Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of our alumni magazine forever:keele, which is being sent to more than 42,000 former students and members of staff around the world.

I T CAN BE TEMPTING for alumni images to be frozen in time – each cohort imagines that ‘its Keele’ is the one and only true Keele and any others, whether earlier or later, are pale imitations that lack that special something of their own.

However, one of the joys of working with alumni is discovering and encountering all the real Keeles across the decades, and that is a tremendous privilege.

That is one reason why the Alumni Office has launched the Keele Oral History Project – so that other alumni can share in this discovery of all the real Keeles. You can take a peek into the project’s archives on page 12.

Of course, Keele is itself far from frozen in time – the University is constantly moving towards the goal of being recognised as the Ultimate Campus University for the 21st Century.

Keele’s distinctiveness stems from its history, characterises its present and shapes its future. Your degree is an appreciating asset, and there are many reasons to be proud of Keele.

With the establishment of the Research Institutes we will build on our achievements in multidisciplinary research, while on the sports field the Athletic Union is going from strength to strength. And our alumni – like Heather Phillips, Lauren Grynn and Katy Brooks, who you can read about in forever:keele – are also helping to add to our prestige and contribute to our continuing success.

We hope you enjoy reading this magazine and encountering some of the other Keeles, while fondly remembering your own.

Professor Janet Finch, CBE, DL, AuS5

Vice-Chancellor
The high profile launch event – which was featured in the Times Higher Educational Supplement – demonstrated the wide and exciting range of research projects at Keele on a national and international level, as well as the University’s contribution to the regeneration and economic development of North Staffordshire. A publication, Knowledge For Life, highlighting many of Keele’s research strengths, was also unveiled at the event.

The purpose of Research Institutes is to encourage multidisciplinary research and consolidate Keele’s standing as a research-led University with a strong tradition of excellence in research areas. All research students are members of Research Institutes which are responsible for ensuring the provision of appropriate supervision, facilities and training for all their students, and for monitoring and managing the progress of research students.

The seven Research Institutes are: Primary Care and Health Sciences; Science and Technology in Medicine; Environment, Physical Sciences and Applied Mathematics; Public Policy and Management; Life Course studies; Law, Politics and Justice; and Humanities. All academic staff who are active in research are members of a Research Institute.

Keele’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Janet Finch, said: “Keele is a university which places high value on excellent research and we support internationally competitive expertise throughout the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Health and Humanities.”

We aim to provide an environment where high quality research can flourish, where we can encourage multidisciplinary work and support researchers to share their expertise to the benefit of the UK economy and the nation’s quality of life.”

Professor Janet Finch

“Running Fuel Cells on Vegetable and Animal Waste”

Solid oxide fuel cells which run on vegetable and animal waste are being developed in the Research Institute for the Environment, Physical Sciences and Applied Mathematics, combining higher efficiency with negligible emissions of highly polluting sulphur.

“Breath of Life: A New Diagnostic Technique”

A revolutionary new diagnostic technique, developed in the Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine, which works by measuring trace gases present in the breath, is on trial in a clinical environment for the first time.

“SuperWASP: Search for the Planets”

Keele’s Astrophysics group played a key role in the detection of two new extra-solar Jupiter-sized planets. The discovery was made by the WASP Consortium, of which Keele is a member, and was reported in the national media.

“We are proud of our achievements in high quality multidisciplinary research and in the application of research knowledge to beneficial outcomes, and the establishment of Research Institutes will help to develop these strengths further.”

Professor Janet Finch

You can view the Knowledge For Life publication at www.keele.ac.uk/depts/uso/pr/publications/index.htm

Members of the Research Institute for Humanities are leading a team of scholars in the preparation of a complete annotated edition of 18th century satirist Jonathan Swift’s works – works that were sometimes too controversial to be published in his lifetime.

“Malaria, Mosquitoes and Man – Breaking a Deadly Cycle”

Researchers in the Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine are studying the relationship between malaria parasites and the mosquito itself, to break the transmission cycle through which the disease is passed on.

“Editing the Turbulent Dean”

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**Awards Shortlist Success**

Keele was one of five finalists in the ‘Outstanding Student Financial Support Package’ category at the Times Higher Awards. Keele’s entry, by Helen Johnson (Head of Student Financial Support), Sarah Harfield (Head of Widening Participation) and Helena Thorley (Academic Registrar), focused on the University’s innovative and broad-ranging package of bursaries and scholarships, designed not only to alleviate hardship, but also to recognise and reward motivation, potential and excellence.

Although Keele unfortunately did not win, reaching the final shortlist was a great achievement as the 2006 awards attracted entries from more than 90 of the UK’s universities. John O’Leary, Editor of THES, said: “Not only have far more universities participated this year, but the quality and diversity of entries is exceptional.”

**University Gains ‘SWAN’ Award**

Keele University has been successful in gaining a Bronze SWAN award from the Athena SWAN Charter – a scheme that recognises excellence in science, engineering and technology (SET) employment in higher education.

The University achieved the award, which aims to assist the recruitment, retention and progression of women in SET, through the work of a self-assessment team chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Maggie Pearson.

Among the initiatives undertaken by the self-assessment team is AWAKE – A Programme for Women at Keele, which provides training and mentoring for women across the University; and a series of lectures dedicated to the study of engineering and technology (SET) employment in higher education.

