



# School of Sport and Education

## December 2011 Newsletter



### Let's Get Physical!

Drs Heather Mendick, Dawn Leslie and Rob Toplis from Education have secured £10K from the Institute of Physics. The grant will be used to evaluate the parent and pupil experience of their Ethnic Diversity Pilot Project. This provided interventions designed to promote the take-up of physics by young people from ethnic minority backgrounds. The evaluation will be carried out between December 2011 and July 2012 and involves surveys of the 70 pupils who are part of the project and of their parents, and six focus groups with pupils. While the focus is on ethnicity, the researchers will also examine gender differences in pupils' responses to the interventions. The work builds on Dr Mendick's previous studies exploring

social justice issues in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), Dr Leslie's physics outreach work and Dr Toplis's research into young people's attitudes to science.

Dr Mendick, a Reader in Education, also gave a presentation at an ESRC-funded seminar on 22 November. The address was the endpoint for a series entitled 'Young Women in Movement' and was focussed on issues of science and technology. Her talk entitled 'Becca and Gerry in Movement: clever girls, happiness and mathematics' was particularly well received.



### Editorial

The last couple of months have seen a flurry of activity in terms of research output, impact and external profile. New books have been released by Drs Deborah Jones (Education) and Thomas Korff (Sport Sciences) while grants have been won by a number of staff from across the School. Also, many colleagues have been invited to give presentations or keynote speeches at prestigious events in the UK and further afield – like Japan! There is much outstanding work to reflect upon and be proud of during this festive season. I hope that you can find some time to relax with your loved ones and recharge the batteries after a busy autumn term. 2012 is sure to bring many new challenges.



A very merry Christmas to one and all!

Costas Karageorghis  
Deputy Head of School (Research)



## Dr Deborah Jones Vancouver Bound *and* a New Book!

Congratulations are in order for Dr Deborah Jones, who has been awarded this year's 'exceptional conference funding' in Education (£1000) for the American Educational Research Association (AERA) meeting in Vancouver, Canada in April 2012. AERA is the most

prominent international professional organization, with the primary goal of advancing educational research and its practical application. Additionally, Dr Jones has written a new book untitled: 'Unlocking Speaking and Listening' to be used as a resource to help both trainee

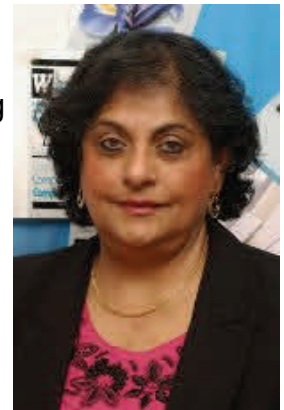
and practising teachers understand and promote the importance of speaking and listening as an effective tool for learning across the primary curriculum. The book aims to address a recognised need by tackling key issues with rigour, depth and a strong focus on research.

## Professor Koshy's Munster Munch

Professor Valsa Koshy, director of the Brunel Able Children's Education Centre (BACE), has been invited to deliver a prestigious keynote speech in Germany in September 2012. This will take

place at the 13th European Children of High Ability (ECHA) International Conference and the 4th Münstersche Bildungskongress. Her presentation, which will

be given at Munster University, is entitled 'Nurturing talent: Teachers using action research for generating practical knowledge'.



## Yakety Yak for Dr Carl Hulston

Congratulations to Dr Carl Hulston (Centre for Sports Medicine and Human Performance) on a recent £4000 grant from Yakult. The funds will support a pilot study entitled 'Effect of Yakult ingestion on diet-induced insulin



resistance in humans'. Dr Hulston was also invited to give a talk entitled 'Train low, compete high: Maximising adaptation through diet' at the Sports Dieticians UK CPD event on 1 December.

