**annual review**

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The past year at Keele has been one of considerable change and excitement, as we have brought to fruition our plans for repurposing, and started planning for the longer term future. Our KEEL2006 management programme is now in its final year. This vital initiative was a response to external factors to ensure Keele maintained its position as a cutting edge, research-led university, which provides high-quality education for its students and helps it to flourish in an increasingly competitive Higher Education environment.

During 2005-06, internal structural changes included the formation of seven Research Institutes, the creation of larger schools and the appointment of Executive Deans to head our three faculties. The two Deans’ posts advertised externally have resulted in excellent appointments: Professor Sue Scott joined us from Durham University to Head the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor Johanna Laybourn-Parry has come from Nottingham University to be Dean of Natural Sciences.

Linked to KEEL2006 there has also been a comprehensive review of central support services which has culminated in the formation of five directorates: Academic Services; Commercial and Facilities Management; Finance and IT; Human Resources and Student Services; Planning and Secretariat. All of these are overseen by the Secretary and Registrar, who is now head of the whole University administration. The aim of the review was to align central support services with the new academic structures to ensure the provision of efficient and professional support to the faculties.

The opportunity to open up a new 70 acre part of the site to the east of the existing Science Park has allowed us to plan for the future of the University longer term. The vision driving this is that Keele should be the ultimate campus university for the 21st Century, just as it was the template for other campus universities in the middle of the 20th Century. The principles of the vision ensure that the new site is fully integrated within the overall campus and that its development is shaped by the longer term development of the University as a whole. The plan has been subject to a major consultation exercise and has been well received. A planning application was submitted in November 2005.

Amongst the high profile visitors to Keele this year was the Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, Mr Bill Rammell, MP, who officially opened the Science Learning Centre for the West Midlands, based at Keele, which has the responsibility for delivering high quality continuing and professional development to science teachers and technicians across the region.

Our Chancellor, Professor Sir David Weatherall, officially opened the new Primary Care Sciences Research Centre and the Patrick Manson Insectaries within the Centre for Applied Entomology and Parasitology.

Lord Warner, Minister of State for NHS Delivery within the Department of Health, officially opened the University’s School of Medicine. The success of the Medical School was underlined when it was announced during the year that all the fifth year medical students had passed their final examinations, with four students achieving honours. This was the first cohort of locally trained medical students and was a milestone for Keele and its NHS partners.

The students had completed their first two years of study at Manchester, then came to Keele and North Staffordshire for their three years of practical study. The students were unanimous in their praise of the imaginative course and the enthusiasm shown by healthcare staff and patients. Such has been their welcome that 50% have chosen to stay in the area and have taken their first junior doctor posts at the University Hospital.

In summary, the past year has been a successful one for Keele, though pressures of the external environment remain a challenge. Government has recognised that universities are still under-funded through the legislation which now allows us to charge higher fees for undergraduate programmes. Keele has opted to charge the maximum of £3,000 for all programmes and will be introducing a range of scholarship and bursary schemes associated with this.

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The last five years has seen an enormous expansion of the Faculty of Health in response to the modernisation agenda of the NHS Plan. This has allowed us to introduce a number of new health professional courses, either alone or in partnership with other universities and institutions. Some of the graduates from these courses, for example medicine, have already started working in the local health economy and over the next few years Clinical Psychologists, Operating Department Practitioners, Osteopaths and Pharmacists will be locally trained. This has been a sensible, long-term change to the Faculty, which built on the original professional courses in Nursing, Midwifery, Postgraduate Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and Postgraduate Medicine.

This quality has been acknowledged in two ways this year. The national Quality Assurance Agency commended Keele’s provision in their Major Health Review. They assessed the Nursing, Midwifery and Physiotherapy courses and awarded the highest grades in each category. The School of Medicine achieved the national quality standard ISO9001:2000 this July and was the second School to do this; Nursing and Midwifery having led the way in 2003.

The importance of partnerships is evident in the two latest pre-registration courses. The new undergraduate pharmacy course, which is due to start in September 2006, utilises expertise of existing Keele Life Sciences and Medicinal Chemistry staff while building on the strong reputation of the Department of Medicines Management with professional pharmacists. For the Osteopathy course we joined with the College of Osteopaths. The College recognised the need for an osteopathic education centre in the Midlands and Keele has worked to make this happen on a tight time schedule and has forged new links with clinical osteopaths in Staffordshire.

A similar approach has been adopted with our research groups, which are strongly intertwined with the local NHS R&D Consortia and have seen significant growth, as a consequence of the success in the 2001 RAE and the generous pump-priming money accompanying the undergraduate medical school.

The immediate priority for the next 18 months will be positioning of our Research Institutes for a strong performance in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise. Although research programmes and staff are a long-term investment, which often take 5-10 years to come to fruition, the HEFCE Research Assessment Exercise is a key milestone; the outcome of which will influence the direction for the following decade. For the last five years, the strategy was to be highly focused in order to achieve international excellence whilst accepting that clinical priorities and scientific curiosity would require some flexibility.

More generally in education, the challenge for the Faculty is to adapt to a climate where the NHS is not only cutting back on some of the student commissions but also being unable locally to offer work to some cohorts of graduates. In the community of North Staffordshire, where our Nursing and Midwifery student recruitment and future employment is strongly locally based, this may produce long-term effects over which Keele University has very little influence. Nationally the same is true for Physiotherapy.

One of the questions for the Faculty must be the balance between the local focus and the more global one. Our Research Institutes have an almost equal balance, between their local and international partnerships and working arrangements. The educationally-focused schools vary considerably with Medicines Management and Physiotherapy having a regional and national outlook whereas Nursing and Midwifery is predominately Staffordshire focused. This has worked well in the past but may need to change in the future as the monopoly purchaser of Nursing and Midwifery courses reacts to the current workforce situation.

It is inevitable that external influences will affect our Schools and Institutes in different ways; some favourable and others adverse. We have diversified the portfolio of courses, which should provide greater stability, and see major increases in recurrent revenue. The NHS has been promoting interprofessional education as a way of building interprofessional working. For the Faculty of Health, interprofessional working across the staff groups may not only enhance the educational quality but also be a way of coping with changes in academic workforce requirements. The ability to adapt and evolve will always remain the key skill!
Tissue Engineering – a ‘growth’ area in more ways than one...

Keele’s leading research in tissue engineering has continued to expand in several exciting directions. The Research Institute for Science & Technology has received European funding to become a European Centre of Excellence in Tissue Engineering, and is promoting the field internationally to bring advanced engineering approaches into many areas of clinical practice.

