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Goldsmiths
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Staff Hallmark

www.gold.ac.uk/hallmark

The newsletter for staff of Goldsmiths, University of London.

Published in the Autumn and Spring Terms, once in the Summer Term, and once in the summer vacation.

Editor: Rebecca Watts
Sub-Editor: Adam Peers

We welcome ideas for articles and stories to **Staff Hallmark**. These are included subject to space, and at the discretion of the Editor, who also reserves the right to edit all material as appropriate. Any contributions should be sent by e-mail to Internal Communications, int-comms@gold.ac.uk. If you wish to submit images or photographs to accompany an article, these must be digital, and should be sent in either jpeg or tiff format.

Style guidelines for **Hallmark** can be found on the K drive at **K:\intcomms\Hallmark**

Internal Communications also publishes **Student Hallmark**. Both Hallmarks are on the web at www.gold.ac.uk/hallmark/

Copy deadline for the next edition of Staff Hallmark is:

7 JANUARY 2008

This issue's cover

Rachel Soper, Head of Planning

More on page 3

Your guide to 'gcinfo' messages

Becca Watts, Internal Communications Manager, talks you through all you need to know about gcinfo.

The 'gcinfo' system aims to provide an effective way of circulating corporate messages to staff via e-mail. The messages are routed through Internal Communications who act as a gatekeeper and who also provide a 'sense' check on the content before onward distribution occurs.

There are guidelines in place to ensure that the messages distributed through gcinfo are relevant to all College staff, and to minimise complaints about e-mail overload. For this reason, we do not distribute personal messages, chain letters or appeals, or messages aimed at specific audiences such as Heads of Department or Departmental Administrators.

Once the message has been checked, it is sent on to all departmental mailboxes, for onward transmission by those with responsibility for opening the mailbox. This means that the success of your message reaching people is reliant on the person in each department undertaking the distribution promptly. If you do not appear to be receiving gcinfo messages, please contact your departmental administrator in the first instance.

If you wish to contact a specific audience, please contact us for help.

How to send a message to gcinfo

Just type your message into your e-mail system, proofread it and then send it directly to gcinfo@gold.ac.uk.

As a hint, we suggest you keep it short and to the point, to ensure that people read it. Your message arrives into the Internal Communications mailbox with an additional alert going to two other members of staff. If we have a query, then we will contact you as soon as possible. If there is no query, then your message will be forwarded to all departments.

Publicising events

Internal Communications send out a weekly round-up of events for the following week, each Friday, by gcinfo. By sending one e-mail out in this way it helps to ensure that staff aren't bombarded with individual e-mails about events.

To have your event included in the weekly events listing, please ensure that it is added to the online calendar at <http://webadmin.gold.ac.uk/> before midday on Thursday. We can also list any urgent event updates or pre-booking requirements on Staff and Student Gold.

To submit an item for Staff Gold or for the information screen at the front of the Richard Hoggart Building, contact Adam Peers, Internal Communications Officer, a.peers@gold.ac.uk or ext 7976.

If you require external publicity for your event, please contact Tim Hirst, Press and PR Officer, t.hirst@gold.ac.uk or ext 7970.

“There are guidelines in place to ensure that messages distributed through gcinfo are relevant to all staff.”

Community engagement questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent questionnaire on community engagement. We received over 200 responses from staff and students. The

results make fascinating reading and we'll be reporting more in the next **Staff Hallmark**.



Introducing Rachel Soper

Rachel Soper, the new Head of Planning, joins Goldsmiths fresh from completing a MBA in Higher Education Management at the Institute of Education.

She says she took the “summer off” to complete the course, having previously worked at City University in a variety of roles in central and department administration.

Her role here will see her managing the annual planning process, which has just been launched: “I’ll be working with departments to produce plans demonstrating how each area contributes to the College’s overall strategic aims and objectives, and coordinating the submission of various annual returns we are required to make to our funding bodies.”

Undaunted by the task, Rachel’s also keen to build the profile of her team and says she’s looking forward to continuing to get out and meet colleagues. “A big plus of my role is that it will bring me into contact with so many different areas that stretch right across the institution, and it’s one that allows me to work

with colleagues both in academic and support departments.”

No stranger to Goldsmiths, her father used to be a Lecturer in the Department of Educational Studies - “I was quite reassured to see that the décor in the Richard Hoggart Building doesn’t seem to have changed in the 30 or so years since I last visited!” - Rachel says she’s enjoyed a very friendly welcome and relished the creative spark she’s noticed as she’s got her bearings: “The campus strikes me as a very lively place - it’s particularly nice to hear music being played as I wander around the corridors.”

