

Aluminate

St Martin's Alumni Magazine
Winter 2005



A College of Higher Education
accredited by Lancaster University

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
to all our Alumni!



Contents

A Return to Study	1
The New SU President	3
University of Cumbria proposals	4
Postgraduate Opportunities	5
Honorary Fellowships	6
Picture perfect	8
Carlisle Graduation	10
Limited Edition prints	10
WebAlumnus	11
College News	12
Fundraising Swim	14
Your News	15



Welcome

Welcome to Aluminate; your St Martin's Alumni Magazine. In this edition we focus on students, past and present. We have a feature on Amy Poole, former Students' Union President who has returned to St Martin's to pursue a remarkable career change. Also featured is the new Students' Union President for 2005/06, Jeff Twedde, who recounts what the job of President means to him.

On page 4 we have some exciting news on recent proposals for a University of Cumbria following recommendations from a report into Higher Education in the region by Sir Martin Harris for HEFCE. This new development will potentially mean big changes in Higher Education in Cumbria, and St Martin's will be at the heart of it.

Page 11 features news on an exciting development for the Alumni Association and its move into cyber space! For news about forthcoming student productions, see the back page. Page 14 features Mandy Dobocz who has taken up an amazing challenge to raise money for the charity Aspire.

As always, your feedback is very important to us and we would appreciate your comments on your new Alumni Magazine. Please keep sending in your updates and stories for us to feature.

All that remains is to wish you all a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2006!

Happy Reading

David Hudson and Jo Gregory



A College of Higher Education
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Former SU President is St Martin's student again

“ If I really wanted to teach, there was bound to be a way...
...this was the beginning of my personal, giant leap
towards the world of teaching. ”

A career change is never easy but Amy Poole has taken the leap, moving from a career in Marketing to train as a teacher. She's returned to St Martin's to study a PGCE over ten years after she graduated with a degree in English Literature and History and where she was also elected Students' Union President in 1993-94. After graduation, she worked in PR and Marketing at a variety of Higher and Further Education Institutions, most recently as Deputy Marketing Manager at Lancaster and Morecambe College. In her own words, Amy writes about why she wanted to change career, why she decided to return to St Martin's and how she is coping with writing essays again!

“ If you'd have told me a few years ago that I'd be writing this article about turning my life upside down in a bid to be a primary school teacher, I would have laughed. Teaching wasn't what I actually did, it was always what I would have done had things been different.

So, why now, in my 30's, settled into a career, with a house, a mortgage and responsibilities? Surely it was too late?

I think what finally made me act was a period of ill health when I spent a lot of time watching the world go by. I realised that in some small way, we all do that. Opportunities in this world are there for the taking, and really, I was just making excuses. If I really wanted to teach, there was bound to be a way. So I started looking into it, spoke to people at Universities, read information from the Teacher Training Agency and began to formulate a plan. I visited some local schools, applied for college and got onto the course. This was the beginning of my personal giant leap towards the world of teaching.



Amy as Student Union President in her office

In August this year I gave up my job to return to St Martin's. Of course I was worried about finances, the transition, and my future, but, when it came to it, it was all surprisingly easy. (continued overleaf)

“ I am not known as one of life's risk takers. But thanks to the £6000 government bursary offered to all postgraduate trainee teachers, a student loan, and a huge amount of support and faith from my friends and family, I now find myself amongst some of the most determined people I've known, all sharing the somewhat mammoth quest to qualify as a teacher in one year.

The professionalism of our tutors is outstanding, their experience in primary schools crucial, and their faith in us slightly unnerving! They are guiding us through the year with confidence in our abilities, reassurance and good humour.

Re-entering education after ten years has been hard. The concept of studying still makes me nervous. I come home at the end of the day knowing that I can't just slob in front of the telly, but have to read a text book, or plan a lesson for school. The culture shift is huge, bigger than I'd anticipated, but the feeling of purpose far outweighs it.”

This course is not for the fainthearted. I'm working more hours each week than I've ever worked in my life! But it's worth it. I know it's a cliché (and many experienced teachers assure me it'll wear off!) but I find the classroom one of the warmest and most welcoming places. No disrespect to anyone I've ever shared a boardroom with, but jumping around playing 'thought tunnels' (they take

some explaining) with a class of ten year olds or seeing the lights go on when a child suddenly grasps the finer points of a maths problem, beats it hands down.

All of us on the course share this feeling. We come together from a wide range of 'previous lives'. We share the trepidation of acquiring the skills needed to become competent teachers in just one year. Some of us have our mortgages on the line, others have children of their own depending on them, two are even planning their weddings this year! But, each week I am struck by the utter commitment, determination and camaraderie amongst my fellow PGCE students.

A colleague said to me as I left my job: 'I admire the fact that you are following your dream, I could never do that.' It wasn't until that moment that I realised that I was one of those people who could change their lives, or make that leap. I was a risk taker. It occurred to me then, that if I was, everyone was. There wasn't a magical formula you had or hadn't got; it was just

something anyone, given the right advice, support and determination could do.

