



Ambleside, Carlisle, Lancaster

St Martin's at 40

Commemorative Magazine

1964-2004



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Content: Darren Leadsom

Editor: David Hudson

Design: Simon Schofield

With thanks to: Andrew Whitehead,
Brian Gates and Robin Bundy.

Alumni Office

St Martin's College, Lancaster Campus
Bowerham Road, Lancaster LA1 3JD

Tel: 01524 384757

Fax: 01524 384589

Email: j.gregory@ucsm.ac.uk

Web: www.ucsm.ac.uk/alumni

Princess Alexandra, Chancellor of
Lancaster University, at St Martin's
College Graduation Ceremony



Welcome

Welcome to this special edition of the Alumni magazine. It is 40 years since St Martin's College first opened its doors to students, so in this edition we look back over the years at the history of the College, its staff and students, to see how much has changed.

You will see that there are some notable changes in the magazine and the people involved with the Alumni Association. Over the last few months, the Alumni and Stakeholder team has been created in order to improve the service given to the Alumni. We have some exciting developments to tell you about on page 26 as well as some more information on who we are!

Also in this edition, on page 20, we have an article on Matt Jackson, St Martin's graduate and up and coming entrepreneur. We also feature pieces from all four Principals of the College, review a recent reunion held by the Drama students and staff and hear of a marriage proposal and engagement right here at the Lancaster Campus!

Our aim is to keep the focus of the magazine on you – our Alumni. Please continue to contact us with your news because the magazine relies on your input.

Happy reading

David Hudson and Jo Gregory ■

History of St Martin's College

After 40 years, St Martin's College is still going from strength to strength and is now in a period of unprecedented growth.



The Keep on the Lancaster Campus - 2004

Spread over three main campuses in Lancaster, Ambleside and Carlisle with sites in Barrow, Whitehaven and London's East End, the difference between the St Martin's that first opened its doors in 1964 and the present day 2004 institution is immense.

In such a competitive and exacting education environment, every Higher Education Institution has to grow and continually overcome new challenges to be successful; St Martin's being no exception. From its humble roots with just 89 students in its first year, St Martin's College is now the biggest provider of Higher Education in Cumbria, the largest provider of Health

Care professionals in the North West and the largest provider of teachers in the UK. How did it all begin and how did we get here from there?

The 1960's

It was in 1961 that the idea was first put forward to create two new Church Training Colleges. The choice of Lancaster for one of these came from the Council of Church Training Colleges weighing several criteria. Lancaster met them all; it filled a large gap north of Chester, a new university was to be built there, a quarter of the schools were Church of England and the city itself was very welcoming (as well as donating £25,000 to its construction). Not only that but it had an ideal site. The Town Clerk Don Waddell put forward the case for the redundant King's Own Royal Regiment Depot at Bowerham, located only half a mile from the city centre. Bowerham Barracks were an ideal location. Located on a hill overlooking the city, it afforded wonderful views of Morecambe Bay and the



The first students and staff of St Martin's College - 1964

Hugh Pollard

Principal 1963-1976

Dr Hugh Pollard, the first Principal of St Martin's College, was custodian of the post for thirteen years, taking what had been a deserted army barracks and turning it into a leading institution for teacher training in the north of England. In his time, student numbers swelled from 89 in the first year to over 700 when he retired. His memories of St Martin's offer a unique insight into the early days of the College.

His earliest contact with the College came on the day of his interview, when all the applicants visited the grounds of what would become the Lancaster Campus. "I remember I was in the Town Hall and part of the interview process was to go out to the Barracks. There were twelve of us, and we wandered all the way around in the snow. The place looked quite grim and ghastly. The next day, after I had been appointed to the job, I returned to the Barracks to have another look around but the chap on the gate wouldn't let me in – he absolutely refused! When I finally managed to get in, I wandered round to College Main – it was awfully bleak and cold and had water running all down the walls."

One of the many legacies of the first Principal is the collection of art dotted around the College, some of it loaned, some of it bought and some of it borrowed. One of the most recognised pieces is by Barbara Hepworth and the story behind it is another of Dr Pollard's favourites. "I've always had a passion for Barbara Hepworth sculpture. I was talking to Peter Scott one day about one of her pieces at Abbott Hall near Windermere. Anyway, I told him I could get a Barbara Hepworth for £3000 to which he replied, "If you can get a Barbara Hepworth or £3000, I'll give you the £3000!" Well I'd already had a student who lived near Barbara Hepworth and I kept telling him for months "Go and call on Dame Barbara and say to her we want a statue for St Martin's" so he did! Eventually, she said that we could have one for £3000! It had strings in it which used to perish when we kept it outside so we decided to move it indoors - Harry Harrison re-strung it rather like a tennis racket!"



Hugh Pollard with the Order of the Vasa

The word Dr Pollard uses to define his time at St Martin's is 'cooperation'. He says, "During my thirteen years at St Martin's I had immense support from the Governors particularly with the Chairman, Bishop Claxton; the staff, all of whom were determined that the new College should succeed; and the students, who never complained even when there was one lavatory for two hundred of them!"

His retirement in 1976 led him back to his native East Lancashire where he now fills his time with lessons in Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) and the study (in translation) of Russian literature. "I derive untold pleasure from my prolonged sessions with Pushkin, Turgenev, Dostoyevsky and Gogol."

As acknowledgement of his achievements, he was commemorated on the Lancaster Campus by the purpose built Hugh Pollard Lecture Theatre, opened by the renowned playwright Alan Bennett in 1993. Dr Pollard defined the College in its early days and it is apt that his name will always be familiar to St Martin's students and staff, remaining a central part of College life for years to come. ■

Lake District mountains. The War Office originally bought the site in 1873 for £7,300 and the Barracks were constructed between 1876 and 1880. Its main purpose was to put new recruits through basic training. Following the Second World War, the British Army was reduced in size meaning that the Barracks was no longer needed. The King's Own Royal Regiment was amalgamated with the Carlisle based Border Regiment, leading to the closure of the Barracks in 1959. Three years later the site was earmarked for the College and was bought for £70,000.

A Principal for the new College had to be found, one who had a strong sense of the College's ethos and a vision for its formative years. Dr Hugh Pollard was selected in December 1962. Dr Pollard was from East Lancashire and had studied at Oxford in the 1930s. He had taught at Newton Abbott and Chester, also serving in military intelligence. Previous to his appointment to the then unnamed St Martin's, he had been vice-principal of the College of St Mark and St John in Plymouth, another Church College. He was a devoted Anglican and brought a strong vision of the kind of Christian educational community he wanted to create, covering the gamut of academic, cultural, social and spiritual experience. He enthusiastically started work on 1 July 1963, based in an office in Lancaster Town Hall.

Building work began in January 1964. The architect, Sir Charles Pike, had the task of adapting the existing buildings and creating new ones to house the College students and staff. The Keep, still a key feature of the campus, was originally the Armoury. The Officers Mess was converted into College Main, which was to become



Demolition of the former Guard Room - 1964



Princess Margaretha of Sweden visits St Martin's

the administrative centre. The large Barrack square was split up by three halls of residence, a dining hall, a long corridor of teaching accommodation and lawns with trees and flower beds. A distinctive chapel was built in the middle of the campus, a deliberate choice to symbolically place the Church at the centre of College life. The former Guard Room was demolished to make way for an assembly hall. This was named after Princess Margaretha of Sweden in recognition of the growing links with the country, developed by Dr Pollard.

An Appeal Committee was set up to supply 25% of the cost, for which the Church was responsible. Two large donations by local individuals resulted in the construction of two Halls of Residence that still stand today. William Thompson, an East Lancashire mill owner, donated £50,000, a substantial contribution to the construction of the William Thompson Hall of Residence (opened in 1966 by Princess Margaretha of Sweden and forever since affectionately known as 'Willy Tom'), a nine storey block that overlooks the whole campus. His sister also gave £15,000, gaining similar commemoration with the Sarah Witham Thompson Hall.

New staff had to be appointed to teach the students. Dr Gwen Owen was recruited as the first Vice-Principal

and Bill Etherington was appointed Dean of Education, arriving from St John's College in York. In the short listing of staff for interview, Dr Pollard gave special attention to applicants who were either Christians or were sympathetic to the Christian ethos of the College. The College came into being in April 1964 and it was around this time that it was formally named St Martin's College. This came from St Martin of Tours, a Roman soldier who tore his cloak in two to clothe a naked beggar, and later had a vision of Christ wearing the cloak (a superb stained glass window depicting this scene is in the College Chapel, produced by Swedish artist Einar Forseth). It is significant because just as St Martin renounced his life as a soldier after this to take on a life of caring and teaching, Bowerham Barracks left behind its military past to become a Church College.



The Queen Mother at the Official Opening of St Martin's

On 23 September 1964, St Martin's College opened its doors for the first time, with 89 students and 13 academic staff. Building work was still going on as teaching began but the spirit of the place was there from the beginning. The Principal was a real motivating force in keeping students and staff enthusiastic, inspiring one student to compare it to "an extension of the family at home."

