

# BRUNEL **link**

Newsletter 2008

The Brunel University Alumni Association



**Brunel**  
UNIVERSITY  
WEST LONDON

# Contents

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### Photo Credits

Our thanks to all staff, students and graduates featured in this magazine.

## All Change in the Alumni Office xx

Graduates in Print x

Congratulations x

Graduate Features x

## In the News

The Prime Minister Visits Brunel 6

Doubting Shakespeare x

A Farewell to Runnymede 8

A Royal Launch x

An Evening with Jo Brand x

2007 Brunel Lecture x

Civil Engineering at Brunel x

## Alumni Benefits x

Fundraising in 2007x

Keeping Involved

Reunions and Events 28

Check Out Your Website/Facebook/  
MySpace 29

## Graduation 2007 11

## Focus on Research 12

## Graduate News 16

Prize-Winning Graduates xx

In the Limelight xx

Champions Past and Present x

## Reunions

25th anniversary reunion at Brunel  
on Saturday 7 June 2008 for those  
who graduated in 1983.

Contact Sue Curley, Head of Alumni  
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NB The Alumni Office will be pleased  
to assist Alumni in organising their  
own group reunion by offering  
advice on selecting a venue and  
contacting fellow Alumni.

Check Out the Alumni Facebook and  
Web Sites

Xxxxx



## Staying in Touch

# Message from the Vice-Chancellor

When I introduced myself in the last issue of the *Link* magazine, I anticipated an exciting year that would build on the enormous successes of our 2006 celebrations. That expectation has been more than realised, as this edition brings news of high profile visits from the Princess Royal and the Prime Minister, from stars of stage and screen (who also happen to be Brunel graduates!), from overseas dignitaries and world-renowned academics. We have opened new laboratories for civil engineering and a stunning new building for the Business School. And in the height of the summer, we welcomed our degree congregations back to the University campus after four years at the Wembley Conference Centre. Our new buildings provided a striking backdrop – both inside and out – for the highlight of the University calendar.

However, 2007 also laid the groundwork on which we intend to build the Brunel of the next decade. Our submission in December to the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise saw a huge jump in the numbers of both projects and people submitted from Brunel, and in a wider range of subject areas than ever before. The University has also just launched a new Strategic Plan to carry us forward to 2012 and beyond, and you will see you, our graduates, are at the heart of its central Mission:

**To advance knowledge and understanding, and provide society with confident, talented and versatile graduates.**

Your achievements speak volumes about your energy and creativity, and about your standing in your chosen professions. You illustrate the very qualities that we hope all our students take with them when they graduate, and we are very proud that many of you are actively involved in making this happen – through offers of placements, job opportunities, mentoring or simply talking to current students. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support – keep up the good work.



Professor Chris Jenks



# University News

## Tony Blair Visits Brunel

**Former Prime Minister Tony Blair and the Minister for Higher Education Bill Rammell visited Brunel in February to launch a potential £600 million boost to higher education fundraising.**



The initiative aims to increase voluntary giving to higher education in England by providing £200 million over three years, starting in 2008. It proposes a match-fund donation system on a 2:1 private:public basis to promote a culture of individual giving to higher education.

Mr Blair said: "We recognise that universities need the funding to compete and to improve participation. That's why this fundraising plan is so important. It will incentivise all universities to raise more charitable and private funding.

Increasing voluntary giving is a vital step in enabling institutions to build up substantial endowments over the longer term, so that they can improve infrastructure, teaching, and student bursaries."

The former Prime Minister went on to praise the work going on at Brunel: "I have just visited the Wolfson Centre for Materials Processing and seen some remarkable technological advances being worked on. Brunel is to be congratulated – you now have something like 14,000 students here and are really at the cutting edge

of understanding the synergy between education in a traditional sense, and the skills and technology that our businesses need."

During the Prime Minister's visit to the Wolfson Centre, he met Brunel graduate Ayaz Siddiqui, the first member of the Brunel Stepping Stones Foundation for those who have pledged a legacy to the University. Mr Siddiqui's pledge is intended to benefit the Wolfson Centre, although not for many years yet he hopes!

*For more on the Stepping Stones campaign, see page xx.*

## The Princess Royal Visits Brunel

**HRH The Princess Royal visited the University in March to open the new, state-of-the-art, Occupational Therapy Suite in the School of Health Sciences and Social Care.**

Princess Anne, who is the Patron of the College of Occupational Therapists (COT), toured the University's occupational therapy facilities and formally opened a new bathroom and kitchen-training suite donated by Pressalit Care. The new 'Keep Living Suite' training facilities are housed in the Mary Seacole building, which was officially named by Her Majesty The Queen in May 2006. The Suite includes a complete range of kitchen and bathroom products for disabled people and will be



used to teach occupational therapy students to increase a disabled person's independence and functional ability.

The Princess Royal unveiled the plaque after Brunel's Pro-Chancellor Sir Robert Balchin gave the opening address. She went on to view occupational therapy students in the work rehabilitation and art facilities and met students and staff from the School.



# Doubting Shakespeare

The launch of Brunel's new MA in Shakespeare Authorship Studies grabbed the attention of the world's media in September.

Two of Britain's most distinguished Shakespearean actors, Sir Derek Jacobi and Mark Rylance, the first artistic director of The Globe Theatre, welcomed the launch of the first graduate studies programme to explore the identity of arguably this country's greatest playwright. The actors unveiled a Declaration of Reasonable Doubt about the identity of the Bard on stage after Mark Rylance's acclaimed comedy, *The BIG Secret Live: 'I am Shakespeare'* at the Minerva Theatre in Chichester. A copy of the Declaration, which to date has been signed by nearly 300 academics and intellectuals, was given to Brunel's Head of English Dr Bill Leahy, convenor of the new MA.

In November, Sir Derek joined Mark Rylance and Dr Leahy to debate the Shakespeare authorship question at the first of the 2007 John Silberrad Memorial Lectures at Shakespeare's Globe in London.



It was a public lecture with a difference at the University in October, as Brunel graduate and comedienne Jo Brand gave a potted history of her life and career as a stand-up comic at the 2007 HSBC Lecture.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Jenks introduced 'Dr Jo' to the packed audience – she received an honorary degree from Brunel in 2006.

## An Evening With Jo Brand

Jo treated the audience to a quick run-down of her life, from how she went to a posh school in Tunbridge Wells, to leaving home at age 16, her time at Brunel studying nursing, and her early career as a psychiatric nurse. She finally plucked up courage to give comedy a go at a charity event run by a friend. Her first proper booked gig didn't have an auspicious start as Jo found herself wandering the stairs and corridors of backstage unable to find the way on in a scene reminiscent of the rock satire *Spinal Tap*. "I ended up crawling out from underneath the curtain," she divulged, "luckily the audience thought it was deliberate!" Jo then spent several months working the newly expanding London alternative comedy scene, developing the skills needed to survive what can be a tough career.

Jo also talked about how public figures are portrayed in the media, especially in the tabloid press. "If you complain about tabloid abuse, people think you're petty. I think that the whole privacy versus exposure thing is just another aspect of a performer's life, but if you can't be nice to people who speak to you in the street, then don't leave the house." She also spent some time talking about her extensive involvement in charity work and her disappointment at not being able to do more.

She ended the night with a bit of advice for anyone thinking about becoming a comedian. "Go for it – the worst thing that can happen to you is being totally humiliated in public!"



## Farewell to the Runnymede Campus

**The last link in the consolidation chain that has already seen the disposal of the Twickenham and Osterley campuses was marked in September with the announcement of the sale of the Runnymede site.**

Following an open-market competition, the University exchanged contracts with Oracle Homes Runnymede Limited for £46.5 million. A number of Science Park tenants will remain based there until March 2009, and the University will also continue to lease accommodation for the Archive Centre, which is located in the former Runnymede Campus Library, until September 2010.

The sale will enable us to complete the rationalisation of our estate and, as reported in the last Link magazine, all our academic activities are already based at Uxbridge. It will also allow us to complete the essential new build and refurbishment work contained in the Master Plan, including a major flagship building at the new entrance to the University – the Eastern Gateway – on Kingston Lane.

Meanwhile, the latest addition to the Uxbridge Campus is the extension to the Wilfred Brown building, now named Michael Sterling. Slotted between the existing Wilfred Brown building and the Bannerman Centre, it comprises several elements, including a circular Council Chamber, that provides much-needed research and teaching space for the School of Engineering and Design and the Business School.

Also under way are new halls of residence on Isambard Close, which are due for completion in 2008.



***The statue of General Sir Alex Taylor has been relocated to the Brompton Barracks in Chatham, under the care of the Institution of Royal Engineers, prior to a permanent home being found in one of the UK's military engineering training bases. General Taylor was President of the Royal Indian Engineering College, which occupied the Coopers Hill site, for 16 years.***

### And News from the 'Old' Twickenham Campus

When property developer Octagon bought the Gordon House campus at Twickenham from the University, the plan was to convert the mansion into eight flats. This was modified to three separate units and the current proposal is a complete restoration of the house into one glorious property. It will be restored to much of its original glory and is expected to fetch upwards of £12 million. It is likely to include six bedrooms, a dining room for 30, a swimming pool and gym in the original chapel, and a ballroom – part of a genuine Robert Adam extension to the house with a fireplace so valuable that the developers have moved it to secure location for the duration of the renovation.

# 2007 Brunel Lecture



This year's prestige public lecture drew a distinguished panel of experts and a large audience to debate the many issues surrounding the ethical and practical issues of modern health technologies.

Entitled *Health Innovation – Creating as Many Problems as Solutions*, the debate was chaired by ITV news reporter Keir Simmons and featured fertility expert and television personality Lord Robert Winston, Commissioner and Disability Committee Chair at the Commission for Equality and Human Rights Dame Jane Campbell DBE, Professor of Social Policy, spokesperson for Dignity in Dying, Dr Margaret Branthwaite, and Brunel's own Peter Beresford, OBE, Director of the Centre for Citizen Participation.