This year is hard work already, and I'm sure it'll get harder. It's not a course to be undertaken lightly. It is, however, already extremely rewarding.” ■



Amy today

New SU President

for a new academic year

After catching up with previous SU President Amy Poole, we talk to the new President - Jeff Tweddle about what the job means to him.

As St Martin's student numbers increase year by year, the job of the Student Union President to represent them becomes more demanding but new President Jeff Tweddle is keen to meet the challenge. In the last two years while still a student (gaining his degree in Environmental Geography with Environmental Management), Jeff worked in the SU as Saint Officer, which involves producing the student newsletter, and Clubs and Societies Officer, so was under no illusions about what the role of President entailed.

He explains, "The job is about creating opportunities for people and making a difference. It's not nine to five and it's not about pushing paper around a desk, it's about being visible and available to students." Being available to 11,500 students keeps him very busy but he has the help of a 43-strong team of SU officers across the campuses. "You have to have a very strong and supportive team around you that really is a united team for the Union, which we have."

A typical weekly diary is packed with College committees and meetings across all campuses and the region, involving staff, senior college management, students and external organisations such as City Councils and the National Union of Students (NUS), but Jeff also makes

time to get out of the office and talk directly to St Martin's students around the campuses. "It's very important that my officers and I stay in close contact with students and know the issues that concern them.



Jeff Tweddle outside the Student Union

It's a difficult balancing act; you've really got to really manage your time effectively but I don't believe there are normal working hours for a president of a Students' Union, it's just impossible."

In the last few months, the University of Cumbria proposals have been the major issue for students. They have expressed worries about what it means for their degree and what will happen to the St Martin's name but the Union has been working hard with the College to answer their questions. "I think there is a bit of confusion among students at the moment but it is something we are working on. Although it's

difficult, I think we are getting there."

Overall, Jeff sees the most important part of his job as being a voice for students, a link between the students and institution. "It's important that I represent that voice on an institutional level, because the most essential thing to a student is the quality of the education they're receiving and the level of service they get. That has to be paramount to an SU President." ■

University of Cumbria

proposals welcomed

“The proposal is a tremendous opportunity for a future injection of Higher Education into Cumbria”

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has published Sir Martin Harris' proposal for a University of Cumbria which advocates the amalgamation of St Martin's College and Cumbria Institute of the Arts (CIA), based in Carlisle, to form a new University of Cumbria from 1 August 2007

Both St Martin's and CIA Governors have welcomed the proposal. An Amalgamation Steering Group and an Amalgamation Management Group have been established, made up of senior managers and governors from both institutions. A project team has also been appointed to support the amalgamation process. Professor Chris Carr, St Martin's Principal and Chief Executive said: "I am delighted with the announcement and conclusion of Sir Martin Harris' report on the future of Higher Education in Cumbria. The proposal seems a logical next step with the work St Martin's has been doing in developing its portfolio for the future.

The proposal is a tremendous opportunity for a future injection of Higher Education into Cumbria, working with campuses and Further Education colleges throughout the county. Cumbria Institute of the Arts and St Martin's College will make a significant inward investment to the future of Higher Education in Cumbria. Young people in Cumbria are entitled to the same HE opportunities as everybody else in the country; this proposal will give them access to those opportunities."

Although the University's headquarters would be based in Carlisle, the Lancaster Campus of St Martin's College would be vital to its success, serving South Cumbria, North Lancashire and the wider North West. The time scale proposed for the project is necessarily short but

achievable. The new University would be a major contributor to economic growth and regeneration in the county. Initially it will provide a range of subjects based on both St Martin's and CIA's existing programmes. It will develop a comprehensive range of additional vocational and academic specialisms which will broaden the current curriculum and meet the needs of local business and wider economic plans.

Speaking about economic growth, Professor Carr said: "This proposal is about new growth and develop-

ment. St Martin's has been active in Cumbria since 1994 and now employs more than 400 people in the county. In the long and short term, we aim to increase employment opportunities and increase economic growth in Cumbria."

St Martin's College is also seeking Taught Degree Awarding Powers (TDAP) and is in the process of being assessed by the Quality Assurance Agency for its suitability. St Martin's degrees are currently accredited by Lancaster University. ■



Professor Chris Carr

Postgraduate Study at St Martin's

For information on Postgraduate courses contact Jo Whinham on 01524 384694 or see our website: www.ucsm.ac.uk/courses/pg

Flexible Modular (Primary & Secondary)

St Martin's College Flexible Modular courses offer a route into the teaching profession for graduates. There are different routes for primary and secondary teaching both of which involve school placements. The entry requirements for both courses include a degree or equivalent qualification and GCSE grade C minimum or the equivalent in English and Maths. For more information, please contact:

Margaret Hartley (Primary) on **015394 30211**
or Arlene Garrett (Secondary) on **01524 384545**

