

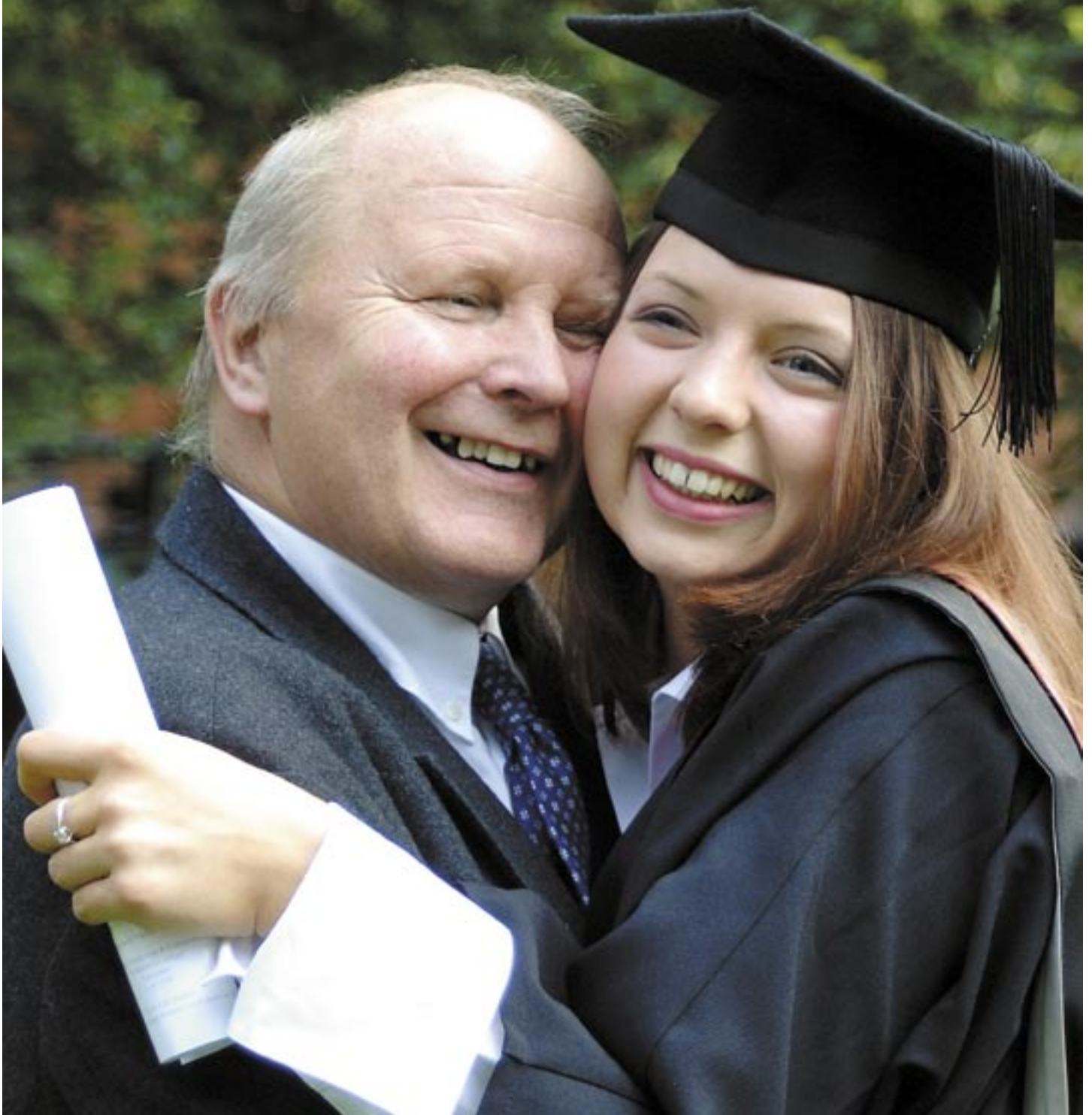
# Aluminate

St Martin's Alumni Magazine

Summer 2006



A College of Higher Education  
accredited by Lancaster University



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## Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Aluminate. Thanks to all our alumni who have been in touch with their ideas and news for this edition, we've put it all together to make the best magazine we can for you all, keeping you up to date on everything St Martin's. In this edition, we feature an article on Andrew Bramwell, creator of a different kind of British Intelligence agent; Theodore Snowflake. On page 4 we take a trip down memory lane with current St Martin's Drama Lecturer and St Martin's Alumnus, Jez Colclough.

Pages 8 and 9 provide some interesting updates on the University for Cumbria developments and news of the exciting re-development of the Lancaster Campus planned over the next decade, as well as news of the new Learning Gateway building at the Carlisle Campus.

We have numerous articles in this edition on your Alumni Association, including news of the Carolyn Horne Memorial Fund, WebAlumnus and an appeal for your ideas into the future of the St Martin's Alumni Reunion.

With this, and much more besides including the regular features of college updates and your news, we hope that you will enjoy reading this latest compilation! As always, we need your input to make the magazine what it is, so please keep sending in your ideas for features and telling us your news, we always look forward to hearing from you.

Happy Reading

David Hudson and Jo Gregory



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# A writer's life for Andrew

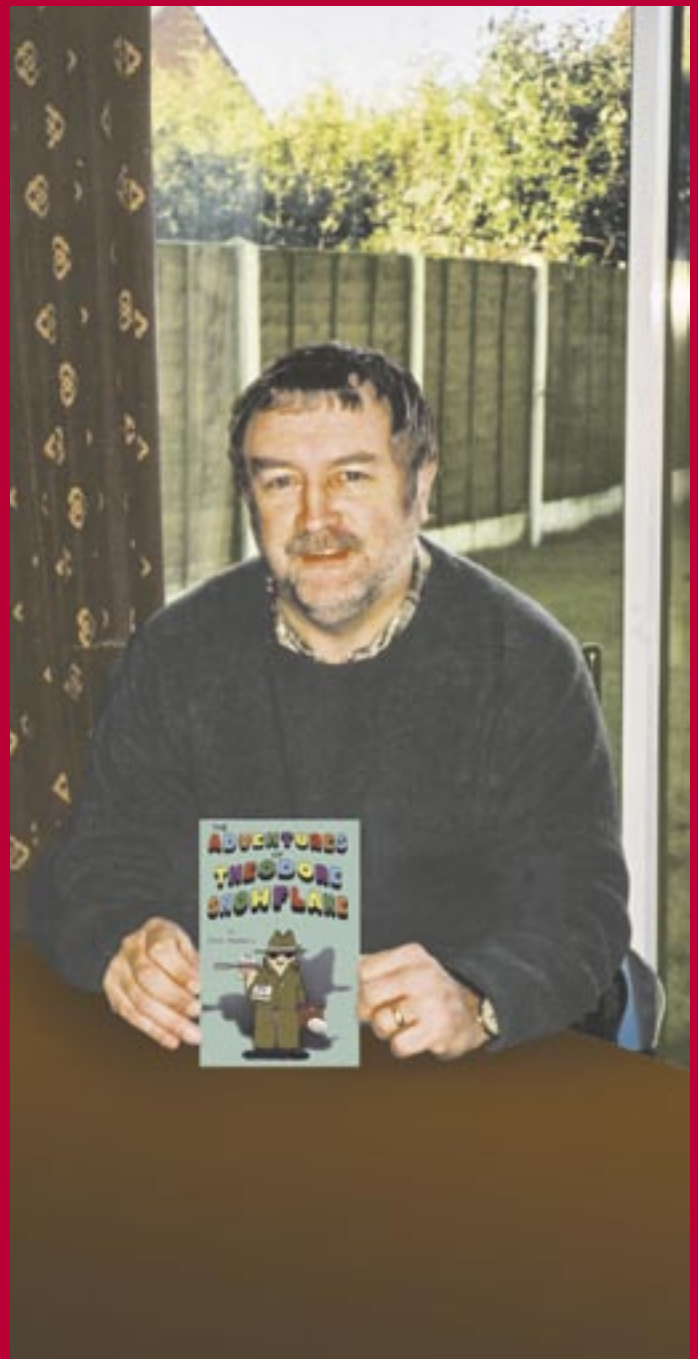
“As I wrote it, stranger and stranger things began to happen and the character took on a life of his own.”