The topics under debate included:

- Birth and Childhood: have advances in fertility treatment such as IVF raised more problems than solutions?
- Parenthood: should every person have the right to be a parent?
- Disability and Chronic Conditions: when it comes to inherited illnesses, given the choice, would any individual truly want to live with that condition?
- Death and Dying: should everyone have the right to die?

Earlier in the year, Peter was honoured with an OBE for his contribution to the field of social care. The magazine *Care and Health* named Peter second in its list of the top 100 people in health and social care, and *Community Care* listed him second in its 20 most influential figures in social care.

## New Civil Engineering Presence at Brunel



A new BEng/MEng programme in Civil Engineering with Sustainability was launched in October with the official opening of the Joseph Bazalgette Laboratories, named in honour of one of the most outstanding civil engineers of the Victorian period.

Funded by HEFCE and the University, the laboratory will provide a state-of-the-art facility for students and researchers. President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Professor Quentin Leiper, in opening the lab, said: "We need to be far more active in engaging with the country's schools to ensure that all children are aware of how rewarding a career in engineering and construction can be. This new course shows how civil engineers are once again being recognised as the shapers of the future."



# Graduation 2007

## 2007 marked the return of Graduation ceremonies to campus after four years at the Wembley Conference Centre.

We welcomed some 12,000 graduating students and their guests during the week, awarded ten honorary degrees, and even the weather (almost) played ball! The Indoor Athletics Centre was transformed into a striking theatre, refreshment tents were set up, and the roving jazz band contributed to a celebratory atmosphere on campus.

For the first time, everyone on campus could watch Graduation as it happened, thanks to live streaming across the Brunel computer network by the Computer Centre and Media Services.

## 2007 Honorary Degrees

### Sir John Dankworth

Performer, composer and conductor  
*Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music, for outstanding services to music.*

### Charles Dunstone

CEO, the Carphone Warehouse  
*Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business, for his outstanding services to business.*

### Dr Adam Hart-Davies

Photographer, writer and broadcaster  
*Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University, for services to the public understanding of science, technology and engineering.*

### Sir Derek Jacobi

Actor  
*Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters, for services to the acting profession.*

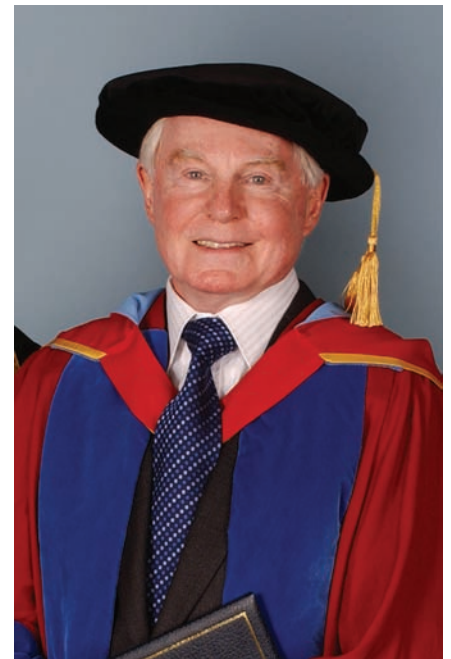
Sir Derek Jacobi has enjoyed a distinguished acting career that spanning 40 years and encompasses numerous roles on stage and screen.

Sir Derek praised Brunel for establishing a new Master's course that questions whether the Bard actually wrote all the plays attributed to his name. "It is brave and ground-breaking to bring in such a contentious subject. Brunel is now making it a topic for debate and discovery, which is the whole point of academia. I'm thrilled to be given a doctorate from this University

and I applaud the new MA in Shakespeare Authorship Studies."

The University received much publicity at the launch of the Master's programme when its Director, Bill Leahy, together with Sir Derek and Mark Rylance (first artistic director of the Globe Theatre), launched a 'Declaration of Reasonable Doubt' at the Chichester Festival Theatre.

For more news on this story, see page xx.





## 2007 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.

Josephine Barrett, Peter Borrows, Peter Bradbrook, Carol Gregg, Roger Howarth, Catherine Murphy, John Newby, Jill Rhodes and David Varley



### Catherine Murphy

Catherine graduated in Law at Brunel in 1997. Her international athletics career spanned 13 years (1993 to 2006), during which time she won six national titles over 200 metres and 400 metres. She is the only British athlete to have won national indoor titles at the 200 and 400 metres in the same year. She has competed at World and European Championships as well as Commonwealth and Olympic Games, achieving 4th place in the 400 metres at the World Indoor Championships in 2003 and in the final of the 4x 400 metres relay in the Athens Olympics in 2004. Now retired from athletics, Catherine works in the Technology Department of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### Boris Johnson MP

Journalist and columnist  
*Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws, for services to national politics and to higher education.*

### Dame Cleo Laine

Singer and Actress  
*Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music, for outstanding services to music.*

### Edna Partridge

Deputy Lieutenant, Hillingdon  
*Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University, for her outstanding service to the University.* **Professor Alan Roberts**  
Founder, Prosthetic Solutions  
*Honorary Degree of Doctor of Technology, in recognition of his outstanding services to technology.*

### Grace Robertson

Internationally renowned photojournalist and alumna  
*Honorary Degree of Doctor of Education, for her outstanding services to photojournalism.*

Grace established herself as a pioneering photojournalist during the 1940s and 1950s through her studies of people as they worked and played. She published work in the *Picture Post* and, later, *Life Magazine*.

When her children were born in the 1960s, she trained to be a teacher, becoming a member of the first cohort of mature students to gain entry into the profession through a part-time course taught at Maria

Grey College. She then taught for eight and a half years in West London, bringing to bear the keen observation, sensitivity and intelligence that had marked her photographic career. Forty years on, she is still practising her art and is the only British photographer to feature in an exhibition at America's national photography gallery celebrating the first women in photojournalism. She was awarded an OBE in 1999.



### Iain Sinclair

Author  
*Honorary degree of Doctor of Letters, for services to the national and international [community?].*

### Jack Straw MP

Secretary of State for Justice  
*Honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, for services to national and international politics.*



### MBE for Honorary Fellow

Jeannie Mee, former head of allied health professions in West London Mental Health NHS Trust, has received an MBE for services to healthcare from H M The Queen. She played a major role in the introduction and establishment of occupational therapy for mentally disordered offenders at Broadmoor high security hospital in Berkshire.

Jeannie received an Honorary Fellowship from Brunel in 2003 for her commitment and services to the University, supporting occupational therapy students in the then Department of Health and Social Care.



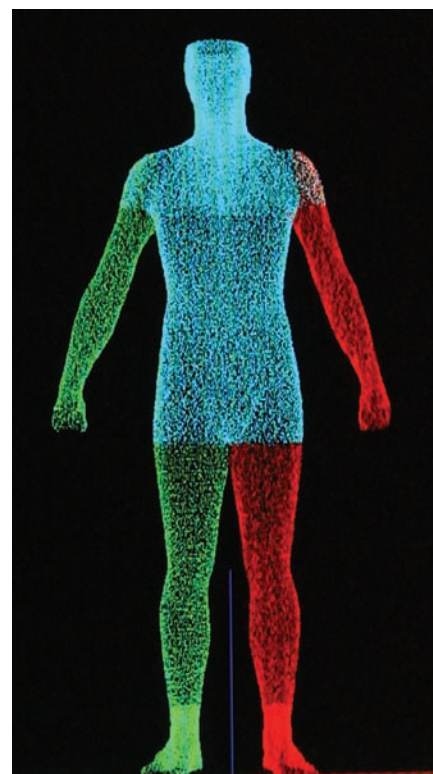
# Focus on Research

## Medical Anthropology Expert Takes Major Role in Multi-million Dollar Aid Programme

Director of the new **Centre for Research in International Medical Anthropology**, Dr Melissa Parker, has become one of the lead researchers on a programme looking at neglected tropical diseases in sub-Saharan Africa. The project, developed with staff from Imperial College, is being funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Building on research undertaken in north-western Uganda, Dr Parker has spent the last three months in Tanzania working on the integrated control of three of the neglected tropical diseases: schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminths and lymphatic filariasis. Her research involves working closely with staff from the National Institute of Medical Research and the Ministry of Health in Tanzania, the London School of Economics and the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative at Imperial College.

## Body Scanner Is Latest Addition to Brunel's Research Armoury

A new 3-D body scanner, funded jointly by the School of Engineering and Design and HEFCE, has enhanced the facilities available to a range of research projects taking place at Brunel. The scanner uses powerful cameras (pictured above with Design PhD student Hui Yu) to scan the whole human body in less than six seconds and produces a true-to-scale 3-D body model within minutes. It can be used in conjunction with a motion-capture system (a 7-camera Eagle Digital System) for realistic human modelling and simulation, which has wide applications in product design for human factors, simulation of human reaction in hazardous environments, biomechanics modelling, medical applications and health care, virtual reality, computer games and films. It can also be used for garment and apparel design, body shape analysis and survey, and health and fitness management.





### **Sports Sciences Professor Wins Distinguished International Scholar Award**

Chair in Sport Sciences (Youth Sport), Celia Brackenridge, has won both the Distinguished International Scholar Award of the American Association for Applied Sport Psychology and the US Women's Sports Foundation Darlene Kluka Research Award in 2007. Dr Darlene Kluka currently serves as president of the International Association of Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women, and this award pays tribute to leaders in the research arena.

Professor Brackenridge is a former international athlete and captain of the England and GB lacrosse teams. She has carried out major studies into sexual abuse and child protection in sport for many years, and was the first Chair of the UK Women's Sports Foundation. She serves on the Research Committee of the National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers and also chairs the Research Task Force of the NSPCC/Sport England Child Protection in Sport Unit.

