Welcome to the first edition of Keele Times. This is a new venture published by the Marketing & Communications Directorate in response to some of the feedback we received in the staff internal communications survey last summer. The purpose of this publication is to celebrate our achievements and demonstrate the breadth of activities and achievements across the whole University. Keele Times complements Week@Keele and will provide some more in-depth information on some of the stories featured during the last term. Keele Times will be published three times a year and the regular publication will be supplemented by ‘special’ editions during the course of the year. Keele Times is designed for staff, students and other stakeholders who have an interest in what is happening in the University, so please feel free to send copies to any of your contacts. We would welcome your feedback on the publication and its content. If you have any suggestions, please email them to editor@mac.keele.ac.uk

John McCarthy, Director of Marketing & Communications, Keele University, Staffordshire ST5 5BG t: 01782 734942

Special Degree Ceremonies in Malaysia

Two special ceremonies in Malaysia saw more than 100 students graduate with Keele degrees. It was the first time Keele had awarded degrees at ceremonies in Malaysia and it followed the launch of a collaborative programme three years ago between KDU University College and Keele.

Professor David Shepherd, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, represented the Vice-Chancellor of Keele University, Professor Nick Foskett, at ceremonies in Penang and Petaling Jaya, KL, at which students received BA Honours Degrees from Keele’s School of Management.

During the trip to Malaysia, Professor Shepherd, who was accompanied by Keele’s Director of Marketing and Communications, Mr. John McCarthy, met with the Vice-Chancellor of KDU University College, Malaysia, Professor Dr. Teoh Kok Soo and his senior team to discuss further developments and collaboration between the two institutions. The Keele delegation also included Professor Matthias Klaes, Keele Management School and Dr Matthew Brannan, the School’s Director of International Partnerships & Development.

Professor Shepherd said: “These ceremonies are a major milestone in the partnership between Keele and the institutions in Malaysia. It has been a great pleasure for me, and the team from Keele, to be here to present these degrees and diplomas. Keele University and KDU share in the graduates’ excitement and optimism for the future.”

The Vice-Chancellor of KDU, Professor Dr. Teoh Kok Soo commented “I am delighted to welcome the team from Keele University. It is clear that the students have worked hard and enjoyed their studies and we are particularly proud that four students have achieved first class honours degrees. We look forward to further high quality collaboration with Keele University as we seek to develop our partnership.”

Keele University’s partnership with KDU University College started in 2009. The degrees at KDU University College have the same curriculum as at Keele with academic staff from Keele Management School visiting KDU twice a year to meet with staff and students, ensuring quality delivery of the programmes.

Professor David Shepherd is pictured presenting an award at the Malaysia degree ceremonies.

National teaching fellowship

Dr. Patricia Black, Director of Postgraduate Studies and Postgraduate Courses Development Manager in the School of Pharmacy, has been awarded a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy.

She was one of only 55 lecturers and learning support staff to receive the award for excellence in higher education teaching and support for learning and was chosen from over 200 nominations submitted by higher education institutions across England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Dr Black, described as one of "the top three leading-edge developmental academics within the world of pharmacy education", has overall responsibility for a portfolio of postgraduate Master’s courses for health professionals working in or with the NHS, principally pharmacists practising in the key areas of the profession.
WORLD-RENOWED ENVIRONMENTALIST NAMED AS KEELE’S NEW CHANCELLOR

Eminent writer, broadcaster and commentator on sustainable development, Jonathon Porritt, will be Keele’s new Chancellor.

He will be the University’s fourth Chancellor and succeeds Professor Sir David Weatherall, who has retired after nine years. Jonathon Porritt’s installation as Chancellor will take place on Thursday, 9 February – the first official event in Keele’s 50th Anniversary year.

Jonathon Porritt said: “I am hugely honoured to have been asked to become the next Chancellor of Keele University. I have enjoyed many contacts with the University over the last 15 years, and have been very impressed at the commitment shown by the Vice-Chancellor and many other members of staff in demonstrating real leadership on sustainability issues. But to be Chancellor of Keele is obviously about the whole University, not just one aspect – however important that may be! And this is the challenge that I’m really looking forward to.”

