



# BRUNELlink

The Brunel University Alumni Association Newsletter 2003



**IKB hits headlines  
in BBC competition**

*page 3*

**£14m boost to  
research**

*page 6*

**New era for sport**

*page 9*

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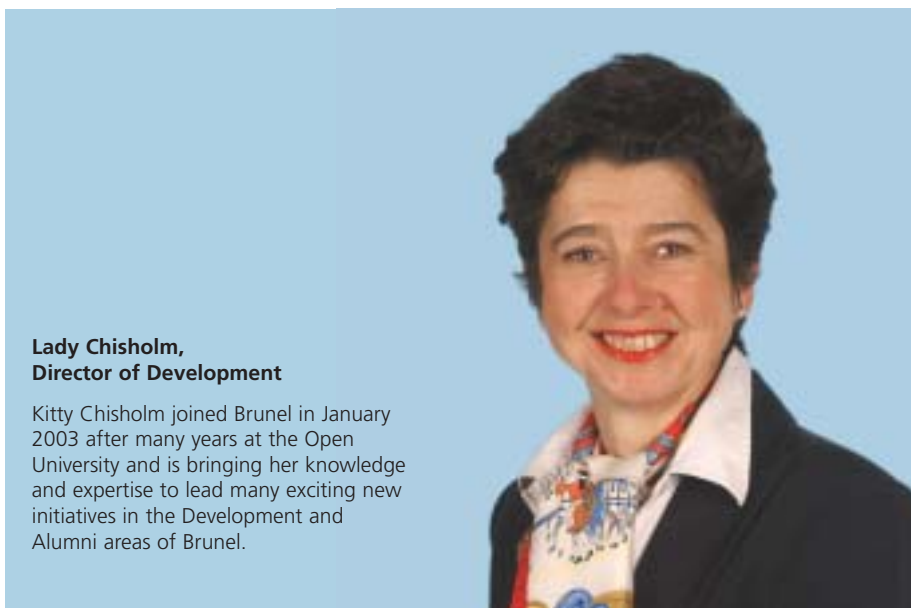
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**Lady Chisholm,  
Director of Development**

Kitty Chisholm joined Brunel in January 2003 after many years at the Open University and is bringing her knowledge and expertise to lead many exciting new initiatives in the Development and Alumni areas of Brunel.

**alumnus/a** (singular) or **alumni/alumnae** (plural):  
[C17: nursling, pupil, foster son; from Latin *alere*, to nourish]  
Frequently used to mean a graduate of a university or college, at Brunel we use it more widely to include our honorary graduates, those who have studied with us and past staff. All are part of the Brunel alumni community.

**S**o much has happened at Brunel since you received the last edition of Link...just flick through the following pages to see *how* much!

Our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Steven Schwartz, is already increasing Brunel's impact and he introduces himself opposite.

We have a new Master Plan for the redevelopment of the Uxbridge campus, with a spend of some £90 million over the next 10 years. This will not only change the face of the University but also improve facilities for students, staff, our local community and, of course, our alumni (see page 8).

Our goal is to become one of the UK's top research-led universities in our chosen areas of specialisation and we are investing £16 million in new research staff towards that end.

We have invested £6.5 million in developing performance-quality track and field facilities, turf and all-weather pitches and courts. And with the support of Sport England, we've secured Lottery funding for a new, state-of-the-art, indoor athletics centre (see page 9).

New centres for international and graduate students and alumni have been set up: Brunel International and the Graduate School (see pages 12 and 20).

And added to this is the catalogue of successes of our current and past students and our staff over the last year or so.

Brunel University is looking forward with ambition and enthusiasm. As our most valued ambassadors and supporters, we want you to remain part of the Brunel success story, and we need you to help us achieve our new, ambitious, goals.

I hope this edition of Link will be the start of more frequent contact with you. In return, please keep us informed of your news and achievements. And of course, we are always keen to hear of offers of help with student placements, graduate jobs, research contracts or contributions such as donations and gifts.

# Message from the Vice-Chancellor

**W**elcome to this, the first Link magazine in my period of office as Vice-Chancellor.

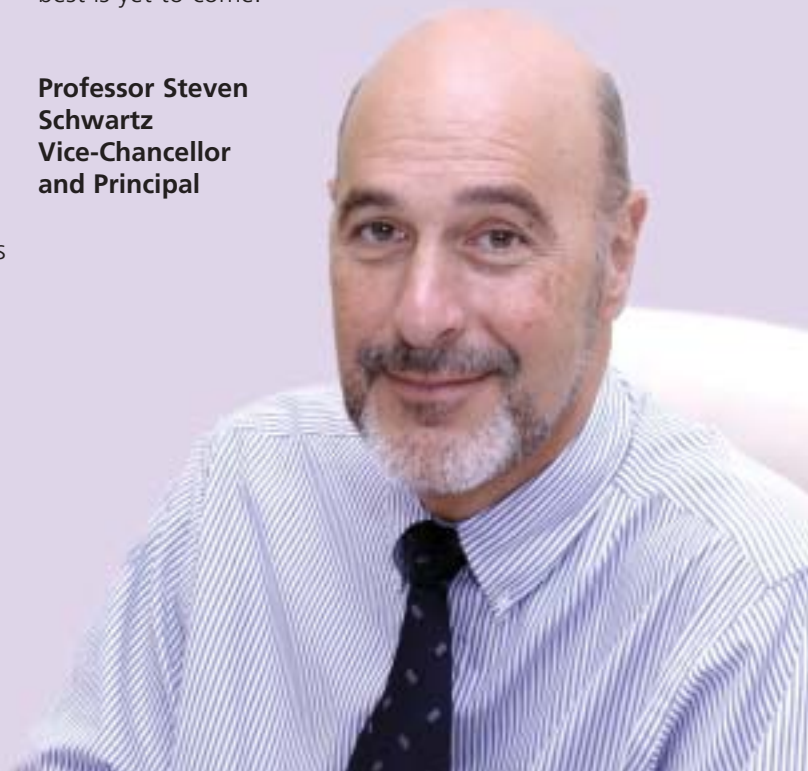
I have worked in universities in the USA, Australia and the UK as a Dean of Medicine and a Vice-Chancellor. In each place, I was told that there was once a time when universities were ivory towers; places in which academics led quiet lives of scholarly contemplation and genteel poverty. If they ever existed, I can assure you that those days are long gone. The poverty is still noticeable, but today's universities are large enterprises that are not only engaged with the outside world, but also essential to its future.

Brunel University has a single idea at the core of its identity, an idea that energises and motivates all who are associated with it, an idea that goes right back to Isambard Kingdom Brunel and that continues to be vital in the 21st century. It is the idea that education, research and work are all inter-related, not separate activities.

By 2006, the 200th anniversary of the birthday of I K Brunel, we intend to spend £100 million to make our campus as modern as any in the country. We are also spending £14 million to recruit new research-active staff. We will be home to the English Institute of Sport's high performance indoor track and we will have new facilities for the performing arts.

The University is moving ahead. This year we have set new records for research income, for students graduated, for international students enrolled and for government quality ratings. In fact, this is a record year for everything at Brunel, and the best is yet to come.

**Professor Steven Schwartz**  
Vice-Chancellor  
and Principal



## Brunel Hits Headlines in BBC's 'Greatest Briton' Competition



Since the competition, Jeremy Clarkson has kindly agreed to receive an honorary degree from the University. See page 22 for more news on Honorary Graduates.

Everyone at the University was delighted at the massive support for Isambard Kingdom Brunel during the BBC's highly successful series, *Great Britons*. IKB led the competition from the outset but was beaten into second place in the very final stages by Winston Churchill.

Vice-Chancellor Steven Schwartz said "It is good news for the University, because anyone who ever wondered why we chose our name can no longer be in any doubt. IKB is a source of inspiration to all our

students, and an excellent role model in terms of innovation, determination and creativity."