The formal announcement of the Award winners was made at the 2nd UK Korea Women in Science Forum Conference at the DTI, and the awards were presented by Professor Sir David King at the Royal Society in March 2007.

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**Lord Moser Opens New Building**

Institutes of Humanities, Life Course studies, law, social sciences. The ‘Building on Knowledge’ research building will be known as the Claus Moser Research Centre after Lord Moser, who was Chancellor from 1986 to 2002, is primarily funded by the Higher Education Funding Council and will provide a dedicated Social Sciences and Humanities interdisciplinary research facility.

Lord Moser said: “This is quite exciting and emotional for me. Keele has been a major part of my life. It is a fantastic university and it is a tremendous honour to have a building named after me.”

Lord Moser also opened an event aimed at developing research across the Humanities and Social Sciences. The ‘Building on Knowledge’ event included workshops from the Research Institutes of Humanities, Life Course Studies, Public Policy and Management, and Law, Politics and Justice, invited speakers and an evening concert.

**Faulds leaves his mark on new laboratories**

New state-of-the-art forensic science laboratories have been named after Dr Henry Faulds, a pioneer of fingerprinting, who lived and worked in North Staffordshire for almost 40 years.

Now the work of Dr Faulds will be recognised as the new forensic science laboratories are named after him. The laboratories are equipped with a wide range of modern instrumentation essential for practical work in forensic and analytical sciences. Dr Faulds’ great nephew, Dr Robert Stewar, unveiled a plaque commemorating the naming.

Director of Forensic Science at Keele, Dr Vladimir Zhlobenko, said: “We have been given permission by the Henry Faulds Foundation to dedicate the laboratories to him and believe we are the first university science faculty to name a facility after Dr Faulds.

“He was the first to see the potential of fingerprinting but unfortunately he has not received the recognition he deserves for his pioneering work.”

**Funds to Research Chemotherapy Resistance in Ovarian Cancer**

A purpose-built research and development centre was opened and named in September by Professor Sally Davies, Director of Research and Development for the Department of Health and the NHS.

The Guy Hilton Research Centre is run by the North Staffordshire Research and Development Consortium (University Hospital of North Staffordshire and Combined Healthcare NHS Trust) and Keele University, providing facilities for both clinical and laboratory-based research.

The Chairman of the centre was Professor Andrew Garner, Dean of Keele University Faculty of Health, Professor Warren Lennay, R&D Director, and John and Ro Hilton who made a major donation towards the centre in memory of their son Guy, who suffered from asthma.

This centre provides a patient treatment facility alongside state-of-the-art equipment for translational research, which includes cell therapy suites, genomic facilities and advanced laser and diagnostic laboratories.

**Opening of new Research and Development Centre**

Funds to Research Chemotherapy Resistance in Ovarian Cancer Keele research into the treatment of ovarian cancer has been awarded a grant by Wellbeing of Women, the only UK charity dedicated to solving the health problems that solely affect women.

Whether it’s the Research Institute for Science and Technology in Science, was awarded a Research Training Fellowship of over £101,000 to identify the specific genes involved in chemotherapy resistance in ovarian cancer. Funds for the research were raised by the generous support of the public during the charity’s annual ovarian cancer awareness campaign.

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**You can find out more about Athena SWAN at www.keele.ac.uk/admin/ps/projects/athena/**

**Find out more about the Wellbeing of Women charity at www.wellbeingofwomen.org.uk**
KEELE: history

athletic union

KEELE: history

athletic union

Rugby Sevens

Since 2001 the Alumni Office has joined the Students’ Union and the Athletic Union to bring home one of its traditions. There is a Womack to celebrate the natural continuity of the game and to the future.

The ‘One Year after Keele’ reunion falls on Rugby Sevens Day in May. The Rugby Club organises a Rugby Sevens Day fundraiser as an appealingly successful charity event, while the AUS and KUSU combine to make sure the rest of the day is memorable!

Why not submit a team – serious or comic – to Rugby Sevens, and take away a freshly broken leg or a moment of your own? Contact aUkus@keele.ac.uk for more information.

Athletic Union Clubs

Archery – Athletics and Cross Country
Basketball – Canoeing
Fencing – Football (Men’s) – Football (Women’s) – Golf – Hockey (Men’s) – Hockey (Women’s) – Horse Riding
Jiu-Jitsu – Karate – Korfball – Lacrosse
Men’s Cricket – Mountaineering
Mountain Biking – Netball – Roller Hockey – Rugby (Men’s) – Rugby (Women’s) – Sailing, Ski & Snowboard
Squash – Sub-Aqua – Swimming
Table-Tennis – Tennis – Trampolining
Ultimate Frisbee – Volleyball

RUGBY

REBECCA ADDS ANOTHER STRING TO HER BOW

Medical student Rebecca Gribble travelled to India last November to shoot for Scotland in the 2nd Commonwealth Archery Games.

“I started at Keele University in autumn last year to study medicine. Before this I was at Edinburgh University studying towards a neuroscience degree. It was during this period that I took up archery. Initially I shot a recurve bow and was fairly successful; however, my most significant achievements came after I swapped to a compound bow. In November 2006 I was offered a place in the Scottish team to shoot in India for the 2nd Commonwealth Archery Games. Despite only being at the University for a short time, the Athletic Union was very supportive and understood the commitment I would need to make, both financially and personally to ensure my place on the team.