### **Brunel University and Partners Win Royal Aeronautical Society Award**

A DTI-funded collaboration between Brunel academics and partners at Cranfield University, Limerick University, Lund University and Marshall

Associates has received the prestigious Bronze Medal and Hodgson Award from the Royal Aeronautical Society in recognition of its contribution to the advancement of air travel safety. The Human Error Template (HET) is a tool used during the design and building phases of an aircraft to identify potential design flaws that could increase the likelihood of human error, so that they can be remedied before completion of the aircraft. The HET is the only method of its kind to be designed specifically to identify design-induced pilot error – that is, errors caused by a combination of a lack of understanding of automation and poor design of the operating logic of the controls of a cockpit.



## New Centres Provide Focus For Research Expertise

The Human Centred Design Institute (HCDI) is one of a number of new high-profile University Research Centres launched in the last 12 months. Human

Centred Design can be defined as an approach that combines methodologies and technologies from design, engineering, computer science, artificial intelligence, philosophy, psychology and social sciences, and leads to systems, machines and products that are more intuitive to their users.

The Centre brings together internationally recognised academics in ergonomics and human factors, augmented cognition systems, human centred design process, inclusive design, information architecture and perception enhancement systems, and will build on existing work by members of the School of Engineering and Design, for instance research into the rail sector using the University's new train-driving simulator.

Other new Research Centres include:

- Brunel Able Children's Education Centre
- Brunel Macroeconomic Research Centre
- Centre for Advanced Powertrain and Fuels Research
- Centre for Community Health Sciences Research
- Centre for Empirical Research
- Centre for Human Geography
- Centre for Information and Knowledge Management
- Centre for Information Systems Research
- Centre for International Business and Strategy in Emerging Markets
- Centre for Media Communications Research
- Centre for Professional Practice Research
- Centre for Sports Medicine and Human Performance
- Centre for Youth Sport and Athlete Welfare
- Information Systems Evaluation and Integration Centre
- Institute for Youth Work Studies
- Institute for Ageing Studies
- People and Interactivity Research Centre

For more, see our revamped research pages at [www.brunel.ac.uk/research](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/research)



## Progeria: Trying to Solve the Premature Ageing Puzzle

Academics in the Centre for Cell and Chromosome Biology are involved in research projects tackling such vital areas as the biological basis underlying the ageing process, the organisation of the genome alters during embryonic growth, using stem cells in muscle and neural regeneration, understanding how breakage and joining of chromosomes to cancer, and the generation of novel materials for use in wound repair and tissue augmentation.

Head of the Centre, and Director of Biosciences Research, is Dr Ian Kill who is an expert on cellular and organismal ageing. His wife, Deputy Head of the Centre Dr Joanna Bridger, is an expert on nuclear structure and organisation. Together they have set up the Brunel University Progeria Research Fund to provide support for basic scientific research into the causes of premature ageing in Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria Syndrome. Known simply as Progeria, this is a rare genetic disease that causes premature ageing of children who usually die in their teens from heart attacks and strokes.

At present there is no cure for the disease although in a recent breakthrough, the gene that is at fault in the disease has been identified. The Brunel team is involved in critical work understanding how the mutation affects the behaviour of individual cells grown from Progeria donors. They have already shown that these cells are much more fragile than normal cells, their genomes behave very differently to cells, and they frequently become damaged and die.

The outcome of this research will help in understanding HGPS, how its symptoms can best be treated and will lead to further research aimed at designing a much-needed cure. To find out more about the research or the fund set up to support it, see the web:

[www.brunel.ac.uk/about/acad/health/healthres/researchareas/ccbg/progeria](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/about/acad/health/healthres/researchareas/ccbg/progeria)

Alternatively, email Dr Joanna Bridger: [joanna.bridger@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:joanna.bridger@brunel.ac.uk)

## Funding For R & D Projects Can Boost Your Profits

Because we are keen to collaborate with our alumni, we'd like to introduce you to a Government scheme: *Knowledge Transfer Partnerships*. Companies of all sizes can access funding for a percentage of project costs when they work with a university to gain expertise or applied research for projects they lack in-house.

Strategic projects may involve new product development, accessing new technology, entry into new markets, acquiring new systems or processes. All must aim for increased profits or for reduced operational costs through increased efficiency.

If you would like to learn more about the scheme and how Brunel can help your company, contact:

Lynne Greenstreet, our Business Projects Manager in the Research Support Development Office, Tel 01895 266199, email [lynne.greenstreet@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:lynne.greenstreet@brunel.ac.uk)

## Get Your Thesis on the Web

The Brunel Senate has approved a resolution that, from 1 October 2008, all PhD students will have to provide the University Library with an electronic version of their successful thesis for depositing in the Brunel University Research Archive (BURA), our institutional repository.

The aim is to showcase one of the University's research assets amongst research outputs. At the moment, most theses are largely hidden away in library stacks or deposited with the British Library, which will only supply copies at a cost. However, since BURA was launched in December 2006, PhD theses have proven to be the most popular items for download.

Making PhD theses systematically available on the web should unlock their potential, disseminate their findings and promote the research being carried by Brunel students. Although the Senate ruling applies to students who complete during 2008, all recently-graduated PhD student are also encouraged to register with BURA and to upload their thesis onto the Archive's website.



**The Brunel Institute for Ageing Studies** brings together, under the directorship of Professor Mary Gilhooly, over 50 academics with expertise in gerontology, biosciences, psychology, public health, sociology, engineering and IT. It has been awarded a major grant under the Research Council New Dynamics of Ageing programme to investigate decision-making in the detection of financial elder abuse.

# Graduate News

## Prize-Winning Graduates



### Daily Mail Enterprise Awards

Mechanical Engineering graduate **Nathaniel Peat** won the Daily Mail Enterprising Young Brits award in the Social and Community category for his Safety Box company. The awards, which are presented to the six best entrepreneurs under the age of 30, attracted more than 1,000 entries, and the winners in each of six categories won £1,000.

The presentation ceremony took place in xxxx at London's Hyatt Regency Hotel, with judges including the Daily Mail's City Editor Alex Brummer and businesswoman Karren Brady, Managing Director of Birmingham City Football Club, and were attended by Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Chancellor Alistair Darling.

Nathaniel launched The Safety Box last year in a bid to tackle anti-social behaviour, and the fact that youngsters carry knives and other weapons to protect themselves. The programme of 1-hour lessons given at schools over 10 weeks aim to raise confidence and levels of attainment in young people by teaching them conflict resolution, verbal diffusion, aggression management, assertion tactics, safety awareness and personal confidence.

Growing up in North East London he saw firsthand the challenges and dangers that young people face in day to day life, and he drew on this experience when setting up his company.



### Business School Graduates Win Allied Irish Bank Prizes

**Sam Milligan**, who graduated with a BSc Business and Management (Marketing) in 2006, and PhD graduate Steve Hogan, who completed his research degree in 2005, both won a £1,000 prize from the Allied Irish Bank for their final projects. Sam took the prize for best undergraduate dissertation on an ethics issue for a project on the ethics of using cartoon characters to promote food high in fat and sugar to children. Steve's winning thesis was entitled *Creating Trust in Children's Toy Brands*.



### Highways Innovation Award

**Paul Scrase**, who graduated in Product Design in 2005, was presented with a winner's cheque worth £1,000 by James May, presenter of BBC's *Top Gear*, for a hazard warning light called *La Rue Illuminaire*. The award, created and sponsored by Traffic Management Products, rewarded Paul's innovation in finding a more intelligible and instinctive solution for the warning lights at road works, which would provide a clearly defined route for road users. This comes on top of his success in his final year at Brunel when he won the 2005 Reliance Prize for Innovation.

### BAFTA Nomination for English Graduate



**Sharon Horgan** graduated in English and American Studies in 2000 and sent some of her creative writing sketches to the BBC. These won her the 2001 BBC New Comedy Award, and she was on her way. She is now being touted as 'the next big thing' in comedy. One newspaper recently described her as the creator of "the best sitcom of 2006... [and] the funniest woman you've never heard of."

She earned her BAFTA nomination for Best Sitcom for *Pulling*, the BBC3 comedy she starred in and co-wrote with Dennis Kelly. She also played the part of a put-upon guest booker in Rob Brydon's *Annually Retentive*.

Her latest offering is *Angelo's*, an ensemble sitcom that starts on Channel Five in November 2007. Co-written (again with Kelly) by and starring Horgan, this new six-part series is set in the eponymous café just off Trafalgar Square in central London.

Sharon is currently working on a second series of *Pulling*.