According to Sebastian Finley, President of the Union of Brunel Students, who was a member of the pro-Brunel camp alongside Jeremy Clarkson on the final live broadcast, large numbers of Brunel students and graduates were solidly behind IKB and voted in his favour.



Sue Curley

## The New Development and Alumni Team

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Clive Gee

# The Alumni Network

## Celebrating Maria Grey and Borough Road Colleges

**Maria Grey founded the Teacher Training College for Women in 1888. This came together with Borough Road College – the oldest teacher training college in the British Commonwealth – in 1976 to become the West London Institute, joining Brunel University in 1995. With Brunel leaving the Twickenham and Osterley campuses in next few years, we felt the time was ripe to celebrate these two great colleges with reunions of former staff and students.**

With no current alumni records for *Maria Grey College*, we wrote to *The Teacher* journal and the *Saga* magazine (a subscription magazine for over 50s) and, remarkably, we had over 450 replies. We were therefore able to organise two reunions in May: one for those who left in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s and another for those who left in the 1960s and 1970s. Originally the College was based at Brondesbury, with ladies being evacuated to Dudley during the

war years and moving to Twickenham in the late 1940s. One hundred alumni attended each of the reunions and were welcomed back to the College by Professor Steve Hodgkinson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, External Relations, and one-time Head of Education at Twickenham. We put together booklets containing individuals' careers and memories of *Maria Grey College* for each group.



*To continue the Maria Grey name, we shall be setting up The Maria Grey Scholarships to support current and future students in their studies.*

At Osterley, home of the former *Borough Road College*, we hosted the annual 'Old Bs' lunch, organised by Brunel Honorary Fellow Mike Chapman, in May. A presentation of

### Maria Grey

A leader of her time, founder of the *Maria Grey* teacher training college for women in 1888, which joined *Borough Road College* in 1976 to become the *West London Institute* (now *Brunel University*).



glassware was made to Professor Eric Billett for all the support he's given the Association in recent years. Professor Steve Hodkinson brought the group up to date with current initiatives and plans for the future and announced the establishment of the Borough Road Scholarships

*The Borough Road Scholarships will be awarded to current and future sports students of the University.*

### Alumni Website

Former students of Brunel University will soon be able to access an updated website bringing more information and services to our alumni.

The original alumni website was designed and maintained by a former student here, Robert Turner. Despite the fact that he left Brunel some time ago, Robert has continued to keep an eye on the website for us. However, the University is currently expanding its range of alumni services and the redeveloped website is a key part of this. The new website will aim to keep you up-to-date with all the exciting

developments taking place at the University and provide you with a raft of useful facilities. We will offer services such as a merchandise shop, career advice and useful contacts.

As some of you may remember, we had to withdraw the Where Are They Now? list of email addresses from the website in 2002, as it was being used without our permission by spam emailers. It was with great regret that we did this as the email address list was one of the most popular features of the site. Our new website aims to resurrect this by placing the information within a secure area, accessible only to bona fide Brunelians. There will also be a secure facility to keep us informed of your details to ensure that we do not lose touch.

We hope to have the new site ready to go live by the Autumn, and will be circulating details closer to the time. If you wish to receive details by email, or if you have any suggestions for other things the site could carry, please contact us at [alumni@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@brunel.ac.uk).



### PVC for External Relations and Development

Professor Steve Hodkinson heads up the new Directorate of External Relations and Development, of which alumni activity is an integral part. Now Pro-Vice-Chancellor, many of you will remember Steve as Head of the Department of Education where he still maintains an active role.

Steve also leads Brunel's Community involvement.

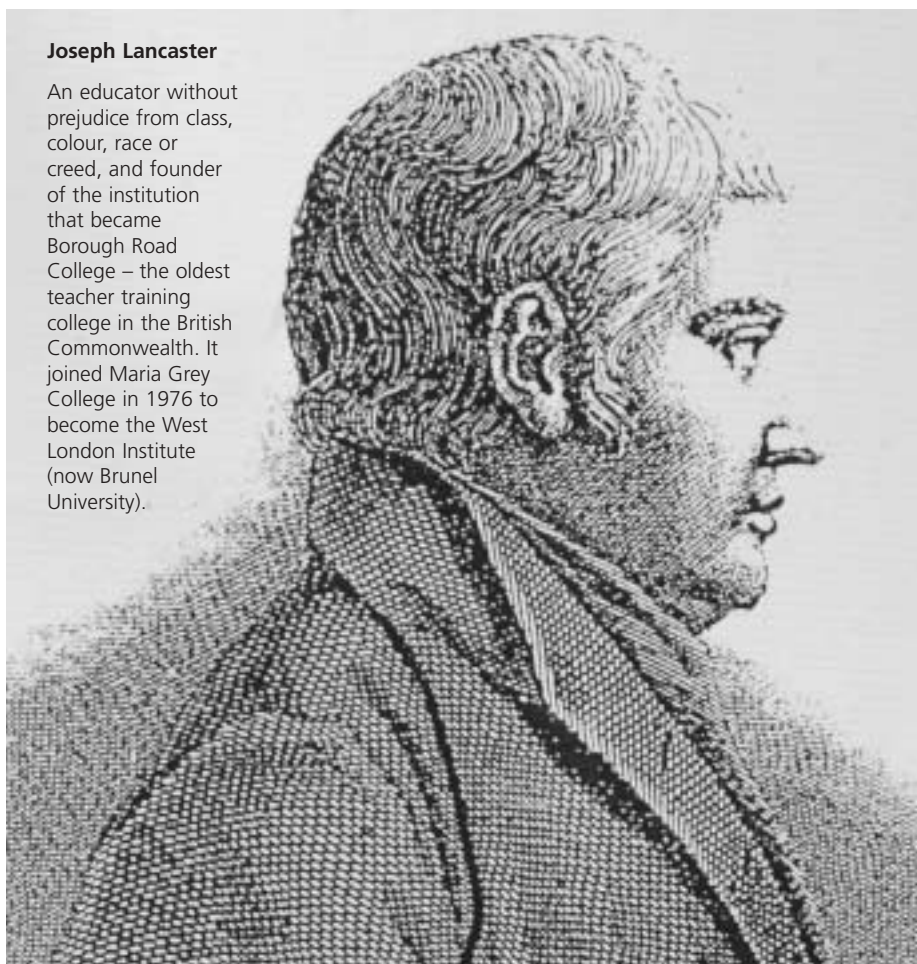
### Thanks to Robert

Robert Turner (Maths 1991) designed and created the Brunel Alumni web pages in 1995 and has been maintaining them on a voluntary basis even after he left Brunel's Computer Centre some three years ago. We were one of the first UK Alumni Offices to use the web in this way and many other UK universities used the ideas which Robert had set up and regularly sought advice from him.

As Clive Gee, Brunel's new Research and Information Manager (shown below), External Relations, takes over the Alumni pages from Robert, we would like to say a very special 'thank you' to Robert for all his time and expertise on this project. Our good wishes go to him, his wife Katherine (Electrical Engineering 1993) and their two children.

### Joseph Lancaster

An educator without prejudice from class, colour, race or creed, and founder of the institution that became Borough Road College – the oldest teacher training college in the British Commonwealth. It joined Maria Grey College in 1976 to become the West London Institute (now Brunel University).



## £14m Boost for Research

The University's vision of becoming a research-led institution is being spearheaded by the £14m investment that will see the creation of up to 60 new research-led academic posts between 2001 and 2007 and a number of new interdisciplinary research centres.

By bringing together individuals and small groups with a range of skills and perspectives, the University believes they will be able to tackle larger and more complex issues than was previously possible. The three that have already been set up are achieving this very successfully:

- *Child Focused Research*
- *Enterprise, Sustainability and Ethics*
- *Analysis of Risk and Optimisation Modelling Applications*

## Huge Advances in RAE

Following the RAE report in December 2001, the University saw a 33% rise in overall performance from the combined 1996 Brunel and West London Institute of Higher Education results (the two institutions merged in 1996 but were assessed independently). Six submissions were graded at five and eight at four, with all of the subjects graded 1 and 2 in 1996 graded 3a or above.

