New Leaf for Keele in Green Week Success
Keele’s Arthritis Research UK Centre Of Excellence Status Renewed

Keele’s Arthritis Research UK Centre of Excellence status has, following extensive external review, been renewed for a further five years with funding of £2.2 million.

The five-year strategy for the Centre is to produce research that will underpin a shift in the way musculoskeletal disorders are managed in primary care management; away from a narrow focus on disease and reactive treatments (dealing with today’s problems as presented by patients), to an increasing emphasis on:

• Proactive, positive approaches to seeking out patients needing more support for self-management, as well as those needing more input from doctors or other health professionals, and developing and testing new ways of organising primary care which better meets these needs and takes the physical, psychological and social needs of patients into account.

• Using our research into which physical, psychological and social factors predict what impact that musculoskeletal pain has on their everyday lives to define groups of patients with similar characteristics, and to match these patients with appropriate treatments, thus making sure that the right patients get the right treatment in a timely manner.

Professor Elaine Hay, Director, Arthritis Research UK Primary Care Centre at Keele, pictured, said “We will achieve this through three research programmes, addressing the two most common musculoskeletal problems (osteoarthritis and chronic musculoskeletal pain), and the most common inflammatory diseases (gout and polymyalgia rheumatica) presenting to primary care. Each programme brings together our clinical expertise in primary care with our strengths in observational research, clinical trials and qualitative research.”

Winter Graduation Ceremonies

Degrees, diplomas and certificates were awarded to nearly 1,000 students at the winter graduation ceremonies in the University Chapel. Graduands and those receiving awards, and their guests, attended five ceremonies at which postgraduate degrees and diplomas, undergraduate degrees and postgraduate certificate awards were presented by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Foskett, and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, Rama Thirunamachandran.

BBC2’s Stargazing Live at Keele Observatory

Keele Observatory again took part in BBC2’s Stargazing Live campaign, opening its doors to the public for lunchtime and evening sessions. More than 500 visitors were entertained by members of the Keele Observatory Support Team and Keele Astrophysics Group. While the weather was dreadful most of the time, including thick fog on the closing day, many visitors saw Jupiter through the massive 139-year-old refracting telescope and on one unexpectedly clear evening, an array of other historic and modern telescopes were used to show the wonders of the night sky.

The “Stardome”, located in the Sustainability Hub, proved very popular with the many children who loved the movies projected onto the inside of the inflated bubble.

Professor Coel Hellier, of the Astrophysics Group, was interviewed on BBC Midlands Today on research that has featured on the BBC’s Stargazing Live, discussing the latest developments in the hunt for planets beyond our Solar System.
Green Week 2013 proved to be a huge success as the University demonstrated its commitment to green living and sustainability. Among the highlights was the official opening of the Wolfson Lecture Theatre at the Sustainability Hub by the Chancellor, Jonathon Porritt, and a partnership with Nissan to provide an electric vehicle for use by the University.

The Sustainability Hub was awarded a £140k grant by the Wolfson Foundation, to support its outreach activities.

Opening the Wolfson Lecture Theatre, the Chancellor, said: “Green Week is a fantastic initiative and I am delighted to be part of it. This lecture theatre is such an important facility, which will allow the Hub to extend its exciting range of events and projects to encourage an improved awareness of sustainability issues.”

He added: “This electric car is just one of a number of ways that the University is demonstrating its commitment to the sustainability agenda and during the next few years we will continue to drive forward similar initiatives.”

The launch was followed by a public lecture, “Our Unknown Future”, by the Chancellor in the Westminster Theatre. Other events included a debate on fracking between Professor Andy Dobson and Professor Peter Styles, a workshop on green careers, an outdoor cycling drop-in event, tours of the Hub, a campus biodiversity walk and visits to the sustainable student bungalow.

New Pro-Chancellor for Keele

Ralph Findlay, Chief Executive Officer of Marston’s PLC, the UK’s leading independent brewing and pub retailing business, has been named as the next Pro-Chancellor of Keele University.

He will initially join the University’s Council in April before taking up the role of Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council from 1 August 2014, for a four year term. He will succeed Mr Malcolm Peckham, JP, FRSA, who was appointed Pro-Chancellor for a two year term of office last year.

