

UNDERGRADUATE News

Autumn 2011

Keele
Management
School



Welcome to the latest issue of our undergraduate newsletter. If you have any articles you would like to see included in our next issue please contact Pat Leadbeater on p.a.leadbeater@keele.ac.uk

KMS Student News

Keele Management School Student among country's top management undergraduates



Alyson Bird,
Undergraduate of the Year finalist

Each year Targetjobs, a graduate careers website, searches the best universities in the UK for its Undergraduate of the Year awards. Students are selected on the basis of personal skills, career motivation and an excellent academic record. Competition is fierce, the application process is demanding and, as Targetjobs say "only the truly outstanding and committed will make it to the last 10."

That is why we're proud to say that, Alyson Bird, a second year Business Management and Psychology student at Keele, made it to the top ten finalists in the management category of the awards this year.

All the candidates undergo a three-stage application process which includes three online tests of about one hour each, from which only between 30 and 70 students will be selected to go on to the next stage. The final stage comprises telephone interviews, assessment centres and face to face meetings after which a shortlist of ten students is selected to go to the awards presentation where one will be chosen as the undergraduate of the year in each category. The awards attracted nearly 4,000 entrants across the 12 categories, so Alyson did incredibly well to make it through to the final ten.

The prize after all that hard work is a ten week internship at category sponsor, Enterprise Rent-A-Car's UK head office. The company were so impressed with Alyson that they also offered her a summer placement with them. Alyson said "I was absolutely thrilled to make it to the final. It was a huge surprise, especially after meeting the other candidates. The whole process was tough but great fun, and a real eye-opener into what the interview process will be like after university. I am really looking forward to starting my internship with Enterprise Rent-A-Car in the summer."

The award ceremony took place at Canary Wharf, London on 15th April and the prizes were presented by the Rt Hon Michael Portillo.

Congratulations Alyson!

If you feel inspired to have a go yourself visit www.targetjobs.co.uk, for details of next year's competition, which should go online towards the end of this year with a closing date in January 2012. Good Luck!

Hannah McAllister Scholarship

Harley Evans who graduated this summer with a BA in Business Management and HRM, is the first recipient of the Hannah McAllister Scholarship.

The scholarship was awarded on the basis of excellent performance over Harley's three years of study at Keele and he is pictured here having received his award from Dr Rachel Annand and Dr Steve French from Keele Management School at the graduation ceremony on 6th July.



Harley (centre) at his graduation, with Dr Rachel Annand and Dr Steve French



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Malaysian student graduates with First Class Honours

Congratulations to Chia Mei who studied for her Keele degree at KDU College in Penang, Malaysia. All her hard work paid off when she became one of the first of our KDU students to graduate with first class honours. Buoyed up by her success, Chia Mei has decided to come and join us at Keele this year to begin studying for her Master's degree on our MSc Finance and IT programme.

Chia Mei told us "I am absolutely happy to receive the First Class Honours, and to proceed with the Masters Degree this September. I truly enjoyed the lectures of the Keele program, thus so looking forward to the Masters course."

A happy and smiling Chia Mei, pictured here with Dr Colin Rigby, Director of the MBA programme for KMS, at the Penang UK Education Fair where she met up with our School Manager Krys Manifold and Colin on their trip to visit KDU Colleges earlier this year.

Keele Management School offers a range of undergraduate programmes in Malaysia in partnership with KDU colleges in Kuala Lumpur and Penang.



The New and Improved Keele Learning Environment (KLE)

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Keele Learning Environment
Learning Development Unit

KLE Help

KLE Help

Keele's Learning Environment is changing from Summer 2011

Getting to know the new KLE powered by Blackboard 9.1

From Semester one 2011 Keele will be delivering new course material online via a new look interface called Blackboard 9.1. These web pages will guide staff through key documents and video tutorials which will allow a first look at what is coming and how you can engage with the online tools.

In supporting all staff the Learning Development Unit will be offering a mixed programme of staff induction courses, starting with **Getting Started with 9.1** and **Working with your migrated course in 9.1**, to whole programme redesign for your blended learning approach to teaching. All academic and administrative support staff who are members of programme teaching teams, schools and faculties are invited to attend. Please see the below for dates and times of courses.

Remember you can book a bespoke session for your teaching team, please contact Matthew West via email in the first instance and he will call you back to discuss your needs in detail (m.j.west@per.keele.ac.uk).

Training workshops

This link will take you the full list of staff courses hosted by the University.

online facilities:

- Diary
- eVision (for applicants and students)
- Forums
- KLE (Keele Learning Environment)
- Webmail
- Wireless
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Since its beginnings in 2006, the Keele Learning Environment (KLE) has grown substantially with users accessing the system more than 160,000 times a month by the end of 2009.

During this time there have been a number of technological developments which enable staff and students to use the internet to support their work. Collectively known as Web 2.0, the use of collaborative services such as blogs and wikis, social networking and sites such as YouTube and Flickr have soared in popularity, fundamentally changing the way we share material online. By introducing a new system, the University will be able to integrate these exciting new ways of working as part of the student learning experience.

From the start of the 2011/12 academic year, online course material will be delivered via a new learning environment called Blackboard. The existing system (WebCT) will disappear. However, you will still be able to access your previous year's material should you need to.

If you would like to find out more about the new look KLE, or what support is available to you, please see

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/klehelp>

Tweet Us!

