UNLOCKING Keele’s POTENTIAL with the Key Fund
The most successful type of event we run for alumni is Keele In The City – an informal night out in a bar with plenty of Keelites.

Before our first KITC in London in 2006, other universities warned us to expect between 80 and 150 alumni to turn up – if we were lucky. Between 350 and 400 people came to rub shoulders, exchange gossip and memories and to rendezvous with old Keele pals. Many were living in London but others travelled in, and some even dropped in from abroad! Every generation of Keelites was represented. In 2007 we again welcomed well over 300 alumni to the Pitcher and Piano in Trafalgar Square, and at the time of going to press KITC Manchester is set to take place at the beginning of April. There are no speeches, no presentations, no death by PowerPoint and no formal agenda. Just “the Union transplanted” and a chance to catch up with other Keelites across the generations.

To make sure you hear about our next great Keele In The City events, sign up for our e-zine at www.keele.ac.uk/alumni/alumni_foreverkeele.htm or join our group Keele Society on Facebook.

More information at www.keele.ac.uk/alumni/alumni_1ak.htm

University Events – All Welcome!

Public Sector Series

Inaugural Lecture Series
Recently appointed professors give a fascinating insight into their own subject specialism.

Keele Concert Society
This series has a strong reputation for innovative programming, including the commissioning of new works.

Poetry Live!
Top poets give readings of their works in the University’s Westminster Theatre. Forthcoming performances include Andrew Motion.

www.keele.ac.uk/whatson.htm

Keep in Touch
If you want to keep up to date with the goings-on at Keele but don’t want to wait for the next magazine, sign up for our electronic alumni mailing lists.

More than 6,800 Keelites are already subscribed to our monthly e-zine, with more than 4,700 also receiving the weekly email from the Alumni Office.

There is an unmoderated mailing list called alumni-chat, designed for free discussion of days at Keele, personalities, bars, demos, whatever you like!

For graduates of the 1950s and 1960s there is our Pioneers mailing list for lively discussion and nostalgia, and alumni living in North America have their own designated list, Noram.

You can sign up for the monthly e-zine online at www.keele.ac.uk/alumni/alumni_foreverkeele.htm if you would like to join any of the other mailing lists send an email to: j.c.easom@kfm.keele.ac.uk giving your name, name when at Keele if different, years at Keele, subject(s), postal address and telephone number.
I am pleased to be able to offer a brief introduction to the third edition of forever:keele to all our alumni and our honorary graduates.

We have always known the strength of feeling that our former students have for Keele University, but up until recently we have not had the opportunity to chat with many of you about your time here. You may have been contacted recently by telephone by a current Keele student as part of our first alumni affinity and fundraising ‘telethon.’

This exercise gave us the opportunity – through an outstanding team of student callers – to find out exactly what it is you loved, and still love, about Keele, and why it will always hold a special place in your hearts.

Many of you very kindly offered to support the University in various ways – either through a donation to the Keele Key Fund or by giving of your time, experience and expertise. We are very grateful to all those who took part and for the very many generous pledges of support. You can read more about the telethon and the projects to be initiated through the Keele Key Fund in the special centrefold supplement in this issue of forever:keele.

I know our team of student callers were thrilled to hear your stories of what Keele was like in your day, and they also enjoyed sharing their own experiences – sometimes very different from your own, but always with a certain “Keele-ness” in common.

Many of the students were inspired by what you have gone on to do and we are always delighted to hear about the varied paths our alumni have taken into the world, some of which you’ll find out about in the pages of this magazine.

You will also be able to find out more about our future plans and our vision to become the Ultimate Campus University for the 21st Century. In its early years Keele was the template for the new generation of campus universities of the 1960s. We aim to repeat that leading role, but in the circumstances of the 21st Century. We have an unrivalled opportunity because we are expanding the University site with a 73-acre mixed-use development to include academic, commercial and staff and student accommodation. But our vision for making Keele the Ultimate Campus University in the UK extends to all our activities.

We hope you will be as excited about the developments at Keele as we are, and that we will be able to help you to continue with strong links with your University.

Janet Finch

Professor Janet Finch, CBE, DL, AcSS
Vice-Chancellor
Keele University
Lord Stafford, former Pro-Chancellor and Chair of the University Council, conducted a ceremony in July to mark the beginning of the infrastructure works at the 70-acre site to the east of the University. This flagship scheme is expected to create around 1,100 new jobs and 40 high-quality businesses.

It is expected that the on-site infrastructure works will be completed by early summer, while the built development is scheduled to begin during 2008 and continue over the next 10 years.

The overall cost of the on-site and off-site infrastructure works is currently estimated at £8.3 million, and is being funded by Advantage West Midlands and the North Staffordshire Regeneration Zone under an agreement with Keele University Science and Business Park Limited and Keele University.

Thirty-eight acres of land will accommodate a mixed-use development of high-quality commercial buildings for knowledge-based companies, academic research facilities, a specialist conference centre and student residential accommodation.

Another 32 acres of land will incorporate open space, landscaping, roads and services. All of the existing mature woodlands surrounding the site are to be retained as a backcloth to the development.

The works are being carried out by Wrekin Construction Company Limited. The company won the contract for these works against strong competition having being judged against a full range of factors such as value for money, deliverability, sustainability and benefits to the local supply chain.

The other partners involved in bringing forward the site for development are Poole Dick Associates, Wardell Armstrong, Staffordshire County Council, Watermans and Hulme Upright Manning.

Professor Janet Finch, Vice-Chancellor of Keele University said: “The new development site will be vital not only for Keele University but also in contributing to a sustainable economic future for Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme and North Staffordshire. The establishment of new high-value, knowledge-based industries on the new site will strengthen the long-term competitiveness of the area.”

The photograph shows, left to right, Keele’s Vice-Chancellor Janet Finch, Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme David Clarke, David Barlow of Advantage West Midlands, Anthony Brown of Wrekin Construction, Lord Stafford and Eric Hassall, Deputy Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Keele University Science and Business Park Limited.
Friends Forever

The longstanding affinity between Keele University and its alumni has become overwhelmingly evident over the past three years through our reunions, Keele in the City events, forever:keele magazine and ‘put in touch’ initiatives.

However, some of our alumni have been engaged in the promotion, support and development of the University for many years as members of the Friends of Keele, a wide-ranging network of people brought together by a common interest in the University.

Since its launch in 1984, the Friends, now chaired by Pioneer graduate Brenda Jones (Duthie) (1955 Politics/History), has fulfilled a key ambassadorial role for the University promoting Keele’s activities and future plans to many individuals and organisations throughout the local region.

In addition to alumni, the Friends membership includes current and former Keele staff, members of the local community, corporate members and local societies who give both time and donations to key University projects and activities. In recent years the Friends have generously accomplished the refurbishment of the University Art Gallery, restoration of the historical Sneyd Mosaic and formal Keele Hall gardens, renovation of the Chapel organ, the funding of medical student bursaries and many other projects.

The Friends of Keele are regularly brought together through an annual programme of social events which, through key occasions such as the Honorary Graduate Lecture and cultural evenings, also offer a wider audience the opportunity for enjoyable and informative interaction. Current plans include a key public lecture to be given by eminent ceramics expert, Paul Atterbury of BBC Antiques Roadshow fame.

Friends also enjoy additional privileges such as invitations to private viewings of art exhibitions, discounts on bookings for Keele Concerts, use of the exclusive Terrace Restaurant in Keele Hall, regular invitations to other key University events, plus free campus parking throughout the year.

Annual subscription rates are £20 for a single alumni membership. Non-alumni (£25), student (£15), corporate (£100) and life memberships (£500) are also available.

If you would like to join other like-minded people and support the University as it seeks to become the UK’s leading open integrated intellectual community, then become a Friend of Keele by contacting:

Julie Kershaw, Friends of Keele, Marketing Office, Darwin Building, Keele University, Staffordshire ST5 5BG. Tel: (01782) 584169 Email: friends@kfm.keele.ac.uk

Come home to Keele!

You know what it’s like – you keep meaning to catch up with your Keele friends but you can never find the right time or place... But don’t worry, because we’ve done that for you!

What better place to see your old friends but in the place that brought you together? You spent times to remember – and times to forget – here, so come back to Keele for a Saturday in the Union. Just like old times...

Our first Homecoming will revolve around entertainment organised with and around the Students’ Union on Saturday, 7 June.

We expect demand to be high, so to register, email Hannah Hiles on h.e.hiles@kfm.keele.ac.uk or sign up on Facebook via the event hosted by our group “Keele Society”. There’s more information on the website at www.keele.ac.uk/alumni/alumni_homecoming.htm
The discovery of three new planets by the Keele scientists, "Hot Jupiters" Discovered, was placed at number six in the “Top Ten Scientific Discoveries” of the year by Time Magazine, in partnership with CNN.

The entry says: "This October, British scientists identified three new planets outside our own Solar System, as part of an ongoing search for Earth-like exoplanets called the Wide Angle Search for Planets, or WASP. The new planets, named WASP-3, WASP-4 and WASP-5, are about the size of Jupiter, and orbit so close to their suns that their surface temperature reaches some 2,000°C. That rules out the possibility of life on these “hot Jupiters”, but scientists surmise that other Earth-sized planets may be making cooler, longer orbits around those same suns."

The three new extra-solar planets, WASP-3, WASP-4 and WASP-5, include the first discoveries from the WASP-South observatory, built and operated by Keele as part of the WASP consortium.

Project leader Dr Coel Hellier, of the Keele Astrophysics Group, said: “These planets transit their host star, which means we can deduce their radius, mass and composition, making them very important for understanding how planets form and evolve.”

All three planets are Jupiter-mass objects and are so close to their host star that they orbit in less than two days. The planets orbit around stars similar to our Sun that are located at a distance of 850 light years away from the Earth.