# In the Limelight



## Literary Awards for Creative Writers

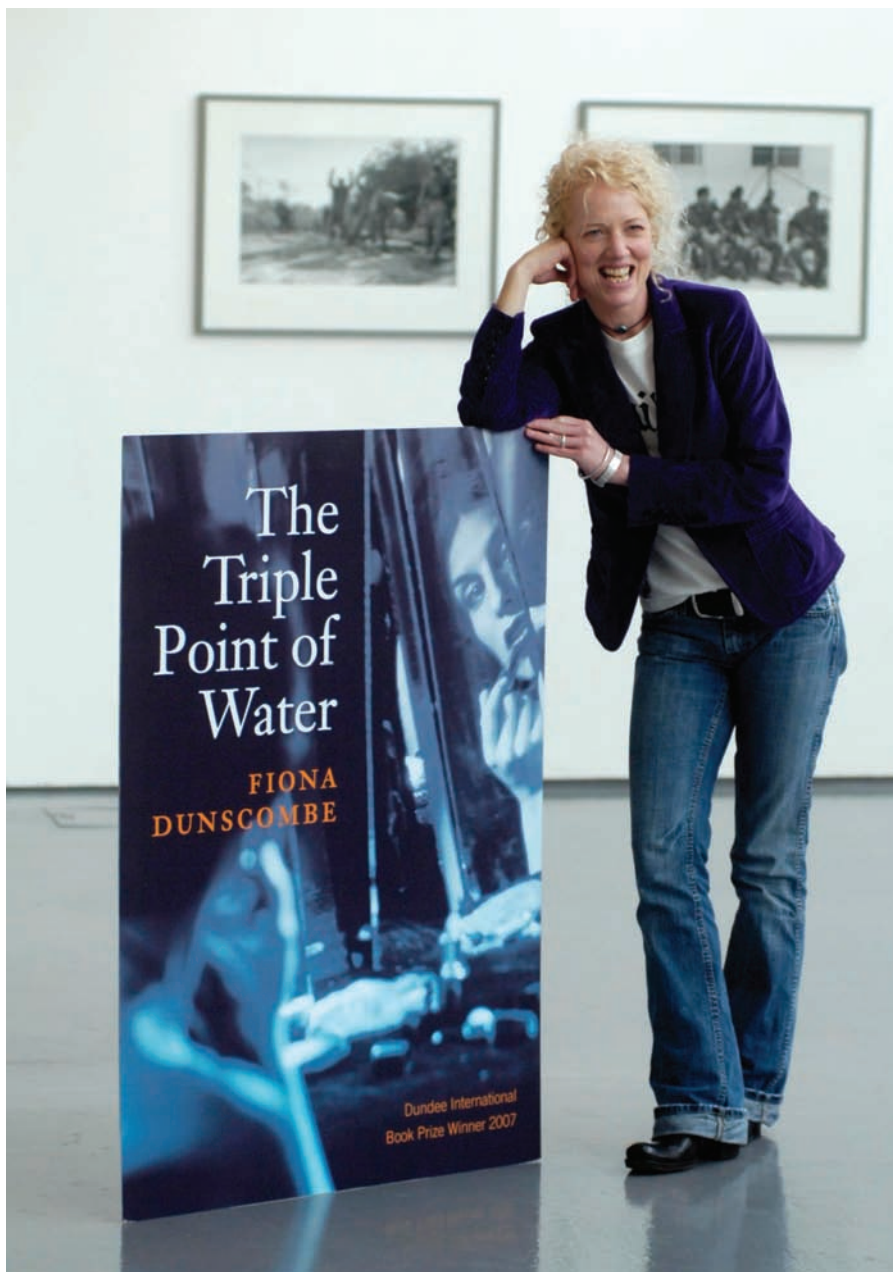
Two English graduates have won the Decibel Penguin prize for short stories (which is backed by Penguin Books and Arts Council England). They will see their work published alongside 14 others in an anthology of non fiction personal accounts of the experience of immigration to Britain, entitled *Volume 2: Personal Tales of Immigration to Britain*.

**Nina Joshi** recalls her immigration from "sunny" Kenya to "sometimes sunny" England in *A Leaky Roof in London*, and **Ali Sheikholeslami's** story *The Gentleman of Reigate* is about his arrival in the UK from Iran to study at Brunel.

Nina graduated from Brunel 14 years ago with a BSc in Computer Science and has now gained her Master's degree in Creative Writing: The Novel. She said: "I've learned that it's necessary to be able to submit a piece of work even if I didn't think it was perfect. I'm looking forward to reading the other 15 stories in the anthology." Ali, who left his job as a project manager in Iran to study for a Master's degree in Creative and Professional Writing, commented: "As a new writer, I don't know what will happen to my work when it's finished, so if it's published, it's a confirmation that I've done a good job."

## Showtime for Drama Graduate

**Barbara Hockaday**, who graduated in Modern Drama Studies in 2002, is also a performer making a name for herself – this time treading the boards rather than in front of the camera. She took a leading role in the Alan Plater-scripted show *Blonde Bombshells of 1943*, which has been touring since January, playing war-widow Grace. She played the same role in her first professional part after graduating from Brunel but this time was also involved in the musical direction and choreography as well. "The part was quite sketchy when I first did it, but the musical director and I built it up. I'm a bit all over this show really – it was a case of 'changing hats' for me, but is great fun!"



## Dundee International Book Prize

English and Drama graduate from 1993, **Fiona Dunscombe (nee Wilde)**, has been named winner of the Dundee International Book Prize 2007 for her book *The Triple Point of Water*. She accepted the accolade, the UK's premier prize for emerging novelists, with a cash prize of £10,000 and publication by Birlinn Ltd, publishers of the Polygon imprint.

*The Triple Point of Water* is set in a decade presided over by Britain's first female prime minister. It has been described as "Gritty, dark and full of life" and "An assured, clever and understated search for identity, threaded with a subtle political critique" by prize judges James Naughtie and Carl MacDougall respectively.

Manuscripts were received from throughout Scotland and the UK, and from as far afield as USA, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, New Zealand, Guernsey, France and Nigeria.

Fiona, who thanked lecturer Rose Atfield for her support and encouragement, said "The first print run is sold out, my publishers are re-printing and they have had two enquiries about film rights – all very exciting!"

Fiona lives near Montpellier in the south of France and is a member of Lumineuse, a writers' group made up of English women living in France. She is currently working on a second novel, *Inheriting Silence*.

# Champions Past and Present



## Footballers Shine in China

**Eniola Aluko** (Law UG) and **Anita Asante** (2006 Politics and English graduate and MRes Politics student) helped England's women footballers in their march to the quarterfinals of the World Cup in China. Anita was also the driving force behind Arsenal's quadruple success, including the UEFA Cup.

## Sky's the Limit for Netball Superleague

The Brunel-based Netball Superleague team, Brunel Hurricanes, set a new crowd record of over 1,000 fans watching their match against Team Bath in February. More than 100,000 also watched the game on Sky, which is broadcasting the Superleague this year. The Hurricanes squad includes current Brunel students **Laura Smith, Zoie Humphrey, Samantha Dick** and **Rhianne McHale**.

## Jim Biddle Scholarships

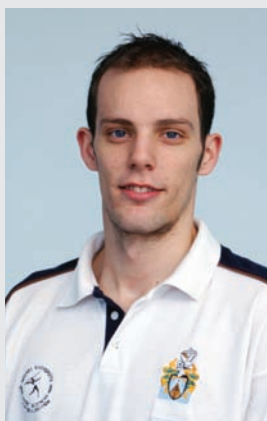
Twenty-two Sport Sciences students competing at national and international level – with assistance from the Borough Road Scholarship Fund – have received the first Jim Biddle Sport and Education Scholarships.

The awards are named in honour of Jim Biddle, retired head of Physical Education at Borough Road, who passed away last year. The scholarships will help the student athletes towards training and competition expenses.

## SPORT SPORT SPORT

If you are involved in sport – any sport at any level – whether you are sportsperson yourself, whether you coach, teach or are a sports administrator, Brunel University would like to hear from you. We are putting together a database of all Brunel alumni who are active or interested in sport so that we can keep you informed, and maybe get you involved, in Brunel's 2012 Olympic plans. Please send your contact details together with your sporting interest to: [alumni@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@brunel.ac.uk)

## High Performance Athletics



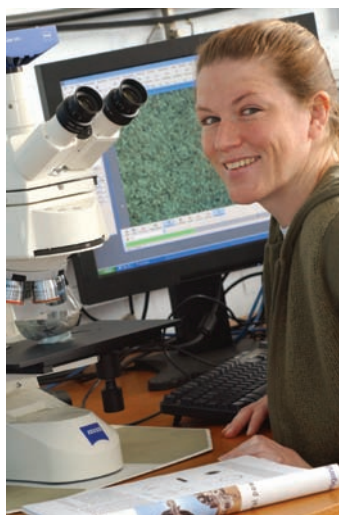
The University is delighted to have been selected by UK Athletics as one of only four High Performance Athletics Centres (HiPACs) in the country. This means we are now one of the key sites for GB athletics team preparations between now and the London 2012 Olympics and we have submitted an offer to the Organising Committee for preparation camps for teams from all over the world.

Brunel has also been established as a High Performance Centre by Badminton England, creating both a coaching and administrative centre at the University in another major sport.

There have been more outstanding performances from students and graduates in the athletics arena this year.

- **Kadi-Ann Thomas** (2007 Sport Sciences graduate): UK indoor 200m champion 2007.

- **Montell Douglas** (Sport Sciences UG): European indoor 60m semi-finalist, reached the quarterfinals in the World Championships in Osaka, where she also came 4th in the final of the 4x100m relay (with Laura Turner).



### Karen Roberts Takes Up Judo Challenge

Karen graduated in Materials Science and Engineering in 2001 and went on to complete her PhD at Brunel in the Centre for Advanced Solidification Technology. She then became Assistant Director of the Centre but has also maintained an illustrious sporting career. She was GB Open champion in judo, won a bronze medal in the judo world championships and was Commonwealth Gold Medallist in 2002. In a dramatic change of discipline, she is now double European Champion in dragon boating (at 200m and 500m).

She has just left Brunel to take up the appointment of World Class Operations Manager within British Judo to head up the GB team for 2012.



### Double Whammy for Vicki

**Vicki Hansford** (MSc Sport Sciences student), who already has an international reputation on the athletics track, has now switched to rowing with equal success. Vicki won the World Championships at Eton in the LTA +4 category, and now aims to qualify to represent Team GB in the Paralympics in Beijing 2008.



### Pichot Led Argentine Rugby to New Heights

**Agustin Pichot** (2002 Business and Sport Sciences graduate) was captain of Argentina in the Rugby World Cup in France in 2006. Argentina went on to win third place following victory over the host nation in the semi-final playoff. Agustin also captained French team Racing Metro 92 Paris to take the French championships in 2007, the first foreign player to do so.

- **Laura Turner** (2003 BSc, 2006 MSc Sport Sciences graduate): UK indoor 60m champion, 4th in the 4 x 100m relay at World Athletics Championships (with Montell Douglas) and also reached the individual 100m semifinals in the 5th fastest time ever by a British athlete.