When it came down to it, it was the atmosphere that swung Rachel’s decision to join Goldsmiths: “There is a really positive feel about the College and where it is going. There are so many exciting things happening, I wanted to be a part of it.”

Above: Rachel Soper, Head of Planning

“There is a really positive feel about the College and where it is going. There are so many exciting things happening, I wanted to be a part of it.”

The written word takes on the big screen

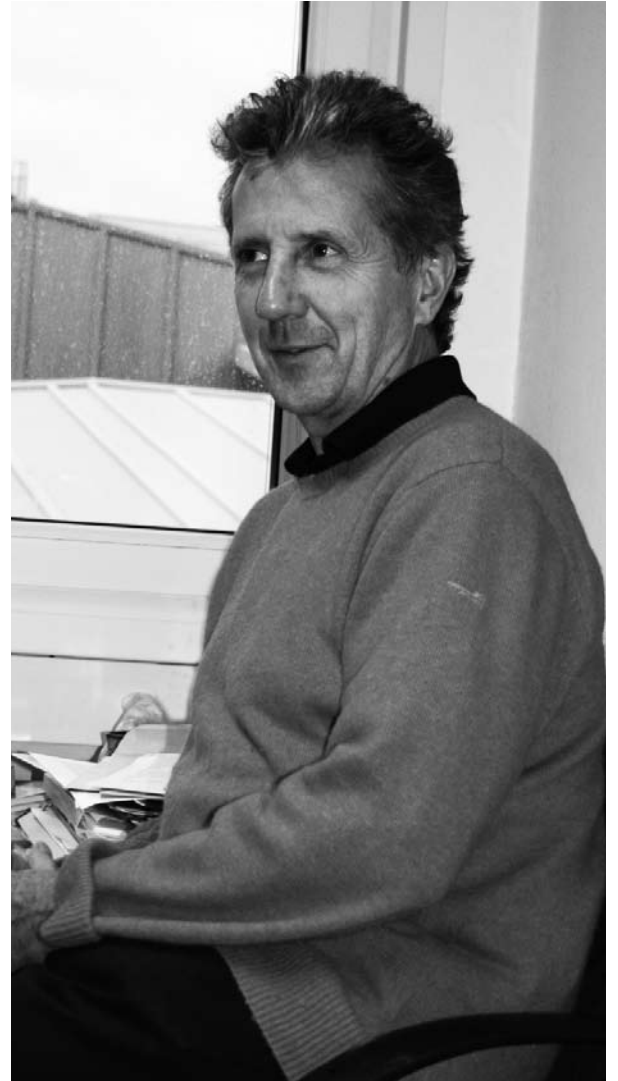
Seeing your life acted out on the big screen is not something many of us will ever experience, but for Blake Morrison, Professor of Creative & Life Writing at Goldsmiths, it's something he has recently had to get used to.

The film 'And When Did You Last See Your Father?', based on Blake's memoir of the same name, went on general release in October and will be out on DVD next year. The book looks at Blake's childhood and adolescence and tries to pinpoint the last moment when his dying father, Dr Arthur Morrison, a Yorkshire GP, was truly himself.

In the film, the adult Blake is played by Colin Firth, famous for his role as Mr Darcy. Blake himself appears relaxed about his new found stardom: "It's not as if people are going to stop me in the street because they recognise me. The main thing is that the film interprets the book so well and translates into another medium so tactfully. For me the film is true to the spirit of the original, something which doesn't always happen with big screen adaptations."

The memoir, which Nick Hornby says is "a painful, funny, frightening, moving, marvellous book," has a strong emotional charge. When asked if it was hard to revisit scenes from his life in the film, Blake describes being moved while watching the shots of Jim Broadbent as his Dad on his death bed. "It's 15 years since the book was written but there were still a couple of moments that brought tears to my eyes."

One other scene in the film was also a very personal affair as Blake and



Blake Morrison

his family, along with colleagues and students from Goldsmiths, appeared as extras. His family are, for the most part, happy with the film. The only niggle has come from a cousin who noticed that the make and model of car used by Blake's father is from the wrong year.

Blake began his career with Goldsmiths by running a poetry workshop for extramural students when he was aged 23. Then, after 15 years spent freelancing, he was encouraged by the former Warden, Ben Pimlott, to return to Goldsmiths. He now teaches MA and PhD Creative Writing students and considers a number of the students he has worked with as "a highly talented bunch."

Next up for Blake is a term's sabbatical when he hopes to put pen to paper and start work on a new book. Will it end up on the big screen too - who knows?

"It's 15 years since the book was written but there were still a couple of moments that brought tears to my eyes."



Top developments from IT Services

You can read the full annual report of IT Services on their web site at www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/it/news/annual-report.php. The Goldsmiths wiki is available at <http://wiki.gold.ac.uk>

“The auditors recognised that there has been significant improvement in the robustness of the IT control environment at the College over the last year.”