When I received some financial help from the University I was surprised and extremely grateful. It certainly helped with reducing the worries of going to a major competition abroad.

“The next big university competition is the British Universities Sports Association where I will be competing as a Keele University student in the Female Compound division. Being based at the medical school for most of the day I am not able to make it to the archery club training times as often I would like. Luckily the Athletic Union and the archery club are very understanding! On an average day I am at the University medical school between 9am and 5pm having lectures and practicals and then get home to do between 10 and 60 minutes practising each evening. Providing I can continue to balance both academic and sporting goals, I am looking forward to the next few years at Keele. So far I couldn’t ask for a more supportive base from which to achieve these ambitions and I will have more news of places visited in the near future!”

W HILE playing rugby for Keele in a home game, I went up in a line out to grab the ball. My opposite number went up too, deftly elloving me in the mouth. I realised immediately that, although he didn’t get the ball, he had knocked out my gold filling. The game continued and for a few minutes we all got down on our hands and knees and searched for it. No sign of gold in that clammy mud so the game continued. Fed by outrage, we went but further. The correct investment of effort, time and money, we will be able to build on this incredible year and climb even further up the BUsa rankings. “Our aim within the AUS is that with increased support from the University and the correct investment of effort, time and money, we will be able to build on this incredible year and climb even further up the BUsa rankings. “Our aim within the AUS is that with increased support from the University and the correct investment of effort, time and money, we will be able to build on this incredible year and climb even further up the BUsa rankings.”

SPORTING SUCCESS

NETS TOP NATIONAL AWARD

KEELE’S Athletic Union won a prestigious trophy at the British Universities Sports Association award ceremony in 2006, crowning one of its most successful years ever.

The AUS won the ‘Most Improved University’ award, climbing the BUsa and the correct investment of effort, time and money, we will be able to build on this incredible year and climb even further up the BUsa rankings. “Our aim within the AUS is that with increased support from the University and the correct investment of effort, time and money, we will be able to build on this incredible year and climb even further up the BUsa rankings.”

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Thank you to all who submitted their memories of Keele’s Athletic Union

Only a selection are printed here. See the website www.keele.ac.uk/news/news/ to read them all

I t has been quite a team and both the football team and the athletics team have had plenty of sports and competition and have been working hard to make their way up the BUsa rankings. “Our aim within the AUS is that with increased support from the University and the correct investment of effort, time and money, we will be able to build on this incredible year and climb even further up the BUsa rankings.”

W EBECCa: history

ATHLETIC UNION

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ATHLETIC UNION

"K eele was always in the same group as Loughborough, and would get regularly thrashed at almost everything! I was in the badminton team and we travelled there (more or less as excess baggage) in a coach also carrying the rugby team. I managed to smash myself in the face in the first game, breaking my glasses. So playing with half the blind, I think we got three points out of our six games. The other two pairs didn’t do much better and we crept away to the coach. Which was a relief. The rugby team had been beaten 75-0 so they did not stay for a drink, but crawled to the coach and headed for home. Obviously nobody of them were worried that they didn’t seem to have a badminton team with them any more. We made a strange railway journey back across the Midlands that evening. I never liked rugby anyway.”

“Peter Martin (1966 English/Philosophy)

We must have been about 1992 and the sports hall had recently been laid. The men’s hockey team was about to play its first match and we were all eagerly looking forward to the game. It had rained heavily for a few days (and nights) Early in the morning I went out to check that the hockey pitch was playable. To my horror there were scores of circular green tents each about 15 feet in diameter and 4-5 feet high at the centre. As I approached, I could see that the tents were made of grass. I walked up to the nearest and stood on one end. As it subsided under my weight, the other end rose even higher! The individual turfs had knitted well with each other but not to the clay subsoil. Needless to say the match was over before it started. I was surprised and extremely grateful. It certainly helped with reducing the worries of going to a major competition abroad.

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Simon Sweetman (1966 English/Philosophy)
Alan Sumner Language Bursaries

Alan Sumner attended Keele University from 1972 to 1976 and studied Modern Languages. He maintained a lifelong interest in languages and lived in Germany for many years until his untimely death in 2006.

The University is delighted to acknowledge Alan’s generous bequest of more than £20,000 to assist Keele students pursuing studies aimed at increasing understanding between the British, French and German people. The Alan Sumner Language Bursaries will be awarded each year to support students aiming to move on from the Beginners to the Advanced level of study by helping them take the intermediate level course in Germany or France.

HELP A STUDENT FIND THEIR FEET ABROAD

ANY of our alumni in North America are there because they undertook Study Abroad or an Exchange – either going to one of Keele’s partner universities or coming here for a unique experience in learning and living abroad. Study abroad changes lives; it broadens horizons, enhances employment prospects and adds authentic understanding to study. And it creates a network of international friends!

Our Study Abroad Alumni Friends initiative began in 2006 to connect students traveling from Keele to study at our partner universities in North America. The Alumni Friend lives near the partner university and offers a welcome, friendship and support to help the student make the most of their experience.

