

Welcome to the latest issue of the Simmarian Magazine. I hope that you enjoy reading the latest news about life here at the University College.

This year, we are conducting an online survey of our former students to find out what you think about this magazine and about the other services we offer to you.

I would be very grateful if you could complete the questionnaire online at www.survey.smuc.ac.uk/

alumni. Completed questionnaires will be entered into a prize draw to win a selection of alumni merchandise including a teddy bear, mug and pin badge. The prize draw will take place on Monday 7th September 2009.

If you know a former student who does not currently receive The Simmarian please ask them to contact me or to complete the online alumni reply form at www.smuc.ac.uk/alumni.



With very best wishes from Strawberry Hill.

Dr Karen Kendel-Smith
Head of Alumni Services

Letter from the Principal



In my last letter to alumni I reported that Walpole House had been leased to the Strawberry Hill Trust in order that an £8.9 million restoration project could be undertaken. Work is now well underway and to the campus visitor there are all the signs of a large building site with screens, scaffolding and tarpaulin everywhere in evidence around Walpole House.

Elsewhere on the campus we continue building for the 21st century with planning permission now obtained for a major development of the facilities for the School of Human Sciences of which Sport Science is the largest programme.

In terms of student numbers, we are now close to the 4,000 full-time equivalent student requirement for full university title. With the halt in expansion of home student numbers our hope is to reach our target through increased international recruitment. In spite of the global recession, the signs are positive that these numbers will grow in 2009/10 after an intensive overseas recruitment campaign.

I very much hope that you will find in this alumni magazine a sense of the energy and will that there is at St Mary's to continue to build on our very firm foundations.

Dr Arthur Naylor
Principal

St Mary's Honorary Fellowships Awarded

The University College held its annual awards dinner on February 10th in the Waldegrave Drawing Room. The evening was introduced by Dr Michael Hayes, Vice-Principal, and the 2008 University College Annual Report was presented by Dr Arthur Naylor.

Professor Ronald Barnett, Dr Patrick Duffy and Sister Ellen Flynn all received Honorary Fellowships from the University College.

Honorary Fellowships are conferred on people eminent in their chosen field who have made an outstanding contribution to society. "This is always an immensely enjoyable evening for the University College as we launch our Annual Report and also made awards to individuals associated with us who have made a distinct contribution to the wider community," said Dr Naylor.

Feast Day Mass

St Mary's University College celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday 8th December. The Feast Day Mass, celebrated by Bishop Peter Doyle, the Bishop of Northampton, was held in the University College's chapel and was followed by a lunch in the campus refectory at which the St Henry Walpole Award for Teaching and Learning in 2008 was awarded to Mark Griffin for the Helios Project. The Helios Project prepares drama students for employment through the creation of a theatre company to promote site-specific promenade performances whilst working with pupils from local primary schools.

The 2008 Equality and Diversity prize was awarded to Paula Askew, Siobhan Cockrill and Bob Vertes for recruitment of a more diverse intake into initial teacher training courses.

The Equality and Diversity prize was established in 2008 to recognise and reward achievement and innovation that improves equality and diversity at the University College.

the Simmarian

Editor: Dr Karen Kendel-Smith
Design: www.fredd.co.uk
Print: Stag Print
Photography: Christine Jarvis

St Mary's University College Waldegrave Road,
Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, TW1 4SX, UK.

Switchboard: 020 8240 4000
Alumni Office: 020 8240 4039
Fax: 020 8240 4256
E-mail: kendelk@smuc.ac.uk

The Simmarian is published once a year. All correspondence should be addressed to Dr Karen Kendel-Smith, Head of Alumni Services. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the permission of the editor. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of St Mary's University College.

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Data may be used for a full range of alumni activities, including the sending of University College publications, the promotion of benefits and services available to alumni, notification of alumni events and of programmes involving academic and administrative departments. Data may also be used in fundraising programmes which might include an element of direct marketing.

Under the terms of the 1998 Data Protection Act you have the right to object to the use of your data for any of the above purposes.

If you are unwilling for your data to be used in this manner please write to us at the Alumni Office, St Mary's University College, Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, TW1 4SX or email kendelk@smuc.ac.uk and you will be removed from our database.

NEWS

Historic Moment for St Mary's

The first St Mary's University College degrees were conferred in Education last summer following the awarding of taught degree awarding powers in 2006.

Dr Arthur Naylor said, "These new graduates are now working in educational settings and this takes St Mary's right back to our 19th century origins. We are proud of the particular and distinctive role which we have within university education as the country's oldest Catholic college, and I know that these graduates will make as important a contribution to society as their predecessors have over several generations".



Grant Increase for St Mary's

The University College's HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) research funding grant is to increase by 269%, recognising the ongoing implementation of a successful strategy adopted by the University College over several years to raise its research portfolio in a wide range of key subject areas. The news also follows the published Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) which underlined the University College's level of maturity across a wide range of research activity, including international recognition of four schools that submitted research outputs to the RAE. The national average increase in research funding grants is 7.8%. "This is a vindication of the hard work put in by many members of staff towards ensuring quality and diversity across our research programmes," said Dr Mary Eaton, Vice-Principal. St Mary's will also receive a 5.4% increase in recurrent funding across the board (the national average being 4.1%).

Dr Kevin Cook Retires



Dr Kevin Cook retired last year as Director of Geography after 35 years of service. Dr Cook's long association with St Mary's spans 46 years, having joined as a student in 1962. During his time working in the Geography department, Kevin taught, mentored and inspired hundreds of students, many of whom he has kept in close contact with as they have progressed with their careers. Kevin continues to administrate the Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern (see his report on page 19).

[Continued overleaf >](#)

NEWS continued

Geography Students in Grenada

Nineteen third year undergraduate students participated in a tourism and geography field trip to Grenada earlier this year. This annual event is part of a degree module which allows students to explore the history, geography and contemporary conditions in the Caribbean country. This year, students had the opportunity to attend the official Independence Day celebrations in the National Stadium and hear new Prime Minister Tillman Thomas speak.

Agreement Signed With New Partner Institution

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed with Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wisconsin on 30th October 2008. Viterbo University was founded by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in 1890. Vice Principal Dr Michael Hayes said, "As part of the University College's planned strategy this memorandum of agreement will enhance further the opportunities for our students to spend a semester abroad on the Study Abroad programme".