Earlier this year the School launched its Twitter feed, @keelemngt-school and, in a relatively short time, we have been able to connect with past and current students, as well as staff members and external bodies. We hope this will make it easier for you to find out about the latest School news and events and we will be able to let you know about things we think will be of interest to you such as graduate work opportunities, employer presentations and training workshops. To date we've tweeted live careers Q & A sessions, internship opportunities and a range of temporary jobs.

See for yourself at <http://twitter.com/keelemngtschool>

From September this year, the Keele Management School Twitter feed will also be available via the new Keele Learning Environment. Those of you studying KMS modules will automatically see it appear as part of each module's home page.



Staff News

Promotion to Chair for Carole Thornley



Our congratulations go to Carole Thornley (Human Resource Management) who has recently become one of a very small percentage of women in this country to be promoted to a personal chair. Carole joined the School in 1992 as a Lecturer in Industrial Relations and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2000.

Before joining Keele, Carole had worked abroad for a number of years as a linguist (French, German and Russian) and administrator in the private sector with ITT and Honeywell. She then obtained a first class degree in social science through part time study whilst working in London in the voluntary and non-profit sector, including a stint in the House of Lords. Subsequently, she has studied for an MPhil in Economics at Cambridge and a PhD at Warwick University Business School.

Carole has a strong interest in the international economy and globalisation, with published research on human resource issues for bank workers in the UK and France and, more recently, plant performance in the global automotive industry. Prior to this, she published extensively on health and local government. Her work has been widely covered in the national media and she has appeared on BBC television and numerous radio interviews.

Congratulations Aikaterini Koskina

Aikaterini Koskina, Lecturer in Human Resource Management in KMS, pictured outside Keele Chapel looking very happy on her PhD graduation day July 6th 2011.



Aikaterini told us that "Studying for a Ph.D is like being in a rollercoaster of events and emotions that are not always pleasant. It can take over and invade every part of your life. **But** graduating with a Ph.D is an accomplishment of both personal and academic value. It is the completion of a major milestone in your life and the beginning of a new era. I completed my Ph.D journey and received my degree in HRM and Industrial Relations at this summer's award ceremony. My successful completion of this journey would not have been possible without the studentship of Keele University and the support, encouragement and enlightenment of many people, most notably Dr Steve French, Professor Carole Thornley and my family."

Aikaterini's thesis explored and explained customer-service work in contact centre environments of different national origin, size and sector in Greece. It examined specifically the functioning of industrial-employment and work-social relations in six contact centres. Analysis took place at macro, meso, and micro level and suggested that voice-to-voice work can be visualised in a high-low commitment management and high discretion rubric under certain circumstances. The findings gave rise to the descriptive and prescriptive neo-professional model of management and organisation of customer-service work.

Congratulations Laura Mitchell

Laura Mitchell, who joined us in January this year as a lecturer in Human Resource Management, has recently completed her PhD at Lancaster University. Laura has a strong interest in the moral aspects of work and organisations and wrote her doctoral thesis on dignity and organisation.



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The Chinese Connection

In March this year, Keele's Vice-Chancellor Nick Foskett, led a delegation to China to visit six universities in five days. At the end of the visit, the delegation, which included Professor David Shepherd, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences; Professor Matthias Klaes, Head of Keele Management School and Dr Annette Kratz, signed a memorandum of understanding with five of the institutions – Shanghai Ocean University, Shanghai Finance University, Changzhou University, Shejiang University of Finance and Economics and Tan Kah Kee College Xiamen University.

Students from these universities will now be able to choose to spend a year in Keele Management School as study abroad students attending lectures and tutorials alongside other Keele undergraduate students.



Sir David F Hendry delivers the 2011 Annual Distinguished Lecture in Economics

This year's Annual Distinguished Lecture in Economics was delivered by Sir David F Hendry from the Department of Economics and Institute for Economic Modelling at the University of Oxford. Sir David was elected a Fellow of the British Academy, a Fellow of the Econometric Society, Honorary Member of the American Economic Association and Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was knighted in the 2009 Birthday Honours.

His work is predominantly on time series econometrics and the econometrics of the demand for money. Recently he has worked on the theory of forecasting and also on automated model building.

Sir David's lecture titled 'Empirical Model Discovery and Theory Evaluation' argued that despite important differences, discovery and evaluation in economics are similar to those of natural science. Instead of fitting a pre-specified model which restricts discovery, he advocated automatic modelling methods which help to formulate very general models which embed and evaluate the initial economic theory and allow for a rigorous evaluation of selected models to ascertain their viability. Professor Hendry illustrated his key claims with live econometric modelling.

The lecture was well attended by staff, students and members of the public and a video can be viewed on the News section of the School's website: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/kms/news/2011/sirdavidhendrydeliversannualdistinguishedlectureineconomics.php>



Grow Your Own Career

The School hosted a 'soft skills' professional development workshop led by Clare Barnett, Managing Director of Synergia Business Services. The 'Grow Your Own Career' event was organised by Keele Management School in conjunction with the local branch of the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). Delegates found out how to map individual skills, identify personality preferences, set aspirations, develop a career plan, understand how to research the career market, create their own unique selling points and write a CV to grab the attention of the recruiting manager.

The School will be hosting similar events in the coming academic year, keep your eyes on the home page and news section of our website:

www.keele.ac.uk/kms for details.

If you have any articles you would like to include in our next edition of this newsletter please send details to Pat Leadbeater at p.a.leadbeater@keele.ac.uk