Two are in the constellation of Phoenix, visible only from the Southern hemisphere, while the third is in the Northern constellation of Lyra. All three stars are too faint to be seen with the naked eye, but are easily detectable with a small telescope. WASP-4 and WASP-5 are now the two brightest transiting exoplanets in the Southern sky. This discovery establishes Keele's WASP-South as the leading transit-search survey in the Southern hemisphere.

Dr Hellier added: ‘As 'Time' has recognised, the search for extra-solar planets inspires both the public and scientists. We are on a wave of exploration that will ultimately tell us whether there is life elsewhere in the universe, and it is thrilling that the Keele Astrophysics Group is playing a leading role.'

Other discoveries listed in the top ten include Stem Cell Breakthroughs; the Brightest Supernova Recorded; Hundreds of New Species Discovered in the Weddell Sea off Antarctica and Building A Human Heart Valve.

More information on the WASP planets can be found at www.superwasp.org/ wasp_planets.htm A live feed from the WASP-South observatory can be seen at wasp.astro.keele.ac.uk/live/
KEELE IN PRIME POSITION ON NEW MONOPOLY BOARD

Thanks to the votes of students, alumni, staff and Keele residents, we’re on a new edition of the iconic property board game. Occupying the position of ‘Fleet Street’ on the standard Monopoly board, Keele is in a prime real-estate location on the new ‘Here and Now’ limited edition available nationwide.

Despite having a permanent population of just 3,672, Keele gained more than 14,000 votes to bag 10th place, after University students ran a campaign to get it on the map.

Monopoly’s James Adams told The Guardian newspaper: “They did astonishingly well because, like Colchester and Middlesbrough, Keele was a wildcard entry which wasn’t on the original 66-strong shortlist.

“That meant that everyone voting for them had to log in ‘Keele’ first, before they could go on to vote. Anyway, it’s put them on the international map.”

More than one million votes were cast in total in the online poll, with Keele among only three ‘wildcard’ towns and villages.

As Alumni Officer John Easom puts it: “Keele, at one time dubbed the ‘Kremlin on the Hill’, can now enjoy its own Red Square!”

THE KEELE BUBBLE REALLY DOES EXIST...

Generations of students have understood the ‘Keele bubble’, and now they can actually arrange to meet there!

The Students’ Union held a vote to find the most popular name for a new social space within the K2 nightclub, and The Bubble was the clear favourite.

Unrecognisable as the old K2 toilets, The Bubble is equipped with sumptuous décor, stylish sofas and a few sparkling lights to add to the ambience.

Oli Cotterill, VP Finance and Activities, said: “We hope this will become an area that offers something different on a night out; a place for people to chill out and talk to their friends.”

The Bubble can be booked as a meeting room or for events. Contact Joan Hope, Premises & Facilities Co-ordinator, on 01782 584815 or email j.hope@kusu.keele.ac.uk for more information about booking The Bubble or any of the other spaces at the Union.
A new study has identified a regionally-specific distribution of aluminium in breast tissue which may have implications for the cause of breast cancer.

Scientists have found that the aluminium content of breast tissue and breast tissue fat was significantly higher in the outer regions of the breast, in close proximity to the area where there would be the highest density of antiperspirant.

Recent research has linked breast cancer with the use of aluminium-based, underarm antiperspirants. The known, but unaccounted for, higher incidence of tumours in the upper outer quadrant of the breast seemed to support such a contention. However, the identification of a mechanism of antiperspirant-induced breast cancer has remained elusive.

A team, led by Dr. Chris Exley (pictured) of the Birchall Centre for Inorganic Chemistry and Materials at Keele University, measured the aluminium content of breast tissue from 17 breast cancer patients recruited from Wythenshaw Hospital, Manchester, UK. Whether differences in the distribution of aluminium in the breast are related to the known higher incidence of tumours in the outer upper quadrant of the breast remains to be ascertained.

The major constituent of antiperspirant is aluminium salts which have long been associated with cancer, as well as other human disease. The daily application of aluminium-based antiperspirants should result in the presence of aluminium in the tissue of the underarm and surrounding areas, though there is almost no data on aluminium in breast tissue.

Breast cancer is the most common malignancy in women and is the leading cause of death among women aged 35-54. The cause of breast cancer is unknown and is likely to be a combination of generic and environmental factors.

Each of the patients in the study had undergone a mastectomy and biopsies from four different regions of the breast on a transect from the outer (axilla and lateral) to the inner (middle and medial) breast were collected.

Tests showed that while there were significant differences in the concentrations of aluminium between individuals they did show “a statistically higher concentration of aluminium in the outer as compared with the inner region of the breast”.

The report, published in the Journal of Inorganic Biochemistry, goes on: “We have confirmed the presence of aluminium in breast tissue and its possible regional distribution within the breast. Higher content of aluminium in the outer breast might be explained by this region’s closer proximity to the underarm where the highest density of application of antiperspirant could be assumed. There is evidence that skin is permeable to aluminium when applied as antiperspirant. “However, we have no direct evidence that the aluminium measured in these breast biopsies originated from antiperspirant. An alternative explanation might be that tumorous tissue acts as a ‘sink’ for systemic aluminium.”

But it goes on to say that “aluminium in breast tissue might contribute” to breast cancer.

“Aluminium is a metalloestrogen, it is genotoxic, is bound by DNA and has been shown to be carcinogenic. It is also a pro-oxidant and this unusual property might provide a mechanistic basis for any putative carcinogenicity. The confirmed presence of aluminium in breast tissue biopsies highlights its potential as a possible factor in the aetiology of breast cancer.”
Keele Law professor and part-time judge Martin Wasik was honoured with a CBE in the New Year Honours List for his services to the criminal justice system. He retired as chairman of the Sentencing Advisory Panel last year after eight years. Mr Wasik first studied Law in the 1970s. After he graduated from Manchester University, he qualified as a barrister but opted for academia. His first teaching post was at Keele in 1975 where he stayed for five years before returning to his alma mater as a professor. In 2000 he returned to Keele, attracted by the School of Law’s reputation. He continued to work as a part-time judge, known as a Crown Court Recorder for the Midlands circuit, usually at Stoke-on-Trent or Stafford.

Since standing down from the advisory panel, he has taken up a new post alongside Cherie Booth QC. Reporting to The Howard League For Penal Reform, he will investigate the role of Britain’s prisons and their place within the broader criminal justice system. Professor Michael Thomson, Head of Keele’s School of Law, said: “This honour is a timely recognition of his achievements.”

Field investigations at Stalag Luft III, the WW2 allied PoW camp where 76 inmates escaped in March 1944 (inspiring the 1963 Steve McQueen film The Great Escape) revealed dozens of tunnels after archaeologists from Keele University and UCL conducted field investigations, including surveying, ground penetrating radar and mechanical excavations on the site.

One tunnel – known as Tom – was discovered and destroyed by the Germans. Of the 76 PoWs who escaped in March 1944 through the Harry tunnel, only three reached allied territory. The remaining tunnel, Dick, used to store both materials for the escape and sand from Harry, was never discovered by the camp authorities.

Research published in the journal Geoarchaeology described the materials found within the entrance shaft to the ‘Dick’ tunnel, including prisoner-made lamps and a rubber pass stamp made from a boot heel bearing a Wehrmacht eagle. They also found remnants of stolen electric cable used to light the tunnel, an escape kit featuring an attached case containing a civilian coat, fragments of a German language book, buttons, thread, a toothbrush, a marble and a draughts piece. Excavations found the still intact but sand-filled tunnel 30 feet below ground level, with the basic ventilation system, comprising linked Red Cross milk cans (‘Klim tins’), and bedboards used as tunnel shoring, still in place.

Interviews from Dr Jamie Pringle (Research Institute for the Environment, Physical Sciences and the Applied Mathematics at Keele) and Professor Peter Doyle (UCL) were featured in the international media.

Collaborative research between Keele, University College London and South Carolina University has successfully located undiscovered tunnels and escape materials at the PoW camp made famous in a classic film.

Collaborative Research Locates Missing Tunnels at ‘Great Escape’ Prisoner of War Camp

The project ‘Being Greener and Cleaner: promoting public awareness of climate change and embracing environmental citizenship’ is aimed at promoting public awareness and understanding of the science behind climate change and renewable energy technologies, and the role that individual actions can play in tackling the problem of climate change. To date, the project has worked with 22 schools around the Stoke area and Manchester, and with a range of project partners to inspire teachers in geography and science to grapple with the varied issues surrounding the topic of climate change.

In addition to this work with schools, the project team have given many talks to the public and different organisations and have been involved in over 20 public events and roadshows, working with project partners such as Sustainable Staffordshire, the Staffordshire Business and Environment Network and Staffordshire County Council.

Over the past twelve months Lucy Gallagher, Dr Zoe Robinson and Professor Mark Ormerod in the School of Physical and Geographical Sciences and Institute for the Environment, Physical Sciences and Applied Mathematics, have been working on a project funded by Defra and Research Councils UK.

CBE FOR KEELE PROFESSOR

Keele Law professor and part-time judge Martin Wasik was honoured with a CBE in the New Year Honours List for his services to the criminal justice system.
Period-style furniture and planting schemes have been introduced, while the former butler’s service room has been fitted with a kitchen that now services the main floor of rooms to improve the presentation and service of the many dinners, weddings and buffets held at Keele Hall. The Terrace Restaurant has also been extensively remodelled, while the University’s art collection has been used to greater effect with a number of paintings and silver and ceramic pieces being put on display.

Visitors will be able to learn more about the rooms through information boards and photographs explaining the background to the rooms.

The original Keele Hall was built by the Sneyd family about 1580, but with age and damp, the house began to fall into disrepair. When Ralph Sneyd inherited the house in 1829, he began to make improvements, working on the lakes, planting trees and altering roads. He continued to live in the existing house for a further 25 years until he decided to demolish it and rebuild the house starting in 1855. The final cost was in the region of £80,000 and Sneyd lived to enjoy it for less than 10 years.

