Her Majesty Visits Brunel

Jo Brand: Honorary Graduate

New Campus Emerges From Chrysalis

2006 A Year to Remember

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Our thanks to all staff, students and graduates
featured in this magazine.
Welcome by the Vice-Chancellor

“This is a very exciting time to be Vice-Chancellor at Brunel and I’m delighted to be playing a central role in its rapid and positive development. There is a clear collective desire in this thriving, diverse community of staff and students to belong to one of the leading research universities in the country. Our challenge is to build on our successes and also to grow in new areas to ensure this University continues to compete with the very best.

We understand the important part our graduates have played in making Brunel the University it is today, and their successes both in their professional lives and in their wider achievements are a constant source of pride and pleasure to us all. We also know that our graduates are important to our future, and are the best ambassadors we have in all walks of life.

It’s been a great pleasure to meet a significant number of you over the last year and to hear your experiences about the Brunel of the past as well as your views about our plans for the future. An indication of how fruitful this interaction has been is that we are following your advice to set up a successor to the prestigious SEP programme.

I’ve been delighted by the warmth of your support for the University and hope we shall welcome more of you back here in the months to come. There are numerous ways in which you can stay involved, whether it’s offering a job or work placement to a current student, sharing your own experiences with a group of students here on campus, or sponsoring a scholarship. For other ways you can keep in touch, please read on, or simply get in touch with the Alumni team.”
2006 really brought out the Brunel spirit. The whole place was buzzing with a sense of creativity, of enterprise and of being part of something valuable and innovative. Every week seemed to mark the arrival of a new building, a new research grant, another business, a music première, or a centre opening. This reaffirms that Brunel people are special. Our students create new ideas and new companies, our academics have increased their research success year on year, our graduates have given back an enormous amount in time, experience and knowledge. This magazine will, we hope, give an overview of all these elements, and we start with the highlights of what has been a wonderful year for the University.

January
Winning Formula Opens 2006 Celebrations
Top names from international motorsport attended the 2006 curtain-raising event at the Institute of Civil Engineers in London to celebrate the University’s successes in engineering. Among the main attractions were the award-winning Brunel Racing team, comprising current and former Brunel students, with their highly successful Formula Student racing car. Williams Grand Prix Racing team leader Sir Frank Williams gave the welcome speech and Ferrari Technical Director Ross Brawn was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Engineering for his services to motorsport.

March
Beethoven Completed
International pianist and Brunel Associate Artist Gretel Dowdeswell performed the final sonata in her 30-month project to present the entire canon of Beethoven sonatas at the University. Playing in the University’s Howell Theatre, she completed the series with the famous Hammerklavier Sonata.

Also in March was a retrospective by a descendant of IKB – see page 7

April
IKB Awards
The live final of a national competition to help young engineers develop their new ideas was hosted by TV personality Adam Hart-Davis at a spectacular dinner at the Science Museum in London. With four categories for Innovation, Engineering, Entrepreneurship and Young Companies, the competition gave young people the opportunity to develop their ideas and win a prize worth £2,000.

The winners received their awards on stage in the company of high profile guests from the world of innovation and business.

Innovation: Age group 1, Tanya Budd; Age group 2, Nathan Murphy
Engineering: Age group 1, Felicity Milton; Age group 2, Dan Lockton
Entrepreneurship: Baby Vend (Natalie Turner, Megan Taft, Kirsty Dickenson and Rebecca Gill)
Young Company: Jamie Murray Wells
Brunel Bicentenary Conference Prize: Luke Ingram
Inspiration Award: Peter Ash
Special Commendation: Tanya Budd

Tanya went on subsequently to win the ‘teen’ category of the Daily Mail Enterprising Young Brits Awards in November for her Hypo Hoist, a device for recovering unconscious people from water. She has already sold over 3,000 products.

May
A Month of Sporting Excellence
A series of events to mark Brunel’s tradition for excellence in sport was held in May, beginning with the inaugural Brunel Indoor Games. Brunel student, Kadi-Ann Thomas, took second position in the UK’s all-time fastest indoor 100m times with a run in 11.77 seconds. Super League netball team Brunel Hurricanes gained a place in the end-of-season playoffs in their match against Loughborough, and the month culminated in a football tournament that brought together over 200 players.

For more on sporting success in 2006, see page 20.
June
Made in Brunel
This major annual event, which gives final year Engineering and Design students the opportunity to exhibit their projects to the outside world – and most importantly the professionals who often subsequently take on these Brunel graduates and their products or ideas – moved to its new illustrious London venue at the Business Design Centre. As usual, Brunel students – some of our best ambassadors – attracted a large audience from business, industry, education and government sectors.

Also in May and June were visits by HM the Queen and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh – see page 6.

July
Brunel Marks the Day It Became a University
It was on 6 July 1966 that Brunel officially received its Royal Charter. The annual meeting of the University Court was scheduled to coincide with this important date. The highlight of the day, however, was the unveiling of a new bronze statue of I K Brunel on the main concourse.

See page 7 for more.

September
World Première for Competition-winning Composer
The winning composition in the University’s Bicentenary Composition Competition was performed by cellist Matthew Barley and the SouthBank Sinfonia, conducted by Peter Wiegold, in September at London’s Cadogan Hall.

Composer Rand Steiger, Professor of Music at the University of California, wrote a stunning 12-minute work for solo cello with live electronic transformation and string orchestra which will be recorded for Quartz Records as part of a CD of new music for cello and electronics.

The panel of judges were composer and conductor Professor Peter Wiegold, Chair of Music at Brunel, composer Colin Riley, subject leader in Music at Brunel, and cellist Matthew Barley, an Associate Artist of the University.

November
HSBC Bicentenary Lecture
The 2006 HSBC Bank Lecture was delivered by Charles Dunstone, founder and Managing Director of Carphone Warehouse. He built the company up from scratch, starting with just £6,000, his premise being that what the company stands for is more important than what it sells, in this case a promise of “simple, impartial advice”.

December
Alan Bennett – The Brunel Years: 1969-2006
Retrospective for Brunel’s Gallery Curator and Artist
Alan Bennett curated his own art and design work for a retrospective in the Beldam Gallery during the final weeks of 2006. The exhibition covered the 30-year period during which he had worked for the University Arts Centre, and was a fitting tribute in his retirement year.

The retrospective covered work created for the University, such as posters for exhibitions and performances, as well as his own private paintings and drawings, designs for opera sets, murals for a local health club and restaurant, and a design for a stand at Chelsea Flower Show which won an RHS gold medal. It was, though, the subject of landscape that filled much of the gallery. “Landscape has been a major, though not exclusive, source material for my paintings and drawings since my formative years,” he said.

Alan calculated that he had staged approximately 180 exhibitions for the University as well as being responsible for the art works and artefacts in the University’s collection. He will be particularly remembered by the many graduates who benefited from his painting courses at Brunel.

Alan Bennett with “Witness Through Two Millennia” (The Ankerwycke Yew)
Her Majesty's first duty was to officially open the new £10 million Health and Social Care building – named the Mary Seacole Building. (For more on Brunel’s new buildings and their namesakes, see page 10.)

After lunch with members of the University and the local community, the Queen met the President of the Brunel Union of Students Josef Baines and Vice-Presidents Sarah Batt, Sam Collins and Tony Jackson. The 1,000-strong crowd cheered with delight as the Queen, smiling and waving, came onto the balcony of the student bar, a particularly fitting occasion for the many students celebrating the final day of their exams.

Her Majesty viewed a number of health projects in the Hamilton Centre, including the Functional Electrical Stimulation rowing project (an adapted indoor rowing machine for people with spinal injuries), and presented Outstanding Achievement Awards to six Brunel students: Commonwealth Games silver medallists, sprinters (4 x100m) Laura Turner and Emma Ania; world cross-country gold medallists Eleanor Baker and Lizzie Hall; and England Women’s footballers Anita Asante and Eniola Aluko. The Queen also met students from the School of Engineering and Design, who were exhibiting final year projects at the London's Business Design Centre, and the Motorsport Master’s students who were preparing to enter the international Formula Student competition.

