

Campus catering
comes under
the spotlight

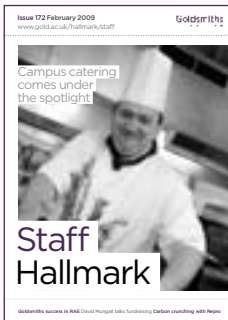


Staff Hallmark

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Cover:
Gary Howells
Head Chef
(page 5).
Photograph by
Geoff Wilson.

The newsletter for Goldsmiths staff. Staff Hallmark is published six times a year

Contact us

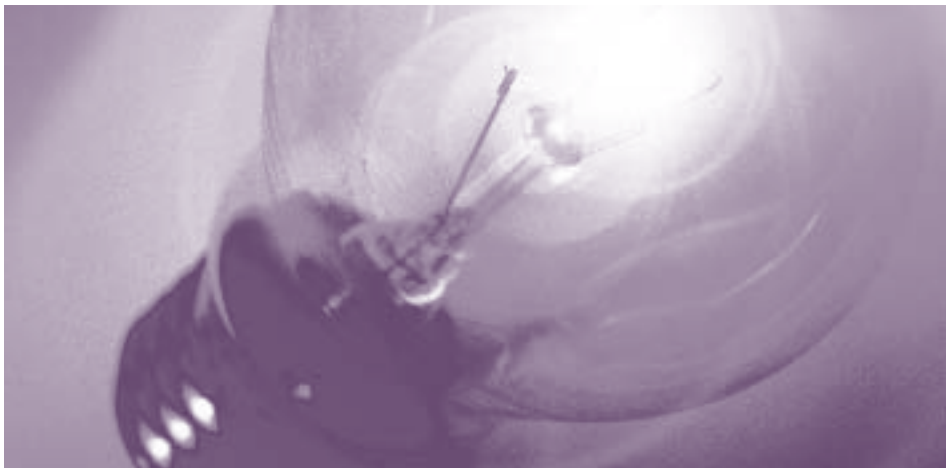
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We welcome your suggestions for articles. Copy deadline for the next edition is **8 April**. Inclusion is at the discretion of the Editor, who reserves the right to edit all material as appropriate.

Editor Rebecca Watts
Sub-Editor Adam Peers

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News



Wanted: bright ideas

Got a bright idea? The College wants to know about it. You can use a new online form to tell Goldsmiths' Senior Management Team your ideas that could change things for the better. Ideas on any subject of College life are welcomed, although to start with Hugh Jones, Registrar and Secretary, is particularly after ideas on how we can all help to make the College a more environmentally friendly place to work and study.

The scheme was launched in January and already more than 20 ideas have been submitted by staff and students.

The form is linked from the front page of Staff Gold (look for the 'bright ideas' box in the top right-hand corner). Hugh will do his best to respond to all completed forms within three weeks. A summary of ideas taken forward will be published online.

A new look for your magazine

Hallmark has a new look and we've used the feedback you gave us in January's readers' survey to shape this issue.

Over 90% of you rate Staff Hallmark as 'very good' or 'good', but we are not resting on our laurels. You told us you'd like to read more articles about your colleagues and peers, and you'll hopefully see this represented in this new-look issue.

The design of the publication was raised by many of you, with

some people saying they found the old layout hard to follow. You'll see we've introduced navigation prompts at the top of each page, added a contents list at the front of the magazine, and hopefully improved the way articles are presented.

You don't have to wait until the next survey to tell us what you think about the revamped pages, e-mail us at hallmark@gold.ac.uk.

Goldsmiths' success in RAE 2008

"Goldsmiths' rise to national and international prominence was closely related to its RAE successes in 1996 and 2001. This meant that our performance in RAE 2008 would be of great importance to the College. We needed to strengthen our position as one of the country's research-intensive university institutions and we needed to consolidate our position within the 1994 Group.

"I'm delighted to say that we achieved these goals. On the Times Higher league table we came 33rd of all the multi-faculty universities (an improvement on 42nd last time). The Independent table, which was based on different weightings, actually placed us 24th. If one focuses only on the top 4* grade, for research that is 'world-leading', Goldsmiths came 9th in the national league table, which is an outstanding performance.

"There were clearly differences across departments. Sociology demonstrated yet again that it is one of the country's very best departments, coming joint top with three other universities.