Keele is uniquely placed to develop several parallel aspects of tissue engineering. Within the Faculty of Health can be found research on the cellular phenomena of human tissues, particularly bone and cartilage, leading to the growth of those tissues for clinical treatments and surgical repair with a strong underpinning from the engineering field. A new and exciting theme, potentially leading to a large number of clinical applications, is the investigation into the use of bioartificial organs and tissues for replacement surgery. The tissues are grown in ‘bioreactors’ that permit the shape and structure of new skin, bone and cartilage to be controlled in the laboratory. Alternatively, the patient’s own body can be the ‘bioreactor’. New bone can be ‘grown’ within the human body in a few weeks, on an existing bone or within a muscle. It can then be transplanted to where it is needed, thus overcoming many of the problems associated with re-implanting cells grown in the laboratory.

The new research building located on the hospital site at Hartshill includes new GMP facilities for growing human cells from patients to develop new cell therapies in tissue engineering in preliminary clinical trials.

Proof that the Institute for Science & Technology in Medicine successfully integrates the work of biological scientists, physicists, chemists, engineers, mathematicians and clinicians came during 2005, when the Institute won a tenth of the entire research funds from the BBSRC/ EPSRC Stem Cell Science & Engineering Initiative against fierce competition throughout the UK. It was a condition of submission that proposals involved formal collaboration between stem cell biologists and engineers or physical scientists, to which Keele could respond very well. Two grant applications were successful, each of three years duration and totalling approximately £600,000. This double success will ensure that Keele remains at the forefront of the field.

New School of Pharmacy

These are exciting times for Pharmacy at Keele, as the University launches its new School of Pharmacy. The University has been granted formal approval by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain to accept students onto its new Pharmacy course and will welcome the first intake of undergraduate students in September 2006.

The University is investing heavily in new state-of-the-art facilities for the School, which will be located on the central campus adjacent to the School of Health and Rehabilitation and collaborating science departments. The new course is being developed by a strong team of experienced and enthusiastic staff to provide the most up to date and innovative education for pharmacists of the future. The University has been delighted by the enthusiastic support of local employers, which has enabled us to offer one of the strongest programmes of clinical placements in the country.

The development builds on the Department of Medicines Management’s long track record of providing high quality postgraduate education for pharmacists, and strong professional and service links. The Department continues to provide a comprehensive medicines management advisory service to the West Midlands Health Economy.

This year our flagship Midland Therapeutic Review and Advisory Committee celebrated its 10th Anniversary. Our service profile, unique amongst Schools of Pharmacy, will be further strengthened by an academic partnership with the National Prescribing Centre (NPC) and the University is delighted to welcome their commissioned services arm, NPC Plus, to Keele. NPC Plus will take up new accommodation in the prestigious IC4 building in April 2006.
This is my first year as Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences and it has seen us moving into the final phase of the KEEL2006 change programme. This has meant the further consolidation of the Schools and the development of the Research Institutes into organisations which are beginning to offer excellent support and focus for research activity. I have been lucky to have an extremely good group of Heads of School and Research Institute Directors to work with and together we are making real the new organisation of research and teaching.

This process entailed many people spending much of the summer moving boxes around as the new Humanities School office was brought into being. Various other staff were relocated and the coming months will see further moves as we establish offices for the School of Criminology, Education, Sociology and Social Work and the School of Economic and Management Studies. It has been a challenging year for support staff as they have moved from working within Departments to the new School structures, but this has been facilitated by the appointment of Senior School Managers who are now overseeing the development of appropriate staffing structures.

I organised an ‘Open Space’ event in September with an external facilitator in order to gain a better sense of what a wide range of academic and administrative staff see as important for the Faculty, and we are currently addressing the issues raised with a view to involving groups of staff at different levels in ongoing strategic discussions.

One of Keele’s key aims is to encourage interdisciplinary thinking in both staff and students and the effects of this have struck me very positively. Despite academics’ understandable loyalties to their core disciplines there is more cross disciplinary fertilisation at Keele than in any of the other five universities in which I have worked. A small example is the conversation I was involved in between colleagues in English, American Studies, Politics and Sociology about teaching and research possibilities in relation to changing understandings of nature and travel. This gave a flavour of how the intellectual terrain can open up when the Humanities and Social Sciences are brought together.

Over the last 12 months we have made some excellent academic appointments at all levels and have recently advertised 23 posts across the faculty, a number of which are RAE investment posts. It has been particularly pleasing to recruit early career colleagues and to see them begin to develop and make their mark. We have also been able to entice some extremely good professorial candidates to Keele including two who had worked here before – Andy Dobson as Professor of Environmental Politics and David Knights as Professor of Management – which is surely to be taken as a compliment. I have also been particularly impressed by the quality of the inaugural lectures given by recently appointed or promoted Keele Professors in Humanities and Social Sciences. It is crucially important that we are able to develop an appropriate age and stage profile, and an increasingly balanced gender profile and new appointments make this increasingly possible.

Undergraduate recruitment seems to be healthy despite concerns about the effect of the introduction of student fees, and we are planning a new programme in Marketing for next year. Some of our Masters programmes are thriving and recruiting more students, especially from overseas. We are currently developing a new MA programme in ‘Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice’ and have others in the planning stages. Research Institutes now have targets in relation to increasing PhD student numbers across the Faculty and to this end were delighted to gain recognition from the Economic and Social Science Research Council for all the disciplines in which we submitted programmes. This recognition is a kitemark for both home and overseas students. We have also been successful in gaining an AHRC collaborative research training award, focused around the history of the book.

Over the past year there have been key achievements, not least a successful OFSTED report for our PGCE programme for which special thanks are due to Kevin Mattinson and Carol Hough. There have been several excellent conferences organised at Keele by Faculty members including: Gender Work and Organisations, Creative Writing – at which Phillip Pullman was a speaker; Households, Families and Consumption and a series based in the AHRC funded Centre for Law, Gender and Sexuality. More will follow as a result of two successful bids to the ESRC for Seminar Series, one in Law and the other in Criminology. Applications for research funding are definitely on the increase and the success rate for bids to outside bodies is currently one in three which is very encouraging.
Why Do They Do It?
Racial Harassment in North Staffordshire

Criminologists at Keele have revealed that the reasons why people commit racial harassment may be much more complicated than they seem. Previous research has shown the devastating impact of racial harassment on people from minority ethnic groups, and researchers set out to investigate the background to this kind of behaviour in North Staffordshire.

In their two-year study funded – and subsequently rated ‘outstanding’ – by the Economic and Social Research Council, Drs David Gadd and Bill Dixon and Professor Tony Jefferson explored what motivates offenders, as well as the context in which violence and harassment take place.

In-depth interviews with people implicated in racial harassment revealed that only a minority were motivated solely by racism. Their behaviour had been intimidating and dangerous, but they had often had traumatic lives involving other forms of criminal behaviour as well as mental illness, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse and regular contact with the police.

Focus group discussions with a wide range of local people showed that most people in Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire would not describe themselves as ‘racists’ and condemn racially motivated violence.

