<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VICE-CHANCELLOR’S REPORT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACULTY OF HEALTH</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND ENTERPRISE</td>
<td>10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIDENING PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEACHING EXCELLENCE</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEY APPOINTMENTS</td>
<td>14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HONORARY DEGREES AWARDED IN 2006</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMERCIAL AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE</td>
<td>16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT EXPERIENCE</td>
<td>18-19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This year Keele University again made great progress towards fulfilling its strategic vision of creating an integrated campus community for the 21st century. Educating students – undergraduate and postgraduate – remains a core function and a great privilege. However, a University has much broader roles, on which I would like to comment this year.

Keele University aims to be an organisation which both creates and shares knowledge to the benefit of the economy and society. The varied activities you can read about in our Annual Review contribute to that and represent the talent, drive and commitment that makes the University such a stimulating place to work and study.

During the 2006-07 academic year we received the exciting news that Newcastle Borough Council had granted planning permission for the expansion of the University and its Science Park onto 70 acres of land adjacent to the existing campus. Opening up this new part of the site will drive growth and help us fulfill our vision to become The Ultimate Campus University for the 21st Century. We have ambitious plans for mixed-use development comprising of 40-45% academic buildings, another 40-45% for commercial use and 15% residential accommodation for students and staff. It will be among the largest developments of its kind in the country and a leading regeneration initiative here in North Staffordshire.

Keele University Science Park is a designated priority investment site within the Regeneration Zone and is included in Advantage West Midlands’ strategy as a cluster site for medical technology and healthcare based businesses. Alongside the redevelopment of the University Hospital of North Staffordshire it represents a strategic regional partnership offering real benefits to the community.

We welcomed seven new enterprises onto the Science Park during the last academic year. The Science Park currently accommodates some 40 high-tech companies serving a number of sectors including biotech, medical, IT and the service industries. It has already created over 600 highly skilled jobs and another 200 jobs and 10 new businesses are expected during 2007.

Our new Ultimate Campus development will enable us to attract even more cutting-edge companies onto our site, offering enormous benefits in terms of employment, applied research and spin-out initiatives.

Through spin-out commercial initiatives to date we derive an annual income of £800k, the 11th highest level among universities in the UK. Our income from collaborative programmes and other sources is now forecast at around £3.5m. We also rank 14th nationally for the number of patents granted. We currently have 10 successful patent applications. You can read more about some of our current knowledge-transfer and enterprise projects in this review.

The success of the Science Park and the breadth of research here at Keele demonstrate our commitment to economic growth, social benefit and the enhancement of the quality of life of the communities and individuals we serve.

To provide an environment where research can flourish we established seven Research Institutes to support and nurture its growth. All seven are now fully staffed, launched and up and running. Together they provide a framework for fostering and managing research, allocating resources and raising the profile of those research activities where Keele reaches standards of international excellence.

Among many examples is the development of alternatives for fossil fuels in industrial processes, biotechnological alternatives to insecticides in malarial control and pioneering studies into the social aspects of ageing. Much of our research is collaborative and applied and we receive funding from Research Councils, charitable trusts and the public and private sectors.

For a university of our size we support a surprisingly wide range of research activities – many in multidisciplinary teams, a continuing feature of Keele’s distinctive approach to Higher Education.

Whether it is gender issues in the workplace, sustainable energy – even the search for new planets – you will find Keele researchers actively engaged. Again, you can read more details in this review.

The University continues to win awards and accolades for its achievements in an astonishingly wide range of fields. This year our conference facilities gained national awards highly prized in the hospitality industry. We also welcomed enthusiastic audiences to our Poetry Live! readings, including a capacity crowd for Benjamin Zephaniah. Our musical concerts and public lectures have also gone from strength to strength. In these ways we add to the cultural and intellectual capital of our region.

Our students, of course, are also actively involved in the community. In this publication you can read about the varied and socially significant projects undertaken by many Keele students in a collaborative project between the University and the Students’ Union. We recognise their hard work and commitment through four annual awards. Award-winning student volunteers are involved in charitable fund-raising, music, counselling and advocacy, education and youth work. It helps to broaden their experience, enhances their CVs and makes a genuine difference to the local community.