There's a new name to add to the list of children's literary characters alongside luminaries like Harry Potter and Peter Pan - Theodore Snowflake, the creation of former St Martin's student Andrew Bramwell (BEd Hons, 1981). 'The Adventures of Theodore Snowflake' tells the story of its eponymous hero, a British Intelligence agent no. 00000000%, and his loyal sidekick Stubbs as they embark on a mission to capture a top secret formula from a master criminal who plans to use it to rule the world.

The idea for Theodore had been with Andrew for a while. He explains: "It was a development of an earlier story, a kind of spoof on thrillers and James Bond for children. I wanted the main character to be as uncool as possible, hence the name. As I wrote it, stranger and stranger things began to happen and the character took on a life of his own."

Over the years, Andrew has written and published numerous stories, radio dramas and articles on a wide range of subjects. "I've always been interested in writing and I gain inspiration from a number of sources. It can be a piece of music, a news story, a landscape or conversations for example. It's difficult to pinpoint specific moments but something will grab my attention and I take it from there. At the moment my latest radio play 'The Last Deckchair' is with the BBC and I'm going through the final draft of a novel 'The Girl at the Crossing', a novel set in Finland, a country with which I have a lot of associations."

After leaving St Martin's in 1981, Andrew worked as a teacher in Walsall and Birmingham before becoming a Head Teacher in Staffordshire 10 years ago and was until recently head of a large primary school in Chesterfield



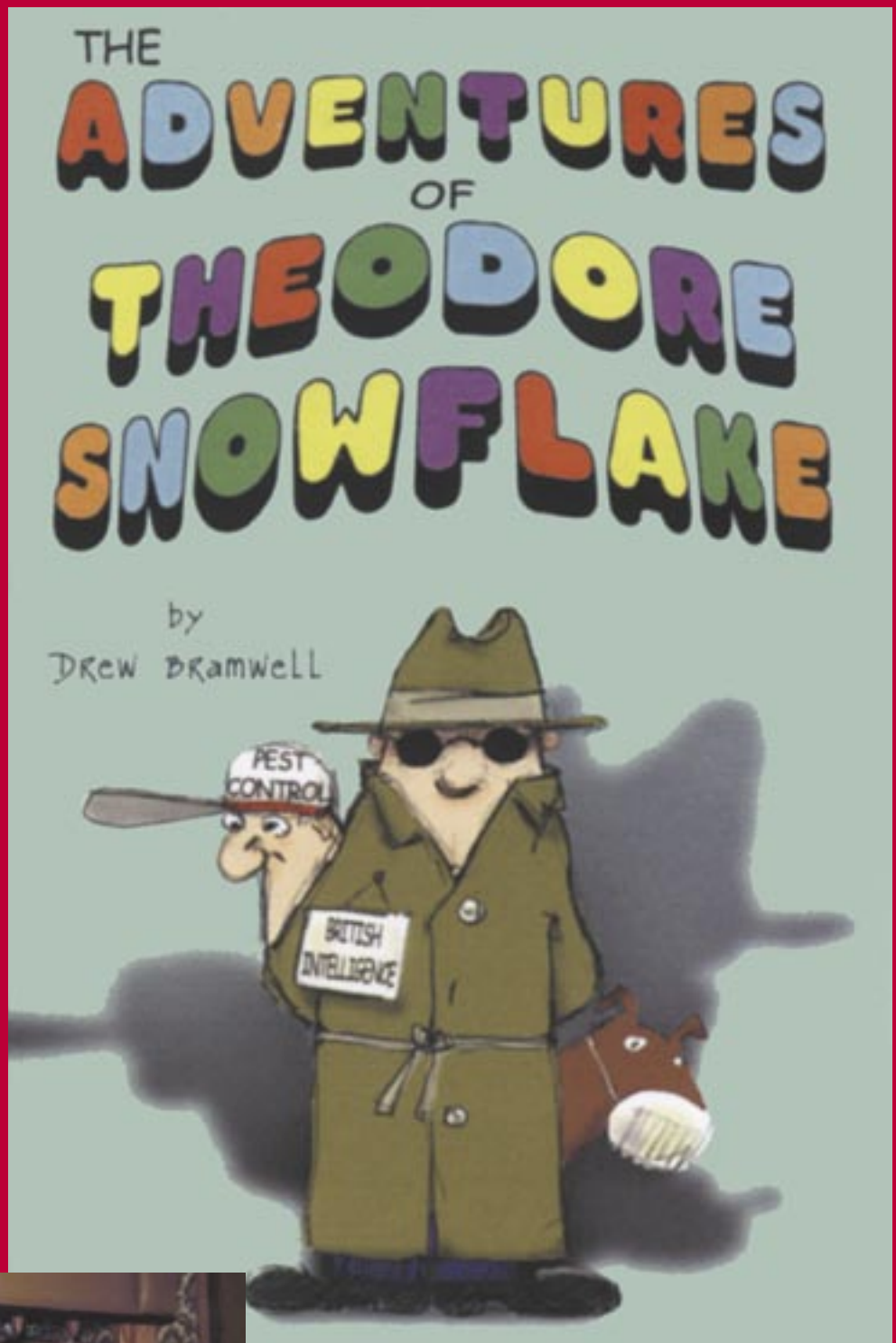
Andrew at home with his new book



which had an autism unit attached to it. His interests now lie in the education of autistic children, particularly within a mainstream setting. He is married to Janet and has three sons, Thomas (18), Peter (16) and Rees (13).

Andrew is keen to continue the adventures of Theodore and see what he gets up to. "I hope there will be a series. I'm about half way through the next book which begins with Snowflake and Stubbs in a cave talking about soup and trying to comb electrons out of their hair with a nit comb. Then it starts to get really silly!"