*"Our performance showed a tremendous improvement in quality since 1996"* said Vice-Principal, Professor Sarhadi. *"It represents a 203% improvement in terms of staff in submissions graded at 4 and above."*

Research carried out in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences showed that children prefer to walk to school, as it increases their freedom to make friends, thus destroying the myth that they prefer the comfort and ease of being chauffeur-driven.

Brunel topped *The Guardian's* table of world research in environmental sciences.

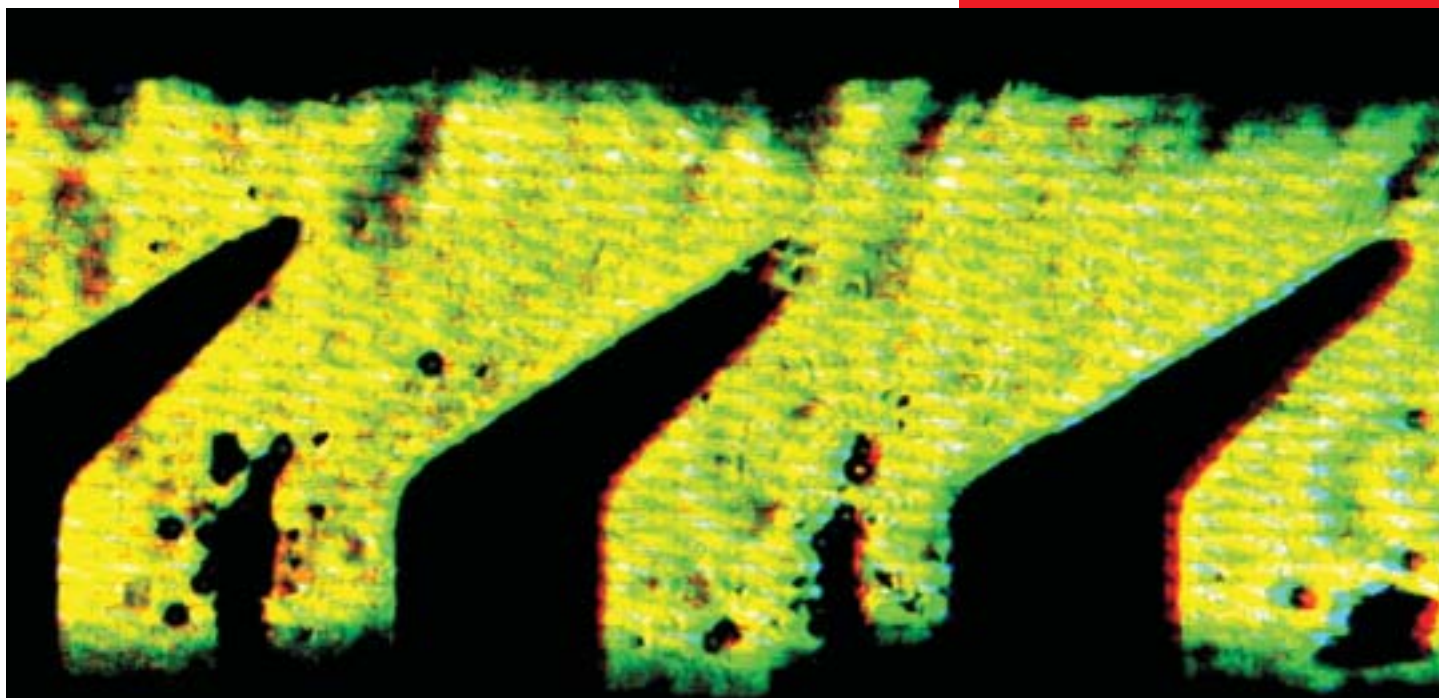
## Cancer Research Still Making the News

Research in the *Department of Biological Sciences* into human cancer genetics has led to major advances in the search for cures of breast, skin and prostate cancers. Researchers recently had a major and highly-publicised breakthrough with the discovery of a genetic switch that controls an enzyme called telomerase which allows cancerous cells to divide and spread forever. The discovery could lead to new treatments to restore mortality to many common cancers.

Lead researcher, Professor Rob Newbold, is setting up a Europe-wide collaboration between research institutes and pharmaceutical companies to design drugs that will exploit this new discovery and stop telomerase from being activated in cancer cells.

**For news of an exciting bequest to this important research project, see page 11.**





## Technology Coming to the Aid of the Patient

Researchers in *Systems Engineering* have developed the world's first point-of-care diagnostics kit that provides an instant diagnosis on patient samples at the moment of testing. The 'doctor-on-a-chip' kit is a re-useable computer chip that allows users to control its functions, as well as collect and process data. This means that tests on a number of different fragments can be performed within a short time by relatively unskilled staff. The chip is cheap to mass-produce, is sterile and disposable, and should have far-reaching effects for the detection and early warning of potentially fatal illnesses.



## Music to Run By

A team led by Dr Costas Karageorghis, *Sport Sciences*, won the Barclays Bank Award for Commercial Innovation at the London Business Innovation Awards Ceremony last year for his innovative product, *Tracktones*. Research in that Department has shown that, in repetitive activities such as running, music can divert attention from sensations of fatigue. But a percentage of health club membership turnover is due to unsatisfactory and de-motivating broadcast music. The Tracktones device delivers pre-programmed, scientifically selected, motivational music to small wireless receivers and headphones and enable the user to move freely around the entire health club listening to their own choice of music.



## A Vision of the Future

**B**runel University is embarking on a £100 million revamp of its Uxbridge campus in order to improve the teaching, learning, living and working environment for students, staff and the community. The developments will include new buildings for teaching and accommodation, as well as enhanced sport and arts facilities.

### Better Facilities

We have already begun a major refurbishment of the Uxbridge Campus, with improvements to lecturing facilities, residential accommodation and our sports facilities. This includes better access, teaching aids and facilities for disabled students. Future developments will see new facilities for performing arts, an improved and expanded library, and an expanded Students' Union (with catering and retail amenities). Further new student accommodation will be built deep within the campus to contain noise and disturbance. And there will be heavy investment in sport - see opposite.

### Investing in Sport

We have already invested £6.5 million in developing performance-quality track and field facilities, turf and all-weather pitches and courts. But we have also been successful in securing Lottery funding through Sport England for a new state-of-the-art indoor athletics centre on the Uxbridge Campus.

### Departments Move to Uxbridge

An important step in the realisation of our Master Plan is the phased disposal of the Twickenham and Osterley Campuses and the transfer of all our activities to the Uxbridge Campus. Following the sale of the Twickenham Campus, *Sport Sciences* moved to refurbished accommodation at Uxbridge (above) in August 2002, and the Social Work section of the *Department of Health and Social Care* relocated to the Osterley Campus last Autumn, uniting members of that Department for the first time. The last department located at Twickenham, *Education*, will transfer to Uxbridge in 2005.

The London Borough of Hounslow has prepared a Planning Brief for the Osterley Campus that sets out the objectives for the future use of the site, and this will be taken to public consultation in Spring 2003.



Visual of new  
Library Annex





Above: Jamie Quarry  
(Sport Sciences),  
Decathlon

Far Left: Abiodun  
Oyepitan (Politics),  
Women's 4x100m

Left: Karen Roberts  
(Materials  
Technology), Judo  
U63kg

## A New Era for Sport at Brunel

In August, the talents and resources of our sporting students and staff came together on one campus for the first time when the Department of Sport Sciences moved to the Uxbridge Campus. As if to celebrate this union, sport at Brunel received another boost in August with the announcement that Sport England had offered Stage 1 Lottery support to the development of extensive indoor athletics training facilities.