“The programme has been very helpful to me. Steven picked me up from the airport when I arrived and took me to the apartment to get basic essentials and was an enormous help and a lovely guy. I have wandered around Toronto and gone for afternoon tea and we plan to have dinner sometime soon and she has been a really interesting and helpful friend to have.” Clarissa Hemmingsen (York, Ontario) 2006

“I met up with my alumni partner a few times – thanks for putting me in touch with her. Caroline was really helpful about being able to tell us more about New Orleans and good places to go to.” Lucy Palmer (Kingsville, Ontario) 2006

Regional Representatives

REGIONAL Representatives are key members of the North American Foundation. They are local alumni who are enthusiastic about Keele and are willing to give their time and effort to coordinate alumni for social, professional and development reasons. They may also offer advice to visitors, migrants, temporary workers and others with a Keele connection.

We are setting up a website for North Americans during 2007 so you will be able to communicate more easily and interactively. Regional Representatives and Networks are listed on the Keele University Alumni website www.keele.ac.uk/alumni/international/NAFU%20logo%20large.png.html and can be reached through the Alumni Office. In due course you will be able to reach your local Rep through the new website.

KEELE: NEWS

awards

Student of the Year Award

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Janet Finch, with Heather Phillips, Gina Smith and Neil Smith

IN BRIEF...

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New initiatives for Keele Fundraising

The University has appointed a new Fundraising Officer to take a strategic lead on corporate sponsorship and individual donations.

Robin Cross has substantial experience of fund-raising and development including three years at the Royal Welch College of Music and Drama in Cardiff. He has also conducted development campaigns for various Welsh Wildlife Trusts and the National Botanic Garden of Wales.

At Keele, Robin will work with the University’s senior management on a range of fundraising initiatives. These may include funding and donations for scholarships and student welfare, cultural and environmental projects and the enhancement and development of the campus.

Corporate fundraising is likely to play a key role in the University’s vision to become ‘The Ultimate Campus University for the 21st Century’. Keele’s Head of Marketing, Philip Williams said: “We have ambitious plans and are investigating additional sources of funding to bring our vision into reality. With his proven track record in fund-raising and development we expect Robin to help us mount effective campaigns and funding bids for many exciting projects.”

For more information see the website at www.keele.ac.uk/depts/uus/pr/supportkeele/index.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION about language learning at Keele please visit www.keele.ac.uk/depts/colca/index.html

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Sheffield Student of the Year Award

Student of the Year Award

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Janet Finch, with Heather Phillips, Gina Smith and Neil Smith

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Visit the website at www.keele.ac.uk/depts/uus/pr/supportkeele/index.html

To get involved in the Study abroad initiative, contact John Easom on alumni@uso.keele.ac.uk or email Alumni Officer John Easom on rd53@keele.ac.uk

More than a thousand Keele alumni are known or last known to be living in North America – more than 300 across Canada and nearly 750 in the USA – in nearly every state and province. There are more still across the islands of the Caribbean.

But it’s a big continent and in places you are thinly spread… so to enable you to get together we invite you to Keele’s familiar and beautiful surroundings for our first ever Keele North American Homecoming!

Homecoming is for all our alumni in North America and the Caribbean. It will involve some special events – fun things, serious things, nosy things, special things – both on campus and off campus. There will be a Homecoming Dinner and special events to help you make the most of your time at Keele.

For those who want to be active with the North American Foundation there will be an optional programme to inform, challenge, inspire, inform and equip you to act as Regional Representatives or as supportive alumni.

North American Homecoming is planned for the summer of 2007 – June 22 to 24 – so you can build Keele into your business trip or family visit – or even into your holiday.
Times of our Lives

An exciting new project has been launched by the Alumni Office to record the earliest years of Keele University. The Keele Oral History Project intends to collect, evaluate, catalogue and retain material related to the history of Keele University – as seen through the eyes of its Pioneer alumni.

While the Project will not result in an official or formal history, it will be the story of people at a unique time. Historian, sociologist, alumni, scholars, current students and others will all benefit from the memories and memorabilia shared with the project.

Oral accounts are being gathered through recorded interviews with staff and students from the first years of the University, and donated photographs and printed material are helping to capture the spirit of the times and the personal stories of Keele people.

Alumni Officer John Eason said: “The project will initially target the period from 1950 to 1959 when our Pioneer graduates participated in a unique educational experiment at Keele and were engaged in the creation of a new institution and helped to form its ethos, traditions and reputation, and at a time of unequalled idealism and innovation. Over time the project will extend to capture the memories and experiences of Keele people through succeeding periods – through the ‘turbulent’ sixties, into the ‘lively’ seventies and beyond.”

In time, material from the project will be presented to celebrate the University’s roots and achievements, for example at reunions, for Keele’s 60th Diamond Anniversary, for publication, for the website, for broadcast and for public display. To contribute written accounts, photographs, documents, ephemera, memorabilia or other resources, please contact the Alumni Office. The website is beginning to take shape at www.keele.ac.uk/alumni/keele_society/KOHP.html

We gratefully acknowledge the commitment and hard work of the interviewee, sound recordist, and driving-force behind the project: Brian Walker (1970 English/French).
A remarkable number of Keele alumni stay on in the area, or even at the University, but the record for continuous attendance at Keele must go to Herbert. 