- **Lizzie Hall** (2006 Physio graduate and MSc Sport Sciences student): UK 3000m steeplechase record holder.

- **Katia Lannon** (Sport Sciences UG): UK indoor pentathlon champion 2007.

- **Kevin Sempers** (Sport Sciences UG): UK indoor heptathlon champion 2007.

- **Bernard Yeboah** (2007 Finance and Accounting graduate): UK indoor long jump champion 2007.

- **Elle Baker** (2005 Sport Sciences graduate, MSc Sport Sciences student) represented GB at the World Championships in Kenya.

Look out for some of these stars at the Olympics this Summer. We wish them well.





## Hockey Stars Head for Beijing

Great Britain hockey captain **Kate Walsh** (1999 Business graduate) first played in the Olympic Games in 2000 when she was a Brunel student. She and **Jo Ellis** (2003 Sport Sciences graduate) have now secured the GB hockey team's spot in Beijing with a thrilling 3-2 win over the Netherlands in the European Nations Cup playoff.

## The British Olympic Association (BOA) have awarded 2007 Olympic Athlete of the Year trophies to two Brunel graduates.

Introduced in 2005 to mark the BOA's Centenary Year and the awarding of the 2012 Olympic Games to London, the BOA presents a trophy to each of the 35 Olympic Governing Bodies for them to award on an annual basis to their top Olympic athlete. This year, the hockey award went to Kate Walsh, and the luge to Mark Hatton.

The winners of these Olympic awards were also invited to celebrate their achievements at the prestigious BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

Commenting on receiving her award, Kate said: "I am thrilled with this award and must thank everyone who has helped me during my hockey career. But I would trade every medal and personal trophy for a chance to win Olympic Gold. I hope that over the next two Olympic cycles we can rise to the occasion."



# Graduate Features



**Simon Feeney, who graduated in Mechanical Engineering from Brunel in 2005, found that, despite the initial rejection letters, the right job was out there just waiting for him.**

"During my final year, I'd started the daunting task of applying for jobs. I must have applied for about 15 in all; some rejected me outright, some wanted to wait for my final grade and one offered me an interview – which didn't go particularly well, but was good practice nevertheless! It can be quite disheartening to get so many rejections, but my dad repeated what he had always told me: I'm not saying that it will be easy, I'm just saying that it will be worth it.

Once I left University, I continued to fire off copies of my CV and just when I was starting to lose hope, I got three job interviews in the space of three weeks!

Two were, for different reasons, not what I was after. But the third was in fact four

interviews spread over the course of a day within the company. The management had organised a buffet lunch with me and the other applicants who were there on the same day, and watched how we interacted with each other. But the aim of the day was to allow us to see the company, and not just for them to see us. I left the interview feeling really good, because I had felt right at home. Four days later I was offered a position on the Project Controls Graduate Scheme!

On my first day, my boss told me there were more qualified people than me who had applied, but that there was something in my personality that he liked and so he had given me my chance. After eight months of working on a gas processing plant project – a project that allowed me to visit the plant in Norway twice – my boss called me to his office and said "How would you like to work in Paris for six months?" Within three weeks I flew out to Paris to start my six-month assignment

working in Project Controls on an LNG plant project. During my Paris assignment, I was offered the opportunity to stay in Paris for a further four months, and then continue my work on-site in Yemen. Again I jumped at the opportunity...

I can honestly say that I didn't know jobs like mine existed when I was at University. Although the work is hard, I get to see the world, meeting some interesting people along the way. Undoubtedly I got lucky whilst applying for jobs – right place, right time, I guess – but somebody had to, so it may as well be me. The reason I've progressed, however, is because I took those lucky breaks and built on them. The hard work does continue, but when I think back to the rejection letter after rejection letters, I know I shouldn't complain.

Like a man much wiser than I am once told me, 'I never said it would be easy, only that it would be worth it'."

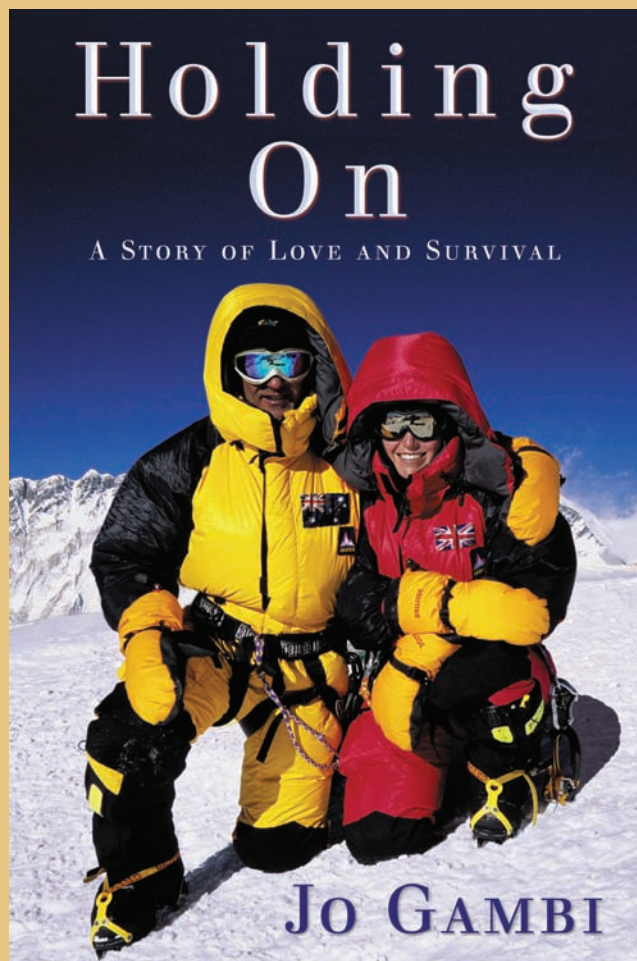
**'I never said it would be easy,  
only that it would be worth it'.**

# Graduates in Print

**Jo Gambi**, Physiotherapy 2000  
*Holding On: A Story of Love and Survival*

In 2005 Jo and her husband Rob became the first married couple to achieve the adventurer's ultimate ambition when they climbed the 'Seven Summits' (the highest mountains on all seven continents) and skied to both the North and South Poles. Jo is also the first female to achieve this feat and is the second British woman to have climbed Everest's N/NE Ridge. In 2005, she entered the Guinness World Records for the fastest female ascent of the 'Seven Summits'.

What makes this story even more remarkable is that they achieved all this while Rob was in remission from his second bout of cancer. In spite of setbacks and facing death high in the Himalayas, they persevered and fulfilled their dreams (while unwittingly setting a string of records).



**Francis French**, Education PGCE, 1997  
*In the Shadow of the Moon: A Challenging Journey to Tranquillity, 1965-1969* (co-author)  
*Into That Silent Sea: Trailblazers of the Space Era, 1961-1965* (co-author)

Francis is Director at the San Diego Air and Space Museum in California, and has written extensively on space history, with a particular focus on the social and human angle. These books tell the story of the exciting years in spaceflight with two superpowers racing to be the first to land on the moon. They go beyond the technical achievements to also focus on the people who made it all possible, drawing on interviews with astronauts, their families, technicians and scientists.

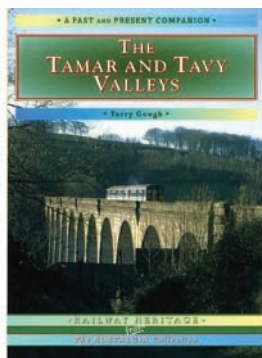


**Giles Humpston**, Materials Engineering BEng and PhD, 1985  
*Principles of Brazing* (co-author)  
*Principles of Soldering* (co-author)  
*Principles of Soldering and Brazing* (co-author)  
*Gold in Metal Joining* (to be published 2008) (co-author)

**Dick White**, Applied Biology, 1969  
*The Windermere Ferry*

There has been a ferry across Windermere for as long as people can remember. The first documented permission of carriage of goods dates from the 13th century when the monks of Coniston were granted the right to 'carry wood and timber and whatever else they need.' This book tells of the trials and tribulations of ferry rights, ferrymen, passengers and disputes over ferry prices of what was the most direct route for traders between the important towns of Kendal and Hawkshead.





**Professor Terry Gough**, Chemistry 1964,  
followed by DSc in 1980.  
*The Analysis of Drug Abuse* (editor)

The Tamar and Tavy Valleys, and around 30  
other books on railways, largely illustrated  
by Terry himself.

Terry continues to travel extensively and  
is currently working on a book about  
life in a refugee camp in Thailand (for  
Cambodians). He is an Associate of the  
Royal Photographic Society, awarded for his  
photos of Vietnam, a place he has visited  
annually for many years.

**Reg Eyre**, Education  
(Borough Road College), 1969  
*Riding Old Motorcycles*

After a career in education, teaching at  
secondary and HE level, Reg took early  
retirement to concentrate on his major  
hobby, including riding around New  
Zealand for 12 weeks and writing for  
various motorcycle magazines. This book  
examines his experiences of riding all types  
of motorcycle from 1902 to 2002.

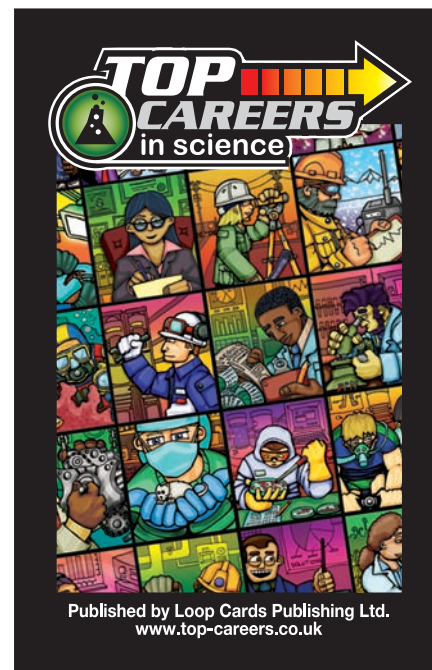


**John Shepherd**, Education  
(Borough Road College), 1964  
*George Lansbury: At the Heart of Old Labour  
Britain's First Labour Government* (co-author)

John Shepherd is Visiting Professor of  
Modern British History at Anglia Ruskin  
University and a Fellow of The Royal  
Historical Society. His main research interests  
are in 19th and 20th century British political  
history, particularly the history of the British  
Labour Party. He is currently working on a  
study of the Labour Party and the British  
Winter of Discontent, 1978-9, as well as a  
social history of Arsenal Football Club.