Brunel students were not the only lucky ones. Schoolchildren from Hillingdon who won an art competition to design a birthday card for I K Brunel presented their successful entries to the Royal guest (see page opposite for more).

The Queen clearly enjoyed her visit – she finally left a sunny Uxbridge campus nearly 45 minutes behind schedule!

Prince Philip Unveils Heinz Wolff Plaque

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh visited the University in July to unveil a plaque in a ceremony to rename the Science Building after Emeritus Professor Heinz Wolff. The Prince had been due to visit Brunel with the Queen during the Royal visit in May, but had had to cancel his plans at the last minute for health reasons.

Thanking the Duke for keeping his promise to rearrange the visit, Professor Wolff revealed that he had known the Duke for 40 years. “If I had been asked who in the whole world I would choose, I can say in all honesty that the Duke of Edinburgh would have been my first choice.”

The Duke was then shown a number of health-related research projects, including Dr Alison McConnell’s respiratory aid, Powerbreathe, Dr Ian Kill and Dr Joanna Bridger’s research into the premature ageing disease, Progeria, and Professor Ian Sutherland and Dr Svetlana Ignatova’s Modernisation of Traditional Chinese Medicine.
A Journey in Time

In July, the University collaborated with the Brunel Bicentenary Conference and the Institute of Civil Engineers in a unique steam train journey following the route of IKB’s Great Western Railway from Paddington to Bristol. A member of the University staff, Debbie Sherman, whose name was picked in a prize draw, joined other passengers for a mid-morning champagne reception beneath Paddington’s great arched roof before departing on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express pulled by the famous King Edward 1 locomotive. Lunch was served on board and passengers then spent the afternoon in Bristol before returning to London.

Happy Birthday Mr Brunel

The University asked the young people of Hillingdon to design a birthday card for the UK’s most celebrated engineer. The competition was judged in three separate age categories by artist Stephen Brunel Hurst and Robert Wright of Bovilles Art Shops, sponsors of the competition.

All 160 entries for the competition were displayed in the Beldam Gallery as part of the ‘All Our Own Work’ exhibition, which ran from 8 May – 9 June 2006. The winners also presented their winning entries to HM The Queen when she visited the campus.

The Winners (pictured page 5)

7 years and under: Vera Diakonov, age 5, Hayes Park School
8-11 years: Georgina Corkey, age 11, Hillside Junior School; Abigail Leslie, age 10, Coteford Junior School; Nilofar Samadi, age 11, Deanesfield Primary School
12-16 years: Charlotte Page, age 13, Bishops Ramsey School
Schools prize: Colham Manor Primary School.

To win a commemorative First Day Cover of the Royal Mail’s special IKB stamps and featuring Brunel University, see page 30
2006 was an important year for the whole University in many ways – not least in that it reunited all staff and students on one campus for the first time in 25 years. It was particularly appropriate that the last School to move to Uxbridge, following the closure of the Osterley Campus, was at the centre of the Royal visit by HM The Queen, who officially opened the new home of the School of Health Sciences and Social Care in May. The new landmark building was named after nursing pioneer Mary Seacole.

This marked the beginning of a programme of naming ceremonies honouring leading figures in the history of both the University and the wider academic world.

A series of commemorative plaques provide some background to the people behind the new building names and these can be found in the reception areas of the respective buildings. See page 10 for more.

As well as renaming the major academic and administrative buildings on campus, the new halls of residence along the River Pinn draw on names from the former Osterley and Twickenham campuses, ensuring their place in the University’s infrastructure.

The Osterley Legacy

The redevelopment of the Osterley site has adopted a conservation-led approach which respects and retains the existing listed buildings and mature boundary planting. There will be a residential development of which 40% of the dwellings will be affordable housing. The scheme gifts land to Hounslow Authority and the sporting land will include the construction of a new six-lane 400m all-weather running track, a full-size playing pitch, changing facilities and a sports hall. It was a key objective of the University that the Osterley development proposal should leave such a legacy.
First Through the Tape of Brunel’s New Gym

Olympic gold medallist Linford Christie cut the ribbon to open Brunel’s refurbished health and fitness centre, before being installed as the first member of the £400,000 facility. Linford, who lives close to the University, has been using Brunel’s multi-million-pound indoor athletics centre as part of his UK Athletics High Performance Coaching scheme since it opened in April 2005. The upgraded health and fitness suite is the latest element of Brunel’s sporting provision to receive a make-over.

The More Energy Health and Fitness Centre is open to the local community as well as students and staff. For information about how to join see www.more-energy.co.uk

Arts Centre Enjoys New Venue

The Arts Centre team moved into brand-new facilities in the heart of the Uxbridge Campus at the beginning of the autumn term. Located in the new Gordon Hall, the Centre contains a Light Space (visual arts studio), the Studio, the Darkroom and the Ceramics Suite. Graduates are, as ever, welcome to join the many arts courses available during evening and weekends as well as the free lunch-time recitals and evening concerts. (For more information, see the web at www.brunel.ac.uk/artscentre)

An area of land adjacent to the Uxbridge campus which was, until 2006, known as Site 4, has been renamed the Bicentenary Garden (chosen from 260 entries in a competition for Brunel staff). The 12-acre gardens will be preserved as a natural environment to attract diverse wildlife and plants, and a number of rare birds and butterflies have already been identified. Trails have been cut through a variety of shrubs and grassland to provide a quiet place close to the main campus for students, staff and local residents.

Neil Taylor from the Safety Office, winner of the naming competition, is pictured with Vice-Chancellor Professor Jenks in the Bicentenary Gardens.
New Names for Campus Landmarks

Both Royal visits in 2006 featured ceremonies to name University buildings. HM the Queen named the new School of Health Sciences and Social Care building in memory of nursing pioneer Mark Seacole. HRH the Duke of Edinburgh unveiled a plaque renaming the Science building after Emeritus Professor Heinz Wolff.

These ceremonies form part of a wider process of honouring leading figures in the history of both the University and wider academic world. A series of commemorative plaques explain the rationale behind the new building names, and you can use the map to link names to buildings – some examples are shown.

As well as renaming the major academic and administrative building, the new halls of residence along the River Pinn carry titles from our former campuses at Osterley and Twickenham – ensuring their long legacy of academic pursuit lives on at Uxbridge.

1 James Chadwick won Nobel Prize for Physics in 1935.
2 Elizabeth Gaskell, Victorian writer celebrated for her socially-aware novels and her biography of Charlotte Bronte.
3 Marie Jahoda joined Brunel College in 1958, and played a founding role in the establishment of social science education at Brunel until 1965.
4 Wilfred (Lord) Brown was associated with both Acton Technical College and Brunel College and in 1966 was appointed the University’s first Pro-Chancellor.
5 Sheila Bannerman was one of the first entrants to Brunel College of Technology in 1957. She joined Brunel’s staff as Senior Technician in Biology in 1959, and subsequently became University Safety Officer, Deputy Bursar and, between 1986 and 2003, Director of Services.
6 Eric Hamilton – see plaque
7 Heinz Wolff – see plaque
8 Earl of Halsbury became Brunel’s first Chancellor in 1967, remaining in office for 31 years.
9 John Crank was appointed first Head of Mathematics at Brunel College in Acton in 1957 and subsequently became Head of School. He served two terms of office as Vice-Principal of the University before retirement in 1981.
10 Robin Howell joined Brunel College in 1958 as Head of Electronics and in 1964 became Professor and Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics at Brunel University.
11 Mary Seacole – see plaque
12 Peter Russell became lecturer in Mathematics in 1966 and, in 1986, was appointed as Director of Brunel’s Science Park.
13 John Gardiner, Chair of Brunel Council between 1980 and 1984, was instrumental in the establishment of the Brunel Science Park.
14 Elliott Jaques created the School of Social Sciences at Brunel in 1964.