CBET's Inaugural Conference

The University College's Centre for Bioethics and Emerging Technologies (CBET) hosted a day conference on health and social responsibility on Saturday 14th March.

The aim of the day was to consider different ethical approaches to new technologies such as nanotechnology and human enhancement techniques alongside ongoing ethical problems such as the use of animals in medical research and the tensions between rights and responsibilities in healthcare provision.



Charles Plater Trust Awards

St Mary's University College received two awards from the Charles Plater Trust at a reception hosted by the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster in February. Professor David Jones was awarded £17,000 to research Resource Allocation Models in Healthcare and Dr Anthony Towey was allocated a share of a £60,000 bursary to develop a new certificate programme in Catholic Social Thought.

The Grant Making Body (GMB) for the Charles Plater Trust evaluated 37 bids submitted for 2008. In making their recommendations, the GMB noted the high quality of the applications, adding to the importance of the deliberations needed by the trustees. Professor Jones, whose project will involve partnerships forged by CBET (the Centre for Bioethics and Emerging Technologies) based at St Mary's University College, said: "This is an exciting enterprise that will help healthcare professionals to allocate time and resources according to principles of fairness."



Professor David Jones



Dr Anthony Towey

Gothic Symposium

The Film & Television and English programmes hosted a one-day symposium in January on the theme of the Gothic in the 21st Century. The symposium provided a focus on aspects of the Gothic within more contemporary culture, as well as historic aspects of the Gothic.

The symposium included a wide range of themed panels and brought together researchers from different disciplines, creating a useful dialogue across the field of the Gothic. The Keynote Speaker was Dr Catherine Spooner.

'Yard Gal' Wins Theatre Award



Yard Gal, a production featuring three graduates from St Mary's University College has won the Best Fringe Production award from The Fringe Report Awards 2009. The production was originally created at the University College and was directed and acted by third year students. It transferred to The Oval House and was directed by Stef O'Driscoll.

Stefanie Di Rubbo and Monsay Whitney played the role of two teenage girls and were described by Fiona Mountford of the Evening Standard as 'charismatic young actors with great futures.'

Lecturer in Education Co-Authors Second Book

Bob Vertes, Senior Lecturer in Education at St Mary's, has co-authored his second book published by the Association of Teachers of Mathematics.

'More People More Maths' develops approaches designed to be used in teaching and learning mathematics using kinaesthetic and collaborative approaches, active learning, games and puzzles.

Mr Vertes has been teaching at St Mary's for over 20 years and is the PGCE (Secondary) Admissions Tutor.

New Workplace Health Project Underway

Harrow Primary Care Trust has commissioned the Centre for Workplace Health at St Mary's University College to deliver a workplace health project. The year long project started last August and 12 businesses in the Harrow area are involved.

The project, *Works Well*, will offer training and consultancy to Harrow businesses to support them to survey their employees' health and wellbeing needs, design and deliver appropriate interventions and evaluate the project's effectiveness. The project is being fully funded by the Primary Care Trust.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for Harrow businesses to really make a difference to the health of their employees. We spend 60% of our waking hours at work and so the potential of the workplace for health improvement is huge. We are really excited to be running this project for Harrow PCT," said Rebecca Willans, Project Coordinator.

The Institute of Health and Social Care at St Mary's

This new Institute will be established this year to bring the strengths of the University College's five Schools together for maximum effect in the wider Health and Social Care community.

The Institute of Health and Social Care will focus on specific areas in which St Mary's already has strength (including bioethics, children's services and health and physical activity) but will also identify related areas where opportunities exist to improve workforce development (for instance speech and language therapy; drama in the community). The Institute of Health and Social Care aims to have its greatest impact at the primary healthcare level, where individuals and communities are empowered to take responsibility for their own well-being.

100 years ago The bare look about the uncovered planking on the dormitory floors no longer exists as linoleum now covers its splinters. *'The Simmarian' Christmas 1909*

75 years ago We were successful in obtaining a radiogram and records and we may now enjoy dance music and entertaining songs at all hours of the day. A levy of 6d. was made for records. *'The Simmarian' 1934*

50 years ago It has been suggested that a day may come when St Mary's shall become a mixed college. *'The Simmarian' 1959*

25 years ago Further instances of dry rot (in Walpole House) have been found which has required the erection of scaffolding all around the building and the construction of a temporary roof as the existing roof had to be opened to the sky in parts. *'The Simmarian Newsletter' Spring 1984*

Discounts for Alumni

Did you know that our former students receive 25% discount on room hire charges for functions held on campus? Please contact the Conference Office on 020 8240 4114 for more information.

Careers Information Exchange

Would you like to help us by inspiring future generations of Simmarians about possible career paths? St Mary's Careers Service is looking for Simmarians of all professions and industries to get involved with the Careers Information Exchange Project. We encourage alumni to provide informal careers information and advice about areas of work in which they have experience. There are many mediums of information exchange from email or phone contact to work shadowing and job opportunities.

There will also be the chance to give talks or presentations at Careers Service events. Recent events have included the Teaching Appointments Fair, Sports Forum and Tourism Forum at which a number of Simmarians talked to students about their own career progression and offered advice.

If you would like to find out more about getting involved please contact careers@smuc.ac.uk or call us on 020 8240 4055.



Teaching Appointments Fair

You can also complete the Alumni Reply Form stating that you would like to participate.

Recent alumni feature on our careers website www.smuc.ac.uk/careers. Real insights from alumni inspire current students, so if you'd like to appear, please contact careers@smuc.ac.uk. If you would like help and advice regarding your own career options and completed your SMUC course in the last two years you can join GradClub. Sign up at www.smuc.ac.uk/careers or directly at www.gradclub.co.uk.

Linking with Business and the Community

Each year over 150 St Mary's students participate in part-time work placements in businesses or community projects. Students from a variety of disciplines bring their academic learning to the workplace and help organisations to benefit from their knowledge, research, enthusiasm and motivation. Opportunities to undertake work placements are offered to students in their second and third years studying across the full range of undergraduate programmes offered at St Mary's.

The students don't expect payment for their contribution to the workplace as the work experience provides them with an opportunity to apply theory in practice, explore different career areas, develop their transferrable skills; boost their employment chances on graduation and improve their self confidence and sense of responsibility.

Feedback from host organisations has been good and most have seen tangible benefits to their organisations. Last year, one host organisation commented that this was "one of our best experiences of placement, organisation and student performance".