In 1967, degree validation moved from Manchester University to the newly formed Lancaster University,

which by 1967 had become independent from its own similar relationship. The College's association with Lancaster University remains strong to this day. St Martin's continued to grow apace and by the same year, student numbers had reached 525, while the number of staff was 52. 1967 also saw the Official Opening of St Martin's College by the Queen Mother. She came on 16 November and met with staff and students, planting a commemorative tree in the College grounds.

The 1970's

The next few years of the College's life were essentially concerned with consolidating the work done in forming the institution. However, discussions were taking place to expand the academic portfolio so that the institution could grow and develop to meet the challenges ahead. There were changes in management too, as Dr Gwen Owen left as Vice-Principal and was replaced in 1970 by Margaret Wallis from Coventry College.

The popularity and reputation of the College continued to grow, increasing the demand for places and the need for more facilities. Local businessman Harold Bridges donated £16,000 towards the cost of a new library, which was eventually opened by renowned actress Dame Flora Robson in 1976. The Keep, which had housed the old library, was converted into a Resources Centre and an Audio Visual Aids Centre. More development that year included the construction of new lecture rooms named after Bishop Martineau, who was Head of the Governors at that time.

In the same year, Dr Pollard announced he planned to retire at the age of 61. He was to leave the College in a vastly different state to which he found it. What had been an abandoned Barracks had now become a thriving College campus, providing for over 700 students. Dr Pollard was recognised for his work with an OBE, as well as receiving the Order of the Vasa from the King of Sweden. He left in August 1976 after a farewell Eucharist at Lancaster Priory, in the presence of six bishops.

The new Principal was Robert Clayton, whose previous position had been as Principal of Matlock College in Derbyshire. His task was substantial, having not only to take over from someone who had defined the College

Robert Clayton Principal 1976-1989

No doubt all the College's four Principals can outline the significant growth in student numbers during their reigns. For me numbers rose from 700 to 1500, or was it 2000? Growth and diversification were crucial for survival; I'd learnt that already both at S.S. Mark and John College in Chelsea, where from Head of Department I had become Vice-Principal, and at Matlock where I was Principal for the nine years prior to Lancaster.

Much of my time was spent in committees. An early decision was to scrap an Academic Board which consisted of the whole staff body and to limit its membership to senior staff plus a few elected staff and students. I've often said that the College Principal was in many ways in the roles of Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary. So car journeys and that train journey to and from London were constant grinds. Journey delays were frequent. Late one night returning by train from London we were halted near Wigan. Eventually a voice of the guard, colourfully accented, came over the loud speaker system to apologise for the train's long delay: it was "due to a cow having committed suicide on the line as we approached"!

Meanwhile the Vice-Principals were often in the role of Home Secretary. The Vice Principals of my time were Margaret Wallis, Janet Trotter and John Crewdson. I really couldn't have been more fortunate. Quite different in many ways, they were nevertheless alike in their unstinting devotion to the College, and I greatly valued their friendship and support. Alongside them was the Bursar, the Chancellor of the Exchequer – Paul Winter: most able. My wife Rose and I thoroughly enjoyed those annual Carol Services at Warton Parish Church: outstanding quality singing and with Paul as Choirmaster. Paul was also Clerk to the Governing Body; and there is no doubt about the value and immense support the College received from the Governors. Special mention should be given to Don Waddell, Vice Chairman in my time, former Lancaster Town Clerk: a level-headed and devoted steward of St Martin's who spans all four Principals.



Robert Clayton with the Archbishop of York

Of the students' side I recall numerous occasions of excitement: meeting them in the Princess Margaretha Hall on their first day as students; supporting the hockey, rugby and soccer teams as a spectator; attending the wonderful concerts and plays in which they performed; the Rag Review – what an occasion! I created the College Council, a staff-student body, at which any matters of common concern could be aired. And graduation days were always very special. HRH Princess Alexandra, University Chancellor, like Don Waddell spans the lifetime of the both the University and the College, a great achievement. I recall my meetings with her with great pleasure.

I've used my allotted "wordage" – and sadly haven't told you the story of David Ash introducing the serve-yourself salad bowl the day after I suggested it (a great Catering Officer); nor have I mentioned introducing Writer Fellows and hence such celebrities as Tom Wakefield and Ursula Fanthorpe coming to live at St Martin's and enliven the campus as a result; nor told you of the student who, summoned to my room, entered via the open window, much to my Secretary, Liesel's, chagrin; and much more. But I've said enough! ■



Harold Bridges lays the foundation stone for Lancaster library

in its early years but also to lead it into a new era. The College had been given license by the Government to diversify its course portfolio into the Liberal Arts but this had yet to be acted on. This was a vital development, as falling numbers in schools meant that fewer teachers were needed and therefore fewer new

teaching graduates. This transition into a new phase for the College was eased by the continuity of senior staff, in particular Margaret Wallis and the Deans - Jim Garbett, Peter Gedge, Tony James and Barry Ogden. Together they formed an invaluable management core which made for a smoother start for the newly appointed Principal.

Robert Clayton had a different approach to Hugh Pollard, characterised by a less formal style. The Christian ethos so strongly espoused in the College's early days was less obvious. However, student experience was prioritised as was the quality of domestic services and catering. He made it a priority to promote a strong sense of community among staff and students. The College Chapel and its successive chaplains remained central to St Martin's and were explicit reminders of the institution's inspiration, while SCAN became an annual end of term Christmas event. It involved students and staff engaging together in a raucous evening of fun and fund raising for the wider community.

Harold Bridges Library



The Lancaster Campus in the 80's

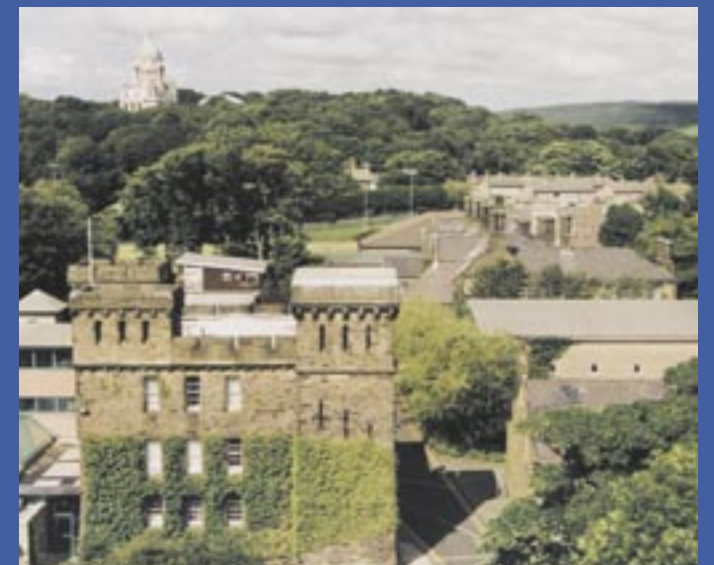
The 1980's

By the beginning of the 80s, student numbers began to grow although they remained under 1000. The College focused on providing the best experience for students it could with its existing diversified range of courses. In 1984, the first PhD registered and supervised from within St Martin's was awarded. There were also significant staff changes. Margaret Wallis, a well-liked figure on campus, retired in 1984 and was succeeded by Janet Trotter from King Alfred's College, Winchester. Her successor at St Martin's in 1986 was John Crewdson, an economist in academic background, from Trinity & All Saints, Leeds.

It was these two Vice Principals who were responsible for the important step of including Healthcare as a major academic and professional field at the College. Janet Trotter began discussions with the Lancaster School of Nursing, which John Crewdson then continued; resulting in St Martin's being chosen to run courses in Radiography, Nursing and Health Studies. The Nursing degree was validated in 1988.

Following the College's Silver Jubilee Year in 1989, Robert Clayton told the Governors he intended to retire,

having successfully moved the College forward through the 80s. He was able to move on having made a vital contribution to St Martin's, including the creation of the Urban Studies Centre in the East End of London, the appointment of the first of successive Research Fellowships and his encouragement of links with Lancaster dance/drama group, Ludus. His replacement was Dr Ian Edynbry, formerly Vice-Principal of Worcester College of Higher Education and Assistant Principal at Middlesex Polytechnic.



View from the William Thompson Hall

Ian Edynbry

Principal 1989-1997

In the inevitable cycle of all living things, there is birth, childhood, adolescence, maturity, etc. Whether we are considering individuals, civilisations, or colleges, the pattern is fairly constant. I was privileged to be principal during a period that I would call the College's adolescence, that is, a short period of tremendous change and growth.

The growth was prompted by the then Conservative Government and by the Department for Education and Skills. An Act of Parliament in 1988 gave all non-university institutions of higher education (polytechnics and colleges) their independence from their previous masters, be they Local Education Authorities or the Church of England. Opportunity knocked! There was, however, a catch. Money for extra staff, services and buildings would only be forthcoming once an institution had actually recruited additional students and kept them for at least a year.

Without exception, (but with a few understandable groans), my colleagues on the staff, both teaching and non-teaching, were magnificent. They rose to the challenge and the college grew very significantly. In the world of higher education, St Martin's was able to emerge as one of the leading colleges in the country, and it would be remiss of me not to include my thanks to Lancaster University for their support during this transition.