The new indoor training centre, which will form an integral part of Brunel's redevelopment of its sporting provision on the Uxbridge site, will be part of the English Institute of Sport (EIS) network. The University and UK Athletics are keen to ensure that the centre will have a dual role as a year-round training environment for elite athletes and also as the focus for community, school and club athletics throughout West London.

As part of EIS, the centre will offer world class strength and conditioning, sports science and sports medicine support for elite athletes across a range of sports. Up to seven full-time EIS staff will be based at the University, working with Brunel and national governing bodies in several

key sports to enhance our culture of sporting excellence - for example netball, basketball, hockey and football.

UK Athletics Chief Executive, David Moorcroft said: "This will transform the training environment for our athletes in West London. Elite athletes will benefit from specialist support within the excellence culture at Brunel, while school and club athletes will be able to train all year round and be inspired by the international athletes sharing the facilities."



The first phase  
of the new  
sports facilities  
will come on  
stream by the  
end of 2003.

### Games Medal Haul

Brunel was strongly represented at the **2002 Commonwealth Games** in Manchester last Summer with 30 past or present students competing.

**Karen Roberts** (Materials Technology graduate) won gold in the judo U63kg category, adding to British titles and a world bronze medal. She is now taking a break from her PhD in Materials at Brunel to train full-time for the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

**Sean Baldock** (Sport Sciences) anchored the English 4x400m team to victory over their Welsh rivals, who included Brunel alumnus and former Commonwealth and European champion **Iwan Thomas**. **Phillips Idowu** took silver in the triple-jump, and **Jo Ellis** and **Kate Walsh** (all Sport Sciences) narrowly missed out on gold with the England hockey team after they were defeated by India's 'golden goal'. Ellis was described by the *Sunday Times* as "one of the most formidable and talented defenders in the world."

**Jamie Quarry** (Sport Sciences, Decathlon), **Shani Anderson** (Design) and **Abiodun Oyepitan** (Politics), both women's 4x100m, completed the Brunel medal haul.

## Keeping Involved

### “Uxbridge: the Home of Brunel University”

One local resident suggested that this be the new strapline for Uxbridge in a letter to the *Uxbridge Gazette*, reflecting the goodwill towards the University of many of our neighbours. The Uxbridge community has contributed greatly to our success – many work here, large numbers of students are from the local area and we know that many use our sports facilities, attend musical events, join arts classes and represent local issues on our governing bodies. We value this support and the links we have with residents, businesses and institutions in the area, and have communicated widely on the proposed developments and plans for the University's future.

Many of our alumni are settled in the region, too, and there are lots of opportunities for you to stay in touch, whether it is socially, to use our ever-improving facilities or to help our current students.



## Facilities and Activities

You can read about fast-developing sports facilities elsewhere in this magazine (see pages 8 and 9) but don't forget that we have a state-of-the-art gym and weight training facility, squash, badminton and 5-a-side courts and numerous fitness classes, solarium, treatment and therapy facilities, too.

The Uxbridge campus is now also home to the National League *London United* basketball team, which offers coaching to kids before tip-off.

In the Arts, you can get a flavour of the events we offer on pages 18 and 19. Do take advantage of the excellent concerts and recitals, student recitals and performances, art exhibitions and practical art classes. Check out the Arts Centre website at [www.brunel.ac.uk/depts/arts/page.htm](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/depts/arts/page.htm)

Then there are public lectures and seminars, degree shows and, of course, reunions.



## Helping our Current Students

You know from experience that Brunel students benefit from learning the practical applications of what they study, many through the sandwich systems but also through short-term and extra-curricular opportunities. You may be interested in helping a Brunel student in one of a variety of ways.

Brunel's newly-established *Science Shop* matches undergraduate and postgraduate students to local projects which they undertake voluntarily, but the projects can count towards their final degree.

The Careers Service *Job Shop* also goes from strength to strength, advertising opportunities in local businesses for current students – over 15,000 adverts being posted on the Brunel website in the first year of operation.



Brunel student Jaima was involved in a community project organised by the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences.

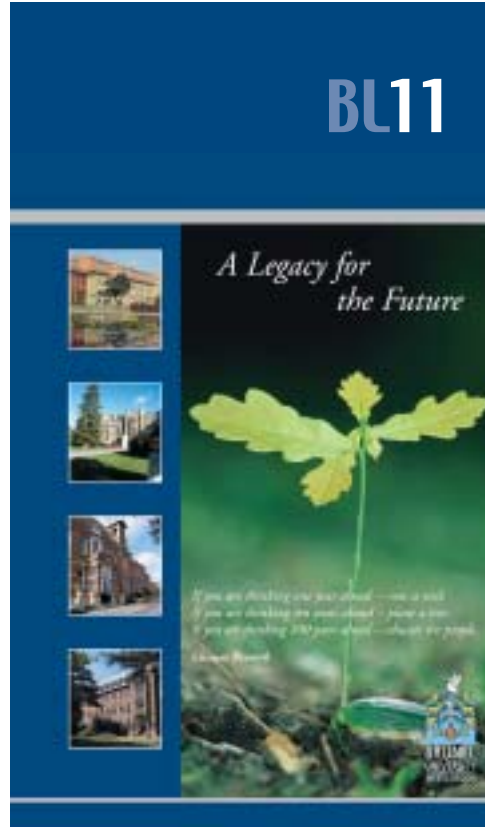
## Make a Long-term Difference – Make a Legacy

Browsing through the local *Uxbridge Gazette* newspaper, we came across a solicitor's notice asking for organisations involved in cancer research to apply for funds left for this purpose in the will of a local schoolteacher.

As a result, Professor Rob Newbold, Head of Brunel's Institute of Cancer Genetics and Pharmacogenomics Group, invited the solicitors to visit the unit to see at first hand the research work in progress (see below).

Following this visit, we are delighted to report that the Institute was awarded the sum of £14,000 which is going towards the cost of a PhD researcher.

The University has recently produced a legacy leaflet. If you think you may wish to contribute to the work of University in this way, we will be happy to send you a copy of this leaflet or feel free to discuss a possible legacy, in strictest confidence, with Sue Curley, Alumni Officer on (01895) 203364.



## Switch to Cancer's Immortality

Researchers in the Department of Biological Sciences have discovered a genetic switch that allows cancerous cells to divide and spread forever. The switch controls an enzyme called telomerase. In normal cells, the regulating gene is tightly packaged and coiled and the switch is off, so the enzyme is not produced and the cells eventually stop dividing. Cancerous cells, though, continue to divide indefinitely. With a greater understanding of how tumours activate telomerase, it should be possible to develop drugs that target this process and stop them from growing and dividing indefinitely.



## Brunel's City of London Link

Calling all Brunel Alumni who work or live in easy reach of the City of London.

On the last Thursday of each month, beginning on Thursday, 25 September 2003, between 6pm and 8pm we will be gathering at the "The Knight's Templar" pub in Chancery Lane WC2A. Do come along to meet up with old friends and to network with other Brunelians working in the City.

It would be helpful if you could please e-mail Sue Curley (sue.curley@brunel.ac.uk) to let us know if you plan to attend, so that Gerry the landlord has an idea how many bar staff will be required. The pub also does food.

We very much look forward to seeing you there.

## Meeting Up With Old Friends

All the departments here are keen to hear from their past students. And from time-to-time you can be reunited with your old friends and contemporaries through reunions (see opposite for some forthcoming opportunities).

## New Route PhD

Brunel was one of a number of English universities selected to offer a prestigious new type of PhD programme. Supported by the UK national research, quality and funding agencies, this programme aims to educate graduates not only to the high academic standards expected from PhD research but also in generic personal, business and communication skills.