As for his future plans, Andrew hopes to develop his writing into other areas, including writing for the stage. What guidance can he offer to aspiring writers? "My advice would be to write for yourself rather than other people. The chances are that if you like something, other people will. It can be a frustrating business but you have to keep going, never give up!" ■



Andrew Bramwell (centre) with David Little and Lindsay Sproson

### 'The Adventures of Theodore Snowflake'

(ISBN: 1903491347) is published by Nightingale Books and costs £5.99. It can be bought in high street and online book shops (Waterstones, Amazon, etc) or via the publishers' website:

[www.pegasuspublishers.com](http://www.pegasuspublishers.com)

# Alumni Reunion-

## send us your ideas!

We would like your views on whether we should organise a reunion this year. Having cancelled last year's Summer Party Reunion due to a low response we would be grateful for any ideas you may have for forthcoming reunions. Some ideas we have come up with are a Halloween Fancy Dress Reunion, Bonfire Night Reunion Meal so you could attend the annual fireworks display at Lancaster Castle, Specific Course/Campus/Year Reunions - so that you are not invited to a reunion every year, or to keep the usual Summer Reunion. We would like your ideas on costs, entertainment, themes, and any other suggestions you might have.

We realise that by changing the Alumni Membership in 2004 the majority of our alumni are recent graduates who may not be ready to return to the College yet, but we still need your feedback. For the longstanding Alumni – especially the core group who attend every year please get in touch and tell us how we might improve our Reunions.

Whatever changes you decide to make to future Reunions I think it may be worth considering using these events to raise money for the Carolyn Horne Memorial Fund (mentioned in this issue). From the comments received in the Alumni questionnaires it is clear that we all feel that the experiences we had whilst gaining a degree at St Martin's were priceless and were what turned us into the people we are today. As a St Martin's graduate myself, I feel we should try and help today's students by contributing to this Memorial Fund so they can achieve their degrees in the unique environment that is St Martin's.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Jo Gregory - Alumni Administrator ■

Comments can be sent via email to:

**j.gregory@ucsm.ac.uk**

or telephone **01524 384757**, or you can write to us at The Alumni Office, St Martin's College, Bowerham Road, Lancaster LA1 3JD.



*Photos from the 2004 - 40th Anniversary Reunion*



# From Drama Student to Drama Lecturer

“The vast majority of our students want to study Drama here because they get to perform in a professional theatre.”

Eleven years after directing a play at the Dukes Theatre in Lancaster while still a St Martin's student, Drama Lecturer Jez Colclough returned there this January to supervise third year students in 'The Danny Crowe Show' by David Farr. It was one of two successful plays performed there that month, along with 'Stepping Out' by Richard Harris, where students were supervised by Jez's colleague Jan Ashcroft. Students performing plays at the Dukes has become an annual St Martin's tradition and this year continued the long run of popular performances.

It was 1995 when Jez directed 'The Taming of the Shrew' at the Dukes, not only his first time directing in a professional theatre but also the first year St Martin's students performed at the Dukes as part of their course. That first group had a big responsibility. Jez recalls: "We had been told that it had to be successful because if it wasn't, students might not be able to perform there in the future, so there was a lot of pressure. For us, it was an incredibly big step to go from staging plays in the Princess Margaretha Hall on campus to doing it in a professional theatre. However, once we got there, it was absolutely brilliant."

There were not enough drama students at the time to fill out the cast, so people from related courses were brought in, including Jez's English lecturer, Steve Longstaffe. "It was a very bizarre experience. Steve is a Doctor of Renaissance Literature, a Shakespeare specialist, and I was a student directing him in a Shakespeare play!"

The play also featured Ursula Holden-Gill (now Marsden), a student at the time but now best known for her role as Alice Wilson in Emmerdale. Thankfully, the play was a success and St Martin's students have continued to perform at the Dukes and draw in the crowds ever since.

Jez graduated from St Martin's with an English and Drama degree in 1995, returning to the College in 1997 following his MA at Leeds University to start work on his PhD. After teaching part-time for several years, he became a full-time Drama Lecturer in 2003.



Jez directing 'The Taming of the Shrew' in 1995

Since Jez became the first St Martin's student to direct there, performances at the Dukes have become a major part of the Drama degree and a real selling point for potential students. "It's really become the cornerstone of our degree because the vast majority of our students want to study Drama here because they get to perform in a professional theatre in their third year." Jez is now part of developing the subject area he once studied. "We're constantly trying to raise the bar of the standards and we're getting much more experienced students coming into the degree now, so that's very exciting." ■

For more information about Drama at St Martin's, visit their website at: [www.ucsm.ac.uk/cme](http://www.ucsm.ac.uk/cme)



the  
**DUKES**  
stage door

office deliveries



# Carolyn Horne

## Memorial Fund

Helping St Martin's students from the UK and overseas who are unable to receive financial assistance elsewhere.

A fund that provides much-needed help to students in financial difficulty is seeking donations from staff and alumni to allow it to continue to help as many students as possible.

The Carolyn Horne Memorial Fund was set up in 1997 to help St Martin's students from the UK and overseas who are unable to receive financial assistance elsewhere. Since it was established, the fund has helped a large number of students with grants towards their living costs. In many cases, the grant has enabled the students who have received it to stay on their course and complete their qualification.

The fund was set up in memory of Carolyn Horne, a much-loved member of St Martin's staff who passed away in 1997. She worked in the Faculty of Education and was described by her friends and family as a special person with the ability to touch the lives of everyone she met. The flowerbed near the Lancaster Campus Chapel is also in memory of her. The Carolyn Horne Memorial Fund was started with a number of donations from her friends and colleagues, continuing to be supplemented since then by staff salaries from days of industrial action.

St Martin's Student Finance Adviser Debbie Windsor manages the fund. She explains: "The fund will continue to receive contributions from industrial action but we will still be unable to help the number of students we would like to help. We are therefore asking for your help in making a small donation to the fund of whatever you



can spare so that we can continue to help the St Martin's students who need it most."

Applications to the fund are assessed based on students' income and expenditure for course costs, travel and living costs. Awards from the fund are made to those students who have the greatest financial need. It is open to students from the UK, the Republic of Ireland, the European Union and the wider international community.

If you would like to make a donation to the Carolyn Horne Memorial Fund, please fill in the flyer found in this magazine and send it together with your cheque, made payable to St Martin's College (Carolyn Horne Memorial Fund), to:

**Debbie Windsor, Student Finance Adviser, Student Development and Advisory Service, St Martin's College, Fusehill Street, Carlisle CA1 2HH**

St Martin's is a registered charity, so contributions can be treated as a Gift Aid donation. This means the Fund can reclaim the basic rate of tax on the donation, worth an extra 28p on every £1 given. Please indicate that you would like yours to be a Gift Aid donation by ticking the relevant box on the flyer. ■

If you would like more information, please contact Debbie Windsor on: **01228 616037** or email: **d.windsor@ucsm.ac.uk**



# Obituary - Roger Cann

## 1938-2006

A memorial service to commemorate the life of Roger Cann, formerly Head of Music at St Martin's, was held at Lancaster Priory on 11 January. The service was well attended by family, friends, colleagues and students and celebrated his life as a talented musician, composer, conductor and lecturer and as a loving husband and father.