While we retained our core work in teacher training, diversification was inevitable for growth; the introduction of a new degree in Nursing coincided with my arrival and a putative BA (Hons) Combined Studies degree grew like Topsy! Many others were added. The profile of the campus changed dramatically, firstly with the building of Waddell Hall and then with many other new buildings and extensions. We acquired ownership of The Mill, outposts in Carlisle, Barrow and Whitehaven as we absorbed the Lakeland College of Nursing and Midwifery, and subsequently Charlotte Mason College in Ambleside.



There were many exciting moments including the Nursing Degree Ceremony in Kuala Lumpur, the opening, by Alan Bennett, of the Hugh Pollard Lecture Theatre, and the fabulous Student Cancer Association Nationwide (SCAN) Reviews in the Princess Margaretha Hall which went on half the night! And there were some very dark moments: the tragic death of a first year student in a car accident, and the accidental death of the lead tutor responsible for Ambleside's successful re-inspection.

I was greatly privileged to lead St Martin's at a critical time in its history, when the college changed, physically, educationally, and spiritually. Important traditions were lost, for example the centrality of the Chapel in everyday life, and the collegiality of students who used all to be training for teaching. But that is part of the price of growing up; adolescence is not a comfortable time! But it was also the time when the foundations for maturity were laid, and only future generations will be able to judge the measure of that success. ■



Bowscale Building on the Carlisle Campus

The 1990's

The 90's were to be a period of huge growth and expansion. The development of further courses in Nursing, Radiography and Occupational Therapy in 1992 resulted in the building of the Paramedic Building (now called the Dalton Building). Lottery funding was secured for the construction of a purpose built sports complex and all weather pitch. Sports Science, Sports Studies and Physical Education degrees came from this.

In 1993, the contribution of St Martin's first principal was given permanent recognition with the opening of the Hugh Pollard Lecture Theatre. The plaque was unveiled by playwright Alan Bennett. Another of the College's founding fathers had received a lasting tribute the previous year with the opening of Waddell Hall of Residence, named after former Town Clerk Don Waddell. Their names would forever be known by students and staff of the College, an institution they had done so much to create. This, along with the converted canal-side Mill Hall, ensured that the stock of college residential accommodation was now considerably enhanced.

The first of St Martin's expansions into Cumbria came in 1995. Lakeland College of Nursing in Carlisle had

previously combined four Schools of Nursing in Barrow, Carlisle, Lancaster and Whitehaven. St Martin's took it over and established itself as a major provider of health care professionals in the North West. By 1998, the College had moved into Carlisle's former City General Hospital and City Maternity Hospital on Fusehill Street, and has spent £12 million to create a new St Martin's campus in the city.

In 1996, Charlotte Mason College in Ambleside also became part of St Martin's College. By the mid 90s, Charlotte Mason College had reached a crossroads in its relationship with Lancaster University, who had validated their courses. Their future looked uncertain until St Martin's took over the College and in doing so established another firm foothold in Cumbria.

It would be left to Dr Edynbry's successor to take these new campus developments forward. By 1997, he had decided to retire earlier than his colleagues were expecting, having overseen the greatest period of expansion in the entire history of the college. Student numbers had increased to 4000 on his retirement, a fourfold increase during his tenure. (Also retiring at this point was John Chippendale, who had been College doctor from its inception.)

Chris Carr

Principal 1997-present

It is the top job at St Martin's College and in his own words "it's the hardest job I've ever done", but Professor Chris Carr is now in his eighth year as Principal and shows no signs of losing enthusiasm for the role. Succeeding Dr Ian Edynbry in 1997, Prof Carr has overseen a period of massive expansion at St Martin's, including a huge increase in student numbers and substantial development on all the College's campuses; and now will see the College through its 40th Anniversary.

After winning a scholarship to Keble College, Oxford, where he read Law, Chris began his career at Leeds Polytechnic before moving to Preston Polytechnic (which later became the University of Central Lancashire) in 1979. In 1986, he became Head of the School of Law and subsequently moved to the role of Dean of the Faculty of Cultural, Legal and Social Studies and Pro Vice Chancellor.

His experience in senior roles at UCLAN gave him the confidence to consider taking charge of an institution. He recalls: "I had been one of the Pro-Vice Chancellors there so I felt I was ready to take on the role of Head of an Institution." St Martin's appealed for two reasons; the first was the fact that it was a church college. Chris had been involved with the Diocese of Blackburn (and continues to be) so a college with a firm Anglican base was a positive factor. The second was that he had four children of school age at the time and he was anxious not to disrupt their education. The Principal's job at St Martin's was an ideal next step.

From the beginning, the challenges posed by the job have been substantial and initially demanded a steep learning curve. Chris says: "I think the big challenges have been getting to terms with and understanding the particularly complex nature of the way in which St Martin's delivers its courses. I came here with no background in initial teacher training and education, and no real knowledge of education and training in the health world."



Coming to terms with the traditions of St Martin's and becoming familiar with it as a place took time. Another challenge had been the fact that the college was in the process of developing two new campuses in Carlisle and Ambleside. Moving it away from what was initially a fragmented situation to develop a unified institution also posed its own difficulties.

This was particularly true of the former Charlotte Mason College, which became the Ambleside Campus in 1996. Bringing an existing organisation into St Martin's did require a lot of work but the will of people involved to make it happen was something Chris is very grateful for. "We have depended on the talents of people at Ambleside to do things which we otherwise we would not have been able to do."

The College was already teaching students in Carlisle but the facilities were small in scale. "The whole business with Carlisle was rather different (than Ambleside) because the issue I faced when I came was that we had students in Carlisle but effectively no adequate place to teach them. The urgent task was to find a campus." The City General Hospital and Maternity Hospital site on Fusehill Street became available in 1997 and was formally acquired the following year.

Modernisation has been a motivating force in the changes the College has undergone; an agenda Chris's predecessors also had to contend with. Thirty years ago, the demand for teacher training began to fall away, meaning some church colleges had to merge or close altogether. "In the 70s, there were 55 church colleges, today there are 12 and that's three fewer than when I came here in 1997. Those colleges that have survived are those like St Martin's which have diversified and grown. Robert Clayton had to face this in the mid 70s so he began this process of diversification. Ian Edynbry continued it and so have I."

Despite the mountains of paperwork and the frequent travel, Chris still enjoys the range and diversity of the role. "I think that this job is a hard job – it's the hardest job I've ever done - but the really great thing about it is the variety. I love getting out of the office and I love being out and about."

In his spare time, Chris is a keen cyclist and enjoys being outdoors. A more recent hobby is skiing, something he has taken up in the last four years. He said: "It's a curiously addictive pastime. You don't want to do it for more than a week because you're absolutely exhausted by the end of it, but it captures for me all the things I like; being outside, getting fresh air, getting exercise and I enjoy the scenery!" In addition to all this, Chris also keeps bees and enjoys game fishing. "I just fill my time," he says simply.

As this is an alumni magazine feature, it seemed appropriate to get Chris' opinion on alumni in general. Did he value it? Did he stay in touch with his former student friends? He replied: "I think Alumni Associations are very important and I keep in contact with people I was at university with, in fact I had a call from one only

yesterday. I may not see them frequently but we keep in contact and this is now 30 years later. I think the time you spend as a student is an incredibly important time in your life and it's a part of your life which stays with you forever. Student days are very important and the friendships you make are really important and that's why alumni events are significant, because they enable people to keep in touch with each other."

It's important to Chris that students of St Martin's feel a part of the place. He wants them to see the College as a gateway to the next stage of their lives, perhaps even to the rest of their lives. He adds: "It should be a gateway to whatever life brings them after St Martin's. While they go through that gateway, I want them to feel they are part of a tremendous community, be that socially or academically, while they are here."



Official Opening of the Carlisle Campus

A student's time in higher education should be one they remember warmly for the rest of their lives, and Chris wants former students to have similar memories of their life at St Martin's. "It should be a place they have affection for while they are here, have affection for when they leave and a place that remains important to them for the rest of their lives, because it got them on the track they wanted to be on." ■

The Present Day

The new Principal was Professor Chris Carr, whose previous role was as Pro-Vice Chancellor of University of Central Lancashire and whose academic background was in Law. Professor Carr took on the challenge of bringing cohesion to a diverse and multi-campus institution, whilst encouraging further diversification and expansion.

Developments on each campus have been constant. In Lancaster, Harold Bridges contributed funds for an extension to the library that bears his name. Sadly, he died before he could see it completed, but its facilities would provide an invaluable resource for students for years to come. A new £2 million teaching and learning block has been completed, located between the library extension and the Dalton Building. The Baddeley Building (formerly the Principal's House) has been demolished to make room for another teaching and learning block, containing dedicated facilities for courses including art and media.

Ambleside also got a new library, built like the rest of the campus to blend in with its surrounding buildings. Completed in February 2003, its facilities include a cyber café, 150 PCs and over 70,000 items to loan. To keep a link with the campus's past, the library was named after Charlotte Mason.

In Carlisle, over £12 million has been invested in developing the campus. Existing buildings had to be completely refurbished to create the new teaching, administration and catering accommodation. The former



The Charlotte Mason Library

hospital chapel was reconsecrated as an important feature of the new campus. New halls of residence have been built with en-suite facilities, as well as a modern sports complex, completed in 2003. The £3 million Learning Gateway is due to begin construction in early 2005 and will contain state-of-the-art technology enabling students to learn remotely.

