A warm welcome to The StudentView

It is a pleasure to welcome you to The StudentView, a monthly newsletter that will aim to bring everyone in the College and University—but also prospective students and alumni, our local community and the world beyond Brunel—closer to all the exciting activities that take place in the College.

Our new College comprises subjects that sit together logically and dynamically, allowing collegial and mutually beneficial relationships to be formed. It includes the following departments: Arts and Humanities; Politics, History and the Brunel Law School; Economics and Finance; Social Sciences, Media and Communications; Education; and the Brunel Business School. The wide range of academic disciplines that are offered accommodation in these departments is quite breathtaking: Creative Writing, English, Music, Theatre, Law, Economics, Accounting, Finance, Business Studies, History, Politics, Education, Anthropology, Film and TV, Games Design, Journalism, Sociology and Communications! It hardly needs to be said that there are here unique opportunities for inter-disciplinary collaboration, for academic research, educational provision and the enhancement of the student experience.

The StudentView will aim to capture the emerging interactions in this new academic landscape, and contribute to efforts to generate, or accelerate, them in the first place, with a focus on all things student-related. It will attempt to do so by enhancing the visibility of available opportunities for educational, social, cultural and professional development in local departments/subjects, and similar opportunities in the other two Colleges and the University more generally. Key to achieving all this will be to ensure that students and staff actively participate in this publication: staff with student-experience responsibilities, student reps and members of student societies, but, also, any student and any member of staff interested to link with the College community, and raise awareness about related activities.

The breadth of activities that will be covered mirrors the diverse nature of student life in higher education: educational programmes, learning and teaching methods, extra-curricular learning, social and cultural activities, professional development, voluntary work, student welfare and student support…

We will aim to publish The StudentView in the first week of each month (during term time). We hope you will enjoy reading it, and already look forward to your contributions to the next issue!

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CBASS students take part in criminal trial simulation with SPA prosecutors and Crown Court Judge

Students from various CBASS departments participated in a fictional Crown Court trial, which took place in the Law School on November 17, 2014.

Law students Bevon Blair, Jemma Durham, Rachel Frith and Erica Snellgrove acted as junior counsels alongside highly experienced barristers from the Service Prosecuting Authority (SPA), and were given an once in a—Law student’s—lifetime opportunity to examine witnesses before a distinguished Crown Court Judge, HH Roger Thorn QC, and a (fictional) Crown Court jury.

Theatre students Alex Ford (complainant), Charlie Scott (defendant), Alzbeta Tuckova (witness) and Christopher Kasapi (witness) played their roles to a very high, professional-like, standard. Senior Lecturer in Theatre, Meretta Elliott, had intensively prepared her students for this demanding activity. On two occasions prior to the trial, they rehearsed in the moot court, familiarising themselves with the physical environment where they would have to perform. The Law School junior counsels likewise received advocacy training from the SPA in a separate event prior to the trial.

The jury comprised of twelve students randomly chosen from across the College. Having carefully followed the proceedings, and having been provided with a perfectly realistic summing up by HH Judge Thorn, the members of the jury retired to a separate room to deliberate before returning to the moot court to give their verdict.

The ‘formal’ part of the session ended there, and was followed by a more informal discussion with HH Judge Thorne and the other participants, and then by a drinks reception. The Deputy Director Service Prosecutions closed the proceedings, awarding certificates to the participants and speaking warmly about emerging collaboration prospects with Brunel. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education and International), Prof. Andrew George, sent a similar message when opening the proceedings, noting the importance of cross-departmental initiatives like this.

The entirety of the proceedings were video-recorded—including the jury deliberations phase—and will be made available across the University in due course, serving as useful training materials for students in different CBASS departments.

The event was organized by the College’s Associate Dean (Student Welfare), Dr Dimitrios Giannoulopoulos, in collaboration with the SPA and Brunel’s Criminal Justice Research Centre.
Professional Development

Mock trial with SPA

Jury deliberations

Mr Blair examines a witness

HH Judge Thorn addresses the jury

Ms Jemma Durham receives her certificate

Deputy VC, Prof. Andrew George, opens the proceedings

DDSP awards certificate to Ms Erica Snellgrove
The entirety of the proceedings are available to watch at …

You will find out what the verdict was!