This academic year we have students working in all aspects of business, legal practices, local and national government offices, hospitals, schools, charities, sports and leisure clubs, and many more.

If you know of any organisation which you think would benefit from a university student on placement and to find out more, please contact Liz Coombs, Director of the Centre for Workplace Learning on email coombse@smuc.ac.uk, or telephone 020 8240 4015, or write to Liz Coombs at St Mary's University College.

Alumni Postbox

Did you complete your higher education qualification in 2004/05?

You may recall completing a questionnaire as part of the Higher Education Statistics Agency's (HESA) Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey six months after you finished your studies in 2004/05. You may have seen information from the survey in the media, for example, as part of the University League Tables. The information you provided will also have been used within the institution and by government.

There is now another opportunity for some of you to let us know what you have been doing since you gained your qualification. IFF Research, on behalf of HESA, is conducting a survey (the 'DLHE Longitudinal Survey') and they may send you a questionnaire. The questionnaire will ask you to detail your activities since you graduated in 2004/05. Any information you provide will help in reviewing and promoting courses and giving current students an insight into early career progression, as well as providing input to government policy development and review.

If you are contacted by IFF Research (by email, post or phone), please take time to complete the survey and return it – your participation is valuable.

If you have lost touch with a fellow Simmarian, the Alumni Office may be able to help!

If you have lost contact with someone we recommend that you look on the Friends Reunited website. Thousands of our former students have registered with the website and this is an excellent way to contact old friends.

If you would like advice about how to use Friends Reunited, please contact us and we'll send you a fact sheet.

If you cannot locate the person you wish to contact, we can check our database to see if they have registered with us. As all information is held under the Data Protection Act we cannot give out the details of former students without their prior consent. However, we can forward stamped mail or contact an individual on your behalf asking them to contact you.

If you wish to contact more than five people, we suggest that you ask to be included in 'Where Are They Now'. Mention that you would welcome contact from former friends and we will forward any messages to you.

Don't forget to tell us if you change your contact details and if you have details of a Simmarian who may not be on our records, please let us know.

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SPORT Report

Principal Welcomes Harlequins RL Sponsorship Deal



Harlequins Rugby League is the University College's major shirt sponsor for the 2009 season. The deal cements an already strong relationship which in recent years has seen coaches from Harlequins Rugby League coaching the St Mary's University College Rugby League.

Dr Arthur Naylor, Principal, said that St Mary's was delighted to take this opportunity because it underlined the University College's commitment to working in the community and developing sport at all levels. "Like us, Harlequins are committed to developing strong community networks across the area and the sponsorship will flag up the excellent work the University College is doing in many areas of sport."

He added: "Of course, we hope that this will encourage recruitment to a wide range of courses

but our chief aim is to work widely and broadly towards advocating sporting excellence across the board."

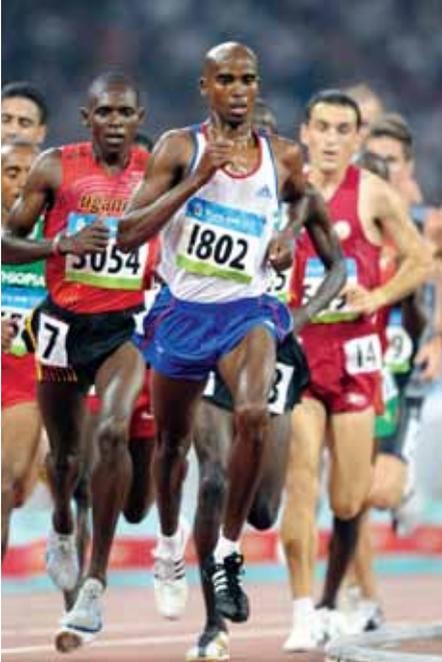
Harlequins chairman, David Hughes, said: "St Mary's has a thoroughly well deserved reputation for excellence in sport and we are very proud to have the University College on board for the 2009 season."

Phil Jones, head of youth development at Harlequins Rugby League, has worked closely with St Mary's for the past five academic years and said, "St Mary's is at the forefront of sports science, and together we are working towards developing an internationally renowned performance pathway. We've already seen several St Mary's students representing their country and I hope to see many more."

St Mary's Athletes Dominate Euro Cross Country

Athletes from St Mary's University College figured prominently at last winter's SPAR European Cross Country Championships in Brussels. They accounted for a third of the Great Britain & Northern Ireland team who had an exceptional day, heading the medal table with a record breaking performance and winning an unprecedented 12 medals, including four golds.

Steph Twell, a sports student at St Mary's, ran impressively to win her third successive under 20 women's title. She has become the first athlete to achieve this, and in the process helped the junior women's team to gold. Steph, who narrowly missed out on a place in the Beijing 1500m final, led home the GB & NI athletes who took a clean sweep of the top six places. Charlotte Purdue and Emma Pallant, also coached by Mick Woods at the University College, backed up their fellow St Mary's Endurance Performance Centre athlete to take 2nd and 5th respectively.



Mo Farah competing at the Beijing Olympics



Professor Richard Fisher

Mitch Goose, another St Mary's University College student and sports scholar, was a member of the men's Under 20 team that won bronze whilst fellow students Andy Vernon, Ben Lindsay (sports scholar) and Keith Gerrard all ran well to gain gold for the Under 23 men's team. Andy took the individual silver medal with Ben finishing in 4th position and Keith in 7th. Katherine Sparke, another student sports scholar, finished 7th in the women's Under 23 race to help the team win gold.

In the senior women's race, Hayley Yelling, a former University College student, was part of the team's silver medal performance finishing in 19th place. The senior men's race saw an exciting finish with Mo Farah, another former student, winning a silver medal and the team gaining bronze. Endurance Performance Centre athlete, Scott Overall, came in 39th whilst Mike Skinner, who trains at St Mary's, had a good race to finish in 20th position.

Professor Richard Fisher, Head of St Mary's 2012 Preparations, said, "At a time when the country is looking to rebuild its historically strong reputation for distance running, St Mary's University College continues to demonstrate its terrific contribution to this process through its partnership with UK Athletics and the London Marathon."