Roger joined the College as a lecturer in music in 1966 and worked with the then Head of Music Peter Moore to establish and teach the new specialist music courses. Encouraged by the College's first principal Dr Hugh Pollard, Roger participated in many public concerts as conductor, cellist and singer alongside local musicians and singers, both professional and amateur, as well as with St Martin's staff and students.

One of Roger's most important contributions to College music was the establishment of the Concert Choir for female voices, who performed widely. A fine tenor himself, Roger became a much sought after soloist across the North West where he gave over 200 performances.

Roger became Head of the Music Department in 1984, retiring in 1992 to concentrate on his freelance musical activities as singer, cellist, conductor, composer and adjudicator. His talent as a composer was put to good use while at St Martin's and there were many notable performances of his compositions, including 'The Dream of the Rood' (with words by Gordon Hodgeon from the English Department) and 'This Night's Wind'.

This continued into retirement and arguably one of his proudest moments was when he was commissioned by Lancaster Priory to compose a Royal Fanfare, a setting of the National Anthem and a new choral anthem to commemorate the Queen's visit to Lancaster to mark

the 600th anniversary of the Duchy of Lancaster, which was performed in the presence of the Queen and Prince Philip. It has subsequently been sung by other choirs, most recently at Norwich Cathedral in August 2005.

Roger's other great musical talent was as a conductor. Roger was conductor of Lancaster's Haffner Orchestra from 1989 to 2004. Under his direction, they gained a substantial reputation with audiences in the North West. The Haffner Orchestra performed Roger's orchestral composition 'To

the Vanishing Point' in concert as a tribute to him in February.

Roger was also conductor of the Eversley Choral Union for 21 years until 2001. The choir performed many of Roger's choral compositions.

Roger and his wife Wendy had two sons, Julian, a professional violinist, and Neville, a capable amateur cellist. Roger made a significant contribution to the development of music at St Martin's and to the musical life of the North West, and he was a highly regarded performer and musical director. He passed away on 4 January after a short illness. ■



# University for Cumbria update

With the opening of a University for Cumbria scheduled for August 2007, work behind the scenes to bring the new institution into being has already begun apace. Amalgamating Cumbria Institute of the Arts (CIA) and St Martin's College will be no easy feat but extensive planning has already been developed to give us an idea of what a University for Cumbria will be like when it opens and how we will get there.

As mentioned in the last 'Aluminate', a University for Cumbria Steering Group and Management Group were established late last year to guide the process, supported by a project team. These groups are all made up of representatives from both institutions and (in the case of the project team) the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

From March, development of a business plan commenced to be completed in June this year. Following this being agreed and funding secured, detailed planning and development would begin in July to bring the institution into existence the following year.

What will the new university be like and how will it work? As a single institution, it will have control of its own courses and how it runs itself. Setting up a Lifelong Learning Network will be high on the agenda, bring together a partnership between all HE and FE institutions in Cumbria to provide vocational training and create routes into Higher Education that people in the county currently don't have. There will be University Centres at each of the FE Colleges in Cumbria, meaning that students can study university courses in Kendal, Barrow and West Cumbria. To complement this, there will also be Student Union facilities at each centre and state of the art IT facilities to help deliver the courses.

It has recently been announced that the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) will be transferring its campuses in Carlisle and Penrith to the University for Cumbria. This will add nearly 2000 students and 200 staff to the new institution in addition to the facilities the campuses currently possess.

Initially, the courses delivered at the new university will be a combination of what CIA and St Martin's currently have plus the courses run from UCLan's Cumbrian campuses, but this will expand with the creation of a dedicated law and business faculty, plus science and technology provision. The university will look to provide courses that support the needs of businesses in the region and train people with the skills that employers want.

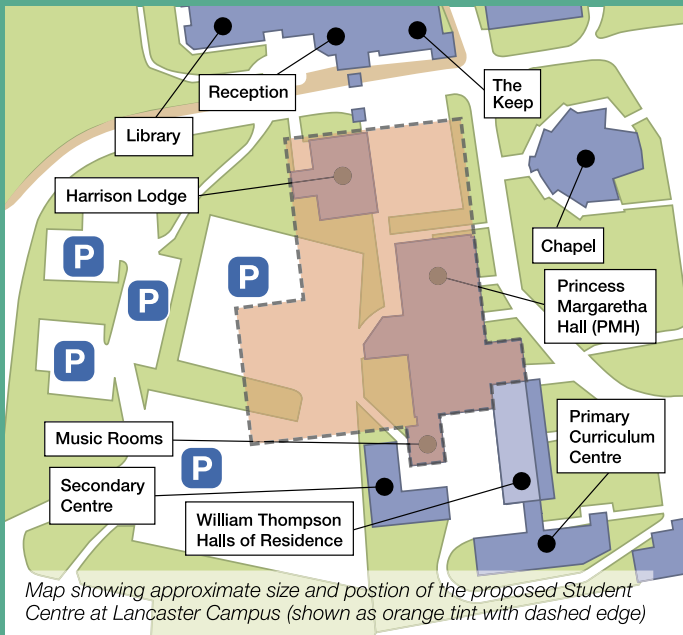
People want to access higher education at different times of life these days, so the University for Cumbria would provide flexible courses to allow people in work to study part-time and will also develop more distance or distributed learning opportunities utilising ICT.

With little more than fifteen months to go and consultations now underway both internally and with external partners and organisations, there's a lot to be done but the wheels are definitely turning to create Cumbria's own university and build an institution the region can be proud of. ■





# Student Centre for Lancaster



The new Student Centre to be built on Lancaster Campus is the start of a ten year plan of redevelopment that will radically improve facilities. The Estates Strategy 2006-16, recently approved by the Governing Body, outlines significant development predicted to cost £85 million to replace old buildings with custom built facilities to provide a thoroughly modern student experience.

The Student Centre is due to start construction in February 2007 (subject to planning permission) and is scheduled to be completed by September 2008. Covering 3600 square metres, the Student Centre will be constructed on the site of the Princess Margaretha Hall and Harrison Lodge, both due to be demolished early next year if the proposals are accepted by the local Planning Authority this June. The building will cost £8 million to construct, which includes demolition of existing buildings, fitting out and furnishing the building as well as all other associated costs along the way.

The Centre will be a 'one stop shop' for students, providing all the services they need under one roof. It will be a three storey building with the lower ground floor accessible from the car park and an upper ground floor entrance opposite the Keep. The former will house counselling services and provide access to catering suppliers while the latter will have main reception, catering facilities and student social space. The top floor will contain office space for all student-facing services, such as Student Services, Hospitality and Campus Services and the Students Union. ■

## The keys to Learning

The keys to the new £4 million Learning Gateway building at the Carlisle Campus were handed over to Campus Principal Dr Greg Lodge in early February by builders Lambert Gill. The Learning Gateway is the latest stage of the ambitious redevelopment of the old Fusehill Street hospital site into a modern Higher Education campus. It was open to students at the end of March, while an official opening is planned for later in the year.