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Foskett, said: “Jonathon is a highly respected environmentalist and author, not only within this country but around the world. We believe he is the ideal choice for an institution that places sustainability research, education and practice as one of its core aims in the next 10 years.”

Keele Honours Retiring Chancellor

Keele has honoured the retiring Chancellor, Professor Sir David Weatherall by naming the School of Medicine building on campus, The David Weatherall Building.

It was announced at a special celebratory dinner in Keele Hall, hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Foskett, to mark Sir David's retirement.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Sir David for all the support he has given to the University and said he was astounded and delighted that he had been so generous with his time, given his international profile and agenda, and stated that he had been a real ambassador for Keele during the last 10 years.

Sir David, accompanied by his wife, Stella, was joined at the dinner by members of council, staff, guests and friends of the University, who have worked closely with Sir David during his time as Chancellor.

Sir David said he had enjoyed his time as Chancellor and the most rewarding part was meeting new graduates as they left the University to pursue their chosen careers. Sir David promised to remain in touch with Keele and wished staff and students best wishes for the future.

He was presented with a David Gentleman print of Keele Hall, a commemorative and classic piece of Wedgwood and a picture of the newly named David Weatherall building.

A New Identity

Keele University has developed a new logo, which draws heavily on Keele’s armorial bearings and reintroduces the rich golds and reds of the original arms and crest. The five original heraldic devices are clearly visible on the more contemporary shield, whilst the colours interweave to represent the University’s distinctive interdisciplinary curriculum. Meanwhile, the colour green reflects the campus environment and the University’s commitment to sustainability.

Aiming High

Keele has been placed, for the first time, among the top universities in the world in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

The University is positioned in band 301-350 for the world and 130th equal in Europe, demonstrating Keele’s commitment to providing a high quality educational experience for its students.
**Sustainability in Action**

*The Hub is a living example of sustainability in action, with solar PV, solar thermal, ground source heat pumps, biomass heating and rainwater recycling. The building has been designed to be an inspiring place for people of all ages to learn, with resources and outreach activities to help children, homeowners and businesses.*

It is already involved in four key projects at the University, including an outreach initiative called ‘Grey Matters’ which engages the older community in a series of lectures and interactive workshops on sustainable living and the development of a ‘green’ children’s centre in the Congo.

Dr Sharon George, Sustainability Hub Manager and Lecturer, said: “We welcome members of the community, local businesses and students of all ages to come and visit us at the Sustainability Hub. It’s a resource for everyone to spark ideas about how to be more sustainable and encourage learning in this area at every level from primary school right through to our PhD students.”

"With such a vast array of research projects and activities going on at Keele, we wanted to bring it all together in one place to ensure that it benefits not only our students, but anyone who visits the Hub. Ultimately, we want to inspire people to think about their behaviours and make the necessary changes.”

**CARBON REDUCTION COMMITMENT**

In October this year, Keele was named as one of just 22 businesses across the UK to top the first government Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) league tables.

Keele was the only higher education institution to get top marks in the table, which ranks participants in terms of their early action to manage their energy.

The University has a strong record of addressing and responding to the environmental and sustainable agenda and the announcement is testament to its aim to develop an environmentally aware and sustainable campus community.

In the past year alone, Keele has saved over 1.5 thousand tonnes of CO2, increased its recycling to 34% and introduced a sustainable catering policy, which aims to increase the sales of Fairtrade goods, reduce food waste per student, increase the purchase of seasonal vegetables and reduce water and energy usage.

All new build and refurbishment projects have also been designed to achieve BREEAM ‘very good’ status, including a new day nursery and the development of a multi-million pound Sustainability Hub which launched this autumn.
Going Green

From our Keele students have decided to take green matters into their own hands and have commandeered a 1960s bungalow on campus, which they are turning into a working example of a ‘sustainable student house’.

Throughout the academic year, the students will be ‘living what they are learning’ by adjusting their lifestyle to be more sustainable and passing on their knowledge to other students on campus.