## Quality Mark for Student Union Advisers

The *Information and Advice Service* of the Union of Brunel Students (UBS) was awarded the Community Legal Service Quality Mark in recognition of its high standards in student advice work. The CLS Quality Mark is a national standard awarded to law centres, advice centres and solicitors firms. At present there are approximately ten student unions in the UK who have achieved the Quality Mark for general help, but the UBS is one of the first to reach the Quality Mark through its casework in addition to the general help category.



## Good News



The new *University Graduate School* opened its doors to the outside world last October, as **Margaret Hodge, MP** (above), the Minister for Higher Education, paid a visit to the Uxbridge campus. Every postgraduate student is a member of the School, which has both an academic and pastoral role and provides a physical environment that acts both as a social and an intellectual meeting point for graduate students.

## Near-perfect Teaching

The quality of our courses is one of the key factors in attracting the best students and the University was delighted at the end of 2001 with three scores of 23 out of 24 points from the Quality Assurance Agency for *Education, Government and Sport Sciences*. These successes were reinforced in 2002 from several independent and influential sources. For example, both *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Times* rated Brunel as "excellent" in 13 different teaching areas. The former ranked the University in its First Division of institutions, which included the likes of Exeter, Manchester and Cardiff. The latter listed the University as second for sport, behind Bath but ahead of Loughborough.

## Top Names Grace Brunel Stage



The *Arts Centre's* programme of evening concerts attracted some of the biggest names in the music world for some truly excellent performances. Last November, we welcomed the internationally-renowned **Felipe Browne**, following sell-out performances at London's Wigmore Hall, Town Hall, Brussels, and Klinka Hall, Moscow. The Chopin recital he brought to Brunel had previously drawn huge critical acclaim in Washington. Later the same month, the **Maggini String Quartet** (left), who had recently topped the classical music charts, also 'played' Brunel. They have been 'Artists in Association' with Brunel's Arts Centre for the last three years.



## A Clockwork Orange – not!

Scenes from a new major Bollywood feature film *Indian Baboo* (shown above) were filmed in the Lecture Centre and the reception of Wilfred Brown during April 2002.

The film, produced by Himalaya Motion Pictures of Southall, brought a crew of 45, with 30 extras, to the Uxbridge Campus for several intensive days of filming. The film was released in December.

Brunel has been a popular film location since it first 'appeared' in *A Clockwork Orange* 35 years ago. More recently, the Uxbridge campus was used many times in the *Inspector Morse* series.

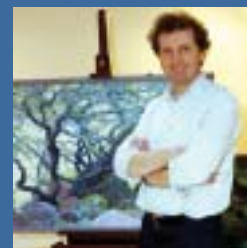
## The 'Business' of Brunel

Brunel's business and enterprise activities are core elements in the University's vision. Along with many other initiatives, the *Brunel Enterprise Centre* put the finishing touches to the commercial structure that allows Brunel to form its own 'spin-out' companies and participate in joint ventures and 'spin-in' opportunities with outside organisations.

We also saw the *Partnership for Applied Research and Knowledge (PARK)* launched in November 2002 - a joint collaboration between Brunel and Royal Holloway University of London that was financed as the result of a successful £570k bid to HEFCE. A new initiative for creating hi-tech business in the 'Heathrow corridor', the aim of PARK is to forge a strong network in the West London area with up to 300 business members, and to engage in research and development projects and commercial joint ventures. Despite its recent formation, PARK has already received a £250k grant from the London Development Agency towards a £1million a PARK spin-out company seedcorn fund, supported by major partners such as KPMG, Thales Corporate Ventures and HSBC.



## Artist Hung at the Castle



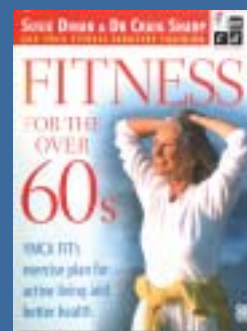
**Alan Bennett**, Deputy Head of Brunel's Arts Centre and Curator of the Beldam Gallery, had a solo

exhibition of his paintings in St George's Chapel and Dean's Cloister at Windsor Castle in 2002. Alan, who has lived in Hillingdon and worked at Brunel University since 1969, showed 11 paintings in the Chapel and a further 28 in the Dean's Cloister.



**Professor Y H Song**, Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, was awarded the Higher

Doctorate of Science (DSc) by Brunel for his significant contribution to power systems knowledge and research. A Higher Doctorate is the top degree an academic can receive. Professor Song joined Brunel in 1997 as one of Britain's youngest engineering professors, aged 33.



**Professor Craig Sharp**, Department of Sport Sciences, was awarded the 2002 *International Olympic Council (IOC) 2002 Sport and Well-*

*being trophy*. Professor Sharp, a leading physiologist, gave support to the British Gymnastics team, as well as advising the British Olympic Association World Class Team. An expert on ageing and exercise, Professor Sharp's new book *Fitness for the Over 60s* was published last October.

## Congratulations to Brunel Alumni reported in the press



**Harriet Kelsall,**  
Design 1993  
Award winning  
jewellery designer.

**Paul Burns,** Chemistry 1986  
Currently Marketing Manager at the Institute of Packaging.

**Jody Chapman,** Design 2000  
Given an award from the Audi Foundation for his pedal-powered waterbike Swerve, Jody also appeared in the C4 *Shipwrecked* documentary.

**Felicity Collier,** Government 1994  
Director of the British Association for Adoption and Fostering.

**Mike Coughlan,**  
Mechanical Engineering 1981  
Joined McLaren International as Chief Designer and assumed responsibility for transmission and rear end integration.



**Toni McConville,**  
Communication Technology  
MA 1997  
Appointed Director of  
Communications,  
London Borough of Brent.

**Phil Cowley,**  
Government 1992, SU President  
Book entitled *Revolts and Rebellions* launched at Politico's, Westminster.

**Joe (David) Ferry,** Design 1993  
Appointed Head of Design for Virgin Atlantic.

**Nicholas Khan,**  
Drama and English 1992  
Continued successes with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

**Ken MacLeod,** Mechanical Engineering MPhil 1976-1988  
Successful science fiction author.

**Margaret McDonagh,**  
Government 1985  
Now General Manager of *Express Newspapers* following her previous role as general secretary to the Labour party.



**Dr John Shepherd,**  
Borough Road  
Launch at the TUC of his book  
*George Lansbury, at the heart of  
old Labour.*

**Ralph McNeill,**  
Education and Design, 1986  
Creating new safety glass for trains allowing quick safe escape in case of accident.

**Professor Gerry Musgrave,** former Head of Electrical Engineering  
Invention of an environmentally friendly compressor, a quarter of the size of conventional equipment, using technology developed at Brunel and Corac engineering company on Brunel Science Park.



**Andy Stubbs,**  
Management Studies 1996  
Uxbridge Town  
Centre Manager.

**Professor John O'Reilly,**  
Electrical Engineering 1969, DSc  
Appointed Chief Executive of the EPSRC.

**Michael Olowokandi,**  
Mechanical Engineering  
Los Angeles Clippers major basketball player.

**Darshana Soni,**  
Social Anthropology 1997  
BBC Television news reporter.

**Ralph Tabberer,**  
PGCE Education 1977  
Appointed Head of the Teacher Training Agency.

**Dr Sian Thomas,** Biology PhD 1988  
Appointed new Head of Research Policy at HEFCE.



**Bindya Solanki,**  
Drama and RE 1995  
Played the role of  
Nita in *Eastenders.*

**Revd Robin Tree,** Advanced Manufacturing Systems 2000  
Appointed vicar of St Mary's Hampden Park, Lewes.

**Christopher Trinick,** Public and Social Administration 1984  
Appointed Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council.

**Shailesh Vara,** Law 1984  
Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party.

**Claire Ward,** Government MA 1995  
Labour MP for Watford, now engaged to John Simpson. The wedding will be held in the crypt of the House of Commons in September.