The Learning Gateway was designed from the start to offer an innovative environment for learning that would excite and stimulate learners. The design recognises that learning takes place in a number of ways and locations outside the traditional classroom and is increasingly linked to the use of information and communication technology (ICT). While the Learning Gateway contains lecture and seminar space, its key innovations include

provision of wireless enabled laptops which can be used throughout the building, learning 'pods' for informal individual and group work, study rooms with electronic smartboards, digital projection facilities and a state of the art lecture theatre capable of interacting with groups across the county. ■



# Alumni Steering Group

From September we will be re-launching the Alumni Steering Group. Previously, the Group would meet to discuss reunion ideas, Alumni membership initiatives, the Alumni Magazine, etc. with its membership consisting of members of college staff, the Alumni team, and a representative from the former St Martin's Association (SMA).

Although much of this format will remain the same, when the Steering Group is re-launched this year, we would like to invite a member of our Alumni to join the group to assist in the planning and co-ordination of the Alumni Association's activities. The Group will meet once a term so you will need to be available to attend these meetings

at the Lancaster campus. Times, dates and agendas will be sent well in advance to help with this, and outcomes of the meetings will be published in the next available edition of Aluminate which follows the meeting as well as on the Alumni website and WebAlumnus.

We need involvement from our alumni to ensure the success of the association so if you would like to become a volunteer member of the Steering Group please email: **j.gregory@ucsm.ac.uk**

If you do not feel able to join the Steering Group but would still like to contribute please don't hesitate to contact us. All ideas regarding the future direction of the Alumni Association are always welcome! ■

## WebAlumnus Update

We are almost ready to launch the St Martin's Alumni Association into the on-line era with the launch of WebAlumnus. As you may remember from the previous edition of Aluminate, this is a new and easy way to communicate and interact with the College and fellow alumni. Later this year you will receive a unique pin number to access the St Martin's Alumni Association WebAlumnus site. Once your details have been verified, you will be able to update your personal information online at a time that is convenient to you. You will also be able to keep up to date with all the latest

college and alumni news, as well as benefiting from an expansive network of professional and business contacts.

*The opening page of WebAlumnus*

Key to this development is keeping your details accurate. With this in mind, please ensure that you get in touch with the Alumni office to update us with any changes to your address or other details so that we can launch WebAlumnus with confidence. We particularly need your email address;

so if you haven't already provided us with this, please email: **j.gregory@ucsm.ac.uk** so that we can add it to your record. ■



# Alumnus visits St Martin's



*Matthew re-visits Lancaster campus with his wife Nui*

A familiar face to Alumnate visited the Lancaster Campus this April – Matthew Marshall, who readers may remember from our Summer 2005 edition. Matthew (BSc Maths with QTS Upper Primary, 1996 Graduate) works as a teacher on the island of Phuket in Thailand and was the subject of an Alumnate feature article detailing his first-hand experiences of the devastating tsunami which hit the area during Christmas 2004 and the rescue efforts he was involved in.

It was in happier circumstances that we met Matthew again, back in the UK for the first time in 4 years and his first trip back to St Martin's since graduating. Since last

hearing from him, Matthew had married his girlfriend Nui in December 2005. They were in the UK for Matthew's brother's wedding, spending two weeks catching up with family and friends as well as visiting old haunts.

Matthew and Nui were met by Associate Dean of Education Dr Philip Gager, who took them on a short tour of the campus to see how much it had changed. Following this, they were joined by Alumni Administrator Jo Gregory and taken for lunch in the Lancaster Room. Much was different on campus since Matthew's last time here but he was particularly struck by the new buildings and the refurbishment of the College Bars.

It was Nui's first trip to Britain and although it was a sunny day, both she and Matthew were feeling the cold, having left winter in Thailand where the temperature was 35°C! Despite this, Nui said she liked the UK very much although both were very keen to promote Thailand as a holiday destination to all our readers!

If you'd like to read the original feature article on Matthew Marshall or any of our previous issues, please go to:

**[www.ucsm.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.ucsm.ac.uk/alumni)** where PDFs of Alumnate are available for download. ■

## iPod Shuffle Competition

Last summer the Alumni Office held a prize draw to win an iPod Shuffle. The competition was targeted towards new graduates to encourage them to keep in touch and most importantly tell us their new address – since many graduates tend to move a few times in the months following graduation.

Thank you to everyone who returned their form, we had a very good response!

The lucky winner was Rachel Heaps a Youth and Community Studies Graduate (pictured opposite) who is now working as a Team Leader in community youth work.

The competition is running again this year and the winner will be announced in a forthcoming edition of Alumnate. ■



*Rachel receives her prize from Jo Gregory - Alumni Administrator*

# College News

(l-r) Lauren Sharman (MRER), Tim Barry & Ian Roberts (MRER) with the Heist award



## St Martin's wins national marketing award

St Martin's College has won a prestigious national marketing award for its student outreach work to promote the College's School of Sport and Outdoor Studies. St Martin's won the Bronze Heist Award for Best School and College Liaison Campaign for the work done by Sports lecturer Tim Barry and the Recruitment and Outreach Team from Marketing, Recruitment and External Relations (MRER). The annual Heist Awards celebrate excellence in the marketing of universities and colleges.

The campaign involved talks in local schools and colleges across Lancashire and Cumbria, accompanied by follow-up newsletters and promotional mailings.

Its success was indisputable, applications to all Sports courses went up 76% from 2002/03 to 2003/04, while confirmed course acceptances went up 66% over the same period. These levels have been maintained and improved upon for 2005 entry.

## Increased financial support is great news for St Martin's students

St Martin's College is giving potential students even more reasons to study here from September 2006. Not only is the College offering a generous grant and scholarship package of up to £2,200 a year, it has also introduced

a new bursary of £1800 for teaching students and frozen its course fees for part-time students. In addition, students on health courses funded by the NHS don't have to pay any tuition fees at all.

For full details, go to:

[www.ucsm.ac.uk/about/news/IncreasedFinancialsupport.php](http://www.ucsm.ac.uk/about/news/IncreasedFinancialsupport.php)



Dr Ruth Balogh



Dr Mike Huggins



Prof Richard MacGregor



Prof Robert Pearce

## Professorships and Readerships awarded

Four St Martin's lecturers have been awarded Readerships and Professorships by the College in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements. Dr Ruth Balogh was awarded a Readership in Health Research and Practice Development, Dr Mike Huggins gained a Readership in Cultural History while Dr Robert Pearce and Dr Richard McGregor became Professors of Modern History & Music respectively. The title of Professor is awarded to academic staff who have achieved an outstanding academic record and reputation at a national and international level. The title of Reader is awarded to those who have a proven and documented record of research and publication in academic journals.