So far the group has begun in the garden, building raised beds to grow their own vegetables, establishing a composter and collecting their vegetable waste. They are also exploring ways of saving resources and money through cooking and shopping together. Double glazing has been installed, which is expected to save £130 on energy costs, reflective radiator panels have been put up, recycling bins are in place and the students have labelled every household appliance to help calculate how much energy they are using.

It is hoped that the sustainable student house will become a model for others interested in embedding sustainability more deeply within university life and that the house can be passed on to another group of willing students next year to develop the project.

Anyone interested in following the students’ progress can do so via their Twitter page – @livgreenkeele

What a Load of Rubbish!

The Sustainability Hub played host to Keele’s very own ‘Really Rubbish Week’, with a series of workshops aimed at educating people about issues of waste and litter and their impact on the environment.

More than 40 pupils from Sandon Business and Enterprise College, St Joseph’s College, Haywood Engineering College and St. Thomas More Catholic College came along to find out more about waste and helped make the waste exhibitions, which included a Dalek-shaped composter, giant chewing gum blob and really rubbish room full of really rubbish furniture.

Members of the public and the student body also attended and were given tips on recycling and how to live greener, as well as finding out about the impact of waste on wildlife.

Green Communities

Academics from Keele’s Natural Sciences and Social Sciences Departments have joined together on a cross-curricular two-year research exercise to examine the impact of social demographics on the level of community engagement in ‘green’ behaviours, such as recycling or using low energy light bulbs. After detailed scoping, the project is now moving into the active phase where monitoring will begin among the groups involved.

Professor Mark Ormerod Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise), said: “This project is about looking at the best models for sharing information on sustainable behaviours - the findings of which will form a central role in shaping future policy in this area. It’s important that all members of society have access to information that can help them to adopt more sustainable behaviours that will not only benefit them, but also the wider community. We are working with groups from very different demographic backgrounds to assess the effectiveness of different types of communication channels and will start to report our findings next year.”
Exciting new plans for the transformation of the centre of campus have been unveiled. Work is set to start on the project that will enhance the heart of the campus.

There will be a landscaping upgrade of the central campus area, including the repaving and reconfiguration of the Union Square plaza, providing new seating, tree planting and a central sculpture.

The project, designed to provide an external social hub at the centre of the campus, will be suitable for both informal and formal events designed to enhance the student, staff, resident and visitor experience. The Chapel plaza will also be repaved and associated boundary wall modified and repaired. Works will also include paving and new access steps at the Students’ Union main entrance.

New paths, new bus lay-bys, shelters and a pedestrian crossing will be installed between the Darwin and Students’ Union buildings.

Construction works will commence in late January and be complete by September 2012.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Foskett, presented the awards at a special ceremony celebrating the achievements of staff from the CFM directorate and marking the beginning of the formation of the two new directorates - Commercial & Business Engagement and Estates and Development.

The event, “Celebrating Success”, brought together more than 250 members of staff from across the directorate. A wide range of awards were presented, including industry awards, diplomas, NVQs and a BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies for Wendy Foster (Nursery Manager).

Long service awards were presented to Bob Mander, 25 years; Steve Davies, 25 years, and Dave Boote, 35 years.

A new sculpture is to be commissioned to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the award of Keele University’s Charter as a university. The commission, to be funded by alumni and other donations, is for an outdoor sculpture that would be the centrepiece of the Union Square redevelopment.

The successful commission will represent the character and founding philosophy of the University and reflect its ambitions for itself and its future graduates.

The event, “Celebrating Success”, brought together more than 250 members of staff from across the directorate. A wide range of awards were presented, including industry awards, diplomas, NVQs and a BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies for Wendy Foster (Nursery Manager).

Long service awards were presented to Bob Mander, 25 years; Steve Davies, 25 years, and Dave Boote, 35 years.

A new sculpture is to be commissioned to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the award of Keele University’s Charter as a university. The commission, to be funded by alumni and other donations, is for an outdoor sculpture that would be the centrepiece of the Union Square redevelopment.

