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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:

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Aluminate

St Martin's Alumni Magazine

Winter 2006



A College of Higher Education
accredited by Lancaster University

Serving in Iraq -

From Ambleside to Basrah, Adam Freedman tells his story



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Welcome

Welcome to the Winter 2006/07 edition of Aluminate. By now, you should all have received joining instructions for WebAlumnus, our new online Alumni community. Sign-up has been very encouraging and the more people we have involved, the more interactive and useful it will be. On page 6, we have a brief update on some questions some of you have been having with getting started. Please contact us here at the College if you want to discuss any aspect of the service. Remember, if you haven't already done so, to let us know your current email address so that we can contact you about events, Alumni news and other important updates.

This edition of Aluminate includes a fascinating article about Adam Freedman, St Martin's graduate of 2002 and now building a successful career in the Royal Air Force. On pages 1 and 2, we focus on two of our graduates who have had success with their teaching careers on both sides of the Atlantic. Lynne Todd has been honoured in the United States, while Mathew Barton has recently won the Outstanding New Teacher Award at the Teaching Awards for the North East and Cumbria region.

On page 12 you will find some ideas for a 2007 reunion. Remember, we need a minimum number of people to make these events a success so please register your interest for a summer Reunion – the last chance before St Martin's becomes part of the University for Cumbria!

The next edition of Aluminate – in summer 2007 – will be posted on the College website and WebAlumnus. Due to the rising numbers of Alumni and the frequency of which people are moving around, we have decided to produce one paper edition and one electronic edition a year. However, we realise that not everyone has a computer or wants to read it online, so if this is the case, please contact the office to let us know.

We hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and a great 2007.

Happy reading

David Hudson and Jo Gregory

Correction

In the summer 2006 edition of Aluminate we featured an obituary for Roger Cann in which we stated that one of Roger's notable performances was of his composition of "The Dream of the Rood" with words by Gordon Hodgeon from the English Department. We have since been contacted by Gordon to inform us that he did not write this poem, Gordon wrote "The Dream of the Rood" was written by a far greater but totally unknown to us poet – one of the great surviving poems of Anglo-Saxon England." We would like to apologise to all our readers for this mistake.



A College of Higher Education
accredited by Lancaster University

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Alumni honoured by exchange program



Lynne Todd with her award

St Martin's graduate Lynne Todd has been honoured in the United States for excellence in educating US students about British culture. She received the honour earlier this year from the Visiting International Faculty (VIF) Program, the United States' largest international-exchange program for US schools and teachers worldwide. VIF provides teachers from around the world the professional development opportunity of living, teaching and travelling in the US for up to three years before returning home, with full support services to ensure a rewarding experience.

Lynne was chosen for the honour from among 1,700 cultural exchange teachers from 55 nations teaching in 10 US states. One of 193 VIF teachers from the UK, she won the award for excellence in international education in North Carolina. She has been teaching at Gray's Creek Elementary School in Fayetteville and has been a VIF teacher since 2005. Originally from Nelson in Lancashire, she taught at Roe Lee Park Primary School in Blackburn

before joining VIF. She graduated from St Martin's in 1997 with a BA Hons QTS Geography with IT and Education Studies degree.

Lynne explains: "I really enjoyed my school in Blackburn but felt it was time to spread my wings and see a little more of the world to see how things were done elsewhere. I was told by a colleague about the VIF program and decided to have a go, my outlook being that if it was meant to be, it will be. So I applied and here I am!"

Lynne regularly incorporates aspects of British culture into daily classroom activities and her classroom itself is adorned with photographs, maps, flags and other items from England. One of her most popular lessons was about Bonfire Night and the Gunpowder Plot, where her students put on a play for parents, sang English songs and hosted an afternoon tea.

"I came to the USA to share my country and learn about another way of life. Being a cultural ambassador is such an important part of my job, and I find it rewarding to see the children and adults benefit from the experiences I bring to the classroom. Some children have never left the area where they were born, and having an international teacher brings the world to them and widens their horizons."

She hopes to return to the UK in the future to share her experiences with children here. She explained: "I would like to keep links with my new friends here and hope the children I teach in the future will be able to chat over the internet with American children."

The VIF experience is something Lynne recommends others take part in. "If you have any urges to explore the world and other cultures then don't just sit there, take the bull by the horns and go for it. You need to have an adventurous and independent spirit as you have so much to do, but there are so many people who will help you that you find yourself soon sorted out. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here." ■

For more information about VIF, visit the website at:

www.vifprogram.com

Matthew Barton - outstanding new teacher

St Martin's teaching graduate Matthew Barton has won the Outstanding New Teacher Award at the Teaching Awards for the North East and Cumbria region, held this June. The Award, sponsored by the Training and Development Agency, meant that Matthew went on to the televised National Teaching Awards in London in October alongside all the other regional winners. Although he missed out on the national award, he had still achieved a great deal to be proud of.

Matthew studied a two year Geography PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate in Education) at St Martin's in Lancaster, graduating last year. He now teaches at Dowdales School in Dalton-on-Furness, where he was once a pupil. He won the award in recognition of his flair, passion and enthusiasm for teaching, his meticulous lesson planning and his work with the school's Year 7 girls football team, who he coached to the county finals. His headteacher at Dowdales School praised him by saying she had never known a newly-qualified teacher of such quality, skill and commitment in her 17 years as a headteacher.

Matthew says, "I was really surprised and shocked to win! I was pleased to be nominated and considered in this category in the first place but I never thought I was actually in with a chance of winning the award. I've never considered myself as an outstanding teacher, just one that loves and enjoys what I do. To me, the award is 'the icing on the cake' for my first year of teaching.

Matthew gives a lot of credit to his St Martin's lecturers for making him an award winner.