Whether it is in the development of cutting-edge technologies or contributing to the social, intellectual and cultural life of the region, Keele University is building on its proud heritage to provide a platform for future growth. As you read about the varied initiatives undertaken at Keele during the 2006 academic year we hope you sense something of the vision, talent and enthusiasm that will make this goal a reality.
The past year has been an exciting time for the Faculty and for me personally, having recently moved from Manchester as Executive Dean. The Faculty comprises two Research Institutes, focused on primary and biomedical sciences, and four Schools responsible for teaching and training doctors, pharmacists, physiotherapists, nurses, midwives and other health professionals.

Two new Heads of Schools were appointed with the arrival of Dr Rebecca Jester to head the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the return of Ms Marilyn Andrews to lead the School of Health and Rehabilitation. The School of Pharmacy took its first intake of students into a four-year MPharm degree, adding undergraduate education to its successful portfolio of postgraduate courses. The Medical School continues to expand as it prepares to deliver a new MB ChB programme having delivered the Manchester curriculum whilst the School became established.

The Research Institute for Primary Care and Health Sciences (IPCHS) seeks to blend internationally competitive research with translation of new findings into clinical practice aimed at improving the health and welfare of the local population. IPCHS received new grants from the Medical Research Council (MRC), the Arthritis Research Campaign (ARC) and the Health Foundation to undertake research into causes, prevalence, treatment and outcomes in patients suffering from back pain and osteoarthritis. Collaboration with the Haywood Hospital to develop research at the vital interface between primary and secondary care has also received funding from ARC. Two major trials in osteoarthritis were completed, one in collaboration with the School of Pharmacy investigating the role of community pharmacists in treating knee pain, and one with the School of Health and Rehabilitation involving over 100 practising physiotherapists to study the effect of acupuncture on knee pain.

The Research Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine (ISTM) was awarded a number of major grants in the field of tissue engineering. Indeed ISTM won 10% of the available UK funding under the BBSRC Stem Cell initiative. Overall, ISTM’s research grant income rose by 50% last year with the award of additional MRC, charity and commercial grants. Major new research facilities were completed on the University Hospital of North Staffs site. The Guy Hilton Research Centre houses facilities for patient-based research plus a wide range of laboratories to exploit developments in magneto-imaging, breath analysis, nanotechnology, genetics and tissue engineering, conducted in conjunction with North Staffs and Oswestry hospitals.

Pressure on NHS budgets has affected the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery and Health and Rehabilitation, which are commissioned directly by the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to train clinicians for this region. Despite financial cuts and the difficulties newly qualified nurses and physiotherapists have experienced in securing jobs, the Schools have worked tirelessly with local partners to ensure that training is not compromised and employment opportunities are maximised. New midwifery and nursing courses have been successfully validated and will commence in September 2007. Health and Rehabilitation has revised its strategy and structure with introduction of new roles to manage undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and support research by staff attached to IPCHS and the Research Institute for Life Course Studies. Over a third of staff in the two Schools are now aligned with Research Institutes and increasing numbers of staff are securing external funding and presenting their work at international conferences.

Following Royal Pharmaceutical Society approval, the School of Pharmacy welcomed its first intake of undergraduate students. The School’s strong professional and service links are helping to provide the most up-to-date and innovative education for pharmacists of the future. At the post-registration level, Keele was the first institution to offer the new independent prescribing pharmacist qualified in January 2007. The Medicines Management group continues to provide a comprehensive advisory service to the West Midlands SHA and was commissioned to contribute to the National Audit Office’s Value for Money study into primary care prescribing. Management and enterprise activity continued to flourish with the move of the National Prescribing Centre’s commissioned services arm, NCP-Plus, to Keele and the creation of the School’s first spin-out company, PDS Ltd, to exploit newly developed prescribing decision support software.

The School of Medicine maintained its 100% pass rate of final year students. Demand continues to grow, with about 10 applicants for each Year 1 place. 2006 was the first year we admitted international students and enrolled students on the Foundation course. A new curriculum is being developed for validation by the General Medical Council and commencement in 2007. During the year, the School hosted national meetings of the British Association of Clinical Anatomists and Society of Academic Primary Care. A workshop on developing educational research as a theme within IPCHS brought together individuals from a wide range of clinical and academic disciplines. The School also received Yette and Boris Gray Foundation support for medical students on electives and hosted the Foundation’s first annual lecture.