MSc/PgD/PgC Public Health & Social Change

The new Public Health and Health Improvement Agenda means that health and other public sector organisations must decide how to employ their resources in multi-faceted ways to meet the variety of social and health needs in the UK's more deprived communities. This course provides students with the knowledge to work in this exciting area of health. Entry requirements are a first or second class honours degree in a relevant subject area, although students with other qualifications may be admitted via Accreditation of Prior Experiential and/or Prior Certificated Learning. For more information, please contact: Ralph Leavey on **01524 384616**

MSc/PgD/PgC Rehabilitation Studies

This course has been designed to promote inter-professional working in rehabilitation through inter-professional learning. It was created for healthcare professionals to develop their knowledge and experience of rehabilitation theory and practice. Entry requirements are a honours degree (second class or above) in a related health professional subject such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing or

Medicine. Students with at least two years professional work experience in a relevant health, social care or voluntary sector setting can also apply. Please contact: Diane Cox on **01524 384581**

MSc/PgD/PgC Nurse Practitioner

This course is open to graduates who are nurse practitioners and concentrates on the two key areas of the management of clinical complexity and clinical leadership. This can be studied either in the classroom or via distance learning. The focus throughout is on clinical practice so students need to be engaged in practice as nurse practitioners to undertake this course. For more information, please contact: Mike Walsh on **01228 616365**

MA/PgD/PgC Youth and Community Development Studies

This course trains students with the skills to make a valuable contribution to the field of youth and community work. It also provides new and experienced staff with the opportunity to reflect on the current and changing experience of young people and communities, particularly those facing multiple disadvantages, and to explore what the best work processes should be. For more information, please contact: Ian Sinker on **01524 384355**

MA Theology

This course aims at deepening & extending students' understanding of the changing shape of Christian theology and its bearing upon the life and work of the Church. Entry requirements are a good honours degree in theology, religious studies or a related subject. Those with other qualifications (such as a relevant professional qualification) are also encouraged to apply. For more information, please contact:

Karl Moeller or Phillip Blond on **01524 384559** ■

St Martin's awards two Honorary Fellowships

Dr Don Waddell OBE and Ian R Cumming OBE are honoured by the College

St Martin's College presented two Honorary Fellowships this year, one to former Lancaster Town Clerk and ex-St Martin's Governing Body Chairman Dr Don Waddell OBE in May and the second to Ian R Cumming OBE, Chief Executive of Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust, in October. Dr Waddell received his Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his sustained and outstanding contribution for a period of over four decades to the creation and development of the College, while Mr Cumming received his in recognition of significant contributions to the development, maintenance and enhancement of Healthcare provision within the North Lancashire and South Cumbria region.

Presented with the honour at a special reception on the Lancaster Campus, Mr Waddell said "I'm very appreciative of the honour done to me by this award. It's been a privilege and a pleasure to serve St Martin's."

Mr Cumming said: "It is a great honour to receive the Honorary Fellowship from St Martin's College. I feel very humble indeed to be present at a ceremony with so many people who have worked incredibly hard to achieve their diplomas and degree awards. I am deeply grateful to St Martin's for offering me this award." He received his Honorary Fellowship at the St Martin's Graduation Ceremony at Carlisle Cathedral.

Mr Waddell played a key role in the founding of St Martin's College in Lancaster. As Town Clerk in 1962, he put forward the redundant King's Own Royal Regiment Depot at Bowerham as a potential campus site, when the Church of England was looking to create a new teacher training college in the North West. He also played an instrumental role in bringing the University to Lancaster.



Don Waddell and wife Barbara at the Fellowship ceremony

Mr Waddell qualified as a solicitor and, following a period at County Hall, was appointed Town Clerk (a post later to be renamed as Town Clerk and Chief Executive) of Lancaster City Council in 1955. On his retirement in 1979, he was awarded the OBE in recognition of his public service and the Honorary Freedom of the City of Lancaster.

He has been a member of the Governing Body for over 40 years, including a time as Chairman. In 1989, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Lancaster. In 1992, the Waddell Halls of Residence were opened on Lancaster Campus, a lasting commemoration of Mr Waddell's long-standing relationship with St Martin's.

St Martin's Principal Prof Chris Carr paid tribute to Don Waddell at the reception, saying: "No other person has had such an enduring involvement with St Martin's College and no one else can match the record of service and sustained devotion to its work and development. Without the wisdom, energy and foresight of Don Waddell, Lancaster today would be very different from the thriving, lively and cosmopolitan place it is now. Don's patent affection for St Martin's, coupled with his own self-deprecating style, has endeared him to everyone with whom he has engaged at the College."

Ian Cumming has worked in the Health Service throughout his career. He became a trainee Biomedical Scientist at Manchester Royal Infirmary in 1982 and over a ten year period took on a variety of roles, including Clinical Research Scientist with a particular interest in haemophilia, Business Manager for Clinical Support Services, Operating Theatre Manager and finally General Manager (Surgery).

It was the latter that gave him the grounding in health service management which led to his current career.

