who received funding from RAG	21
Total number of SCA projects	37
Student volunteers involved in SCA projects	1,000
Total hours contributed by SCA volunteers	100,000



Members of PantoSoc in RAG week

staff

Bristol's talented and dedicated staff won a slew of accolades this year, a handful of which we highlight here. Behind the scenes, the University continued with its commitment to reward staff fairly and make working life productive, enjoyable and healthy for all.

Right: Professor David May, one of '35 people, places and things that will shape the future' (see p28)



Positive Working Environment

Work continued throughout the year on the University's Positive Working Environment (PWE) agenda. This long-term commitment to the development of all staff is now central to both the University People Strategy and the University Plan.

The results of the second whole-workforce survey, conducted in 2007, have fed into a range of initiatives including new training activities, an enhanced career coaching service and a third PWE week boasting more than 100 events. The first annual PWE Conference attracted over 70 people from across the University, and a second set of PWE 'Commitments', developed from the views expressed in the survey, was sent to all staff in April. Work will continue over the next three years, with a further survey planned for 2010.

The PWE agenda continues to attract considerable attention from external organisations, including the Research Councils and the European Commission, and demand is growing for the University's PWE consultancy service, Staff Opinion Services, which was established this year and works with higher education institutions in the UK and other parts of Europe.

Equality and diversity

During 2007/08, the University continued actively to engage with the principles of equality and diversity by developing innovative ways of helping staff and students reach their full potential and empowering them to contribute to the overall success of the University. The activities undertaken by the Equality and Diversity Team aim to ensure that the University remains an environment where difference is viewed as an asset, thus

strengthening its ability to attract, support and retain outstanding staff and students from a variety of backgrounds. New initiatives include a Governance/Opportunities website aimed at improving diversity in decision making by publicising all committee vacancies; supported staff networks enabling those with caring responsibilities or disabilities, and those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, to share experiences and advise on central policy; and a maternity/paternity coaching service for staff.

Reward

The new single pay and grade structure to cover all staff came into effect on 1 August 2007. Most members of staff have been transferred to the new structure following their job evaluation outcome, and the few remaining appeals/re-evaluation claims are being processed. Discussions are taking place with managers and trades unions on the nature of the scheme under which individuals might move into or within the 'contribution range' of the new pay structure.

Shape of things to come

David May, Professor of Computer Science and Chief Technology Officer at start-up XMOS Semiconductor Ltd, was named by *EE Times* as one of '35 people, places and things that will shape the future'. Professor May is an expert on parallelism, a form of computing in which many instructions are carried out simultaneously.

Autism work highly prized

Dr Elizabeth Pellicano in the Department of Experimental Psychology was the joint winner of the 2007 Michael Young Prize for early-career researchers whose work offers new insights and is likely to have an impact beyond academia.

Bristol champions women scientists

The Department of Biochemistry won a silver SWAN award for excellence in recruiting and progressing women in science, engineering and technology. Positive action by the department has resulted in more female academic staff and a significant increase in the number of women both applying for, and securing, promotion. The Athena SWAN Charter is an initiative of the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology and the Equality Challenge Unit.

Guardian award for Academic Rheumatology Unit

The Academic Rheumatology Unit at the Bristol Royal Infirmary (BRI) won the Guardian Public Service Award

for Long-Term Conditions. The award recognises a joint project set up and run by experts from the University of Bristol, the University of the West of England and the BRI to offer a patient-centred scheme that gives direct access to relief from the pain of rheumatoid arthritis as and when it is needed.

Emeritus wins \$1m prize

Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Eglinton, FRS of the School of Chemistry and Senior Research Fellow in Earth Sciences was one of the winners of this year's Dan David Prize, which annually awards three prizes of \$1 million each. Professor Eglinton was awarded the prize in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of organic geochemistry.

Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Awards

Professor Andreas Winter of the Department of Mathematics was awarded a Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award.

New Fellows

Professor Jon Blundy of the Department of Earth Sciences (pictured below) was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Mike Benton, Professor of Vertebrate Palaeontology in the Department of Earth Sciences, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Professor Andrew Halestrap of the Department of Biochemistry was elected to a Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences.