"Media and Communications was also confirmed as one of the top departments in its field. A number of departments that had done less well last time significantly improved their position – most notably Computing, Visual Cultures and Psychology. There were, inevitably, some disappointments, but overall the College strengthened its position and that is something of which we can all feel proud.

"I offer my congratulations and thanks to all staff who played an important role over what must have seemed an interminable period of preparation: to Simon McVeigh, who as Pro-Warden (Research and Enterprise) led on our strategy and on the submissions themselves; to support staff across the College, above all in the Research Office; to heads of academic departments and others who led on departmental RAE strategy; but, above all and dwarfing the contributions of all of these, to academic staff across the College whose research outputs, grants, international activity and much else were the basis of our success.



"The RAE is partly about our reputation, but it is also about our income. We won't hear until early March whether our improved RAE performance will be translated into increased research funding from HEFCE. While some of our departments have done better than in 2001, others have not. We don't know how the funding consequences will balance out. And the government's determination to protect research in science, technology and engineering has meant some relative transfer from arts, humanities and social sciences, which will not help Goldsmiths.

"These financial uncertainties will be resolved very soon. While waiting for that to happen, we should all celebrate a very good RAE for Goldsmiths. Something which, I'm pleased to say, colleagues across the sector have noticed and on which they're congratulating us."

**Professor Geoffrey Crossick,
Warden**

Term dates and College closure dates

Spring term runs until Friday 27 March.

The College will be closed for Easter from Thursday 9 April and will reopen on Wednesday 15 April.


Summer term begins on Monday 27 April.

Week with the Warden

A new weekly update direct from the Warden, Professor Geoffrey Crossick, is available for everyone to read on Staff Gold. In each update (published on Mondays), the Warden will share with colleagues some of the key activities in which he's been involved, and also some of the developments that might affect Goldsmiths, as well as some facts you may not have known before.

The 'Week with the Warden' updates are available from Staff Gold (the link is in the top-right hand corner of the page), www.gold.ac.uk/staff.

Features



Enjoying the sound of music

A workshop to help blind people write and compose music was recently held at Goldsmiths. The workshop was organised by the RNIB, and made use of the computing facilities in the Rutherford Building, and the technical skills of the institution's staff.

The workshop featured a presentation from Bill McCann, a blind musician and programmer who has devised a software programme which can translate print scores into Braille music, and Braille scores into print.

The RNIB currently supports two Goldsmiths students. One of the students, Toby Orr, attended the conference. Toby is studying a foundation year of a degree in Integrated Music and had already

used a number of Bill's programmes to read, compose and convert music into Braille. He thinks it was helpful to have Bill at the conference to present the software as he had been struggling to get to grips with one part. After Bill's presentation, he says he feels a lot more confident.

James Risdon from the RNIB Music Advisory Service adds: "It was great to be in a mainstream university setting for the course, and seeing Toby get so much from the day made it even more relevant."

BBC Radio 4's In Touch team reported on the day. You can listen to the programme via 'Listen Again' at www.bbc.co.uk/intouch.

Reprographics positive about being carbon negative

The Reprographics team are working hard to not only be carbon neutral, but to go one step further and become carbon negative.

A new mono printer with unique sustainability credentials has been installed in the Reprographics'

print room. By using paper, toner and energy more economically and efficiently, the printer operates at a much lower temperature than older models, reducing energy consumption by an estimated 50%. What's more, the emissions it produces are virtually ozone-emission free. And, as energy consumption, wastage and disposal costs have been reduced, it saves the College money too.

These efforts meant Reprographics can join the 'Carbon Positive+' programme, an accredited offsetting scheme which compensates the environment by investing in UK and European forestation, methane capture, and renewable energy development schemes. The programme offsets the College's energy usage by 200%, at no cost to Goldsmiths.

Features

Taste good? Gary Howells and Lucia Boldrini sample campus catering



Communication is on the menu

Talking, talking and more talking was on the menu as people from all walks of College life got together to discuss the highs and lows of campus catering.

The first meeting of the catering forum took place in November and Lucia Boldrini, Senior Lecturer in English and Comparative Literature, was one of 14 people who volunteered to join the forum. She was happy to share her thoughts on catering, as she explains: "I have tended to bring my own lunches into work, partly because – based on past experience – I was prejudiced about the quality of the food.

"I must say that since I met Gary, the Head Chef, at the catering forum and saw how much passion and pride he invests in the food he cooks, I have revised my bias!"