Keele University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Foskett, said: “This is a key role within the University structure and in Ralph Findlay we will have a highly experienced business leader, who will make a major contribution to the success of Keele as we look to the future and plan our strategy for the years ahead. We launched a national search to find our next Pro-Chancellor and in Ralph Findlay we will have a highly experienced business leader, who will make a major contribution to the success of Keele as we look to the future and plan our strategy for the years ahead. We launched a national search to find our next Pro-Chancellor and in Ralph Findlay we will have a highly experienced business leader, who will make a major contribution to the success of Keele as we look to the future and plan our strategy for the years ahead. 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Ralph Findlay, who was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Marston’s PLC in 2001, said: “I have been impressed by the people I have met at Keele, their enthusiasm, and the plans in place to develop the University further from a strong base. The opportunity to work with Keele is attractive, and I believe that I can assist in developing appropriate responses to some very significant challenges in higher education. The fact that Keele is in Staffordshire is relevant to me: Marston’s is a national business, but our heart is in the Midlands. Helping to champion a respected University in the region appeals. “I am interested in what the University does, and the wider contribution made to society by institutions such as Keele. At Marston’s, we recruit graduates each year and many of our people are below the age of 25: this is a difficult time for young people to find suitable employment, and I am keen that, at Marston’s, we do what we can to help.”
NEW £2.8 MILLION STATE-OF-THE-ART DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Work has started on a state-of-the-art development which will allow the School of Medicine to join a select group of institutions, offering leading-edge facilities which will attract surgeons from across the UK.

A new £2.8 million extension of the Anatomy Skills Facility at The David Weatherall building will mean not only improved facilities for students, but will also offer senior surgeons the chance to improve high-level skills in the most up-to-date teaching environment. The complex build will also involve raising the existing single storey IT suite, alterations to office accommodation and high-level specialist mechanical and electrical installations. State-of-the-art audio-visual and video capture technology will be built into the heart of the new suite, enabling unprecedented opportunities for the detailed viewing and capturing of anatomical procedures.

Touch screens, video editing suites and secure live dissection broadcasts within the Keele network will be provided to enable the students to have the most accurate possible experience of real human physiology at a level not offered in many UK medical schools. The work is expected to be completed in August.

Study Abroad Photo Competition Winners

The Study Abroad office hosted its annual Photo Competition at Keele Hall. From nearly 150 student submissions, Keele staff selected twelve finalists to be featured in a Study Abroad calendar, which will be sent out to all Keele’s international partner universities.

The Study Abroad team were pleased to welcome their highest number of guests yet, with a total of over 130 attendees. The event gave guests an insight into other students’ Study Abroad experiences throughout the world and enabled new arrivals at Keele to meet students who had studied at their institution. The winners of the top prizes of £100 were Thomas Zeglen (Brock University, Canada) for his photograph of Mount Snowdon and Sean Whitley, who submitted a photograph from his semester at the University of Iceland. All of the competition finalists are displayed on the Walter Moberly Facebook page.

Top Level Visit to Brazil

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Foskett, signed a Memorandum of Understanding between Keele University and the State of São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) during a visit to Brazil.

The visit, hosted by FAPESP’s President, Professor Celso Lafer, formalised a research collaboration which includes the joint funding of two faculty posts. Also in attendance were Professor Mark Ormerod, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) and academic lead, Professor Gordon Hamilton, Professor of Medical Entomology and Vector Control.

While in São Paulo, the Keele delegation also visited the University of São Paulo to meet with the Vice-Rector, International Relations and senior academics from the Department of Music, the Institutes of Biomedical Sciences and Chemistry and the Faculty of Dentistry. During the visit, the Vice-Chancellor delivered a keynote address on Internationalisation and Higher Education to a distinguished audience of educationalists and policy makers. The event was hosted by the British Council and Chaired by Director, Eric Klug.

Professor Mark Ormerod visited Tiradentes University in Aracaju where, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, he delivered an address to over 1000 students. Next stop was the Federal University of Sergipe where the Pro Vice-Chancellor met with senior executives for discussions surrounding new research links and study abroad opportunities.
**LEADING LAWYER RETURNS TO KEELE TO OPEN MOOT COURT**

**Fiona Woolf CBE, a leading lawyer who studied at Keele, returned to the University to officially open the University’s Moot Court and deliver a public lecture.**

The new Moot Court, funded through a partnership between the University and its alumni, will enable Keele Law students to take part in simulated court proceedings and promote interactions between students and the legal profession.

The facility can also be used by schools and colleges to give their pupils a taste of the world of law. Fiona Woolf, who studied Law and Psychology at Keele, was President of the Law Society in 2006-07 and Sheriff of the City of London in 2010-11 and has been a key supporter of the project from its inception.