The successful commission will represent the character and founding philosophy of the University and reflect its ambitions for itself and its future graduates.
University Nursery Offers Innovative Outdoor Learning for Children

Children attending a new £2.9 million nursery school being built at Keele will enjoy state-of-the-art environmentally friendly facilities including a unique all-year-round ‘outdoor classroom’.

Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor Trevor Hambleton, dug the first turf for the new building being constructed on the campus opposite the present nursery, which will remain in use throughout the construction work.

The new nursery will accommodate up to 128 children from three months to school age, and feature a new multi-purpose room for holiday and after school clubs. The eye-catching three-sided building wraps around a central ‘tented’ play area in the courtyard and all the teaching rooms also open onto a second outer play area.

The building is designed in line with the University’s environmental objectives and features a green living sedum roof on two sides, plus one roof fitted with photovoltaic cells which will contribute to the building’s energy conservation and green BREEAM rating.

Rachel Cairns, Deputy Director of Human Resources, said: “The new design offers an innovative layout, providing a secure and fun environment and optimising access to the outdoors with the all-weather ‘outdoor classroom’.”

“Keele has a strong tradition of providing childcare since the 1960s, offering staff, students and members of the community a safe and caring learning environment for their children.”

STUDENT SATISFACTION

Keele University has achieved the highest student satisfaction score of all higher education institutions in the Midlands, North West and Yorkshire Humberside according to a national study, placing it in the top ten UK universities on the issue.

The National Student Survey, which has been conducted annually since 2007, revealed that 90% of Keele students were satisfied with their course compared to an average of just 83% nationally.

Students were particularly impressed by the intellectual stimulation and the quality of feedback they receive from academic staff. They also indicated that they felt Keele’s courses made them more confident personally and equipped them to deal with a breadth of challenges that modern-day graduates are required to face.

WORLD FESTIVAL

The Keele World Festival 2012 will kick-off on 17 January, celebrating the University’s growing international population and bringing people together to learn about each others’ countries and customs.

Keele students and staff come from over 100 countries and the festival will help staff and students to be more internationally aware as well as enhancing the educational experience at Keele to make learning and teaching more internationally oriented.

The festival will commence on the Hospital site with an afternoon event entitled Global Health Care Experiences, followed by a roundtable discussion on internationalisation on main campus on 18 January.

Events during the festival include a world cinema series, a speaker series, Chinese New Year activities, sports tournaments, international song and dance and much more. There will also be an information session about ERASMUS staff mobility.

The World Festival will run until 9 March. Further details about the festival and how to be involved can be found at www.keele.ac.uk/worldfestival/
What's on

Inaugural Lectures

Tuesday, 7 February,
Professor Gordon Hamilton, Life Sciences, “Sex pheromones of male insects and disease control”.

Monday, 27 February,
Professor Richard Luther, Politics, “Political Parties: who needs them?”

Tuesday, 20 March,
Professor Robert Ladrech, Politics, “Political Parties and the European Project”.

Tuesday, 17 April,
Professor Robin Jeffries, Astrophysics, “A star is born”.

Tuesday, 8 May,
Professor Carole Thornley, Management, “Why are the low-paid always with us?”

Monday, 11 June,
Professor Andy Hassell, Medicine, “The patient with arthritis, the medical student and the rheumatologist: influencing tomorrow’s doctors”.

Admission is free. Lectures start at 6pm in the Westminster Theatre, Chancellor’s Building.

Keele Concerts

Wednesday, 25 January,
Westminster Theatre – Vanbrugh Quartet

Wednesday, 1 February,
Westminster Theatre – Bacchus Piano Trio

Wednesday, 8 February
Westminster Theatre – Emma Johnson and The Cavaleri Quartet

Wednesday, 15 February,
Westminster Theatre – Juice (Vocal Ensemble)

Wednesday, 22 February,
Westminster Theatre – La Sereissima

Wednesday, 29 February,
Westminster Theatre – Liquid Architecture

Concerts start at 7.30pm.