## New POWERbreathe developed by Professor Alison McConnell

The latest model in the market-leading POWERbreathe range of breathing muscle trainers was launched last



week, thanks to the innovative research of Professor Alison McConnell from the Centre for Sports Medicine and Human Performance. The revolutionary POWERbreathe K-Series is the culmination of two Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and

collaboration with colleagues in the School of Engineering and Design. The new POWERbreathe links to a PC to provide realtime feedback as you train! Professor McConnell has posted a blog about the product, which can be viewed at <http://blog.breathestrong.com>.



## Dr Korff is a *Motor Control Freak*

Dr Thomas Korff's new edited book 'Paediatric Biomechanics and Motor Control' brings together the very latest developmental research using biomechanical measurement and analysis techniques and is the first book to focus on biomechanical aspects of child development. Written by a team of leading experts in paediatric exercise science, biomechanics and motor control from the UK, the US, Australia and Europe, the book is designed to highlight the

key implications of this work for scientists, educators and clinicians. Each chapter is preceded by a short overview of the relevant theoretical concepts and concludes with a summary of practical and clinical applications in relation to the existing literature on the topic. This book is important reading for any sport or exercise scientist, health scientist, physical therapist, sports coach or clinician with an interest in child development or health.

**Profile:** Dr Thomas Korff is a Senior Lecturer in Biomechanics within the Centre of Sports Medicine and Human Performance at Brunel University. He earned his doctoral degree in developmental biomechanics in 2005 from the University of Texas at Austin. While at Brunel his research has focussed on the interaction between the biological and mechanical factors that influence motor development in children.

## 'Making the Case for the Social Sciences' Launch

On 1 November Professors Celia Brackenridge and Tess Kay attended a launch of the fifth publication in the series *Making the Case for the Social Sciences*. These booklets draw together a number of case studies on social science research that has had an impact on society. Professor Brackenridge's work on harassment and abuse prevention formed one such case study in the Sport and Leisure edition. The event drew around 90 leading social science sport research-

ers, policy makers and politicians. It was hosted by the Academy of Social Science (AcSS) and the British Psychological Society at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in London and coincided with the Academy's *Festival of Social Sciences*. The event was introduced by Chair of the

AcSS Council, Professor Cary Cooper, and opened by former Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport,



Debbie Lye (UK Sport) with Professor Celia Brackenridge

**Stop Press:** Physiology PhD student Nick Tiller has been selected to be an Olympic torchbearer. He will perform this important duty in the London Borough of Haringey on 25 July 2012.



## Girginov Tops The Podium

Dr Vassil Girginov, Reader in Sport Management, has just been awarded £2012 by Podium, as part of the 'Knowing Sport' initiative to run the public engagement programme for ICSEMIS 2012. The programme in-

cludes a public series of lectures before, during and after the Games co-organised with the British Library and Routledge.



## Successful Youth Sport Conference

Congratulations to Professor Tess Kay and her organising committee from the Brunel Centre for Sport, Health and Wellbeing (BC'SHaW) who ran a superb one-day conference on 16 November entitled 'Researching Youth Sport, Health and Wellbeing'. The conference attracted a number of eminent speakers from all over the UK and beyond, with one of the highlights being an open-

ing keynote from Professor Joan Duda of the University of Birmingham. The 100 or so delegates included in their number several Brunel graduates.



Professor Tess Kay, Director of BC'SHaW, has also been listed in the *Leisure Studies* 30th Anniversary Collection as having one of the top 30 papers over the last three decades according to impact (#19). Professor Kay's sole-authored paper is entitled: 'Leisure, gender and family: the influence of social policy'.

## Gervis and Rhind Ride the Orient Express

Drs Misia Gervis and Daniel Rhind have been awarded £5K from the Daiwa Foundation, which promotes collaboration



between academics in Japan and the UK. Japan is currently developing a system to safeguard children in sport. The funding will enable the sharing of experiences from the UK as well as an exploratory study into the prevalence of abuse in Japanese youth sport. Gervis and Rhind are both mem-

bers of the Brunel International Research Network for Athlete Welfare (BIRNAW) and BC'SHaW. They are also part of the Child Protection in Sport Unit's Research Evidence and Advisory Group. They will be travelling to Japan in April 2012.

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