In 1993 he became the Regional Performance Manager for the Mersey Regional Health Authority, in 1994

Assistant Chief Executive of the North West Regional Health Authority and in 1995 Chief Executive of Lancaster Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. In this latter post he was the youngest Trust Chief Executive in the National Health Service.

In 1998, he took up his present post as Chief Executive of the newly formed Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust. This role saw him oversee the reorganisation and rationalisation of services across the merged Trusts but also the continued enhancement of the health-care provision in the region. In 1992, he led the NHS response to the largest ever outbreak of Legionnaire's Disease in Barrow in Furness. He was awarded with an OBE in 2003 for his management of the outbreak.



Ian Cumming OBE at the graduation ceremony

Mr Cumming was a St Martin's College Governor from 1997 to 2001 and remains a firm supporter of the College's work. He also holds an Honorary Senior Lectureship at Liverpool University Medical School, is Visiting Professor of Healthcare Leadership and Management at the University of Cape Town and, most recently became Deputy Chairman elect of the Postgraduate Medical Education & Training Board. ■

Picture perfect - a change of career

“Sometimes circumstances change and life changes you...
...it's important to have a dream and to pursue it if you can.”

It's becoming more and more common for people to change career these days, but the path from Public Health Development Specialist to award-winning photographer can hardly be well travelled. Caroline Wilkinson (BA (Hons) Health Promotion and Health Administration 1996) may be unique in making that change, building up a successful wedding photography business (Unique Weddings) with her husband Glenn.

She explains: “If I had been told back then I'd be a professional photographer after doing my degree, I would never have believed it. Sometimes circumstances change and life changes you and it's important to have a dream and to pursue it if you can.”

Originally from Croydon in Surrey, Caroline made the 300 mile move to St Martin's because it was the only college offering a health promotion degree at the time. “I gave up my job, car and flat to be broke but happy. I remember coming for my interview, standing at the top of the path outside the library and looking across Morecambe Bay on a sunny day, thinking I could be happy in the town – very important to me as I was 23 at the time. I've lots of fond memories of St Martin's.”

After graduating, Caroline worked as Public Health Development Specialist for 9 years, first at a health authority and finally at a Primary Health Trust, promoting healthy living in communities and schools. Her transition into photography was a gentle one. “My husband is a photographer and I gradually started assisting him at weddings and on photo-shoots.” Before long Caroline started to take pictures herself and gained photography qualifications. In May 2005, she was able to give up

her job with the NHS. “My job entails everything from developing marketing materials to attract clients, meeting and booking them, photographing their weddings and finally preparing their albums.” She won the North West Master Photographers Association Contemporary Wedding Award 2004/05 and the British Institute of Professional Photographers People's Choice Wedding Award 2004/04. Together, Glenn and Caroline have won over 100 awards in the last 12 months for their photography. “We have a small team of assistants and post-production staff, but we pride ourselves on being small enough to care about what we are doing.”

She may be in a different career to what she trained for at St Martin's but Caroline still thinks what she learnt here has been invaluable in her new career. “I absolutely love doing what I'm doing and the things I learnt at St Martin's have definitely paid off running our own business.” ■

Below - Caroline Wilkinson

Opposite page - A selection of her award-winning work from: www.uniqueweddings.co.uk





Carlisle Graduation celebrated

Over 200 students graduated from St Martin's in October, in two ceremonies held at Carlisle Cathedral. The Mayor of Carlisle, Cllr Sandra Fisher, attended both and led academics and students into the Cathedral. Also in attendance were the Dean of Carlisle Cathedral & Rosemary Kennedy, Chief Nursing Officer for Wales, who gave a speech and congratulated the graduates. St Martin's Principal & Chief Executive Prof Chris Carr gave the opening address at both ceremonies.

Students were awarded degrees and higher education diplomas in Nursing (Adult, Mental Health and Midwifery) and Community and Youth Studies.

St Martin's student Michelle Widnall was doubly honoured as she was presented with the Gordon Neill Award by Rosemary Kennedy in addition to graduating with a

DipHE Nursing Studies with Learning Disabilities.

The Gordon Neill Award is presented every year to the nursing student on a Diploma of Higher Education course with the overall highest grades. It is a monetary prize

endowed by the late Gordon Neill, a surgeon from Cumbria, and is given to help fund further training and career development for the winning nurse.

Michelle said: "I was really shocked and delighted at the same time when I found out I had been awarded the prize. I didn't expect it at all.

I thoroughly enjoyed my course and I learnt so many new skills and met a

lot of dear friends."

Michelle currently works as a staff nurse on an adult ward specialising in caring for patients suffering with dementia. ■



Michelle with her son and mother outside Carlisle Cathedral

Limited Edition College prints

St Martin's is pleased to be able to offer limited edition prints of a painting of the Lancaster campus, by renowned Lancaster artist Chas Jacobs.

Prints are priced as follows:

Signed limited edition fine art prints
(850 in run - 410 x 532mm mounted)..... **£39.95**

Giclee signed limited edition fine art prints
(95 in run - 465 x 610mm mounted)..... **£125.00**

Prices include mounting and bagging, prints require framing.