Wine reception

Theatre and Law students in training with their lecturers and SPA solicitor-advocates

Pictures by Stuart Sanford
Brunel’s Model United Nations
By Aikaterini Simitzi

Brunel Model United Nations Society is essentially a group of students from very diverse backgrounds and study fields who aim to train and send students to represent countries within simulations of the United Nations worldwide. MUN is an exercise of negotiation, public speaking and leadership where you act on behalf of the country you were assigned and attempt to solve international conflicts or issues, ranging from the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East to made up crises by conference secretariats.

Our society for 2014-2015 is working towards diversifying and expanding itself to work with students who can commit a lot of time to the society and those who want to take part in small amounts when they get the chance. This year we will have a conference, campaign, and social aspect to our society.

Mature International Students—An Open Invitation

The student profile in UK universities reflects a wide range of diversity. It is also not uncommon for an international student to embark on their postgraduate studies as a mature student soon after they have started a family. When they make the decision to arrive in London with their partner and children, they are in need of targeted support, such as tips for identifying suitable private accommodation and becoming familiar with local childcare options. If you identify with this situation, then this is an invitation for you to join us for an informal group discussion and to contribute to the support available on campus by sharing your valuable student perspective. It is hoped that the outcome will be a set of collectively shared personal experiences and advice that will be passed on to future international students intending to come over with their families. Please get in touch for an informal student-led get together with the aim of making a concrete and positive contribution to life at Brunel.

You can reach me at tanyel.oktar@brunel.ac.uk. I look forward to hopefully getting together to share and discuss. — Tanyel Oktar is a final year PhD student in the Department of Anthropology.
On 19th November 2014, there was a Courtesy call by three PhD students from Brunel Business School, led by BBS Corporate Branding Lecturer Dr. Sharifah Alwi on His Excellency Dato' Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi, Malaysian High Commissioner in UK/Ireland. The discussion, aimed at introducing Brunel - especially Brunel Business School to the Malaysia highest authority in the UK - covered various matters regarding academic and curricular affairs, particularly potential collaborations with Malaysian corporate and government entities through their extensive their network. This is the first step of many promising steps in engaging government officials, academics and students in the future.

This move was initiated by three Brunel Business School PhD (Malaysian) students to foster the relation between Malaysian government and Brunel Business School, on top of proposing to the school to become an Entrepreneurial hub for Malaysian students studying in the UK, which potentially benefits all parties involved!
A group of final year students from Politics, History and Law (PHL) have joined Creative Writing students and their tutor, acclaimed author Dr Bernardine Evaristo, to discuss differences and similarities in the writing and reading methodologies in their disciplines.

The students exchanged ideas in relation to finding inspiration for their written works, their daily writing routines and reading resilience more generally, the obvious importance of writing and critical thinking skills, and the extent to which opportunities to develop these are accommodated in the academic curriculum (and, earlier on, in secondary education).

They also reflected on the extent to which their respective 'audiences' – academic, professional, the public – shape their writing styles.

The Creative Writing students were some of the authors behind *The Voices Inside our Heads* anthology of short stories, and they reflected on what their participation in this project meant to them, leading the PHL students to share their experience from working on their final year projects.

Professor Thomas Betteridge, Head of the Department of Arts & Humanities, and Dr Dimitrios Giannoulopoulos, Associate Dean (Student Welfare), joined Dr Evaristo for this event, highlighting useful contrasts (and unexpected convergence) in writing techniques used in Arts and in Law.

Dr Giannoulopoulos said about the event: "The new College structure provides a quite unique opportunity to get students and staff in different disciplines to talk to each other. There are fascinating interactions to explore here, historic – cultural – barriers of isolation to be broken.

There is enthusiasm in the College for this enterprise. The dialogue we have initiated today between Creative Writing and PHL is only the first step in this direction."

Bernardine Evaristo is a multi-award winning writer, author of seven books, and Creative Writing scholar at Brunel
**StudentLiVes (education)**

**Are You LibSmart?**

In the Library, the Subject Liaison Librarians have put together a skills package aimed at both students and staff that would increase their professional development and improve their academic skills.