For the second year in a row, IT Services has published an annual report. This year, the report outlines the Department’s strategic developments and achievements of the past 12 months. Highlights of the report include:

- Saving the College more than £130,000 with the new drive for bulk purchasing computers.
- Developing the Goldsmiths IT Strategy. The IT Strategy will give a direction and focus for technology, service delivery, service development and financial investment. Director of IT Services, Basem El-Haddadeh says the Strategy will actively address strategic IT issues and demands, as well as give an overall institutional direction.
- Installing 30 wireless access points on campus. By this time next year, it is envisaged that over 80% of the campus will be covered by wireless access.
- Developing an in-house system to support the RAE 2008 which is already in use by the Research Office.
- Networking of student residences. More than 600 network points were installed in Loring, Dean and Chesterman Halls of Residences.
- Rebranding thousands of web pages in line with the brand style and format.
- Becoming one of the first higher education institutions to launch a wiki service available to all staff and students.
- Launching a pilot to road-test Outlook as the new e-mail and online calendar provider for Goldsmiths. The pilot group is made up of IT Services staff and 20 users across the College.

Basem is understandably proud of the achievements made in the past year. Not only have his staff been reorganised to allow the focus to be on improving

service delivery, but they have received commendation from staff, students and also in the annual IT audit.

The audit was carried out five months ago and Basem says it was pleasing that the auditors gave IT Services a full assurance, compared to the limited assurance received in 2006.

“The auditors recognised that there has been significant improvement in the robustness of the IT control environment at the College over the last year, and recognised that there is now a clearly articulated process for IT strategic planning and governance that align our objectives with College strategies, targets and performance measures.

“I think that this is a fantastic reflection of the dedication and commitment of my team to the continued improvement of existing services and the development of new ones that meets the need of the College.”

The Warden and Senior Management Team (SMT) shared their provisional thinking on key issues with colleagues at an overnight residential event at Hunton Park in Hertfordshire.

From context to space, student record systems to the academic footprint: the need to unlock value in all we do

The event, held in October, was attended by the heads of academic and administrative departments, the President and General Manager of the Students' Union, and members of SMT, with the aim of sharing thinking and

contributing to the shaping of policy in key areas for the next year.

The Warden's opening address 'Goldsmiths and beyond: the context and the challenges' reflected on

the themes of the previous event in September 2005 and progress since then, with an overview of some of the strategic challenges facing the College in the context of developments in the university sector as a whole. This set the scene for a series of break-out sessions together with intensive discussions which continued long after the formal part of the timetable was completed.

Introducing the new student records system

Basem El-Haddadeh and Bob Westaway jointly presented on the student records system project to replace UNIT-E. They gave a glimpse into the potential of the ambitious new system which represents a major investment but at the same time will transform the way we do our business and increase efficiencies in a number of administrative and academic areas. It also gives Goldsmiths the opportunity to reconsider current systems which support all the processes of student administration. The key requirement for administrative systems to be flexible, agile and efficient echoed through other sessions.

Expanding the academic footprint

Council in June discussed a paper written by the Warden setting out Goldsmiths' current academic footprint. This paper was brought to the residential event as a substantive item to generate open discussions within breakout groups on wide-ranging possibilities from devising new systems to encourage more flexibility within existing programmes, to improving the estates and facilities infrastructure, to developing new areas such as law, philosophy, economics and health, to new ways of providing existing provision by exploiting current



Right: Geoffrey Crossick

potential, overcome the perceived and actual barriers, which currently inhibit the development of interdisciplinary provision. Key to all the discussions was whether the strong brand - partly derived from our current academic footprint - 'contained' or 'constrained' our growth and whether we should seek to expand within, or outside, that footprint.

There appeared to be a consensus that we should consider new areas that could be approached in a distinctively Goldsmiths way, but also to grow from within the current academic footprint, developing the infrastructure and systems to become more flexible and adaptable, to meet continuing shifts in market demand and create new postgraduate markets.

Testing your faculties...

Simon McVeigh launched a discussion on the future academic structure of the College and whether faculties of some kind might help us address some of our problems. Simon highlighted the distinguishing features of the current structure: strong vertical 'silos'; high degree of responsibility for Heads of Department (HoDs) but strong central control; Pro-Wardens who are influential but have no budgetary or other responsibility; and central services which interact with academic centres and departments of very different sizes.

He considered models from other universities and then went on to question whether the current model encouraged strategic thinking; academic innovation; flexibility; cross-disciplinarity; student satisfaction; strong leadership and action; financial strength and effective delivery. Several people with experience of a dual faculty/departmental system commented on its advantages, particularly in the professionalism of management and reduced burden on HoDs.