Postage and packing is available for an additional £5.00. Demand is expected to be strong, so early purchase is recommended. To order please send a cheque, made payable to St Martin's College, to:

Rachael Calvey, Service Administrator
Hospitality & Campus Services
St Martin's College, Lancaster LA1 3JD



Introducing WebAlumnus

Wherever you happen to be, WebAlumnus is available via the internet; another way to interact with us and each other.

2006 will see St Martin's Alumni Association move into the on-line era when we launch a new web-based community called WebAlumnus. This innovative system will enable you to access your membership details, interact with friends and colleagues and keep up to date with College and Alumni news.

All you will need is a computer and a standard web browser. The new website will be totally secure and obviously complies with the Data Protection Act. Wherever you happen to be, WebAlumnus is available via the internet; another way to interact with us and each other.

What are the main benefits of joining?

- You can maintain contact with St Martin's Alumni Association via the on-line Who's Who and via a personal email address
- Update your details yourself to ensure that they are the most recent
- Keep informed about college news and news from fellow alumni
- Manage and report on your own reunion events and get the latest information on any alumni events
- Benefit from an expansive network of professional and business contacts
- Share your knowledge, skills and advice with current and future generations of alumni seeking career guidance and information

Early in 2006, we will send you joining instructions and further information about this exciting new development.

This system is already being used by numerous institutions across the UK enabling their alumni to maintain better contact with each other. The system is totally secure to give you peace of mind when entering your details.

Security a priority

- You will get a unique username and password
- The system will protect your rights over the data it holds about you
- You will be able to control what data is held on the system and whether this information is visible to others
- Your data will not be lost – a regular backup system is in place
- The system is lodged in a secure, fireproofed and security guarded installation

One of the most important aspects of the new system is keeping the information we have about you up to date. With this in mind, we would appreciate it if you could let us know of any change in circumstances as soon as possible. This way, we can update our records before we move over to the new system.

If you don't have access to a computer or the internet – don't worry! We will still continue to communicate with all of our Alumni via traditional methods and you will continue to receive Aluminate on a regular basis.

We realise that this new system will pose many questions and we are keen to answer as many of these as possible. If you would like to contact us to discuss this new development, please do not hesitate to get in touch. ■

College News

St Martin's moves up Sunday Times league tables

St Martin's has risen 13 places in the Sunday Times University Guide 2005 league tables to be placed 77th in the UK, only two places behind Manchester Met University and four behind UCLAN. Coupled with a rise of 10 places last year, St Martin's has made a huge leap forward of 23 places in the last two years.

St Martin's is also ranked 7th among North West Higher Education Universities and Colleges and 4th among UK Higher Education Colleges. This success comes soon after Ofsted gave the College top marks for the management and quality assurance of its courses in its primary and secondary teacher training, putting it at the forefront for quality of Initial Teacher Training in the UK. The Faculty of Health & Social Care also received the highest possible ratings for all aspects of its healthcare provision in a recent QAA (Quality Assurance Agency) audit.



Tim Farron and Dean of Education Dr Neil Simco

Tim Farron MP returns to St Martin's to open new Centre

Tim Farron, MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale visited St Martin's Ambleside Campus in September to officially open the Centre for Education Leadership, situated at the Kelsick site. Over seventy delegates attended the event to celebrate the opening of the new centre and the high quality provision it will contribute to the local area. It aims to provide a focus for leadership and management development activity in Cumbria and North Lancashire.



(l-r) Prof Chris Carr, Kyntabek Smanaliev & Vincent O'Brien

Reception held for Kyrgyzstan Minister

A reception took place on Lancaster Campus in May to commemorate the visit of Kyrgyzstan Deputy Minister for Education, Mr Kyntabek Smanaliev. He was here to discuss the progress of a collaborative project to develop a higher education guidebook on European academic standards for the former Soviet Union country.

Staff from St Martin's & Pirkanmaa Polytechnic Business School in Tampere, Finland, have been working with the Kyrgyz government since last year to produce a guidebook on European Credit Transfer Systems (ECTS), which will be used by universities in Kyrgyzstan to structure degree courses to European standards

'Beyond Face Value' to tackle workplace discrimination

A St Martin's-led project to overcome discrimination in the Lancashire labour market has recently begun its implementation phase, with the goal of helping 180 beneficiaries, including individuals and businesses over the next 2½ years. 'Beyond Face Value' is a multi agency project that aims to tackle inequality and disadvantage in the labour market faced by men and women from minority ethnic communities in Lancashire. It will provide a variety of services, including vocational training courses, equality and diversity workshops for employers, diversity roadshows and community arts projects.

Over £4 million for new campus developments

St Martin's College has been awarded £2.8 million from HEFCE to help fund significant development on the Lancaster and Carlisle Campuses. A new Student Centre is to be built in Lancaster to provide a one stop shop for all student services while the new Learning Gateway building in Carlisle will be equipped with modern ICT technology. St Martin's will be contributing nearly £1.8 million itself to the projects.