Andrew Reid-Smith, Director of Sport, said, "St Mary's University College athletes made a significant contribution to the squad and helped to gain ten of the twelve medals won. Arguably the best performance of the day was by Steph Twell. Sport St Mary's has worked in partnership with UK Athletics and the English Institute of Sport to establish a high performance programme and it is great to see the athletes achieving at this level of competition."

Steph Twell Voted Rising Star



Steph Twell has been voted Waterford Crystal European Athletics Rising Star by the European Athletics Association.

The award recognises future young athletic stars in Europe. Winners are decided by votes from the general public, the media, European Athletics Member Federations, and by a panel of experts.

Steph became World Junior 1500m champion in Poland last summer and performed well at the Olympic Games in Beijing. She achieved the fastest time by a junior woman in the world in 2008 at the Golden League meeting in Paris.

Paralympic Handover

St Mary's University College joined forces with Richmond upon Thames College and the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to celebrate the handover of the Paralympic Games to London on Wednesday 17th September with a torch relay around some of the Borough's Primary and Secondary schools.

Professor Pat Wade Wins 'Spirit of Sport'

The former Head of Education at St Mary's University College was awarded the prestigious 'Spirit of Sport' at a ceremony in Athens last year. The 'Spirit of Sport' is given for lifelong commitment

to the Olympic Movement and to sport in general.

The citation included the following statement: "Through her dedication and humanitarian spirit, Pat has made an exceptional and lasting contribution to the pursuit of sports excellence, sportsmanship, sport for all and other legacies directing and nurturing sport as a major contributor to the betterment of society and world peace."

Professor Dick Fisher said, "I am sure that Pat's many friends and former colleagues will take great pleasure in this recognition of her outstanding work in sport from one of the world's largest sports associations."

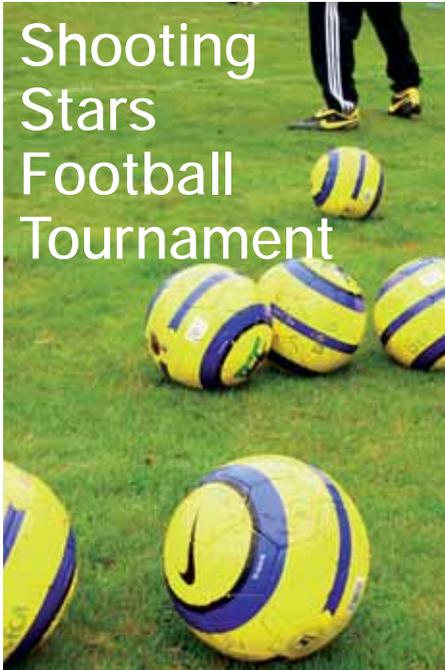
St Mary's and Surrey CCC

The sport and exercise scientists from the School of Human Sciences at St Mary's University College have joined forces with Surrey County Cricket Club to provide a series of professional development workshops for their coaches. The workshops are being delivered by Glyn Howatson, Gill Horgan, Tim Holder and Stacy Winter and address areas including recovery, nutrition, mental toughness and imagery. The aim of the project is to provide bespoke continuation training that gives qualified coaches additional skills and knowledge to help facilitate their effectiveness in supporting players. Project Leader Glyn Howatson said, "We are very pleased to welcome Surrey CCC to St Mary's University College. The team has worked extremely hard in compiling the programme and we are delighted to be involved with a programme that makes a meaningful addition in the development of coaches and, ultimately, the players".

The content of the workshops has been based on topics that are not traditionally addressed during coaching courses, and the team lends additional professional development opportunities that are not readily available. Ian Read, Community Cricket Coach for Surrey CCC, said "these workshops are extremely insightful and offer a real chance for our coaches to up-skill and make a positive impact on our professional practice".

In this series of development workshops over the spring and summer, Glyn and the team also look forward to welcoming Ladies Cricket World Cup winning coach Mark Lane, who will also benefit from the expertise of the team of sport scientists at St Mary's University College.

Shooting Stars Football Tournament



In 2006 St Mary's University College introduced The Shooting Stars Children's Hospice Charity 6-a-side Football Tournament, which consists of 8 teams in a knockout-style format. This tournament was designed to raise awareness for the charity.

The Shooting Star Children's Hospice provides care, support and advice for children and young people with life-limiting conditions and their families, free of charge, 365 days a year across West London and North Surrey.

In the first year of the tournament £360 was raised. This has become an annual event in the St Mary's sporting calendar and last year's tournament raised £1,170. This year £1,200 was raised for the Hospice.

The tournament was organised by Sue Whitham of Student Services, the St Mary's University College Chaplaincy and Athletics Union President Jason Arday with help and support from the Sports St Mary's Team.

Jason Arday said, "Through the tournaments and various other fund-raising events, we have managed to raise over £4,000 within the last three years."

Sports Shorts

Women's Basketball

The St Mary's team finished second in the league in the BUCS Trophy Final in Sheffield.

Men's Football

The First Team lost the league by a point to University of Hertfordshire and reached the semi-finals of the BUCS Trophy. The Third Team lost the league by one point on the final day of the season to Brunel. The Fifth Team won their third league title in three years.

Netball: The Second Team became the first netball side to win the league in four years.

Men's Rugby Union: In their first year of formation, the Third Team won the league, and were unbeaten in the league this season.

Women's Rugby Union: League winners for the third year in a row, the St Mary's team will be competing in a play-off to get into the BUCS Premier League against St Marks and St Johns (Plymouth)

Men's Volleyball: The Men's First Team won the BUCS Knockout Trophy.



An interview with Rob Lake



Sport Science Lecturer
Dr Robert Lake explains why coaching the women's basketball team this season has been such a rewarding experience

Last summer, the women's basketball captain, third year Sport Science student Lorraine O'Malley, emailed me to ask if I would be interested in coaching their team for the upcoming 2008/09 season. In previous years I had been reluctant to get involved because of the heavy workload that it would entail, but having just completed my doctorate, I felt the time was right to give up more time for extra-curricular activities that would benefit

the University College and its students.

Since accepting the invitation to be their head coach in August, I have been witness to, and experienced myself, a number of the positive outcomes. This experience has further reaffirmed my beliefs of how participation in structured sport programmes can serve as an important tool in promoting positive values for everyone involved.