Ralph Sneyd’s nephew was the last of the family to live at Keele. He moved to London and the Hall was rented to Grand Duke Michael of Russia. In 1947 the hall was sold to the Stoke-on-Trent Corporation and in 1949 it became the University College of North Staffordshire, receiving its Charter as the University of Keele in 1962.

Marcus Wilson, Marketing Manager for Keele Conferences, said: “This refurbishment project is only the start of a long-term strategy for Keele University to become the premier conference and events venue both locally and nationally.”

To find out more about Keele’s award-winning venue, then log onto www.keele-conference.com email enq@kfm.keele.ac.uk or call 01782 583659.

The competition required students to enter comments about UK universities and the institution with the most comments/points would be named the winner. Keele racked up an impressive 172,094 points, with Hertfordshire coming second with 156,441 points.

Keele Hall Wedding Fair Success

Wedding organisers at Keele University are celebrating their most successful wedding fair yet.

More than 600 people visited the fair at Keele Hall in January, and within two days 60 per cent of people who made enquiries had already made a provisional booking. Visitors were welcomed by a Highland piper and were able to chat to more than 50 suppliers and view a wide range of cars including a stretch Hummer. Couples were able to sit down with wedding organisers to discuss their plans and the venue, as well as enjoying two fashion shows and a mock civil wedding ceremony performed by Newcastle Register Office.

Marketing Manager Marcus Wilson said: “Year on year this fair gets better and better, with a greater range of suppliers offering a broad spectrum of products and services. We were pleased to welcome so many couples and are delighted that so many of them have decided to make a booking for their special day with us.”

For more information about weddings at Keele, please call 01782 584032, email enq@kfm.keele.ac.uk or visit the website www.keeleweddings.co.uk
Keele University academic Professor Rajmil Fischman is celebrating after releasing his first solo CD. The 51-year-old professor of composition, who has worked at Keele University since 1988, has seen his CD “...a ‘wonderful’ world” released internationally by EMF Media, thanks to funding from Keele’s research Institute for Humanities.

Originally from Peru, Professor Fischman has been composing music since he was 12 years old and wrote the five-track electro-acoustic CD, featuring electronics and human performers, during 2000-2003.

“I’m really happy that the CD has been released, and I’m really proud of it because a lot of thought has gone into it,” he says.

“It is a summary of a particular period in my life and expresses a number of concerns that I had at that time, from political issues to personal ones.”

Professor Fischman studied physics and engineering at university in Israel and feels this technical background has helped him make the most of technology in music.

“I had thought I would make music my hobby but instead I tend to relax with physics and maths books,” he says.

“It’s a myth that compositions come to you in a flash — it takes years of hard work and self-criticism. You can’t be self-indulgent. It’s down to a little bit of inspiration and a lot of sweat.”

Suzy, who comes from Wimbledon, was based at Keele University Medical School for years three to five of her medical degree. During her time at Keele, Suzy performed extremely well academically, gaining a number of prizes including the Donald Kemp Memorial Prize, the Year 4 Progress Prize and the Royal College of Forensic Psychiatrists Essay Prize.

While studying at Manchester University Medical School for the first years of her degree, she was awarded the University of Manchester Service Medal for coming to the aid of fellow climber on an expedition to investigate altitude sickness on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro.

She was joint co-ordinator and founder of the bone marrow charity “Marrow Keele”, and was co-author of a published research paper on HIV testing. She also travelled within Europe, and to America and Africa gaining experience and training in wilderness medicine, altitude medicine and space medicine.

While studying for her degree, Suzy also completed the level one British Sign Language qualification.

Suzy said: “I am really pleased and honoured to have won the Student of the Year award and hope that Keele continues to thrive and provide many more students with the wonderful opportunities I have had.”

Alumni officer John Easom said: “Suzy impressed the interview panel, which consisted of both internal and external representatives, with her commitment to her subject, her academic achievements to date and her enthusiastic contribution to the wider community through her extra-curricular activities.”

Professor Rajmil Fischman’s CD “...a ‘wonderful’ world” is available online from www.emfmedia.org/catalog/em163.html where you can also hear samples of three of the tracks.

Keele University Professor hopes to kick-start genes into action

A Keele University Professor has been awarded almost £15,000 from Breast Cancer Campaign, the only charity that specialises in funding independent breast cancer research throughout the UK.

This award forms part of the Campaign’s small pilot grant programme which was established to enable scientists to explore brand new breast cancer research ideas and discover whether a particular area of research should be pursued in depth. When normal breast cells become too damaged to be repaired by the body, they self-destruct in a process called apoptosis. Apoptosis is important in preventing the development of breast cancer because it removes damaged cells before they continue to divide and form a breast tumour.

Professor Gwyn Williams and his team have identified two new genes, PLAC8 and vATPaseE, that control apoptosis in normal breast cells and they hope to discover why the control of these genes fails at some point allowing breast cancer cells to live.

Professor Williams said: “I hope this pilot study will lead to the development of new breast cancer drugs that will kick-start the process of apoptosis back into action to kill breast cancer cells.”
Following the successes of the season finale in 2006, the AU returned in determined spirits. 2006/7 was a record year for AU members with just over 1500 students being members, and according to clubs, all continuing to attend training and matches.

As ever in the team:keele office the weather was a continual worry, but Keele managed to escape the worst of it and rarely cancelled matches due to the infamous ‘waterlogged pitches’ that had wreaked havoc in 2005. With the Christmas Ball being the mid-point in the BUSA season, everyone ended the first semester in high spirits.

The return to sports in January 2007 marked a turning point in the sporting calendar. With the BUSA season nearly complete, everyone was well aware of their league positions. In the end a total of six teams finished top of their leagues. This put all of them into play-offs for shields and plates. Notable successes were made by Women’s Fencing who finished top of their league, in the highest north West regional league before reaching the northern Conference.

Football also had a successful season with both the Men’s 1st Team and the Women’s 1st Team finishing top of their league. Women’s Football was promoted and is now competing in League 2 in the North West. Netball 1st team also finished top of their league.

2007 saw great success for the Golf team. Resurrected from near extinction at the beginning of the year, the club rose to the challenge to finish top of their league and reach the last 8 Golf teams nationally.

Varsity 2007 was a major event in the sporting calendar. With the introduction of four new sports, the event took off with great gusto. Rugby was reintroduced to the Varsity programme with the event being centralised. Mixed Lacrosse, Women’s Hockey and Netball were also included. The event was held at Staffordshire University before heading to Newcastle Town for the grand finale of Men’s Football.

Success by team:keele in Netball and Hockey meant that it all rested on the Men’s Football as to who would be crowned Varsity Champion 2007. After a tense match Staffordshire won. Keele, never put down for long, were already looking to Varsity 2008 to beat their rivals, and claim back the Varsity Champion accolade.

2007/8 got off to a positive start, and with the BUSA season nearly complete only time will tell as to how Keele does this year. With some positive reports and some lessons learned the season so far has been anything but a smooth ride to the top of the pile, but there are still matches left!
Keele Konnections

Terry Oliver (1967 German/Geology) and Ann Mackenzie (1968 German/French) were surprised to discover they had been working in similar fields in the same German city for 32 years. Terry says: “In 1964 Ann and I both started in the same principal German group. After the second principal year I never saw her again because she took a year abroad while I went straight into doing finals. In 2006, as a result of the Pioneers list, I received an e-mail from Ann and it transpired that we have both been living and working in the Greater Hamburg area for many years without knowing of each other’s existence! So after 32 years of parallel worlds we met up and had a great time ‘wallowing in nostalgia’.”

Madeleine Edwards (1977 English/Philosophy) works at Christ the King Sixth Form College in South East London with another three Keele graduates — Steve Tingle (1976 History/English), Anne Jackson (Pillinger) (1981 English/Psychology) and Shane Kelly (1992 English/Sociology & Social Anthropology). “And none of them is there because of connections with any of the others,” says Madeleine.

Anna Humphrey (Kirby) (1974 physics/education) was married Paul Humphrey (2001 Physiotherapy) in 2006. Anna says: “We were in the same class at Keele but lost touch on leaving. We then got back in touch a couple of years later by mis-reading a Keele but lost touch on leaving. We then got back in touch a couple of years later by mis-reading a Keele reunion at the wedding!”

When Tracy Playle (2002 American Literature and Culture) met Melanie Knetsch (1999 Medical Social Anthropology) at an Economic and Social Research Council event they discovered they had both studied at Keele at the same time. Tracy says: “Melanie used to work in the KPA and probably served me many pints in there! We were discussing how funny it is that for such a small university, Keele people really do seem to be everywhere – and when we meet and identify other ‘Keelites’ it seems to create a certain kind of bond and enthusiasm.”

Bob Harris (1977 International Relations) made a Keele Konnection at a meeting of a writing group in Kent. “We all had to read out something connected with travel. I read my ‘Bosnia Bound’, which was written for the alumni newsletter back in 1997. I mentioned Keele and International Relations and afterwards a new member came up to me and said: ‘I did IR at Keele as a mature student.’” It was Jon Lamb (1994 International Relations) – and Deal Writers now has two Keele graduates.

Student caller Layla Laurenson-West was surprised to speak to her A Level maths teacher Jon Nicholls (2001 Philosophy/Maths) during the Autumn Telephone. “We spent a lot of time catching up and talking about home,” says Layla. “I can remember he was one of the reasons I chose to come to Keele.”

Warren Colman (1973 English/Sociology & Social Anthropology) was surprised to learn during a trip to the theatre in Russia that his colleague Helen Morgan (1974 Physics/Education) was a fellow Keelite. He says: “Some time in 2003, I found myself in a somewhat dilapidated theatre somewhere in St Petersburg. I was there with Helen Morgan, a fellow Jungian psychoanalyst, to watch a rather ramshackle performance of ‘Jesus Christ, Superstar’ in Russian, of which neither of us could understand a word. The two of us had been making regular weekend visits to St Petersburg for nearly three years to provide supervision for trainee Jungian analysts as part of a larger project to support psychotherapy in Russia. Each weekend, our hosts would take us to a local cultural event of which this was just about the strangest. In the interval we worked out that the original production in England must have been around 1973. ‘So what were you doing in 1973?’ Helen asked me. ‘I was in my final year at University’ I said. ‘Oh, and where was that?’ she said. Only then, after working closely together for nearly three years did we discover that we had both been at Keele during the same period, yet our paths had never crossed.”