Industrial decline has led to many local people feeling a sense of loss, a sense that a whole way of life has gone, never to return. Many white residents see the migrant and minority ethnic populations in North Staffordshire as an emblem of the area’s decline, and an uncomfortable reminder of their inability to secure decent lives for themselves and their families. Some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people try to cope with their feelings of shame, envy and disgust by projecting them – often aggressively, sometimes violently – onto migrant and minority ethnic groups and individuals.

Good Life for the Baby Boomers?

People born between 1945-54 living in the Manchester area are being interviewed as a major research project seeks to find out the main plans and attitudes of the so-called ‘Baby Boomers’ as they near or enter retirement.

The project is funded under the Economic and Social Research Council’s £5 million Cultures of Consumption programme and managed by Dr Rebecca Laach, Sociology, working with Professor Chris Phillipson, Social Gerontology, and Professor Simon Biggs, King’s College London.

On the face of it, life seems good for these ‘mid-lifers’: they’ve benefited from the expansion of public services and increases in housing value in the late 20th Century. Many have a good quality of life – they look after their health and wealth, and enjoy varied lifestyles. Some suggest they may ‘age well’ compared with earlier cohorts, perhaps because they have the financial means and cultural attitudes to do so.

The dramatic changes of the late 20th Century may have left their mark: political activism, consumerism, birth control, music – do baby boomers recognise themselves as a distinct generation who may challenge the expectations of old age? It might not all be rosy however – this cohort can also be described as the ‘sandwich’ generation – often with ageing parents to care for, they may also still have financially dependent children, and there are high numbers who are sick and disabled.

So while the media portray boomers as rich, active SKI-ers (spending the kids’ inheritance) – and it has been found that they’re often wealthy, with for example high levels of second home ownership – the reality may turn out to be different. Boomers may be working longer to provide for old age as public services decline, investing in second homes to boost pension provision, facing the physical realities of ageing in contrast to the idealised image in advertisements.
The Faculty has seen a year of considerable change with the implementation of KEEL2006 involving the mergers of Departments into larger Schools and the establishment of Research Institutes. The School of Physical and Geographical Sciences (SPAGS) enjoyed a number of achievements throughout the year. Staff who are members of the Institute for the Environment, Physical Sciences and Applied Mathematics (EPSAM) include the Astrophysics group whose FPARC rolling grant was renewed with a very significant increase in funding including three postdoctoral researchers for five years. This was accompanied by an increase in the quota of PhD studentships from one to two. Jorick Vink won a Research Council’s UK Academic Research Fellowship in Astrophysics, November 2005 saw the inauguration of SALT (South African Large Telescope) by President Thabo Mbecki involving a consortium of Keele’s Astrophysicists and other UK universities as well as international collaborators. Other research highlights include a major EPSRC grant awarded to Dr Peter Haycock, in collaboration with Drs KP Lam and Charles Day from the School of Computing and Mathematics, to develop X-ray elemental imaging analysis for crime applications.

SPAGS achieved excellent undergraduate recruitment with significant increases in student numbers including an 80% increase in Forensic Science and a 20% increase in Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry. The Complementary Studies module in Crime Science Investigation proved incredibly popular with an enrolment capped at 500. Further substantial refurbishment of the laboratories in the Lennard-Jones building occurred, with the opening of the new Analytical Science laboratory and the creation of a large multi-user laboratory and a Scenes of Crime Room, augmented by significant investment in state-of-the-art forensic and analytical equipment.

Achievements in the School of Psychology include an ESRC grant (£43,264) awarded to Dr Claire Fallow for the study of interpersonal attachment and social identification and £10,000 from the Nuffield Foundation awarded to Dr Nicky Edelstyn to study memory impairment in Parkinson’s Disease. A number of staff have been invited to serve on various committees and panels, for example Professor John Sloboda on the Music Panel of the 2008 RAE, Dr Mark Trueman to Deputy Chair of the British Psychological Society’s (BPS) Graduate Qualifications and Appointments Committee, Dr Maggie Robson to the Counselling Psychology section of the BPS Admission Committee.

2005 has been a busy and successful year for the School of Life Sciences in areas of teaching, research and enterprise. In teaching, we saw a record entry onto the School’s undergraduate programmes, with a notable doubling of applications and entrants to Biomedical Sciences programmes.

Staff who are members of the Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine had a successful year of winning grants. Professor Gwyn Williams was awarded £195,955 from BBSRC to support his work on molecular mechanisms of apoptosis. Dr Annette Shrive and Professor Trevor Greenhough obtained £127,572 for technical support and equipment maintenance to underpin the structural biology research, Dr Nikki Goodstone won grants worth £275,000 from EPSRC (with others) and £200,000 from a private benefactor (with Dr Sarah Cartmell). Dr Rose Fricker-Gates was awarded £158,883 from the Parkinson’s Disease Society for her work on stem cells and Dr Anne Loweth obtained a Gallimore Research Award worth £25,000. Dr Peter Thomas, EPSAM, was awarded £187,000 from NERC with Birmingham University for work on atmospheric forcing of sulphate in cave speleothems.

Professor Chris Arme has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious journal Parasitology and Professor Hilary Hurd served as President of the British Society for Parasitology. Professor Douglas Quinnney was appointed Head of the School of Computing and Mathematics. The School introduced a new single honours course in Mathematics that recruited extremely well, while recruitment to the dual honours course remained firm.

We were delighted to welcome a significant number of new staff to the Faculty. In Psychology, Professor John Wearden joined Keele from Manchester University. Five new lecturing staff (Drs Claire Farrow, Claire Fox, Kaz Brandt, Sue Sherman and Jonathan Ling) swelled the ranks of the School of Psychology very significantly. In SPAGS Drs Ralf Gertisser, Michael Montanari and Jamie Pringle took up lectureships in Palaeoecology, Petrology and Environmental Geophysics respectively, and Drs Catherine Duckett and Sarah Howells in Forensic Science and Chemistry. Two joint appointments (Drs Beth Greenhough and Steve Quilley) were made with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Environmental Geography and Geopolitics. Dr Mahmood Niazi took up a lecturer appointment in Computer Science.

The Science Learning Centre West Midlands, based in the £1.4m newly refurbished state-of-the-art facility at Keele, is officially opened by the Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, Mr Bill Rammell, MP.

Keele, in partnership with co-applicants Staffordshire Education Service, Stoke-on-Trent LEA, SERCO Learning and Staffordshire University, will be running the Science Learning Centre West Midlands with responsibility for delivering high quality continuing and professional development to science teachers and technicians across the region.

For the second year running a work by Dr Diego Garro, Music Technology, is awarded a prize at Bourges 32nd International Competition of Electroacoustic Music and Sonic Art in the ‘abstract music’ category. A poster by Dr Clare Jinks, Dr Kelvin Jordan and Professor Peter Croft, Primary Care Sciences Research Centre, is awarded best poster at the 2005 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Faculty of Public Health in Scarborough. The title of the poster is ‘The Impact of Obesity on Knee Pain and Disability in Older Adults’.

jun05
Non-destructive evaluation of corroded steel reinforcement in concrete

Reinforced concrete can suffer dangerous and potentially catastrophic deterioration when the reinforcing steel becomes corroded. A team in iEPSAM is working on a project funded by EPSRC (£407,638) to develop a novel technique for the direct identification of corroded steel within concrete.