It isn't just in the sporting arena that our student and alumni hit the headlines (see pages 9 and 17).

Here are just a few of the achievements from across the rest of the University.

## Sword Fit for a Queen

Systems Engineering student **Kieron Roe**, who is nearing completion of his final year, played an important part in the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations last year when he was asked to help design the commemorative sword presented to Her Majesty by Wilkinson Sword, appointed sword-makers to the Queen.

Kieron was on work placement as a production engineer with Wilkinson Sword at the time and the company picked up from his CV that he also had a talent for art. He had to visit the Freemasons Halls in London to make an artist's impression of the sword and they liked his work so much that he ended up designing the etchings to decorate the blade and producing most of the artwork.

The design shows a floral filigree comprising roses, thistles, daffodils and shamrocks that represent the four corners of the UK. The sword itself has a 24-carat gold and rock crystal hilt encrusted with 8-carat pave-set diamonds, rubies and lapis lazuli. It is worth an estimated £50,000 and went on display as part of the Royal Collection.



## Design Students and Graduates

Design students had their work showcased last year at the Fisher-Price Toy Design Show, and **Michael Cohen** (shown near left with *Tomorrow's World's* Philippa Forrester) won the first prize of £1,200 and a Summer work placement in New York.

**Rebekka Peterson**, 2002 graduate (shown far left), won the coveted *Tomorrow's World* Best Invention prize in December, for her final year project – a computer-controlled plant pot that continually monitors plant moisture and temperature levels, alerting owners via its built-in sound module if readings fall too low. Absent owners can check on their plants from anywhere in the world and programme waterings via their telephone keypad. Rebekka, is now exploring other applications of the technology such as monitoring household pets while their owners are away.

Another 2002 graduate, **Ben Griffin**, made the news with his Freshwater Fish - an innovative approach to keeping swimming pools free from bacteria and algae. Powered by solar panels, the fish releases ions that clean the water, removing the need for chlorination. When it runs out of power, it floats on the surface to recharge. Once charged, the fish automatically 'wakes up' and continues to swim around."

**David Hunt** (also a 2002 graduate) made a splash with his RISE alarm clock. The clock can be connected to the web via a normal telephone line and retrieves relevant travel information based on facts supplied by the user (where they live, where they need to travel to, and what time they have to be there). The clock will then work out what time to wake you - letting you lie in if traffic is light, but getting you out of bed earlier if there are problems on your route.





## A Successful Formula

Mechanical Engineering students from Brunel won several prizes at the prestigious **Formula Student 2002 competition**. The Brunel Racing Team was named Best UK Class 1 Team, and also scooped the Cosworth Racing Prize (for the Best Use of Engine Technology with the Installation and Integration of the Car). The team was also runner-up in the Best Wiring Harness on Race Car category.

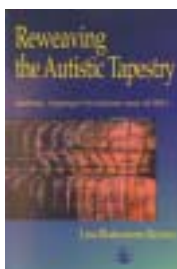
A member of the Brunel team now working for Jaguar Cars Ltd, **Elizabeth Wood** (pictured below), went on to win the prestigious Vehicle Technology Prize awarded by the Institute of Vehicle Engineers for her final year project.



## Sporting Successes off the Field

**Pip Pickering** (main picture), Modern Drama Studies graduate, has just directed and designed *Who's Harry* at the Pleasance Theatre, London. Other directing credits include *The Vortex*, *Anna Karenina* and *The Real Inspector Hound*.

**Lee Mack**, winner of the *Time Out* Comedy Award and Brunel graduate in Drama and Film/TV, performing in the Union, one of the venues on the Carlsberg Ice Comedy circuit.



**Lisa Blakemore-Brown**, Psychology graduate, has set up the *Tapestry for Life Centre* on Brunel's Science Park. A specialist in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism and Asperger Syndrome, the Centre takes its name from her ground-breaking book *Reweaving the Autistic Tapestry*.

**Archana Panjabi** (known as Archie Punjabi), Management Studies 1996, has been making her name in a string of highly successful films and television roles - *East is East*, *Bend it Like Beckham*, *White Teeth* and, most recently, the BBC 3 drama series *Grease Monkeys*. She is soon to take the lead in a major UK feature film and will be travelling out to India on location for ten weeks.

We hope to have a full feature on Archie in the next issue of Link, when we follow up on her part in what is tipped to be one of the biggest British films of 2003.







## More Sporting Honours

**Mark Hatton** (Sport Sciences 1995) British record holder, luge and, at 86.7mph, Britain's fastest ever Olympics participant in 2002 (pictured bottom right);

**James Cracknell** (Sport Sciences), rowing world champion in coxed and coxless pairs 2002;

**Richard Hill** (Sport Sciences), Rugby Union, British Lion, Australia 2001, and member of the grand slam winning England team 2003;

**Jeze Hood** (Design) British Gliding Champion 2001;

**Abidoun Oyepitan** (Politics) 100m gold medallist at the World University Games 2001, received the 2002 *UK Athletics Sybil Abrahams Memorial Trophy* for best U23 Female;

**Ryan Westaway** (Sport Sciences Year 2) set a new British record of 4819 points, and set five personal bests in a three-way international indoor heptathlon (seven events) against France and Spain in February this year (main picture);

**BUSA Rugby Union Champions** in 2002, Brunel's third victory in the nine years since the competition began;

**Jason Holmes** (Electronic and Computer Engineering Year 4) won the BUSA individual gold in 2002 in Karate;

**Robert Grimwood** (Mechanical Engineering with Aeronautics Year 2) became British National Microlight Champion in 2002 (pictured top right);

**Audley Harrison** (Sport Sciences 1999) remains unbeaten in his professional heavyweight boxing career. The University awarded him an honorary degree "in recognition of his services to the University and for his spectacular achievement at the Sydney Olympics" immediately after a weigh-in ceremony at the Osterley Campus prior to his ninth fight (pictured centre right).

**Michael Caulfield**, 2002 MSc Sport Sciences graduate, was awarded the prize for the *Best Student Oral Presentation* at the 12th Commonwealth International Sport Conference at Manchester in July 2002. Michael, who is also executive manager of the Jockeys' Association of Great Britain, has since been deluged with requests from the media to talk about his work which illustrated the dire consequences that "wasting" or rapid weight loss can have on the psychological state of jockeys.

Sport Sciences PhD student, **Dean Allen**, won the *Rienhard Sprenger Award* for a junior scholar in sport history from the International Society for the History of Physical Education and Sport (ISHPES). Dean submitted a paper entitled *Beating Them At Their Own Game: Rugby, The Anglo-Boer War And Afrikaner Nationalism, 1899-1948* which has been accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Sports History* and will also be published in *Stadion* - a refereed sport history journal based in Germany.



Brunel hosts many and various lectures, shows, seminars, exhibitions and student events to which our graduates are always very welcome. These were just some of the treats on offer in the last 12 months or so.

## House Thrown Open

The two-week celebration of new work, **Open House**, has become an established and popular date in the Brunel calendar. Hosted by the Department of Performing Arts in association with the Arts Centre, highlights included a variety of drama-based performance ranging from short innovative pieces by second year Drama students to work by *Optik*, Brunel's renowned performance research group. Another exciting event, *Rockin in Rhythm*, brought together the Performing Arts choir, *Jazzbridge*, and vocal group *Voxtet* in an evening of gospel, blues and jazz.



## Music for Free

The *Arts Centre's* popular free lunch-time music series showcases the work of visiting professionals and Brunel staff and students throughout the year. In January, members of the *Department of Performing Arts*, for example, premiered seven pieces by members of staff and postgraduate students - all of which had been especially composed for the occasion. In contrast, the **Brindisi Piano Trio** took the stage with a Schubert recital in November.