The team began training in September, and since then I have been very pleased to see noticeable improvements both on and off the court. These have been not only in relation to the team's physical conditioning and basketball skills, but also with general attitudes to working hard, reaching targets and making personal sacrifices for the benefit of the team. The sessions I run at the crack of dawn on Friday mornings are particularly important for the women in this regard. The players have come to the realisation that genuine improvements are made only through willpower, perseverance and supreme dedication to the cause. Moreover, sacrificing a warm bed for sprints up and down a basketball court says a lot about who you are as a person and what your team and university means to you. Regular training sessions and games each week have helped to develop team cohesion and discipline, and a strong sense of community and university spirit. It is this spirit that over the years has helped St Mary's University College develop its special reputation as a leading sporting institution, with a record to match.

At the end of 2008, the women's basketball team which plays in BUCS Division 1, has a record of seven wins and just one loss. Success for me, however, is judged by more than our win/loss record but by the role that I can play in long-term player and personal development. My involvement as a coach is performed voluntarily, but I have gained a great deal of enjoyment and experience in a short time and have since obtained my NBL Level 1 coaching qualification.

By the end of the season the team finished second in the league winning eight and with two defeats. Having qualified for the Trophy Championship they beat Cardiff University 92-65 in the semi-final and lost narrowly to University of Wolverhampton in the final played at the BUCS Championships in Sheffield. Overall, an excellent season and a positive experience for all involved.

Enterprise Awards Dinner

St Mary's University College hosted its first Enterprise Awards Dinner on 2 May to celebrate the achievements of students who have undertaken placements in businesses this year, and to thank the organisations that have played host to the students.

Awards were presented to students who had shown commitment and dedication in their placement beyond that which was expected, and to those who had made exceptional progress. The Malta Tourist Office was given an award for the excellent opportunity that they offered to a St Mary's student to undertake a research project with them, and for the support that they gave him.

The 'special' award honouring a long standing partnership and ongoing support for St Mary's students through placements and volunteering opportunities went to Richmond AID.

Student presentations focused on the learning journey, the new experiences and the aspirations that have grown from the placement experience. Judolene Bergh, a final year student, spoke of her challenging work with the Richmond Young People's Drug and Alcohol Support Service, and her ongoing commitment to one of their projects.

Matthew Pittendreigh, who is studying for a degree in Sport Science, talked about his experience supporting the PE department at Cardinal Vaughan School, and how he fitted in his placement around his work as a special constable, his role as a senior resident at the University College, and his studies.

Perhaps the most unusual placement this year was Sanaa Khan's. Sanaa secured a placement in the House of Lords, working in Lord Ahmed's office and has gained invaluable experience in work, life and politics.



Peter Pledger, Chief Executive, South London Business and Governor, St Mary's University College, presenting Enterprise Award to the Malta Tourist Office

St Mary's Classic



On Wednesday 3 June, Sport St Mary's hosted the St Mary's Classic (formerly known as the St Mary's Relays), a prestigious UK Athletics Challenge series.

The meeting offers high quality competition opportunities for young and emerging elite performers so that they can gain valuable racing experience, improve their personal performances and try to achieve qualification times for major championships.

This event also showcases the Endurance Performance Centre at St Mary's University College which has helped athletes including Andy Baddeley, Mo Farah and Stephanie Twell to become top performers on the world stage.

In the past the Classic has been visited by athletics legends such as Steve Cram, Kelly Holmes, Ian Stewart and Dave Bedford.

ALUMNI News

Alumni Associations and Clubs

The Liverpool Simmarian Club 1904-2009



Members attending The College Feast Day lunch on Monday 8th December 2008
Back Row: Steve McKenna (treasurer) 58/60, Gilly Fyles 45/47, Ricky Richmond (guest) 55/58, Frank Ellis 52/54, Peter Duff 59/61, Tony Halpen 65/69, Mike Chapman 61/64, Des Hardman 61/64, Tony Brookman 62/65, Jim Sinnott 56/58, Terry Doyle 56/58, Tony Garrigan 60/63, Lawrence Growney 59/62, Vin MacDermott (guest) 52/54, Ralph Hope 45/47, Bill Swainson 53/55.
Front Row: John Metcalf 53/55, Jim Hynes 53/55, Geoff Farrell (secretary) 54/57, Fr Alex Fleming (chaplain) 44/46, Gerry Wright (president) 52/54, Bill Cullen 42/44, Fr Godric Timney OSB 70/71, Tony Larkin 46/48

For the second year in succession The Club's Anniversary Mass was held in The Cathedral of Christ the King. The celebrants, Fr Alex Fleming (44/46), Club Chaplain and Fr Joe Cunningham (48/50), remembered in particular three members who died in 2007/8 namely, Gerry Breen (41/43), Austin Tipping (52/54) and our past president, John Malone (54/56). Gerry was represented by his daughter Nicolette, Austin by his wife Margaret and daughter Jane, and John by his wife Joyce. Whilst at College Austin Tipping was an outstanding athlete winning, in two successive years at Motspur Park, the 100 yards, the 220 yards, the 440 yards and was the anchor man in the two successful relay squads. His daughter Jane and son-in-law Steve Meredith are both Simmarians (86/89).

They met for the first time at College marrying shortly after gaining their degrees.

The Anniversary Mass was followed by lunch in The Gibberd Room of The Cathedral with members and their wives enjoying both a fine meal and an address given by our president Gerry Wright (52/54).

The 8th December University College Feast Day was recognised with due solemnity with Mass at St Joseph's Blundellsands concelebrated by Fr Alex Fleming (44/46) and Fr Godric Timney OSB (70/71). Lunch, which followed at The West Lancashire Golf Club, was attended by 24 Simmarians photographed here, before partaking of a Christmas meal. Two of our guests were Ricky Richmond (55/58) representing the Manchester Simmarians and

Vin MacDermott (52/54) by kind courtesy of the Pontefract Simmarians. Both have given welcome support to the activities of the Liverpool Simmarian Club.

Recently, members voted for a change of venue for the anniversary mass from its long-standing link with The Metropolitan Cathedral. Now, both of our major celebrations will be jointly housed by St Joseph's Blundellsands and The West Lancashire Club. This change allows for a Saturday date for the anniversary mass and the possibility of attendance by members who remain actively employed.

Well attended meetings continue on the last Thursday of each month at the West Lancashire Golf Club. New members are welcome.