**Neil Howell**, History, Geography and  
Education (Borough Road College), 1954  
*Take Your Marks – An Autobiography*

Neil's story takes in his school days in  
Beccles, his National Service with the RAF  
in the Middle East and then his teacher's  
training and a career spanning over 33  
years mainly in Physical Education. After  
retiring from teaching sport he returned  
to competitive swimming after a break of  
40 years. He concludes with a chapter on  
his sometimes controversial views about  
present day sport.



**Eiman Munro**, Education PGCE, 2004  
*Top Careers in Science* (one of a series of  
educational games)

Top Careers in Science is based around  
perennial hit children's card game Top  
Trumps. Each card represents a science-  
based profession such as chemical engineer,  
pharmacist or airline pilot. The cards are  
marked with points under five different  
categories, for example under the category  
of travel the airline pilot has a maximum  
10 points, while the chemical engineer has  
just two. The cards also provide education,  
with each card describing the particular  
job and suggesting a website of a leading  
organisation in that particular field where  
kids can get even more information if they  
are interested.

**Neil Rees**, Computer Science, 1991  
*The Czech Connection – the  
Czechoslovak Government in Exile in  
London and Buckinghamshire*

Neil's interest in Czech history began  
with his first job after graduating from  
Brunel - a job at Pilsen Institute of  
Technology (with whom the University  
has quite strong links). When he  
returned to Buckinghamshire, he  
discovered extensive local connections  
that began when exiled Czech President  
Edvard Benes took up residence at the  
beginning of World War 2 in Aston  
Abbots. His Cabinet found safe haven  
at nearby Wingrave. The location was  
chosen as an ideal compromise between  
safety and proximity to London. Neil's  
book is based in large part on interviews  
with local villagers and the Czech  
soldiers and officials billeted there.





## **Nikki Cole graduated in Electrical Engineering in 1981**

"I was the only female engineer in my graduating class and I understand that numbers have not improved significantly in the years since. This is a great shame as it has proved to be an excellent qualification for me in terms of relevance, longevity and impact. I still raise the odd eyebrow when I describe myself as an engineer.

My first major assignment was as part of a team building a '5 chip set' engine management system for the Boeing range of commercial aircraft. Writing simulations in Hex and handcrafting the 'poly' and 'silicon' routes at the Mostek design factory was a venture into the unknown for us all.

Riding on the back of that success, I joined the company whose simulator we had used. Recruited to carry out training (showing others how to do it) and marketing, I had great fun attending exhibitions and running courses across Europe and Israel.

Then in 1986, I had a son, Thomas, which put a stop to my globe-trotting for a while. In search of a UK-based job, I looked up Brunel once again. A number of incubator companies had set up in its just-emerging Science Park. Professor Gerry Musgrave gave me the break I needed and offered me a role within FrontEnd Limited – selling a radical new graphical user interface for simulators.

Twenty-one years, ten roles and six companies later, I have finally decided to give up corporate life and set up on my own. I have just launched my own company, BlueSky Cat Limited, where I will help others manage change within their organisations, using an ethical and constructive approach.

If you would like to get in touch to reminisce or share experiences, you can email me at [nikki@blueskycat.co.uk](mailto:nikki@blueskycat.co.uk)."

# Congratulations

The following shows a selection of news items and cuttings about Brunel graduates.

Do e-mail with further items.

**Juan de Battista** (MBA 1996)  
Appointed Company Secretary of Gasan group of companies (automotive and engineering), Malta.

**Collin Bruce** (Physics 1973)  
Appointed Director of Marketing with the Embedded Business Group of Hitachi, America, leading on the Hitachi Entier embedded database product in North America.

**Rita Benoy Bushon** (MBA 1992)  
Appointed Director, Electronic Sensor Technology in California, a company manufacturing ultra-fast vapour analyzers.

**Dr Lincoln Crawford** (Law 1975)  
At the request of the Government, Lincoln represented the UK at the United Nations commemorations for the Abolition of the Slave Trade in New York in March 2007. He was hosted by the British Ambassador and his staff whilst there.

**Sanjay Dhawan** (MSc Digital Systems 1988)  
Appointed Chief Operating Officer for Aricent, international communications software company in California.

**Melissa Ernest** (Politics and History 2005)  
Project manager for Faith Regen Foundation, a charity that runs projects that try to build community cohesion.

**Said el-Gheithy** (Medical Anthropology 1992)  
Director of the Centre for African Language Learning in Covent Garden, and creator of a fictional language 'Ku' for the film *The Interpreter*.

**Emma Gilding** (Drama and Music 1993)  
Corporate Ethnographer at one of the world's top advertising agencies, Ogilvy and Mather, in USA.

**Professor Exnervia Gomo** (MSc Applied Immunology)  
Director of Research, College of Medicine, University of Malawi, working in the areas of HIV and malaria.

**Dr Yash Gupta** (MTech Production Technology 1974)  
Appointed first dean of the John Hopkins University's new Carey Business School, Maryland.

**Robert Hopkins** (Design 2001)  
An expert in specialist scenery design, he has joined Stage Technologies supporting their automotive engineering solutions for live performance at entertainment venues throughout the world.

**Dominic Jackson** (MBA 2006)  
Winner of ITV's game show *PokerFace*.



**Amber Rose Revah** (current student)  
Drama student playing the part of Hala Hussein in the BBC 1 series *Between Two Rivers* to be broadcast in February 2008.



**Tony James** (Computer Science 1975)  
Founder of *Sique Sique Sputnik*, he has put together, with Mick Jones (the Clash), new group *Carbon/Silicon* who are touring in the UK and USA.

**Julie Jones** (MA Public and Social Admin 1980)  
Appointed CEO of the Social Care Institute for Excellence, following the Directorship of Social Services and Childrens' Services in Westminster.

**Jasbir Khalsa** (Law 2002)  
Legal Counsel for Hitachi Data Systems in California.

**Deji Luba** (Economics and Finance 2004)  
Part of the band *Four Kornerz* with his three brothers, which has produced the album *Soulectric* from UB1 Music.

**Dr Hind Al Mualla** (Multimedia 2005)  
Appointed Head of Innovation Unit, Knowledge and Human Development Authority, United Arab Emirates.

**Ray Muscat** (MSc Advanced Manufacturing Systems 1999)  
Appointed Director General of the Federation of Industry in Malta

**Shihaleni Ndjaba** (MBA 1998)  
Appointed CEO for the Namibia Diamond Trading Company (formerly permanent secretary in the Ministry of Works Transport and Communication).

**Andy Norman** (SEP 1989)  
Appointed Senior Vice-President of worldwide sales for GlassHouse Technologies, managing a diverse global team.

**David O'Mahony** (Drama and History 2004)  
Lead production singer on a round-the-world-cruise ending summer 2008.

**Jane Owen** (Modern Drama 2002)  
Has her own PR company in Hollywood Owen/Xavier PR.

**Professor Andreas Papadakis** (Physics PhD 1969)  
Publisher Prof Papadakis has recently acquired the Monkey Island Hotel in Bray and plans to make it 'as comfortable as a local pub and as glamorous as a grand hotel'.

**Shazia Aslam Rafique** (Economics and Law 1998)  
Appointed Assistant Vice-President for marine, energy and construction at Liberty International Underwriters, in its Dubai office to expand activity in the Middle East region.

**Martin Rinck** (MBA 1995)  
Appointed President and Managing Director of Carlson Hotels, Worldwide Asia Pacific.

**Chris Rogers** (Business Studies with Management Accounting 2006)  
Winner of the Best New Graduate in Business in Hertfordshire, he is commercial manager for i-Regulatory Ltd, increasing the firm's business accrual rate by 100%.

**Karen Rouse** (Drama and Music 1996)  
Two comedy plays available to download *Following Yago* and *Ordinary World*.

Karen has since written a further five plays and screenplays.

**Dr Pekka Sauri** (PhD Psychology 1990)  
Deputy Mayor of Helsinki, Finland, the first Green politician to achieve such a post in any Finnish municipality.

**Paul Turner** (Electrical Engineering 1986)  
VP Global Operations for Arieso, which provides innovative solutions to improve performance of cellular networks.

**Professor Greg Whyte** (PGCE 1989)  
Trained *Little Britain* star David Walliams to successfully swim the English Channel in aid of Comic Relief.x



**Carole Easton graduated in xxxx in xxxx. When the charity ChildLine became part of the NSPCC last year, Carole, as its Chief Executive, was faced with redundancy. However, not only was the merger the best outcome for ChildLine, but the experience was also useful in her new role as chief executive of Clic Sargent.**

"ChildLine made the needs of children the priority above the organisation and personalities. It's a reminder to always keep an eye on the needs of beneficiaries and make decisions according to whatever they might be."

Clic Sargent is already a merged organisation, officially formed in 2005 when Clic and Sargent Cancer Care for Children merged and it has become the biggest provider of services for children with cancer in the UK.

One of Carole's first challenges was the daunting task of considering the charity's annual report and looking at the next year's budgets.

"It meant very quickly having to get to grips with the totality of the organisation," she says. "Without having a relationship with the staff or knowing them and their different points of view, I had to support them and have a point of view myself."

