

Students

Every year, our students reach beyond the basic requirements of their studies and demonstrate their initiative, energy and enthusiasm in a tremendous range of different contexts – academic, sporting, business and volunteering, to name just a few. The University endeavours to provide a supportive environment for such talented individuals to thrive and excel in every aspect of their lives at Bristol. It is committed to providing a full range of services and facilities that will enable students to make the most of their university career and equip them to become tomorrow's leaders and pioneers.

The University's priorities in this area are to:

- ensure a fair and transparent system of student representation that provides students with the opportunity to shape their educational and extra-curricular experience;
- support a vibrant, active and democratic Students' Union;
- ensure the provision of learning and skills opportunities that enhance students' future employability;
- offer a rewarding extra-curricular experience that provides for students' health, well-being and personal development;
- provide advice and support for students' personal welfare and ensure effective integration into the University and local community.

Good works: Bristol students in the charitable and voluntary sector

The Students' Union emphasises to its members the importance of escaping the 'student bubble' and engaging with the local community in a positive way. The Union's Raising and Giving (RAG) and Student Volunteering (formerly Student Community Action) programmes offer a tremendous range of opportunities for charitable work, along with related training and personal development courses to help students complement their academic work and enhance their CVs.

RAG

In the year 2010/11, RAG activities raised a total of £109,573 through a varied programme that included street collections, skydiving, trekking in Nepal, and a revival of the traditional RAG procession through the streets of Bristol. Two undergraduates set a new record in the annual RAG Jailbreak Challenge: Physics student Emma Blott and Music student Mary Spender made it all the way to Perth in Australia – a journey of 9,113 miles – in 36 hours, comfortably beating the previous record (Arizona, USA).

Student Volunteering

During 2010/11, Student Volunteering ran 31 student-led projects involving over 1,000 students, and ran 10 different training programmes, reaching over 400 new volunteers. A new initiative has established a student self-help group for those suffering from eating disorders, and is to be followed with a new programme of student peer mentoring. Other developments include a wider range of support to older and isolated people, and an employability and training

programme for young adults with learning disabilities (run by students together with MENCAP).

The organisers of one Student Volunteering project, the Daycentre Lunch Club, received a vintpired award (from v, the UK's young volunteers' service) in January for their volunteering and community engagement work. The Lunch Club organises events and trips for the city's senior residents.

Jonathan Broad, a medical student at Bristol, was awarded the 2011 Matt Spencer Award from Volunteering England, an independent charity committed to supporting and celebrating volunteering. Jonathan's community engagement work includes taking musical entertainment into residential homes and teaching English at a refugee centre. He also established Foodcycle, a project in which students collect surplus food from shops and deliver it to people affected by food poverty.

PhD student fronts UK science and engineering campaign

Owen Rackham, a PhD student in the Bristol Centre for Complexity Sciences, has been chosen to lead a nationwide campaign communicating the impact of science, engineering and maths on our everyday lives. He will attend festivals and events around the country as part of NOISE (New Outlooks In Science and Engineering), a UK-wide campaign funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. He will also talk to the public about his own research, which examines whether it is possible to re-programme human cells for a range of medical applications.

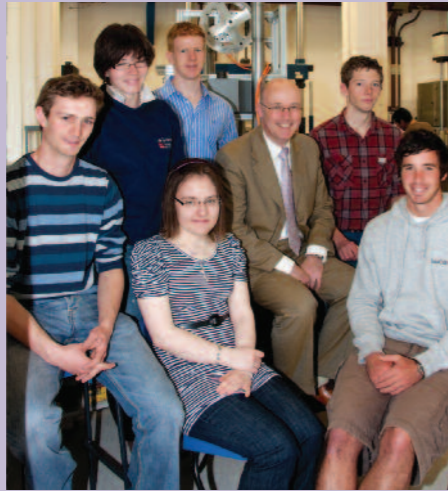
Students continued

Student awards and prizes



Above: Chris Strand

Above right: The winners of the RAE Leadership Advanced Awards (clockwise from left): Peter Symes-Thompson, Alex Bradford, Adam Moss, Professor Nick Lieven (former Dean of Engineering and now Pro Vice-Chancellor), Alex Creak, Joe Smith and Sophie Sladen.