John Crewdson retired in 2003 as St Martin's last Vice-Principal. Three Assistant Principals/Campus Principals will now perform a combined role on each of the main campuses; currently Dr Greg Lodge in Carlisle, Helen Marshall in Lancaster and Ruth Jenkinson in Ambleside. In 2004, student numbers exceed 10,000 and over 1000 academic and support staff work for St Martin's College spread across its sites.

The next move for the college is towards securing Taught Degree Awarding Powers (TDAP), earning the College the right to award its own degrees. If TDAP is secured, gaining University title will be the next target.

It's been an eventful first forty years for St Martin's College. From 89 students in 1964 to over 10,000 today, 13 staff to over 1000, one campus to three campuses (plus sites across the region and in London), the numbers speak for themselves. No doubt the next forty years will be just as eventful, as St Martin's goes on striving to provide the best education and experience for its students, just as it did when it first opened its doors forty years ago. ■



Students at the Carlisle Campus

It pays to be a St Martin's College Graduate



St Martin's College graduates are more likely to get a graduate level job on completing their courses than students from any other university or college of higher education in the country, according to the Sunday Times University Guide 2004 published this September.

The statistics speak for themselves. 97% of St Martin's College graduates are in jobs within six months of completing their degree, placing the College second in the country for graduate employability. St Martin's is the best in the country for its graduates getting graduate level jobs. To put this in perspective, trailing in second and third place are Imperial College, London, and the prestigious Cambridge University!

Once in work, St Martin's graduates are in the top 25% for starting salaries, meaning that three quarters of all UK students will earn less in their first job. St Martin's is not only in the top ten of Higher Education Colleges nationwide but also features in the top ten of Higher Education Institutions in the North West of England. The College also has the fifth most affordable university-managed accommodation, providing quality halls of residence at an economical rate ideal for students living on a strict budget. In the overall league table of all institutions, St Martin's College has moved up ten

places, a significant step forward consistent with the College's continuous growth.

Professor Christopher Carr, St Martin's Principal, said: "The results of the Sunday Times research are very encouraging as employability of students is a major focus within our Corporate Plan. This success puts the College in a very good position in seeking Taught Degree Awarding Powers and our long term strategic plan for University title." ■

The Sunday Time - University Guide 2004

September 12th 2004

Table - Best for Graduate Jobs

		% in jobs not needing a degree
1	St Martin's	10.3%
2	Imperial College	11.1%
3	Cambridge	14.4%
4	Queen Margaret	15.8%

Corporate Plan

St Martin's College has just released its new Corporate Plan, outlining the exciting developments ahead for the institution.

Covering the period from 2004 until 2009, it begins by stating that gaining Taught Degree Awarding Powers (TDAP) and then moving toward University title are prime goals for the institution. By having the power to award its own degrees, St Martin's will have greater freedom and flexibility to develop its Academic Strategy, which seeks to position the College as a recognised provider of a high quality, distinctive and innovative HE experience.

The core aims of the Academic Strategy are to develop an institution which:

- Is attractive to widest diversity of students
- Focuses on student achievement
- Provides a learning experience rooted in leading edge pedagogy, advanced scholarship and targeted research
- Enhances students' capability for lifelong learning and employability
- Aligns with the needs of internal and external stakeholders
- Invites partnerships to improve learning opportunity
- Aligns closely with the development agendas of the region
- Draws active support from the communities in which it works

The Corporate Plan outlines the College's desire to put student needs at the centre of all future development. With the changes facing Higher Education nationwide, it is more important than ever for universities and

colleges to identify how they can better provide the complete student experience. State-of-the-art technology will be utilised to allow students to study off-campus through supported open and distance learning.

The Corporate Plan is ambitious but the College is confident that it can deliver and meet the challenges ahead, continuing to provide its students with an excellent, high quality 21st century learning experience.

Copies of the Corporate Plan are available by contacting Sam Johnson on 01524 384683. ■



College News

Lecturer competes in Triathlon World Championship



Louise Rowe, Lecturer in Sports Exercise based on the Lancaster Campus, competed in the World Age Group Triathlon Championship in Madeira, Portugal, earlier this year, finishing 27th in a field of 51 world class competitors from around the globe.

Louise has taken part in triathlons for the last fifteen years and has consistently done well in regional events. She had been chosen to join the Great Britain team to compete in the 35-39 year old age group category, following her excellent performance at the Salford Quays Triathlon. St Martin's College provided her with £200 of sponsorship money, which she used to pay for physiological testing from the College's Human Performance Unit. She said: "As a sports scientist, I've been able to work out my training scientifically, which was one of the things I used the lab tests for because you can set your individual training intensities based on the results." The tests proved invaluable to Louise and helped her get into ideal condition for the World Championships.

Learning Gateway planned for Carlisle

A new £3 million state of the art teaching block is to be built on the

Carlisle Campus. The success of the planning application means that the new Learning Gateway will be built next to the Calva building. Building work will begin in early 2005 and be completed by the start of 2006.

The two-storey building will use technology to enable students to learn remotely. One of the main aims of the project is to help make education more accessible to people regardless of age, location or disability. Widening participation in this way is one of the main aims of the College.

Carlisle Campus Principal Dr Greg Lodge said: "We asked the question, 'why would students want to come to a campus in 10 years' time?' because eventually you will be able to download it all through your PC. The answer is that students will come to be in a learning environment."



North-West HEIs in initiative to increase doctor numbers in region

St Martin's College is one of the partners in a new initiative that will increase the number of doctors in the region through the development of a new medical school for the North-West. The bid is led by the University of Liverpool in partnership

with St Martin's, the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), Lancaster University and the Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority.

The plan is to extend the provision of undergraduate medical education throughout Cumbria and Lancashire. The institutions are working together to create the business case for a successful bid to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for an extra 50 medical undergraduates annually in the North-West.

The initiative will see students carrying out their clinical training in hospitals throughout North and West Cumbria, including the Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde and Morecambe Bay areas. Lancaster University is already involved in teaching Liverpool medical students and will be joined in this by UCLAN and St Martin's College as the new provision is developed.

Psychology Degree accredited by BPS

St Martin's College has received accreditation for its BSc (Hons) Applied Psychology degree from the British Psychological Society, the representative body who oversee psychologists and psychology in the UK.

This means that the course is officially recognised by the BPS as a high standard qualification and that students who pass it are eligible for Graduate Membership of the BPS and the Graduate Basis for Registration. The latter is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist.

College News...continued

Music staff and students visit Budapest

St Martin's staff and students visited Budapest this year on a music trip to share knowledge and gain new skills. Six members of staff and twelve students from Lancaster and Carlisle spent four days in Budapest visiting a kindergarten and primary schools.

Music lecturer Richard McGregor said: "Everyone agreed that it was a fantastic experience, staff and students alike came back much enriched and energised by it. We are keen to continue the connection with Budapest and hope to be able to invite one of the music teachers whom we saw there to visit St Martin's and work with the students and staff."



Lecturer elected Chairman of British Sports History Society

St Martin's lecturer Dr Martin Johnes has been elected the new chairman of the British Society of Sports History at its 2004 AGM. Martin has also been appointed editor of the international journal Soccer and Society, which is published by Taylor & Francis.

College awarded £700,000 to support business and communities in North West

St Martin's College has been awarded £700,000 by the Government to support new and existing initiatives over the next two years to increase knowledge transfer to businesses and the wider community in Cumbria and Lancashire.

The funding has been awarded from the Higher Education Innovation Fund, a major part of the Government's strategy to increase prosperity and provide high quality job opportunities. Knowledge transfer encompasses activities that create, apply and exploit knowledge and other university activities outside academic environments, a vital element in creating and sustaining a knowledge-based economy.

More opportunities to study at St Martin's

St Martins College is offering more opportunities to students from state schools and more students are completing their courses, surpassing the national averages compiled in new research published recently.

96.9% of St Martin's students come from state schools, compared with a national average of 86.4% for England and 87.2% for the UK as a whole. The College is also retaining more of its students and seeing them complete their degrees. In the UK, 14.1% of students drop out before the end of their course while for England the figure is 13.8%. At St Martin's, the drop out rate is 12.3%. These statistics are consistent with the results St Martin's had last year.

Fairtrade comes to St Martin's



St Martin's College has got involved with Fairtrade in a big way in 2004. Fairtrade products are now widely available

on all campuses while members of the College community have been working towards St Martin's bid to become a Fairtrade college.



Staff and students recorded a BBC Radio Lancashire programme about the College's efforts towards gaining Fairtrade status. The fifteen minute programme was written by members of the College's Social Justice Group and was an informative look at what Fairtrade is, why it is important and what the College is doing to support it.

Science Learning Centre North West opens for workshops

St Martin's College will be running workshops on the Ambleside Campus from January 2005 for the new Science Learning Centre North West, part of a national network of centres established by the DfES and Wellcome Trust.

A consortium comprising of St Martin's, Manchester Metropolitan University and Greater Manchester SETPOINT run the centre, which

aims to provide an inspirational programme of science related professional development for science teachers, technicians and classroom assistants in primary, secondary and post-16 schools and colleges.