"My time at St Martin's was absolutely fantastic! The inspiration and support from all the Geography staff and Geography PGCE staff was amazing. Without the likes of lecturers such as Teresa Lenton, Steve Chubb and Sue Foster I wouldn't be where I am now. "

Matthew at the Award ceremony



Matthew was entered for the award by St Martin's PGCE and Geography lecturer Teresa Lenton, who was at the ceremony to see Matthew win the award. Teresa says, "I nominated Matthew for this award because he was an outstanding student amongst an excellent group of trainee teachers and he has continued to develop his knowledge of geography since graduating. He has an ability to gain the attention of pupils and is a creative, innovative teacher. He is passionate about geography and engages pupils in issues of local, regional and global importance."

The Teaching Awards were established in 1998 to celebrate the work of teachers and to give them the recognition that they deserve on a regional and national level. They are administered by an independent charity, the Teaching Awards Trust, and are funded through sponsorship and grants. The Trust's mission is to celebrate excellence and promote best practice in education. ■

Adam Freedman-

from BSc to RAF

When Adam Freedman graduated from St Martin's in 2002 with an Outdoor Studies degree he was undecided about what kind of job he wanted or where his future lay. Cut to four years later and Adam has recently returned from Basra in Iraq after spending a year stationed there as an RAF Regiment Flying Officer. He's not only begun to build a career in the Armed Forces, he's also been witness to one of the major historical events of the 21st century so far, the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq. On the streets of Basrah, he's seen the reality of a situation most of us only know from TV news, he's spent time with the Iraqi people and knows what happens day to day behind the headlines. It's a long way from studying on Ambleside Campus and the tranquillity of the Lake District, but Adam has gone on to succeed in a very challenging environment. He is now in command of 30 troops.

Adam is originally from Oxford and lived in a variety of places growing up, including Wales, London and Hong Kong, and also travelled around with his family when he was young. It was the chance to do Outdoor Studies in the heart of the Lake District that led him north to the Ambleside Campus. He explains: "It was a really diverse course and the opportunity to study in that region was fantastic. No place is better than Ambleside when it comes to the outdoors; it's a stunning campus, well located for all the crags and rivers plus it had a great community spirit with only 700 students there at the time."

He soon settled into the course, learning skills such as kayaking, climbing and navigation, and at the same time gaining knowledge about human performance, nutrition and ecology. He has fond memories of his days at St Martin's, particularly the time spent outdoors. "It was the seasons that characterised Ambleside for me because it was the weather that dictated what activities you could do, the winter term meant we got straight into winter mountaineering and ice climbing. Then in the spring, all the snow melted to reveal the great rivers so I learnt how to kayak. What was nice about Ambleside and especially the Outdoor Studies course was that you had people skilled in different areas like climbing or sailing, so throughout the seasons people would move from the role of 'I'll instruct you' to 'You instruct me'. Adam still stays in

touch with several friends from his college days and even visited Ambleside again earlier this year.

Once Adam graduated in 2002, he left college without a definite path to follow. After looking into careers in the outdoors, his thoughts turned to the Armed Forces, something he had often considered over the years. Adam finally decided on the RAF and signed up for 16 years, joining the RAF Regiment whose job it is to secure and defend airfields in hostile environments.

His training commenced with six months of Initial Officer Training conducted at RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire, where the aim is to turn individuals from civilians into military personnel. They are taught everything from the most basic, such as how to clean and eat properly, onto how to march and handle a rifle as well as leadership and teamwork. They learn what is expected of them as officers, from their conduct and behaviour to a high level of written work and counselling skills. Adam adds: "The final part includes things like man management and



Adam on patrol

welfare, because you are going to be in charge of people. You're also taught the way that orders are processed. This is very important because in the military you are told to do something, not asked.

The skills he learnt on his course at St Martin's proved useful when he began his RAF training. "The degree was very helpful as I had learnt about leadership, team work and management skills, which are all important in the armed forces. There are certain skills like navigation and the ability to predict the weather which are massively helpful if you are living in the outdoors as a soldier. Overall, I think the biggest thing St Martin's gave me was life experience and the concept of people working together."

After completing his Initial Officer Training, Adam moved onto an additional six months trade training at RAF Honington in Suffolk. This began with combat skills, including how to fight and how to get an injured person off the battlefield. As he would go on to be in command of troops, he was taught military tactics and taken through various exercises where he had to lead a flight of thirty soldiers through specific missions such as defending a helicopter pad and attacking a building.

It was a proud day for Adam when he was finally welcomed into the RAF Regiment as a Flying Officer, the equivalent of a Lieutenant in the Army, and posted to the 51 Squadron RAF Regiment in Scotland. There, he was put in charge of a Flight (similar to an army platoon) of 30 troops in a unit of 168. His Flight includes a Senior NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer) who has a vast amount of experience and is there to help develop officers like Adam into effective leaders. The Flight is also made up of three Corporals while the rest are soldiers, gunners and airmen.

Little did he know that he would start his active service in one of the world's most volatile regions. Only four months after he completed his training, Adam was told he was being sent to Basrah. He recalls: "I was going to go and do what I'd always wanted to do and it was a big shock. I suddenly went into this intense period of training where they basically unteach you everything you've been taught beforehand!" The additional training included how to speak Arabic, how to deal with roadside bombs, what to do when under mortar attack as well as advanced first aid training, all vital in such a potentially hazardous area.

In September 2004, Adam arrived in Basrah for the first time. The temperature was over 50°C but there were more immediate concerns than the heat as the violence he'd been trained to expect suddenly erupted for real. "Within the first 24 hours, we were being rocketed because the enemy had set up about 8km away and were firing into the camp. Everybody was diving onto the ground to get body armour and helmets, and I thought 'Great, this is what I want to do, I'm a volunteer and I'm getting paid to be a target for someone.'" The first month was a rapid and steep learning curve; an introduction to the streets of Basrah but also to what life is like outside a civilised democracy.