Geoff Farrell, Secretary

Donations

Thank you to everyone who contributed to last year's magazine appeal. Listed opposite are the donors who gave us permission to acknowledge their donation. We would also like to thank all of the donors who wished to remain anonymous. If you would like to contribute to their year's appeal, please complete the relevant section of the enclosed Alumni Reply Form.

Thank you for your much needed support

Breen, Michael	Hopley, Leo
Collins, Peter	Howard-Grubb, Antony
Cuthbert, John	McCormick, Gerard
Davies, Vincent	Morgan, Pat
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Chaplaincy

Reaching Out to Others



The Chaplaincy team is always inspired by a number of students who give freely of their time to take part in the various Chaplaincy groups and activities. We are committed to building up our own community and, with the help of students, we continue to fundraise so that we may help local, national and international charities.

On 30 September, Bishop George Stack came along to celebrate the Academic Mass. It was also a new beginning for the University College charity, which has been renamed Strawberry Hill Overseas Community Concern (SHOCC). SHOCC has been running successfully for over thirty years but this year has managed to attain full charity status and a new Board of Trustees. There has been a greater involvement of existing staff from all areas of the University College and a sharing of ideas regarding fundraising and raising the profile within the University College community.

The work of SHOCC has been closely linked with the Chaplaincy over many years and has so far raised £250,000 for global and local charities, working with over 150 projects in 35 countries.

During the Season of Lent we have organised a Lenten Appeal and the money will be donated to Katin Aran Children's Centre in the Philippines where Clare Kelly, a former student, is working with the Assumption Lay Volunteer programme. Claire graduated from St Mary's University College last summer and works in a town called Roxas at the Children's Centre which provides health and education for disadvantaged children. In her recent email she said, "I am settled now and I would like to thank the Chaplaincy for all their support in helping me organise this special year. The happiness and warmth of the people and children keep me going! Every day I am learning something new – to live simply, and what really matters to me."

So far we have raised £1,500. You can read more about Clare's work in the SHOCC report.

Gary McDermott, a second year student, completed the Connemara Marathon and has raised over £1,250 for our Lenten Charity and we await further money which has been pledged to us. During Lent we have also raised £500 for the Mustard Seed community in Zimbabwe and £200 for CAFOD.



Our two nights of Carol Singing in the West End of London and our fundraising evening in the Student Union raised £6,500. This total was increased with our Advent Special Collections and we gave away £7,500 to representatives from various charities at the end of the Christmas Carol Concert. The charities which benefited from our fundraising were: SHOCC, Shooting Stars Children's Hospice, Roy Kinnear Charitable Foundation, Catholic Children's Society and the London Taxi Drivers' Fund.

At this year's Honorary Fellowship evening, three students who work closely with the Chaplaincy talked to the assembled guests about the work that they do in terms of serving the community and beyond. Elaine Cahill said, "By being part of the outreach programmes with the Chaplaincy I have become more involved in the community of St Mary's and I can honestly say I can see a real difference being made in the lives of other people."

Gary said, "the Chaplaincy helped me to settle into life on campus", and "the community feel of St Mary's has appealed to me from the first day I walked through the gates. Every day provides an opportunity to give something back to the



community which has accepted me as one of its own."

Their testimonies are very encouraging and they both work hard at involving other students in serving the needs of others.

Both Elaine and Gary serve the community as Readers and Eucharistic ministers as well as taking part in outreach programmes.

The Annual Lenten Retreat took place in Cumberland Lodge from 27th February to 1st March 2009 and the theme was 'vocation and You'.

The challenge put before us was to live up to the words of St Catherine of Sienna, "If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze".

The Retreat concluded with a Service in the Royal Chapel in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip and the students were delighted to have the opportunity to speak to the Queen after the Service.

The Chaplaincy team is committed to providing a high level of pastoral care and encouraging our students to grow in their own faith whilst respecting and valuing other religious traditions. We will continue to encourage students to engage with the building up of our own community and the local community, our hope is that the outreach programmes will continue to flourish thus ensuring a continued involvement of staff and students in making a lasting contribution to the growth of community life on the University College campus and beyond.

For further information on Chaplaincy groups and activities please take time to look at the website www.smuc.ac.uk/chaplaincy

Rest In Peace

News of the death of the following Simmarians has been received. Please remember in your prayers these Simmarians, their families and their friends.

James Barrett 1940-42

Darren Bray *Current*

Peter Cassidy 1957-60

Jack Connor 1940's

Claire Cordon 2007-2008

Mike Coyle 1951-61

Anthony Davies 1944-46

Barbara Doyle 2000-01

Fr Peter Flanagan

William Foley OBE 1928-31

Michael Hill 1951-53

Melanie Innocent 1994-97

Cassandra Levesconte 2002-03

Canon Stanley Luff 1951-53

Ruth Martin 1986-89

Robert Marr 1948-50

Anthony Mitchell 1954-56

John McCarthy 1952-54

Edward McIntosh 1936-38

Desmond McMahon 1940-42

John McNamee 1940-42

Michael Minuti 1962-63

Terry O'Neill 1953-55

Peter Oughtibridge 1946-48

Denis Potts 1947-49

Austin Tipping 1952-54

Mike Titcomb 1951-53

Paul Wallace 1968-71

Elizabeth White 1968-71

Staff

Sheila Dampney, *Education*

Mike Holliday, *PE*

Fr Eugene Sweeney, *Bursar*

Gordon Vosper, *Assistant Principal*

Dr Michael Partridge, *Theology*

Time for a Reunion?

If 'Band of Gold' by Freda Payne was number one when you first walked through the gates of St Mary's then you must belong to the class of 1970. You will remember jam-packed Friday nights in the College bar, Pink Floyd playing in the theatre, using a very early microwave to heat up pies and pasties from a machine next to the bar and having meal books for the refectory. Ever wondered what happened to all those crazy people who shared those wonderful three years? David Lawrenson and Tony Jones did when they recently bumped into each other on Kings Cross station. They thought that maybe it's time for a reunion. Next year will be the 40th anniversary of dragging suitcases from the station all the way up Strawberry Hill Road in baking heat to the College gates.

So if you were one of those poor souls and are interested in finding out what happened to your old student friends, look out for details of a reunion.

Contact David Lawrenson at

davidlawrenson@blueyonder.co.uk

or Tony Jones at tony.jones@uk.fcm.travel

Physical Education Teaching Diploma Course 1960-63

September 2010 will mark the 50th anniversary of the first 3 year Dip. Phys. Ed. program at St Mary's.