This non-destructive hybrid technology has the potential to replace the invasive and indirect methods currently in use. The Keele team consists of Drs Peter Haycock, Peter Grannell, Nigel Cassidy, Matthew Hocking and Anthony Wright, together with research student Laurence North, in collaboration with Dr Steve Hoon, from Manchester Metropolitan University. The programme also involves Concrete Repairs Ltd, the engineering consultancy, Faber Maunsell Ltd, Oxfordshire County Council, the Danish manufacturer Cathodic Protection International ApS and the Netherlands Ministry of Transport Public Works and Water.

The new technology will be used to investigate the nature of corrosion and will be of interest to the concrete survey and repair sector. The project has been the subject of significant commercial interest and two of the team have formed a company, SciSite Limited, which is being spun out from the University to exploit the technology. This has attracted funding from a range of West Midlands sources (the Enterprise Fellowship Scheme, Spinner and Different by Design) and is expected to be fully operational in 2006.

SuperWASP

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SuperWASP (WASP = Wide Angle Search for Planets) is a robotic facility that makes regular, rapid surveys of the sky and automatically searches for the tiny dip in the brightness of a star as one of its planets passes in front of it. It is an extremely cost-effective way of pursuing this avenue of research, some 1% of the cost of space missions to achieve the same objectives.

The southern SuperWASP, funded by SRIF and PPARC and managed by Keele, is located at the Sutherland site of the South African Astronomical Observatory. The picture shows the eight SuperWASP cameras, each of which is fitted with a high quality charge coupled device.

Keele Astrophysics postgraduate David Wilson, who is working on the SuperWASP project, presented a poster on the broader social issues around this work at the British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting at Dublin; his poster ‘Alien Invasion’ was a prize winner. He also presented a poster on SuperWASP at the ‘Set for Britain’ Physics’ Reception held at the Houses of Parliament to promote Britain’s younger physicists as part of ‘Einstein Year’ and the ‘World Year of Physics’.

It is also announced that a Keele finalist, Nicholas Kongoasa, has been awarded the Richard Johanson prize by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists for best medical student in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Dr David Furness, School of Life Sciences/STM, receives his third prestigious Wellcome Trust Biomedical Image award, having won the award previously two years in succession in 1997 and 1998. The award this year is for an image taken with the high resolution scanning electron microscope, one of the state-of-the-art instruments in the Central Electron Microscope Unit. Dr Furness applied a special technique to reveal the intricate 3D structure of the Golgi apparatus, a structure normally not visible in this way because it is hidden inside the cell.

Professor Shaughn O’Brien takes his place on the Council of the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Brussels. This is for a period of three years.

Keele’s Medical School announce that all of the 35 fifth year medical students have passed their final exams, with four students achieving honours. Half of them decide to stay in the area to take their first junior doctor posts at the University Hospital.

Keel University Annual Review 2005
research, knowledge transfer and enterprise

Keele’s success in attracting major HEIF funding for research and enterprise activities has resulted in the expansion of the enterprise and knowledge transfer team at Keele. The close collaboration between the enterprise team and the Research Institutes and Faculties facilitates research of national and international importance and underpins a ‘blue chip’ enterprise culture which ensures the effective delivery of knowledge transfer and value to both Keele and regional and national commercial and public organisations.

A total of 472 research grant applications were supported in 2005, and £8.7m of grant income was received, an increase of 15% on 2004. Enterprise non-research income increased by 20% on 2004 to £360K in 2005. Intellectual Property commercialisation income generated £914K in 2005, an increase of 6% on 2004.

**Five-Year Funding following Review**

Primary Care and Health Sciences has been awarded £1.9 million by the Department of Health’s National Co-ordinating Centre for Research Capacity and Development. It will allow the Centre to continue its programmes of research on the occurrence and optimal treatment for back and joint pain in primary care, to provide research training and to support academic career pathways for new researchers in primary care, and to enhance its partnership with NHS providers across the region.

Dr Nadine Foster was also awarded a National Primary Care Career Scientist Award to improve the effectiveness of physiotherapy for patients with back and knee pain.

**A Cancer Gene called Fau**

The Apoptosis Research Group led by Professor Gwyn Williams received funding from BBSRC, Breast Cancer Campaign and The National Cancer Research Institute. This funding is to continue their work showing the effectiveness of identifying genes important in cancer and other diseases using the function of the genes. The BBSRC grant was awarded to allow the group to analyse one of the genes they have already identified (Fau) and the other funding received is to allow them to look at the application of this strategy to breast and prostate cancer.

**Research Institutes @ Keele**

The year saw a major strategic development with the formation of seven Research Institutes. The purpose of the Institutes is to encourage multidisciplinary research and to consolidate Keele’s standing as a research-led University. The Research Institutes, which cover the three faculties of the University, are the Institute for the Environment, Physical Sciences and Applied Mathematics, which is part of the Faculty of Natural Sciences; both the Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine and the Institute for Primary Care and Health Sciences are part of the Faculty of Health; and the Institute for the Humanities, the Institute for Law, Politics and Justice, the Institute for Life Course Studies and the Institute for Public Policy and Management are part of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Research Institutes foster a high quality, supportive and managed research environment for both individual researchers and teams of collaborative researchers, including postgraduate researchers, and thus support the development and growth of thematic centres of excellence.

**Project Dandelion2: another Generation of New Postgraduates**

Project Dandelion, launched in 2004 to support the recruitment of doctoral students into the newly formed Research Institutes, attracted 17 new PhD students to Keele. The second phase of Dandelion successfully saw 19 new PhD students registered with Keele, with strong applications for research programmes in Humanities and Social Sciences, Primary Care and Health Sciences and Natural Sciences.

Honorary degrees were conferred on Professor Sir Alasdair Breckenridge, CBE; Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, CBE; Sir Jeffrey James, KBE, CMG; Lord Justice Maurice Kay; Keith Perrin; Professor Margaret Spufford, OBE; FBA, and Lord Stafford, DL, ARAgS.

Keel hosts a seminar on the Teaching and Practice of Creative Writing. The day is unique in bringing together a diverse group of practitioners with an interest in Creative Writing, including the writers Philip Pullman and Janni Fawler (both recipients of the Whitbread Prize for Fiction), teachers, students, newly qualified teachers, advisers, academics, teacher educators, publishers and representatives of government educational organisations.