She said: “The Keele Moot Court Project will enable the School to provide first-class facilities for its students to develop important skills of widespread application. It will enhance the School’s reputation for the delivery of a high quality and distinctive legal education. I am very happy to be able to add my support to this campaign.”

After opening the Moot Court, Ms Woolf gave a lecture entitled ‘The Opportunities and Educational Challenges of the New Legal Landscape’. The lecture focused on the opportunities for law graduates in a world that is adjusting to ‘The New Normal’, the challenges of the ‘Triple Bottom Line’ (people, planet, profit) and the need for long-term value creation. She also discussed the challenges for Keele and other educators in achieving the potentially conflicting twin peaks of academic intellectual ability and employability, and whether universities are right to focus on teaching soft skills.

Professor Andrew Francis, Head of the School of Law, said: “Fiona Woolf’s experience and insight mean she is remarkably well-placed to reflect upon the challenges that a rapidly changing legal services marketplace poses for legal education. This public lecture was the perfect way to mark the opening of the School of Law’s new Moot Court facility, and we are delighted that Fiona has continued to demonstrate her support for Keele Law students in this way.”

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**Three Counties Open Photography**

**Stoke photographer Steve Geary won first prize in this year’s Keele University Three Counties Open Photography Competition, with his entry ‘Gannets of Bass Rock’.**

Photographers from Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire were praised for the excellent quality of the work submitted. They entered more than 300 photographs for the competition, which was opened by Professor Michael Murray. The exhibition features 110 works which were selected for showing by the judges.

Professor Murray, a member of the University’s Arts Panel, said the standard of the entries had been exceptional – “the judges have had a very difficult task picking out a few for the prizes that they thought were more excellent than the rest.”

The Hulme Upright Prize was awarded to Jonathan Statham, of Newcastle, for his stunning photograph of St Giles, Cheadle. The Student Prize was awarded to Elizabeth Harper, from Tean.

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**Winter King Filming at Keele**

**Filming took place in the University Archives for a forthcoming BBC 2 documentary, Henry VII: Winter King, presented by Thomas Penn, author of the critically-acclaimed book Winter King.**

The sixteenth century copy petition of Edmund Dudley and the Lambeth Palace accounts are part of the Paget Papers deposited at Keele. These unique manuscripts provide a fascinating insight into the reign of the first Tudor monarch and are set to be screened in spring as part of the BBC Tudor season.
PROFESSORIAL PROMOTIONS

The Professorial and Readership Promotions Committee has made the following professorial promotions:

Faculty of Health

Professor Lindsay Bashford
Lindsay Bashford has been promoted to Professor in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the development of the Medical School over the past 10 years. Whilst Lindsay’s careers as an educator and researcher have developed sequentially rather than in parallel as is more usual, his promotion also recognises a very major contribution to understanding membrane transport, reflected in well over 100 publications and H-index of 35. His research focused on the behaviour of vesicular and cell membranes using optical and other physical methods to monitor and explain their structure and function. Lindsay’s studies led to elucidation of the proton-pumping mechanisms that underpin transport and storage of catecholamine neurotransmitters, a discovery that is now the paradigm for this topic in textbooks.

He moved to Keele in 2002 as a Reader and a founding member of staff in the new Medical School. Over the ensuing decade he has led the development of the basic science component of the Keele curriculum and had an enormous influence on the overall MB ChB programme and its full accreditation by the GMC.

As Director of Academic Studies he played a major role in recruiting and developing the strong team of biomedical scientists who now work across all five years of the curriculum to integrate basic science with clinical learning as well as undertaking laboratory research within ISTM.

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Professor Bill Dixon
Bill Dixon’s promotion to Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice recognises his contribution to the development of education at Keele and leadership within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (most notably as Associate Dean for Learning and Teaching and Head of the School of Sociology and Criminology), as well as his outstanding record in original research. Bill is well-known at Keele as a committed teacher and a strong proponent of the importance of high-quality education as a crucial aspect of the student experience. His is the name brought most instantly to mind whenever the subject of the ‘new’ undergraduate degree structure (NDS) is raised. Evidence of improved application and retention rates and of student support for the choice of modules that it permits indicates that his championing of the NDS has played a significant role in maintaining Keele’s competitiveness in an increasingly challenging environment.

Professor Dixon is a highly respected criminologist with a substantial reputation in both South Africa and the United Kingdom. He is the author (2011, with David Gadd) of Losing the Race, a ground-breaking book on racially motivated crime. Based on research funded by a major award from the ESRC, the book explores why many of those involved in this kind of offending struggle to cope with economic, cultural and emotional losses in their own lives.