They can help with:

- **Locating** reading list items
- **Searching** for information
- **Referencing** queries
- **Enquiries** about library services and resources.

Students can drop in to see the librarians - they will find them at the LibSmart desk on the Ground Floor opposite the Computer Centre Helpdesk.

Subject Liaison Librarians are available during term-time:

- Monday 1pm-6pm
- Friday 1pm-5pm

**Chat Online** - Students should look out for the Chat symbol on their Library guide

**Make an appointment** - Students can click on “Schedule appointment” from their subject’s Library guide for 1-2-1 help from their Subject Liaison Librarian

**Come to a workshop** - the workshop calendar is available [here](#).

**Workshop for PhD students: Using eVision and the 3D tool**

Workshops on how to use eVision and the 3D tool are now available for PhD students to book. For details see [here](#).
Human Rights Centre Celebrates Human Rights Day

More than 50 people attended the discussion on Immigration and Asylum organised under the aegis of the BLS Human Rights Centre on the 10th December, the Human Rights Day as proclaimed by the UN General Assembly.

Participants heard about the weaknesses of the current international law framework on immigration (Dr Polymenopoulou- BLS) and the specific problems EU border states face (Dr Karamanidou- City). Prof Julian Petley (Brunel) highlighted the great discrepancies between immigration rhetoric and immigration realities, while Catherine Gladwell (Refugee Support Network) focused on asylum seekers who are minors and explained the challenges they face on adulthood.

The event combined academic debate with experiences from practice and sparked a very lively debate among students and staff.
StudentLiVes (reading and film)

Reading

Through a selection of very diverse readings and materials—from literature to the media and popular culture—the (Law School’s) Reading Group offers an opportunity to students from across the University to explore readings rarely covered in the curriculum.

Two sessions have been scheduled for January, and they are open to all students in CBASS:

**Tuesday, 13 January 11.00-12.00** (HALB 204), Jan Fidrmuc will present on the effects of state aid (including structural funds) in the EU and changes caused by recent austerity policies.

**Tuesday, 27 January 11.00-12.00** (HALB 204), Yuemei Ji will present an assessment of the causes and consequences of austerity policies in the European Union.

-Presentations will be informal and last for 20-30 minutes, followed by discussion. The group plans to meet fortnightly and use part of “third meetings” to agree the next set of topics/presentations.

For more information email Dr Andreas Dimopoulos

Film

The Brunel Law Film Series continued this term with a selection of stimulating and challenging films. The films already screened included:

‘The Hunters’ (1977) by Theo Angelopoulos about the trauma of civil war


In the next academic term, four films are chosen as part of the series entitled ‘Live under totalitarian regimes’:


‘4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days’ (2007) by Cristian Mungiu

‘No’ (2013) by Pablo Larrain

‘Persepolis’ (2007) by Vincent Paronnaud, Marjane Satrapi

The dates and venues for screenings in Term 2 will be announced shortly.

For more information contact Dr Narine Ghazaryan
StudentLiVes (performing arts)

Arts@Artaud

The last arts@artaud event of 2014 featured interactive film installations throughout the Artaud Building - all produced by the communication and media students under the watchful eye of their lecturer Paul Moody.

Next up was a series of new poets Mattias Asiedu-Yeboa, Kate McKim and Jordan Friend who presented their powerful, pertinent and provocative work in the main space while a supportive audience watched and enjoyed refreshments served by the student team of assistants.

The first half ended with the beautiful acoustic guitar and voice of Ataman Kinish.

After a short break, the evening resumed with Senior Lecturer and experimental pianist Sarah Nicolls’ ‘Inside Out Piano’.

Sarah is currently developing a work, funded by an Athena Swan Award and due to be presented in full in Brighton next week. She treated the audience to three short sections of the larger work which included the extraordinary image of a full size grand piano, which Sarah manually winches into position, swinging in the space, as Sarah played and in other ways interacted with this monumental structure. This playful and engaging piece eludes to the complexities of managing her career as a musician, an academic and a mother of two children under 3 years old - a total delight from this virtuoso performer.