View all the plaques and find out about the individuals named at www.brunel.ac.uk/about/history/memorials/buildings
Graduation 2006

2006 marked the end of the University’s annual migration to Wembley for its graduation ceremonies. With the majority of the construction projects on campus now completed, the showpiece event will return to Uxbridge from 2007 to be staged in the Indoor Athletics Centre.

It was fitting, in this celebratory year, that the 2006 Honorary Graduates included three Brunel graduates:

Jo Brand, comedian and author, who gained a degree in Social Science and Nursing in 1982, for her services to the entertainment industry;

Roger Bowden, who graduated in Engineering in 1971 and went on to form the Niftylift company, in recognition of services to engineering;

Andrew Ives, who graduated in 1967 in Electrical Engineering, in recognition of services to engineering.

Other Honorary Graduates included:

Peter Ackroyd, award-winning author, in recognition of services to literature;

Ross Brawn, Technical Director, Ferrari, in recognition of his services to motorsport;

Sir John Chisholm, Executive Chairman of QinetiQ, in recognition of services to engineering;

Sir Thomas Legg, former member of the University Council and University Visitor until 2006, in recognition of outstanding service to the University, to the national community and to Law;

Professor Gillian Moore, Head of Contemporary Culture for London’s South Bank Centre, in recognition of services to the national and international communities.

2006 Honorary Fellowships

Honorary Fellowships were awarded to the following retired staff and local friends who have made an exceptional contribution to the work of the University.

Dr Tony Barrett
Mr Trevor Bottomley
Mr Peter Caton
Sgt Ruth Colquhoun
Ms Linda Haye
Ms Carole Loveitt
Mr David Payne and Mrs Patricia Anne Payne
Ms Julia Scott
Mr Edwin Underhill
Fay Weldon Is New Professor of Creative Writing

The School of Arts has appointed leading British novelist Fay Weldon to its new Chair of Creative Writing. She joins novelists Celia Brayfield and Sarah Penny in the rapidly-expanding Creative Writing programme at Brunel.

Expert in the Health of Older Adults Joins Brunel

Mary Gilhooly has taken up the post of Professor of Gerontology in the School of Health Sciences and Social Care. Her research concerns issues surrounding ageing and older adults. She conducted one of the first studies in the UK on family care of people with dementia, and she has also researched transport and ageing, and quality of life and real life cognitive functioning. More recently Professor Gilhooly has turned her attention to whether or not alcoholic consumption amongst baby boomers will be a threat to healthy ageing.

World’s First 3-D Pain Visualisation Tool

Brunel researchers have developed the world’s first computer-based, 3-D solution for pain visualisation. The tool will help patients record their own pain, as well as providing practitioners with a way to collect information on patients’ experience of pain, and will allow greater insight into the way pain travels around the body. A successful initial trial has been carried out with the Hillingdon Independent Wheelchair User Group (specifically targeting back pain), with patients commenting on the high level of detail that the 3-D model offers and the precision of the navigation control for collecting pain data.

“High quality academics are the very essence of any university and our profile has transformed quite dramatically in recent years. The research of our academics generates new knowledge and kudos in the wider community and pronounces the identity of our institution such that we experience pride internally and exude confidence externally; our research informs our teaching and our students are thus introduced to knowledge at the cutting edge.”

So began Vice-Chancellor Chris Jenks in the most recent edition of our research newsletter, Leading Edge (see www.brunel.ac.uk/research/news to see more).

We can here only scratch the surface of what new projects and new academics are contributing to the current research picture, but you can find out more from our website or our postgraduate prospectus.
New Professor to Develop Centre for Sports Medicine and Human Performance

José Gonzalez-Alonso, a highly acclaimed professor of sport and exercise physiology, has joined the School of Sport and Education.

Professor Gonzalez-Alonso’s main area of research focuses on the role of red blood cells in the control of circulation and circulatory limitations to human performance. During his time at the Copenhagen Muscle Research Centre, he developed a theory that muscles don’t tire because of intrinsic metabolic limitations but rather that a lack of oxygen being delivered to muscles via red blood cells is what actually causes muscle fatigue.

Leading Light in Health Psychology Brings Expertise to Brunel University

Chartered Psychologist Professor Lynn Myers became interested in health psychology while working as a pharmacist.

Professor Myers has an extensive reputation through her many published books and journals in areas such as repressive coping, adherence to treatment, inhibition of emotion and disease, risk perception and other health-related behaviours. She has been particularly involved in studies exploring the reasons why a large percentage of individuals with chronic disease do not adhere to prescribed self-treatment. This focused, in a recent project, on the self-care behaviour in adults with cystic fibrosis.

Professor Sergey Mikhailov joined Brunel in September 2006 as Professor of Computational and Applied Mathematics. He is currently researching areas that include the formulation and analysis of locally-supported boundary-domain integral equations, the mathematical backgrounds of damage, fatigue and fracture analysis, free and moving boundary problems of elasticity with damage and their applications to percussive rock drilling modelling.

Professor Mikhailov has also been involved in some bio-medical applications of advanced solid mechanics, especially in simulation of tooth filling properties and kidney stone fragmentation in ultrasound and laser lithotripsy.

Nanotechnology May Help in Battle Against Bird Flu

Dr Peter Allan, Wolfson Centre for Materials Processing, was awarded £1,500,000 from the SE England Development Agency (SEEDA) for an AntiViral NanoParticles (AVNP) project, which will enable him to develop and optimise a nanotechnology-based antiviral system. Such a system may be effective in reducing the threat from viruses such as the human form of bird flu and SARS.

Brunel’s Wolfson Centre, in partnership with Queen Mary, University of London, and academic partners such as QinetiQ, Pall Ltd, Retroscreen and Sun Chemical, aim to develop antiviral coatings of nanoparticles that can be applied to exposed surfaces and artefacts such as exposed surfaces in public buildings and filter elements in buildings and aircraft air-conditioning units.
14

Brunel Unveils £1 Million Advanced Bioprocessing Centre

The Brunel Institute for Bioengineering (BIB) has opened a £1 million advanced bioprocessing laboratory that is set to become a centre for the world’s most advanced purification and separation processes that can be used in the development and manufacture of pharmaceutical products.

The facility features high performance equipment, initially developed at Brunel and brought to market by Dynamic Extractions Ltd, that completely revolutionises the performance of chromatographic processes, especially with the polar compounds with which traditional techniques struggle. It has been set up with funding from the Science Research Investment Fund and will enable BIB to continue its research into innovative bioprocessing technologies.

Study Shows Major Differences in Cancer Patients’ Needs

Professor Clive Seale, School of Social Sciences, has led a study in collaboration with researchers from Oxford and Surrey Universities which analyses the ways in which male and female cancer patients use the Internet to cope with their illness. Men were found more likely to access factual information about the impact of their cancer and the best medical treatments. Women, on the other hand, are more interested in seeking emotional support and discussing the impact of their illness on their relationships.

Speaking about the study, Professor Seale said: “It is important that we acknowledge the ways in which men and women cope with cancer and provide them with the types of information and support that they require. The results may also have an impact on sufferers of other illnesses too.”

World Première of Compositions Unveils “New Kind of Instrument”

Cellist Matthew Barley with composers Peter Wiegold (right) and John Croft

Compositions by Professor Peter Wiegold and John Croft in the School of Arts received their world premières in London at the culmination of an 18-month research project with cellist Matthew Barley and computer programmer Carl Faia.

The research, to develop a new way of using the cello and the computer, was funded with a £25,000 grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Board.

The two academics have tried to blur the boundaries between human and computer-generated sound. The effects that can be produced include altering the pitch deeper than a double bass, or multiplying the sound to give the impression that there are 30 cellos supporting the soloist.

Peter Wiegold’s piece, entitled The Burden’d Air was inspired by William Blake’s The Marriage of Heaven and Hell, and John Croft’s new work Sonata took its inspiration from some Renaissance pieces.