As well as getting to know the charity's staff, Easton is keen to learn from its beneficiaries. "I want to focus on hearing directly from young people whose lives are affected by cancer, the children who are diagnosed and their siblings," she says.

"We already consult some of the children who use our services, although there isn't a formal body yet. I will be talking to people about how to involve our younger users. We also have a former service-user who is now in her 20s joining our board of trustees."

Another first for Carole is seeing the debate about charity involvement in public service delivery from the inside. She followed the debate with interest at ChildLine, but at Clic Sargent she is actively involved: the charity funds or part-funds 60 NHS posts and a further 60 social worker posts, which are located in local authorities. "We have a genuinely interesting relationship with the NHS," says Easton. "It leads to questions about the role of the sector, which is something I'd be interested to debate with other charities."

# Keeping Good Companies

## Brunel Graduate Appointed Sustainable Development Commissioner

**Alice Owen graduated from the Special Engineering Programme in 1990 and has tackled a range of challenges in environmental management leading to her appointment in 2005 as one of the UK's Sustainable Development Commissioners. She leads the Commission's local and regional work stream that bridges the gap between Whitehall policy and practical implementation.**

Alice undertakes her work as a Commissioner alongside her role as an Associate Director at international design and engineering consultancy Arup, where she leads the firm's strategic sustainability work in the north of England.

"I'm not a great advertisement for career planning – I've just done jobs which look interesting! That portfolio of interesting jobs has included working as an engineer on chemical plants in the UK, France and Brazil and developing organisational consultancy for the Field Studies Council, a charity who also help developing countries build expertise in ecology and environmental education.

I was really privileged, working with the FSC, to learn alongside people who were really trying to influence their own communities and societies in places where the environment is precious and fragile, like the Galapagos Islands, the rainforests in Borneo, the coral reefs of the Caribbean and in the countries around the Black Sea. It really brought home to me how important it is to integrate habitat protection into community and economic development.

At that time, I was also studying part-time for an MBA at Manchester Business School, sponsored by *The Guardian* newspaper. I was also sponsored by ICI on my Brunel course, and I think sponsorship gives a really important extra dimension to studying.

As Head of Conservation at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, I learnt about local development planning at the sharp end. Next came the opportunity to lead the first sustainable development team in regional development agency 'Yorkshire Forward' when it was created in 1999.

'The environment is our big opportunity' is now my mantra – we have to stop seeing the environment as a constraint on the economy and start seeing the necessity of environmental limits as a driver for innovation.

I admit my engineering training won't let go. Sure, the theory has to be right, but my course linked theory to practical action and that does mean that engineers have something constructive to add to government policy. I'm really enjoying being involved in real projects with Arup alongside advising government."

## Brunel Graduates Are Never Too Old To Make An Impression

**Danny Daniels studied PE and Education at Borough Road between 1949 and 1951. Now aged 78, he is putting other Brunel graduates half his age to shame with his sporting achievements. Two years after open-heart surgery and a quadruple bypass, he competed in the decathlon at the world track and field championships in Italy this autumn (2007). He reports that the event didn't go quite according to plan.**

"My performance was most disappointing. Eight weeks prior to the start of my decathlon, I had to undergo surgery to have a pacemaker implant to correct an irregular heartbeat. Although they put it in under my left collarbone (after I'd told them I throw right-handed!), I still wasn't able to train properly for the first six weeks after the operation, so it was only in the last week before leaving for Italy that I was able to do any throwing, jumping or pole vaulting.

Then the start of the competition was delayed for three hours as a result of a near-hurricane sweeping through the area, with 100km per hour winds and sweeping torrents of rain. Cities and towns in the area reported major floods and traffic disruptions, and our track and field facilities were similarly inundated. Even when we finally started, we ran in pelting rain with little time to warm up, the long jump and shot put conditions were atrocious, and almost everything went downhill from there.

While my fellow competitors managed to perform quite well, even under those conditions, my lack of final training and preparation proved to be a major handicap and I finished 8th out of 10 starters, scoring only about two-thirds of the points I'd expected.

Ah well, there's still the World Masters Indoor Championships next March in Clermont-Ferrand, France, and the next Outdoor Championships in Lahti, Finland, in 2009 – and by then I'll be 80 and can move into a new age bracket!"

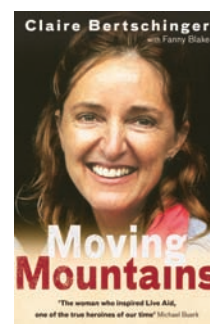
For Danny, exercise is a joy. "It's not just the physical pleasure. It keeps you mentally alert and you make social contacts too. You don't retain your youth but you retain your feeling of youth."

He is also a coach and travels around the world as vice-chairman of Athletics Canada, where he now lives. His wife, Marjorie, 76, keeps up her end by competing in 100-metre sprint events, and together they encourage other seniors to get active. We'll try to bring you news of Danny's success in France in the next issue of Link.

Another 'Borough Road boy' (1942 to 1944), **Lewis Lilliman**, is also still pounding the track. Now 82, he won gold this summer in his UK Veterans race!

And news from a 1952 to 1954 Borough Road alumnus, **Neil Howell**, that he has won around 300 medals since starting 'age group' swimming. His career highlight so far was being ranked in the world top ten of the 70-74 year old group at Christchurch in New Zealand in 2002.





## Work With Africa's Poor Acknowledged in Major Awards

**Claire Bertschinger, who graduated from Brunel in Medical Anthropology in 1997, has spent much of her life and work helping, and drawing attention to, the poor in African. So great has her contribution been that she has not only received the Florence Nightingale Medal but was given the Women of the Year: Window to the World Award in 2005. In June 2007, she received the International Human Rights and Nursing Award from the International Centre for Nursing Ethics.**

Claire worked as an International Red Cross nurse in Ethiopia during the famine of 1984, and was the central figure of a BBC news report, sent by Michael Buerk and broadcast on 23 October 1984, which inspired Bob Geldof to put together the Band Aid charity recording.

During those years she ran two feeding centres that could only take in 60 to 70 new children at a time whilst thousands more were in need of food. As a 20-year-old, newly-qualified nurse, she had to decide who would be lucky enough to receive food. Those she couldn't help had little hope of survival. When Michael Buerk and the BBC crew arrived, Claire had been in the country for nearly four months, during which time few people in the world knew of their plight. Following his film, the aid started to pour in but Claire, who had shut herself off from media reports as a way of shutting out the conditions she was dealing with, was oblivious to the fact that she was a catalyst for so much fundraising.

Before Ethiopia she worked in Lebanon, Panama and Sulawesi. Later she moved to Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone and other countries in West Africa. Since 2006 she has lectured at the London

School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine where she runs the Diploma in Tropical Nursing.

Her experiences of the suffering in war zones provoked her to write a book, *Moving Mountains*. She used her diary entries to illustrate just how intolerable the situation in Ethiopia had become and her despair at the terrible choices she was being forced to make. She said it was not until she went back to visit Ethiopia 18 months ago, meeting some of the children she had helped to save, that she realised she had actually done some good.

Michael Buerk has described it as the story of "one of the true heroines of our times – an ordinary woman who did extraordinary things and really did move mountains." A proportion of the royalties from the book will go to the African Children's Educational Trust.

# MADE IN BRUNEL™

The *Made in Brunel 2007* show took place from the 12 to 14 June 2007 at the Business Design Centre in Islington. It was a great success, taking the theme of 'Making Our Mark' and building on the success enjoyed in 2006. The show provides a great opportunity for the final year students from the School of Engineering and Design at Brunel to showcase their final year projects and to promote engineering and design to wide audiences in an exciting and innovative way.

Tim Fitzpatrick, London Regional Director of HSBC awarded the £2,000 HSBC Making Your Mark Award, on behalf of the bank's Global Education Trust, to Matthew Higham, a third year Industrial Design student, for his project IntroBAL. The HSBC Making Your Mark Award recognises projects that demonstrate innovative thinking and has a positive impact in today's world, with the potential for international success.

Brian Kingham, Founder and Chairman of the Reliance Group, kindly awarded the £2000 Reliance Security Prize for Enterprise and Innovation at Made In Brunel 2007 to David Gadd, a final year Industrial Design and Technology student, for his project A Brush For Life. The Reliance Security Prize for Enterprise and Innovation recognises projects that are entrepreneurial and contain significant innovation.

BAA Heathrow also sponsored a HEART award (Heathrow Responsible Technology Award) that 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. The award was presented by Emma Harding, Corporate Responsibility Manager at BAA Heathrow to final year Industrial Design student Meghana Vaidyanathan, for her project Squirt. If you would like a copy of the *Made in Brunel* directory which details all the *Made in Brunel* projects for 2007, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the Development Office on 01895 267310.

*The Made in Brunel 2008 show will be taking place from the 10 to 12 June and the HSBC Global Education Trust has already made a generous pledge of support towards it. Donations from individuals, corporates and trusts help to make Made In Brunel possible, and in return, we offer attractive marketing and promotional benefits. Please contact us if you would like to learn more.*

**Dr John Sealey, who studied Education at Borough Road from 1956 to 1958, unexpectedly hit the headlines back in the 60s when he tried to be just bit too conscientious.**

"How fast can you read? I thought I was quite slow at four minutes per page, but it seems that I can read at 70 miles per hour! Well, that's what the Police told me.

I was driving from the North to London on a near empty M1 (it was in the 1960s) and decided to pick up the notes I'd made for the exam I was to take within the hour. 'A non-tyrannical structure of society (I read from Karl Mannheim) as a democratic order where the wishes of the individual are given due weight with the needs of the group.' Memorising this particular bit

of text required no special skill; not for a Borough Road man who had mastered the art of avoiding Principal and lecturers while running myself a bath at the all-ladies Maria Grey College. The Police thought otherwise.