If any members of this group are interested in an informal get-together to celebrate this milestone (details to arranged later, depending on feedback) please contact Dave (Dai) Thomas, originally from Penarth, at portiaact2@sympatico.ca or telephone 001 519 633 9751 (Canada).

Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern (SHOCC) Charity No: 1120787



Re-reading my report in the last edition of the Simmarian, I note that I brought you up to date with the changes that took place within SHOCC during 2007-8. Over the past year the charity has continued to develop not least within the University College. We were delighted when Bishop George Stack, our Chair of Governors, agreed to make the inaugural Mass of the new academic year our official launch. This was the highlight of a week of publicity involving displays and events.

The Trustees and the supporters group have met at regular intervals during the year and we now have four committees that report to the Trustees. These advise us on financial matters, project funding, fund-raising and publicity. There is now a clear path to decision making with potential projects making use of a simple form that enables the Project Funding Committee to reach well considered decisions regarding the allocation of our funds. Two of our Trustees, Valerie Cunningham and Elizabeth Byrne-Hill, are members of our Fundraising committee. Valerie, formerly PA to Fr Cronin and Elizabeth formerly of the Drama Department, are looking for ways of developing financial support for our charities. If any readers have ideas for fund raising, please contact Kevin Cook at St Mary's at our usual address or email cookk@smuc.ac.uk.

Alternatively, if you have a project that you would like considered for funding please see the form on our website at: www.smuc.ac.uk/community/shocc/funding.htm

We continue to support projects such as Bro Joachim Naas' secondary school at Tumu in northern Ghana which receives regular monthly donations from a Simmarian via the Charities Aid Foundation. This is a simple yet, for us, effective form of giving as the donations are paid via CAF directly into our bank account. Each year we are able to send several hundred pounds to Brother Joachim.

We are hoping to extend this form of giving through a staff Give as you Earn scheme during the coming year.

Over the past year we have further strengthened our links with the Chaplaincy team of Fr Gerry, David and Kerry. Their help has been invaluable not least in terms of identifying projects for us but also by providing students with advice about fund raising and working with local and global communities. David took the lead in designing our new SHOCC banner and this had its first outing at a recent fund-raising event at the Bentalls Centre in Kingston. David has also designed shirts for us to use at events such as this. Thus we are becoming better known locally for our charitable work.

This leads me on to telling you about some of the recent major fundraising events involving SHOCC. In the summer of 2009, Mark Glaister, John Goodwin, Corinne Abraham and Tom Bennett, otherwise known as Team Human Science, will take part in RAAM, the Race across America. This 3000 mile race from Oceanside California to Annapolis, Maryland is one of the most demanding endurance events in the world. The Team is busy training for the event and one weekend in March they took their cycles and equipment to the Bentalls Centre to publicise the challenge and to raise funds.

[Continued overleaf >](#)

SHOCC Continued ...

They managed to raise the fantastic sum of £950 from generous shoppers and they are on their way to their target of £20,000. Along with Leukaemia Research and Special Olympics Richmond, SHOCC is one of the charities that will benefit. You can find out more about their challenge including a map of the route and regular updates on their website: <http://teamhumanscienceraam2009.synthasite.com>. It includes a short You Tube video of them training in the labs at St Mary's.

In an attempt to do my fundraising bit, I decided to select a SHOCC project for the year. My days of cycling across America are long gone and I'm not sure I could still get to the top of Mt Kilimanjaro. However, in the summer of 2008 I was able to visit the Assumption Sisters in Moshi, Tanzania and accompanied them and their architect to the site of the proposed new girls' secondary school outside the town. I had brought with me a cheque for £5000 from SHOCC and presented this to the Sisters at the site.

In the last edition of The Simmarian I mentioned the start of construction work on the school thanks to a generous donation from the Sir Harold Hood Foundation and from SHOCC supporters. By the time of my visit the foundations had been completed and work on two classrooms started. The challenge was to complete these classrooms and get them roofed in time for a September 2009 opening. To this end I have opened a JustGiving site with a target of £10,000. As I write this article, I note that donations are nudging the £1000 mark. I will be visiting the school again in July 2009 and hope to be able to report on work moving forward on the classrooms. Donating to the SHOCC project couldn't be simpler and if you are a UK tax player, the government will add a further 28% to your donation. You can donate by logging onto the JustGiving site at: <http://www.justgiving.com/kevincook1>

SHOCC does not exist simply to raise funds for local and global charities. We also act as a source of information for students wishing to contribute personally to projects in the 'not for profit' sector. In the past we have provided advice, encouragement and funding to enable students to work in Kenya and Zambia.



This year we were delighted when Claire Kiely was selected onto the Assumption Lay Volunteers Programme. Claire has been working in the Philippines since her graduation last summer and regularly sends us news.

This summer, Claire comes to the end of what has been a memorable experience for her. To celebrate her success, with Fr Gerry's agreement, we chose her project at Katin Aran for our Lenten collection. To date we have received over £1500 in donations and still have to receive money from the sponsorship of a student who ran in the Galway marathon. Keep an eye on our web site for details of the ways Claire makes use of this money.

It's been a great year for SHOCC. We have continued to support the work of Dee Smith (1972-1975) in Guatemala and, despite deteriorating political conditions in that country, she continues to do marvellous work with the Proyecto Vida HIV/AIDS project. Do remember her in your prayers. She regularly sends us news and you can find out more on our website.

With your support 2009-10 will be an even better year for us and we will continue, as our strapline suggests, 'helping others to help themselves'.
Kevin L Cook and the Trustees

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We look forward to hearing from you.

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For further information contact [Bob Vertes](mailto:Bob.Vertes@smuc.ac.uk)

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2nd December 2009

10th March 2010

23rd June 2010

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3rd November 2009

1st December 2009

9th February 2010

9th March 2010

4th May 2010

24th June 2010

Where Are They Now?

Don't forget to return your Alumni Reply Card if you would like to feature in 'Where Are They Now'.

1940's

Philip Powley (1948-50) lives in Oxford where he enjoys gardening and local history. He was awarded the long service medal from the Scout Association and a Certificate of Recognition from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Thomas Rynn (1949-51) is a retired head teacher and former magistrate. He lives in Wigan.

1950's

Peter Collins (1950-52) retired after teaching in London. He lives in Clevedon.