Professor Andrew Francis
Andrew Francis (School of Law) has been promoted to a personal chair on the basis of outstanding achievement in original research, teaching and academic leadership.

Professor Francis has a strong reputation for socio-legal research analysing the organisation, regulation and structures of the legal profession and legal education, within an overarching theoretical framework that takes account of rapidly changing legal services. His monograph At the Edge of Law (2011) brings together a series of case studies built on original empirical research and focuses on those operating at the margins of legal professionalism in England and Wales in order better to understand the capacity for change in a fluid and rapidly changing legal services landscape. It has been described as a ‘path-breaking account’, ‘unusual [and] compelling’, and as ‘a book that is ahead of its time’, and has already had significant policy impact. In 2010 Andrew was awarded one of the first five highly competitive and prestigious Inner Temple Academic Fellow awards.

Since taking over as Head of the School of Law in 2011, following a period as Head of the Centre for Law, Ethics and Society in the Social Sciences Research Institute, Andrew has provided outstanding academic leadership during a challenging period for the School, highlighting its identity as a distinctive provider of high-quality legal education, emphasising strong connections with the legal profession and international and outreach engagement, championing the introduction of a new LLM in International Law and the establishment of the Community Legal Outreach Collaboration Keele initiative (CLOCK).

Professor Axel Schaefer
Axel Schaefer’s promotion to Professor of American History recognises his outstanding achievements as an exceptionally productive scholar of intellectual, religious and political history, with a major international reputation for his work on transatlantic social thought and reform, and most recently for studies of religion and right-wing politics in the modern United States.

Professor Schaefer is the author of three monographs, has two edited collections published or in press, and has written more than twenty journal articles and chapters. His two latest monographs have garnered high praise from reviewers for the importance and subtlety of his arguments and the persuasiveness of his writing.

In discussing the antecedents and political importance of the new Christian right, he stresses their complex internal divisions and tensions, and unpacks contradictions and ambiguities, most notably in evangelical attitudes to church-state relations. Hence a reviewer of Piety and Public Funding: Evangelicals and the State in Modern America (2012) explains that the book ‘complicates, and sometimes even demolishes, much of the conventional wisdom about the rise of the Religious Right’, while Countercultural Conservatives: American Evangelicalism from the Postwar Revival to the New Christian Right (2011) has been praised as a ‘landmark contribution’ that is ‘persuasive in general and absolutely brilliant in some of its specific insights’.

Professor Schaefer’s international reputation is demonstrated by editorial service on major journals, participation in prominent learned societies, and frequent invitations to prestigious conferences and seminars.
throughout the United States and continental Europe. Axel plays a major research leadership role as Director of Keele’s internationally renowned David Bruce Centre for American Studies.

Farzana Shain has been promoted to Professor of Sociology of Education in recognition of her outstanding achievements in original research, teaching and academic leadership.

Professor Shain has a substantial international reputation for her research in the sociology of education, focusing particularly on workplace cultures and professional identities, and on the changing identities of young people in a global context. Her published work from the 1990s Economic and Social Research Council Project, ‘Changing teaching and managerial cultures’ is considered groundbreaking for its understanding of the roles of middle managers in organisational change and has been adopted for many other sectors and geographical locations.

She has produced two substantial single-authored monographs. Her 2011 book The New Folk Devils: Muslim Boys and Education, which builds on her widely-cited The Schooling and Identity of Asian Girls (2003), challenges long-standing dominant assumptions by which minority groups are pathologised simply as problems, defined too simply by race, ethnicity and religion. Her work has had a significant and demonstrable impact on public understanding and formal policy. She writes accessibly and is frequently invited to address non-academic bodies, such as trade unions as well as presenting her research as a keynote speaker at international conferences.

Farzana provides astute and supportive academic leadership in teaching and research to colleagues in Educational Studies. Her own teaching is outstanding, and her commitment to innovation has been rewarded by grants from Keele. She made a major contribution to the establishment of the professional doctorate in Education, and is the discipline lead for educational research within the Centre for Social Policy Research.

Professor Nicky Edelstyn

For Nicky Edelstyn, her fascination with the interface between psychology and biology was fostered through a dual honours degree in those subjects, and her commitment to this area was cemented through a PhD in neurophysiology, both at Keele University. She then took post-doctoral positions at Oxford and Birmingham, before returning to Keele as a lecturer in 1999, with promotion to senior lecturer in 2006.