Two days later I made headlines across the country – and the USA and Australasia. 'Driver swots for exam on M1 at 70' roared the *Daily Mail*. 'Philosopher's 70mph study' barked the *Daily Telegraph*. This non-event appears to have passed the test of time. Only a week before the Borough Road and Maria Grey reunion at Brunel on 19 May 2007, Barry Loker e-mailed Sue Curley from Canada after seeing my name on the reunion list to ask 'Is that our John Sealey from Borough Road, who I read about in the *New York Times*'?

Well it was, Barry, and you'll be interested to know that after the Police admitted there was nothing wrong with my driving, the Court discharged me and asked for 20 pence in fees.



*Caption: the 1957/58 Students Union Council of Borough Road included John Sealey (seated extreme left). Others to whom we can put a name are SU President, Mensink in the middle and Tony Bisson sitting on the extreme right. If you recognise others, let us know.*

## Speed Reading



# Fundraising in 2007

## Alumni Fundraising

The Telephone Campaign in October and November 2007 resulted in donations of over £12,000 from our alumni. Our students were able to speak to 6000 of our alumni from all disciplines. The generous donations mean we are closer to reaching our campaign goal of £1 million. We would really like to thank all of you who took the time to speak to our student callers, and would also really like to thank those of you who felt able to donate to the Brunel Scholarship Fund. The money from the donations mean that scholarships can be provided to enable students who may not otherwise have the means to study at Brunel, and that new material can be bought for the university such as much needed new books for the library

## Isambard Research Scholarships

This year, thanks to your generosity, nearly £20,000 has been contributed to this amount of Isambard Research Scholarships have been provided. With the rising costs of studying for a PhD, the scholarships provide help with postgraduate study, across many postgraduate disciplines. The research scholarships will continue to be awarded in 2008 and in future years. The recipients of the award undertake a range of activities to enhance Brunel's reputation and work. Please do not hesitate to contact the Development Office on 01895 267 310 if you would like to know further information

## The Sky's the Limit for Brunel Fund Raisers

And it certainly was in September 2007 when four Brunel staff took to the air quite literally as they joined a team from Price Waterhouse Cooper in a sky dive to raise funds for the Urban Scholars Fund. Carole Portman-Smith, course leader for the Urban Scholars programme, was joined by two colleagues Catherina Emery and Charlotte Davies along with Diana Burtinshaw, PA to the Brunel Director of Resources and Operations.

The day dawned and having been given the 'all clear' on the weather – a beautifully bright and clear morning – we all headed up to Hinton Air Park.

Safety and jumping procedures learnt, the team piled into the launch plane and took to the azure skies. Reaching some 12,500 feet, the intrepid jumpers strapped tightly to their tandem partners were edged to the door of the plane and one after another tumbled into a somersault freefall until parachutes deployed and rainbow colours streamed to a graceful landing.

Along with a team from PWC, the funds raised totalled just over £9,000 – which will support this pioneering programme of helping young people realise their potential. A huge thank you to the skydivers and to all those who supported them so generously.



## Don't Leave It To The Taxman!

Inheritance Tax is, broadly speaking, paid on everything you own at the time of your death, less what you owe. It is also sometimes payable on assets such as property, possessions and investments you may have given away during your lifetime.

This tax only applies if the value of your estate (including your share of any jointly owned assets and assets held in some types of trusts) when you die is above £300,000 (2007-2008 tax year). It is only payable on the excess above this nil rate band.

However, there are a number of exemptions which allow you to pass on amounts (during your lifetime or in your will) without any Inheritance Tax being due, including legacies to charities.

### Estates and Lifetime Gifts

So rather than allowing your hard-won earnings to go to the Chancellor, you can assign the funds to a charity that will benefit from a tax-free gift.

You may wish to consider – after providing for your family and friends – leaving such a gift to Brunel. As a statutory charity, this means you can make a valuable bequest to the University 'tax free'.

### The Stepping Stones Foundation

As we mentioned in the last issue of Link, we have launched The Stepping Stones Foundation to mark your gifts of legacies to Brunel. The Foundation pays tribute to those who support the Brunel of tomorrow with a gift in their Will by means of a Roll of Honour displayed at the heart of the University.

### PGCE Prize for 'Excellence in Adversity'

Having heard of this opportunity, the son of a Borough Road alumnus was inspired to donate an Award for graduating PGCE students. He bestowed the prize in honour of his father, who left school at the tender age of 11. Alfred Goodwin fought against all odds to gain a place at the teaching

training college in 1919 and subsequently become a Head of notable schools in the local area, enjoying a lifetime career in education. His son Peter is offering an annual prize in honour of his father's achievement

Although sometimes modest in monetary worth, the cachet to the recipients amongst their peers is of considerable value, and can also be important in their career progression.

If you would like more information about leaving a gift in your will or supporting a prize or award, please contact Janie Grover

Tel 01895 267774, email [janie.grover@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:janie.grover@brunel.ac.uk)

\* Before considering any decisions effecting your will or finances, please seek professional advice from a lawyer and/or financial adviser.



# Do you really enjoy your job?

If so, would you share your enthusiasm and experience with current Brunel students?

The Placement and Careers Centre has a long-established programme of recruitment fairs and employer presentations, but some disciplines and career areas tend not to be very well represented in that kind of event. So we now have an additional programme of workshops and careers forums featuring more specific areas that interest our students.

In 2008-2009, new events will focus on media and arts careers, and opportunities for bioscientists in industry and public health. Students love to hear tips and insights from Brunel graduates, particularly in the relatively early years of their career. Don't feel you have to be a careers expert to take part; students will want to know about your personal experience. That means talking about what your job involves on a day-to-day basis, what you like about it, where you see it heading and how you got into it from your Brunel degree.

If you might be able to help, we would be very happy to talk to you and to provide further information.

Please contact Kate Croucher on 01895 267223

Email [kate.croucher@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:kate.croucher@brunel.ac.uk)



Brunel Conference Services has year round availability of 30 well appointed superior twin bedded/ double en-suite rooms in the newly-built Lancaster Complex. Guests have exclusive access to excellent spa facilities that include a plunge pool, sauna and steam room.

Room rates (per night) are from £55.00 for double occupancy, from £45.00 for single occupancy, with and a family room (for three) for £65.00. Rates include continental breakfast. All rooms have tea and coffee making facilities, mini-fridge, hairdryer and Internet access. Each floor has a kitchenette/laundry and relaxation area, and the complex also has a conference room equipped with AV aids for hire.

Tel (01895) 268001 for further details and bookings.

# Alumni Benefits 2008

## Make the Most of Your Alumni Card

**The Brunel Alumni card gives you access to many of the University's facilities after you have graduated, and preferential rates for some of the services.**

**IMPORTANT** Before using any of these facilities, you will need to e-mail [alumni@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@brunel.ac.uk) to request a Brunel Alumni card. Please quote your full name, date of birth and current address.

**Additional photo ID will also be required when you use any of campus facilities.**

- You have access to Locos Bar as and 'Associate Member' and can purchase tickets for events in The Academy. However you are not eligible to sign in guests.
- You may use the Library as a visitor and will be given a Visitor's Day Pass. If you wish to use the Library on a regular basis, you can be issued with a year-long pass.  
  
You may register as an external Library Member for £15 per year (normal cost £25), and this entitles you to borrow up to six books (long loan items only).
- You will be offered 'Brunel Staff rates' for using the Brunel Sports Facilities. (This excludes the More Energy Fitness Centre which is run by an external company.)
- You are eligible for a discount on a postgraduate course or research programme if you return as a self-funding student. Where the standard tuition fee is more than £7,000, you can receive a 10% discount. If the fee is less than £7,000, you are eligible for a 5% discount.

# Attention All Business Graduates

## Brunel MBA Goes From Strength To Strength

2007 proved to be a good year for the Brunel MBA. Both the full-time and executive MBA programmes have again been accredited by the Association of MBAs (AMBA) for a further period of five years. The Business School also overhauled its MBA facilities during the summer months, adding dedicated conference facilities complete with the latest AV equipment, breakout rooms and computer workstations for the sole use of MBA students.

2007 also saw the appointment of Professor Amir Sharif as Director of the MBA. Prof Sharif, a Brunel alumnus, brings a wealth of experience to the programme from a number of positions at organisations such as JP Morgan, UBS and KPMG. He is keen to strengthen the programme and in particular to continue to build links with industry. For example, in order to keep pace with changes in the business environment, the MBA has recently undergone a major review to ensure an appropriate focus for its content, teaching methods and general structure.

Given these exciting improvements, now is an excellent time to do an MBA at Brunel. We offer flexible payment plans, and all Brunel alumni are entitled to a 10% discount off the tuition fees.

For full details of the programme and the next Open Event, visit the web at [www.brunel.ac.uk/mba](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/mba)

### Are You Entitled To Professional Accreditation?

If you graduated from Brunel between 1995 and 2006, you may be entitled to professional recognition from the Chartered Management Institute. A special arrangement between the Institute and the Brunel Business School has been set up which guarantees graduates such recognition.

The guarantee is available to graduates of these programmes:

### ACMI or MCMI for postgraduate degrees in

- MBA
- MSc Management
- MSc International Business
- MSc Human Resources and Employment Relations

### ACMI for undergraduate degree in

- BSc Business and Management

You don't need to undergo any assessment process for Institute recognition, enabling the CMI to offer you a discount of at least 30% on the first year's membership fee.

### Benefits of membership include:

- Management information centre
- Online CPD
- Publications: Professional Manager and Management Today journals
- Influential networks
- Career development service
- Management forum
- Chartered Manager (CMgr) status

To join or for further information, please call the Institute's Membership Team on +44 (0)1536 207307 or apply online at [www.managers.org.uk/apply](http://www.managers.org.uk/apply).

Please quote code C2485 and Brunel Business School to benefit from this offer.

*MBA staff, alumni and students celebrated the 10th anniversary of the launch of the Brunel MBA in June.*