Did you serve in the war? 
No. I was forced to take refuge in a shabbish heap to avoid being maltreated on the way to the dumps. In 1953 Ron Evans came to teach at Keele with his wife Maureen. They rescued me and spent weeks clearing and restoring me to my original splendour. I usually stood guard outside the Evans’ home but lived a long time in Hawthorns too.

What do you remember most fondly? 
I became the Beast of Lindsay Hall, the Lindsay girls spirited me away from the Hawthorns to be installed in their own Hall – actually a hut. Ah, those Lindsay girls – they knew how to look after a dragon.

What was your most embarrassing moment? 
When I was painted blue. Oh, even worse was when I was expelled from the Hawthorns because the floor was pronounced too weak to take my weight after the vigorous jiving at parties during the fifties.

Do you get out much? 
Not much now. I am enjoying a peaceful retirement in the Raven Mason Suite in Keele Hall. I did visit the Keele Pioneers Reunion of Fifty-Five Graduates in May 2006 and Maureen Evans formally presented me to the University. That was great – but I’d love to get out a lot more – especially as a prize or mascot.

ENTER THE DRAGON

So Herbert, how would you describe yourself? 
I am solid brass with removable wings. I am about four feet tall – six feet if I stretch my neck! When did you come to Keele? 
I was born at the turn of the 20th Century at Breda’s Apedale Works. I have an identical twin brother but we lost contact years ago. My first job was as a boot-scraper at Keele Hall. Have you scraped any interesting boots? 
Actually, I have. In 1901 I scraped the boots of King Edward VII when he stayed with Grand Duke Michael of Russia, the Tsar’s cousin, who lived at Keel Hall. 

Keele for ten years. Michael of Russia, the Tsar’s cousin, who lived at Keel Hall. 

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Reunion Wedding Bells

CONGRATULATIONS to Keele’s first reunion wedding couple! Andrew Carter (1994 Philosophy/Maths) and Ximena Williams (1996 American Studies/English) met at a reunion in September 2004 and got married almost two years to the day later.

While Ximena, Keele’s Faculty Business Manager for Natural Sciences, and Andrew’s time at Keele overlapped by two years, they never met while at University and it took a Keele Society reunion to bring them together.

The pair got talking when Ximena, who is a member of the Keele Society Advisory Committee, was helping out at the reunion. “We got talking on the Saturday evening and seemed to hit it off straight away. Andy then came to listen to a talk on alumni which I gave on the Sunday morning in Keele Hall,” said Ximena. “It was ironic that we both did subjects which were based in Keele Hall as we might have passed each other on the stairs when we were students, but as we were in different halls of residence, and in different year groups we never met.”

After meeting at the reunion, the couple saw each other every weekend for six months until Andrew moved from Hertfordshire to live at Keele with Ximena.

Ximena’s bridesmaid was a friend from her University days, Nicola Whitehead (1997 English/French). “It was nice that we could hold the wedding near Keele and see so many of our Keele friends again. They were certainly surprised that a chance meeting at the reunion had brought us together so many years after we had graduated,” said Ximena.

CONGRATULATIONS to forever:keele’s editor Hannah Crush who is getting married on 21 April. Hannah, Keele’s Media & PR Officer, is marrying Andrew Hiles, whose mother Val worked in Modern Languages from 1986 to 2000 – while the best man is Russell Smith (2004 MA Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management) and the bridesmaid is Rosie Pearson (1999 French/German/History, 2001 PGCE).
How did you get to where you are now? My studies and dissertations for my degrees at Keele enabled me to pursue a long-standing interest in Native American and First Nations Canadian issues, and inspired me to organise fieldwork with Cree and Innu in Canada. I also volunteered with charities in the local area and in Nepal, and worked part-time in the International Office which provided a wide range of skills essential to my current job. During my time at Keele I became a supporter of Survival International after picking up a leaflet in the library. This prompted me to pursue a career in the charity sector, and shortly after leaving University I found my current position as Education Co-ordinator for Survival.

What has been your biggest achievement so far? Playing a small role in Survival’s campaign in support of the Gana and Gimi Bushmen of Botswana. The Bushmen won a landmark legal case against the Botswana government on 13 December 2006. The court ruled that the government’s eviction of the Bushmen was ‘unlawful and unconstitutional’, and that they have the right to live on their ancestral land inside the Central Kalahari Game Reserve.

In 2002 the Bushmen were forcibly moved to resettlement camps that they called ‘places of death’. Depression, alcoholism, and HIV/ AIDs were rife: problems previously unknown to the Bushmen. They were shot, tortured, and imprisoned but Survival’s high-profile campaign helped to ensure that their struggle was recognised internationally.

The court case undoubtedly set a precedent that will reverberate for decades, impacting on both indigenous rights in Africa and development issues worldwide. The Bushmen are successfully pushing to have their right to live on their ancestral land recognised. They are now working as the tribal peoples by successfully expanding Survival’s education department and resources. In order to work towards this, two of my main goals this year are to launch our education pack, ‘We, the world’, online and to develop a Survival children’s and teachers’ website.

What advice would you give to someone wanting to work in a similar field? It’s an increasingly competitive sector, but if you get lucky then anyone can! Charities need employees with wide-ranging skills, including administration and good old data entry. It’s all useful so get as much experience as you can by volunteering or temping, particularly in related areas or, if possible, the charity you hope to work for.