Have you got a Keele Konnection to share? Email Hannah Hiles on h.e.hiles@kfm.keele.ac.uk

PRODUCTIONS

Joseph Bonnor, Keele Drama Society Secretary 2007/8, looks back at the Society’s recent productions:

This year for Keele Drama Society has, as usual, been a very busy one. So far since my fellow committee members and I took over at the start of this academic year, we have seen KDS produce some of its finest work. We’ve had record breaking turn-outs for our plays so far, a great success for us. The plays we have put on this year really allowed the actors and all the crew to shine in their roles, with such performances as ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ by Oscar Wilde and ‘Brothers’ (a crime thriller) written by KDS member Andy Humes. The members have had no shortage of variety with which to flex their performing arts muscles.

This semester sees our production of Terry Pratchett’s ‘Men at Arms’. This is the second time his novels have been brought to life on the stage here at Keele, and it promises to be a fantastic event, one which the cast and crew are very much looking forward to. Upcoming events this semester include the KDS One Act Play festival and of course, the traditional annual summer Shakespeare in May.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you there!
Keele University reaches for the stars

Keele University’s observatory is set to be restored in a £700,000 project to create a top visitor attraction and promote astronomy and the physical sciences to students and the community.

The Observatory has long been popular with staff, students and the community, and this project will give Keele an unrivalled centre of which they can be justly proud.

The Observatory has made a significant contribution to Keele’s activities over the past 40 years and can now continue to do so into the 21st Century.

The Observatory is open to the public every Tuesday between 8pm and 10.30pm (irrespective of weather), except the second Tuesday in May to the second Tuesday in August, and on Saturday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm.

For more information about the project contact Prof Nye Evans on ae@astro.keele.ac.uk or 01782 583342. For more information about visiting the observatory please contact Observatory Director Mike Brough on mdb@astro.keele.ac.uk or 01782 583414.
In October, Keele University launched the Keele Key Fund. This is a new long-term approach by the University to attract new sources of income to improve student life at Keele. The Keele Key Fund is focused on six main elements:

- **Enhancing the Student Experience**
- **Sports, Arts and Leisure**
- **Bursaries and Scholarships**
- **Academic Excellence**
- **Heritage and Environment**
- **Annual Project – Observatory**

Forty-four students, mainly second year undergraduates but also a couple of postgraduates, telephoned Keele alumni throughout November. We decided to phone alumni who attended Keele between 1950 and 1985, plus a couple of later year groups. All those we aimed to call were sent a letter in advance from the Vice-Chancellor’s office.

As this was our first campaign we needed a lot of help so our call room was organised and supported by experienced consultants. There has been a truly exceptional response and we are both surprised and delighted by the scale and generosity of your support – and of your interest in and affection for Keele.

Our callers heard about the experiences of their predecessors at Keele – from the mysteries of the Foundation Year and the ‘Keele experiment’ to the cosy Huts, from the Declaration of Independence to the Levitation of the Vice-Chancellor’s residence and all the fun, frolics and pranks enjoyed by every Keele generation.

They also discovered how people felt about remaining connected to Keele, and just how many people loved Keele – and keep on loving Keele long after they have left. We all know about the community at Keele but our callers have realised that our current students don’t know yet the community dispersed around the country and the entire world.

In return for memories and offers of donations, our student callers shared their own enthusiasm and affection for Keele and expressed how important it was to provide the best possible experience for students at Keele now – and in the future. They were described by veteran call room supervisor, Greg Hodder of Rux Burton Associates, as a “fantastic team”, whose skills and personalities created a better atmosphere and better outcomes than he has seen at other universities with longer established fundraising programmes.

In four short weeks, our callers gained promises and pledges of at least £132,000 – all of which will be used for the improvement of Keele as a place for students to learn, live and enjoy. There were also a tremendous number of promises from alumni to remember Keele in their wills.

**Thank you to our callers**

Asha Patel won the prize for eliciting the highest value of gifts – over £12,000, or around 9% of the total. Malcolm Kotwal gained the prize for the highest giving rate, encouraging over 60% of the people he called to make a gift. Philip Bensusan won dual honours – for being the most enthusiastic team-member and the Devil’s Fork prize for being the most devilish at the same time! The Iron Man/Iron Woman honours go to Lindsay McCargow, Briony Morgan, Joe Bonsor and Fiona Costley for attending the most shifts.

**Phil Bensusan**  
Verty Biddlecombe  
Joe Bonsor  
Amina Buba  
Gwen Chireka  
Fiona Costley  
Candice Ferguson  
Alex Goucher  
Chanelle Hardware  
Kayleigh Higgins  
Ellie Hooper  
Mary Humana  
Aisha Karefa-Smart  
Laura Knight  
Malcolm Kotwal  
Layla Laurenson-West  
Ian Mahoney  
Adam Marsland  
Kayleigh Mayhew  
Lindsay McCargow  
Bhavana Meisuria  
Charlotte Miller  
Danielle Moore  

**Dave Moran**  
Briony Morgan  
Sunita Morris  
Dave Moseley  
Tee Olawumi  
Regina Owusu-Sekyere  
Asha Patel  
Susie Povey  
Temi Pratt  
Joel Radiven  
Maheshi Samaraweera  
Shanmny Nawaz Suleman  
Deepe Rawji  
Ben Shaw  
Salma Sultana  
Chelsea Tomlinson  
Stephen Uagbale  
Maria Walsh  
Helen Waring  
Tim Watt  
Sophie-Beth Williams  

Margaret needs no persuasion to donate books

A Keele graduate of the 1960s has donated a set of hardback novels to a current student so they can be enjoyed for years to come.

The presentation set of Jane Austen novels was given to Margaret Stevens (Edwards) [1962 English/German] as a 21st birthday present while she was studying at Keele, and now, 50 years since she first came to the University, she decided she would like the books to be enjoyed rather than sit on a shelf.

The Alumni Office sent an email to all current English students offering the books to the first person to reply, and English and History student Alan Hendley was first off the mark.

The first-year student, who comes from Stoke-on-Trent, said: “I completely love Jane Austen as I studied some of her books in school. When I saw the email I literally jumped at the chance, as owning these books would bring me and my family lots of joy as we are all fans.”

Margaret, who travelled from her home in Buckinghamshire to present the novels to keen poet Alan, said: “I felt sure that the books would go to the right person and when I met Alan I knew that they had.”
KEELE KEY FUND PROJECTS

Enhancing the student experience
With its attractive grounds and a very high proportion of Keele students living on campus, the quality of student life is key to our continuing success.

Volunteering programmes enable our students to engage with the wider community, enhancing their experience and developing their skills for future employment. Our graduate employment rate remains among the best in the country.

The University continually works towards providing more social spaces, improving our sports facilities and ensuring that the Keele experience remains memorable and distinctive for all our students.

Sports, Arts and Leisure
Our Talented Athlete and Coaching programmes allow our students to perform in a variety of sports, both nationally and internationally, and we always require funds to provide or upgrade our facilities and equipment.

The arts programme is thriving at Keele with regular concerts, exhibitions, poetry readings, workshops and public lectures. Your support will enable us to develop the cultural programmes here at Keele for the benefit of students and the wider community.

Bursaries and Scholarships
Keele offers a range of financial support packages to assist students from lower-income backgrounds or communities currently under-represented in Higher Education. The Vice-Chancellor’s and The Dean’s Scholarships support and retain students who attain the highest marks in their academic qualifications prior to entry to Keele. Scholarships and bursaries range from £500 to £1,000 per year.

Academic Excellence
Our commitment to high quality education requires continuous investment in creating innovative new courses, expanding our research work and the purchase of new cutting edge equipment.

Heritage and Environment
Our distinctive campus has over 600 acres of green spaces, woodlands, lakes and parkland surrounding the historic Keele Hall, the Clockhouse, the Fountain and Arboretum.

The Heritage, Lakes and Valleys project aims to restore these attractive features, improve the water quality of the lakes and increase public access to the woodlands.

Annual Project – Keele Observatory
Each year the Keele Key Fund will support a special project. In 2007/08 we need to raise £600,000 to refurbish the Observatory, improve its facilities and broaden its activities into space and science education for students, schools and the public understanding of science.

If you require more information on the Keele Key Fund please contact us at:
Robin Cross
Fundraising Officer
Marketing
Darwin Building
Keele University
Keele
Staffordshire
ST5 5BG
Tel: 01782 583003
r.i.cross@kfm.keele.ac.uk

LEGACIES

“Legacies are a wonderful way of giving. As president of the Law Society I was an advocate of the benefits of making a will. As a Keele graduate I am an advocate of including a legacy for Keele in our wills to make a real difference.”

Fiona Woolf (1970 Law/Psychology)
President of The Law Society 2006-2007
We gratefully acknowledge the donations of the following alumni, which we received up to this date.