The proposed new Student Centre will bring together currently separate services including those of the Students' Union, and benefit students by having all student-focussed services in the same place.

The Learning Gateway will be fitted with state-of-the-art ICT to facilitate flexible delivery of learning, teaching and outreach activities. It will become a 'hub of learning' connecting Cumbria and Lancashire, but not limited to those areas.



David Lee and Greg Lodge receive the cheque from Ken de Vonald

FSB sponsors award for St Martin's business students

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) is to sponsor an annual award for St Martin's Business students in Carlisle, to be presented for the first time in summer 2006. The FSB has donated £1000 to create a prize fund for the Annual FSB Award, which aims to reward students for their application of knowledge and skills to small business activity in the region and encourage more people to study business courses at St Martin's.

Centre for Creativity and Innovation officially launched

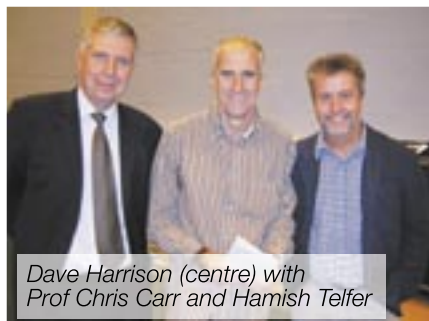
The Centre for Creativity and Innovation (CCI) was officially launched in October and early November at events held on St Martin's Ambleside, Lancaster and Carlisle campuses, bringing together 100 stakeholders, College staff and external organisations, including local City & County Councils, North West Development Agency and Business Link among others. A Business and Community Enterprise Unit (BCEU) project, created with funding from HEFCE's Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF), the CCI's main objective is to support knowledge transfer. Within a modern, knowledge driven economy, knowledge transfer is about transferring good ideas, research results and skills between universities, other research organisations, business and the wider community to enable innovative new products & services to be developed.



Martin Hoodless with the award

Ambleside Estates win Lakes Parish in Bloom Award

Martin Hoodless and Lee Ashley from Estates in Ambleside have won the 'Ambleside and Lakes Parish in Bloom' award for 2005, in recognition of the quality of the campus grounds. The award is given by the Ambleside Horticultural and Craft Society and Lakes Parish Council. St Martin's was successful in the School and Educational Establishments category.



Dave Harrison (centre) with Prof Chris Carr and Hamish Telfer

Dave Harrison Retires

Colleagues from across the College marked the retirement of Dave Harrison this September, at an event held at the Sports Complex in Lancaster. Dave had been Head of the School of Sports and Outdoor Studies for 15 years. College Principal Chris Carr spoke at the event, highlighting Dave's contribution to the College and particularly to the development of Sport at St Martin's.

Dave joined the College in 1990 to establish and develop a new Department of PE & Sports Science. Since that time and with Dave's leadership, the College now has a successful portfolio of courses in sports science and outdoor studies. Dave also played a significant role in the creation of sports complexes at Lancaster and Carlisle. Alongside his teaching career, Dave has been heavily involved with Sports Acrobatic Gymnastics for many years, finally reaching the position of Team Manager for the British Sports Acrobatic Gymnastics Team.

Inaugural Professorial Lecture

Professor David Manning delivered his inaugural Professorial Lecture in December, entitled 'Do You See What I See? – Medical Imaging: The Interpretation of Visual Information.' Held on the Lancaster Campus, Prof Manning gave an overview of his research over the past 20 years in this area, where it is now and where it is leading through strong local, national and international collaborations.

St Martin's to Establish Annual Arts Festival

St Martin's has announced that it is to establish a major annual arts festival in Lancaster with the inaugural launch in May 2006.

St Martin's Festival – "A Celebration of Our Time" will explore a different theme each year and will involve community groups and schools in a multi-media showcase. The theme for the inaugural launch is "Bay" and planning is at an advanced stage. Community groups and schools will collaborate in performance and will underpin a new music commission from the British Composer Paul Harris. Workshops and other activities exploring creative writing, drama, art, music and dance will also take place. See our website: www.ucsm.ac.uk/about/news



The IiP Awards Presentation

St Martin's first to gain Investor in People Award

St Martin's was presented with two Investors in People (IiP) Awards in September; one of which was the Leadership and Management Award, the first awarded to a UK Higher Education Institution. The College's Business Link Advisor, Karen Farnhill, presented College Principal & Chief Executive Prof Chris Carr with the IiP Award and the IiP Leadership & Management Award. St Martin's College has held Investors in People accreditation since 1996 and was also successfully reaccredited in 1999 and 2002.

Fundraising swim

helps spinal injury charity

“When I saw the poster, I felt I had to do it so I could help people in similar or worse situations than myself.”