She goes on to say that her main concern is around food labelling, or the lack of it: "I have food intolerances and as there is no labelling of ingredients, I often do not know whether the food is safe for me to eat or not, so I am still not eating in the refectory as often as I might otherwise. I'm also concerned about such ethical issues as use of local produce, of free-range eggs and chicken, non-GM foods, so I do think better information and labelling is needed."

It's a point recognised by Mary Bright, Head of Residences, Catering and Conference Services (RCCS): "A major theme which emerged from the meeting is communication – in both directions. We will definitely take into account the forum's comments and implement as many as we

can. Some can be made very soon – others will take a little bit longer before they are visible."

Already introduced are 'meet the manager' events which enable people to speak directly with Stephen Eagle, General Catering Manager, and Gary, plus a new way to send Mary and Stephen quick comments on the catering. Simply e-mail eat@gold.ac.uk, feedback from anyone on any aspect of the College's catering service is welcome.

Changes on the horizon include a 'mystery shopper' scheme (encouraged by a £5 voucher redeemable against your next purchase at a food outlet on campus), and making better use of the RCCS webpages and food labelling to highlight dishes which are vegetarian or wheat free, and where organic or locally sourced ingredients are used.



Is charitable giving for us?

Two groups of alumni returned to Goldsmiths last term. One group had studied here in the 1950s and the other in the 1960s. The reunions attracted more than 150 people from as far afield as Portugal and Canada. Reunions of former students play a key part of the Development and Alumni Office's year ahead, and David Mungall, Director of the Department, toured

the campus with both groups. He says seeing today's campus through the eyes of the alumni brought home their passion and affection for Goldsmiths.

Alongside alumni reunions, fundraising is top of the agenda, in particular generating small, regular gifts. "This year, we'll be employing current students

to make contact with alumni and ask if they'd like to support Goldsmiths. Our initial effort will be focussed on getting alumni used to the idea of being asked to contribute and this will become a permanent annual activity."

Money raised will support three areas: the Library, student scholarships, and general projects

decided by a committee with staff and student representation.

Education is a charitable purpose

David has worked in higher education for 11 years but has spent the last three and a half fundraising for Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres. Cancer care is part of what might be described as the 'traditional' charity sector but David points out that higher education is also a valid charitable purpose and the College has charitable status.

David thinks it is timely for the College to make its case heard and give potential donors the opportunity to support the institution. He stresses fundraising is not about replacing state funding, adding: "The purpose of our fundraising and the reason for giving are the same; to provide a better university than the state could otherwise afford.

"Goldsmiths lags behind many educational institutions in fundraising. Less than 1% of our alumni are giving at present, which is surprising but understandable, as we've simply never asked in a consistent way, whereas Bristol and St Andrews are reaching 5%. The London School of Economics has just raised £100 million from a 10-year fundraising campaign, and the University of Strathclyde, where I graduated, started its telephone campaign more than 10 years ago."

Action now

A HEFCE-funded initiative was launched last summer to encourage voluntary giving to higher education. In what is called the 'Matched Giving Scheme' £200 million has been set aside to be shared amongst universities in England. For every £1 raised in voluntary income over the next three years, up to a total of £2.7 million, HEFCE will award Goldsmiths 50 pence. Any

voluntary income that comes to Goldsmiths – not only that given through the Development and Alumni Office – is valid.

"The Scheme is a very powerful tool for us. Put it this way, if 40 of us gave £1 a month for 12 months, we would have £480. Add Gift Aid and Matched Giving, and we'd have £855. That's enough for the Library to go out and buy 43 new books at the current average of £19.50 each, or enough for a significant student bursary."

A new direction

David has been at Goldsmiths since September. Before his arrival, the Office had been overseen by an Interim Director, Paul Dennett, and by Alumni Officer, Liz Ivory – a former student. Five months on and David has a clear vision for the future: "Given the experience students have here, the affection of our alumni, the importance of our research and the contribution it makes to the wider world, we ought to have a Development and Alumni Office which is the envy of other institutions, one that generates £500,000 for the College each year. Although admittedly it will take time to build up to this level, especially given the economic climate."

To help him achieve his vision, David has appointed three new people to join his team: an Annual Fund Manager, a Research and Database Officer, and an Events and Admin Officer. As well as supporting direct mail and telephone campaigns, the team will approach charitable foundations for fundraising. It's a new move but an important one: "Fundraising is about two things: giving and asking. Both need getting used to, but people in the most successful fundraising universities do lots of both.