## Top Flight Public Lectures

**Professor Baroness Susan Greenfield** gave the Brunel University/Hillingdon Hospital Lecture entitled *The Brain of the Future* in April. The neurobiologist, who is the first female director of the Royal Institution, spoke to over 100 people.

**Denise Kingsmill** CBE Deputy Chairman of the Competition Commission, presented the HSBC Lecture in October. Entitled *Get a Life: The Changing Face of the Workplace*, it drew on her experiences in trade union law and equal opportunities as well as the Competition Commission. Ms Kingsmill (pictured top right) took over the role of Brunel's Pro-Chancellor in place of Hugh Try in April.

**Professor Heinz Wolff** (middle right) presented the 2003 Brunel Lecture in March, arriving on stage on a rocket-powered skateboard! The Emeritus Professor from Brunel's *Institute for Bioengineering* talked about *Gallimaufry – a Distillation of Challenging Ideas about our Society Combined with Dignified Scientific Entertainment*, an anthology of thoughts and ideas collected during Professor Wolff's long and varied career.

## Diary of events

### Complete Beethoven

Free lunch-time Recitals on 7 October, 2 December, 17 February, 26 May (2004).

Evening concert 10 March 2004 (£6)

### Exhibitions

23 June-12 September: Susan Moin Namini, Batik Paintings and Digital Prints; From a Persian Vision to an Iranian Art.

22 September-17 October, Kathe Kollwitz: Artist of the People.

27 October-14 November: West Marshall and Anne Kari Ramberg Marshall: Ceramics and drawing.

24 November-19 December: Heidrun Rathgeb, Paints and Etchings

### Events

16 October Institution of Mechanical Engineers Lecture (Dr Joy Bhattacharya).

October (date tbc) HSBC Lecture (Hospitality Suite).

21 November Concert by the Maggini String Quartet (Howell Theatre).



The major student production in 2002 was *Cabaret* which filled the Howell Theatre for three nights in December.

### A Strong New Team

The new Director of Brunel International is Caroline Browne and she has brought together, for the first time, the three main strands of international activity under three new Heads:

- *International Student Recruitment and Marketing;*
- *International Admissions; and*
- *International Student Services.*

This experienced team is supported by a network of marketing officers and administrative staff.

### Ambitious Aims

This new 'flagship' office has the following aims:

- *to provide support for all international students (EU and non-EU) through a dedicated Student Services Team;*
- *to develop both outward and inward bound student exchanges such as Socrates/Erasmus and Junior Year Abroad;*
- *to develop collaborative arrangements with carefully selected overseas institutions leading to the provision of quality controlled and managed courses;*
- *to assist faculties in the internationalisation of their curricula; and*
- *to assist the University in raising its profile internationally.*



One of the key developments in the last year has been the establishment of a department dedicated to developing a much better service for our overseas students. The creation of Brunel International comes at a time when the University is looking to diversify its sources of income and spread its reputation for teaching and research to the widest possible audience. We are also planning to generate more opportunities for staff and student exchanges, research collaboration, and off-shore teaching.

### The Network Spreads

Many new collaborative ventures have been sealed recently and many others are nearing agreement.

#### In China....

Thanks to Professor Song (Electrical Engineering), there are now three institutions running pre-Master's foundation programmes for Brunel - Chengdu Electric Power University, North China Power, and Xi'an International Studies University. These programmes prepare students for studying in the UK, and particularly help them to improve their English language.

In the Department of Economics and Finance, 24 Chinese students joined one of the Department's undergraduate programmes for a year as part of their degree programme from Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.

#### In Egypt....

In August, the Vice-Chancellor signed a Student Academic Agreement with the Arab Academy in Alexandria, enabling qualified students to join the second year of programmes run by the Department of Information Systems and Computing.

#### More in the Far East....

Collaborative discussions began with Guangxi Education Department in China over help with teacher training and English language testing; with the UIEE in Hong Kong on the delivery of MBA programmes, and with Informatics Singapore, also on the delivery of Master's programmes.

#### And in Europe.....

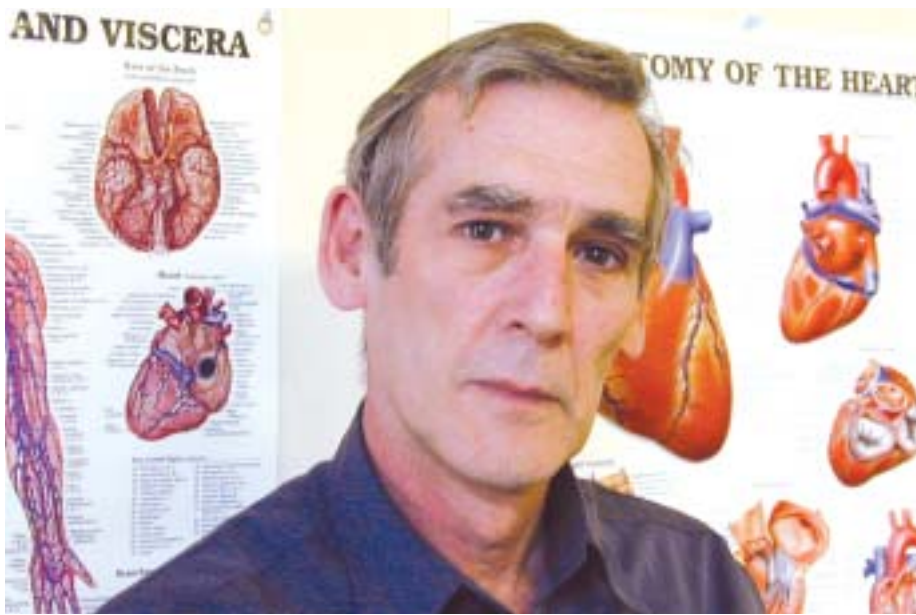
The joint delivery of postgraduate programmes is being negotiated with the Technical University of Sofia in Bulgaria and the Norwegian School of Information Technology.

#### In Australia....

Brunel's Vice-Chancellor has been active in plans to set up a feeder college on the Uxbridge Campus for students from the Australian Institute of Business and Technology to enter some of our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

#### In India....

Memoranda of Understanding on research collaboration have been signed with ITT, Bombay and Jadavpur University, Kolkata.



## From Lecturer to Entrepreneur via Brunel

**Tony Anson is an entrepreneur's entrepreneur: creative, innovative, multi-talented, open minded, charming, determined, persistent, unconventional and just full of sparkling ideas. Oh, and he is very keen on big fast bikes.....**

An engineer by training, Tony came to Brunel from the Medical Research Council with Heinz Wolff and worked on space applications for shape-memory alloys at the Brunel Institute for Bioengineering. He took the technology into the medical sphere and founded Anson Medical Ltd to develop medical shape-memory-alloy devices for cardiovascular applications. With the enormous success of this company there followed the setting up of five more, such as Asthma Alert Ltd which is based in the Brunel Enterprise Centre and is the recipient of a 2003 SMART award.

Now working on his seventh venture, Tony is committed to helping Brunel build its future and achieve its ambitious new goals. He is a generous donor and, even more important, he is generous with his time and his help – a great role model for many Brunel students. The companies he has created have created exciting jobs, given young people opportunities to help others, and created products that help alleviate medical conditions. Tony has also given back to Brunel and the Institute by setting up annual awards for graduate and postgraduate researchers, and is sponsoring a Master's in Medical Bioengineering.

Brunel University is proud to have such a successful and supportive alumnus. And his influence clearly rubs off on the graduates who now work for him if the following story is anything to go by!

### Medical Engineer from Brunel and Anson Helps Save Baby

A former Brunel undergraduate – now nearing the successful completion of his doctorate here with the help of Anson Medical sponsorship - Sukin Natarajan made the headlines in February this year when he used demonstration equipment to help save a baby's life in India. He and his cousin Dr Ramprakash used part of a balloon catheter, a device normally used in the procedure for the treatment of narrowed arteries, to resuscitate a baby close to death.