1954 Jane Evans (Kember); John Hatton; Gilbert & Pamela Ingram (Burnows); Bill Lightoom; Pam Lloyd-Owen (Harrin); Bill & Pam Patterson; Jenny Sorensen
1955 June Baker (Flux); Bob Miles; Gordon Musk; Douglas Winter
1956 Stan Cooper; Rodger Harley; Margaret Homeyer (Roberts); David Hunt; Janet Murrell (Bailey); Audrey Rider
1957 Keith Davies; Elizabeth De Soyer (Wills); Bill & Pamela Hanna; Jos & Pamela O’Sullivan; Angela Parcliffe
1958 Michael Brown; David Clark; John Sutton; Christopher Taylor; John & Barbara Thomas (Pennell); Geoffrey Williams
1959 Bob & Margaret (Brown) Cottick; Denis Delay; Monica Evans (Robins); Susan Higginson (Boothroyd); David Kerry; Peter Maybank
1960 Susan Adams (Page); John Dixon; Derek Edwards; Fred & Pauline Elson (Tremblett); Douglas McLaggan; Isabel Palmer; Diana Shone (Peacock)
1961 Clive Borst; Eden Davies (Bird); Lorraine Fletcher (Lane); Kath France (Bower); Michael & Lois Fuller (Timmins); Joanna Jellinek; Aleksandra Podhorodecka (Giertych); Christopher Ranley; David Webster
1962 Alan Berry; Roger John & Gillian (Fellows) [1961] Betts; Elizabeth Blackman; John Dagger; Maureen Harrison (Berry); Malcolm McDonald; Roy & Pat (1961) Preston (Hesselgevers); Fos & Jill (1964) Rogers; David Winter
1963 Roger & Madeline [1965] Allen; John & Sylvia (Bishop) Kane
1964 Celia Cheshire (Cossey); Farh Flower (Heathcote); John Samuel
1965 Rob & Jehanne Mehta (Mathews) [1964]; Evelyn Murrell; John Rea; Michael Rowley
1966 Keith & Rose Toy (Milner)
1967 Roger Bayes; Steve Carter; Ian Cutler; Susan David (Hendy); Nick & Monica Eden-Green (Davies); Michael Saxon; Ian Taylor
1968 Judith Hollingsworth (Fletcher); Marian (Llewellyn) Jones; Mary Kivel (Bonner); David & Clare Radstone (Woodward)
1969 Mary Bryning (Goodfellow); Malcolm & Lesley Clarke (Thomson) [1972]; Anne Fullagar; Jill Lauriston (Haines); Stephen Read; Jane Roberson; Heather Sherman (David); Christopher & Frances Tev (Willingham); Howard & Sally Thomas
1970 Jeffrey Dobson; Linda Fris (Foster); Peter Jones; Herbert Kerrigan; Leonard Kortnit; Tom Mayhew; Ralph Phillips; Rosalyn Redhead (Cook); John & Janey Walder (Owen); Fiona Woolf (Swain)
1971 Margaret Harris; Gill Laver (Mansbridge); Cedric & Ann Parry (Messenger); Mary Roberts
1972 Hugh Coocian; Peter & Gillian Crag (Brown); Glynnis Fenton (Hose); Janet Phelps; Marian Small (Smith); Brian & Anne Stewart (Cockrell) [1975]; Clive & Rosemary Whitefield-Jones (Norris); Martin & Lynda Williams (Smith) [1974]; Andrew Yates
1973 Julian Frank Cashmore; Warren Colman; Shirley Dux; James & Sue Fisher (Jones); Janet Ibbet (Linton); Ruth Nicolson; Stella Peterson (Growther); Sue Steging
1974 Peter Bradley; Helen Christopherson; Kenneth Gillance; Brian Heaton; Jenny Lewis (Radford); Ruth Norris (Hosseil); Andrew & Sarah Packer (Phillips); Derek Parry; Robert Tilley
1975 Ruth Benson (Amery); Bev Hall; Nici Hildebrandt; Aileen Loxton (Kear); Martin McCarthy; Gordon & Katie Mousinho (Rutherford) [1978]; Andy Watts
1976 Christine Allen (Smith); Miles Charlesworth; Ronald Clements; Gina Hall (1993 MA); Terry & Karen Moore (Barlett); Alison Nicolovon (Atkins); David RUSTAGE; John Shorter; Barbara Vallonchris (Domanika); Richard Wendland
1977 Nicola Chittenden; Mr Andy Phillimore; John Rowlands; Irene Sharp (Taylor); Brian Starling; Liz Shutt (Heyworth); Robert Williams
1978 Carole Bird (Dier); Alan Cale; Alex Michael McKee; Steven Russell; Helene Walker
1979 Joanna Saltford-Beaman; Christopher Turner; Martin Webster
1980 Paul Morris; Susan Thomas (Collins)
1981 Stephanie Grevin; Tony & Kay Goldrick (Walters); Timothy Hunt; KAth Parsons (Riley); Tom Walsh
1983 John Capey; Joseph & Nicky Griffin (Elliot) [1982]; Reginald Murray Hallwood; Martin & Stephanie Ladbrooke (Lines); Jean Marshall (Venney); Catherine Martin; Margaret Martin; Ray Walker
1984 Paula Bielloch; Jennifer Kerfoot (Layton); Christopher Kingshott; Mark Deitel; Pippa Shukla
1985 Carol Gray; Anne Smithsonian
1993 Simon Bagley; Donna Clancy; Michael Cremins; Kobi Date-Bah; Andrew Freeman; Emily Hathwaite (Joannou); Clare Haslam (Cartridge); Kerensa Leith (Deane); Jennifer Smith; Barbara Wilks (Smith); Robert Williams
2001 Caroline Domney; Denise Greaves; Frances Maxwell; Gareth Shaw

Supporters of the University
Peter Coates; Professor D.W. Cruickshank
We also gratefully acknowledge the support of the 55 donors who wish to remain anonymous.

DONATION FORM

Title Forenames Surname
Address
Postcode
Telephone Facsimile
Email
Year of Graduation Subject(s)
I wish to make the following donation to the Keele Key Fund:

This is a singular donation by cheque. This is a regular donation from my bank. I have completed the Direct Debit form below

I would like to make a donation to...

Keele Key Fund Bursaries and Scholarships
Student Experience Restoration of the Keele heritage and environment
Sports, Arts and Leisure Restoration of the Keele Observatory
Academic Excellence (Specifically)

I would like more information about leaving a legacy to Keele University

DIRECT DEBIT To [your bank name and address]:

Please pay Keele University, c/o NatWest Bank, 75 High Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 IPP. Acc. No. 05600456. Sort-code 54-10-27, the sum of my account:

Account Number: Sort Code:

Until further notice* or for years* or until payments* have been made

Starting date: Date Signature

Please return this form to: Keele Key Fund, Marketing, Darwin Building, Keele University, Staffordshire ST5 5BG.
Keele University’s student radio station goes from strength to strength

Since its founding in 1993, KUBE Radio (or Keele University Broadcasting Enterprise, to give it its full title) has grown from being a cupboard-based transmitting club to an internationally recognised and listened to internet radio station.

The original KUBE studio was a former student flat, and the station broadcast on 107.9FM on ten restricted service licences between 1998 and 2004. An intranet service to all on-campus students was launched in March 2003, and in September 2004, KUBE moved to full internet broadcasting and is fully accessible via home computers anywhere in the world.

After two years of planning and campaigning for a new studio facility, the Students’ Union General Meeting passed a motion to allow spending on refurbishment to the K2 and KUBE area in May last year – and over the summer months the old toilet area was transformed into KUBE’s new purpose-built home.

Excellent links with all major record companies means KUBE’s play list is competitive with that of BBC Radio 1. During the day, shows are kept mainstream with DJs required to play at least 10 songs from the play list during a two-hour show slot. In the evening shows become more specialised, in genres such as drum and bass, specialist rock and R’n’B. KUBE’s SMS messaging service means listeners can also message the studio direct from the website and their phones to request songs and enter competitions.

A dedicated management team of ten University students manage the running of the station, along with the help of the Students’ Union. This past year membership has exceeded 140 people, and KUBE has been the springboard for many a career in the media – two graduates of 2007, Mark Welsh and Matt Hallworth, have already found work on radio stations.

In 2007 KUBE won the gold award for “Best Online Radio Station” at the New York Festivals International Radio Broadcasting Awards – where Keele alumni gave the station’s representatives a warm welcome – and ‘Best Internet Only Radio Station’ at the NAB European Radio Awards in Barcelona. In both competitions they were up against industry giants such as the BBC, Emap, Gcap Media and many other national and commercial radio stations from across Europe.

A recent survey carried out on campus showed that more than a third of Keele students tune into KUBE radio – and a record number of more than 3000 unique listeners tuned in to KUBE during November. Highlights from the station are also available as podcasts via iTunes.

Plans for the future include advertising on buses around North Staffordshire and broadcasting in launderettes, bars and shops on campus.

www.kuberadio.com
KUBE MEMORIES

Andy Davis (2000 International History/International Politics)

I was an active member of KUBE between 1998 and 2000. I started off by voicing adverts and then progressed to having my own mid-morning show ‘The Music Explosion’ whenever we had an FM licence. My good friends James Cooper and Gez Oleksik were also part of the team on that show. I returned the favour by helping James with his much more serious Sunday afternoon show ‘Cooper’s Eclectic Selection’. James soon banned me from putting vinyl on the decks because I came close to scratching a couple of his beloved records more than once.

I became firm friends with KUBE legend Ben Harrington and in our final month at Keele we co-hosted ‘the Wet Dream Team’. I was very much the side-kick and straightman to Ben’s anarchic brand of comedy. Most of which was borderline broadcastable on a weekday lunchtime but Ben’s stupid accents meant that we got away with it.

I ‘worked’, with a number of very talented people – Daryl Easlea, Geoff Jein, Laurence Mann and Melissa Barham to add a few more names to the ones above. The KUBE studio in our day was a slum at the back of the Union – you could never quite be sure that a CD would play when required and the small studio window had bars across it. Gez’s weather reports were never very accurate as a result.

KUBE provided me with some of my best Keele memories and indeed Keele friends. I did hope to pursue a career in journalism off the back of it (I did a postgraduate diploma in Broadcast Journalism at Sheffield Hallam straight after Keele) but it didn’t quite happen and I now work in IT support for Severn Trent. Maybe one day...