Professor Jon Blundy, recently appointed FRS

Malcolm Johnson, Emeritus Professor of Health and Social Policy in the School for Policy Studies, was elected a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. He was also elected to the Academy of Social Sciences.

Dr Jason Johnson from the Bristol Heart Institute was awarded a Fellowship from the British Heart Foundation.

External appointments

Professor Marianne Hester of the School for Policy Studies was appointed both a Specialist Adviser to the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry into domestic violence and NSPCC Professor of Child Sexual Exploitation.

Martin Partington, CBE, Emeritus Professor of Law, was appointed an honorary Queen's Counsel.

Professor David Gordon of the School for Policy Studies was appointed to the Child Poverty Expert Group, a panel that will provide the Welsh Assembly with advice and guidance to help achieve its targets of halving child poverty by 2010 and eradicating it by 2020.

David Nutt, Professor of Psychopharmacology, was appointed Chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

New chairs

Amitav Acharya, Professor of Global Governance

Josep Colomer, Professor of Comparative European Politics

Gene Feder, Professor of Primary Health Care

Susan Harrow, Professor of French

Jeffrey Henderson, Leverhulme Research Professor of International Development

Kelley Johnson, Professor of Disability Policy and Practice

John Lynch, Professor of Social Epidemiology

Rodney Morgan, Professor of Criminal Justice

Neil Perkins, Professor of Molecular Cell Biology

Ralph Pite, Professor of English

Yongjin Zhang, Professor of East Asian Studies and Director of the Centre for East Asian Studies

Prizes in brief

Professor Brian Conrey (Mathematics) was awarded the 2008 Levi L Conant Prize by the American Mathematical Society for his article entitled 'The Riemann Hypothesis'.

Professor Brian Conrey, winner of the 2008 Levi L Conant Prize



From left: PhD students Elisa Wheeler and Lucian Pascut with Dr Radu Coldea, winner of the BTM Willis Prize

Dr Radu Coldea (Physics, pictured above) was the winner of the BTM Willis Prize for neutron scattering, awarded by the Institute of Physics and the Royal Society of Chemistry. Dr Coldea is pictured with PhD students Elisa Wheeler and Lucian Pascut at the ISIS neutron source at the Science and Technology Facilities Council's Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxford.

Dr Fiona Steele (Graduate School of Education) was awarded the Guy Medal in Bronze from the Royal Statistical Society for her work on statistical methodology.

Geoff Davies, Preclinical Dean of the Veterinary School, was awarded an Honorary Associateship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Dr Jeremy O'Brien (Electrical and Electronic Engineering), **Dr Jemma Wadham** (Geographical Sciences), **Dr Robert John Mayhew**

(Geographical Sciences) and **Dr Hannes Leitgeb** (Philosophy and Mathematics) all won 2007 Philip Leverhulme Prizes from the Leverhulme Trust.

Dr Wael Kafienah (Cellular and Molecular Medicine) was awarded the prestigious Garrod Prize 2008 for his research on stem cells and cartilage repair.

Dr Cressida Beeching (Bristol Heart Institute) won first prize in the British Atherosclerosis Society's Young Investigators competition, sponsored by the British Heart Foundation, for her work on a potential strategy to reduce atherosclerosis.

Professor Stephen Sparks (Earth Sciences) received the Thorarinsson Medal for 2008, the top international award in volcanology, from the International Association for Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI). **Dr Joachim**

Gottsmann (Earth Sciences) received the IAVCEI's Wager Medal for 2008, which is given to mid-career volcanologists under the age of 40.

Jeff Wood, Head of the Division of Farm Animal Science and Professor of Food Animal Science in the Department of Clinical Veterinary Science, was the recipient of the 2008 International Lectureship Award of the American Meat Science Association.

Dr Kirsty Reid of the Department of Historical Studies won the Australian Historical Association's Kay Daniels Award for her book *Gender, crime and empire: convicts, settlers and the state in early colonial Australia*.

Intute, an online information service co-developed by the Institute for Learning and Research Technology, won the Jason Farradane Award 2007 for excellence in information science.