What made you choose Keele University? The quality and reputation of Keele, particularly the American Studies department, and the opportunity to study abroad, along with the lovely green, squirrel-filled campus and friendly atmosphere.

How has Keele influenced your life? I gained wonderful friends, and it provided invaluable opportunities to explore my research interests which have helped me get a job at my dream work place. Keele also embedded a love of cactuses and cheesy chips which has greatly enhanced my life (and waistband).

What is your favourite memory of Keele? Sitting around a fire with friends in the woods drinking Herman Shermans of an evening!

And your worst? Hearing Tony Blackburn call the entire Ballroom his ‘love children’, quite unsavoury.

How did you get to where you are now? Through luck and determination! I have had a few people ask me if I had thought of being a model and their second question always seemed to be ‘Would you do glamour modelling?’ and I always replied ‘No!’ But after having my picture taken by Andy Belladonna in a nightclub in Norwich, and realising that he didn’t want me to take my clothes off or charge me any money, we spent a day creating my first portfolio. He suggested a few portfolios websites to send my pictures to and as a result I got a casting for Redemption TV (now Rockworld TV! I got a job as one of the interviewers, then all the interviewers were re-cast and I got the position as ‘Face of the Channel’! So now, as well as interviewers, I present the shows from events and introduce the channel and the programmes too!

What has been your biggest achievement so far? My biggest achievement within my job was probably the work I did at the Metal Hammer Awards – I interviewed about 20 bands in as many minutes, with a sheet containing their photos and names, and my producer shouting in my ear as they came along the red carpet. It was crazy but the footage was great!

And your biggest mistake? Not recognising Nick Oliven (ex-Queens of the Stone Age, currently Mundo Generator) as he came off stage at the Metal Hammer award show but still trying to interview him – my trusty producer had left me for all of two minutes. It is incredibly hard to think of questions when you have no idea who the person is, but he must have liked it as he included footage of it on his recent video!

What are your ambitions now? I would like to make my job with the music channel my full-time job, as I still work part-time in other things as the work is quite unpredictable! I would also like to become a respected face and journalist in the metal/punk/alternative music scene.

What advice would you give to someone wanting to work in a similar field? Never think you are not good enough – I was up against experienced models and media students and still got the job. Never turn down an opportunity – better to regret trying and failing than not trying at all. And never, ever, compromise your principles – make it as yourself, or not at all.

What made you choose Keele University? I wanted somewhere that did my course first and foremost, but I also wanted an alternative social scene.

How did you get to where you are now? Other universities I had looked around pointed me to the Geology Club when I asked about a Rock Society, whereas Keele had a very close-knit group of open-minded people who genuinely tried hard to help Fresheners who felt even more out of place than usual!

How has Keele influenced your life? Apart from my degree, the things I will take away from Keele are some friends that I will never lose, and some amazing memories. I have since moved in with people I met at Keele and travelled Australia with them, and they taught me that I wasn’t the only freak out there who liked tattoos and piercings and very loud music!

What is your favourite memory of Keele? There are so many… and so many I can’t repeat in this article! Letting fireworks off outside the Pig and Rat and it all going horribly wrong, ending in the rockets chasing us across the grass… making nude things out of snow in Hawthorns… staying up all night after my graduation ceremony and sleeping on a sofa someone had thrown out… but we were the most fun people at night club every Wednesday at the Union and knowing no matter what, they would all be there, in our own booth, dancing to the same songs and all drinking Snakebite!

And your worst? Being locked out of my room by the cleaner while I was in the shower! When a friend of mine became very ill and had to leave uni for a while, having to leave was pretty bad too!

Anything else you would like to add? I think that while Keele was the right place for me course-wise, you will always have a good time at uni if you meet the right people, and Keele happened to have the right people for me. For that reason it will always be special to me.

For further information visit www.survival-international.org
Life after Keele. Find old friends, and re-connect with peers from the past in the ever-growing community of Keele alumni. Join us as we discover...

1954
Bryan Alderson
(Economics/Geology)
Just returned from four months touring around Australia old car and camping trailer (third visit in eight years). Last year published second historical novel about Norman Pembrokeshire.

1958
John Thomas
(English/History)
I have always been interested in Asia. I am, believe, Keele’s only Centurion – that is, an alumnus aged 100 miles within 24 hours. My race was at Bristol in 1977 and my time of delivery is possible.

1961
Joanna Jellinek
(English/French)
An editor almost my entire working life – presently as freelance publishing editor for magazine of cultural criticism, Critical Quarterly, and British Council book series ‘Writers and Their Work’. Feeling very ambivalent about prospect of retiring – would like more time for music-making, grandsons, friends... but still relishing constant challenge and variety of work.

1964
John Wallace
(History/Geography)

1969
Liz Walton (Le Poidavin)
(English/Psychology)
When my children were young I moved back to Guernsey, my birthplace, and have been here for the past 20 odd years, working in education in various capacities. For the past 5 years I have been an assistant lecturer with the Open University. I retired from teaching in schools a couple of years ago but have recently started a completely new kind of job – working at BBC Radio Guernsey on a casual basis as a general broadcasting assistant. I am also very involved in researching the roles of Channel Islanders in the Great War and contribute regularly to journals and to two websites, www.adaver.net and www.guerwars.net.