Any new system would have to meet the academic objectives of the College, but good management and financial success were essential to the achievement of those academic objectives. Would some intermediary structure help deliver that? Would it need to be accompanied by budgetary

devolution? Did we have the academic management capacity to support it? The discussion came up with no clear answer - it wasn't meant to do so - but there was general agreement that the issues needed further consideration.

Space ... the final frontier £3,000. £1,000. 25. £171m. 65%.

Hugh Jones' presentation focused on some striking numbers. The first, the cost of a new building, per square metre. The second, the cost per square metre, of a refit of an existing building within London. The third is the projected lifespan of a modern building. The fourth is the cost of rebuilding the Goldsmiths estate. Finally, the percentage of potential usage going to waste.

Unlocking the value of our existing space is key, Hugh explained. He highlighted the fact that the HE sector as a whole is conditioned not to expect a great deal from university estates and at Goldsmiths, we don't behave as if it is our long-term responsibility, tending to rely on capital handouts to deal with pressing estate matters.

Hugh invited heads of department to consider an alternative model which combined increasing activity within existing space to generate income; generating additional student numbers within our existing space footprint; generating additional conference trade by better use of buildings unused for much of the year; coupled with the proposed masterplan, part of which would unlock the value of the estate and encourage better use of existing space. In a series of déjà-vu moments, this linked straight back to the earlier presentation on the new student records system which could improve the timetabling of space....

Conclusion

The Warden concluded the event with a reflective look back and forwards - the key recurrent theme of the Hunton event was one of flexibility - the flexible ways in which we want to use all our resources, potential academic activities which are currently hindered by systems and estate issues, the way we wish to use our space. He highlighted the need for us to grow our income whilst managing costs. Goldsmiths

needed to generate surpluses of around 3% of its turnover if it were to invest in its own sustainability.

Have we got enough space? Have we got the space we deserve? Unlocking value was another recurrent theme and the need to be more flexible. Part is locked away in terms of imagining, work processes and systems - all of which need to change. More needs to be done in terms of intellectual value. The underlying theme was that we must grow in student numbers and in other sources of income in order to secure our long-term financial health.

Surpluses of £2m to £3m per year are needed to make us sustainable and to grow our intellectual capacity. We could not be complacent about the future in terms of three major sources of uncertainty that we needed to be able to manage: fees, funding, and increased market orientation combined with global competition.

The Warden concluded that he felt that there had been a real sense of confidence at this event, something with which those present seemed to agree. It gave SMT plenty to discuss and to share with the College in the future.

Right: Branco
Stoysin trio



From self-taught guitarist in the former Yugoslavia to music tutor in central London – Branco Stoysin is a man who has experienced both sides of life at Goldsmiths, having been a student and a tutor

Music makes Branco's career

Branco grew up in a small village in the former Yugoslavia where the only opportunity to get access to music was through late night radio. Aged 15, Branco asked his parents to buy him a guitar, and taught himself to play it, taking influence from jazz, and specifically 'guitar virtuoso' Joe Pass.

He moved to the UK in the early 1990s and spent his time performing shows in cafés, bars and clubs, and teaching guitar through private tuition sessions. It was this passion for teaching that saw Branco walk into Goldsmiths and request to be a guitar teacher at the College. Although impressed by Branco, the then Head of Music for PACE, Louise

Gibbs, advised him to first study music terminology in English and obtain a teaching diploma. He enrolled onto the course at Goldsmiths, which he passed with commendation. Fortunately at that time there was a post for a guitar teacher and Jeremy Peyton Jones, Convenor for PACE, asked Branco to fill the position.

Speaking about his passion for teaching, Branco explains: "The biggest enjoyment I get is from the smiley faces of my students when finally they are able to play their first tune from beginning to end, which takes a lot of hard work on both sides. I love Goldsmiths as it's relaxed and unfussy,

with true diversity of programmes and students." He says he is grateful for his time at Goldsmiths as a student and a tutor, and believes that the institution has influenced his career in an "entirely positive way."

Branco writes and composes original music and has had five acclaimed albums on his own Sun Recordings label. His latest release 'Quiet Stream Breaks the Rocks' has been recorded with his regular trio. For more information visit www.brancostoysin.co.uk

"The biggest enjoyment I get is from the smiley faces of my students when finally they are able to play their first tune from beginning to end, which takes a lot of hard work on both sides."

Thousands flock for busiest Open Day on record

In case you were wondering why, during a Wednesday afternoon in Reading Week, there were thousands more people on campus than usual, it was all thanks to the busiest Open Day seen yet.