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Dr Thomas Korff and Dr Anthony Blazevich, School of Sport and Education, have been awarded £183,000 through the EPSRC’s First Grant Scheme for a project that aims to challenge traditional assumptions about the mechanisms underlying motor skill acquisition in children.

Traditionally, age-related changes in motor performance have been attributed to the maturation of the nervous system. This research will test the assumption that the biological makeup of the human system, and particularly the age dependent compliance of the tendons, affects the force production capabilities and muscular coordination in children. Drs Korff and Blazevich will test the muscular strength, tendon elasticity, and the performance of daily motor tasks such as jumping or cycling in children between 5 and 12 years of age.

It will then adapt or personalise the computer interface to suit users’ needs. The system will be located on the user’s PC and will ensure that the many services available over the Internet are open and accessible to as many people as possible, privately and securely.

Brunel University will lead initial investigations in Turin, Oslo and Sheffield to select the most effective technology features and strategies. This will be followed by field trials of the software in the same three cities.

How Children Gain Motor Skills

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Brunel Researchers Help Develop a Unique Easy-Fit Cardiac Pump

The University’s Institute for Bioengineering (BIB) has developed an innovative intravascular pump that, unlike traditional heart pumps, does not require invasive surgery to be fitted. The pump also has a unique double action, offloading the weak heart during systole (the phase during which the heart is pumping out oxygenated blood to all the other organs), and then increasing the blood in the opposite direction (to the coronary arteries, which in turn feed the cardiac muscle itself).

The new pump, developed with the Royal Brompton Hospital, will be planted in the body through a fairly simple technique similar to that used in placing stents in blocked arteries. This involves mounting the pump in a stent and delivering it on a deflated balloon to the desired position, via an incision usually made in the groin area. Once in place, the pump and stent remain and the balloon is withdrawn. The successfully installed pump may be powered wirelessly, via coils placed on the skin.

The pump has been adapted to sit in the upper aorta, where it helps the heart’s left ventricle pump blood to the body. It also pumps a sufficient amount of blood in the opposite direction, to ensure adequate coronary flow.

Brunel’s Dr Ashraf Khir confirms that the researchers are in talks with a number of organisations with a view to bringing the pump to market as soon as possible.

EU Backs €3 Million Project To Develop Assistive Technology For Elderly And Disabled

The School of Information Systems, Computing and Mathematics is to co-ordinate the €3 million DIADEM (Delivering Inclusive Access for Disabled and Elderly Members of the community) project with partners from Norway, Italy and the UK. The team will develop the next generation of assistive systems that will empower aging or disabled citizens to play a full role in society, increase their autonomy and realise their potential.

The three-year project will develop an expert system that monitors users and how they interact with web-based forms.
Hardly a Finale

Jane Berg graduated in Business and Management in 2001 and since then, her company GradFinale has gone from strength to strength.

“It was the Small Business module that I took as one of my options in my final year at Brunel that inspired me to go straight from graduation to setting up my own limited company.

My Small Business Project was to produce a Yearbook for final year Management students, and this proved to be the perfect pilot for my business. The yearbooks sold out at my graduation ceremony, so I then approached more departments at Brunel. In GradFinale’s first year, I provided yearbooks for five departments at Brunel, and in my second year I persuaded two more universities to give our service a try. By 2004, I’d won several more universities and a handful of schools, so in 2005 I recruited our first full-time permanent member of the team, Naz Khakoo – a graduate in Drama and English from Brunel.

Last year we embarked on a rapid growth plan, and we now supply GradFinale Yearbooks to around 25% of the UK university market! I have a small but expertly trained team in our offices in South London, and we take care of all the design, website management, marketing and compilation. With the number of titles we now produce every year, we’re all kept very busy! It has been a slow, painful and bumpy ride (and I still have a long way to go!).

My lecturer Adrian Woods never claimed it would be easy, but he always said that he loved the attitude and enthusiasm of young people, as they believe they can do anything! As the source of the original business idea, my education, my first contract, the support from staff and my first employee – I have a lot to thank Brunel for!”
The World at His Feet – and on the Internet

Peter Ward (below Left) graduated in Economics and Business Finance in 2001 and has since become the co-founder of www.wayn.com, one of the world’s biggest online travel communities with over six million members.

“My course at Brunel, and the opportunity of a work placement in New York for PricewaterhouseCoopers, gave me a great insight into the corporate world. After I graduated, I secured a place on Accenture’s graduate programme as a business consultant, which enabled me to take a year out to travel around the world. Then a friend I met at a pre-joiner Accenture social shared the initial idea for WAYN (Where Are You Now) with me over a pint in a pub, and we decided to work on it in our spare time.

Stephen Pankhurst (the founder of Friends Reunited) provided the initial seed capital to help get WAYN off the ground. We spent the next two years building the WAYN proposition and then in March 2005 things really started to take off.

We now have 25 members of staff, and the business turned over $1.6 million this year. Growth is set to continue and we are currently working on strengthening our position as the largest social networking website focused on travel and lifestyle. I believe that our success was, in large part, thanks to my experiences at Brunel, as it gave me the awareness, focus, training and experience to really hit the ground running in my career as an entrepreneur.”

A Window on the World

Linda Dvoracek, who graduated in Film and Television Studies in 2002, now works for BBC Worldwide.

“The media industry is highly competitive but I felt that gaining a degree in London would be attractive to employers around the world. During my three years at Brunel I enjoyed a variety of Film and TV modules, and I even managed to squeeze in a Spanish course and a module on Music but I also appreciated that 30% of the course would be dedicated to practical work so I knew I would still be able to get my hands dirty and be creative.

I’ve now been working in TV Distribution at BBC Worldwide for two years. I enjoy watching, discussing, pitching and selling TV, and I even get to brush up on my Spanish at the TV markets in Cannes, where I meet TV buyers from all over the world. I left Copenhagen to come to Brunel to study and seven years on I’m still enjoying film, TV and life in London.”

‘Woman of the Future’ Takes the World by Storm

Dr Shaheena Janjuha-Jivraj, senior lecturer in business and management in Brunel’s Business School, won this year’s Woman of the Future Award in the Professions category at the London Hilton. She graduated from Brunel in 2004.

The competition is run by the Department for Communities and Local Government in association with Shell UK, and recognises ‘trailblazing women who are high achievers and exemplary role models in the UK’.

Nominated for her work in the area of entrepreneurship, enterprise and family firms, Shaheena and her team attracted £140,000 from the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) in 2004 to develop programmes in Entrepreneurship and Social Inclusion under the Westfocus umbrella. Examples include the inception and delivery of The Entrepreneurship Summer School that encourages students to develop ideas for business plans. 10% of students taking part went on to launch their own businesses in the first year.

Another of her initiatives was a collaborative programme with Hillingdon Council which resulted in several new businesses being developed by students.
Law graduate Mohammed Paracha has joined Al Salam Bank as executive vice-president/general counsel. He was previously partner designate at the international law firm Norton Rose, and was named Lawyer of the Year in 2004 by legal publication The Lawyer.

Drama graduate Levi Addai had his first play 93.2 FM begin a 10-day run at the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square in September, before striking out on a four-city national tour. Levi signed up for a 12-week script-writing course at the Royal Court while still studying at Brunel, and subsequently submitted the first draft of 93.2 FM – his dissertation piece – to the theatre for their scrutiny. Castings were done the week he graduated, and he got rave reviews from the initial two-night stay in Sloane Square. He's now working on new plays and a TV project with the BBC.

Murat Ali, 2006 graduate in Mechanical Engineering, led the team of Brunel graduates and students who won the prize for Best Virtual Development at the Formula ATA event organised by the Italian Associazione Tecnica dell’Automobile near Turin in September. They were also runners-up in their business presentation to the judges and finished in the top four for both the design and cost presentation.