1971
Hazel Center
(English/Psychology)
I am working out my last two years to retirement helping to set up the new regulator for gambling in the UK, the Gambling Commission. Guess what, you get to go to casinos and bookies and all sorts of interesting places, but one slight disadvantage is that because of my job I can’t actually gamble! Before working with GC I helped set up Ofcom, the communications regulator, where I had the job of licensing the use of the radio spectrum.

1973
Stuart Gordon
(Latin/Law)
I am a family lawyer specialising in child abuse and child protection cases. I am what is known as a ‘solitary advocate’ with Higher Rights of Audience – so I could appear in the House of Lords if I’d a mind to!

1976
Brian Healey
(French/German)
After 29 years teaching languages in Blackburn, I decided at 50 I was in danger of becoming Mr Chips, so I set up my own property and design company. I now divide my time between fixing ball-cocks, doing watercolour workshops on cruise ships, and interior design. I’m in my spare time I like to sing – Lieder and Oratorio, serve professionally, I love being very bad in keeping touch, but I’d love to make amends.

1978
Steve Rowson
(German/History)
Joined the Metropolitan Police in 1979 and served at Peckham, Greenwich and Scotland Yard. Married Carol in 1985 before emigrating to Australia in 1990. We have loved every minute of it out here and we have two wonderful children. I love scuba diving, swimming and cycling. Still a reading nut and recently completed a Masters in International Relations. I work as the State Security Manager for the Australian Department of Transport responsible for regulating aviation and maritime security in Western Australia. I also have an ongoing role in developing an aviation security capacity building project in Indonesia, and have conducted crisis management training in Malaysia on behalf of the International Civil Aviation Organisation. It’s a fantastic job that keeps me fully occupied.

1980
Carlos Piedrahita
(Economics/Geography)
I am president of the Nacional de Chocolates Group, which is based in Colombia but has subsidiary operations in 10 countries on the American continent and exports to 85 countries in five continents. It is engaged in food processing: chocolate, coffee, pasta, biscuits, processed meats and candy. The company is listed in the Stock Market with over 10,000 shareholders, and we employ over 15,000 people. The company is ranked at number 8 in processed foods in Latin America.

1983
Karen Pedley
(Physics/Computer Science)
A chance conversation with a member of the Communication & Neuroscience Dept in my final year led me to an MSc in Audiology in Southampton. After working as an Audiologist in Manchester, then New Zealand, I married a Hungarian and settled in sub-tropical Queensland, Australia. Our family are passionate hobby gardeners of fruit, including bananas, mangos and lychees. The climate is a far cry from those icy winters on Keele Campus, although I have fond memories of sliding down the snow-covered lawns of Keele Hall on plastic sheets, a recreational skill I passed on to my two Aussie daughters. For the last 10 years I have enjoyed working with cochlear implant recipients, programming their ‘brain ears’ and helping them to adjust to, and learn to use, their new world of sound. I chill out by singing in the Queensland State Choir.

1985
John Fraser
(Philosophy/Economics)
Have investigated the paranormal both as Vice-Chair of the Ghost Club and more recently with the Society for Physical Research. Have previously helped promote Dracula Tours in Romania.

1990
Jim Nield
(Music/Psychology)
I am currently completing a part-time MA in music therapy at Cambridge and working on my ninth album of original electro-acoustic guitar pieces. Last year I spent a month in Bosnia doing voluntary music therapy with orphans, special needs schools and refugee camps. I will be doing this again this autumn.

1992
Graham Hatherley
(Biology/English Literature)
Shooting wildlife in the UK for various BBC series, recently Life In The Undergrowth, Hands on Nature. Currently: Nature’s Calendar. www.wildlives.tv

1996
Lisa Bavan (Recke)
(Law/Psychology)
I opened my first restaurant aged 25, followed by my first four companies all in catering hospitality, owning restaurants, cafés and bars. I had my first child at age 28, a little girl, and haven’t worked since except in my own business. My businesses now run themselves, and I also invest in property here and abroad. I am happily married and expecting my second child! I teach at Lionel Yard. Married Carol in 1985 before emigrating to Australia with old car and camping trailer (third visit in eight years). Last year published second historical novel about Norman Pembrokeshire.

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(Physics/Computer Science)
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1999
Glenn Hodgson
(European Studies/French)
Finished my degree in 1998 and then did my MA at the College D’Europe in preparation for life as a Eurocrat [those dangerous characters you read about in the red-top press]. Went to work for the European Parliament and am now in the private sector, living in Brussels, working as a consultant on European Legislation in the IT/Transport fields. Probably gone native after six years in the European capital. Married Swedish fiancée in Stockholm in 2004 and have one son, Carl.

2000
Mykh Ziatle
(Pharmacy/HRM)
I currently work as a Programme Funding Officer for the Juconi Foundation in Puebla, Mexico, a street children organisation, works with psycho-therapeutic tools and educational tools to enable children who have experienced very severe trauma to cope in ‘normal’ society. I have been here six months so far with the intention of staying for three years. If anyone would like more information check out our website at www.jucioni.org/en/english/index.html.

2001
Tricia Magee
(Geography/Psychology)
Living in London, south of the river. Bizarrely I am managing 150 staff and nine stations for London Underground – not where I thought I would end up!