Staff Hallmark caught up with the man behind the influx of bodies, Nick Holmes, to find out how he felt the Open Day had gone. "For me it's always a difficult question to answer because I'm so heavily involved in the process. But the feedback I've received from visitors and staff has been positive so I'm happy. Obviously there are things on the day that you think could have gone better but that's always the case and I just need to make a note of that for next time."

It is estimated that the College had almost 4,000 visitors through the door, making this the most popular Open Day which Nick has managed. He felt that this was largely due to the date fitting in with the UCAS undergraduate application cycle, but says that he didn't expect anything near the volume of visitors that attended. The demand for information about the College was so high that Nick likened the Open Day atmosphere to that of a concert, with visitors queuing 45 minutes before the doors had even opened.

"I'd like to thank everyone who gave their time to help out, with a special mention going to the Porters who worked tirelessly to get the Great Hall

and other rooms kitted out during the day." Nick also hopes that the hard work undertaken by the academic departments will be rewarded with an increase in the volume of applications this year.

The Recruitment and Admissions team are now looking forward to the February Open Day, which will be promoted as more of a Postgraduate event. As Nick explains that February has always been a smaller event and is better suited to the postgraduate application cycle.

Samyukta Mukhopadhyay, a third-year BSc Psychology student was working on the front line, distributing the Open Day packs and directing students to the relevant stalls in the Great Hall. This is her third time working at an Open Day and she said that she found it "exciting" and that she most enjoyed meeting people.

Pictured right:
Student Ambassador
Samyukta
Mukhopadhyay



Pictured left to right:
Matt Davis, Bianca
Harrison, Laura
Berkley, Sean Garland

All four of the prospective students pictured came to visit Goldsmiths from Hemel Hempstead.

Matt has been here before as his sister is studying for a BSc in Psychology. He will study History if he comes here in September.

Bianca isn't entirely sure what she'd study, but said that she highly rated the campus tour and was especially taken by the Ben Pimlott Building.

Laura said she liked the feel of the campus and was impressed with how well organised the Open Day had been.

Sean will study English and Creative Writing if he comes to Goldsmiths and also rated the campus, saying he liked the layout and found it easy to navigate.



Media mogul delivers Dean Lecture

“With his wealth of experience bringing business expertise to the creative industries”

Chairman of Ingenious Media, Patrick McKenna, delivered the 2007 Dean Lecture to a packed audience of staff, students and alumni. Following on from novelist Hisham Matar’s successful return to Goldsmiths last year, the lecture took place in the George Wood Theatre, which Patrick likened to London’s Young Vic (the theatre that he is chairman of), where he spoke about ‘Investing in the creative industries’.

Patrick drew on his experience and expansive CV to offer the audience tales from the media industry along with his advice on achieving success. One particular anecdote about his work with the ‘Smooth Operator’ singer Sade, told of how she always wanted to go to Marks and Spencer and be able to purchase a sandwich without worrying about the cost. Patrick explained that her album subsequently went on to sell over a million copies, the financial reward from which could possibly have enabled her to purchase the company in its entirety.

There was also some serious advice and revelations on offer, such as being realistic with your targets, with Patrick explaining how his company has coped with the reduction in investments in the creative industry by adopting a portfolio basis. This means that losses on unsuccessful ventures are factored in and covered for by the returns from those that take off. Emphasising the importance of recognising real talent, Patrick explained that a mediocre talent with a fantastic business plan won’t go far, but a fantastic talent with even just a mediocre business plan will fly. Proving that a good grasp of talent is just as important as a good head for business.

Paul Dennet, Interim Director of Development at Goldsmiths was in the audience and commented: “With his wealth of experience bringing business expertise to the creative industries, he was the perfect candidate to speak at the lecture. This wasn’t just evident

by the capacity audience, but also by the number of people who stayed on afterwards to pick Patrick’s brain further over a glass of wine. There was a real buzz at the reception and it would be nice to think that some of those with their own ideas for business came away motivated and empowered.”

The Warden pictured with Patrick McKenna

New partnership with QM set to benefit Goldsmiths staff

There are four places for Goldsmiths staff on the Leadership and Management Award for Administrators course, which is run by Staff Development in partnership with Educational and Staff Development at Queen Mary, University of London.

The programme, led by Professor Stephanie Marshall of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, is endorsed by the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM). The programme has been designed for support staff who are team leaders and line managers, particularly those working as Departmental Administrators or in similar roles.

The course runs over four days and you must attend each day in full, plus submit a 2,000 word assignment. The course leads to a certificate from ILM. The course runs over 10 and 11 March 2008 and 21 and 22 April 2008.

Participants will identify and develop some of the key skills required of a successful manager, with each

'Goldplated' induction

The next College induction for all new and recently joined staff will be held on Tuesday 11 March 2008. The induction is open to all staff across the College.