"This approach is not only about alumni giving, because a broad range of people may wish to support Goldsmiths. And it's not just people outside the College, any member of staff can donate to Goldsmiths if they wish. To date our largest donation ever was from a member of staff, George Wood, former Registrar."

So what does he think will attract donations to Goldsmiths? "Well, supporting the advancement of our educational and cultural mission, but also the fact Goldsmiths has personality. I like the genuine campus feel, which is unlike so many other London universities, and I like the unpretentiousness of Goldsmiths, which has something to do with being in New Cross, I imagine. I sometimes worry this important characteristic could be leading us to settle for something less than we deserve, whether it be in fundraising or the quality of the campus, and I think Goldsmiths is far too valuable for that to happen."

And on a personal note

The last book I read was:
Enduring Love, Ian McEwan.

The one thing I do every day without fail is: 20 press-ups.

My idea of perfect happiness is: having my family, friends and partner around me, as happened recently at my 40th birthday.

My first job and my memories of it are: production assistant, Radio Clyde Ltd. People used typewriters back then and my boss smoked cigars in the office.



Head of Department puts theory into practice

Dr Richard Grayson (left), Head of Politics, has been elected to Vice-Chair in the Liberal Democrats' Federal Policy Committee. He is one of two non-MPs who sit on the nine-person Committee. The Committee is responsible for drawing up the draft proposals of the party's general election manifesto.

Richard came top of the list of five candidates for non-MPs, and was elected on first preference votes. It is particularly impressive as Richard had been on the Committee for only 10 days. Commenting on his election, Richard says: "I knew that I would be involved in the party's manifesto process when I was elected to the Policy Committee, but it will be good to have an even more hands-on role as Vice-Chair. It is very unusual for someone new on the Committee to be given such a role, and it may never have happened before."

Richard has published as an academic on the politics of the Liberal Democrats and liberal ideology. More details are on his webpage, www.gold.ac.uk/politics/staff/grayson.

Childcare vouchers

Goldsmiths is considering a salary sacrifice childcare vouchers scheme for staff, with the aim of widening the support and choice available to staff parents and carers. Focus groups took place in December to identify some of the issues, and feedback from the focus groups helped shape a tender document for prospective providers of childcare voucher schemes.

Bids to tender should be received by the end of February, with short listing and selection process taking place in April. After this, the Senior Management Team would have final approval before the scheme is launched. If launched, the scheme may be trialled for a year initially, as the College reviews any costs and take-up.

A list of questions and answers about the proposal is published under the 'policies' section on the HR website. If you have feedback or queries please e-mail childcare-vouchers@gold.ac.uk.

Degree awarding powers assessment

The College's degree awarding powers visit came to an end in December. The team of assessors from the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) are now writing their report and Goldsmiths should receive a draft for factual correction in February.

The report will be considered by the QAA's Advisory Committee on Degree Awarding Powers at the end of March, which will make recommendations to the QAA Board. After the report has been seen by the Board, and subject to its approval, it will be forwarded to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and then finally to the Privy Council for a decision.

All this means that it is likely to be well into 2009 before Goldsmiths receives notification of the outcome.

Starters and leavers

Thank you to Human Resources
for supplying this information.

Welcome to Goldsmiths

Dr Monica Bonaccorso-Rothe,
Research Associate,
Anthropology, 01/01/2009

Ms Antoinette Carey,
Research Officer, Development
and Alumni Office, 19/01/2009

Dr Nigel Guenole, Lecturer,
Psychology, 01/12/2008

Ms Emily Harrup, Secretary,
Research Office, 08/12/2008

Miss Samura Hussain,
Disability Adviser, Student
Support Services, 11/12/2008

Dr Victoria Korzeniowska,
Head of Quality and Standards,
Registry, 10/12/2008

Ms Gretchen O'Neill, Deputy Head
of Planning (Maternity Cover),
Planning Office, 24/11/2008

Mr Benjamin Pester,
Research Assistant,
Drama, 12/01/2009

Ms Ana Souza, Research Assistant,
Educational Studies, 01/01/2009

Miss Abigail Thatcher,
Events and Administration
Officer, Development and
Alumni Office, 15/12/2008

Dr Pasi Valiaho, Lecturer, Media
and Communications, 01/01/2009

Mr Richard Von Abendorff, Treasury
Assistant, Finance, 05/01/2009

Ms Clare Watkins, Departmental
Publicity Officer, Communications
and Publicity, 08/01/2009