His Flight's task was to patrol the area around Basrah Air Station and provide security for the Iraqi people. This involved frequent patrols, talking to people to gather intelligence, and setting up vehicle checkpoints to search cars which may contain weapons or explosives. "It was a cross between doing the job of a soldier and doing the job of a policeman, which we call counter insurgency work." Sensitivity for the local culture and the political environment were vital to observe. "If you go out there



The RAF detachment at Basrah Air Station on remembrance day 2004

too heavy handed, with the wrong tone or a lack of respect for their culture and religion then you are going to worsen the situation. On occasion, this has happened but you try and get the balance right. Learning the cultural differences and the language makes a massive difference”.

Adam’s firsthand experience of the situation in Iraq paints a different picture of the country and its people than the British media often portrays. Hundreds of patrols take place each day with only a fraction targeted by insurgents. “95% of people are friendly and good law-abiding citizens but the minority 5% are insurgents. Catching the insurgents is a mixture of good intelligence, good soldiering and gaining of low level information and about being in the right place at the right time. Most of the Arab people you meet out there are very welcoming and appreciative that we’ve relieved them of a regime, they welcome you into their house and they want you to meet people. The kids absolutely love you, I don’t know if it’s because you look different to them or because of all the military kit you have hanging off your uniform. There is a big gun culture in Arabic countries, it’s a normal part of everyday life so the kids see your rifle with a fancy sight on it or a grenade launcher and they say, “wow, I want to play with that!” The kids are very friendly and they’re always asking you for your watch, chocolate or American dollars, they are really warm friendly people.”

Having a strong cultural awareness is a vital skill. “You have to be very respectful of the women out there, we don’t really speak or look at women, if you need to do that then you have to use a female soldier or you have to go through the man of the house. Eye contact is a big thing with the Iraqis and the hug and kiss on the cheek breaks down barriers. You always talk shop before you get down to business as it’s all about being friendly. There’s also a big gift culture where you give them a gift and they’ll give you a gift in return. I find the Arabic people on the whole to be very welcoming and friendly, they like the British Forces even though they don’t necessarily like us being there in a controlling manner.



Stopping in the desert to issue orders



51 Sqn troops using Chinook helicopters to conduct snap vehicle check points

However there are visible signs that some people don’t like us being out there at all, for example you can get rocks and stones thrown at you and your vehicle, kids swearing and gesturing at you or even shots fired over your head as a warning.”

More extreme examples are the acts of the insurgents. “Some of the extremists and insurgents put bombs down at the side of the road, which has resulted in guys getting killed. They also fire rockets at static locations like the Basrah Air Station; obviously you can’t move the air station so people just set up in the desert and fire into it.”

After two terms of five months spent in Iraq, Adam’s next port of call will be Afghanistan, another battle scarred country looking to rebuild itself following the fall of an oppressive regime. There are different challenges for the armed forces to face there. “In Afghanistan the problem is the drugs, the local farmers get far more money to grow opium poppies for heroin than they do for growing rice, so their crops end up supplying the UK heroin trade. That’s one of the reasons why the British Forces are there, to stop the drugs trade in Afghanistan.”

As time goes on, Adam thinks we’ll see British troops steadily withdrawn from the country, something he welcomes as long as the Iraqi people are not left without the vital infrastructure they need to rebuild their country successfully. “In my opinion, I think it is right that we are reducing our presence there but you can’t just walk out of a country and leave it for the sharks to take control because a big power struggle is going to happen, be it religious or motivated by money. We need to make sure that the Iraqi security forces and authorities such as the police, fire, army and government have got the right conditions to take control of the country and run it. Unfortunately at the moment, I haven’t seen enough conviction that everything’s right and I’m sure that when it is we will leave. Hopefully it won’t be too long.” ■

Alumni Online

comes to St Martin's!



In November we launched St Martin's Alumni Online (WebAlumnus) and you should all have received your unique pin number and launch leaflet detailing how you can register with our new online community. If you did not receive a letter please contact us and we will send one out to you.

At the time of writing over 200 alumni have registered, which is fantastic! We are very pleased with the response so far but would still like to encourage you all to register so we can use this new online community to its full potential.

We have received lots of calls in the Alumni Office from those of you who have registered and have had questions about particular aspects of the system. We have provided some information below to help resolve some of the issues which have arisen so far. If you have any questions which have not been answered either in the Frequently Asked Questions or the Help sections on WebAlumnus, please contact the Alumni Office and we will help you.

I have received two letters each with a different 'Unique Pin Number', why?

The Alumni Office receives details of all students who have completed a course each year from the Student Records Office and these details are then added to our alumni database. If you completed more than one course at the College (e.g. Undergraduate Degree followed by a Postgraduate Degree) this will result in our database containing two records for you. Please contact the Alumni Office if you received more than one letter so that we can combine your degree information into one record. We will then delete the superfluous record and inform you of the correct Pin Number to use to access the remaining record.

I have added a photograph why isn't it showing on my record?

The Alumni Office receives email notifications of all amendments made to your record. Photographs need to be approved by the Alumni Office before they will appear in your record. This is to prevent inappropriate images being placed in member records, in all cases so far this has not been an issue and all photographs have been approved as soon as possible.

I submitted some information on my 'About Me' page but did not receive the option to confirm and was returned to the Welcome page, why?

This is because of a security set up. There is a 15 minute 'time out' when the page is inactive – this also applies if you are simply filling out text. This means that if you take more than 15 minutes to type your information the system will have logged you out and you will need to log in again. Unfortunately this will also result in the loss of the information you have just typed. The Alumni Office has contacted Abattia (the software provider) about this and they have informed us that they are considering permanently changing this setting in the near future. In the meantime the best solution is for you to contact the Alumni Office so that we can increase your session time.

NB: If we increase your session time you must ensure you log off at the end of each visit especially if you are using a shared computer e.g. in an internet café, at work, or university or college, otherwise the next person to use that machine may be able to access your record.

We hope you are enjoying St Martin's Alumni Online and look forward to more of you joining up in the New Year! ■

St Martin's Graduate achieves top marks

St Martin's graduate Karen Chandler was awarded an exceptional first class Honours degree in Social Science at the July graduation ceremony, after achieving 12 firsts out of her 16 modules.