2002
Emma Cullingworth
(Physiotherapy)
After graduation, I worked as a junior physio at North Staffs, then moved to Birmingham Children’s Hospital in 2004 to do paediatrics, and I am still there now and really love my job! Went to Kenya in November 2004 on a wheelchair distribution trip with a charity called ‘Wheels to the World’.

2004
James Murphy
(Business Administration)
Since completing my MBA I have changed industry, career and job. Keele and an MBA gave me the confidence and aspiration to leave a well paid job and start my own business, changing jobs from Logistics to Sales and from Security to the dream of creating my own success. Thanks Keele!
Due to the large response to our mailing last year we are only able to print the names of those who sent in their news. Go to the website www.keele.ac.uk/alumni to discover what everyone has been doing...
in memory

OBITUARIES

Alumni
Listed by year of graduation
Michael Lamb (1954 English/History)
Jack Parsons (1955 Philosophy/Politics)
Don Dallas (1959 Philosophy/Politics)
Edward Sayre (1960 Philosophy/Physics)
Joy Chappell (Roberts) (1966 French/Politics)
Alan Milne (1961 History/English)
Dot Gilley (Bryson) (1963 English/French)
Geffrey Harris (1965 English/German)
Mike Matthews (1966 English/American Studies)
John Richardson (1967 Maths/Philosophy)
William Brown (1969 Education)
John Parker (1972 Psychology/Biology)
Bill Giff (1973 American Studies/Politics)
Rob Oldham (1973 Maths/Physics)
Daniel Mcgrory (1974 American Studies/Politics)
Jon Hayward (1975 Law/Philosophy)
Deborah Gordon (1981 History/Geography)
Gerald Bunting (1981 History/Politics)
Susan War (Cooper) (1982 Psychology/Politics)
Christopher Bentley (1990 Management Science/Biology, also PhD Biology)
James Horrocks (1994, MA Community Care)
Donald Drayton (1997 MA Industrial Relations and HRM)
Kathryn Chesworth (1999 Criminology/Psychology)
Sue Lynne Owen (2000 Physiotherapy)
Russell Austin (2001 History/Ancient History)
Gavin Crossley (2003 History/Criminology)

Staff
Marion Bailey: the first employee of the University. Secretary to Lord Lindsay and subsequently three Registrars. She worked at Keele for 37 years until her retirement in 1986.

David Battey: came to Keele in 1969 as a lecturer in Computer Science. He was also a senior warden, and worked at Keele for 32 years.

Tony Coldbuck: member of the Estates team.

Roger Dyson: former director of the Clinical Management Unit in the Centre for Health Planning and Management accounting assistant in the Finance department since 1991 and update the alumni office database.

Margaret Hayley: the University’s oldest and longest serving resident, her late husband, Harold Hark Hayley, was Director of Physical Education from 1951 to 1982.

Carol Lear: had been involved in and supervised many important catering events at Keele Hall.

Roland Seymour: lecturer in the education department in the 1970s.

Dawn Smith: Management Accounting Assistant in the Finance Department since 1991 and Keele UNSOS Branch Treasurer.

Charles Swann: one of the founding members of Keele’s Department of American Studies.

It’s a small Keele world

There must be something about Help The Aged’s London headquarters as it has attracted six Keele graduates to work there.


While none of them knew each other at Keele, they soon found each other at work through word of mouth, or, as Rajesh puts it, “when Sarah G screamed something about missing the Union (square coffee moments!”

“I was surprised to find myself among so many Keele company here but then should I be?” said James. “My time at Keele gave me a broad education, the ability to socialise with others from a wide range of backgrounds and a great sense of humour – all of which one needs to work in a large and caring organisation like ours.”

STOP PRESS: The HTA Six have been joined by a Seventh while Hannah Meyrick (2005 Politics/Sociology) temps in their office – and Tessa Harding (1966 English/French), who retired last year as Head of Policy, is still on the books as a policy consultant. So that makes eight!

BIRDS OF A FEATHER...

Five months after arriving in the beautiful city of Perth I was facing Steve Faulkner as he interviewed me for the position of Product Manager within the Travel & Leisure Category he managed at the RAC in Western Australia. Clearly British, but otherwise failing to give off any other outward signs that he might have more in common with me beyond that, he posed one of his interview questions: “I saw you went to Keele University. I heard that was a pretty poor university. How did you find it?”

Something taken aback, and mildly red-faced, I muttered something about having enjoyed my time there while wishing I’d responded with something a little more heartfelt regarding my fond memories of Keele. He smirked, before admitting that he too had been there and was aware of the university’s poor reputation. “But it does mean I can use something about having enjoyed my time there as a way of questioning the candidate’s potential.”

I tried to think of a way to respond, but the thought of saying anything that would make me look clever was too much for me and I just said something about it not being a difficult decision to move to Australia. “I see” he replied. “Fantastic weather and a wonderfully relaxed culture, it’s not a difficult decision to move here.”

“I suppose it isn’t” I said. “I mean, with beautiful blue skies, amazing beaches, and a wonderful relaxed culture, it’s not difficult.”

“Take a look at her education!” scribbled across one morning to find a document on my desk with whatever you like!”

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Sonja Jones (1999 American Studies/Marketing)
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