Murat said “We were one of the most innovative vehicles there. The car runs, rather unconventionally in motor sport, on bio-fuel E85 – and the Italians loved our team and car!” He has just started work as a graduate engineer with the technology company, Alstom.

More Brunel Graduates Make the News

Dinah Goldwater, Maria Grey 1940 making her first skydive (from 13,500ft), for charity, at the age of 86
A Chance Encounter

Temitope Ajala graduated in 2005 in Business and Management.

“Kieron Slocombe and I had been at Brunel at the same time taking our degrees – he graduated in Information Systems in 2005, too – but we didn’t meet until the last day of the Entrepreneurship Summer School in June 2005. We got chatting and he explained that he was intending to travel to China with his then business partner in September to carry out some research for his new venture and I decided to accompany him.

He had spoken to me about some type of LED belt buckles he was interested in and a couple of days before we were due to fly back we met a guy who was able to give us a sample to bring back to the UK. On the plane home, Kieron and I discussed the LED buckles at great length and evaluated the pros and cons of establishing a viable business to sell them in the UK. Three weeks later, after another trip to the Far East, a number of meetings and a few product modifications, Firebelts was born.

Today we distribute our products to retailers throughout the UK and in Europe as well as to customers through our website (www.firebelts.co.uk). It makes you wonder what we might have achieved if we’d actually met during our time at Brunel!”

Other successes in brief

Susan Adibi, Maths 1998
appointed Senior Consultant and Head of Risk and Value Management group, Faithful and Gould, New York office

Wayne Aldous, Sport Sciences 2004
playing American football for the Great Britain team

David Alexander, Mechanical Engineering
1979 appointed Senior Analyst Automotive Systems, ABI Research, New York

Brian Bailey, Electrical Engineering 1981
appointed as Chief Technologist at Poseidon Design in USA

Major Trevor Clifton, Honorary Fellow
sailing single-handed around Cape Horn

Mike Collins, Law 1983
cartoon drawing for some of the world’s most famous comic strips including Dr Who Magazine

Graham Cooley, Materials MPhil and PhD 1987 and 1990
Chief Executive of Metalysis process for extracting silicon from sand

Nic Drawater, Design Technology 1985
Everest mountaineer who following serious injury is now taking part in disabled javelin, shot-put and discus events

Dan Epstein, Politics and Modern History 1993
appointed CEO for ResourcePro, New York remote staffing for insurance industry

Oliver Farnsworth, Drama 2004
playing the character of ‘Will Hackett’ in the Channel 4 drama Hollyoaks

Dr Sibylle Frey, PhD Environmental Sustainability (Design)
leading Global Footprint Project for North East of Scotland

Ray Harrington, Metallurgy student 1970s
appointed Vice-President of Business Development, Bishop Wisecarver Corp USA

Guy Hollingworth, Industrial Design 1997
now a barrister and award-winning sleight-of-hand magician

Julie Jones, MA PSA 1980
President of Association of Directors of Social Services 2005-2006

Colin Marshall, SEP 1987
appointed President and CEO Kennecott Energy (Rio Tinto Energy America) Wyoming, USA

Betsabeh Omran, Drama and Music 2001
featured on BBC Radio 4 programme on the Ragged School Museum East London, where Betsabeh is a ‘Victorian teacher’

Jonathan Paylor, Drama and English 1989
celebrated Manchester comedian

Grace Robertson OBE, Maria Grey College 1966-69
2006 exhibition at America’s National Photography Gallery

Team Sanddodgers, Peter Laurie 2004 SEP, Gareth Wallace 2004 Politics, Jonathan Farley 2005 Mechanical Engineering took part in Plymouth-Banjul charity rally (www.sanddodgers.co.uk)

Alan Staple, SEP 1982
Chief Designer for the Lynx Helicopter at AgustaWestland

Shailesh Vara, Law graduate and MP for NW Cambridgeshire
appointed shadow Deputy Leader of the House of Commons – the first ethnic minority Conservative to sit on the front bench

“A Chance Encounter

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Sporting Highlights

Commonwealth Games
A number of students and graduates were involved in the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. Current students Laura Turner (Sport Sciences) and Emma Ania (Medical Biology) won silver medals for England in the 4x100m relay – Laura narrowly missed out on a medal in the individual event, finishing fourth. Ellie Spain (Sport Sciences) finished eleventh in the pole vault, and former Brunel student Kelly Sotherton convincingly won heptathlon gold.

In hockey, Brunel alumnæ Kate Walsh and Jo Ellis won bronze for England following a penalty shootout win over New Zealand. In the men’s bronze medal playoff, Brunel graduates Brett Garrard and Matt Daly couldn’t quite do enough to overcome Malaysia. Barbados were represented at the Games by current student Joanna Davis who was also a key figure in Brunel’s run to the final of the BUSA Championships where they eventually lost out to perennial rivals Loughborough.

International Cross-country
Elle Baker (Sport Sciences) and Lizzy Hall (Physiotherapy) helped Great Britain to team gold at the World University Cross-Country Championships in Algeria. Elle also picked up the individual bronze. Back on home soil, Lizzy won the English National title and finished second in the BUSA Championships to Elle. First year student Tom Snow also picked up a medal on his Brunel debut with bronze in the BUSA short course event.

Lizzy Hall went on to break the British National Record in the 3000m steeplechase at the British Milers’ Club Grand Prix with a time of 9min 48.51s.

Clockwise from top: Anita Asante and Eniole Aluko; Laura Turner and Emma Ania; Kelly Sotherton; Ellie Spain
Women’s Football
Anita Asante (English and Politics) and Eniola Aluko (Law) had outstanding seasons for club and country, helping England to the top of their World Cup qualifying group. They subsequently secured qualification to the 2007 World Cup in China for the first time since 1995. On the domestic scene, Anita was a dominant force in midfield for Arsenal’s Premier League and FA Cup winning side while Eniola scored twice for Charlton Athletic in their 2-1 win over Arsenal in the Premier League Cup final.

Success on the Water
Brunel graduate Karen Roberts (now Deputy Director of the Brunel Centre for Advanced Solidification Technology) competed for Great Britain at the European Dragon Boating Championships in Prague in September. Karen, Commonwealth Gold medallist in judo, helped the GB team to gold in the 200m and 500m events. (Karen is pictured above with the red paddle.) Her sister, Kellie, also represented Great Britain in Prague.

European Championships
Five Brunel students competed for Great Britain in the European Athletics Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden in August. Emma Ania ran a strong leg in the relay to help the GB team to silver behind an impressive Russian team. Laura Turner ran in the earlier rounds of the relay, and rising star Montell Douglas (Sport Sciences) also travelled as part of the squad after an impressive third place in the UK Championships.

Second year Psychology student Gemma-Samantha Bennett, competing in her first senior international championships, narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-finals of the 100m hurdles. Brunel graduate Hayley Yelling also travelled to Sweden to run in the 5000m, student Ellie Spain took part in the pole vault and Kelly Sotherton took part in the heptathlon.

Brunel's Indoor Athletics Centre provided a training base for many of the GB team travelling to Sweden, including the successful men's and women's 4x100m squads and teenager Greg Rutherford, who won silver in the long jump.

Brunel graduate Trisha Corless (Sport Sciences 1995), is also making waves in dragon boating, competing for GB in three major championships. She is currently world champion and world record holder for 1000m as part of the British Women's team (and silver medallist at 500m and bronze at 250m).

Many will have followed the exploits of Brunel graduate James Cracknell with rowing partner Ben Fogle in a major trans-Atlantic rowing race at the end of 2005. Many will not know, however, that we had a second graduate, Chris Martin, also taking part. What is more, he became one of only 30 people ever to row single-handed across the Atlantic from east to west (pictured left).

A graduate in Product Design in 2003, Chris had rowed competitively for 11 years and represented GB on the water at six World Championships (bringing home a medal on every occasion). Then, turning his hand to ocean rowing, he spent two years in preparation for his greatest challenge, setting off in his own 24ft plywood boat from the Canary Islands. Despite numerous setbacks – five broken oars, a broken rudder, tropical storms, and even a full capsise – Chris rowed into Antigua 68 days after setting out.