Karen, who lives in Carlisle with her husband and two children, started studying at St Martin's Carlisle Campus in 2003 after finishing an Access course at Cumbria Institute of the Arts.

Karen says, "I would definitely recommend St Martin's College to anyone thinking about returning to education. I have been so lucky to find a course that I absolutely love and work in such a supportive and caring environment which St Martin's has to offer. Like many other adult returners I initially felt anxious about returning to college but my worries soon disappeared after talking to tutors and fellow students. The level of support is fantastic."

Before Karen started studying she rang the College to ask a few questions and spoke to the course tutor who spent a lot of time explaining things to her from the structure of the course right through to the admissions process. Karen felt immediately at ease and found the extra help very reassuring.

Karen plans to continue her study of Sociology to postgraduate level at St Martin's and is preparing an application to study for an MPhil PhD in Social Science to start in April 2007. ■



iPod Competition Winner

This summer we held our iPod competition for a second time. New graduates were invited to provide their updated contact details and those who did were entered into a prize draw to win an iPod Shuffle.

This year's lucky winner was Sarah Brisco (right).

Thank you to everyone who entered.



Study exchange team - Laura Stone visits Romania



Laura Stone - BA (Hons) Applied Social Sciences (2002)

In the spring of this year I was fortunate enough to undertake a four week trip to Romania as part of the Group Study Exchange Programme (GSE) which is run through Rotary International.

The GSE programme run through The Rotary Foundation is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women between the ages of 25 and 40 and in the early years of their professional lives. The program provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries. For four to six weeks, team members experience the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas.

The team I travelled with had a Rotarian Team Leader and four other non Rotarian members. Our team consisted of a fireman, a software quality assurance manager, a self employed photographer and myself. At the time, I worked as the Volunteer Co-ordinator for St Martin's Students' Union. Each of us had gone through a selection process including an application form and an interview to ensure our suitability.

We departed from Leeds Bradford airport and after a change at Amsterdam, arrived in Bucharest, the capital city of Romania. At Bucharest we were met by our host families for the first week and, after a whirlwind tour of the city, we were taken on a long journey out to Constanta. Situated in the east, on the Black Sea, it's the summer destination for Romanians, think of Scarborough or Blackpool but with lots of stray, wild dogs which have been a contentious issue amongst local Romanians.

During our week in Constanta we were treated to many social and cultural experiences including a traditional Romanian evening and a visit to a home where children who had contracted HIV and AIDS through methods such as needle contamination and blood transfusions lived after being abandoned by their parents. We also attended a day care centre where children with disabilities were cared for. Disability is still seen as being taboo in Romania but the culture is slowly starting to change with the help of such centres. The centre was run predominantly by volunteers with limited staff support.

The second week of our adventure saw us driving west across the country, back through Bucharest and through to Rimnicu Vilcea where our host families met us. The idea of staying with the local Rotarians was so we could get a taste of what it was like in a traditional Romanian family. Here, we attended a midnight mass as they had Easter a week later than in England. After the service we went back to our homes and sat down to a feast as the Romanians had been fasting. The hospitality and friendliness of the Romanians was second to none and we were never short of food or Polinca, which is a lethally potent drink that they swore would make us better if we were ever poorly! The families took us into their homes and made us one of the family which is a great credit to their hospitality. We were lucky enough in this week to take a trip out to Castle Bran which is the mythical home of Count Dracula.



1

In the third week, we headed north to the beautiful university city of Cluj Napoca and this is where I experienced the most productive week of my vocational experiences. GSE is all about experiencing not only the social and cultural aspects of a country but to look into your chosen profession abroad and share ideas and best practice with fellow professionals. I was fortunate that in our final week it was national volunteering week and following the fall of communism, which promoted 'compulsory volunteering' the Romanian people were keen to learn and hear about how volunteering is perceived in England. I was also really excited to attend a course rep meeting in one of the local universities where I shared the structures and workings of St Martin's Students' Union. We heard many stories from Romanians who had lived under communism and to hear first hand experiences of their lives was immensely educational.



2



4

Our fourth and final week was located in Baia Mare in the north west of the country. Baia Mare is a town situated in the beautiful region of Maramures and we got to travel into the mountains and experience the traditional village Romanian way of life. Baia Mare was the week which opened our eyes particularly to the contrast in cultures between the Romanian citizens. We experienced extreme poverty in areas of Baia Mare and visited community centres which try to integrate and support local citizens in poverty. Following our final week we had the bizarre experience of travelling by sleeper train back down the country. It was a good job we knew each other by this point because the conditions were not as glamorous and exciting as our expectations and we were cramped in very small quarters.



3



5

Captions

1. On a hilltop near Castle Bran
2. A parade in Cluj Napoca
3. A quiet moment in a restaurant
4. The sights of Constanta
5. Scenery around Rimnica Vulcea
6. Traditional local entertainment
7. Midnight mass on Easter Sunday



6

The GSE programme is an amazing once in a lifetime opportunity to experience the way of life of a different country. It was by no means a holiday as we worked really hard whilst we were out there promoting our country and the professions we work in through a series of presentations and functions which we attended. ■



7

If you think that this opportunity might be suitable for you please visit the website:

www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/gse

and find out more information for yourself!

Alumni are needed!

Calling all Alumni!

You can help our current students by offering careers advice and sharing your experiences to help them find and succeed in the job of their choice.

There will have been a variety of factors affecting how you arrived at your present job. Hopefully St Martin's College Careers Service was amongst them! The Centre for Employability and Career Development or CECD (formerly the College's Careers Service) is hoping to involve experienced people like yourselves to help our current students by drawing on your expertise now and in future years!

Higher Education institutions are now expected to show they are not only educating but enabling students to prepare for the world of work. They need to ensure that there are opportunities for their students to explore skills developed as a student so that they can compete on the graduate job market.

To date our students have thrived on the graduate job market, of 2005 leavers a stunning 91% had found employment by the following January after completing their courses! To maintain and build on this success, CECD are actively working with course tutors to develop employability as a theme in their courses.