Nicky’s research explores how the theories of memory can be translated into improved management of amnesic patients. For example, her work with stroke patients has led to a better understanding of how memory functions are organised in the brain. And in Parkinson’s disease (PD), she has shown that the severity of a PD-dependent memory decline can be increased by medication prescribed routinely to control motor symptoms. This work has led to an NIHR-funded phase IV randomised clinical trial, with potential longer-term benefits for thousands of patients.

Nicky’s research has received increasing funding as its impact has become more apparent, with over £400k of research income awarded in the last three years. She has published about 50 peer-reviewed journal articles, and has been an active member of several professional bodies. Her involvement in research ethics has included roles as vice-chair of UREC and chair of ERP2 at Keele, where she helped establish the new ethics structure. And as Director of Learning & Teaching, she has led her school to several successes, with the introduction of new UG programmes, strong commendations in the IQA, re-accreditations, and over a dozen teaching innovation awards from Keele and from the HEA.

Record nominations for Keele Teaching Excellence Awards

A record number of more than 400 nominations have been received for this year’s Keele University Excellence Awards in Learning and Teaching.

Each year students and staff are invited to nominate teachers that have been inspirational and/or outstanding in their support for student learning.

During the three month nomination period, 209 teaching staff were nominated by individuals and groups of students and staff for their contribution to the student learning experience at Keele.

Nominations frequently referred to the support and help they had received, the expert knowledge and enthusiasm of great teachers and their ability to make time for student queries. A full list of this year’s nominees and more details about the Keele Excellence Awards in Learning and Teaching can be found www.keele.ac.uk/lpdc/keeleexcellenceawards

Parish Council Notice Board

Throughout Keele’s long history, where both students and staff have lived and worked on campus, the local community and facilities have been an essential component in the University’s success.

There are a wide range of relationships which have developed, including students resident in the village, links through the Church and local societies and the school. In more recent times, we have developed closer relationships with the Parish Council, engaging them in our development plans and supporting events and activities.

The redevelopment of Union Square offered an ideal opportunity to bring the Parish Council in to the heart of the campus by including a notice board for the Council to more conveniently communicate with those parishioners who live on the campus. Phil Butters, Director of Estates and Development said “We are delighted to have been able to provide a communication window for the community. I am told that the Parish Council have already seen an increase in the number of campus residents now engaging with the Parish Council. It is also rewarding to see the Students’ Union and the Sustainability Hub hosting Parish Council Meetings on the campus, reinforcing this important relationship.”
What’s on

Inaugural Lectures

Professor Harry Scarbrough
‘Transfer’ or ‘Translation’? How Knowledge Is Shared Through Social Networks’
Tuesday 16 April 2013

Professor Patricia Black
‘From Pupil to Professor - Reflections on a journey in Pharmacy Education and Professional Development’
Tuesday 14 May 2013

Professor Christina Gouding
‘The Tribal Consumer’
Tuesday 28 May 2013

Professor Julius Kaplanov
‘Mathematics of waves: from Earthquakes to Metamaterials’
Monday 10 June 2013

This series of lectures is open to all and admission is free. No ticket is required. The lectures start at 6pm in the Westminster Theatre, Chancellor’s Building.

Community Day -
Sunday 2nd June

Keele Community Day will be taking place on Sunday 2 June. A free, fun and interactive day for all ages and interests.

We held our first Community day in June 2012 as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations. We threw open the doors and encouraged visitors to join us for a fun-packed day for all ages and interests.

Please visit our website for more information and feedback from last year www.keele.ac.uk/kcd

UK Law Society Commends Keele Legal Companion Initiative

A pioneering community scheme launched by Keele University School of Law has been recognised by the Head of Legal Aid at the UK Law Society. Richard Miller visited Keele to find out more about the Community Legal Companion scheme, an innovative new role which trains law students from the University under the supervision of partner organisations, to provide unrepresented litigants practical assistance throughout the legal process.

The initiative is being piloted in North Staffordshire and so far 30 legal companions have been trained on the scheme and 30 additional Keele students are set to join the initiative in April.

Richard Miller comments: “The Community Legal Companion scheme is vital in the wake of the cuts to Legal Aid. Thanks to the work of students at Keele University and the partnering organisations, self-represented litigants in Staffordshire will have access to some essential resources to support and help them through the legal process. The Community Legal Companion model is a really positive initiative and could provide a model for similar programmes across the country.”