'Step into Sport' launched in Cumbria at Ambleside

A national initiative to train the next Sven-Goran Erikssons and Clive Woodward was launched in Cumbria at the Ambleside Campus of St Martin's College. 'Step into Sport' was rolled out in March this year and aimed to encourage young people to become volunteer sports coaches in their local communities. St Martin's College is one of only 21 universities in the country to be selected to undertake this role.

Year 10 and 11 schoolchildren from schools across Cumbria were given the opportunity to learn different skills and qualities of leadership and shown a range of sports and fitness activities by St Martin's staff and students, who volunteered their time. The aim was that they would go back to their own communities and use their new skills to organise a "Festival of Sport" for primary schools in their own areas.



Full Monty Actor brings play to Carlisle Campus



The Shoestring Theatre Company, featuring Full Monty actor Steve Huison (left), came to the

Carlisle Campus in June to perform 'Reading the Signs', a play (written by the company) that portrays the plight of people suffering from mental illness and the effects upon their families and relationships with others. The invited audience of 100 guests included health care professionals, students, carers and users of mental health care.

The aim was to raise awareness of mental health issues to help reduce stigmatisation and discrimination, which are recognised as two key barriers to gaining training, employment and equal access to society in general for people who suffer from a mental illness.



Staff and student do their bit for charity

St Martin's staff and students have raised a lot of money for charity this year, using their spare time to benefit

others and make a difference. Of the many activities that have taken place over the last twelve months, these are just a few:-

Student Union staff Sarah Prince and Simon Mott plus student Paul Sanchez collectively raised £850 for two charities by doing a 10,000ft freefall parachute jump. Sarah managed to raise £500 for Breast Cancer Care while Simon and Paul raised £350 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

£300 was raised for Christian Aid following a sponsored charity walk from Silverdale to Arnside. 12 staff, students, friends and family did the walk, organised by the College Chaplaincy to coincide with Christian Aid Week. Student Sarah Swarbrick raised £150 of the total herself by facing her phobia of dogs and walking the whole distance with a black collie-cross called Jasper, owned by Senior Chaplain Mike Peatman.

Tower Hamlets End of Year Celebration

Students and staff from St Martin's Tower Hamlets Professional Development Centre site attended their annual End-of-Year Celebration this July, recognising the achievements of the students throughout the year. The event was held at Mile End Arts Pavilion and was attended by the Mayor of Tower Hamlets.

Course director Pauline Watts has seen many of the students offered permanent jobs at the same schools they did their placements at. She said: "They have commitment, determination and local knowledge, and schools really appreciate them."



Matt Jackson outside his latest acquisition - Sante

Matt Jackson

“I always had a strong personality; but to actually have that opportunity to have your own voice in a forum, where you know everyone, is great. St Martin’s was a key factor for me in my own personal development.”

Most people can point to one or two moments in their past when the future course of their life was decided, when they took one direction instead of another. For Matt Jackson, one such time in his life came when he was asked to run the Student Union Bar. Before that day, his plan had been to join the police after he left St Martin’s. That moment set him on the course he is on now, in which he owns three of the top pubs and restaurants in Lancaster (the Water Witch, the Sun Hotel and Santé) with plans to purchase three more in the next few years. His company, C2 Investments, has an annual turnover in seven figures. It all could have been very different, but Matt’s St Martin’s experience set him up for the successful career he now enjoys, one he has worked hard for.

It was nearly fifteen years ago that he first arrived as a student at St Martin’s from Hertfordshire. A major part of Matt’s college experience was his involvement with the Student Union. In 1992, along with Jackie Moore, they took charge of Clubs and Societies at the Union. They divided the responsibilities of the job, Jackie looking after societies while Matt organised clubs and sports. Matt remembers that time with great fondness, “I remember having a team of people around us who had a belief in what we were doing, a belief that what we were doing was good.”

After graduating, Matt stayed on at the Union in a sabbatical role as Vice President of Finances and

Services. It was at the start of this sabbatical year that he had his fateful meeting about the SU Bar.

He was called in by the Principal and the Chairman of the Board of Governors. They asked him to take over



the JCR bar, which had been underperforming, and turn it into a profit-making enterprise. It was not to be an easy or popular job, but Matt took it on. Failure to turn around the bar's fortunes may have had serious consequences for its future, so it was important that the situation was taken under control.

After several months of hard graft, it began to pay off. Breweries soon came knocking with job offers. "The brewery Whitbread heard about what I'd done and made me an offer. Mitchells heard I'd been offered a job so offered me any pub I wanted!" Finally, the Water Witch's owners offered him the job of landlord at the Castle Hotel on China Street in Lancaster, which he accepted. They gave him autonomy to do what he wanted to try and repeat what he had done at the JCR.

Taking on a pub in the centre of town was a very different situation to running a student bar on campus. Matt first had to win over his new customers. "I remember the first day I came down into the bar with my new waistcoat, cufflinks, Windsor knot in my tie and smart shoes. I thought I should be professional now. The first few customers through the door, I could tell, they were thinking 'you're a 22 year old student, you've never run a pub before and you haven't got a clue.'"

It was hard work but Matt managed to win them over and increase his reputation with breweries as a strong manager. Over the next few years he spent time in Shrewsbury, Blackpool, Gloucester and Bristol before another fateful meeting with an old friend from St Martin's. Phil Simpson was working as a recruitment consultant and had stayed in touch with Matt through the years. He came to Bristol with a business proposal. Matt explains: "He said to me 'I don't want to do my job forever, I want you to build me a pub empire, doing what you do.'"

Phil and Matt formed C2 Investments with Phil as the silent partner. Together they set out an ambitious plan of owning six pubs in five years, a goal that they are on target to achieving after only two and a half years. They took over the Water Witch in 2002 and earlier this year took control of the Sun Hotel, only recently leasing Santé. Their latest acquisition is the property next to the Sun Hotel, which they intend to turn into 16 four-star



The Sun Hotel, Lancaster

luxury rooms. Looking at what they have achieved so far, Matt is very pleased with their progress, saying: "We've always planned to take on the sixth pub on the last day of our five year plan and we are a long way down the path to that".

For Matt, St Martin's College has been one of the prime influences on his success. The close knit environment of the College, where everyone had a voice, gave him the confidence to set out on his career. "I always had a strong personality; but to actually have that opportunity to have your own voice, in a forum where you know everyone, is great. St Martin's was a key factor for me in my own personal development." ■

Greg Lodge

"I began describing the College to friends as the '8.5 miles per second' college – the velocity at which you defy gravity (apologies to any science colleagues) and enter orbit."



I joined St Martin's College eighteen months ago after spending most of my career in the Church College sector. I was attracted by the reputation of the College in key areas - I had been Dean of Health, Human Science - and the job itself. The job description covered all the areas of academic leadership which I enjoyed and the campus role was a double bonus, both in itself and because it was Carlisle. I think the city is a hidden gem and am determined that it will be seen as an exemplar of a modern 'university' city with St Martin's at its core.

Looking at the recent history – of a recent college – the growth and development has been phenomenal.

I began describing the College to friends as the '8.5 miles per second' college – the velocity at which you defy gravity (apologies to any science colleagues) and enter orbit. There is a good side to that because the Higher Education environment in which we work – locally, regionally, nationally and internationally - is competitive and changing with the consequence that St Martin's will need to be agile and forward looking if it is to prosper. There is a less good side too in that this is a value-driven organisation and this remains a vital part of its 'offer' of students and to those who choose to fund us and link their careers to us.

As I have said to colleagues 'life begins at 40' but no-one reaching that age and looking forward to their prime will be forgetting where they came from (not that I can remember too clearly!) There are a great many challenges ahead of us but I am sure of two things. Firstly, the St Martin's student of 2044 will be getting the same high quality education they always have (probably in a pill!) and secondly, I won't be here to see it, so good luck for the next forty years, St Martin's. ■

The stage is set...

Drama students past & present come together for reunion



Jan Ashcroft unveils the Wall of Fame

Drama at St Martin's was celebrated in style this July, as Drama students past and present returned to the Lancaster Campus for a reunion hosted by staff from the School of Culture, Media and the Environment. The evening also celebrated the Black Box Drama Studio and those who had donated money to its refurbishment. Formerly a sports hall and now a modern drama studio, 250 people who had contributed funds were immortalised on a Wall of Fame listing their names, which was officially unveiled for the first time.

Held in the Black Box itself and the neighbouring Askwith Building on 17 July, around 120 people from all over the country came to see old friends, enjoy themselves and even perform. 90 students, from 1991 (the first year Drama was taught as a degree at St Martin's) to the present day, joined staff and benefactors in the celebration. A slideshow was projected on the wall featuring over 150 pictures of students, staff and St Martin's productions from over the years, which was enthusiastically received by the crowd.

Some guests even put on impromptu performances to entertain everyone, singing songs as well as performing monologues and sketches.

Drama lecturer Jan Ashcroft said: "It was a fantastic night and I'm so glad so many people were able to come. It gave us all the chance to catch up with some old faces and celebrate the effort and fund raising that went into the Black Box Drama Studio. The Wall of Fame is a lasting tribute to all those who donated to the Theatre Development Fund and I would like to thank everyone who made a contribution."