For full details, see the press releases announcing their achievements at:

[www.ucsm.ac.uk/about/news/](http://www.ucsm.ac.uk/about/news/)

Kathy Flann



## Creative Writing lecturer short-listed for Literary Award

Creative Writing lecturer Kathy Flann has been short-listed for the prestigious Virginia Kirkus Reviews Literary Award for her collection of short stories entitled 'Smoky Ordinary'. Kathy is one of five finalists chosen from hundreds of entries in a US competition open to fiction writers to find the best unpublished novel or stories. The winner will be announced this spring and the prize is to have work published by Little, Brown, & Co. 'Smoky Ordinary' is a collection of short stories linked by a fictional town of the same name. Kathy is an American short story writer and teaches on the popular Creative Writing degree and MA courses on the Lancaster Campus. For information about the courses, visit:

[www.ucsm.ac.uk/cme](http://www.ucsm.ac.uk/cme)

## St Martin's Student Finance is crystal clear

St Martin's is the first higher education institution in the country to gain a coveted 'Crystal Mark' award for its SMART Money Guide which outlines student finance information for 2006/7. The crystal mark is awarded by the Plain English Campaign for publications that are clear, concise and easy to understand. It has become firmly established in the UK as the standard all organisations aim for when producing public information.



The guide explains the complexities of student finance in a simple, straightforward way and ensures all students can make informed decisions. For more information about student finance 2006/7 go to:  
[www.ucsm.ac.uk](http://www.ucsm.ac.uk)

### Third Equality and Diversity Annual Report published

The St Martin's College Equality and Diversity (ED) Committee has published its third Annual Report, bringing together all the College's activities towards the promotion of and commitment to Equality and Diversity in 2004-05. The report highlights good practice in promoting ED across the entire institution, as well as its external activities, and sets out action plans for further initiatives in 2006.

To download and read the full ED Report 2004-05, visit the College website at:  
[www.ucsm.ac.uk/about/equality/](http://www.ucsm.ac.uk/about/equality/)

### History lecturer publishes new sports book

Dr Mike Huggins from the Division of History and Geography is celebrating the publication of his latest book, 'Sport and the English 1918-1939', an entertaining analysis of sport as an expression of the values and social relations of a nation. The book covers the period between the two World Wars and explores sport in English life through gender, class, religion and locality. Mike wrote the book with Jack Williams of Liverpool John Moores University, it is published by Routledge.



Dr Mike Huggins



The German delegates with the St Martin's representatives

### 'Beyond Face Value' project welcomes German visitors

Delegates from German and British projects set up to tackle inequality and discrimination in the European labour market came together on the Lancaster Campus to share ideas about best practice and foster trans-national collaboration. Both projects aim to help people from minority ethnic communities into work through training opportunities and offer equality and diversity training to employers, among a variety of other initiatives.

Eleven delegates from the North German Network for the Professional Integration of Immigrants (NOBI) from Hamburg spent three days in April with the St Martin's College-led 'Beyond Face Value' project staff on the Lancaster Campus, discussing their respective projects and experiences. They also visited organisations across the region to see the impact 'Beyond Face Value' is having. Both projects are development partnerships funded by the EU's European Social Fund under the EQUAL Programme, which aims to tackle all forms of inequality and disadvantage faced by minority ethnic communities in the European labour market.

### Student Volunteers clean Lancashire beach

141 volunteers from fourteen North West universities and higher education colleges, Blackpool and the Fylde

College plus members of the public came together in February to clean Rossall Beach in Fleetwood, Lancashire, to promote Student Volunteering Week.

The day was covered by BBC Radio Lancashire & Bay Radio in Lancaster, who came along to interview those taking part. The beach clean was organised by the institutions in collaboration with Morecambe Bay Partnership. This is the second year an event like this has been organised, last year the students came together to clean a stretch of beach in Hest Bank, Morecambe Bay.

### National initiative to develop sports coaches of the future

Over a hundred school children from across Cumbria & North Lancashire attended a one day sports event at the Ambleside Campus in March, aimed at creating the sports coaches of the future. St Martin's staff and students organised the 'Top Link' event, part of a Sporting Champions initiative from Sport England, an organisation that delivers and invests in Government's sporting objectives and uses sport stars and emerging talent to motivate young people.

Athlete Bashir Hussain, who has approximately twenty international awards and recently competed in the UK Masters 5km Championship, opened the event on behalf of 'Sporting Champions.' He spoke to school children and teachers and encouraged the youngsters who were interested in a sporting career.



Sports staff and students who participated

# College News

*Eliza Mood with her debut novel*



## Debut novel for Eliza Mood

Creative Writing Lecturer Eliza Mood has published her first novel, 'Giving Up Architecture'. The novel tells the story of Clem, a former architecture student struggling to re-establish his identity after serving in the Ambulance Corps as a conscientious objector during the Second World War. While he faces his demons privately after the war ends, unable to articulate or make sense of his past, he develops a relationship with Lou while working as a history teacher.

The novel is influenced by writers known for their innovative use of narrative and for drawing on traditional tales and oral storytelling, such as Angela Carter, Jeanette Winterson and Salman Rushdie, whose books often present a mythological interpretation of the world. Podcasts of Eliza reading passages of the novel are available for download from: [www.stmartinsfestival.org.uk](http://www.stmartinsfestival.org.uk)

## Students take part in National Science Week

St Martin's Secondary Science and PGCE students celebrated National Science Week by hosting fun science activities in Kendal and Ulverston for local primary schools. The sessions took place in Kendal Parish Hall and the Red Rose Club, Ulverston and

provided hands on activities for year six pupils who learnt about the fundamentals of electrostatics, standing waves and centripetal forces, constructing bridges and learning about birds of prey and owls.

National Science Week is an opportunity for people of all ages to take part in science, engineering and technology activities. It aims to celebrate science and its importance to every day life.

## Expansion of dental and medical training in North West

St Martin's College is part of a consortium to increase the number of medics and dentists trained in the North West, following a successful bid to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Department of Health for more student places.

In partnership with the NHS community in the local region, a consortium involving the University of Liverpool, the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), Lancaster University and St Martin's College submitted the bid and will now be able to expand medical and dental education in the region.

The multi-million pound investment will pay for 50 extra medical students and an extra 32 dentistry students in each University of Liverpool intake. The 82 extra students will graduate with a University of Liverpool degree but will be based in Cumbria and Lancashire for the duration of their studies, in order to enhance medical and dental provision in these areas in the long-term.



*Margaret Ledwith with her best-seller*



## Bestselling book by St Martin's lecturer

A St Martin's Community Development lecturer is celebrating the success of a best-selling book which has proven so popular it had to be reprinted just three months after it was first published to meet the demand.

Margaret Ledwith's new book 'Community Development: A Critical Approach' was publisher Policy Press's top-selling website title and is doing well not only in this country but also the USA. Published in November 2005, it's received great acclaim from many quarters and has led to many new opportunities for Margaret, including invitations to be on a Home Office Working Party on community development in the UK and travel to Sweden to talk about the ideas in her book.

