Congratulations on your graduation
Keele Times Issue 08 / Summer 2013

National Fellowship for Keele Academic

Krysa Dziedzic, professor of musculoskeletal therapies at the Arthritis Research UK Primary Care Centre is a newly-named fellow of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and will promote NICE’s work for the next three years.

NICE awards 110 fellowships and 10 scholarships each year to professionals in healthcare, local government or academia who are working to improve the quality of care in their area. The organisation is responsible for driving improvements in health and social care as well as developing relevant guidance, standards and information.

Foskett, paid tribute to Marilyn’s “fantastic contribution to Keele during his five years here.”

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croles of friends and colleague gathered together at Keele Hall to wish Professor Marilyn Andrews a happy retirement after nearly 20 years service.

At a special reception they raised a glass to toast Marilyn’s career at Keele from 1993 until retirement in 2013, with Peter Plesch, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, bestowing his “toast Marilyn on her retirement. She joined the University as a Senior Physiotherapy Teacher and went on to make significant contributions in SHAR, the Faculty of Health and Social Care, as head of SHAR, as Director of Learning and Development and, most recently, in her role as Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Foskett, paid tribute to Marilyn’s “fantastic contributions in SHAR, the Faculty of Health and Social Care. Most recently as Pro VC - you have been innovative and creative, you have moved people forward but have been supportive when they were in need.”

In her role as Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Andrews took responsibility for all education and student matters across the University. She transformed the University’s approach to education through a series of major initiatives, including the development of the distinctive Keele Curriculum. She also managed all those who attended the reception - “It has been a joy and privilege working with you all.” She said: “Our common purpose has been making Keele a fantastic place for all our students - thank you: you are working with you all.” She said: “Our common purpose has been making Keele a fantastic place for all our students - thank you: you are working with you all.”

Peter Plesch, who died in March, was a remarkable and distinguished man, known scientifically for his lifelong studies of cationic polymerisation. However, seen in a wider context, Peter Plesch’s death marks the end of an era for Keele, but for the wider intellectual history of Europe. For he was one of the last surviving members of the generation to have been intellectually forced to escape Nazism in the 1930s and 40s.

The Royal Society of Chemistry published a full obituary here.

Peter Plesch, 1918 - 2013

Marilyn Andrews Retires

Meet Sam: Keele Unveils UK’s First Virtual Student Adviser

Students and staff at Keele and Staffordshire Universities met Keele’s virtual student adviser, SAM, for the first time this week in a soft launch of a service that will be available to the entire UK HE sector from the autumn of 2013.

SAM is an avatar that will interact with students in real-time on a range of support service topics. When launched, SAM will be available via PC, tablet, and smartphone so that students can ask questions anytime, anywhere. The technology behind SAM is based on the University’s innovative Virtual Patient programme.

Participants in the soft launch – who were joined by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Foskett - had the chance to ask SAM questions on three ‘first topics’: Student Finance; Money Management; and Living Away at Home.

Some of the questions SAM was able to help them with included ‘What do I need to bring with me to University?’ and ‘How do I budget?’

Summer 2013 will see the development of three additional topics: Understanding University and the Language of Higher Education; Learning and IT; and Coping with Difficulty.

Keele has moved up five places to 45th position in the Guardian University League Table for 2014 – up nine places over the last two years.

The Guardian’s University League Tables 2014, is one of the key go-to locations for prospective students to find out just how each University and its departments compare to others. Keele has performed well since it entered the Top 20 nationally for seven subject groups, including Chemistry, Physics and American Studies, with Medicine and Social Policy (including Criminology) inside the Top 10, and Adam Lincs, Market Analyst, Marketing and Communications, courses under the umbrella of Geography and Environmental Studies. At Keele were rated the best in the Midlands and North West, whilst sporting was Keele’s best performer, ranked third overall and top in the Midlands and North West.

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Marie Curie Fellowship for Keele Academic

The research will deal with the problematical relations between modern law and religious commitments, as they have been arising in contemporary European societies and Turkey, e.g. the French ban on face-veils, Islamic state-court’s decision against boys’ circumcision, the new Turkish law on education envisioning religious education, the French ban on face-veils, Islamic state-court’s decision against boys’ circumcision, the new Turkish law on education envisioning religious education, and the Coalition’s law banning abortion and caesarean-births.