Images submitted to The Welcome Trust Medical Photographic Library are displayed in London at an exhibition showcasing the Biomedical Image Awards for 2005. Two images from Keele, one by Professor Hilary Hurd and the second by Dr Derrick Nimmo and Professor Paul Eggleston, are selected for the awards.
The Lord Stafford Awards

The Lord Stafford Awards are designed to stimulate innovative activity between West Midlands based businesses and the region’s universities. 2005 saw Keele University once again become the organisational home of the Lord Stafford Awards, which received a record number of 60 applications.

Intelligent Orthopaedics Ltd was recognised by winning the prestigious Lord Stafford Award for Achievement in Innovation. The company was formed as a commercial vehicle to develop, promote and market Intellectual Property jointly developed between Keele, Staffordshire University and the University Hospital North Staffordshire. The technology concerns the manipulation of tibial fractures and reduces both patients’ recovery time and discomfort.

Science Research Investment Fund (SRIF3)

Keele was awarded nearly £4 million from the Science Research Investment Fund (SRIF3) to enhance infrastructure facilities for research in Science as well as in Humanities and Social Sciences. This funding is dedicated to delivering five major projects to facilitate research in all the three faculties at Keele through refurbishment processes and purchase of equipment.

RAE 2008

Preparation for the fourth national Research Assessment Exercise since 1992, RAE2008 is in full swing at Keele. The RAE Team, led by the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research & Enterprise, is working with Research Institutes and drafting strategy documents in preparation for Keele’s submission.

The primary aim of RAE2008 for Keele is to produce high quality RAE ratings following assessment of submissions of research activity under units of assessment made by Research Institutions. The quality ratings will be used by the funding body (HEFCE) to determine the institution’s research funding from 2009-10.

Student Enterprise takes off

Keele students showed an unprecedented interest in entrepreneurship this year with the formation of INNOVATE!, a student-led enterprise society with 60 members. Students have formed a SIFE team (Students in Free Enterprise), an international competition based on social enterprise.

Applied and Environmental Geophysics Group (AEG) Help Remove Barrier to UK Renewable Energy Development

The Ministry of Defence, concerned about the effect of wind farm vibration on its listening station site at Eskdalemuir in the Southern Uplands of Scotland, enforced an 80km ‘exclusion zone’ around the site. This ban effectively removed at least 40% of the UK renewable wind resource. The study led by Keele and run in collaboration with MOD, the DTI and the British Wind Energy Association, showed that the exclusion zone could be reduced to 17.5km.

Malcolm Wicks, UK Energy Minister made the following comment with regard to the impact of Keele’s research: “Eskdalemuir is an excellent example of how industry and government departments can work together to solve problems that could impede progress towards our energy and environmental goals. This agreement is based on solid research, and reflects the goodwill and constructive approach shown by all the parties.”

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Professor Ellie Scrivens, Director of the Health Care Standards Unit, is awarded the prestigious Baxter Award for her book ‘Quality, Risk and Control in Health Care’, Open University Press, 2005 at the recent European Health Management Association Conference in Barcelona. It is the second time Professor Scrivens has won this award.

Dr Graeme Jones, School of Physical and Geographical Sciences, is the guest speaker at the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition.

Professor Ann Hughes, History, is appointed to the Research Peer Review Panel for Medieval and Modern History, which is responsible for assessing applications to and award reports from the AHRC’s various research grant schemes.

The Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine prize, for the best scientific paper published in Medical & Biological Engineering & Computing during 2004, is awarded to members of Keele’s Institute of Science and Technology in Medicine.

The University hosts a major national conference on ageing. Organised by the Centre for Social Gerontology and Institute of Ageing, the 34th annual conference of the British Society of Gerontology is attended by nearly 300 people.
Studying abroad is now a normal part of nearly all undergraduate programmes at Keele. Interest across Europe is still increasing and more students are looking to spend a semester in countries such as Turkey, the Netherlands and Sweden. Globalisation has seen students becoming more interested in destinations around the world and Keele has welcomed exchange, Erasmus and Study Abroad students from 17 different countries, representing 65 different institutions.

To enable students to go through the process more easily the University has developed an online web tutorial with the help of Debra Smith, an intern from Bowling Green State University, who stayed on at Keele after the group visit of 35 Masters and PhD students in College Student Personnel.

Leonardo
Keele’s involvement in European work placements under the EU’s Leonardo Programme has developed so that young workers are now able to gain a postgraduate qualification as well as gain experience in laboratories in France, Germany, Sweden, Spain, Norway, the Netherlands and Poland. Two students have set off to Poland to work at the Nencki Institute in Warsaw and the Institute of Ichthyobiology and Aquaculture in Golyz.

Hurricane Katrina
Four Keele students had to be evacuated from New Orleans when hurricane Katrina struck just a few days after their arrival at Loyola University. A Loyola exchange student, who had studied at Keele the previous semester, took in all the students until they could be relocated to Ottawa University in Canada to complete their semester abroad.

Dr Joan Woodworth, Professor of Psychology at Appalachian State University in North Carolina brought a group of eleven Psychology students to Keele in September, replicating the successful Education Programme that we run with Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

The International Alumni Officer, John Easom has worked very closely with the Centre for International Exchange & Languages in integrating the North American alumni activities by visiting some of the partner universities and linking up with their alumni offices. Many of the North American alumni are previous exchange students.

Japan
This year students from Daito Bunka University were joined by two young women from Shinshiro, Newcastle-under-Lyme’s sister city in Japan. This was partly in preparation for the Newcastle summit to be held at Keele in June 2006.

Languages
Students increasingly see learning a language in addition to their dual honours combination as an essential part of their degree. This year nearly 650 students, staff and local people studied French, German, Spanish, Japanese, Russian or Polish. Students in particular are opting to continue with the language for the three years to obtain a Certificate in Competence.

BUTEX Scholarship
In addition to the Royal Doulton scholarship which enables the best students of each year group who apply to study abroad to benefit from a sum of money which can make all the difference to their studies, we were fortunate enough to award two further scholarships from BUTEX to an incoming and an outgoing student – Sarah Stevens from the University of Guelph, Canada, joined Keele for the second semester and Timothy Clarke studied for a semester at York University in Toronto.
widening access to higher education

The innovative KeeleLink partnership was launched in 2005 to reinforce the University’s commitment to the local community. This scheme provides local schools and colleges with a range of benefits, including outreach event places, awards for prize evenings, discounted CPD for teachers, membership of schemes, including A2K, and a free suite of new media resources produced by Widening Participation at Keele. Teacher and adviser’s training events were held and resources developed for students, parents and schools.

The AimHigher Healthstrand (Co-ordinated by Helen Baker in partnership with the Faculty of Health) has sought to help state school students trying to gain entry into medical school. Medical Summer School, NHS placement schemes, interview preparation and practice, application workshops and adviser training have formed a substantial part of this project, but the development of an e-mentoring project (funded by The Brightside Trust) has been particularly innovative.