The Wall of Fame takes pride of place outside the door of the Black Box and will be a permanent recognition of their contributions. Among those who donated are over twenty famous names like Bob Hoskins, Julie Walters and Jasper Carrott. Coronation Street star Julie Goodyear contributed a pair of her trademark earrings for auction while comedian Phil Cool donated money raised from a benefit show held in the Princess Margaretha Hall in April 1998.

The next Drama reunion is planned for 18 July 2009. ■



Students and staff at the Drama Reunion

Students' Union

Although located on three distinct campuses, the Students' Union is equally important and active at each site



SMSU (from left) Rob Brookfield, Hayley Mills, Fiona Murphy and Darren Wilcox.

Every student who enrolls at St Martin's College is automatically a full member of St Martin's Students' Union or SMSU, which in turn means membership of the National Union of Students (NUS). We caught up with the Union President Hayley Mills and Vice Presidents Darren Wilcox, Rob Brookfield and Fiona Murphy to find out a little more about them and their roles at the SU. Hayley is the President of the Students' Union for the year 2004/2005. Elected to the post in the SU elections in March this year, she is looking forward to the job ahead. "The job of President comes with a number of responsibilities which, whilst all being very wide ranging, affect all students in one way or another. It is my responsibility to ensure that the Students' Union is democratic, accountable and accessible but the most important part of my role is to ensure the work we do is attending to students' needs."

To deal with the multi-site issues of the college, the SU has three campus Vice Presidents. They are responsible for the day-to-day running of the union on their specific campuses and work together with Hayley to ensure their work is cohesive. Darren recalls why he decided to run for the Ambleside VP post; "I ran for office as the job was an ideal opportunity for me to use my skills to benefit St Martin's students. I could see a number of issues that needed addressing and knew I could make a difference. Students' needs are always changing and it is the job of the SU to make sure that we react positively to these changes." Rob agrees; "I just wanted to give something back after my time here. We are here to represent student needs and I can't wait to get started. It is great to walk around campus and see so many people you know. My time here as a student was fantastic, I wouldn't change St Martin's for the world and I want this year's intake of students to feel the same about it."

Fiona Murphy is the VP for the Carlisle Campus and is clear in her message to students who attend St Martin's; "As a student, there will be times when you have no money, you will have to cook and do your own laundry and you may actually have to work once in a while! That is why we, the Students' Union are here. We can offer lots of advice or maybe just someone to chat to. We are here to ensure students get the most out of college life and we are here to help and support."

If you would like more information regarding the work of SMSU, please contact the Lancaster Office on 01524 65827. ■

St Martin's

New Alumni Team

Maintaining links with our ex-students

Former St Martin's College students now have a dedicated Alumni team to help them keep in touch with each other, organise reunions and keep them up to date on all the news from the College. The Alumni Development team are manager David Hudson and administrator Jo Gregory, both keen to make the Alumni Association something that all ex-students can be proud of, and they want your help to make that happen. Here, David and Jo introduce themselves and talk about how they want to develop the Alumni Association.



Jo Gregory is in a unique position. Not only does she help run the Alumni but she is also a former St Martin's student, graduating from the Lancaster Campus in 1998. Coming back was

strange at first. "My first month or so in my new job was very weird. Being back on campus in the day time was bizarre – we would often return to the Social Bar where I worked throughout my student days. Bumping into old tutors and gazing up at good old Willy Tom brought the memories flooding back!"

David Hudson also studied in Lancaster, in his case at the University, graduating with a degree in History and Politics before spending four months working and travelling around the US and Canada. By 1999, he decided to return to education and gained a Post

Graduate Diploma in Business Analysis from Lancaster University. After several years working in Further Education, it was time for a change.



In mid-2004, a restructuring of the College's marketing service resulted in the creation of a dedicated alumni office. For David, the job as manager came at the ideal time. "I had

been considering a move into the Higher Education field for some time and this seemed like the perfect opportunity to move on."

As an existing member of the old Marketing service and one with previous alumni experience, Jo was a natural choice for Administrator in the new Alumni team. As a former student and member of staff, she has a distinctive angle on what the Alumni Association should become.

"Being an Alumnus myself I feel I can give a fresh perspective on what graduates would want from their Alumni Association." David agrees that this is a fresh start. "Jo and I have a huge amount of scope to develop the Alumni Association. We have already made some significant changes and are looking to the members to guide the future direction of the association." The most important thing is to get ex-students involved and both David and Jo want to hear your suggestions.



The new Alumni Team

They are keen to hear from any former St Martin's students. Asked if she has any message for St Martin's Alumni, Jo replies emphatically: "YES! I'd like all former St Martin's students to get in touch with us. We have lots of ideas on how to improve the service which is offered to St Martin's graduates but we need your help to make them happen! We are keen to include graduate profiles in our future editions so get in touch and tell us what you are up to – and the more photos the better!"

David echoes Jo's message, saying: "Do stay in touch. The Alumni Association needs your help to make it a

success. We are not asking for huge donations every year (although that would be nice!), only that you let us know what you are up to, keep us up-to-date with your news and drop us a line every so often with your career updates."

David and Jo would like to hear from you and create the Alumni Association you want, so get in touch! Write to The Alumni Office; Marketing, Recruitment and External Relations; St Martin's College, Bowerham Road, Lancaster LA1 3JD. Email j.gregory@ucsm.ac.uk or call Jo on 01524 384757 or David on 01524 384322.

Alumni Development at St Martin's

The Alumni Association is changing and we want your input in planning the way forward. As you can see from this magazine, the changes have already started and we want to know what you think of the new format and content. On the inside back cover of this magazine, you will find a tear-off feedback form. Please take a few minutes of your time to complete it and send it back to us using the FREEPOST address.

The changes introduced so far include the scrapping of the membership fee; in future, all graduates and members of college staff will automatically be registered in the Alumni Association. We have also decided to drop the title FAITH from the magazine and want you to help us come up with a new name. There is now an external borrowers scheme from the library service as well as all the usual benefits of Alumni membership.

Please remember that we need your input to make the Alumni Association successful, so write or email us with details of your news so that we can put it in the magazine. We are also keen to do features on graduates, so get in touch if you think you can help. If you know of any graduates or ex-members of staff who are not receiving their magazine, please let us know so that we can keep in touch.

For the next edition of the magazine, we want to include a letters page for Alumni members to air their views on college developments or anything else! The Next Alumni reunion will be on 30th July 2005. More details to follow nearer the time but get that date in your diaries! ■

Laura Stone

“I just think that I was a ‘doer’. I wanted to get involved, meet new people, get out of the house and do something a bit different. With the Students Union I could do that.”



For most alumni, their time at St Martin's College was limited to their life as a student, perhaps only returning from time to time for nostalgic reasons. However, a select group of ex-students are still here, seeing the College from the other side of the fence by becoming members of staff.

Laura Stone is one such person who not only gained her degree here, but has since started her career here too. 23 year old Laura graduated in 2002 with a BA (Hons) degree in Applied Social Sciences and now works as the Volunteer Co-ordinator for St Martin's Volunteers (SMV), based in the Students Union on the Lancaster Campus.

SMV has been running for two years and has been a tremendous success for the College. Laura has been involved from the start, along with Peter Davies from the College's Business and Community Enterprise Unit (BCEU). She explained: "The job involves the recruitment, retention and rewarding of volunteers. We set up our own projects through the SU and we also signpost students into local organisations who are in desperate need of volunteers." Her enthusiasm for what she does is obvious and the results speak for themselves. SMV were set targets by funding body HEFCE for the number of volunteering opportunities they had to set up by August 2004, they surpassed these targets with four months to spare.

Originally from Wensleydale, Laura first came to the College as a student in 1999. It was in her second year that she first got involved with the Students Union. Noticing leaflets about the student elections in the college dining room, she decided that she wanted to be a part of it. "I initially ran for Welfare Officer but I didn't get it. However, in the by-elections, I ran for Academic Affairs Officer and I was elected in. As it turned out, I ended up doing everything but the Academic Affairs job!"



St Martin's Volunteers clearing rubbish from a local beach

Her involvement came out of her desire to participate and make things happen. She explains: "I just think that I was a 'doer'. I wanted to get involved, meet new people, get out of the house and do something a bit different. With the Students Union I could do that."

After graduating in 2002, Laura returned to Wensleydale. "I moved back home and got three part time jobs so I was busy." However, it wasn't very long until a job came up at the Union, one which the then General Manager thought she would be perfect for. "Peter Fisher-Godwin called me up and said we have this funding to start a volunteering service. There were two pots of money; one needed someone to start immediately while the other was imminent." The first came from Millennium Volunteers, a national organisation that awards certificates for 100 and 200 hours of volunteering, a useful addition to any CV. The second was from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), whose Active Community Fund was created as part of a Government initiative to encourage volunteering in Higher Education. She did the job part time from October until December and then got the job full time in January 2003.

Laura's work has made a big difference right across the region. SMV has been involved in organising volunteering activity on all three main campuses, involving both

staff and students. For example, volunteers have been assigned to Carlisle Carers Association, helping to provide respite and plan activities for carers and the people they care for. SMV helped Ambleside Youth Hostel to celebrate their 75th anniversary by doing a town trail from the Armitage Museum to the Youth Hostel via Galava Fort, the Roman ruins in the town. In Lancaster, SMV have developed links with the sixth form at Ripley St Thomas High School, with St Martin's students providing a mentoring service in-keeping with a widening participation agenda. Opportunities are always available for people to volunteer so this figure will no doubt grow and grow.