For full details of all events during 2012, with more detailed programmes, please visit the Keele University Human Resources Equality and Diversity webpage: www.keele.ac.uk/hrss/equalitydiversity/keeleunity

Alternatively, contact Colette Smallwood, Equalities and Recruitment Administrator.
Email: c.a.smallwood@per.keele.ac.uk
Tel: 01782 733407

Keele Art Gallery Exhibitions

17 January – 19 February: Staffordshire Artists – exhibition of work by members of the Staffordshire Society of Artists.


Poetry Live

30 January – Jane Weir
20 February – Gillian Clarke
26 March – Alison McVety
30 April – Jean Sprackland
21 May – Lavinia Greenlaw

Readings take place in the Chancellor’s Building at 7pm; tickets are £5 (£2.50 concessions)

Keele Unity

Keele Unity is a programme of events aimed at promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion, throughout the Keele community. The events are open to staff, students, and the wider community.

February 2012 – Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Trans (LGBT) History Month

8 March 2012 – International Women’s Day

Trans (LGBT) History Month

February 2012
– Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Trans (LGBT) History Month

For full details of all events during 2012, with more detailed programmes, please visit the Keele University Human Resources Equality and Diversity webpage: www.keele.ac.uk/hrss/equalitydiversity/keeleunity

Alternatively, contact Colette Smallwood, Equalities and Recruitment Administrator.
Email: c.a.smallwood@per.keele.ac.uk
Tel: 01782 733407

Keele students are at the heart of the University’s activities and Keele’s curriculum is being redesigned to provide opportunities for all students to achieve their full potential. The Distinctive Keele Graduate will be shaped by a distinctive curriculum, which is a combination of a distinctive academic curriculum and the co-curriculum.

The Distinctive Keele Academic Curriculum will enable students to develop their intellectual, personal and professional capabilities, achieving ten graduate attributes, which include independent thinking, research capability, synthesising information, creative problem-solving, communicating clearly and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of their discipline studies.

To help students get the most out of their studies, and hence improve their performance and achievement of their full potential, the Distinctive Keele Curriculum will offer students a range of developmental activities which will be integrated into their academic programmes. These activities relate to effective study at university level, personal development and career development education.

The Co-curriculum (extra-curricular activities) will help students get the most out of their degree studies, strengthening their attainment of the graduate attributes and helping them to achieve their full potential. It is a range of opportunities for students’ personal, professional and career development and will be supported by a Curriculum Support and Development Unit, based in Student Support and Development Services.

We want our graduates to succeed and Keele’s curriculum is being developed for 2012-13. The new curriculum is being developed by a small project team in consultation with a wide range of academic and non-academic staff across the University and it will be implemented across all Keele programmes from the 2012-13 academic year.

The Co-curriculum (extra-curricular activities) will help students get the most out of their degree studies, strengthening their attainment of the graduate attributes and helping them to achieve their full potential, the Distinctive Keele Graduate will be shaped by a distinctive curriculum, which is a combination of a distinctive academic curriculum and the co-curriculum.

Keele students are at the heart of the University’s activities and Keele’s curriculum is being redesigned to provide opportunities for all students to achieve their full potential. The Distinctive Keele Graduate will be shaped by a distinctive curriculum, which is a combination of a distinctive academic curriculum and the co-curriculum.

The Distinctive Keele Academic Curriculum will enable students to develop their intellectual, personal and professional capabilities, achieving ten graduate attributes, which include independent thinking, research capability, synthesising information, creative problem-solving, communicating clearly and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of their discipline studies.

To help students get the most out of their studies, and hence improve their performance and achievement of their full potential, the Distinctive Keele Curriculum will offer students a range of developmental activities which will be integrated into their academic programmes. These activities relate to effective study at university level, personal development and career development education.

The Co-curriculum (extra-curricular activities) will help students get the most out of their degree studies, strengthening their attainment of the graduate attributes and helping them to achieve their full potential. It is a range of opportunities for students’ personal, professional and career development and will be supported by a Curriculum Support and Development Unit, based in Student Support and Development Services.

We want our graduates to succeed and Keele’s curriculum is being developed for 2012-13. The new curriculum is being developed by a small project team in consultation with a wide range of academic and non-academic staff across the University and it will be implemented across all Keele programmes from the 2012-13 academic year.