Chris has since undertaken the three peaks challenge (Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowden), a cycle challenge from Lands End to John O’Groats and plans a unique Pacific Ocean crossing from Japan to San Francisco!

There is much more information and many photos about his journey on the web at www.transatlanticforce.co.uk.
Don Vito Martinelli (alias Brian Martin, Mechanical Engineering 1975) recalls his part in the now legendary 1975 SU President election campaign.

“Ciao, I am writing this by way of confession, and to explain how my 1975 SU election campaign nearly ended before it began. It was a Wednesday evening on campus, in A Block. I had been shooting at RAF Uxbridge and had decided not to return my .22 semi-automatic Browning pistol to the armoury, but instead to ‘press’ my room mates into campaign service.

I dressed in black shirt and white tie, greased back my hair and inserted some cotton wool in my cheeks for effect. I then picked up the .22 pistol replica, a .357 Colt Python magnum and an 8”-blade fishing knife, and started walking down to the kitchen to ‘impress’ my campaign staff.

To my horror, there was someone walking up the stairs wearing a dark blue uniform and hat with a chequered rim. I immediately thought that the police had come to find the missing gun from the armoury! I dashed back to my room, hid the evidence and lay on my bed trying to look less like a 1930s Mafioso and more like a 1970s engineering student. I was panic-stricken – if he knocked on the door I was finished. In fact he’d come to visit Dickie Bird on the top floor whose motorcycle had been stolen.

To celebrate my salvation I decided there was ‘pressing’ work to be done in the kitchen – there was a Presidential campaign to get started!

Voglio gradire I miei sinceri saluti”

Anthony Parker, who graduated in 1970 in Production Technology, took full advantage of the limited facilities then available on the Uxbridge campus.

“Have you ever noticed how the perimeter road around the campus resembles the typical post-WWII British motor racing tracks that were constructed using redundant airfield perimeter tracks? This similarity didn’t escape the notice of some of the first students to inhabit the Uxbridge campus back in the late 60s, and at least one, if not more, unofficial ‘sprint’ meetings were held there.

An absence of licences, helmets, fireproof suits, scrutineering, rescue and ambulance, together with a couple of untrained and unequipped marshals and stopwatch timing were the order of the day. I don’t remember how many cars took part, but I seem to recall a Mini Cooper, an XK140 and my Berkeley B105. The model number is significant, as that was exactly what the speedo indicated on what was then a good long straight past the Admin Block (now known as Wilfred Brown)! I was absolutely flat-out in my ex-US slalom racer. It was so noisy that it wouldn’t pass motorcycle scrutineering these days, let alone the noise test for cars, and the scuttle shake on the concrete road was so bad that I’m surprised the windscreen didn’t pop out.

It was not too long after this that speed bumps started to appear – sorry if I contributed to their arrival! It could have been worse – without the humps, speed cameras might be recording your brief presence on the perimeter road instead.

My current sprint car is rather better engineered than that horrible Berkeley and probably nicer to look at, too!”

Greetings from Sicily
Dr Ian Macdonald, Psychology 1972 PhD 1991
Systems Leadership, Creating Positive Organisations
After graduation, Ian joined the academic staff of Brunel Institute of Organisation and Social Studies (BIOSS) where he set up the Mental Handicap Services Unit. He became involved with the design of specialist graduate assessment centres for the Civil Service and businesses and mid-career counselling for the American army, navy and air force. Over the past 20 years, he has worked with a range of organisations throughout the world, and supported numerous executives at the highest levels in implementing significant cultural transformation. As a result, he has developed new understandings of leadership, teamwork, core values, systems and organisational design, and his book, written with Professor Catherine Burke and Karl Stewart, documents these theories and case studies from the past 35 years.

Brian Devine, English 1980
Yeats, the Master of Sound
Brian joined the West London Institute as a mature student after working in the navy and went on to further postgraduate study. His book traces Irish speech rhythms back to Gaelic and in this context explains what Irish poets owe to their local accents and traditions.

Damon Maher, English and Art 1999
Scars
Damon teaches English (and soccer) in the northern suburbs of Perth, Australia. Scars, his first novel, is a tale of a group of post-university friends who become embroiled in a world of gangsters and dodgy dealing.

Glyn Walden, Education, Borough Road 1965
Gabby Goes for Gold and other Big Park stories
As a retired primary school headteacher, Glyn created the Big Park stories to encourage young children to get interested in sport (www.bigparkbooks.co.uk). In retirement, as well as writing, Glyn has served as Town Mayor of Diss and recently got back together with the 1964 Borough Road band, The Sideliners.

Eric Macfarlane, Borough Road 1954
The Making of a Maverick
Eric’s book tells the story of his experiences in a variety of educational establishments, beginning the story in the 1930s and concluding as a staff trainer in HE. He has written regularly for the press, both serious articles on education and lighter pieces for the general reader. This book attempts to bridge the gap between the two forms of writing and should appeal to both general readers and those who work in education.
The generosity of Brunel’s alumni is hugely important in securing funds for scholarships, bursaries and student support at the University. One person to benefit from this is Dave Coleman, currently completing his PhD in the School of Sport and Education. Dave’s research is aimed at improving performance in distance running and has been part-funded by the English Institute of Sport. However, owing to an unfortunate book-keeping error at E15, Dave was left without funding for the final year of his studies, and facing the prospect of having to drop out of the course. Thanks to the generosity of Brunel Alumni through the ‘telephone campaign’ and direct mail, the University’s Development Fund was able to step in and provide the funding required for Dave to complete his final year.

“Sport scientists frequently look to the animal kingdom to understand better how we can improve our own human physical performances. We’ve observed, for example, the different methods animals use for locomotion and how some of these methods are used to reduce the energy cost of movement. One such method allows free energy, gained from gravity’s downward pull on the body, to be stored in the tendons of the animal’s leg, which are stretched upon ground contact. As the tendons recoil the energy helps to propel the animal forwards, rather like an elastic band. The greater the energy used in this way the less the animal has to rely on the energy generated from the breakdown of oxygen and the consumption of food. Humans use the same method of energy storage and re-use during running, but it is less efficient. An athlete who uses this elastic mechanism the best has the potential to out-run rivals. With the London Olympics only six years away, using every resource is essential if our athletes are to compete at the highest level. With support from the Brunel Development Fund, research into this energy-saving mechanism can be concluded – and with this comes the possibility of gold medals in the future.”
Can You Inspire Brunel’s New Students?

The graduates featured in this issue of Link represent just some of the areas in which Brunel alumni work and make their mark. All of you, however, will have valuable advice and experiences to share with our current students. The Placement and Careers Centre is keen to hear from you as your career experiences can be really inspirational to existing students. If you are willing to help individuals with queries about your profession, or contribute to careers events on campus or offer work experience, we would love to hear from you.

You can find information about our current activities at www.brunel.ac.uk/pcc but it is developing all the time and we also run discipline-specific workshops for many of the academic Schools. New events planned for this academic year include an informal Law Fair on 22 May 2007 and a workshop on psychology-related careers, so we are particularly keen to hear from Brunel graduates working in these areas.

We are also keen to hear from international alumni both in the UK and abroad who are able to provide careers advice or international work experience for international students.

Please contact us at careers@brunel.ac.uk or call 01895 266840 if you would like to get involved.

2006 saw the establishment of what we hope will become the premier showcase for Engineering and Design talent in the UK: Made in Brunel.

Made in Brunel was made possible thanks to the generous support of a number of benefactors, including the Reliance Security Group, the HSBC Education Trust and the Royal Academy of Engineering. Support for the show’s directory, the fabulous book of all the products and designs on show, came from Pfizer, Hasbro, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Ellis Chapman and the London Manufacturing Advisory Service. We hope the 2006 show has inspired people to help us make the 2007 event even bigger and better.