How can you help?

Alumni are specially placed to pass on their experiences both in securing work and having a clear history of professional career development. Some of you may have graduated 10-20 years ago; others in recent years, yet you all have something to offer and often can give unique insights regarding your industry or area of expertise.

You can help in a variety of ways, including giving talks to students and writing articles for our publications. We can potentially work with you by taking your career history and using this information to form the basis for a case study. You could act as a mentor to a student with contact by telephone, e-mail or where possible organise a visit to your workplace.

Sometimes work shadow or a placement can develop from this initial contact. Perhaps you have a project or some research that you can never find time for? Could one of our current students help you, as part of a work placement?

Finally we welcome job vacancies for our future graduates, from this autumn students will be able to access vacancies on-line - and holiday jobs or placements can be included. If you can offer work experience in popular careers for example in the media industry; these opportunities will be prized by our current students!

CECD and academic departments welcome any support you can offer. In the future we will post requests in Aluminate on various themes where you could help. We look forward to working with you! ■

For more information, contact the CECD team (Brenda, Colin, Helen, Phil, and Sarah) on:

01524 384263

Further Study

at St Martin's

After completing a first degree at St Martin's, many of our graduates return to continue with a postgraduate qualification. Of course, our reputation as the leading provider of primary school teachers means that many return to pursue this career, but there are many other courses available. We pride ourselves on the fact that our students recognise that postgraduate study at St Martin's provides the same level of support and guidance as our undergraduate courses.

Mark Keegan has just completed a BSc (Hons) Nurse Practitioner course at St Martin's. We asked him how he found the experience of postgraduate study here; "The course has been extremely stimulating, both academically and clinically, and has caused me to challenge the boundaries of my present and future practice. The opportunity to actively network with other established and student Nurse Practitioners made me reconsider my career options and gave me the confidence to move from Accident and Emergency to a nurse-led Walk-in Centre."

There are a selection of standalone Postgraduate modules available with start dates running from January to May including:

School of Rehabilitation and Public Health

- Collaborative Action for Health Improvement
- Contemporary Issues in Rehabilitation
- Evidence of Health Improvement
- Management and Leadership in Health and Social Care Settings

School of Medical Imaging Sciences

- Axial Skelton ● Computed Tomography Practice II
- Developments and Future Concepts in Magnetic Resonance
- General Medical Ultrasound ● Image Interpretation
- Human Sciences Related to Medical Imaging
- Magnetic Resonance Practice 2
- Paediatric Medical Imaging Practice
- Research Related to Imaging
- Science and Instrumentation of Ultrasound
- Trauma Imaging ● Vascular Ultrasound

Standalone modules are also available from the **MA in Education** programme.

School of Business & Enterprise

Are you an entrepreneur thinking of starting your own business? Want to develop your enterprise skills?

The School of Business and Enterprise is offering a number of part-time courses in the New Year which aim to address the business needs of small enterprises and new entrepreneurs in Lancashire and Cumbria. Courses include:

- Enterprise planning
- E-Business
- Introduction to Accounting
- Professional Skills in ICT
- Entrepreneurial Marketing
- New Media and Enterprise
- Management Skills for Development

For further details, contact Rachael Sterrett on: **01524 384166** or email: r.sterrett@ucsm.ac.uk

MA in Theology

Would you like to deepen and extend your existing understanding of theology and be able to comment more effectively on important aspects of Christian life and doctrine? Our MA in Theology will give you advanced level knowledge of the changing shape of theology and its bearing upon the life and work of the Church.

You will study a range of theological subjects and issues in a creative and supportive environment. Alongside the taught modules you will also have the opportunity to explore a particular topic in greater depth in the final dissertation. A module focusing on research methods and techniques in theology will prepare you for this. A team of highly qualified teachers and tutors will support you throughout the course. For more information please contact Kate Leamy, Part-Time Admissions Officer on: **01524 384694** or email: KLeamy@ucsm.ac.uk

Our postgraduate admissions office is available to answer questions relating to further study at St Martin's on: **01524 384694** or by email: ptadmissions@ucsm.ac.uk Alternatively, see our website at: www.ucsm.ac.uk/courses/pg for our range of postgraduate courses beginning September/October 2007. ■

Carolyn Horne memorial fund update

You may recall that in the last edition of Aluminat we included an article promoting the Carolyn Horne Memorial Fund and seeking donations.

The fund was established in 1997 in memory of Carolyn Horne, a much loved member of staff from the Faculty of Education who passed away in 1997.

The fund provides financial assistance to students who are unable to obtain grants and funding from other sources and contributes towards course costs, travel and living expenses.

We would like to thank all those who generously donated to the fund after our appeal.

You can still donate to the fund using the flyer which was included in the last magazine, this flyer can also be downloaded from WebAlumnus and the Alumni home page on the college website. Please remember to tick the box to ensure your donation is treated as a Gift Aid donation

- St Martin's College is a registered charity and all Gift Aid donations mean we can reclaim the basic rate of tax on each donation received - worth an extra 28p on every £1.

Please make cheques payable to "St Martin's College (Carolyn Horne Memorial Fund)" and send to:
Debbie Windsor, Student Finance Advisor, Student Development & Advisory Service, St Martin's College, Fusehill Street, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 2HH

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

The Alumni office is working closely with the Student Development and Advisory Service to develop more fundraising initiatives over the coming year so please keep checking the website for more ways you can donate to this worthwhile cause - your generosity is greatly appreciated! ■

Alumni Reunions 2007

We are again asking for your views on whether there should be a reunion next year.

There has been some interest in a reunion for the first cohort of teachers to graduate from St Martin's to celebrate their 40th Anniversary. This would be held at the Lancaster Campus and would be open to all 1967 graduates.

We have also emailed the Ambleside graduates that we have an email address for, to see if there was any interest in holding an Ambleside Campus reunion; thank you to all those who responded. Unfortunately, so far there are not enough responses to book the event, but it still may be possible if we get a good response by the end of January 2007.