This scheme matches undergraduate medical school students with sixth form or college students who are in the process of applying to medical school, giving them help and advice regarding application, interview and placement. This scheme was particularly relevant as the project’s focus on rural areas of Staffordshire and Shropshire covered a large geographical area.

The e-mentoring scheme has received national acclaim. Helen has given talks at a number of regional and national conferences celebrating innovation, and the fact that 50% of all e-mentees have applied to Keele medical school and a substantial proportion of the remaining 50% have applied to other medical schools is testament to its success.

The Brightside Trust has approached Helen to lead the West Midlands in the second phase of its national e-mentoring project.

The Asian Project has continued to run community and Keele-based events whilst maintaining a focus on FE partners in Staffordshire. Attendance at the Mega Mela (largest Asian Community event in the country) gained international media coverage for the University and this project via Star TV and a number of Asian Radio stations and magazines. The project has also run a number of day events for Asian women from local communities.

Nagma Akber being interviewed by Star TV at the Mega Mela.

In 2005 WP worked directly with over 7,000 school-aged students including a Shropshire AimHigher project, which has more than doubled its number of engaged schools, and a large Primary Science project with Stoke-on-Trent LEA. WP has actively sought and managed to increase participation from the North-West including Crewe, Warrington and Liverpool LEAs, whilst maintaining its work in the West Midlands region. WP is also working increasingly with parents, teachers and advisers.

Whilst an increased number of curriculum areas were featured in WP events, History was a particular focus marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. WP has run a number of events, including lectures from Dr Kate Cushing from History, the use of TARA resources and a talk from Auschwitz survivor, Mrs Susan Pollock.

Students from a Cheshire school thanking Holocaust survivor Susan Pollock for sharing her experiences with them.

Dr Sarah Hatfield has developed a mentoring scheme partnership with Stoke-on-Trent schools and Education. The scheme is designed to give undergraduates a taste of teaching and benefit from some funding. Sarah has received £51,500 from the Training and Development Agency to support this project.

New Media has continued to be a major feature for Widening Participation and Kate Fox won Young Education Marketeer of The Year for her management of the Futureproof project and a parents’ DVD, called ‘In the Picture’.

A group of e-mentors and e-mentees outside the medical school at the start of the project.
teaching excellence

The Learning and Teaching Committee presented the School Award for Teaching and Learning to the School of Health and Rehabilitation and the Experienced Staff Award went to Dr. Jonathan Parker.

The University is committed to the delivery of high quality educational programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and the awards recognise the role academic staff play in the design and delivery of those programmes.

The School of Health and Rehabilitation demonstrated excellence in its work with clinical educators. The award recognises the School’s outstanding ability to influence its clinical educators positively and enable them to achieve specific learning outcomes.

SHAR also demonstrated its ability to influence and inspire colleagues in the University and the wider community of teachers and learners. They achieved this by example and through dissemination of good practice in developing and implementing a nationally recognised scheme for the Accreditation of Clinical Educators. Marilyn Andrews, Head of the School, received the award on behalf of the School.

The Experienced Staff award is for staff with more than six years teaching experience. Dr. Parker, American Studies, has shown an exceptional ability to enable his students to achieve specific learning outcomes and inspire his colleagues in their learning, teaching and assessment practice.

key appointments

Dean of Natural Sciences

Professor Johanna Laybourn-Parry has been appointed Dean of Natural Sciences. She was Professor of Environmental Biology at Nottingham University and has served both as Director of the Institute of Environmental Sciences and Head of the School of Life and Environmental Sciences.

Professor Laybourn-Parry is internationally known for her research on lake ecosystems in the Antarctic and Arctic, where she has conducted and supervised fieldwork extensively. This research has received support from NERC and other major UK funders, and through collaborative work from the US National Science Foundation and the Australian Antarctic Programme.

More recently her work has developed in a multidisciplinary direction where she has collaborated with geologists, engineers and computer scientists, which includes leading a large project in the NERC funded GANE programme investigating the impact of nitrogen deposition on the Arctic tundra.

Professor Laybourn-Parry has performed a number of leadership roles, including Head of a School at La Trobe University, Melbourne, where she was also a member of the senior management team. She has been prominent in national scientific bodies, including serving on numerous NERC committees and the boards of various societies. She brings to Keele a strong commitment to science education and widening participation.

Head of Medical School

Professor Richard Hays has joined Keele as Professor of Medical Education and Head of the Medical School. He was previously Chair of Medical Education and Foundation Dean at James Cook University, Queensland, Australia.

Internationally regarded as a leader in medical education, he played a pivotal role in introducing the new medical school at James Cook and leading in the development and implementation of the innovative medicine programme at the University. It was Australia’s first regional medical school with a specific focus on rural medical practices.

He studied medicine at the University of Queensland, then became a full-time GP providing a rural medical practice. Later he took a PhD in Education Psychology – becoming the first GP in Australia to be awarded such a degree.

He developed a strong interest in how medical education could be made more enjoyable and effective and, while continuing an active involvement in general practice, he went on to take senior medical education roles in Sydney and the University of Queensland before becoming Foundation Dean at James Cook.

He has completed a Higher Doctorate in Medicine, has published more than a hundred research papers, written several books and won over three million Australian dollars in research funding.

The World Health Organisation’s Regional Committee for Europe (comprising the Health Ministers of the 52 countries of the European Region) approves a European Strategy for Child and Adolescent Health and Development. Professor Michael Rigby, Centre for Health Planning and Management, is one of three external advisers involved in its compilation and drafting.

Professor Martin Crawford, American Studies, School of Humanities, is elected Chair of British American 19th Century Historians at the association’s twelfth annual meeting in Cambridge.
honorary degrees awarded in 2005

Professor Sir Robert David Hugh Boyd, formerly Principal, and Professor of Paediatrics, at St George’s Hospital Medical School, London, Doctor of Science, for his contribution to medicine and medical education nationally.

Professor Sir Alasdair Breckenridge, CBE, Chair of the Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, Doctor of Science, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to medicine and medical education nationally and internationally, particularly his leadership in the safety of medicines.

Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, CBE, distinguished astro-physicist, Doctor of Science, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to science in Britain, particularly in the fields of astronomy and the public understanding of science.

Keith Perrin, former top Staffordshire police officer, Master of the University, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the local community, particularly in the areas of community relations and crime prevention.

Professor Jane Plant, CBE, Chief Scientist of the British Geological Survey, Doctor of Science, for her contribution to science and technology and, in particular, Earth Sciences in the UK.

Sir Jeffrey James, KBE, CMG, a distinguished diplomat and Keele graduate, Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters, in recognition of his outstanding contribution through his work in the diplomatic service.

Lord Justice Maurice Kay, Lord Justice of Appeal and a distinguished academic lawyer, Doctor of Laws, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the criminal justice system nationally.

Professor Margaret Spufford, OBE, distinguished historian and a Fellow of the British Academy, Doctor of Letters, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the humanities, particularly in the area of social and local history.