Gerard McCormick (1951-53) lives in Flint where he is 'happily retired' after teaching in the local area.

Pat Morgan (1950-53) taught in Zimbabwe and South Africa. He would like to hear from old friends from College.

Eric Stringer (1950-52) is a former head teacher and was Commodore of a sailing club for some years. He lives near York.

1960's

Michael Breen (1961-64) retired as a professor of language education. He has been studying for a degree in Fine Art and lives in Perthshire.

Michael Collins (1969-73) works for a church charity after retiring from teaching. He lives in Sunderland and is married with one son.

John Deevy (1969-73) retires this year after 22 years in headship. He would like to resume contact with old friends via the Alumni Postbox.

Gerard Egleton (1967-70) is married with three children and lives in Ormskirk. He would be pleased to hear from old friends from College.

Kathleen Kirkbright nee Weekes (1966-70) is a retired head teacher and is married to Michael (1966-70), a retired FE lecturer.

Paul McLaughlin (1969-72) lives in Doncaster and is the head teacher at a local Catholic primary school.

Dave (Dai) Thomas (1960-63) lived and taught in Alberta for 40 years. He moved to Ontario after retirement and would welcome hearing from classmates at portiaact2@sympatico.ca

1970's

Kathleen Austrin (1970-73) is a special needs advisor based in Abu Dhabi where she implements inclusion in education, the community and the workplace.

Ronald Barnett (1970-71) is a Professor of Higher Education at a London HEI. He lives in London.

Stephen Dorman (1970-73) is married with six children. He is a retired Royal Naval Officer and runs an agency for retiring teachers.

Nigel Evans (1970-73) has taken early retirement from his position as head teacher of a Catholic primary school. He lives in York.

Antony Howard-Grubb (1975-79) taught in the UK before moving to Milan where he is a language consultant for multinational companies. He is married with two children.

Anne Hunter (1973-76) taught at a London primary school before moving to Edinburgh where she runs the family business.

Patrick Regan (1973-77) was a head teacher in London. He works for the Board of Education and is also a link tutor at St Mary's. He lives in Tenterden.

Carmel Strong (1974-78) is teacher of Humanities at a school in Lincolnshire. She lives in Sleaford.

Sandra Wheeler (1971-74) took early retirement from teaching in the UK and taught in New Jersey. She is now back in the UK and would like to hear from old friends via the Alumni Postbox.

1980's

Ian Andrews (1989-92) is a lecturer teaching Access to Higher Education at a HEI. He lives in Reading and has one son.

Matthew Baker (1987-90) is the Head of English at a study centre in Nepal. He enjoys trekking, rafting and paragliding in his spare time.

Lindsay Goward (1983-86) worked for a number of local authorities and charities and is now a trainer in the voluntary sector. She lives in Kings Lynn and has one son.

Michael Evans (1989-92) lives in Australia where he is a project manager.

Jonathan Gurney (1989-90) is a FE lecturer at a West London college. He lives in Teddington.

Mary Jones (1985-89) is Head of French at a prep school near Windsor. She sings with a chapel choir and in a choral society and lives in Ashford.

Clare Napper nee O'Shea (1980-85) is a learning support teacher based in Dubai. She has 3 children.

Linda Odunsi nee Bracken (1984-88) lives in Bookham and is Head of Maths and Director of Studies at a school in Surrey.

Christopher Short (1989-93) is Head of Secondary at a curriculum school in Dubai.

Michael South (1981-84) is a Senior Staff Nurse. He lives in Exeter.

1990's

Paul Avery (1994-98) is an assistant head teacher at a secondary school in Surrey. He lives in Colliers Wood and married in 2007.

Jo Brooks (1994-98) is Head of Advisory Service in Wandsworth. She has travelled extensively. She would like to contact old friends via the Alumni Postbox.

Vikki Chubb (1992-95) has been a primary school teacher for eleven years. She is involved in Christian youth ministries and is a keen horse rider. She lives in West Sussex.

Jez Daniel (1995-98) taught in secondary education before becoming the study centre manager at a football club. He would like to hear from anyone who knows him.

Andrew Faas (1998-00) studied for an MPhil at Cambridge and is a project officer at a HEI. He lives in Reading and would love to catch up with old friends.

Andrea Hanbury nee Rose (1995-99) is a primary school teacher in London and lives in Edgware. She would love to hear from anyone from her year group.

Gemma Harris nee Whitehead (1998-02) married Simmarian Matt Harris in 2008. She is a teacher at a

primary school in London and lives in Twickenham.

Paul Holbrough (1990-94) owns four sport injury clinics in London. He is married with two children and lives in Teddington.

Lisa Kippen (1994-97) works as a physiotherapist in Bury St Edmunds. She lives in Suffolk.

Lisa Mathie (1992-96) is an assistant head teacher at a school in Leicestershire. She is married with two daughters.

George Mocharko (1998) is the communications manager for an educational association and is a writer for Examiner.com/dc. He would like to hear from anyone who remembers him.

Rhianwen Moore (1991-95) is a PE and Dance teacher at a school in Caerphilly.

Benjamin Perkins (1993-97) works as a class teacher in an autism unit in a school in Co Kerry. He has a MA in Celtic Christianity.

John Steven (1991-92) is a lecturer at a university in Sierra Leone. He has been completing a PhD in Linguistics.

Jamilla S'Liti Kurt (1994-99) is a SEN teacher based in Switzerland. She is married with two children and would like to hear from anyone who remembers her.

Toby Wilson (1993-96) is a neighbourhood youth worker based in West Sussex.

Melanie Wright (1997-00) is the Marketing and Press Manager for a dance festival. She lives in Dublin.

2000's

Michlyn Caffrey (2002-05) is an English teacher at a high school in Surrey. She lives in South Croydon.

Amanda Hind (2003-04) teaches at a primary school in Essex where she is Literacy Coordinator. She lives in Hornchurch.

Alberto Mabui (2002-03) lives in Maputo, Mozambique and is a teacher at an institute of languages.

Anupam Nischal (2003-04) is a teacher of mathematics at a school in Sunningdale. He lives in Warfield, Berkshire.

Marie-Helene Smith nee de Almedia (2000-01) teaches French and Spanish at a school in Waterlooville. She lives in Fareham.

Victoria Thompson (2003-07) lives in Hampton. She is a PE teacher at a Catholic secondary school.

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