This amazing story took place on a train between Delhi and Coimbatore when they were approached by two train guards about a sick baby who was vomiting, suffering from diarrhoea and becoming severely dehydrated. They had managed to track down a medical student who had a stethoscope and a small syringe, and Sukin realised that the angioplasty balloon catheter he was carrying could help to rehydrate the baby. Dr Ramprakash cut off the balloon part of the catheter and inserted the remaining tube through the baby's nose into the stomach. Using the syringe, he was then able to deliver fluids into the child. Soon after, the baby's condition stabilised.

Sukin said of the incident: "I suppose I feel in a small way that this event has shown me that if people work together they can solve almost any problem."

## Obituaries

It is with regret that we learned of the deaths of the following Brunel alumni, students and staff.

### Alumni

#### Richard Adams

Electrical Engineering, 1981

#### David Bennett

Henley/Brunel MBA, 1994

#### Ronald Bland

Music, 1993

#### Michael Brittain

Psychology, 1967

#### Francis Croxford

Chemistry, 1971

#### Joseph Erlich

Numerical Analysis, 1971

#### Martin Dixon

Henley/Brunel MBA, 1993

#### Mr Roger Gant

Metallurgy, 1970

#### Pastor Bernard Kinman

Health Promotion, 1994

#### Deborah Knight (nee Smith)

Henley/Brunel MBA, 1994

#### Michael Lowe

Maths, 1977

#### Ruth Moody

Education, 1994

#### Andrew Morson

Material Sciences, 1991-1996

#### Alan Rowse

Physics, 1962

#### Iain Stewart

Building Services, 1993

#### Roy Walker

Mechanical Engineering, 1970

#### Paul Whitehouse

Social Sciences, 1972

#### John M Williams

MTech 1972, PhD 1983  
Maths

## Honorary Graduates

#### Richard Brooke

CEO of the EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council), and a Government advisor on university and industrial research relating to ceramic products.

#### Peter Cochrane OBE

Co-Founder Concept Laboratories.

#### Stan Davison

Member of Brunel's Council.

#### Mary Douglas

Outstanding anthropologist.

#### Elizabeth Filkin

Former Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

#### Michael Frye

The Chair of West London Leadership, and past Chair of the West London TEC.

#### David Gill

Head of Innovation and Growth Unit HSBC Bank plc.

#### Lady Sally Greengross

Former Director General of Age Concern and former West London Institute lecturer.

#### Elizabeth Grove

Fellow of the College of Occupational Therapists and alumnus.

#### Dr Norbert Hermann

Institute of Applied Mathematics University of Hannover.

#### Sir David Keene

The out-going Brunel Visitor, David left the University due to the increasing demands of his position as Lord Justice of Appeal.

#### Denise Kingsmill

The Deputy Chair of the Competition Commission and recently appointed Pro-Chancellor of the University.

#### John McGrath

Chairman, Boots plc and alumnus.

#### John Murphy

A Brunel graduate who set up St Peter's Brewery Group plc.

#### Wendy Sterling

Wife of former Vice-Chancellor.

#### Zdenek Vostracky

Rector of the University of West Bohemia (Czech Republic).

#### Ray Wild

Principal of Henley Management College, 1990 - 2000.

#### James Cracknell



A Brunel graduate (MSc Sport Sciences 99), James won gold at the 2000 Olympic Games, rowing in the coxless fours alongside five times gold medallist Steve Redgrave. He was awarded a Master of the University, *honoris causa*.

#### Eva Figes



Author and former Arts Council Creative Writing Fellow at Brunel

#### Michael Frayn



Author and playwright

#### Richard Hill



International sportsman and alumnus

#### Patricia Hodge



Award winning actress on stage and screen and Maria Grey alumna, Patricia became a household name with roles in *Rumpole of the Bailey* and Fay Weldon's *The Lives and Loves of a She Devil*. Patricia was awarded a Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.



## Honorary Fellows

Fellowships are made annually to retired staff who have given exceptional service or made a significant contribution to the development of the University, and local people or others who have established a close working relationship with the University and made a significant contribution to its development. The following individuals were recognised in 2002:

**Ruth Fogg**, formerly with the London Borough of Ealing Youth Services, for commitment and services to the University via the Centre for Youth Work Studies;

**Dr Kenneth Hale**, a former member of staff in the Department of Systems Engineering, for commitment and services to the University;

**Dr Derek Hope**, a former long-serving member of staff in the Department of Chemistry and also Head of the Counselling Service, for commitment and services to the University;

**Barry McKay**, currently at the Treasury Solicitor's Office, for commitment and services to the University in providing work placements for the Department of Law;

**Robert (Dick) Nimmo**, a former member of staff in the Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, for commitment and services to the University;

**Dr Graham Norris**, who is currently working with Nortel Networks, for commitment and services to the University, supporting Master's students in the Department of Health and Social Care;

**Diana Rodrigues**, a former long-serving member of staff in the Registry at West London Institute/Brunel University, for commitment and services to the University.

### Honorary Fellows in 2001 included:

Keith Baggs  
Margaret Baguley  
Jim Biddle  
Ken Childerhouse  
Sheila Claydon  
Bill Cole

## Obituaries

### Staff

**Joyce Bradbrook**  
Materials Science

**Ted Chandler**  
former Registrar

**Allen Dunton**  
Mechanical Engineering

**Professor Marie Jahoda**  
Social Psychology

**Professor Elliott Jaques**  
Head of School of Social Sciences 1965-1970  
Director of BLOSS 1970-85

**Ken Knight**  
Brunel Management Programme  
BLOSS

**Father Thomas Lloyd**  
former Roman Catholic Chaplain

**Leslie Miller**  
former Head of Education  
Borough Road College

**George Reed**  
Chemistry and Computer Science

**Dr George Socrates**  
Materials Engineering

**Professor Roland Terry**  
former Head of Biology

**Brian Winstanley**  
former Secretary General

### Students

**Adrian Iordatii**  
Economics and Business Finance

**Frederick Osano**  
Electrical Engineering

**Shola Shobowale**  
Economics and Business Finance

### 'Race into Parliament'

This conference was held in April 2002 at the Uxbridge campus as a tribute to Paul Nicholls, 1978 Law Alumnus, past President of the Students Union. After leaving Brunel, Paul worked for the Commission for Racial Equality Council. See [www.raceintoparliament.org.uk](http://www.raceintoparliament.org.uk) for more information.

A man in a top hat and suit, possibly a historical figure, standing in a crowd. The image is overlaid with a red and blue gradient.

# Brunel's Investment in the Future

The goal of university education is to help build a fairer, more just society. It aims to improve the quality of life not just of those who directly benefit as graduates but, through them, the people whom they work for as engineers, nurses, inventors, teachers, environmentalists, sports coaches, managers, artists, mentors and citizens.

Brunel is drawing deep on its heritage to become a new kind of university, more rooted in service to its community, and uniquely offering a combination of intellectual rigour and the practical skills that can turn ideas into reality.

We are planning four major new Institutes to help focus our research and build capacity in areas critical to the quality of life and the well-being of our society and our economy:

- *Engineering Innovation and Enterprise;*
- *Health and Society;*
- *Environmental Excellence; and*
- *Coaching and Performance.*

As part of the development of our campuses, we aim to create local cultural, multi-faith and health centres. We want to build serious endowments to offer scholarships for exceptional young people so that they can fulfil their sporting and academic potential without being held back by financial or other disadvantage. And we want to develop the talents of the very bright who may not be fulfilling their potential because of their deprived backgrounds.

Brunel University is looking forward with ambition and enthusiasm. We have heard you say that you are proud of Brunel and the heritage of its constituent colleges - and that you want us to keep improving our standing, performance and reputation. We need your help, your active participation through donations of your time and money, your advocacy and your ideas if we are to make this happen.

**Kitty Chisholm**  
Director of Development