Lord Stafford, DL, ARAgS, Pro-Chancellor of Keele University from 1993-2003, Doctor of the University, in recognition of his outstanding service to the University of Keele.

Caroline Miller, a PhD student in Management, School of Economics and Management studies, is awarded Best Paper Prize for the Entrepreneurship and Innovation track of the British Academy of Management Conference 2005 for her paper, ‘The ‘Carnivalesque’ Space of Enterprise?: Success, Failure and Women’.

The Applied and Environmental Geophysics Group receive the 2005 award for the most Significant Contribution to Onshore Wind Energy, which is awarded annually by the British Wind Energy Association. This is for the work carried out for the MOD/DTI/BWEA to assess the impact of windfarm vibrations on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty monitoring site at Eskdalemuir, Scotland. The report and its recommendations permitted the development of some 1.6 Gigawatts of renewable energy, 20% of the target required under Kyoto, while preserving the capability of the site for discriminating underground nuclear tests. Professor Peter Styles receives the award on behalf of the University and the AEGG Research Group at the BWEA annual dinner. Professor Styles also gives a paper on this work to the Fifth International Conference on Wind Turbine Noise, held in Berlin.

Simon Stevens, President, United Health Europe, gives the 12th annual Sir Roy Griffiths Public Lecture in the Dinwoodie Lecture Theatre, Primary Care Sciences Research Centre. Organised by the Keele Health Alumni Association, with help from the Centre of Health Planning and Management, the lecture is entitled ‘Steering the NHS – A View From The Bridge’.
The Department of Facilities Management has enjoyed a busy and rewarding year. The continued success of the Department is entirely due to the commitment, enthusiasm and determination of the staff to drive and improve service delivery.

Catering, Retail & Leisure

The catering team is constantly on the lookout for new concepts and this year’s training conference was designed to give them the opportunity to experience catering for large numbers in various locations. Tenerife was the ideal venue and, although not famed for haute cuisine, planning and organisation are the key drivers when dealing with large numbers of guests. The team spent time at the Mare Nostrum Resort, which incorporates five 5* hotels. Here they were introduced to the executive chef, Andres Juarez Casa and his colleague Antonio Munoz Merino.

The TUCO University Caterer magazine spent a half day on site in May at the Chancellor’s complex. This was the result of winning the TUCO Quality Award in March and was followed by a feature article in the magazine, highlighting Keele’s pioneering introduction of the Meal Plan and Keele Card. Peter Walters, our executive chef, was offered a regular recipe column and has already submitted a number of contributions.

Further success came with a total of three high profile awards during the year. Our executive chefs were able to build on last year’s success with the achievement of a Bronze Medal at the 2005 TUCO Chefs’ Challenge in Blackpool, a ‘cook off’ involving 20 finalists. In July, Peter Walters had two of his recipes win a Highly Commended Award in the Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce Chef Competition. The most prestigious award, however, involved one of our Modern Apprentices, Kim Barnish, who, after much hard work, won the Staffordshire Young Chef of Tomorrow competition. Following her success, Kim completed a day’s work experience with Angela Hartnett at the Connaught in London – one of Gordon Ramsay’s restaurants.

The Leisure team began the year with the introduction of the Kinesis system. Installed on the upper level of the gym, Kinesis is a new training method that uses more than 250 exercises and movements to develop a personalised programme based on strength, flexibility and balance. Notably, Keele is the first UK university to offer Kinesis on site.

Commercial Development

This year the team took over responsibility for Chancellor’s Reception and Keele Management Centre. Both areas underwent a total refurbishment programme which was aimed at improving the customer experience.

The number of new clients generating commercial business has increased following a sustained series of advertising and exhibition campaigns. Alongside this, we are still the venue of choice for many valued repeat clients. The Reception Services team has been successfully audited and brought into the ISO9001 scope – the work for this has led to improved customer care and an increase in the services available from both Chancellor’s and Darwin 24-hour receptions.

Keele Conference Park was once again nominated in the Meeting & Incentive Travel Awards – in the Best Academic Venue and Best Value for Money categories.

As part of our programme of continuing improvement, Commercial Development staff make regular visits to competitors – both local and national – to benchmark and build on best practice where appropriate.

Residential Operations

The rolling programme of refurbishment of student accommodation continued with the upgrading of a further 268 rooms, 192 of which were in Barnes flats. In addition, access control was fitted to 34 blocks within the halls of residence. ‘No Smoking blocks’ were introduced in September and applied to a total of 24% of student rooms. In an attempt to reduce the number of fire callouts, a Fire Safety video was produced and issued to every student. Students were obliged to watch the video before being able to access the HallsNet system and the pleasing result was a significant reduction in the number of kitchen fires.

Campus accommodation remains popular but due to the increased student intake in September, 150 rooms off campus in College Court were reserved and filled with first year students.
Training and Development successes were celebrated in May with a bumper crop of awards for KFM staff at all levels, ranging from NVQs in craft skills to qualifications in Leadership and Management. The drive to maximise the value of our staff continues with a full programme of training taking us into 2006.

**Estates & Buildings**

In 2005 a significant amount of resource was targeted at requirements and improvements that were highly visible to staff, students and visitors to the campus. These included:

- Lighting improvements between Keele village and the bus stop adjacent to the Lennard-Jones Laboratories.
- Resurfacing and lighting of the path between the Leisure Centre and Barnes Halls of Residence.
- Remodelling of car parking in Covert Road to give increased capacity and improved safety.
- External decoration of the Information Services building and Lennard-Jones Laboratories.
- Resurfacing of roads and paths around campus.

Work of equal but less visible importance was undertaken to ensure compliance with changes to legislative requirements in a number of areas including water hygiene, asbestos and fire prevention.

In pursuit of our aim for continual improvement in environmental performance, a number of schemes have been undertaken to reduce our energy and water consumption, such as the installation at Keele Hall of high efficiency boilers, which are showing a reduction of 30% in energy used to heat this building.

Significant capital projects undertaken include:

- Refurbishment of the Huxley Building to provide multi-user laboratories and dedicated research facilities.
- Creation of a new school office for the Faculty of Humanities.
- Refurbishment and upgrading of teaching areas together with the provision of the latest audio-visual and information technology incorporating interactive whiteboards and virtual learning environments.

**Business Systems & IT**

We have successfully completed a second year of producing all Keele Cards for staff and students. Once again it was a busy registration period, in which we issued in excess of 2,000 Keele Cards. The month of June saw the activation of the Keele Card access control system for 33 student accommodation blocks on a total of 55 external doors.