ANN FETHERS

awards. He received the Airbus Award for Best Aeronautical Engineering Student for his project entitled 'Vision-Based Recovery of a Rotary Wing UAV'. The international awards programme provides a showcase for educational excellence by recognising the exceptional achievements of students and universities.

Bristol surgeon wins prestigious award for research paper

Pradeep Narayan, Senior Registrar in Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Bristol Heart Institute and a postgraduate at the University, became the first UK winner of the Hans G Borst Award for Thoracic Aortic Surgery. He won for his study of the treatment options for conditions affecting the descending thoracic aorta – the lower part of the main artery of the body inside the chest.

PhD student wins award at Systems Biology conference

Tom Gorochowski, a PhD student at the Bristol Centre for Complexity Sciences, was commended for his work at the International Conference on Systems Biology. His poster, illustrating a computational toolkit for investigating network dynamics and evolution, was selected as the best in its category in the Computational Methods and Tools Session.

Students win gold at MIT competition for precision farming prototype

A design for 'precision farming' created by a student team from the Centre for Complexity Sciences was shortlisted from over 100 entries at the 2010 International Genetically Engineered Machine competition, hosted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The team's prototype design, AgrEcoli, could allow farmers to map the

nutrient content of their fields with a device that uses modified *E.coli* bacteria contained in biodegradable beads that can detect and signal the presence of nitrates. This approach could help to optimise their use of fertiliser. AgrEcoli received a gold medal and the award for the Best Food or Energy Project; and overall, the team was one of three runners-up.

PhD student wins Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize

Finn MacKay, a PhD student at the Centre for Gender and Violence Research, won the Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize for her extensive work on tackling violence against women. MacKay has been active in the women's movement since her adolescence, and speaks regularly on issues of women's rights, particularly violence against women. In a professional capacity she has managed and delivered domestic violence prevention and education programmes in schools and communities. Her research is on the Reclaim the Night marches, which began in Britain in the 1970s. In 2006 she featured in *The Guardian's* list of 15 world-changing British women.

Engineering students bag Boeing awards

Six students from the Faculty of Engineering have been awarded prizes from The Boeing Company for their outstanding academic performance in the field of integrated aerospace systems. Bridget White and Joshua Shimmin received scholarships for their final year of study, and James Wilcox, Samantha Huntley, Sky Sartorius and Ben Buxton received awards for their final projects. The range of their work covers intelligent vehicles, fluid mechanics, helicopter design and ultrasound radio echoes.



Above: Hannah Eastwood

Above right: Finn Mackay



NICK SMITH

Bristol student is first female Young Scientist of the Year

Hannah Eastwood, a first-year undergraduate studying veterinary science, was named Young Scientist of the Year at the UK Young Scientists' and Engineers' Fair. She is the first woman to have been awarded a senior title in the competition. Her winning project explored how chromium can be removed from drinking water, enabling tap water to be purified and reclaimed for the steel industry, where it is a valuable resource.

PhD student wins award for obesity research

Laura Wilkinson, a PhD student in the School of Experimental Psychology, won the Association for the Study of Obesity's Student Researcher 2011 Award. Her paper, 'Attachment anxiety, disinhibited eating and body-mass index in adulthood', published in the *International Journal of Obesity*, provides compelling

evidence that adults with an 'anxious' attachment orientation (a set of ideas and expectations around interpersonal relationships characterised by a fear of abandonment) are more likely to overeat and have a high body-mass index.

Dental student wins for innovative view of the future

Laura Cove, a third-year Bristol dental student, won an Award for Innovation in a new competition run by 3M ESPE, a leading provider of dental products and services. Entrants were required to submit up to 500 words describing their dental practice in the year 2020. They were judged on their ability to demonstrate an innovative approach, their consideration of future changes in general dentistry and their understanding of how the introduction of new technologies will help deliver better patient care.