Goldsmiths Staff Development programme

The new staff development programme will be online from January 2008 at www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/staff-development/ If you'd like to receive it by e-mail, please contact staffdevelopment@gold.ac.uk.

day concentrating on a particular topic, including developing effective teams, goal setting and determining priorities, and conflict management and negotiation.

To apply, visit www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/staff-development/ where you will find a booking form and conditions.

Goldsmiths to seek Degree-Awarding Powers

Goldsmiths is joining other major colleges of the University of London in applying for its own degree-awarding powers (sometimes referred to as 'DAPS'). Kings, University College, the London School of Economics and the Institute of Education have already been granted the power to award their own degrees, and Queen Mary and Royal Holloway are just completing the process. Being able to award degrees in their own name, within the federation of the University, recognises their status as self-governing institutions that are responsible for their own finances, research, and academic quality. Having degree-awarding powers will also enable Goldsmiths to pursue

collaborations and partnerships more actively in its own right.

The application is made to the Privy Council, which then asks the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for advice. But how will the application process affect staff and students? Liz Thusso, Head of Quality and Governance explains: "The QAA will review the initial 'Critical Self-Analysis' document, which was submitted in the summer, along with other documentation provided by Goldsmiths. A team of senior academic auditors from other universities appointed by the QAA, will then come to observe formal meetings, such as committees and examination boards, and attend arranged meetings with specific groups of staff and students."

The process will get underway in the new year, with an initial visit by the QAA team, who will meet with students, academic and support staff, members of the governing body, the Senior Management Team and the Warden. The scrutiny process could take much of 2008, with assessors dropping in and out of the institution to

make their observations. As well as this, the College is also due for Institutional Audit, which will be undertaken alongside the DAPS scrutiny, by the same team, saving time and resources.

If Goldsmiths is awarded these powers, they will still be used within the framework of the wider University. "The University of London brand carries a high level of desirability for students, especially internationally," says Liz. "Gaining our own Degree-Awarding Powers is important in recognising the College's high reputation and status, as well as helping to secure its future."

Copies of the Critical Self-Analysis document are available from the Quality and Governance Office (e-mail Ben Hagggar at b.hagggar@gold.ac.uk) and copies are being circulated to departments. More details of the process and the schedule of visits when known will be published on the Quality and Governance web site www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/quality-governance/links.php/. For more information about the Quality and Governance Office, turn to page 12.

Having degree-awarding powers will enable Goldsmiths to pursue collaborations and partnerships more actively in its own right.



Quality and Governance Office

The Quality Affairs Office and the Secretariat have been brought together into one new section, the Quality and Governance Office. Explaining why, Liz Thussu, who heads up the Office says: "These two small but, we like to think, dynamic offices have a lot in common, working closely with academic and administrative departments across the College, as well as with the Students' Union. There are also important synergies between ideas of good quality management and good governance to explore and develop."

The new Office supports the College's mission and activities in these two key areas, reporting to Liz. The Quality team is responsible for the College's quality assurance policies and procedures. The Head of Secretariat and the Quality and Governance Administrator provide committee servicing and support for committee chairs, members and secretaries, as well as being responsible for information law. The Office also supports academic developments in relation to collaborative provision and partnerships and, in particular, has the

oversight of the College's provision in the University of London External System.

Major projects at the moment are preparation for the Degree-Awarding Powers scrutiny process and developments in records management.

More information about the Office can be found at www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/quality-governance/



Quality and Governance

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Di Waller with her OBE outside Buckingham Palace

OBE recipient continues work in health sector

Back in the summer, Diane Waller, Professor of Art Psychotherapy for PACE, was awarded an OBE for services to healthcare in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. She said receiving the OBE was a surprise and a true honour.

Di is currently working closely with the Health Professions Council and the Department of Health on their project to regulate psychologists,

psychotherapists and counsellors. She says that for any profession it's an important step from voluntary to statutory regulation, and for the psychological therapies it is quite a challenge given their complex histories and widely differing modalities. Di also has ongoing involvement with the Prince's Foundation for Integrated Health on the voluntary regulation of complementary therapies.



Goldsmiths in the news

Visiting Tutor gets her teeth into Madonna

Visiting Tutor in Media & Communications, Lucy O'Brien's book 'Madonna: Like An Icon' was reviewed by the **Daily Telegraph (8 September)** and the **Independent (9 September)**.

Reviews have also appeared on a range of internet sites.

Goldsmiths has 'struck a first'

The Guardian (22 September) reported the MSc in Music, Mind and Brain, believed to be the first course of its kind in the world. The article explained that the course will explore the science behind the sound, or the "psychological and neuroscientific underpinnings of musical behaviour." See page 16 for more. The story was also reported in the **News Shopper (12 September)**.