Simon Pryde (1995 French/Russian/Psychology)

I have fond memories of KUBE. It relaunched in 1995, and myself and a mate, Zak Edwards, got involved, and produced and presented a sports show on Saturday mornings... I spent much more time on this than I did on revising for my finals, writing up my dissertation, etc. We had such features as Fantasy Fishing, Mick the Miner’s Mad One Minute Slot, Phoenix My Pint, Pass Shoot Goal, and lots more nonsense! I interviewed the late Sir Stanley Matthews for the show – that was my first piece of sports journalism!

I’ve worked at a few radio stations since leaving Keele and I’m currently at the BBC in Newcastle, where I present our Saturday sports show, and occasionally other shows too. I’m off to Beijing in the summer to cover the Olympics... and it all started at KUBE!

Alan Clifford (1983 Computer Science/Electronics)

One of KUBE’s unofficial predecessors, Thorns Radio 94.2 FM, was, I think, a year old when I arrived in 1979. It continued for a couple of years after I left in 1983 becoming Subway Sound by the end.

Due to its unofficial status I think all I can say now is that alumni of Thorns Radio may or may not include someone who rose to become managing editor of BBC Radio Suffolk, someone who is still involved in ‘external monitoring’ for the BBC, someone who is a producer at BBC 5 Live, and someone who is the drivetime presenter for BBC Radio Nottingham.

It is great to see KUBE going from strength to strength – well done to all involved past and present. I remember the endless to-ing and fro-ing in the debates to get an official station in the early 1980s – we eventually gave up as it seemed like an idea never destined to succeed!
He revealed himself last year to be a constable with Staffordshire Police, based at a police station in Burton-on-Trent, and was featured on BBC’s Panorama programme looking at the local and national implications of his revelations. Stuart emigrated to Canada in October to join the Edmonton Police Service. You can read his blog at coppersblog.blogspot.com

**Why did you decide to reveal your identity?**

I always thought that at some point I would get found out, because everybody gets found out at some point. I thought that by choosing the time, we could maximise publicity for the book.

**Did you expect to get such a reaction and how did you feel about all the media interest?**

When I started writing the blog, I never imagined anyone would read it. When I was offered deals from four different publishers I thought they were all mad; after all who on earth would want to read about the bizarre and mundane life of a policeman who didn’t get out of the office all that much? I never imagined I would get such a reaction and I certainly never planned on it – it’s all been a complete accident. Working with the media has certainly been interesting and I’ve met people who an ordinary copper would never normally meet, but it’s not something I would like to be involved with full-time. I prefer the anonymity of life in the police force rather than being in the media.

**What made you choose Keele University and how has your experience at Keele influenced your life?**

I chose Keele because they offered International Relations, I never even visited the campus before I arrived there. It’s hard to say how much Keele has influenced my life because I don’t know what would have happened if I had never gone there. Even so, I think my time at University gave me confidence that I didn’t have before and doing a degree taught me how to apply ideas and analyse arguments. It also gave me a lifelong interest in international affairs.

**As you are now a police officer in Canada you presumably have not lost your faith in policing – if not, why not?**

Policing is a really good job. It gives you a front row seat on the human condition: you get to see people at their best and worst and I hope that this essentially positive message comes through in the book. If I hadn’t have seen the advert for the Edmonton Police Service, I would still be working in Staffordshire, so I certainly didn’t leave because I’m disillusioned. I went because I saw an opportunity that was never going to come again.

**What are your best and worst memories of Keele?**

Having about 3,000 other people of a similar age and outlook to oneself all in the one place is an experience that you can never repeat, so the people I met there are my best memories. As for worst memories: not having much money.
1. How did you get to where you are now?

I joined the Royal Navy on a University Cadetship in the Warfare Branch during my penultimate year at Keele and after graduation in 1977 passed out of Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth in early 1978.

Qualified as a Principal Warfare Officer originally specialising in communications, I have accumulated 20 years operational seagoing experience in 10 warships. Among these I have been the Executive Officer of an aircraft carrier and commanded the destroyer HMS Nottingham and Antarctic patrol ship HMS Endurance. My active service includes Operation Sharp Guard (Former Republic of Yugoslavia) and Operation Bolton (Iraq). From May 2005 until Nov 2006 I held the One star Joint Operational Command as Commander British Forces South Atlantic based in the Falklands.

Ashore, my staff experience includes a strong pedigree of senior appointments in policy, plans and Programmes in MOD Centre, as well as Fleet and Royal Marines HQs.

I am a graduate of the Higher Command and Staff Course and Defence Strategic Leadership Course. I took up my present appointment as the UK National Hydrographer and Deputy Chief Executive United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) in the rank of Rear Admiral in December 2006.

I married Marion in 1986 and we have two teenage sons, Andrew (born 1987), studying Politics at Liverpool University with an Army bursary and James (born 1990) in his first year of VI Form. I am a Younger Brother of Trinity House and a Member of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners, the Institute of Directors, and the RNLI Council. My interests and pastimes include sailing, golf and tennis and I have had some of my work published as an amateur wildlife photographer.

2. What has been your biggest achievement so far?

Undoubtedly the four Command appointments that I have been privileged to hold.

3. And your biggest mistake?

Probably not joining the Royal Navy sooner at the start of my university time.

4. What are your ambitions now?

To make a significant contribution and difference over the next three to four years in the massive transformation programme that UKHO is undertaking as it moves forward with digital vector charts and services to improve the navigational safety of the international mariner. Simultaneously there is much to be done with the non-navigational use of our data in geographic information services (GIS) that will improve environmental planning offshore with the UKL Marine Bill and the EU INSPIRE Directive. I am also active in the International Hydrographic Organisation with Capacity Building for other nations. Sometime during the next three years, I aim to complete my Chartered Directors qualification. I should also like to make the most of living in the Exmoor National Park, which is where we now live.

5. What advice would you give to someone wanting to work in a similar field?

Contact the RN for an acquaint visit to a ship or shore establishment – preferably the former – to see something of our work and to talk to our people and see if it meets your expectations. If you want to develop your leadership abilities and to hold responsibility from an early stage in your career then the Services have much to offer.

6. What made you choose Keele University?

The departments in which I studied (Geography and Geology) had great reputations and the Foundation Year study and the campus lifestyle appealed.

7. How has Keele influenced your life?

The FY gave me the time to read more widely, listen to some first class lectures outside my intended field of study and to learn to appreciate other views and approaches to a wide range of issues and subjects. These have come in useful in my career and life in general.

8. What is your favourite memory of Keele?

I have two – living in Hawthorns for 4 years and crisp clear winter days along Clockhouse Drive.

9. And your worst?

Honestly, there are none.
what happened to...?


1966  Peter Gill (Physics/Maths): After a PhD in physics I worked for 10 years in the UK before moving to the US. Until I retired five years ago I worked in the semi-conductor industry as the director of a laboratory developing new types of silicon chips. We live in Arizona and so have many very hot days where mad dogs and this Englishman go out and play golf. I work two days a week mentoring and teaching adults calculus and some physics to the University of Arizona engineering students. The remainder of our time is spent travelling (often with a trailer tent) and working with the homeless in a soup kitchen and shelter.

1971  Sue Smallwood (Vines) (American Studies/English) and Anthony Smallwood (1973 International Relations): After nearly four very busy years running the European Commission Delegation in Trinidad and Tobago, we are now posted (last post!) in Washington, with dog but only intermittently with kids Katie (researching chemical weapons control at Sussex) and Christian (civil engineering at Edinburgh). We have been very bad at keeping touch with old Keele friends over the years but the bonds forged by Wright’s pies and the KTC run deep, so it would be good to hear some echoes from the Diaspora.

1958  Michael Steele (History/Politics): I am the director of Freezim Ltd, a company set up by myself and a friend to organise a rally/concert in Trafalgar Square in October 2007 against the tyranny of Robert Mugabe. I am also a partner in West Coast Eagles Jukeboxes, which hires jukeboxes for parties.

1964  Colin Smith (Physics/Philosophy): I have taken up writing as a new hobby for my retirement, which has culminated in publishing my first book entitled “This Cold House” – a guide to creating an environmentally friendly home without sacrificing comfort. It’s popular rather than hard science, and reviewers have described it as witty and erudite! Prior to retirement I was a lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University. I am married to Irene (nee Thompson) Smith (1967 Geography and Biology) and we live in the Peak District close to our sons Andrew and David. We have one grandchild, Ashleigh.

1968  Andy Gudgeon (Biology/Chemistry): Oops, I seem to have got it all back to front! Retired from teaching at 48 to get back to some more long cycling expeditions, then met Bing from the Philippines, glamorous beyond my dreams, so married her; had two divine kids, emigrated there, and on arrival they made me Professor of Chemistry at the top university there. Hey, don’t ask me why! Great job... retired early, huh? That’s a laugh! Bing is a 1st year nursing student, now 29, and the kids are in the British International School, loving it. This is a fabulous place to live! Email us, or visit us!

1954  Sue Smallwood (Vines) (American Studies/English) and Anthony Smallwood (1973 International Relations): After nearly four very busy years running the European Commission Delegation in Trinidad and Tobago, we are now posted (last post!) in Washington, with dog but only intermittently with kids Katie (researching chemical weapons control at Sussex) and Christian (civil engineering at Edinburgh). We have been very bad at keeping touch with old Keele friends over the years but the bonds forged by Wright’s pies and the KTC run deep, so it would be good to hear some echoes from the Diaspora.