If you couldn't make this event, look out for details of the next one which takes place on Wednesday 4 February at 7pm. If you would like to present a film, music, poetry, an installation, dance, stand up comedy or a short drama piece then look out for the auditions which will take place on the 19 January 2015 from 5.30-7 pm in AA109 - everyone is welcome to come along and discuss or present their work. If you want to get involved in the production side of things or marketing then please email mary.richards@brunel.ac.uk or grant.peterson@brunel.ac.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you.
StudentLiVES (sport)

First Session of Cross-College Football

Students and staff from across CBASS had their first session of cross-departmental football on December 8.

A team comprising mainly of College administrative staff faced a team of students coming mainly from Politics, History and Law. Each team included a member of academic staff.

The 'admin' team won the game, relatively easily, though this was not so much reflected in the final score (it was 12-8 to the admin team before we stopped counting). There will be another session this January, and it is expected that, on this occasion, all six departments in the College, as well as administrative staff, will each be represented by a team.

CollegeBASSketball

Though not in the least as popular as football, and surely not in the UK, basketball can be great fun (and a very competitive activity).

We are now looking for players, with some prior experience of the game, to set up a cross-departmental team (and we aspire to challenge the other Colleges at some point, who knows, even the College of Health and Life Sciences, their Sports department in particular!)

Those keen to participate should email Dr Dimitrios Giannoulopoulos.
StudentProfessionalLiVes

‘Business Life’ for Economics & Finance students

Brunel’s Business Life Scheme has now also been opened to all Economics & Finance students, providing unique opportunities for professional development.

Business Life has been developed in association with professional institutes, leading employers from industry, and the public sector.

The scheme runs alongside students’ degree classes, and offers a range of courses, workshops and events in order to develop the skills of students within Brunel Business School.

What students can expect from the Business Life Program:

Foundation - the essential skills students need to self-manage their learning, determine their career path, and more importantly, how to operate in today’s working environment.

Direction - for helping students explore different career paths, find where their strengths and interests lie, and formulate a plan for achieving their goals.

Application - Providing events and opportunities for students to apply what they have learnt throughout their studies, and also to help them build a portfolio of professional contacts.

Recognition - as students progress through the program, they begin to build up a portfolio of extra-curricular activities and professional skills that are recorded on a transcript each academic year for them to use as a starting block to build up their CV.

Ongoing Development - The scheme provides lifelong development and continuous career support as a Brunel Business School Alumni.

Business Life Student Ambassador’s Scheme - This is a voluntary role which students can apply to join. As part of the team, they will experience taking an active role in strategic marketing, product development and live event management. They also have the opportunity of gaining a personal reference if they are successful and dynamic Click Productions.

Audrey is delivering sessions on Wednesday afternoons over October to January covering time management, communication, conflict resolution, team effectiveness, coaching, networking skills and more…

For more information on the full programme please email business.life@brunel.ac.uk

New Business Master Classes for All Students in CBASS

On Wednesday 8th October, 18 students from across the College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences had the opportunity to take part in the very first session of our newly launched Business Master Classes delivered by Audrey Tang, Brunel Business School Alumni and Founder of the successful and dynamic Click Productions.
Students interested in a career in big data were able to meet the UK’s top employers and take advantage of CV writing and interviewing skills workshops at the SAS Big Data Skills Festival 2014 that was held at Brunel on Thursday 30th October.

The SAS Big Data Skills Festival was hosted in conjunction with SAS UK and Ireland and Brunel’s unique Business Life programme that supports Brunel’s students. The event was open to all those looking to start or develop a career in business analytics and data management – one of the world’s most rapidly expanding industries. Students and graduates were given the opportunity to meet up to 30 top international businesses who were looking to recruit particularly those with experience of SAS software and training.

Dr Maged Ali, Brunel Business School Lecturer and SAS Student Academy Coordinator said:

“Mastering Big Data is one of the most important employability skills that employers, in private and public sectors, are looking for in universities’ graduates. In collaboration with SAS, Brunel University London provides students and staff with a platform to gain Big Data skills. SAS Big Data Festival 2014 is a great opportunity to bring the industrial partners, businesses, Researchers and students together, to exchange ideas, networking and work together, to fulfil the demand for big data analysts in the UK and worldwide.”
Wealth of Experience, and Various Sources of support, for Brunel Students

Counselling Service: a free, confidential service offering advice and assistance with stress, depression, bereavement, relationship difficulties, academic worries - anything that is getting in the way of your studies or enjoyment of life here at Brunel. You can ring 01895265070 or email brunel-counselling@brunel.ac.uk to arrange a meeting. There are also drop in sessions, every day Monday to Friday at 2pm including during vacations. The service is located opposite the medical centre.