Margaret Howell gets motivated by the Laban Centre

To celebrate the London Design Festival, **The Guardian (2 September)** asked five top designers to reveal the places and spaces in the capital that motivated them most. Famous menswear designer and Goldsmiths alumna Margaret Howell was featured and her choice was the Laban Centre for contemporary dance in Deptford, "I love catching sight of it as you're going past on the train: you see dreary buildings and suddenly something very different and exciting."

The rules of attraction

Professor Christopher French got to grips with a Romanian man Aurel Raileanu in **The Sun (November 11)**, a man who has been dubbed the 'human magnet'. Christopher examined Aurel, using a compass to test for magnetism, and medical alcohol to remove any surface stickiness. Eventually it was

found that talcum powder eliminated the adhesive qualities of Aurel's skin leading French to conclude that the stickiness of his skin was caused by the high level of sebum, a chemical produced in his glands.

Home economics back on the menu?

Professor Carrie Paechter, Dean of the Graduate School, was interviewed on **BBC Radio 4's You & Yours programme** on 5 October. She spoke about the teaching of home economics in the past and whether there is a case for reinstating it into the school curriculum today.

Trainee teacher aids communication of mass globalisation

Funmi Somefun, a second year trainee teacher on the BA Education Design and Technology course has been featured in the **Global Textiles (Autumn 2007)** publication, writing about her second year assignment and subsequent visit to Nigeria. Funmi examined the relationship between production and the family along with the technologies and materials employed to produce the resulting garments. Her videos of the trip were also featured on the Global Textiles website.

Hugh Jones in the spotlight

The Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) (28 September) featured a Q&A session with Goldsmiths' Registrar and Secretary, Hugh Jones.

If you'd like media publicity for your work please contact Tim Hirst, Press and PR Officer, ext 7970, e-mail t.hirst@gold.ac.uk

Starters and leavers

Welcome to Goldsmiths...

Ms Alexandra Isevski, PA (maternity cover), IT Services, 05/11/2007

Mr David Shephard, Technician, IT Services, 12/11/2007

Miss Rachel Soper, Head of Planning, Planning, 05/11/2007

Miss Ozlem Salih, Undergraduate Secretary, English and Comparative Literature, 05/11/2007

Dr Mark Lamont, Postdoctoral Fellow, History, 01/10/2007

Miss Sarah Hawton, Library Assistant, Library, 05/11/2007

Mr Noel Hines, Technical Advisor, Media and Communications, 01/10/2007

Mr Stephen Wilford, Clerical Assistant, Music, 12/11/2007

Dr Rajyashree Pandey, Lecturer, Politics, 15/10/2007

Ms Jessica Pavlos, Quality and Governance Administrator, 01/10/2007

Dr Giulia Sinatti, Research Fellow, Sociology, 08/10/2007

Dr Simon Susen, Lecturer, Sociology, 01/10/2007

Ms Stella Klein, Specialist Dyslexia Tutor, Student Support Services, 22/10/2007

Miss Jillian Oldham, Student Advisor, Student Support Services, 01/11/2007



Ozlem Salih joined the Department of English and Comparative Literature in September.

Wishing you well for the future...

Mr Justin Beltran, Computer Technician, IT Services, 10/10/2007

Dr Robert Burns, Lecturer, History, 01/11/2007

Miss Victoria Carmichael, Clerical Assistant, Registry, 12/10/2007

Miss Sharon Coen, Researcher, Media and Communications, 11/10/2007

Mrs Mildred Cruz, Secretary, Visual Cultures, 14/10/2007

Mr Malcolm Knee, Technician, IT Services, 1/10/2007

Ms Morgan Lloyd-Malcolm, Ambassadors and PAL Assistant, Registry, 24/10/2007

Mr Adeel Malik, Clerical Assistant, Registry, 12/10/2007

Prof David McLellan, Professorial Fellow, Politics, 15/10/2007

Mr David Meredith, Lecturer, Computing, 21/10/2007

Mr Trevor Merrell, Handyperson, RCCS, 24/10/2007

Ms Tania Payne, Clerical Assistant, Registry, 05/10/2007

Ms Saskia Sabelus, Secretary, Psychology, 18/10/2007

Dr Simone Sandkuhler, Research Associate, Psychology, 31/10/2007

Mrs Stephanie Sheffield, Clerical Officer, Registry, 01/11/2007

Mrs Lakshmi Sri Murugan, Management Accountant, Finance, 05/10/2007

Dr Ionna Vogiazou, Research Assistant, Design, 31/10/2007

Mr Chris Wayans, Cleaning Services Manager, Estates and Services, 19/10/2007

Dr Thomas Willis, Research Assistant, Psychology, 26/10/2007

Mr Roger Zapatero, Computer Technician, IT Services, 09/11/2007

College Christmas cards

'A Skirt', pictured top right, is a screenprint by MFA student, Yujung Chang, and is one of the Warden's Purchase Prizes for 2007.