The University’s Poetry Live programme of visits for 2005/6 is launched with a performance by poet/comedian John Hegley, which attracts an enthusiastic audience in the Westminster Theatre. A book by Siobhan Holohan, Sociology, ‘The Search for Justice in the Media Age’ (Ashgate, 2005), is nominated for the British Sociological Association Philip Abrams prize, which is awarded for 2005, is launched with a performance by poet/comedian John Hegley, which attracts an enthusiastic audience in the Westminster Theatre. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Maggie Pearson, is appointed as one of two lay members of the new national Commission on Human Medicines. The Commission, which has 19 members in total, replaces the Medicines Commission and the Committee on Safety of Medicines, and will be supported by a series of new Expert Advisory Groups who will advise on specific and technical matters.
student experience

One of the numerous ways the Students’ Union supports and represents its members is through campaigning to improve the student experience. Campaigns serve to educate and to affect change, both of which are fundamentally important aspects.

In October 2005 Secure.Safe.Sorted, a year-long campaign aimed at increasing awareness of personal safety and security was launched. The Students’ Union teamed up with Endsleigh Insurance to encourage new students to insure their belongings, ran a ‘Use Ur Loaf and Lock Ur Block’ campaign, giving away free loaves of bread.

KUSU also ran a hugely successful anti-drink spiking campaign, which looked to encourage students to be more aware of protecting their drinks. To reinforce this the SU provided students with free alcotops, plastic covers that clip to the necks of bottles to prevent drink spiking.

Alongside this, the SU ran an online survey on campus safety, measuring students’ perceptions of how safe Keele campus is, along with what the Union and the University could do to improve it, which generated useful data to feed back to the University.

The second awareness campaign was run in conjunction with the National Union of Students, called National Student Sexual Health and Guidance Week. KUSU provided information and organised a free on-site screening programme in conjunction with the local NHS Sexual Health Team. To finish the week, KUSU held a World AIDS Day evening event, to raise awareness of the global AIDS situation, and to fundraise for local and national AIDS charities.

The evening was a huge success and benefited Staffordshire Buddies, the National AIDS Trust and the Terrence Higgins Trust.

The SU has also been working with the Quality Assurance Office in promoting the National Student Survey. The Students’ Union recognise the value of the survey and encourages students to fill it in, through their website and promotional campaign during refreshers’ fair.

Other campaigns focus on ‘Stamp Out Homophobia’, marking ‘No Smoking Day’ and supporting International Women’s Day.

Volunteer Experience

Volunteer Experience Project

The Volunteer Experience Project was set up in September 2002, funded by the Higher Education Active Community Fund; it is a joint project between Keele University Students’ Union and Keele University. VE not only helps to arrange placements and support volunteers but also matches student and staff interests and experience to the needs of the community.

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Stoke City Football Club
‘Playing for Success’

Playing for success is a partnership between the Department for Education and Skills, the LEA and football clubs. The centre focuses on helping children get up to speed in the key skills of literacy, numeracy and ICT. It also improves motivation and the self-esteem.


Professor Richard Strange, School of Medicine, is an invited speaker at a meeting organised by the Health Research Forum in Portcullis House, House of Commons, entitled ‘Sunlight, Vitamin D and Health’.

Professor Alicia El Haj, Research Director of ISTM, is invited to become a member of the BBSRC Engineering and Biological Systems Committee. This committee is one of the seven panels that review grant submissions to the BBSRC.

Professor Rajmil Fischman, Music, is one of the international guests at the E A R Festival of Electroacoustic Music, National University of Ireland. He presents a talk entitled ‘Real and Virtual Landscapes in Electroacoustic Music’.

Professor Charles Townshend, History, shares a platform with the Irish prime minister, Bertie Ahern, at a conference on ‘Ireland 1905’ at University College, Dublin, sponsored by the Taoiseach’s Department, to mark the centenary of the creation of Sinn Fein and the Ulster Unionist Council.

Dr Kate Dunn, Primary Care Scipiores Research Centre, is elected to the Committee of the Society for Social Medicine. Kate will serve on the Committee for three years.
Kristina Anderson, 20, Psychology & History:
“I have volunteered at SCFC ‘Playing for Success’ since January 2005. I met the co-ordinator of the scheme at the Student Development Fair held in January, he explained the placement to me, and it sounded like fun. At the placement I help the children with their literacy, maths and IT work. I initially started volunteering as I wanted to do some work in the community and because it would be good experience for getting a job. During my time at the placement I have gained and developed my communication and listening skills. I find working with the children and achieving rewarding results one of the main benefits of volunteering. I think volunteering will also enhance my CV as it shows that you have additional commitment and can split your time over a number of projects.”

Girl Guiding Staffordshire
“When Shona Currie (21, International Politics and English) first came to offer her services as guide leader, we had a very small unit. Shona helped build the unit over the following year and when other students moved on she was determined to keep things going. The success of the unit is most definitely due to Shona’s influence. We would consider Shona to be a fine example of the True Spirit of Guiding.”

The Samaritans
“Anne-Marie Greenslade (19, International Politics and Criminology) has proved to be a valued and committed volunteer and always adheres to Samaritan principles and practises at all times without question. Her calm nature allows her to deal with difficult situations and she is always willing to help out in the office.”

Axis, Stoke-on-Trent
“Karine Greenacre (23, Psychology and Applied Social Studies) has a very professional, yet caring, approach to working with young people. Whilst working as a mentor she has produced some excellent work with her mentee.”

Athletic Union
This has been one of the most successful years in the Athletic Union’s history with eight out of the 30 BUSA (British Universities Sports Association) competitive teams qualifying for the highly prestigious BUSA Shield or Trophy knockout stages. Ten BUSA teams earned promotion from their leagues and overall some of the best standings of Keele teams have been achieved. Also, the swimming team have proven very successful with club members reaching numerous BUSA short and long course finals.

Non-BUSA and Saturday League teams have produced some exceptional performances, with consistent victories and successes against some of the best university and national/regional amateur clubs. There have also been some outstanding individual efforts and a number of AU members were asked to attend international trials for their chosen sport.

The tremendous success of this year has largely been supported by the outstanding efforts of the AU staff, in particular the non-sabbatical Athletic Union officers Tom Pearson (AU President), Mark Waring (AU Deputy President), KT Jones (AU Secretary) and Ellie Digweed (AU Treasurer). Throughout the year they have selflessly volunteered their time to all aspects of running the AU office to champion its name and strive to improve the quality of experience that all the students gain from competing for Keele University.

Suzy Stokes, a fourth year medical student is awarded the University of Manchester Service Medal. During an expedition to investigate altitude sickness on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, Suzy came to the aid of Craig Burton, from Australia, who was in difficulties during the climb. Suzy was subsequently nominated for the medal, which is awarded for exceptional service to the University or the wider community.

Professor Patrick Thornberry, SPIRE, is honoured in the Queen’s New Year list as a Companion of St Michael and St George, his name having been presented by the Foreign Secretary on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The citation in the list is specifically for services to international human rights. Professor Thornberry is a former Chairman of the Minority Rights Group, the human rights NGO, and is currently a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Owen Powell is awarded an MBE for his services to adult education, specifically for his work in creating and sustaining the World Affairs Group at Keele.