Laura is keen to get St Martin's Alumni members involved in volunteering. "Because we do a lot of vocational courses like teaching and Community & Youth Studies you do tend to get a lot of our students staying in the local area because they will sometimes go to get jobs where they did their placements. So if those ex-students think 'we need this project doing' or 'we'd like students to help us out' then let me know."

Laura can be contacted via email at l.stone@ucsm.ac.uk or phone 01524 526577. Further information can also be found on the SMV website at www.thestudentsunion.org.uk/main/volunteering. ■

A St Martin's tale of love in the New Year

There are cynics out there who will tell you romance is dead but they were proven wrong on New Year's Day 2004 on the Lancaster Campus.



Former St Martin's student Robert Ward decided a walk down memory lane would be the perfect time to propose to his long-time girlfriend Catherine Graham, also an ex-student. After much

planning and secrecy, he popped the question in her old room in the William Thompson Hall of Residence, the very same room where they met way back in March 1996.

The idea came to Robert as he was trying to think of a way of proposing that would be extra special. "I was keen to avoid the usual candlelit dinner and wanted to come up with something different," Robert explains, "Driving down the M6 and spotting Willy Tom one day, it just popped into my head. The night we first met was in her 7th floor kitchen and we listened to the Sex Pistols in her room, so I thought it would be cool to recreate that scene."

Once he was set on the idea, Robert then had to make it happen. "I contacted St Martin's to suggest the idea and was surprised but delighted to hear back from a romantic marketing department keen to facilitate my

mushy request. All I had to do then was get us both on campus with the same Sex Pistols CD, a diamond ring and go down on one knee!"

On the day, Catherine was still unaware of what Robert had up his sleeve. "New Year's Day started quite typically. I was feeling a bit worse for wear and more than happy to catch up on a bit of sleep in the car on the way to the campus. Robert had come a long way for this moment and he was determined to make it special. "The nerves really kicked in when we met the security guard who took us to the Hall of Residence. Going up in the Willy Tom lift to floor 7 and into Catherine's old room brought back all kinds of memories."

Finally, the moment had come. Robert got down on one knee and popped the question. All the planning over all the months had been worth it as Catherine said yes. Robert said "Thankfully I got a fairly immediate positive response and from then on I could relax and think about the champagne!", which along with chocolates had been a gift from the College to commemorate their special day.

For Catherine, the day was perfect and it will be a happy time to look back on for years to come. "I want to laugh out every time I think about it! It meant such a lot to me and I feel really proud that Robert put such a lot of thought and effort into his proposal. ■

Your News

We recently sent a questionnaire out to many of you, asking for your memories of St Martin's and what you have been up to since graduating, and were delighted with the replies we received. We have included as many of your replies as possible and will print the rest next time. Please keep sending in your updates.

Rowena Jolleys, B.Ed

After leaving St Martin's, I taught for 25 years at Batley High School for Boys. I trained to teach dyslexic pupils and now run the Dyslexia Institute Outpost in Wakefield. I have two Children; Martin (named after the College!), from my first marriage and Jessica, aged seven. I met Tom Jolleys at a College Reunion, got married and we had Jessica. We met in the JCR disco and these days enjoy sequence dancing. Tom, who is registered blind, is working on his children's books which he hopes will be published.

Jonathan Halewood, BA (Hons) Geography 1995 & PGCE Geography 1996

After completing my PGCE, I moved to London to teach for two years which turned into six! I moved back to the North West two years ago, bought a cat and am now getting married – not to the cat! Being at St Martin's was all about making great

friendships, as well as being in the JCR every Wednesday and Friday!

Gary Hayes, BA (Hons) History 1995 & PGCE 1996

St Martin's was a place that was intimate enough to make you feel valued and where you always felt that there were people that you knew. I gained an important education on two fronts; firstly, a very good academic education and secondly, it helped me to mature as a person. My fondest memories include Alan Farmer's American Civil War course; a truly inspiring course from a truly inspiring man, Friday nights in the JCR with my mates (including the Blade Street Boys and the Dale Street Boys). After leaving St Martin's I entered my first teaching post in August 1996 and have since been appointed Deputy Head teacher at a primary school in Leigh, Greater Manchester. I got married in September 2001 and have one son, Matthew, born in July 2003.

As time goes by, you do tend to look back on the past through rose-tinted spectacles. However, in the case of St Martin's, I really do believe it was as good as I remember. I have many fond memories and try to get back up to Lancaster every so often to see what has changed.

Maureen Fenton, BA English & Education 1996 and MA Writing Studies 1999



I remember Friday mornings in the chapel, then lunching in the "posh" bit of the dining hall with the rest of the "Stanley Group";

Monday morning debates over D.H. Lawrence in Keith Maiden's sessions... the reception class at Cedar's School, Blackburn... and lots more. Having done two MA's (the other MA in Women's Studies at Lancaster University), I now combine lecturing on Open College and the degree programme at Accrington and Rossendale College, with being a Victorian Housekeeper at Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham, and currently, writer-in-residence on Bowland Transit bus services.

Nancy Hallam, BA (Hons) Performing Arts (Music) 1996

I was a mature, very mature, student and my three years with such young, vibrant students made me feel the same. Since graduating I have spent my time supply teaching and travelling. St Martin's revitalised me and gave me a chance to follow the other road that I could have chosen in my twenties. It made me sing again! The choir work was marvellous, particularly under the direction of the late Dr Doyle.

Jenny Bowen (nee Newnham), BA (Hons) Nursing 1996

I made some wonderful friends at St Martin's that I still see regularly. It has a very warm feeling about it – when I visited before joining the college, I knew it was the place for me! After leaving St Martin's, I moved to Bath with three other friends from my course, and worked in orthopaedics for a year. I then moved to Bristol and worked as a staff nurse at the Oncology/Haematology Centre. After travelling to Australia in 1999 and working for a year as a nurse, I returned to Oncology before

transferring last year to the local hospice where I work as a Hospice Community Nurse Specialist. I married Matthew last year and we spend much of our time renovating our house.

David Raper, BA (Hons) Geography 1996



I have so many fond memories of my time at St Martin's and Lancaster. Great memories of the Geography field trip to the Netherlands in 1995, the large snowfall in February 1996 in which the slope by the Ashton memorial became jam-packed with people sledging for three days, nights out in the JCR and Social Bar, and the comical walks back to Waddell Hall or my house in Dale Street. After leaving St Martin's I went travelling for a while before moving to Cheshire. I have since moved to Leeds where I work as a Procurement Officer for the Department of Works and Pensions. In my three years at St Martin's, I gained a lifetime worth of friends and memories. When I think of St Martin's, I think of the lovely setting of the college, the great views and the community spirit. A place where everyone was a familiar face and where there was a strong sense of fellowship.

Elizabeth Scott, BA (Hons) in Social Ethics and H. Admin. 1997

Coming to St Martin's was a massive turning point in my life both personally and professionally. It has definitely opened doors for me and boosted my confidence as a person. I am currently working as a Civil Servant and was a City Councillor from 2000 to 2003. I stood as a Parliamentary Candidate at the last General Election for this constituency, Lancaster and Wyre.

Michelle Batchelor, BA Health Promotion 1997 & BSc Specialist Practitioner Health 2002

As a mature student, I really enjoyed the academic challenge that was available to me. After many years working, St Martin's College was something new and exciting for me. The best thing about both my courses was meeting other people and making lasting friendships. When I moved to Lancaster, I became very involved with the outdoors and remain an active climber and mountaineer. St Martin's is a fantastic college in a superb setting. I feel really grateful and honoured to have achieved two first class honours degrees at St Martin's and think that it is a great place to live and study. After completing my first degree, I moved to Grenoble in France with my partner, where I studied French and taught English. I returned to Lancaster and did some part-time lecturing at St Martin's on the undergraduate Nursing Degree programme and then was successful in my application to study on my BSc course. Since qualifying in August 2002, I have been working

as a health visitor in Wigan (for 18 months) and now Preston. I love my job!

Helen Haddingham, BSc (Hons) with QTS 1998

After leaving St Martin's in 1998, I taught for 4 years at school in Suffolk. I studied part-time with the Open University for three years and graduated in June 2002 with a MA in Education. After spending a year travelling in New Zealand, I returned to the UK and taught for a year in a Norfolk school. I now teach 4-9 year-olds in a bi-lingual international school in Switzerland. Coming to St Martin's gave me the confidence, experience and qualifications to be able to travel and find work anywhere in the world. Being close to the Lakes and Dales, it developed my love of the mountains, which has now brought me to the Swiss Alps! I made friends with people who are still important to me now. Although we are living many miles apart, we can still meet up or chat on the phone as if we were still studying or living together.