2006 also saw the first presentation of the BAA-sponsored HEART award (HEAthrow Responsible Technology Award) which went to the best idea or project by a Brunel student suitable for BAA’s business and its customers, whilst also providing a commitment to the environment and sustainability. This award was presented at the Made in Brunel show at the Business Design Centre in London to Jon Salmon for his sustainable materials kiosk system. The Reliance Security Group continued its connection with the School of Engineering and Design, awarding the third Reliance Security Prize for Innovation and Enterprise to Paul Croft who designed an innovative Viral Marketing Tracker.

Design Students Make Their Mark

Come and be inspired by the work of the graduating students of the School of Engineering and Design at the student-organised 2007 show at the Business Design Centre, Islington, 12-14 June. Apply for a free ticket at www.madeinbrunel.com.
Your Contributions Really Make a Difference

Scholarships for Excellence, Research and Sport

Your generosity has helped to support Brunel’s innovative Excellence Scholarships for outstanding undergraduates and, from next year, alumni contributions will be instrumental in launching a new Research Scholarships programme.

This scheme aims to help meet an urgent need to support the University’s research students. With the rising costs of studying for a PhD, Brunel has decided to launch a programme offering both fees and bursaries to help outstanding students to concentrate on conducting high-quality research. Contributions from alumni will be a major element in this scheme.

At the time of going to press, we were also awarding 22 small grants from the Borough Road Scholarships Fund to up-and-coming stars in sport. Many of these students are potential medal winners for 2012 and are members of the Brunel Integrated Olympic Programmes (BIOP) scheme that is helping to prepare them for the competition.

We so much appreciate your support in making all this possible.

If you would like to make a contribution to any of these scholarship programmes, please fill in the donation form on the enclosed alumni questionnaire or donate online at www.brunelalumni.co.uk

The Urban Scholars Programme

The SHINE Trust, an educational initiatives charity which encourages children and young people to raise their achievement levels made a major grant of £200,000 to the University’s flagship Urban Scholars Programme in 2006. The Programme is our unique intervention programme which assists talented young people aged 12–16 from disadvantaged backgrounds to enhance their academic achievement and educational aspirations.

The Programme is now ready to be expanded further and with SHINE’s support the University has been able to appoint an Urban Scholars Tutor to map the experiences of the students, teachers, parents and carers of the 2006–2010 cohort and to support the rolling out of the programme to LEAs, schools and universities.

Progeria Research Fund

One of the biggest stories of 2006 has been the interest surrounding the University’s research into the causes and possible cures for Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria Syndrome, a genetic disease that causes severe and accelerated premature ageing, and strikes children without warning after the first year of life. The University is a leader in research into Progeria and has established a fund to support this. On behalf of the project leaders, Dr Joanna Bridger and Dr Ian Kill, we would like to offer sincere thanks to all those who have made a donation to the Fund. For further information see www.brunel.ac.uk/about/acad/health/healthres/researchareas/ccbg

Sports Development Projects

Professor Steve Hodkinson negotiated a substantial agreement with Sport England’s West London sub-regional partnership over use of Brunel’s world-class sporting facilities worth nearly £600,000 and also a deal with the Lawn Tennis Association.

New Prizes

The Tom Tranter Achievement Award has been established by the Tranter family to reward the final year Sport Sciences or Physical Education undergraduate student who has overcome disadvantage to succeed in sport and/or their academic studies. Thanks to the generosity of friends, family and supporters, the first prize was awarded in July 2006 to Matthew Darton on receipt of his BSc.
Can You Offer a ‘Stepping Stone’ to Brunel Students?

As you read through the pages of this year’s Link magazine, you will see how Brunel and its partner colleges continue to be meaningful to all members of our extended family. For example, Engineering Master’s graduate Mr Ayaz Siddiqui (pictured below) paid a visit to his old stomping ground to see first-hand what developments had taken place on campus, and especially in the Wolfson Centre, and rekindled friendships with staff including Dr Karnik Tavedi and Dr Bob Bulpett. So impressed was Mr Siddiqui by the present-day Brunel that he wanted to ensure its enduring values continue to be at the heart of Brunel’s future.

“Brunel was a catalyst and a turning point in my career and, as a result of my time here, I believe that it opened many doors allowing me the opportunity to aspire and achieve success in my career, social and community life. I want others to have that opportunity to reach their potential and realise their dreams and ambitions and so I am planning to leave a gift in my Will to Brunel. Please join me in giving something back and contributing to the University’s continued success and legacy so that we can offer today’s graduates and generations to come the opportunity to benefit from the unique, enriching and dynamic experience that is Brunel.”

In recognition of this support, we are launching a club to which those of you who make a similar pledge will automatically belong and will commemorate your gift with stepping stones in our Bicentenary Garden. Please join Ayaz and others, and become a member of The Stepping Stones Club.

For more information please contact Janie Grover in the Brunel Development Office (e-mail janie.grover@brunel.ac.uk, or tel 01895 267774).

Following the introduction of new top-up fees by the Government, the first intake of undergraduates to benefit from the University’s Scholarship Fund joined Brunel in 2006.

Nazneen, a Law student, won a Brunel Scholarship.

“I am studying for a four-year thin-sandwich degree which means I have the opportunity to take advantage of two valuable work placements. Receiving the scholarship means that I can put this money towards a bar vocational course or a legal practice course at the end of my degree.”
Keeping Involved

Reunions Programme 2007

Saturday 19 May
Reunion for all those who attended Borough Road College and Maria Grey College, up to and including 1976.

Saturday 9 June
Brunel MBA workshop and reunion

Saturday 16 June
Reunion for all those who graduated in 1987

Saturday 23 June
Reunion for all those who graduated in 1981 and 1982

Saturday 30 June
Reunion for all those who graduated in 1997

Saturday 7 July
Reunion for all those who graduated in 1972 and 1977

Reunions in 2006

A large number of the class of 1968 Polymer and Materials Science (above left) managed to meet up again in 2006. If any of those missing from the 2006 photo (above right) are out there, do get in touch with Sue Curley in the Alumni Office.

Forthcoming Events

(dates to be confirmed)

BRUNEL GREEK ALUMNI – a reunion in Athens

HEALTH STUDIES ALUMNI – a reunion and visit to the new Mary Seacole building, opened by Her Majesty the Queen in 2006.
Contribute to Brunel’s Archives

You can now archive – or search for information yourself – via two new routes.

Add Your Research to a World-wide Network

The University has just launched a new service that will increase the exposure of its research to the rest of the world, and past students can be a part of it. The Brunel University Research Archive (BURA) will, via the Internet, make articles, working papers, conference papers and PhD theses freely available to the public. So anyone can search for this research and read, download or copy material for non-commercial private study or research purposes. Former students who would like to include their PhD thesis as part of Brunel’s expanding research profile should go to www.brunel.ac.uk /courses/pg/graduateschool/resarchive and follow the online instructions. To find out more about BURA, take a look at http://bura.brunel.ac.uk or contact BURA-manager@brunel.ac.uk

Dr Graham Caulton was the first recipient of a PhD from Brunel University in 1966 and the University was delighted that he was able to attend the launch of the new Brunel University Research Archive (BURA) in December. His Physics thesis was one of the first to be added to the web-based archive.

University Archives Part of New Local Digital Collection

The University in partnership with the London Borough of Hillingdon and the British and Foreign School Society were successful in obtaining Heritage Lottery Funding for the Heritage Builds Bridges project that aims to catalogue and digitise valuable collections owned by the three partners. For the University this includes all the records relating to Borough Road College, Maria Grey College and Shoreditch College and of course the connection to the BFSS. The project’s website can be found at www.heritagebuildsbridges.org.uk.