Please contact Jo Gregory in the Alumni office (on 01524 384757 - email: j.gregory@ucsm.ac.uk) if you are interested in attending either of these reunions - we need a minimum of 30 people in order for the event to go ahead so get together with your old friends and make a group booking! Proceeds from these reunions will be donated to the Carolyn Horne Memorial Fund.



University for Cumbria Update

As you will have read in previous editions of Aluminate, the work to establish the new university for Cumbria is well underway with the opening scheduled for 1 August 2007. One of the key hurdles was for the new university to have Taught Degree Awarding Powers (TDAP). To award their own degrees, all universities need to have TDAP; otherwise their degrees are awarded by another institution, as St Martin's have been by Lancaster University. In July this year, the Privy Council confirmed that St Martin's had successfully gained these important powers.

St Martin's submitted its TDAP application in March 2005 and the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) began their scrutiny of all the College's departments and procedures soon after. The speed with which the scrutiny was completed followed by an equally speedy confirmation of the outcome by the QAA and the Privy Council meant that the whole process was completed in just over nine months. Now that the College has gained TDAP, it enables the new university to move forward and award its own degrees from 2008.

Another key development has been the appointment of St Martin's



Cumbria Institute of the Arts - Carlisle

Principal, Professor Chris Carr, to the position of Chief Executive Designate of the new university, a role that he will perform alongside that of Vice Chancellor – the top job in the new institution. Chris has been the principal at St Martin's for nine years now and has already overseen a period of massive expansion at the College. His knowledge of the region and experience in higher education makes him just the right person to lead the newest university in the country. Chris was thrilled with his appointment. He said:

"I am absolutely delighted. It is a tremendous privilege and an enormous responsibility to lead the university, but I am looking forward with keen anticipation to the challenges which lie ahead."

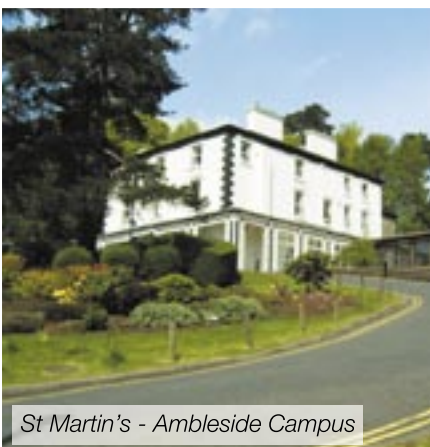
Another key appointment in the new university structure has also been made. Jane Inman has recently been appointed as executive director of the Distributed Learning Network (DLN), a key part of the new institution. Although based at St Martin's College, Jane will work equally with all member organisations of the DLN to develop a wide range of partnership opportunities for studying higher education in Cumbria.

Members of the DLN, which include all the FE Colleges and the HE providers in Cumbria have been meeting together over the last year to develop the business plan and to work towards an official launch of the DLN in late autumn 2006.

Finally, following consultation with key stakeholders, the name 'University of Cumbria' was selected as the name for the new institution. This was submitted to the Privy Council for approval and their response is expected in December.

For the most up-to-date information on the new University developments, please log on to your WebAlumnus account. ■

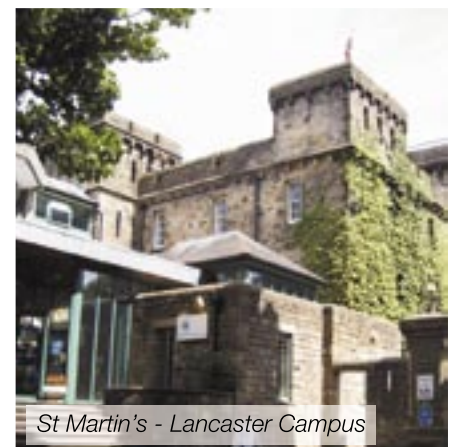
For more information please visit:
www.university4cumbria.co.uk



St Martin's - Ambleside Campus

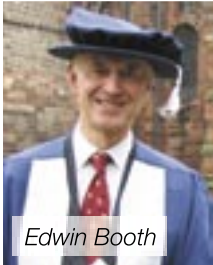


St Martin's - Carlisle Campus



St Martin's - Lancaster Campus

College News



Edwin Booth



Estelle Morris

Honorary Fellowships awarded

Former Secretary of State for Education Estelle Morris and Edwin Booth, chairman of Booth's supermarket chain, have been awarded St Martin's Honorary Fellowships. Estelle Morris received hers in recognition of her outstanding contribution to education in the UK. Mr Booth was honoured for his contribution to business in the North West and his outstanding commitment to supporting local and regional suppliers in the food industry. Both were delighted to receive the honour. Estelle said: "It is always a surprise and a joy to be recognised in this way but more so because of the reputation of the College, particularly in the field of Education." Mr Booth said: "The invitation to become a Fellow of St Martin's College was completely unexpected and is a great privilege."

Award winning teacher joins St Martin's as lecturer

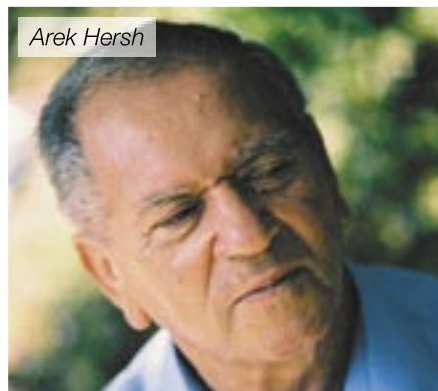
National Teaching Award winner David Mason has made the switch from school teacher to lecturer and is now helping to train science teachers at St Martin's. He won the BP Award for Science Year in 2002, receiving his award from actress Anna Friel at the National Teaching Awards



David Mason

ceremony. David taught for 17 years at Millom School in Cumbria prior to joining the College. He said. "I've been made to feel very welcome at St Martin's and I've also seen what an enormous amount of effort staff put into supporting the students. I think the students here are very fortunate to receive such excellent help and advice. We have a very strong team of teachers here who are doing everything they can to support and encourage the students in their first few steps towards making teaching a successful career."