Disability and Dyslexia Service: DDS can give expert advice and support to all disabled students. They will provide assessment and adjustments for you, if required, including guidance on how to apply for the Disabled Students' Allowance. The Service provides assistance to a large number of students, many of whom may never think of themselves as disabled, including students with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, mental health conditions such as anxiety, and medical conditions such as epilepsy and arthritis.

The service is located in room 315 in the Bannerman Centre (library) (see campus map). Here are the contact details: Tel: +44 (0)1895 265213; email: disability@brunel.ac.uk

The Student Centre: provides a range of administrative services and support to all students, in relation e.g. to student records, finance enquiries, accommodation enquiries, ID cards, e-Vision, Blackboard, visa extensions etc. They are located on the ground floor of the Bannerman Centre.

The Advice and Representation Centre (ARC): The Centre is independent from the University, and gives free advice and guidance to all Brunel students, on everything from money and debt, to housing and academic issues (including what to do if you are deregistered, how to submit mitigating circumstances, how to appeal and what to do if you are undergoing a disciplinary matter).

The International Pathways and Language Centre (IPLC) offers free in-sessional Academic English to students whose first language is not English. This support includes one-to-one Academic Consultations, which offer support with written assignments, presentations, dissertation/thesis, job applications and journal articles. The Centre can give advice on writing clearly and accurately, developing and organising ideas, improving language, improving layout and referencing.

In similar ways, the Academic Skills Service assists Brunel students in developing the skills they need to learn independently and thrive academically, whatever their level or subject.
Recent Publications—Books

**War Power, Police Power** (Edinburgh University Press, Feb 2014, 312 pages) by Mark Neocleous deals with these questions and many more by using critical theory to radically rethink war power. Neocleous generates a provocative set of claims about state power and capital accumulation, the role of violence in the making of liberal order, the police wars at the heart of this violence, and the ways in which these processes come to be called ‘peace’.

Key Features

- The first book to deal with the concepts of war power and police power together
- Looks beyond the institutions of ‘the military’ and ‘the police’
- Thinks critically about how powers of war and powers of police coincide in the exercise of state violence and social ordering

Dr Matthew Seligmann’s *Military Intelligence from Germany, 1906-1914* was launched by The History Press for the Army Records Society on November 6. It discusses how, from August 1914 to November 1918, the British Army was engaged in a prolonged and hard-fought struggle against its German counterpart. The question of how ready the British Army was for this struggle has long been a matter of debate.

For more research from Dr Seligmann read [How the Lusitania brought America into the First World War](#)
REF results are out—CBASS academics’ research has significant impact

The results of REF 2014 lift Brunel to 33rd among the UK’s universities for research power—a ranking that combines the university’s average research quality rating by number of submissions—up from 37th in 2008.

Brunel's submission involved 18 months of intensive work involving a dedicated team of six people and the work of over 600 researchers across the University. Our REF scores confirm Brunel University London is firmly within the top quarter of research universities in the UK.

“These results are just reward for the huge efforts academic staff have made in submitting their research for assessment and I thank everyone who has been involved in this long process.

— Vice-Chancellor Julia Buckingham

“It is particularly rewarding that the significant impact of Brunel’s research has been recognised for the first time. This achievement demonstrates the importance of research that has a demonstrable public benefit – and we’ve shown we’re extremely good at it.”

— Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Geoff Rodgers

Research impact of CBASS academics—examples of case studies

Somalia study changes policy on piracy

Standards set for global government services

Multicultural narratives missing from remembrance

Mapping tool helps Defra assess climate change risks

Beating the bullies in schools around the world

Challenging German system starts legal debate

Media regulation meets mainstream opinion

Have you heard the word in song?

New direction for the written word in a digital age

View our other CBASS impact profiles