Professor Dziedzic worked with NICE on the development of the first osteoarthritis guideline in 2008. She currently leads the MDSASC’s (Managing Osteoarthritis in Consultations) study, implementing the guideline in partnership with general practitioners in the North West Midlands.

Under the fellowship she will work on implementing an update of the NICE osteoarthritis guideline (2013) with the MDSASC project. She will also work with other healthcare professionals and organisations, including the CSP, to disseminate the updated guideline. Professor Dziedzic will then work with NICE experts and stakeholders to develop a summary of guidance on non-pharmacological therapies across key chronic diseases.

Professor Dziedzic, working with NICE, has also led the development of the first osteoarthritis guideline in 2008. She currently leads the MDSASC’s (Managing Osteoarthritis in Consultations) study, implementing the guideline in partnership with general practitioners in the North West Midlands.

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First Virtual Student Adviser

Rama appointed Vice-Chancellor at Canterbury

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, Rama Thirunamanachandran, has been appointed as the next Vice-Chancellor and Principal at Canterbury Christ Church University.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Foskett, said: “This is a well-deserved acknowledgement of Rama’s outstanding personal and leadership qualities, and I know that he will be an excellent VC. Duly, he will be with considerable sadness that we say farewell to him, as he has made a huge contribution to Keele during his five years here.”

Rama will also be well known to members of the European Jewish diaspora of Britain and the wider intellectual history of Europe. For he was one of the last surviving members of the generation to have been intellectually forced to escape Nazism in the 1930s and 40s.

He was also prominent as a collector of glass and ceramic artefacts. At Keele he was one of the first non-professorial staff members to have been appointed and was also prominent as a collector of glass and ceramic artefacts. At Keele he was one of the first non-professorial staff members to have been appointed.

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His work has been widely published, including as a contributor to the Royal Society of Chemistry’s book on cationic polymerisation.

The Royal Society of Chemistry published a full obituary here.

Peter Plesch, 1918 - 2013

BBC Radio 4’s ‘Any Questions?’ Live from Keele

Broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby said how much he enjoyed BBC Radio 4’s ‘Any Questions?’ held in the Keele’s Westminster Theatre.

He said a range of questions from the capacity audience ensured a ‘lively debate’ among the panel, which included the Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt. Hon. Patrick McLoughlin MP, Christina Hamilton, Independent columnnist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown and Shadow Education Secretary Stephen Twigg MP.

Marie Curie Fellowship for Keele Academic

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Graduation 2013
Special ceremonies were held throughout graduation to admit the members of the newly formed Keele University College of Fellows. The College of Fellows is a distinguished group of high profile, actively engaged supporters of the University. The College will not have any executive powers but will serve as a vehicle for the University to draw on a range of expertise and opinion formers who can help shape and influence our reputation and support our development across a range of stakeholder groups.

Members to be admitted to the College of Fellows during this summer’s graduation ceremonies were: Gaby Blake-Roberts, Chair of the Haven Trust at Keele and Director of the Wedgwood Museum; Jimmy Bloom, A Keele graduate who is an economist and Europe Correspondent for BBC Radio 4’s The World Tonight programme; Emma Bridgewater, founder and owner of Emma Bridgewater Pottery Ltd.; Simead Butters, A Keele graduate and now Chief Executive of Aspire Housing; Karen Dobson, Chair of the family ceramic company Dudson; Ann Fisher, a former member of the University Council from 1995–2008, Deputy Pro-Chancellor; Eric Hassall CBE, A lay member of the University Council and Deputy Pro-Chancellor; Ervin Hassall CBE, a lay member of the University Council from 1995–2008, Deputy Pro-Chancellor from 2003–2008; He is currently Chair of Keele University Science and Business Park Limited; Mike O’Connor CBE, Mike is a graduate of Keele. After a career in government and voluntary sectors, Mike has most recently held chief executive roles at the Olympic Lottery Distributor and the Millennium Commission; Pritpal Singh Nang; A distinguished North Staffordshire businessman and entrepreneur who served as a lay member of the University Council from 2008–2012. PM Soar: A former member of the University Council, he graduated from Keele in 1989. He is currently Chair of a number of companies, including Cernagought Square freehold Limited. Lord Stafford: Served as Chair of Council and Deputy Pro-Chancellor of Keele for 10 years (1993–2003); Dame Jo Williams CBE: A Keele graduate who was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters (2009) in recognition of her contribution to social work and disability services; Sara Williams: Chief Executive of the National Forest Foundation; Ian Dudson CBE, Pro-Chancellor of Keele University (2004–2012) before being appointed HM Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire; Lord Stafford: Served as Chair of Council and Deputy Pro-Chancellor; Eric Hassall CBE, a lay member of the University Council and Deputy Pro-Chancellor; Ervin Hassall CBE, a lay member of the University Council from 1995–2008, Deputy Pro-Chancellor from 2003–2008; He is currently Chair of Keele University Science and Business Park Limited; Mike O’Connor CBE: Mike is a graduate of Keele. After a career in government and voluntary sectors, Mike has most recently held chief executive roles at the Olympic Lottery Distributor and the Millennium Commission; Pritpal Singh Nang; A distinguished North Staffordshire businessman and entrepreneur who served as a lay member of the University Council from 2008–2012. PM Soar: A former member of the University Council, he graduated from Keele in 1989. He is currently Chair of a number of companies, including Cernagought Square freehold Limited. Lord Stafford: Served as Chair of Council and Deputy Pro-Chancellor of Keele for 10 years (1993–2003); Dame Jo Williams CBE: A Keele graduate who was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters (2009) in recognition of her contribution to social work and disability services; Sara Williams: Chief Executive of the North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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The Keele University College of Fellows