Holocaust survivor's documentary screened



Arek Hersh

"Arek", a documentary about Holocaust survivor Arek Hersh, was shown on the Lancaster Campus this November, followed by an audience with Arek himself. St Martin's hosted the event free of charge to promote social cohesion and anti-racism. Over 150 people attended the event, which was a unique opportunity to hear about the shocking events which took place within the concentration camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau, from someone who experienced them firsthand. In the film, Arek takes viewers back to the concentration camps, the ghettos and the fear of living as a Jew in Nazi occupied Poland. To film the documentary, Arek returned to many of the sites in Poland and the Czech Republic where the events of his life at that time took place.



Rachel Harper



Hayley Webb

First SMART Scholarships

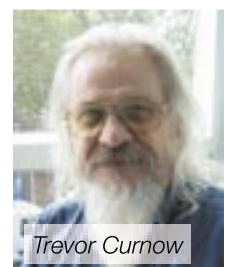
Rachel Harper and Hayley Webb are among the first St Martin's students to receive SMART Scholarships. The Scholarships have been introduced as part of the College's Access Agreement with relation to the charging of variable tuition fees from September 2006. The purpose of the Scholarships is to provide an award worth £1,000 per year for undergraduate students who can demonstrate significant achievement or potential in sport, community or the creative arts. Rachel received her Scholarship for her voluntary work while Hayley received hers to support her artistic talent.

Professorship and Readership success

Dr Sue Bloxham has been awarded a Professorship & Dr Trevor Curnow has received a Readership in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements. Sue is now Professor of Academic Practice while Trevor is Reader in Philosophy. The title of Professor is awarded to those who achieve 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.



Sue Bloxham



Trevor Curnow

Your News

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



Adrian Bennett, Certificate of Education, 1969

I'll never forget St Martin's; football on the car park outside Willie Tom with the College bus as one goal post; flaunting refectory rules and walking in wearing a pink polo neck shirt only to observe a few days later the Deputy Warden David Peacock wearing a similar form of attire! Cool guy was D.P. We had duplicate keys for Willie Tom cut and one early morning crept in after doing the 'Barbary Coast' in Morecambe, thought we'd made it, only to be greeted with 'morning gentlemen, care to join me for a sherry?'

Despite the tom foolery (excuse the pun), St Martin's did a good job. Starting in Primary in Hereford I graduated to Head of Music in Guernsey, Northampton and Bedfordshire before hitting the international trail in south Iran. We were evacuated when Ayatollah Khomeini appeared, from

where I worked with B.F.E.S. in Germany. Next stop was to visit the Colonel in Libya (I did see him from a distance when he visited the oil-site at Marsa El Brega) who, fortunately, was unaware we were brewing our own ale! From there to a British Council appointment at Bishop Mackenzie School, Lilongwe, Malawi.

Sanity was temporarily restored when I returned to the UK for two years before going to the International School of Choueifat at Sharjah, U.A.E, also as Head of Music. Here, I finally succumbed and got married, to Charie, a lovely Filipino Lady. We were in the Philippines in 1991 when Mt Pinatubo blew its top – talk about ashes to ashes, dust to dust, it was everywhere and we were 22 miles away!

Our plan was to retire to a Mediterranean island, and although Charie is no longer with us, after spending the last 12 years as a self-employed private tutor in the UK, I'm retiring to Cyprus where I have three apartments, two on long let, and three donums (one acre) of land, all in or near Limassol.

Sadly several of my old College friends have passed on, but I remember them, the living, St Martin's and all its facets, especially reading poetry to Dr Pollard, with great fondness and thanks.



Sarah Burgess, BA (Hons) QTS (1998)

Since leaving St Martin's I've settled down to a point, happy with my partner of three and a half years (Steve). I have just passed my NPQH Programme and am now looking to further my career as ever (looking for Deputy Headship). I have so many fond memories of my time at St Martin's; Rugby matches on the field near Waddell Hall, Jellies, Brooks, The JCR, The Park Pub and "Bradshaw Street" my first house! St Martin's means autumn walks up Bishop's Walk, summer afternoon and friends!

Dianne Mitchell, BA (Hons) QTS (1998)

Since leaving St Martin's I have completed an MEd in Learning Difficulties from Birmingham University. I am now working as a specialist support and advisory teacher in Lancashire. My fondest memory of my time at St Martin's is carols in the caves at Christmas!

**Sarah Prince, BA (Hons)
Religious Education & Education
Studies (1995)**

I studied at St Martin's between 1991 and 1995, graduating with a degree in RE & Education Studies. I have lots of memories about my time as a student but my fondest one takes me back to my very first day. I was to share a room with another girl, on Floor 7 of Willy Tom and while waiting nervously for her to arrive I heard REM's "Losing My Religion" coming from the next room. This is one of my all time favourites and brought back recent memories from the summer. It was the perfect way to break the ice with my neighbour (Claire). Sharon (who I shared with), Claire and I have been great friends ever since; it's true to say that you can make lifelong friends at university!

When I left St Martin's I started working as a receptionist at a training organisation in Lancaster and after a year started delivering basic skills to adults attending government funded training whilst claiming benefits. I went on to run the adult training side of the business until it was transferred to another company in 2001. I then applied and was recruited as Student Adviser working in the Students' Union back here at St Martin's. I never had any inkling that I would ever come back to work here. My interview was 10 years to the week that I started as a Fresher and I really didn't feel like I had been away at all! I now



work for the College in the Student Development & Advisory Service as the Student Quality Adviser, a challenging and incredibly diverse role; but that's another story!

To me St Martin's feels like home! Last summer saw the 10th anniversary of my graduation, which I found hard to believe. We had a mini-reunion with friends who got the grand tour of the campus – I feel like I should feel old but I don't! Working in a student environment must be the key!