Miss Aleksandra (Ola) Zochowska,
Staff Development Assistant,
Human Resources, 03/12/2008

Wishing you well for the future

Ms Julie Barton, Administrator,
Computing, 07/11/2008

Ms Hilary Campbell,
Specification Preparation
Adviser, Registry, 30/11/2008

Ms Karen Catling, Departmental
Manager, Sociology, 13/01/2009

Ms Louise Dokkari, Role Analyst,
Human Resources, 31/12/2008

Mr Barry Douglas, Director of
Finance, Finance, 30/11/2008

Mr Steven Farmer, Departmental
Publicity Officer, Communications
and Publicity, 23/12/2008

Ms Begona Garcia,
Technical Adviser, Media and
Communications, 05/01/2009

Mr Jonathan Green, Data Inputting
Assistant, Registry, 31/01/2009

Mr Daniel Jones, Web Programmer,
IT Services, 02/12/2008

Mr John King, Careers Information
Assistant, Careers, 14/01/2009

Mr John Lely, Technician,
Music, 31/12/2008

Ms Johanna May, Deputy Head
of Human Resources, Human
Resources, 31/12/2008

Ms Guinevere Narraway,
Research Administrator,
Media and Communications,
31/01/2009

Miss Ayse Ozyukselen,
Card Production Assistant,
Registry, 31/10/2008

Mr John Panas, Print Room
Manager, Art, 12/12/2008

Miss Miranda Pope,
Administrative Assistant,
Art, 13/12/2008

Ms Nalini Seeromben, Management
Accountant, Finance, 10/12/2008

Dr Sean Aylward Smith,
Research Assistant,
Psychology, 28/12/2008

Ms Susana Soares, Researcher,
Design, 30/11/2008

Mr Tony Steffert, Research
Fellow, Psychology, 31/12/2008

Mrs Mary Stirling, ASPIRE Project
Officer, Registry, 31/10/2008

Mr Trevor Thompson,
Research Fellow,
Psychology, 31/12/2008

Ms April Yasamee,
Subject Librarian, Library,
05/12/2008

Mr Erdinch Yigitce, Card Production
Assistant, Registry, 31/10/2008

Mr Nicholas Young,
Fees and Inputting Assistant,
Registry, 05/12/2008



Ola Zochowska joined the Human
Resources team in December.

Goldsmiths in the news

Goldsmiths performs well in RAE

The Research Assessment Exercise 2008 (RAE) results were covered widely in the press, with Times Higher Education analysing the figures at length and the majority of national broadsheets reporting on the results in one form or another. The Warden, Professor Geoffrey Crossick, said he was very encouraged to see the sustained improvement across a wide range of disciplines. Read more on page 3.

Three Goldsmiths experts called upon for Radio 4

Professor Les Back (Sociology) appeared on BBC Radio 4's Soul II Soul programme, hosted by DJ Trevor Nelson. The programme aimed to tell the story of the influential band Soul II Soul which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, and had its origins in the social unrest of 1980s Thatcherite Britain.

Meanwhile Simon McVeigh, Pro Warden (Academic Development), took part in a programme about unusual concert promoters in the 18th and 19th centuries. 'Paying the Piper: the Coal-Man and the Hosier', was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in November.

Last but not least, Joe Banks, a sound artist and AHRC funded researcher in the Department of Computing, was twice interviewed on BBC Radio 4's 'Broadcasting House' programme relating to his 'Disinformation' project. Audio of both interviews has been uploaded to YouTube: search for 'Disinformation' and 'BBC'.

Semiotics en vogue

Sean Hall, Leader in Contextual Studies in the Department of Design, was called upon by ITN for his expertise in semiotics. He appeared in a News at Ten segment analysing the recent series of photographs featuring Michelle Obama which will appear in the March 2009 edition of US 'Vogue'.

From credit crunch to Blue Peter

Psychology Lecturer Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic appeared on Channel 4 News discussing the psychological effects of the credit crunch, and was also featured on BBC's Blue Peter in a piece about psychometric assessment, in which he profiled and interviewed the presenters.

Centre-fold mutations

January's New Scientist included a centre-fold poster featuring the work of William Latham from the Department of Computing. The poster depicted computer-generated images from the Mutator Research Group, based at Goldsmiths.