Rachel Price-Davies, BA (Hons) Religious Studies and PGCYS 1998

To me, St Martin's means a place full of happy memories and lots of laughter. My fondest memories include all the friends I made, being involved with the CU and on the SU committee as Communications Officer, my PGCYS placement at Morecambe Youth and Community Centre, living in Halls, the JCR on a Friday night and the Social Bar. After leaving St Martin's I had a gap year

in Australia, working and travelling which I loved. I then worked in a youth club in Richmond, London, for a year and then briefly for ActionAid in the Youth & Schools Department, before beginning to teach English as a Foreign Language part-time and working at a Doctor's surgery part-time. I am now in Japan teaching English as a Foreign Language, where I have been since September 2004.

Andrew Ransome, BSc (Hons) Sports Science 1998

I have spent some time in London working at David Lloyd Leisure's Head Office. It wasn't for me, so after a number of Jobs (such as labouring in the Mersey tidal mud!) I decided to do a PCGE in PE at Exeter University. I now work in an Oxford Secondary School. For me, St Martin's provided a friendly campus geared to providing young people with a springboard to future success. I remember one night in the Park function room with the rugby team... (sorry Andrew, didn't think I should mention the next bit – very good story though! – Ed) next morning, assisting my Theologian friend in the college chapel. I was the candle bearer at an important service. Dressed in a white gown it felt like I was repenting the previous night's debauchery!

Barbara Seggie, BA (Hons) & MSc Health Science 1998

I was a part-time student at St Martin's whilst working full time. I now work for the college as a senior lecturer in Nursing and Midwifery at the Carlisle campus.

Tony Warburton, Reg. Mental Health Nurse 2003



After leaving St Martin's, I worked as a staff nurse at Bolton, Salford and Trafford NHS Trust until September 2004. I am now applying to work in another area of Mental Health – Medium secure forensic rehabilitation. I enjoyed the social life in the college and around Lancaster itself. I met new and very different people from varied walks of life. It was a training place, but it was more than that, it was an experience in my life that was academically challenging but good fun. It helped me develop my career and as a person also. I can't make this year's reunion, but please give my best wishes to all the staff and fellow students I trained with.

Angela Hammond, PhD – Public Health and Health Promotion 2003

Since leaving St Martin's I have completed a Post Grad Diploma in Specialist Practice (Occupational Health). I am an Occupational Health and Welfare Manager – a job that I thoroughly enjoy. My specialism is in workplace bullying and stress. I enjoyed my time at St Martin's. It is a great place to be a student and is set in a wonderful

environment. I enjoyed meeting with other students who did a wide range of studies. They were great fun and changed my whole outlook of studying and researching.

**Lisa Culver, BA (QTS)
with Geography 2004**



I remember our geography trip to Jamaica, working with under-privileged children and how they responded to stories of life outside Jamaica – it was wonderful. Since leaving St Martin's, I have been working as a year one teacher in a village school in Rishton. I now finally have money and am enjoying every second of it. My time at St Martin's meant making lots of friends, having lots of laughs and lots of fun!

**Emma Devlin, PGCE
Secondary Geography 2004**

St Martin's has offered me the opportunity to pursue my dream career – teaching. I only hope that I will feel the same 10 years down the line! I am currently teaching in Armagh. Strangely enough I am not teaching Geography but ICT! Absolutely loving every minute of it! St Martin's had friendly tutors, fieldtrips, many social activities and I met new people and became more independent. I found the tutors extremely supportive and

caring, especially Steve Chubb (he's great at his job!) and found the course challenging and often exhausting but well worth it. I really appreciated getting home to do my 'B' placement – thanks!

**Rachel Hall, BSc (Hons)
Diagnostic Radiography 2004**

I had fun from start to finish! Living in Mill Hall was my happiest year; it was like a big family. All of my lecturers were lovely, helpful and very supportive. I have had a summer of chilling and moved into my own home in Nottingham. I now work at the Queen's Medical Centre as a Link Grade Diagnostic Radiographer and am enjoying the pay! St Martin's is very special to me. It provided me with three years of fun and freedom. It changed my life completely and I will always have very fond memories.

**Rachel Simpson,
PGCE Primary 2004**



I really enjoyed my time at St Martin's Carlisle campus. My fondest memory is my final eight week placement teaching year 6. I also enjoyed the friendly, relaxed campus atmosphere and the nights out in the Social Bar. It was an excellent experience for me, being able to train to be a teacher in such an environment. Since graduating, I have been trying

to find a permanent teaching post. I have been doing supply teaching in the northeast area, which I am finding a challenge, but really enjoying the experience.

**Hayley Sloan, Dip HE
Nursing Studies 2004**

My fondest memories are of the good friends I made at St Martin's. Even though the work was hard at times, we gave each other support and had a good team spirit. All the lecturers were fantastic too. They did a good job of keeping up our moral. Since completing my course, I have taken up a job in nursing at Keswick Hospital where I am very happy in my work. I have returned to St Martin's to do a top-up to degree course in Nursing Studies – I enjoyed it so much the first time that I've come back again! St Martin's provided a friendly atmosphere, the hustle and bustle of college life and some of the best memories and best times of my life so far. Thank you St Martin's for giving me the chance to have the experiences which have made me the person that I am today.

**Barry Stevens, BA (Hons) Sport
Studies and Health Studies 2004**

I met some brilliant people at St Martin's who made the whole experience so worthwhile. I had three of the most challenging but also the most rewarding years of my life. Since leaving St Martin's I have been frantically searching for a job after being led down a blind alley by an American coaching company, but I'm not bitter! I am due to take up a post as Head Coach for Futbol De Salao Brazilian Soccer Schools based in Wokingham, Berkshire.

St Martin's International Alumni

If people were to ask "Where do St Martin's Alumni live?" the answer is easy; "All over the world!"

Our International Programmes Office (IPO) has links with universities around the world and has welcomed students from China, Western and Central Europe, the Oman and India, to name but a few. We are keen to develop links with our International Alumni and there will be regular updates and profiles on our students, so if you are an international graduate, or know anyone who might be able to help, please get in touch with the Alumni Office.

One of the International Events celebrated at St Martin's this year was the Chinese New Year. Colourful costumes and decorations were the order of the day when St Martin's Chinese students celebrated Chinese New Year on the Lancaster Campus in January.

Forty students and twenty members of staff gathered in the Lancaster Room, which had been specially decorated for the occasion, to enjoy performances, games and quizzes.

The students prepared the traditional food themselves, including Chinese Dumplings. Some students even donned traditional Chinese dress.

Chinese New Year, known as Spring Festival, fell on 22 January. It is a time to celebrate the earth coming back to life after the long winter and the start of spring. It is a celebration of change, out with the old and in with the new. The celebration attaches different notions to

different people; in general, it celebrates a prosperous and healthy year. For the students it symbolises progress and success in the New Year. The celebration includes games, performances, Chinese music, Chinese culture accompanied with the traditional Chinese food Jiaozi (Chinese Dumplings) which symbolise good luck and unity for the Chinese Community. ■



Careering along...

This article is for all those of you who:

- Have graduated within the last three years
- Haven't found the right career path OR
- Have just returned from travelling and are considering your options OR
- Have started out in one direction and are now
- Interested in how to develop your existing career OR
- Looking to change direction



The Careers Team at Lancaster

The Careers Service at St Martin's can still help you. We can:

- See you in person at one of our centres – by appointment
- Provide guidance by phone
- Provide e-mail guidance
- Provide information to help you in your career exploration
- Help with CV writing, application letters and tips for interviews

In the first instance you can contact Honor Rhodes, Senior Careers Adviser, on 01524 384335 or email careers@ucsm.ac.uk or h.rhodes@ucsm.ac.uk

We have our own website www.ucsm.ac.uk/careers which has information on work, career options and postgraduate study as well as links to other useful websites. Another good site for graduate careers information is www.prospects.ac.uk. Also, if you are particularly interested in remaining in the North West, then try www.nwsago.com.

We hold the Matrix Quality Standard, a national standard granted to certify good practice and our advice and guidance is impartial and confidential. We are part of a wider network of services and you may find you can access the Careers Service of a university nearer to home for you. Details can be found on the Prospects web site under "Graduate Advice", where you can also sign up and chat to other graduates.

If you are interested in providing a case study of your career since graduation or are willing to input into departmental careers events, we should be pleased to hear from you. ■

Alumni Feedback Form

Please take a few minutes to complete this form to tell us how we can improve your Alumni Association. You can return this to the College using the following FREEPOST address: FREEPOST NWW10281, Marketing & External Relations, St Martin's College, Bowerham Road, Lancaster, LA1 3JD.

What would you like your Alumni Magazine to be called in the future?

Do you like the new design for the magazine? What suggestions do you have for further improvements?

We have tried to focus the content on Alumni news as well as college updates. Have we got the balance right? If not, how could we improve this?

How would you like to see reunions organised in the future? Would you like us to rotate them around each campus so that you would visit your own campus once every three years for example?

We are always trying to increase our membership list. Do you know of any ex-students or staff that we have lost contact with? If so, please let us know.

Do you have any comments you would like to make on the running of your Alumni Association?

please cut along the line



Ambleside, Carlisle, Lancaster

Alumni Office

St Martin's College, Lancaster Campus
Bowerham Road, Lancaster LA1 3JD

Tel: 01524 384757

Fax: 01524 384589

Email: j.gregory@ucsm.ac.uk

Web: www.ucsm.ac.uk/alumni