Strategic collaboration between the Faculty and NHS is most important as the University sector approaches the Research Assessment Exercise and the NHS prepares for changes in the way research and development funding is awarded. Against this background, I am chairing a Research Consortium comprising University, NHS acute and community sectors focused on strategic development of externally-funded research linked to the top-rated NHS research and development programmes. Eight Masters programmes and a wide range of professional training, including new courses in general and laparoscopic surgery, are being delivered under the auspices of the School of Medicine. An external peer review of postgraduate courses will inform future development and ensure our provision integrates with the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board and Modemising Medical Careers. Establishment of new clinical academic career pathways is vital and it is very rewarding to see the appointment of Walport Training Fellows and Lecturers in Rheumatology and General Practice within IPCHS.

Professor Peter Crome, Head of Postgraduate Medicine and Deputy Head of the Medical School, is a guest speaker at the First International Primary Health Care Conference, Abu Dhabi, where he talks on prescribing in older people. This conference attracts over 500 delegates. Professor Crome is appointed as Chair of the Geriatric Medicine Committee of the Royal College of Physicians of London | Professor Tony Dugdale, School of Law, is appointed as a Special Advisor to the House of Commons Constitutional Affairs Committee | Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Maggie Pearson, is appointed as a board member at the Sector Skills Development Agency, the organisation charged with increasing the UK’s productivity through the network of Sector Skills Councils | Dr Nigel Mountray, School of Physical Sciences and Geography, receives the first ever British Sedimentological Research Group award for ‘Outstanding contribution to published research in any field of sedimentology’ | Lord Puttnam gives the latest talk in the University’s Public Sector Series of Lectures for 2005/06. His lecture is titled ‘Parliament, Press and the People’.
Keele's Primary Care Musculoskeletal Research Centre has been funded over the past three years by the Arthritis Research Campaign to identify better ways of treating people with lower back pain in primary care. Back pain is one of the commonest complaints presented by patients to their GP, and accounts for most of the time taken off work because of illness in the UK. Despite this, back pain remains notoriously hard to treat effectively. Patients often suffer intermittently from their back pain for many years, and have to be tried on several different treatments in the hope of finding a combination which works best for the individual patient. Treatment options can range from varying degrees of physiotherapy to different types of drug therapy, all underpinned by a wide variety of exercise programmes. However, the fundamental question of who would do best with which treatment remains unanswered.

Many people develop back pain throughout their lives but for certain types of people the risk of it becoming long-term or recurring is much greater. What this means for clinicians who treat patients with back pain is that they face a major quandary, in that up to 80 per cent of sufferers will still be in pain from a bad back a year after their first visit to their GP. Furthermore, a small group of about 20 to 25 per cent of back pain sufferers, male and female of all ages, have inappropriate levels of fear and distress, and don't follow clinicians' messages of keeping active because they think it will make their back pain worse. This particular group often withdraw from activity and become out of condition, and as a result their backs become weaker and more painful. It is this vicious circle that the Keele group of experts in the management of back pain hope to break.

Led by Professor Elaine Hay, the group has now been funded, again by the Arthritis Research Campaign, to carry out a trial of new treatment approaches for back pain, which aims to substitute hard science for the current guesswork in the way different types of drug therapy, all underpinned by a wide variety of exercise programmes. However, the fundamental question of who would do best with which treatment remains unanswered.

Patients will be split into three groups depending on how they report their back pain, identified from a short questionnaire drawn up by the research team of rheumatologists, physiotherapists and other experts at the Keele Centre. Each group of patients will receive different types of therapies targeted at their particular needs. One group of back pain patients recruited to the trial will have half an hour with an experienced physiotherapist and be given simple messages promoting a speedy return to normal activity and to avoid resting. A second group, considered to be at medium risk of recurring back pain, will have another six half-hourly sessions focusing on manual therapy and exercises. The third group, thought to be at highest risk of long-term back pain, will be given more intensive sessions that concentrate more on psychological ways of coping, including sessions of cognitive behavioural therapy.

By screening patients' back pain in this way, and then targeting a specific type of treatment accordingly, the group hope to shorten the time it takes trying people on successive types of treatment until the right combination is found and bring patients relief from their back pain much sooner.

