Within the Department there is a brilliant social atmosphere! The ChemSoc organizes a variety of events throughout the year. The legendary chemistry party is a must for all new Freshers! £3 in and free drink all night, it’s a great ice breaker and gives our new students a chance to meet and mix with the 2nd and 3rd year and staff too! The latest event was the End of Year Ball which is a great excuse to get your glad rags on, and a fantastic way to send off our graduating third years!! This year saw the department celebrating the graduation of over 100 students, some of which have already found jobs or are going on to further study.

We’re all Social Scientists!!

New Multi-User Laboratory

Work is now finished for the new multi-user laboratory!! The project, which is a joint venture between the Faculty of Natural Sciences and the Faculty of Health, sees a new 70 seater laboratory equipped for the teaching of Chemistry, Pharmacy and Forensic Science. A fully stocked spectroscopy suite also provides greater opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience with a wide range of analytical equipment. The development results in Keele boasting one of the best science teaching facilities in the country. The laboratory has also been designed to be environmentally friendly, with rainwater harvesting and solar panels.

A recent Unistats survey ranked physical sciences at Keele, (covering chemistry, physics, astrophysics and forensic science), 16th out of 125 for job prospects with 70% having found a job within 6 months, while the Complete University Guide holds Keele in the top ten in the country for graduate prospects. A degree from Keele really is a great way to start your career!  

http://tinyurl.com/ko62tc
Rachael McQuillin, Astrophysics and Mathematics, Graduated July 2009

After visiting the astrophysics department at Keele on an open day, I knew it was the university for me. The staff were very welcoming and clearly enthusiastic for the course. They also told me about the dual honours system at Keele that would allow me to continue studying maths as well as astrophysics.

During my three years at Keele I have had some amazing opportunities to spend four months living in a different country, meeting new people and learning a different educational system.

In the summer between my second and third year I was successful in applying for a Nuffield research bursary that allowed me to spend 8 weeks working with Nye Evans, the head of the physics department. I spent my time analysing real data and dealing with the problems that it can throw up! It was a great opportunity to see what real research is like and it was during this time that I realised I wasn't ready to give up learning at the end of my third year, so I applied to stay on as a postgraduate student.

With the help and guidance of the staff at Keele (and a lot of hard work!), I was able to obtain a first class honours degree and I'm now studying with the university for a PhD in astrophysics. The dual honours system has allowed me to pursue my PhD from a more theoretical angle as I now have a strong background in maths.

I thoroughly enjoyed my three years at Keele as an undergraduate and I'm looking forward to the opportunities that will be presented to me as I continue my studies.

Josh Tedd, Forensic science and Computer Science, graduated July 2009

When I began thinking about what I wanted to do as a career I had a keen interest in Computer Science, but was not happy in becoming yet another IT technician. Forensic Science was also a fascinating field which really interested me so I started to search for courses where I could either study a digital forensic science degree or the two subjects together. I found Keele University and with their Dual Honours system, I knew it would fit with what I had in mind. After visiting Keele for an open day, I was instantly hooked with their Forensic Science degree course, and I could continue my study of computer science. I was not disappointed! The laboratory facilities were excellent, backed up by a friendly and well-trained team of staff. All of the techniques taught were up to date, and approved by the police forces across the country, as well as the Forensic Science Service. The first year allowed us to study the basics of crime scene analysis, chemistry and DNA, as well as giving insight into analytical methods. In the second year we were taught more advanced forensic techniques which included imaging of fingerprints, marks and impressions, microscopy, blood-spatter analysis, DNA, and drugs of abuse. These subjects were taught on a good balance of lectures with practical sessions which were based around a criminal investigation. During the final year we studied the more specialised aspects of forensic science including arson, ballistics, explosives, toxicology, geoforensics, and digital forensics which was particularly fascinating to me.

Another side to Keele is the amazing social life of the campus. With all the halls of residence being within 10 minutes walk of the Students Union, you do not have to go far before you see a friendly face. There is a huge amount of different societies to join ranging from sports to leisure societies. The Students Union puts on a different event every night ranging from club nights to quizzes and open mic nights, making sure that there's always something to do between studying!

Since leaving Keele and obtaining a First class degree, I have been employed by a digital forensics company as a Trainee Mobile Phone Forensic Analyst after betting bettering 30 other applicants. I firmly believe that the education and the experience I gained from my time at Keele secured me this amazing job and I am forever grateful at the expertise, friendliness, and professionalism of the staff. The Dual Honours system really made a difference as I managed to gain the unique, individual skills of both a computer scientist and a forensic scientist, which fits perfectly within my job! Thank you Keele, I will miss you!

Lucy Boit, Chemistry with Forensic Science, graduated July 2008

I studied at Keele University from September 2005 until the summer of 2008 and throughout this time I thoroughly enjoyed my course; Chemistry with Forensic Science. In both subject areas there was an excellent balance of taught material, practical laboratory work and problem solving sessions run by the friendly and approachable staff from the physical science department, a great learning aid!

The laboratory work was always designed to compliment the learning material and I was very impressed by the extensive range of high quality, modern, technical equipment on offer to students in the Laboratories, encompassed in as many projects as possible. Personally one of my favourite projects was a 2nd year spectroscopy project in which students were required to make use of a range of techniques to aid in the identification of 24 unknown compounds based around a criminal drugs investigation. This included the use of presumptive spot tests, and collection and analysis of spectra from IR, 1H NMR, 13C NMR, MS and GC-MS, what a range of instrumentation!

As well as my course, I also enjoyed taking part in social activities run by the department, most famously known for its annual ‘Chemistry Parties’ held within the Lennard Jones Laboratory Building itself. These are an excellent opportunity to meet and mix with fellow physical science students and lecturers alike and I definitely recommend these to all future students.

Since graduating from university I have not been short of job offers! I have taken up a job as an analyst in an international company specialising in chemicals for health, personal, home and crop care and am enjoying having the chance to apply the skills I gained at university to the real world. I have also had several other job offers, including a research role at the ‘National Nuclear Laboratory’ at Sellafield. Currently I am in the process of deciding which of the avenues open to me I would like to follow!