**Iain Witts, BA (Hons) Geography
& PE (1998)**

Since graduating I spent five years teaching in Kent near Canterbury. Then moved to Oxford and am now Deputy Head in a large school west of Oxford near RAF Brize Norton. My fondest memories of St Martin's are my final year up in the JCR and all the friends I made, it was four years of friends and fun and a great degree!

**Elizabeth Dunn, BA (Hons) QTS
Numeracy & Mathematics (2003)**

Since leaving St Martin's I have been looking for a job, have found employment as a waitress but still looking for something else. My fondest memories of St Martin's are of how friendly everyone was especially chatting with the late night security, dodging lectures on the day essays were due, getting drunk (of course) and learning to socialise. To me St Martin's means friendship, a close community and a good education.

**Sharon Jackson, BA (Hons)
History (2003)**

My fondest memory of St Martin's is the welcome from the staff. All my tutors from the History dept were helpful, supportive and friendly throughout my time there. I was a very nervous adult returner who hadn't studied for 16 years but soon felt confident due to the staff and their encouragement. I took RS in my first year and the staff there were also great to know. For me St Martin's means friendship, excellent teaching, support and a wonderful learning experience. I felt really sad when I left.

Since I left St Martin's I have done a PGCE (Post-compulsory) at Lancaster and Morecambe College and a MA in Historical Research at Lancaster University.

Unfortunately upon completion of my MA I was unable to find a suitable job that fitted around my children. Since I loved St Martin's so much I decided that, rather than sitting around waiting for a job to come up, I would continue my studies but in a completely different field. I am just about to return to St Martin's for my 2nd year of a degree in IT with Creative Writing. Glutton for punishment or what? All the staff have been great, especially in IT as I did not have any formal qualifications in that area and had a steep learning curve at first.



Catherine Cushion, DipHE Nursing (2003)

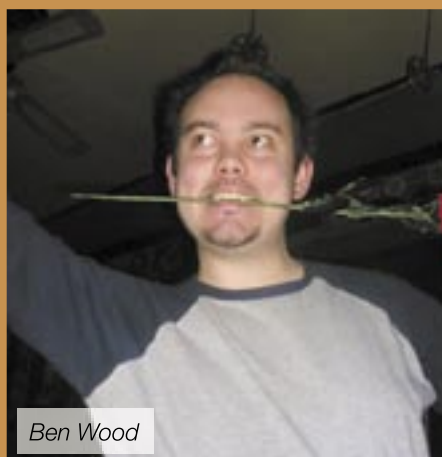
Since graduating I worked at Carleton Clinic for seven months, then as a GP Mental Health Register Facilitator for Eden Valley PCT, now working as a Community Mental Health Nurse in Gloucestershire. My fondest memory of St Martin's is the support of other students and the tutors.

Ben Wood, BA (Hons) Sport Studies with English Literature (2003)

I will always be a Saint at heart, even if my actions don't show it! University was the most amazing time in my life – not only was I away from home for the first time, I was also surrounded by people in the same situation. This solidarity was the basis for many of my friendships, however the true feeling of belonging came from playing basketball for St Martin's with a group of truly unique and talented guys. Our antics on and off the court became legendary, especially on away fixtures..... invariably travelling with the netball team. Rat Races on the BUSA bus, getting to know a tree more intimately than I bargained for on my 19th birthday and of course Sunday night quizzes at the JCR all spring to mind as particularly fond memories. St Martin's is a chapter of my life that I am extremely proud of. I made many great friends there, and also received a first rate level of education. Many, many happy memories are linked to St Martin's, and Lancaster too and it will always hold a special place in my heart.

When I left St Martin's I started coaching basketball for the Newcastle Eagles Community Program, delivering basketball in many Primary Schools in the north east. In addition to that, I was Head Coach of Newcastle College U20's and Assistant Coach

to the professional team. After 12 months of coaching, I decided to try different career paths and moved to Stoke on Trent to be the Cocktail Manager of a new nightclub. Currently living in Leeds, I am exploring the opportunity of starting school based teacher training at a Primary School in Alwoodley. Working as a Learning Support Assistant has shown me that the teaching profession is for me - all I need to do now is get accepted on a course! I discovered my love for working with children after leaving St Martin's, and may return to study again in the near future (hint, hint!). In my spare time, I referee National League and Inter-



Ben Wood

national basketball games and am in the process of telling the world what I think of it through my weblog. Last summer I traveled to Paraguay to teach English, as well as seeing parts of Argentina and Peru, and as a result have found enjoyment in studying languages again. In my current job as an LSA I teach Spanish and Russian to small groups in Key Stage 2, and my girlfriend is teaching me Polish. I also have a German exchange student staying for a few weeks - Very confusing, but I wouldn't change a thing! Without St Martin's, I wouldn't be the man I am now, and for that reason alone it is a very special place.

Victoria Minshull, BSc (Hons) Outdoor Studies (2003)

My fondest memory of St Martin's has to be the Picos de Europa trip. Everyone was in our year including the lecturers, friendships were made stronger, there was time to talk with lecturers and the work was done in the sun and, for me personally, so much more was achieved in that two weeks, it was fantastic! I have carried on with the travelling since the Picos. Since graduating I worked during the summer to finance a trip to Spain and then went to Morocco for 1 month! I am currently working to embark on my next trip which will be Morocco again to help with some conservation work. St Martin's is such a special place! It is such a beautiful place with a fantastic community of people. It really changed me and helped me to go on to achieve. I will certainly be back to live, I could never leave forever! It has a special place in my heart!

Nicki Mallory, BA (Hons) QTS Physical Education (2004)

After graduating I moved back to my home town where I have been working in a secondary school teaching PE, I really enjoy the profession – all my hard work has definitely paid off! When I think of St Martin's my fondest memories are of meeting life long friends, living in halls (I miss that), the JCR on Friday nights and best of all my Graduation Ball in 2004 which was fantastic! It was the best three years of my life and I think everyone should go to university I met some fantastic people from all over the UK, I learned my independence and grew up – I miss it!!!