## Podcasting innovation

Sports Science lecturers Grant Abt and Tim Barry are using podcasting to reach out to both current & potential students, recording free podcasts to support A-Level and degree level exam revision. They are among the first in the UK to use podcasting in this way in Higher Education, allowing students to listen to the podcast via their MP3 players or mobile phones and revise wherever they are.



# Your News

Thank you for all of your updates over the last few months. We rely on your input to make the magazine a success so please continue sending them in.

## **Wilf Parkington, Certificate in Education (1968)**

My fondest memory of my time at St Martin's is the outward bound course organised by Geoff Bolton which took place in winter with canoeing on the canal and later at Glasson Dock. Great way for curing a hangover though! It was the sense of belonging to a new community that seems to be my strongest memory of my time there. Polly did a great deal to create that feeling as well as having Saturday morning lectures.

Since I left St Martin's I taught maths for 31 years before having to retire due to ill health.



*(l-r) Julie Smith, Elaine Stone at the JCR Pyjama Dance*

## **Elaine Stone (nee Hall), Biology & Chemistry (1969)**

My fondest memories of St Martin's include the Summer Ball - we always finished up at the motorway service station on the M6 and thought this was so trendy - can't think why now.

St Martin's day - the whole college went up to the lakes for an outing (I remember the packed lunches were great). The Manchester to Lancaster walks during rag week. The dances - often had a theme - I remember as a member of the sailing club helping to organise one with a Bonnie & Clyde theme, the tickets said 'dress to kill'. 'Afternoon tea' in the JCR - sticky buns, doughnuts etc. Keeping the 'journal' for discussion at weekly tutorial. Mixed hockey, I still have corrugated shin bones to remember this by.

Since leaving St Martin's I have been teaching - in comprehensive schools up and down the land. Marriage, fifteen years off in the middle when I had three 'babies' - now aged 25, 26 and 28. During this time acquiring an Open University degree & a Masters in Environmental Psychology at the University of Surrey. Working as a researcher in the Psychology department at Surrey but then going back into teaching feeling that despite the problems children are on the whole nicer to work with than adults. In the last ten years have been meeting up with a few college friends for the odd weekend (no pun intended). We still get on as well as ever.

What does St Martin's mean to me? I suppose it was that transition bet-

ween childhood and adulthood. Really college was our first chance to be independent and we grasped the chance but at the same time college provided a safety net. It was much easier for us then (1966-1969), there were no credit cards, overdrafts were impossible to get, few students had cars, college provided all meals and found our accommodation.

## **John Marsh, Teaching Certificate (1970)**

Since I left St Martin's I spent two years at a Boy's Secondary School in Cheshire before marrying Rachel and moving to a Preparatory School in Nottinghamshire. After two years I moved to an 11-18 Comprehensive in Suffolk which was the start of my focus on pupils with SEN. Whilst in Suffolk I completed my B.Ed degree at the University of East Anglia (although I should really have done the B.Ed whilst at St Martin's if I'd concentrated more!)

My voluntary involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Suffolk led me to work for the Isle of Man Government as firstly Development Worker for the Duke of Edinburgh Award /Outdoor Pursuits Centre and then subsequently was a support teacher within the Special Needs & Psychology Service. During my years in the

Isle of Man I completed an MSc degree on Pupil Exclusion which was very useful when I eventually moved to the new Unitary Authority of West Berkshire as SEN Manager. Five years later I became Principal SEN Officer for the South & West of North Yorkshire.

My fondest memories of St Martin's are playing rugby on Wednesdays and Saturdays, trips to Blackpool for beer tasting, sandwiches provided for supper for those living in Willy Tom, The support staff – especially Harry Vickers, Bill Etherington, David Peacock, etc, the library, the B & B in Morecambe (Mrs Brownlee), visits to potholes (thanks Prof!), the bar and the formal balls, the grey gowns, my fellow students – especially Dave McIlroy, Dave Bateman, Barbara, Derek Lion, Stu & Sue, Liz Rawlinson, Pam Stevenson and Julie Dean.

I have had Christmas card contact with Dave and Barbara Bateman but Dave McIlroy....what is your address? Did you get married again?



Wendy Westgarth now

### **Wendy Westgarth, B.Ed (Hons) Music and English (1985)**

One of my fondest memories of St Martin's was being in the Gressingham team which won the SCAN review - we did a series of sketches based on Hi de Hi. I remember the chaplain sportingly joining in our rendition of "Patricia the Stripper" and we also did a version of The 12 Days of Christmas to the words: On the 1st day of college the canteen

served to me... With such responses as: 'A piece of Bendy toast', 'Fried egg and bacon', and for 5 Gold Rings 'chicken again', which brought the house down. David and Andy were the judges and took a bow and the next morning at breakfast, numerous amounts of bendy toast were thrown at me! I loved working in the student bar and also did stints as a DJ at discos for my sins! I can also remember being a member of the cuddle squad and grabbing members of staff who included Hugh Cutler and being sold as a slave to the bursar! I am now a qualified teacher of the Deaf having taught at Margate Royal School for the deaf, The Mount School for the deaf, Stoke-on-Trent and Northern Counties School for the deaf, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. I then became an Advisory teacher (peri) for Hearing Impaired in Durham. Recently had a career change and I am now the North East Regional Officer for the National Deaf Children's Society. I assist families with deaf children and give support and information on a wide range of issues for families with deaf children. These include education, benefits, health, technology.

Now living in Chester-le-street, Co Durham and been happily married to Dave for nearly 9 years now. In that time have been lucky enough to have travelled to some fantastic places, including Inter-railing through Europe, Vancouver, the Caribbean Islands and last year the Maldives. To me St Martin's means a wonderfully warm, friendly, caring environment where I really opened out from a shy fresher into the person I am today which is a bit worrying really! Met some smashing characters, students and lecturers and I'm still in touch with some of them! Look back on my days at Smarties with much affection.

### **Cathy Magowan (nee McCaffrey), BA (Hons) Health Promotion & Drama (1996)**

Since leaving St Martin's I have had a number of temporary jobs from teaching care, drama, and health promotion in a College of Further Education, to freelance Health Education Work. I have recently started a new permanent post for the local Health Trust.

My fondest memory of St Martin's is the staff, especially Jan Ashcroft and Karen Cumpsty in the Drama Department. Got married 04/10/04.



David (centre) on Mount Kasprovia

### **David Blake, BA (Hons) Community & Youth Studies (1997)**

When I graduated from St Martin's I immediately began working for the Surrey Youth Development Service as their Neighbourhood Youth Worker for West Woking. After three years I progressed to the senior position of Youth Development Officer and now manage all the youth work in Woking. I also run my own freelance training company – Tiny Bus Training & Development, with a friend and colleague. We work with schools, colleges and youth organisations in addressing their learning needs. Maybe one day this will become my full time job but at the moment it's just something that I do because I enjoy it and it gives me the opportunity to undertake face to face work in contrast to my Surrey job which has become a lot more strategic.