The University is looking at its own archive and that of the West London Institute with a view to also making its catalogue available on the web. If you are turning out cupboards and find things such as brochures, posters, magazines, or group photos that you would like to donate, please contact Mandy Mordue, the University Archivist, who will be able to advise you on the University’s Collections Policy. E-mail mandy.mordue@brunel.ac.uk Tel 01895 265390.

Register on the Alumni Website

The alumni website is proving a very popular way of keeping you in touch with Brunel past and present. Many of you have already registered and logged on to update your details. But you can do all the following as well:

- Upload pictures and submit messages about your lives after Brunel;
- Book for your reunions;
- Find out about forthcoming events;
- Keep up-to-date with news about our current students and research;
- Find out how to get involved through donations, sponsorship (eg Reliance Prize), research funding (eg telomerase) and legacies;
- Find links to help you with your career and other services.

And please tell us what you think of the website. Visit us at www.brunelalumni.co.uk

Your ID number is the same as your old student number. If you need help remembering this, please contact enquiries@brunelalumni.co.uk
Andy Maclean graduated in 1964 in Education at Borough Road College, but it’s his early musical ‘career’ that has come back to bite him.

“One Friday morning in October 1963, I was summoned to the office of Vice-Principal Dr Arthur Page. If I was expecting a handshake and a “Would your band like to play at the Masonic Ball?”, I could forget it.

“Mr Maclean”, Dr Page began, “your music is like that of an army marching over a bridge. I fear for the safety of the building. Either you break step or you must never play in K Room again.” The Sideliners had arrived. Sweets For My Sweet, Sugar and Spice, and How Do You Do It? had inspired the top echelons of college authority.

The Sideliners began life busking the streets of Hounslow during Rag Week in the spring of ‘63, with Malcolm Wilton and Glyn Walden singing an obscure Bobby Darin song, Jailor Bring Me Water. They were later joined by Pete Ditton and Roy Lee on guitar and Paul Briten on accordion. Then, in October 1963, a rather diminutive figure appeared in the doorway of Glyn’s study. “Hi, I’m Andy Maclean, I wondered if you were looking for a drummer.” So the Sideliners were born.

Pubs, clubs, The Royal Artillery Annual Ball, Tag Island and various no-fee performances for the Borough Road Entertainments Committee, Rag Week outside The Bell in Hounslow and various women’s colleges provided a modest income which enabled us to keep our heads above water financially.

The University was approached in 2006 to contribute to some commemorative Royal Mail First Day Covers to mark J K Brunel’s bicentenary. We were, of course, delighted to be involved and were rewarded with a small number of the final covers. We would like to offer these to Brunel graduates through a free prize draw.

To be entered, please e-mail your contact details to Sue Curley (sue.curley@brunel.ac.uk) by 30 March 2007. Fifteen names will then be picked at random and the successful graduates will be notified. Good luck!
In Memoriam

The University was saddened to hear of the deaths of a number of long-serving and highly-respected academic staff who will be fondly remembered by the alumni who were privileged to be taught by them.

Professor John Crank, who passed away in October aged 90, was Brunel’s first Head of Mathematics. He was appointed to Brunel College in Acton in 1957 and continued to head Mathematics when the University moved to Uxbridge. He also served two terms of office as Vice-Principal before his retirement in 1981. He established the John Crank Garden as a retirement gift to the University, which has proved a lasting reminder of his considerable contribution to Brunel. In Summer 2006 this contribution was further recognised with the re-naming of the University’s Maths building in his honour.

Professor Cyril Hogarth, former head of Brunel’s Physics Department, passed away in November aged 82. He was appointed to Acton College in 1958 as Head of Physics, and played a significant part in the establishment of the Uxbridge campus. He remained a major influence in the University for over 30 years, serving as Pro-Vice-Chancellor from 1980-81.

John Burnett, Professor of Social History in the Department of Government, also passed away in November. He joined Brunel in 1963 as Head of the Department of General Studies and remained at the University until his retirement 15 years ago. He served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Affairs) in succession to Professor Hogarth.

Jim Biddle, who will be remembered most particularly by the many sports alumni he taught at the Osterley Campus, died in March. Jim was a Borough Road student (1947-1949) who joined the lecturing staff of the College in 1957. He went on to be Head of the Department of Physical Education from 1974 until his retirement in 1982. He was particularly involved with track and field athletics, and became GB Team Manager during his time as Head of Department.

Professor Maurice Kogan, who died in January 2007, joined Brunel in 1967 as a member of the Health Services Organisation Research Unit and went on to become the first Professor of Government, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and, in 1989 on the sudden death of Professor Bishop, Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Over three decades, he established himself as a leading international researcher in higher education policy, creating at Brunel a strong team of colleagues in the wider field of social policy. This team ran the country’s leading Master’s course in Public and Social Administration and educated many of the current senior figures in the charitable sector and in central and local government administration.

In June 2006, members of Professor Ken Sing’s Chemistry Research Group came together from all over the world to meet with each other and the academic who had inspired them all. Prof Neil Furlong, PVC, RMIT University, Melbourne Australia brought together chemists from America, Egypt, Holland, Portugal and the UK to celebrate the success of the research group and their subsequent careers.

MBA Students, Past and Present

Brunel MBA graduates may be interested in joining our ‘Friends of the MBA’ network, through which we can keep you up to date with events taking place here at Brunel. Please contact narinder.bhandal@brunel.ac.uk if you would like to be added to our e-mail list.

2006 proved to be an eventful year for the MBA programme. First, the course was ranked 10th in the UK by a leading Indian magazine on studying abroad, ReportED (further details of the rankings are available from www.report-ed.com). Then it was re-accredited by AMBA for the maximum allowable period of five years. This excellent result constitutes a real stamp of quality for our programme and is beneficial to all past, present and future students.

In September 2007, we shall be launching a new one-year full-time MBA programme, and we are also restructuring our modular programme to a weekend study basis over two years for the benefit of students who are combining full-time work with study. Details of the structure and content of these new programmes will be available on our website in the spring (www.brunel.ac.uk/bbs), or contact Narinder.

Finally, please make a note in your diary of the next MBA reunion on 9 June 2007. Contact sue.curley@brunel.ac.uk for more details of this event.

Education Graduates – Pass on your Experience

Education at Brunel goes from strength to strength. Our growing expertise and scholarship informs our teaching, and this continues to be excellent across a range of postgraduate programmes. It is extremely rewarding for us to learn of the successes of our graduates and we would like to showcase their experiences to some of our students. If you would like to be involved, please make contact through our Partnership Officer, Marion Turfrey on 01895 267141 or e-mail marion.turfrey@brunel.ac.uk.
Inaugural Lecture Series 2007

26 February 2007
Professor Peter Hobson, School of Engineering and Design
Searching for the Light

22 March 2007
Professor Daniel Reidpath, School of Health Sciences and Social Care
Population Health: Why I Don’t Care, and Why Governments Should Care Less

15 October 2007
Professor Stelarc, School of Arts
Title to be confirmed

15 November 2007
Professor Michael Watts, School of Sport and Education
Title to be confirmed

13 December 2007
Professor Mary Gilhooly, School of Health Sciences and Social Care
Title to be confirmed

Free admission: including light refreshments.
Time: 5.00pm-7.30pm
Contact details: events@brunel.ac.uk
Further information: www.brunel.ac.uk/news/events
Sponsor: Cisco Systems

Modern developments in health care have fundamental implications for our understandings of (and the prospects for) parenthood, birth, death and disability. The effects of new sciences relating to genetics and bioethics are still incalculable.

A panel of speakers, including Lord Robert Winston, Dame Jane Campbell and Professor Peter Beresford OBE, will discuss these issues and highlight some of the work Brunel University is currently involved in.

Tickets (including hot buffet supper): Free from the Events team
Venue: Howell Theatre
Time: 6-8pm
Contact details: events@brunel.ac.uk
Date: 21 March 2007

Brunel University West London

Alumni Souvenirs

If you would like to purchase a souvenir of your time at Brunel please visit www.brunelleisurewear.com

www.brunelleisurewear.com