1974  David Dix (History/Politics): I learnt my trade as a journalist in a 20-year career at the TV news agency Visnews, which became Reuters Television. I am now working for myself as a freelance corporate video and multimedia producer, mostly producing video news release material to get stories on air ranging from finance to sport, health, consumer, industrial, anything really. After leaving Keele I finally learned to play the blues harmonica which sat in my drawer in Lindsay D block for so long, and became a blues singer and harmonicist. I didn’t really get going until I was in my mid-thirties and I’ve been in many bands since, but after 20 years of playing to five blokes (with beer guts and grey ponytails) and a dog in dingy suburban boozers I’ve more or less given up gigging, but still enjoy getting up at jam sessions. On the domestic front, I’m married to Suzanne, whom I met at Visnews in 1982, and have two lovely kids – Laura, 18, and Rob, 16. Oh and I still love a game of table football.
1976  **Jim Moran (History/Economics/Politics):** Married with three girls and a boy (second daughter currently studying music technology at Keele). Arrived at the EU in 1983 after spells with HMG, World Bank and private sector. Since then, have held various positions here in Brussels and served in EU diplomatic missions overseas in Ethiopia, Jamaica and Jordan. Am now Director for Asia at the European Commission, spending rather too much time on airplanes heading east, but still thoroughly enjoying ‘taking Europe to the world’, a task only slightly less daunting than taking it back home!

1979  **Peter Emmerson (Electronics/Music):** I am now working as a senior producer for BBC Foreign News gathering. I specialise in Hostile Environment Working, highlighting probably the ‘John Simpson Liberation of Kabul’. I am spending much time in Baghdad – I have covered most conflict and disasters over the past decade or so. I recently got married to a very understanding wife!

1982  **Gail Simmons (English/History):** After completing an MA in Medieval Studies (York University) and a varied career which included working in a Cumbrian Castle, listing historic buildings for English Heritage and leading walking holidays in Europe, I am now a freelance travel writer.

1986  **Robyn Bechelet (Geography/Psychology):** I am now a magazine publisher. The titles in the portfolio include Essex Life, Hertfordshire Life, West Essex Life and Pure Weddings.

1991  **Emma Greenhough (Crampin) (Psychology/Biology):** My husband Andy and I live in New Ferry, across the Mersey from Liverpool, and work at St Mark’s church. Andy is vicar and I (don’t call me the vicar’s wife!) continue to enjoy discussions about “Life. The Universe and especially God” with teenagers and anybody else who is interested. We have two children and love the Wirral!

1998  **Nicole Gilroy (Biology/English):** After Keele I went to teach English in Northern Romania for a few months before taking a 2-year MA at Camberwell College of Arts in London. I then took a postgraduate internship in Book Conservation at the Bodleian Library in Oxford where I now work and have recently become professionally accredited. I have also worked on secondment for the St Catherine’s Foundation, who work with the collections of the library of St Catherine’s monastery in Sinai, Egypt. I am still in touch with my closest Keele friends, and am very proud to have been part of the Keele ‘thing’!

1999  **Emma Greenhough (Crampin):** My husband Andy and I live in New Ferry, across the Mersey from Liverpool, and work at St Mark’s church. Andy is vicar and I (don’t call me the vicar’s wife!) continue to enjoy discussions about “Life. The Universe and especially God” with teenagers and anybody else who is interested. We have two children and love the Wirral!

2000  **Geoffrey Knox (Health Services Management):** Research into finding the best pain treatments tends to look at what is best for a large population. What is important to me as a patient is whether a treatment will work for me. I have designed a test that will help individuals predict which pain killers will work for them. Keele staff on the trials course helped refine a research methodology to test my theory, which is now part of a large trial which is about to begin in Leeds. Thanks Keele!

2005  **Heather Stanbridge (Business Administration/Human Resource Management):** Responsible for attendance management and welfare issues for the whole of the fire brigade. I am loving my role – working with all fire service personnel across twenty community retained and whole-time stations and in my spare time I am either studying for my health and safety exams or preparing to volunteer at an event for Wheelpower, the British wheelchair sports charity.
IN MEMORY

OBITUARIES

We were sorry to learn in the past year of the passing of the following Keele alumni:

William Lloyd (1954 Education)
Mike Cowdrey (1955 History/Economics)
Margaret Float (Blake) (1955 Geography/Geology)
Pamela Arnold (Woodward) (1956 Maths/Physics)
Walter Austin (1956 Geography/Geology)
Ethel Carroll (Sedgley) (1956 Maths/Physics)
Dick Biddulph (1957 Chemistry)
Carl Mason (1957 Philosophy/Geology)
Norman Brown (1959 English/History/Education)
Brian Bridges (1961 History/Politics)
Mike Buckmaster (1963 Geology/Biology)
John Ivinson (1967 American Studies/Geography)
Godfrey Smart (1969 English/Politics)
Ros Davies (Patton) (1971 Psychology/Russian Studies)
John Statham (1971 Education/Economics)
Mr D Hind (1974 Education)
Rachel Parker (1974 English/History)

Paul Bream (1975 English/History)
Mr A Jones (1975 Psychology/Biology)
Jorge Wolodarsky (1976 Economics/Sociology and Social Anthropology)
Michael Griffiths (1978 International Relations)
Paul Cunningham (1979 History/Music)
Sheila Fisher (1980 English/History)
David Marsh (1980 American Studies/Philosophy)
Ann Sherwood (1980 English/Greek Studies)
Robert Dolton (1984 The Psychology of Mental Handicap)
Iain Russell (1985 American Studies/Politics)
Joseph Nfor (1987 French/Politics)
Victor Pungong (1989 International Relations)
Stephen Ferguson (1990 American Studies/Sociology and Social Anthropology)
Nancy Beech (1993 Local History)
Diana Rosenow (2000 Health, Population and Nutrition in Developing Countries)
Clare Dickson (Penpaze) (2004 German/Education, 2005 Legal Studies)
Judith Lewis (2005 Mental Health Nursing)

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...

1952 David Clifford
1954 Stan Beckensall
1955 David Escott; Enid Nussbaum (Felix-Williams); Thomas Thompson
1956 Margaret Homeyer (Roberts)
1957 Mary Bianco (Becker); Marina Oliver (Stroud); John Jos O’Sullivan; Pam O’Sullivan (Claridge)
1958 Mavis Addison; Michael Steele
1959 Susan Higgenson (Bootrooyd)
1961 Michael Downes; John Wright
1962 Annie Didcott (Griffiths); Diana Miller (Kelly); Jeremy Steele; Margaret Steele (Owen)
1963 Sue Gil (Devons); Shelilah da Silva (Cresswell)
1964 Libby Cropp (Gillies); Cy Morgan; Chris Powell-Evans; John Samuel; Colin Smith
1965 Anthony Burton; Eddie Lawler
1966 Peter Gill; Tessa Harding (Phillips); Lew Lutton; Andrew Sackville; Margaret Sackville (Burnsides); Bridget Sant (Hooper); Arthur Williams; Elizabeth Williams (Evans); Tony Woodward
1967 Keith Cuninghame; Irene Smith (Thompson)
1968 Andy Gudgeon; Ahmed Husain; Roger James; James Thompson
1969 Chrsiss Allott; Gordon Anderson; Rosemary Billings; Sue King (Shepherd)
1970 Pari Koman; Jo Sinclair; Roger Ward
1971 Geraldine ‘Gerry’ Beech; Christina Brown; Phil Davies; Bob Digby; Sue Smallwood (Vines)
1972 John Bowers
1973 Jim Fisher; Sue Fisher (Jones); Michael Hunt; Samuel C Justice; Anthony Smallwood
1974 David Dix; Grace Filby; Brian Heaton; Joan Rogers
1975 Gail de Lima
1976 Clare Hickie (Mitton); Debbie Hildick-Smith; Jim Moran
1977 Susan Ayliff (Massey); Pat Cunniffe (Millard); Simon Hickie; Raaj Soni
1978 Steven Keeble; Chris Lazardes; Richard Shanks; Liz Wilson (Sutton)
1979 Peter Emmerson; Steve Hodgson; Andrew Makin; Sharon Makin (Macrae); Peter Meade; Ian Neal; Mike O’Connor; Julia Shanks (Finney); Dorothy Stubbs (Wigns)
1980 Michael Freeman; Stuart Sanders
1981 Melanie Greenwood; Helen Nellis (Jones)
1982 Carolyn Currier; Julie Maclusky; Gail Simmons
1983 Carl Stonier

STAFF OBITUARIES

We regret to announce the passing of the following members of staff:

Nicholas Cartlidge (Chemistry)
Geoffrey Dudley (Physics)
Dr Vincent Ewing (Chemistry)
Professor Leslie Fishman (Les) (Economics)
Carole Holder (Dean of Students/lecturer in Social Work)

Dr Brian Holdsworth (Earth Sciences)
Dr Norman Josephs (Music)
Dr Hans Liebeck (Mathematics)
Dawn Smith (University finance department)
Father Richard Sullivan (Catholic chaplain)
Professor Brian Williams (Criminal Justice Studies)

Please contact the Alumni Office at j.c.easom@kfm.keele.ac.uk for more information.

www.keele.ac.uk/alumni

foreverkeele | issue : three : April 2008
Congratulations FROM KEELE

We are always delighted to hear good news from our alumni – here is just a selection of news that we have heard since our last magazine!

James Walvin (1964 History/Politics) was awarded the OBE in the New Year’s Honours List for services to scholarship.

Marina Lewycka (1968 Philosophy/English) followed ‘A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian’ with ‘Two Caravans’, and was shortlisted for the Readers Digest Author of the Year award at the British Book Awards.

Fiona Woolf (1970 Law/Psychology), former president of the Law Society, has been named an Alderman of the City of London.

Grace Filby (1974 Biology/Psychology) received an eight-week Travelling Fellowship from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust to research the health value of bacteriophages – bio-friendly viruses that naturally destroy specific bacteria without harming other living things – in the USA, Georgia and Poland.

David Cooney (1976 History/Politics) became Ireland’s Ambassador to Britain last year, having previously been the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations.

Janet Vitmayer (1976 American Studies/History) is director of the Horniman Museum, which was awarded a silver medal as one of the visitor attractions of the year in the Visit London Awards.

Peter Coulson QC (1980 English/Law) has been appointed a Justice of the High Court. He was called to the Bar by Gray’s Inn in 1982 and took Silk in 2001. He was appointed a Recorder in 2002 and a Circuit Judge in 2004.