The ASPIRE Channel Swim 2005 is giving swimmers the chance to fundraise while they exercise, raising money for people with spinal injuries by swimming as many lengths of their local pool as they can. Mandy Dobocz (BSc Sports Science - 2001) has not only been taking part, but has also encouraged forty other people to do the swim, in support of a cause close to her heart. Mandy, trampolining coach at the St Martin's Sports Complex in Lancaster for the last five years; has twice been in serious non-sport related accidents which have left her suffering from a severe spinal injury which has taken her many years to recover from. ASPIRE is a national charity which raises money for research, facilities and assistance for people with spinal injuries so Mandy had special reason to help and raise awareness.

Mandy explains “When I saw the poster for ASPIRE's annual sponsored swim, I felt I had to do it so I could help people in similar or worse situations than myself. It involves people doing the equivalent distance of a channel swim in a local swimming pool. It's 22 miles across the channel and we've got to log how many lengths that we do over a three month period from September to December and then add them up. It's based upon each individual assessing their own fitness level.” For example, it would take 704 lengths of a 50 metre pool to complete the distance. It doesn't have to be done individually either; people have formed teams to do the swim as a relay with each swimming a section.

As well as doing the swim herself and encouraging forty other people to take part, Mandy has promoted the event in Lancaster schools where many teachers have taken it on board too. “It was quite surprising to me how few



people knew about this, I only found out this year after seeing a poster and thought it would be a good thing to do. I've met lots of other people who were in the same position, who weren't aware of it, and so it's important to increase awareness as a whole.” Mandy set herself a long term target of raising £10,000 and has been working with Lancaster City Council to promote the event in the area.

For more information about the charity and the event, visit their website:

www.aspire.org.uk/channelswim

You can also donate money to Mandy, find out more at:

www.justgiving.com/mandyd ■

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.

If you would like to be included in "Your News" next time, please email your comments to j.gregory@ucsm.ac.uk. Please include; your name, degree, year of graduation, what you have been doing since you left St Martin's, your fondest memories of St Martin's, and 'what St Martin's means to you'. If you know of any "lost Alumni" please encourage them to contact the Alumni Office.

Kate Biggin

BA (Hons) English Literature and Religious Studies (2000)

I have lots of fond memories of my time at St Martins! I remember driving up for Freshers' Week with my family and I had a huge lump in my throat at the daunting prospect of making new friends! But as soon as my parents left me in my room in William Thompson Hall I met Claire Belshaw from the room opposite, and I've recently been to her wedding! I also met Sarah Gawthorpe and Sarah Jackson, (now Sarah Fletcher, we all went to her wedding last year!) and we four then lived together in Prospect Street for the next two years.

I remember Principal Carr giving the Freshers' a talk in our first week telling us that we'd probably meet the person we'd marry at University,



(l-r) Claire Belshaw, Kate Biggin, Sarah Fletcher (nee Jackson) and Sarah Gawthorpe - then

since there were hardly any boys at all in our year, we all found that rather funny! I joined the women's rugby team in my first and second years and the social side of this was loads of fun - The Park Hotel pub every Wednesday, then on to the Nag's Head for karaoke, then Brooks - I'm not even sure that we won a single game! (We weren't very good!)

In our 2nd and 3rd years the four of us had a terrific house on Prospect Street which we kept really tidy (not your typical student abode!). We'd sit and watch films all day in our pyjamas! On a Friday, we'd go to the little cinema where for £2.50 we'd watch the new films!

We also appreciated the location of St Martin's and would take the train to Grange-over-Sands and walk over the fell to Cartmel, or go to Morecambe to see the sea. But Bishops Walk for a 9.00am lecture was awful! We all used to wish there was an escalator,

even after three years of the hill, none of us found it any easier!

After St Martin's I moved back to Stafford and worked for Wedgwood Visitor Centre for a few months, and then began working at Staffordshire University. I'm now an Award Administrator and wish I'd been more appreciative of the admin work that goes into seeing students through their degrees!! I have a house and I run a Girl Guide unit, and also help with a Duke of Edinburgh group, so maybe in the future I'll go into youth work as I really enjoy that! I still love my books though and now have a PGDip in Media Studies. I started an Italian class in September.

St Martin's was a fabulous three years for me and as a result I have fantastic friends, every time we meet up it feels like no time has passed at all! When they say you'll meet your friends for life at University, it's true!



Kate Biggin - now

Jenny Poole (nee Stroud) Teaching Certificate (1970)

In 1967, when I went to the College we were the 4th year to enter since the foundation of the college. Every thing looked brand new and there was an atmosphere of excitement and innovation which began the moment you heard Hugh Pollard's welcome lecture which was packed with humorous stories about how it all started. The courses were stimulating and the social life was typically hectic. I remember being presented to the Queen Mother at the official opening of the college. As the college was so new, there were still lots of opportunities to form new clubs and societies and I got heavily involved in starting a Netball Club and a voluntary work group called Action Group.

In the 1960s, we were still not legally adult until the age of 21, so every night we were locked into our various halls of residence at 10.30pm, and the theory was you were meant to apply for a late key if you were not in by this time. As you can imagine, not many of us could be bothered with such forward planning. I'm just so glad that I didn't live on the ground floor of Melling Hall, where the unfortunate occupants were woken up all through the night with various women knocking on the window and diving headlong through those awkward Swedish-style windows onto the bed!