Goldsmiths Christmas cards are available from Communications and Publicity (for official College use) or from the Students' Union Shop (for personal use).

There are two designs to choose from:

The first: 'A Skirt' is a screenprint by MFA student, Yujung Chang, and is one of the Warden's Purchase Prizes for 2007.

The second: 'Snowscene' shows the College Green and Richard Hoggart Building in the snow.

If you wish to order Christmas cards to send externally for official purposes, please e-mail Ann Marie Coady, a.coady@gold.ac.uk or call **ext 7971**, specifying which design and how many cards you'd like. We will advise you of the cost and the cards will then be available for collection from Communications and Publicity, 31 Laurie Grove.

Please note: we've been asked to remind staff that in line with financial regulations, signed, coded requisition forms are to be used to buy cards for external use only.



Supporting staff and students

"All sessions include some personal exploration of where each individual gets stuck."

The Counselling Service has a newly-expanded programme of workshops. The workshops tackle problems commonly affecting students and their academic performance, as well as a 'stress and anxiety' workshop for staff.

A series of workshops based around 'building confidence as a learner' aim to help students resolve emotional or psychological issues which can prevent them from reaching their full potential. Modules concentrate on tackling procrastination, easing up on perfectionism, and building self-esteem, as well as the ever popular exam workshop.

"All sessions include some personal exploration of where each individual gets stuck," explains Student Counsellor, Kate Brady. "Techniques are taught which help students tackle the blocks to academic self-development, plus we always try to provide practical hints and tips. Starting in the Spring Term, the 'can't work' group aims to offer immediate assistance to students who are stuck in their studies at a critical time of year."

Twice a year the Service also runs a stress and anxiety workshop for students who are struggling to manage all kinds of anxiety. Counsellor Kevin

Halon who facilitates these workshops says that many students bring problems related specifically to their academic work, but others have social or relationship stresses or problems managing their time.

The Counselling Service also offers a twice yearly stress and anxiety workshop for staff which follows a similar format as student sessions. If you'd like to find out more information, please visit www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/staff-development/

New MSc in Music, Mind and Brain

“London is arguably the music capital of the world, so what better place to study the neuroscience of music?”

September 2008 will see the first wave of students embark on a new Masters exploring the neuroscience of music. The MSc in Music, Mind and Brain will focus on the psychological and neuroscientific underpinnings of musical behaviour. Based in the Department of Psychology, it is the first course of its kind anywhere in the world.

Music and the brain is an area in which Goldsmiths has already built an international research profile, as recognised by the award of a government fellowship in this area to Dr

Lauren Stewart, who leads the course. She hopes the MSc will attract students wishing to pursue a PhD in cognitive neuroscience, especially related to music or a related area such as creativity, auditory perception, learning or expertise. It's hoped it will also appeal to musicians who want to learn about how music is perceived, created and performed from a scientific angle.

Lauren says: “London is arguably the music capital of the world, so what better place to study the neuroscience of music?”



Term dates and College closure days

Autumn Term runs until **14 December 2007**. The last working day will be **Friday 21 December**. The College will be closed from **22 December**, opening again on **2 January 2008**.

Spring Term starts on **7 January** and runs until **19 March**. The College will be closed for Easter from **20 March** opening on **26 March**.

Summer Term starts on **21 April** and runs until **13 June**.

These are the standard term dates. Some courses operate to slightly different dates. The full list of all term dates is published online at www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/registry/term-dates.php/

A guide to the Christmas closure period is available on Staff Gold.

Obituaries

Hayley Davis

Hayley worked in the Department of English & Comparative Literature from 1991 until she retired prematurely due to health reasons at the end of December 2005. In an e-mail to all staff, Head of Department, Professor Peter Dunwoodie, said: “Colleagues and friends across the College will miss Hayley’s thoughtfulness and her ability to offer sound, practical advice when most needed - qualities from which many students benefited too, especially during her years as Senior Tutor. Many, too, will miss her wit and her open enjoyment of the company of friends and family, whose welfare was always a priority.”

Anne Peters

Anne worked as Departmental Administrator for Historical and Cultural Studies between 1997 and 2005 and saw the department through a period of transition from which it emerged as the current Departments of History, and Visual Cultures.

Dr Philip Broadhead was Head of Department for much of that period and said: “I was keenly aware of the contribution Anne made to the smooth running of the department and the skill, dedication and good humour she brought to her work. She was consistently supportive of both the staff and the students in the department and many of us have reason to be grateful for her kindness and generosity over the years.”