The prestigious Neil and Gina Smith Student of the Year Award was presented to Lauren Gallimore, who graduated with a First Class Honours Degree in Educational Studies and International Relations and has been accepted to study for the PGCE Primary at Keele. Lauren came to Keele as a mature student with few formal qualifications and in addition to her studies, her extra-curricular activities included many which showed a commitment to helping young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to succeed.

Honorary Degrees Summer 2013

Olympic gold medallist Anna Rose Watkins, from Leek, was among nine people who were awarded Honorary Degrees by Keele during this summer’s graduation ceremonies. They are key figures who have made a major impact, with significant work over many years, in the local community and local economy, energy research, health, business, publishing and theatre-in-education.

Honorary award recipients were: Anna Rose Watkins, MBE, who won a gold medal in the Stadia salts at the London 2012 Olympics; Neil Baldwin, who has been adopted by the student body over the last 50 years as something of a mascot for Keele; Ian Dudson CBE, the Lord-Lieutenant for Staffordshire, industrialist and former Pro-Chancellor; Deborah Morden, a British business woman who ran a multi-million pound family holiday business before completing a management buyout and is best known for her appearance on the BBC Two programme Dragons’ Den; Glen, Professor John Loughhead CBE – a key figure in driving the development of sustainable energy systems; Karen Middleton, CBE, the Government’s most senior allied health professions advisor; Jill Rezzano, Head of Theatre-in-Education.

The Keele University Excellence in Learning and Teaching Awards were presented to Mark Davys, Lori Fallot Drifhout, Chemist and Physicist; Nicholas Segag, English, Jackie Waterfield, SHAR, and Matthew Wyman, SPIRE, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience), Professor Marilyn Andrews, pictured, who is retiring, was awarded an Honorary Keele Excellence Award.
Alicia El Haj, Professor of Cell Engineering in the Faculty of Health and Director of the Institute of Science & Technology in Medicine, has received the prestigious Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award.

This is a personal award of five duration given by the World’s oldest scientific academy in recognition of outstanding senior scientists. The award recognises Alicia’s research achievements in the field of stem cell biology and the associated enabling technologies for cell therapy that underpin regenerative medicine. This technology provides the ability to replace or regenerate a patient’s own cells or organs to restore function as Alicia’s work in disordered bone and connective tissue has shown. The concept of growing cells, often on inert or biodegradable scaffolds to create new organs is fast becoming a reality. Her research at the sharp end of molecular medicine and is underpinned by a strong desire to train and the next generation of researchers as evidence by her commitment to training PhD and postdoctoral students, including her role as co-leader of the Doctoral Training Centre in conjunction with colleagues at Nottingham and Loughborough.

In recognising Alicia’s achievement, PVC and Dean of Health, Professor Andy Gardner noted that both R1 Directors in the Faculty were now in receipt of highly prestigious national awards following Professor Elaine Hay’s Senior Clinical Investigator award by NIHR.