Stephen Karle (1980 Law/Politics), chief executive of the West Bromwich Building Society, was included in the Birmingham Post’s list of the top 50 most powerful and influential people in the West Midlands.

Major Christopher Boryer (1996 International Relations) received the MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List in recognition of his work as military assistant at Command Headquarters Allied Command Europe Rapid Action Corps.


If you or someone you know has something to celebrate, contact Hannah Hiles at h.e.hiles@kfm.keele.ac.uk

If you do not have access to the Internet please call John Eason on 01782 583370 for a hard copy of the relevant year.
There & back again...

Any Keele student lucky enough to take part in the Study Abroad programme knows that they come home with some fantastic memories and great friends.

HOW DID YOU MEET?

**Nick:** In 1998 I was studying English Literature and American Studies at Keele which gave me the opportunity to go over to the States for a semester. I happened to go to OSU (Oklahoma State University) along with four other people from Keele. I met Ryan at a party full of Europeans and he was the only American there. In hindsight I suspect Ryan was hoping to meet a girl from Iceland but unfortunately for him there were no Icelandic students that semester. He commented on my slightly flared jeans. I should have politely ignored him but instead we got talking about music.

**Ryan:** The only reason we became friends was because of Aphex Twin (an English electronic musician). I’m from Oklahoma, so hearing new and interesting music requires some effort. I had discovered Aphex Twin in the mid-nineties and fell in love with his records and much of the electronic stuff happening in England. I remember the shock on Nick’s face when I asked him if he had ever heard of Aphex Twin at the party.

He just couldn’t believe that anyone in Oklahoma would know his favourite obscure artist.

That’s when we became friends and I ended up letting him live with me during his stay in Oklahoma.

HOW DID YOU END UP STARTING THE BAND?

**Nick:** We only made a bit of experimental music in that semester I was in OSU, but Ryan and I continued our friendship when he came to study at Keele in 1999. It wasn’t until 2002 when Ryan invited me back to Oklahoma for a few months to give the music a go that the band started. It was really just me and Ryan then and we had fun writing songs and making demos which ended up getting enough good feedback from record labels to make us keep going with the music. We finally got a drummer in 2004 and two more superb musicians in 2006. We self-released one EP (mini album) in 2005, and another in 2006.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MUSIC?

**Nick:** This is a difficult question for me to answer. I think people are better off listening to it at www.myspace.com/colourmusic. One person described it as ‘60s meets the future’. I’m not sure what that means but I kind of like it.

**Ryan:** So far, I think our music is about youth. I think we make a kind of infant music.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR?

**Nick:** In 2007 we played at SXSW festival in Austin Texas which was a big break for the band. We also supported The Flaming Lips at Dfest music festival in Tulsa which was also pretty special.

**Ryan:** At SXSW we were featured on the Tonight Show and named as one of the top ten bands at SXSW from TeenVogue.

WHAT’S NEXT FOR THE BAND?

**Nick:** This may be subject to change but the record label we signed to in the States plan to release our album in May. We will be playing across the US supporting an English band called British Sea Power between February and June this year. You can check our myspace and website www.colourmusic.net for more up-to-date information.
North American News

STUDY ABROAD FRIENDS

This initiative connects students travelling from Keele to study in Canada or the USA to Keele alumni living near the partner university. The friend offers a welcome, friendship and support to help the student make the most of their study abroad experience. Study Abroad Friends have now volunteered at 22 of our 31 partner universities in the USA and Canada and seventeen students asked to be put in touch with a Friend in 2007-2008. Success with this programme has prompted the Centre for International Exchanges and Languages to ask for a similar programme with Keele alumni friends in Australia.

WEBSITE

Brandi Spurgin (1996) is putting the finishing touches to a new website especially for Keele alumni in North America. Once up and running it will become a helpful interface for alumni with Keele, the North American Foundation and – we hope – one another.

TELETHON 2008

The North American Foundation is to launch its first-ever fundraising telethon in 2008, to enhance the unique experience of study and at Keele. Experienced student callers from the 2007 Keele Key Fund campaign will talk to Keele alumni resident in the USA, sharing experiences of Keele and explaining the aims of the campaign. Tax-efficient donations are already possible through the North American Foundation for American taxpayers, but Canadian alumni are awaiting approval from Canada Revenue for tax-efficient giving direct to the University.

KEELE TRAVELS

The Board of the North American Foundation met in January 2008, to carry forward its plans to support Keele. Mark Kalisch (1975) welcomed members to his offices in Beverley Hills, California. These included the President, Neil Smith (1980), Treasurer Brandi Spurgin (1996) and Canada Representative, Tim Gibbs (1970). They were joined later by Keele alumni at “Ye Olde King’s Head” (an English pub, naturally) in Santa Monica.

John Easom enjoyed enthusiastic and generous hospitality with Ric Lewak (1971), Mark Hill (1974) and Giles Townsend (1973) near San Diego and the trio showed their eagerness to get into action for Keele.

Ryan: Initially we will be playing the US and Canada. Hopefully we will have some dates lined up in the UK, and I can come back and see Keele again.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO COME TO KEELE AND WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORY OF THE UNIVERSITY?

Nick: In 1997 I drove around some universities to check them out. After a quick getaway from Salford University, I drove through Keele and immediately knew it was the place for me. It had that campus feel and I loved the woods and Keele Hall. My best memory of Keele is probably being captain of the tennis team when there was an exceptionally good spirit. The people were lovely and it was a pleasure to organise weekly social events. Even people who had already graduated would come to join us.

Ryan: I came to Keele mainly because I wanted to go to school in England and also because I had become good friends with Nick from OSU. I really loved Keele. If I had never gone to Keele University I don’t know if I would be doing music at all. I managed to take a course with Professor Rajmil Fischman called Computer Music and I spent hours working on compositions. I loved it. I found myself working 14 hours a day, completely obsessed. Because I was an exchange student I could take any course I wanted and OSU didn’t offer anything like this course. I learned a lot about the technology of music and as soon as I got back to Oklahoma I bought a Pro Tools system and started making music. I really loved the music programme at Keele and I loved the people there. Prof Fischman was very supportive and helpful and I really learned a lot. Because I was an exchange student, I had a lot of great memories of Keele, but the best experience I personally had was staying up all night in the Clockhouse building working on weird sounds.

Nick Turner (2000 American Studies/English) spent a semester at Oklahoma State University and met Ryan Hendrix (who came to Keele for a semester in 1999) – and they ended up starting a band, Colourmusic, who have already supported The Flaming Lips and been named one of the best bands at the SXSW music festival. forever:keele finds out more...
Swans were an important part of the scenery at Keele from the beginning and the Swanmaster and Swanmistress had an honorary and practical role in the Students’ Union. This title continues to the present day – without the practical duties of swan-keeping!

Pairs of swans lived happily at Keele until they flew to pastures new in the early 1980s – but once the renovation work has been completed on the lakes the University hopes to investigate the possibility of returning swans to the campus.
This extract from the Introduction to the Swanmaster’s Debate 1955 by the President of the Union, Bill Hanna (1957 History/Politics) for the Inauguration of Keith Clement (1956 Politics/Applied Social Studies) as Swanmaster shows how the swans came to Keele:

“The office of Swanmaster is a non-elective one; it lies in the gift of the President of the Union, and it is conferred for meritorious service. There is no reason why the office should not, if appropriate, be filled by a Swanmistress.

In Coronation Year, Mr Brian Dunning, who was then a member of this Union, originated the idea that the Union give a pair of swans to the College. He wrote to the Lord Chamberlain, who replied that Her Majesty was graciously pleased to give the Union the right to gift a pair of swans to Keele. Mr Dunning then got in touch with a Mr Turk who held the post of Chief Swan Upper. Before Mr Turk could be induced to part with two of his charges he required an undertaking signed by a responsible person to the effect that the waters would be adequate for the accommodation of the birds.

Professor Gemmell gave the necessary guarantee, and at the end of the summer term two crated swans were delivered to Keele. At the beginning of the next term Mr Dunning was made Swanmaster. His two bits of fluff settled down, and were apparently a very happy and loving pair, a circumstance which seemed to bode well for the future.

But unhappily in the spring term the female left. Appeals in the press produced more than eighty replies, letters, telegrams and phone calls from observers who had seen our swan. About half of them showed some idea of the direction taken, and these directions were plotted on a chart.

Eventually a swan was reported on a pool of dirty water near a slag heap in Stoke. The RSPCA were contacted and an inspector tried to capture the bird. After some trouble, Mr Dunning spotted an old man picking coal off the slag heap. He went over to him, explained the situation, and asked if the old man had, by any chance, a net on him. The old man replied, naturally enough, that he had, he took off his muffler, shook it out, and it was in fact a net. With this the swan was easily captured. On returning the net, Mr Dunning asked the old man’s name and was astonished to hear the reply. ‘My name is Sneyd’. Everyone thought that this was a most happy coincidence. And so at first it was.

Though there was no positive proof of identity, the cob accepted his new mate, and the Swanmaster settled down to listen for the patter of tiny flippers. But no offspring appeared, no fluffy cygnets, not even on the higher purchase – you know – a little down. This was the state of affairs when Mr Parry took office as Swanmaster. The following spring the good lady again departed. With the assistance of Mr Derek Ellis and his Austin Seven, the Swanmaster recovered a female swan from a waterworks fourteen miles off. This swan was brought back to Keele and put on ice – the lake was frozen – but in addition to this fundamentally chilly aspect of her return, she encountered too, the dislike of the old cob, and was driven to a lower lake. The Swanmaster’s constant attentions could not entice her to stay, and after two days she flew away. Mr Parry and the Union were most upset, the Swanmaster contemplating suicide and the Union thinking of parricide. This is the background of the ceremony: older members can vouch for the truth of the story.

The swans have captured the imagination of Keele; the swans have become a symbol and an emblem. It is most fitting therefore that the occasion of the inauguration of the Swanmaster is a solemn ceremony.”
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