Since leaving the college, quite a lot has happened in 35 years. Bob and I got married the summer after we left and started teaching in Northampton. In 1972, Bob took a short-service commission in the Royal Navy as an

instructor officer and during that time our two children, Kristina and Malcolm, were born. While they were growing up, I taught G.C.E. English and English as a Foreign Language in a College of Higher Education. We moved around a lot and while we were living in Cardiff I became the Deputy Principal of Llandaff Adult Education Centre. We finally settled in Wiltshire seventeen years ago. Initially, I got a job as organiser of a voluntary organisation called Home Start which gives support and practical help to families under stress with children under five. While doing this, I trained as a counsellor and moved on to work both privately and as a G.P. Practice Counsellor. Currently, I am a Specialist Adviser for one of the Wiltshire PCTs Support to Stop Smoking Service where I give individual counselling, run groups and train nurses to become advisers.



What does St Martin's mean to me? Well, it provided training which I have used throughout my life, even though I am no longer a school teacher. In all my subsequent jobs, I have trained other people. I met my husband there and I am proud to say that we are still happily married. It was an important and extremely happy period of my life.

(Top) Jenny Poole - now

(Bottom) Jenny and Bob on their Wedding Day

Adam Prior**PGC Youth & Community Studies (1996)**

Working as Director of Youth and Children Church Ministries in the same church in Surrey where I have worked for the past 8 years – involved with young peoples lives. I have good memories of St Martin's and enjoyed studying with the small number of full time students on my course. For me, St Martin's means good memories and great views of the Lakes!

Philippa Tait (nee Keep)**BA (Hons) Social Ethics & Religious Studies (1990)**

When I left St Martin's, I had a job temping with Devon County Council for 5 years. Unfortunately, due to ill-health I had to retire at the age of 30. I now clean the village church and my hobbies of walking and flower arranging (including the pillars at Exeter Cathedral) keep me busy. When I think of my time at St Martin's I remember the friendliness of the people, the intellectual discussions, and the Summer Balls – especially watching the sunrise at the Ashton Memorial and the romance of meeting my first husband. But most of all, the freedom and independence of student life without the social pressures of working life!

Denise Burgess**B.Ed (Hons) Art/CYS (1983)**

I have lots of fond memories of my time at St Martin's - coming up the path in a shopping trolley. Parties on the third floor of the WT building (climbing out of the window into the

bathroom). My room. The cleaners. Spending HOURS on end in the Art Department painting. Friends. Teaching practice in London NOT the one in Lancaster! The condemned flat I shared in East London with my pal Andrew. Trips to the Lakes etc.

St Martin's mean a lot to me. It was somewhere where I had loads of fun and it allowed me to see a place beyond where I was brought up.

Since I left St Martin's I have been married, divorced, now living with my partner. I am working as an Assistant Head having completed another degree and several courses. Still in touch with a number of people from college.

Kay Bickell**BA (Hons) Religious Studies & ACS (1998)**

After completing my degree I have had various jobs including working for Ondigital/ITV Digital from the start to the bitter end, Royal Mail, the MOD, Police and Capita. I am now working in the IT industry for a company called Pink Roccade.

My fondest memories of St Martin's are daffodils and snow every March and sliding down the Ashton Memorial on trays which were 'found' in or around the Refectory.

Gerard Hearne**BSc(Hons) Applied Imaging (1997)**

My fondest memories of St Martin's include struggling up all those steep hills on a pushbike and finally getting a degree after 23 years out of higher education. To me St Martin's means my way back into academia! Since I left St Martin's spent 3 years back in

photography before I embarked on another degree (the one I was going to start before opting for St. Martin's) so now I also have a 2:1 in French Studies from Lancaster University, which I completed in 2004. That led to a rewarding year as a teaching assistant at Rennes 2 University in Brittany, which is now tempting me to pursue a PGCE at ... St Martin's! My younger son is making fine progress on his BA in Education course at the Ambleside campus!

Jackie Gibson**Dip HE in Youth and Community Studies (2001)**

Since leaving St Martin's I have stayed in the Lancaster area. Firstly working as part of the Youth Offending Team in Lancaster for nearly 3 years (a position I gained whilst on placement there through St Martin's!) I then took over the role of PAYP Coordinator in Lancaster which I have been doing until now. My fondest memory of St Martin's is one of my tutors, Danny Bradley, who was a constant source of inspiration. St Martin's gave me the opportunity to gain practical experience of the work I wanted to do and build on the theoretical knowledge I already had.

David Evans**Teaching Certificate (1975)**

Since leaving St Martin's, I worked for 4 years in Redbridge and then for 26 years in Lancashire at St Aidan's. I enjoyed everything during my time at St Martin's. I have many happy memories. St Martin's gave me a career which I have enjoyed.

**St Martin's College 3rd Year
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Stepping Out

by Richard Harris

(Outside Edge, The Darling Buds of May)

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The Danny Crowe Show contains some strong language.

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