“Hopefully this piece of equipment will help to support and train the next generation of medicine and is underpinned by a strong desire to support and train the next generation of researchers as evidenced by her commitment to training PhD and postdoctoral students, including her role as co-leader of the Doctoral Training Centre in conjunction with colleagues at Nottingham and Loughborough.”

An appeal was launched for the remaining £1,000 of his own money after his wife Jeannette cause. Among those who supported the appeal was the Kinglsey Falcons and a penalty shoot-out was held to support the patients and their carers. Community pharmacists are also taking action on the forefront of the frontline of healthcare and have a growing role in enabling patient care. They encourage public participation, keep the public up to date with the latest developments in healthcare, promote healthy lifestyles, increasing awareness among patients and independent prescribers. Find out more about the roles of community pharmacists on Royal Pharmaceutical Society website: http://www.phrmahs.com/pharmacy-roles/community-pharmacy.asp

As we look back over the last few years HE has gone through a period of great change - and fairly turbulent times lies ahead!

However, Keele strives to maintain a high quality student experience to attract the best students. Keele is committed to ensuring prospective students from all backgrounds have the best Higher Education opportunities, and to ensure good value, top quality teaching, well-structured courses and enthusiastic staff. The University’s consistently excellent performance in the National Student Survey demonstrates the value it offers through the high quality experience students have during their time at Keele. Just two years ago the University launched its Directorate of Marketing and Communications under the leadership of John McCarthy with a wide ranging brief; covering a broad range of roles and responsibilities including:

- Student Recruitment
- International Recruitment and Development
- Partnerships
- Graduation and Events
- Marketing
- Press Office
- Web
- Alumni Office
- Funding

Pharmacy Partnership with Boots UK

The School of Pharmacy is delighted to announce that it has been commissioned by Boots UK to be the sole provider of a postgraduate diploma programme for Boots Pharmacists.

Boots UK is particularly interested in the School’s activities due to our long and continuing reputation for providing highly flexible postgraduate distance and work based education, for pharmacists and non-medical prescribers who can be tailored to meet the learning and professional practice development needs of individual practitioners. The Community Pharmacy diploma will be an important element of a structured development programme that will enable Boots Pharmacists to pursue a clinical career pathway.

Our partnership with Boots UK fits in with their One Healthcare and Personal Customer Experience of having a Pharmacist in every Boots store who can make patient centred decisions based on current evidence, guidance and best practice. This will provide support to their patients and customers.

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Ensuring Keele’s Continuing Success

“We exist in a very competitive environment and to ensure Keele’s continued success we have developed new and improved marketing and recruitment strategies in both the UK and internationally,” said John.

“Part of that is to increase international student recruitment to reach 15% of total student intake by 2015, to develop Keele’s representation the University’s Widening Participation Strategy, which includes working with many of our local schools, and to develop, with the Faculties, annual recruitment plans and targets.

“We engage with alumni to build internship capacity and develop alumni advisory/ mentoring opportunities and also stay focused on our fundraising targets.

“A key part of our plan is to develop a PR and communication strategy to communicate the impact of and raise the profile of the University in local, regional, national and international contexts.”

While many institutions have traditionally looked to the Far East to grow their student numbers Keele has adopted a radical new approach looking to ‘near’ markets. Latin America, USA and Canada, while markets like India remain vitally important.

The Vice-Chancellor has made visits to North America and South America where he developed links with Alumni and signed agreements with new prospective partners. A successful trip to the USA in April this year with the Vice-Chancellor meet with alumni and outline plans for the development of a Keele in North America – one of a new network of such groups around the world. Such efforts also helped Keele and Santander Universities UK heralded their new project for new ways of thinking about funding for scholarships, mobility grants, special awards and student travel awards.

Keele’s profile in the media has been boosted by articles featuring the work of many of our academics, including Professor Roya Safari and Professor Micallef. In particular, stories featuring the work of many of our academics, including Professor Roya Safari and Professor Micallef. In particular, stories featuring Keele students have been appearing in the national media and on television, radio and in regional and national newspapers. Such exposure will benefit the University.

We have been working hard to make our case to prospective students and to provide the best possible experience for our current students, our staff and all of our stakeholders.

Dr Claire Fox is the first colleague at Keele from a CPD pilot project to be awarded Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. The Academy’s Assessment and Development Centre has co-ordinated support for academic colleagues wishing to gain professional recognition from the Academy for their teaching and learning activities.

Higher Education Academy Senior Fellowship