I have many fond memories of time at St Martin's and can honestly say

that it was the best three years of my life! My first memory is of being the only bloke in the Barbon Hall in my first year, benefits included making lots of unexpected friends with blokes from the other halls who wanted to swap rooms with me (I didn't!), but also some down sides such as the lack of bathroom and payphone availability and the odd girl having had a row with her boyfriend taking it out on me as the only male close by!

St Martin's means a helluva lot to me to be honest! It set me off on the path which I am now on. It gave me the opportunity to live in Lancaster – a city I miss! It provided me with the training and skills I now use to do my job, it gave me the chance to achieve, and gave me friends that are still an important part of my life. It would be really great to have a CYS Class of '97 reunion if people are interested?!

### **Matthew Share, BA (Hons) History (1997)**

I am working as a Soundman in TV and films as well as studying sound post production at the National Film and Television School in Beaconsfield. I miss St Martin's terribly – life is scary! I spent 3 years laughing and met some of the nicest people I could have hoped to meet – I am still a fool!

### **James Beattie, BA (Hons) English (1998)**

When I left St Martin's I went on to study for a MA in English Literature at Warwick and then trained as a teacher. I am now teaching GCSE and 'A'-Level English Language and English Literature at Keighley College. For me, St Martin's was a second chance to prove to myself that I was capable of studying, the

staff believed in me and gave me the confidence to try my best. My fondest memories of St Martin's are of being part of a friendly community (both the college and the town) and becoming increasingly committed to the subject as a result of excellent teaching and growing interest.



*Sarah Keery with her husband Andrew*

### **Sarah Keery (nee Preston), BA Hons QTS Music (1999)**

After graduating from St Martin's I went back home, taught in a local primary school for 4½ years and worked as the Music Co-ordinator for the last 2½ years there. I then left to become a lecturer to SLDD Students in a local FE College. Last year I decided teaching was no longer for me and joined Connexions as an Education Personal Advisor which means the dreaded word – “Teenagers”! During all of this I went on holiday to Italy where I met the man I now call hubby (no, he's not Italian, he's half-Irish half Portuguese with a London accent!)

My first year at St Martin's seems to be the most memorable – playing the piano in the practice rooms trying to compete with the person next door – Mr Alan Friend! Forever getting muddled up with the other Sarah Preston, first day on teaching practice in a school in Preston, making good friends with Andy, Sheena, Maggie, Pamela, Helen, etc. (Or should that be Alemap and Eiggam?) Staying up late chatting in Maggie's room.

The staff and in particular Gerry Doyle – a much respected and sometimes feared man who was always there to listen when I needed to talk. Gillian Cummins who again was always there to listen and encourage me to sing (it finally worked Gillian I've joined the local music theatre group at last!) My best memories of fourth year are sharing a house with Tracey Dixon, making Indian ice cream, staying up all hours watching films, how cold our little house was, the last day and moving out, and of course Graduation – the last time I saw most of the people that I spent four years of my life with.

I have a lot of fond memories and a lot of sad memories from St Martin's. It was the place where I learnt I could be me. On Valentine's Day 2003 I brought my then future husband to Lancaster and showed him around the place that was a huge part of my life and I was taken aback by how emotional I became. St Martin's will always hold a special place in my memories.

### **Andy Rigby, BA (Hons) QTS Music (1999)**

One of my fondest memories was when we recorded the CD with the college choir with Gerry Doyle, Pete Noke and Gillian Cummins. I always have fond memories of St Martins; friendly atmosphere on college campus, the SU Bar etc. Love the City of Lancaster, the infamous pubs like H2o, Blob Shop, Merchants, Fibbers and of course who can forget Wednesday nights at Brooks! Since I left St Martin's I have been teaching in 2 schools, also writing music for a publishing company in the United States so I keep busy!! Anyone who is thinking of taking a degree course, choose St Martins!!



## Creative Writing MA

We are now accepting applications for the MA in Creative Writing on the Lancaster campus.

The course is part-time and it is designed to accommodate the schedules of busy working people.

The MA at St Martin's features creative writing workshops, as well as literature and language modules designed especially for Masters level writers.

During the 2006/07 academic year, students will take the following:

- Term 1:** Fiction Writing Workshop, Literature module
- Term 2:** Poetry Writing Workshop, Choice between two literature modules (students will vote)
- Term 3:** Creative writing workshop (mixed genre); Stylistics for Writers

We'll meet Wednesday evenings 6-9pm during the first year. During the second year, students will work on independent projects with tutorial support. The course will begin in the autumn term; applications will be accepted through September, but it's better to apply early. For more information, please contact -

Kathy Flann: [k.flann@ucsm.ac.uk](mailto:k.flann@ucsm.ac.uk)

or phone the English administrator on **01524 384 328**

## Modern Foreign Languages PGCE

When you study a Modern Foreign Languages PGCE at St Martin's, you'll be studying at an institution rated by OFSTED as one of the top providers in the UK. The course allows you to learn a new language and experience for yourself how the approach you'll be trained to use in the classroom bridges the gap between theory and practice. It focuses on how pupils learn, what motivates them and how to do this in the target language.

For more information, visit:

[www.ucsm.ac.uk](http://www.ucsm.ac.uk)

## History PGCE

The History PGCE aims to produce teachers who make the past come to life for pupils in ways that will stimulate their curiosity and develop their skills of critical thinking, writing and speaking. You will be able to extend your understanding of how History contributes to wider educational perspectives such as Citizenship and the 14-19 vocational curriculum. The course also has a good employment record with many securing their first teaching post soon after graduation.

For more information, visit:

[www.ucsm.ac.uk](http://www.ucsm.ac.uk)

## Teach English to Speakers of Other Languages

Do you have a desire to travel? Are you interested in meeting other cultures? Would you like opportunities to develop your team-working, leadership and communication skills? Then why not train to Teach English to Speakers of Other Languages at St Martin's in Lancaster. A new three-module TESOL series is being developed for September 2006, which will provide you with the theoretical, methodological and practical knowledge and skills necessary to be considered initially qualified to teach ESOL.

Classroom sessions will take place one evening a week with supplementary content and tasks delivered via Blackboard.

Contact Krista Court - [k.court@ucsm.ac.uk](mailto:k.court@ucsm.ac.uk)

or Helen Johnson - [HJohnson@ucsm.ac.uk](mailto:HJohnson@ucsm.ac.uk)

to express your interest or to receive more information, including an application form.

## MA in Youth & Community Development Studies

This course offers stimulating and challenging experiences for students so they can make a valuable contribution to the field of youth and community development work. St Martin's has an enviable reputation for high quality professional training and prides itself on providing a challenging and satisfying educational experience for all students.

The MA is aimed at JNC qualified workers as a Continuing Professional Development opportunity.

For more information, contact Course Leader Alan Smith on **01524 384359** or email:

[a.smith@ucsm.ac.uk](mailto:a.smith@ucsm.ac.uk)

## Lifelong Learning

For a copy of our Lifelong Learning Directory please contact the Admissions Office on **01524 384604** or email:

[ptadmissions@ucsm.ac.uk](mailto:ptadmissions@ucsm.ac.uk)

### Alumni & Stakeholder Relations Team

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