Students provide vocal support at London Jazz Festival

The Goldsmiths Vocal Group performed with the Matthew Herbert Big Band at the Royal Festival Hall as part of the London Jazz Festival. The performance received rave reviews in The Times and papers across the South London Press Group.

Popular Music Studies student snapped up by BBC Radio 2

Singer-songwriter Lisbee Stainton, who is in her final year of Popular Music Studies, hit the press over Christmas when she was added to BBC Radio 2's playlist.

Lisbee was recommended to BBC Radio 6 by DJ Tom Robinson, who after listening to her Myspace page described her as "serious young talent."

She was then featured on his 'Introducing' show before being picked up by BBC Radio 2. She told the Southern Daily Echo: "I want to keep getting my music out there. It's at the baby stage at the moment, but so far it's going well."

Her first single 'Red', which was recorded at Abbey Road studios has been released, and her song 'Follow' has been chosen as the official anthem for the 2009 Peace One Day campaign.

Curating students shine at London Art Fair

The London papers which covered the London Art Fair 2008, all praised Photo50 - a display of photographs drawn from a range of UK and international galleries, organised and selected by students on the MFA Curating programme at Goldsmiths.



The Staff Hallmark survey results told us that you wanted to read more about work undertaken by colleagues and alumni. The new 'Goldsmiths people' section aims to do just that.

'The Aftermath of Feminism'

Angela McRobbie (left), Professor of Communications, hosted an event at the British Library to mark the publication of her new book 'The Aftermath of Feminism'. Organised by the British Sociological Association 'An Evening with Angela McRobbie' was attended by PhD students from across London and the South East. A regular contributor to BBC Radio 4, Angela also took part in a Women's Hour debate on the topic of contemporary feminism.

Photograph by Geoff Wilson

Goldsmiths panel judge 'Art in the Archive'

An all-Goldsmiths judging panel of Helen Carr, Janis Jefferies and Nirmal Puwar, recently judged the first 'Art in the Archive: Living with Make' bursary. The Women's Art Library, or 'Make' as it is also known, is based at Goldsmiths and houses image-rich documentation on the work of female artists. The bursary of £1,000 has been set up in conjunction with 'Feminist Review', to enable three months of research in the Women's Art Library starting in January 2009 and culminating in a premiere performance in the

East Room of the Tate Modern in June 2009. The bursary was awarded to Oriana Fox, an alumna from the MFA in Fine Art.

Alumnus joins the King's Singers

Timothy Wayne-Wright, a graduate of the Department of Music's BMus degree has gained membership of the world-famous 'King's Singers'. The King's Singers maintain the highest calibre of a cappella performance, and are one of the most sought-after vocal ensembles in the world. You can find out more at www.kingssingers.com

Blumberg on decision making

Herb Blumberg, Reader Emeritus in the Department of Psychology has recently contributed to a book entitled 'Small Group Research - Basic Issues'. Herb contributed two chapters for the book, including the introduction and a chapter on 'Group Decision Making'.

Added incentive for students to complete NSS

The National Student Survey opened at the beginning of February and this year there's an added incentive for students to complete the survey. Final-year students who complete the questionnaire online can claim a free non-alcoholic drink in Loafers.

The National Student Survey targets final-year students at universities throughout Britain. Results form a major resource for both institutions and prospective students. The survey runs until Friday 3 April.



Head of Department and Pro-Warden appointments

Goldsmiths welcomes new Heads of Department to three departments:

Art

Richard Noble

(1 January 2009 to 31 August 2011)

Psychology

Frank Bond

(1 September 2009 to 31 August 2012)

PACE

Andrea Gilroy

(1 September 2009 to 31 August 2012)

The following people are reappointed to their positions:

Richard Grayson

Head of Department, Politics

(1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010).

Simon McVeigh

Pro-Warden (Academic Development),

(1 September 2009 to 31 August 2013)

Christopher Jonas

Chair of Council

(1 September 2009 to 31 August 2012).

Geoffrey Wilson OBE

Goldsmiths has been informed of the death of Geoffrey Wilson OBE. Geoffrey had a close connection with the College and was at one time Chief Examiner for the then Teachers' Certificate. He was a leading figure in the 1960's in the advancement of the curriculum in craft and design, serving on a number of school council consultative committees, working with the BBC on several programmes on design education and establishing the first in-service centre for teachers of handicrafts. This attracted the attention of educators in many parts of the world. Later he became Chief Inspector for a Local Education Authority and, in 1993, was awarded an OBE for his services to education.