**KEELE CURRICULUM FOR MEDICINE**

Medical School staff are working hard on the development of the new undergraduate curriculum, which will mean medical students will graduate with an MB ChB from Keele, rather than the Manchester award our students currently achieve. The School faces a complex time as it combines this dynamic and interesting phase with the delivery of the existing curriculum. The aim is to produce a programme which has a Keele ‘flavour’, building on the resources and opportunities in Keele and the surrounding region, whilst meeting the objectives set by the General Medical Council.

The curriculum will be designed as a ‘hybrid’ curriculum that builds learning opportunities around problem-based learning in the first three years, with two possible entry points. The first is the standard entry point into Year 1, mostly for school leavers. The second is a graduate entry point into Year 2 for applicants with a relevant prior degree, most likely in medical or health science, initially for small numbers of students.

The curriculum will be delivered in a distributed education model. There will be three years with all students based in North Staffordshire, rotating through integrated basic/clinical science content built around problem-based learning. The final two years will see students based in North Staffordshire, Shropshire or perhaps, South Staffordshire. The School will be utilising technology to assist with delivery of teaching, by the use of a sound web-based virtual learning environment that is accessible at all teaching sites. It also hopes to use video-conferencing to enhance the student learning experience at multiple venues.

The validation of a new undergraduate medical curriculum by the General Medical Council is a complex and lengthy process, which started in February 2007 and is hoped it will be completed within three years.
This has been an extremely busy year and it is impossible to offer more than edited highlights here. We have seen the final stages of the KEEL2006 change process, which has entailed the establishment of new School offices for Criminology, Education, Sociology and Social Work (CESSW) and for Economic and Management Studies (SEMS). Also, PEiK (Professional Ethics at Keele) staff moved into the Chancellor’s Building to join their Law colleagues. A temporary postgraduate research hub was created in the Hornbeam Building and interim offices established for the Research Institute Staff in the Chancellor’s Building.

This was necessary because of delays in gaining planning permission for a new building, the Klaus Moser Research Centre for the Humanities and Social Sciences, which will house research staff and research students, as well as providing a focus for research activities. We finally received planning approval on 3 January 2007, just in time for the Research Institute launch conference, ‘Building on Knowledge’. The conference was a great success with displays, workshops and stimulating keynote addresses. Participants were left with a strong sense of how far the Research Institutes had come and of the value of interdisciplinary work across the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Research successes during the year included funding for a further two Economic and Social Research Council seminar series: one in the Research Institute for Public Policy and Management (IPPM) led by Professor Costas Milas on Non-linear Economics and the Environment, and one in the Research Institute for Law, Politics and Justice (ILPJ) on Sustainability, ecological redevelopment, strategic marketing and the University Campus, led by Dr Steve Quilley, which means that Keele has won five of these highly competitive awards in as many years. The Research Institute for Life Course Studies (ILCS) launched a seminar series entitled ‘Understanding the Life Course’. Professor James Knowles organised a very successful training programme, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council for research students from Keele, Manchester and Leicester, on ‘The History of the Book’.

Research Institute members were successful in gaining 75 research grants over the year, many from Research Councils. Individual awards are too numerous to mention but of particular note are Professor Phina Werbner’s successful Arts and Humanities Research Council application for £463,000 to study ‘Sociability, caring and religious imagination in the Filipino Diaspora’ and Professor Miriam Bernard’s Anchor Trust grant of £270,000 for a longitudinal study of a village development for older people. Several colleagues in Humanities gained highly competitive British Academy awards to support research leave and other activities. Good collaborations are developing across the IRs, for example the successful bid by ILCS and IPPM to the Social Care Institute for Excellence to produce 30 research briefings at the interface of health and social care.

There was an excellent Colloquium, funded by the British Academy, to showcase the LePlay/EndoPahs of Sociology Archive held at Keele and organised by the Research Institutes for Humanities and Law, Politics and Justice. The Archive is an essential part of our cross-disciplinary research plans and we are seeking funding for further cataloguing and digitisation as well as to support research projects. The Keele Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Ageing has been established, building on the internationally recognised work of the Centre for Social Gerontology. Hosted by ILCS, it draws in academics from all three faculties.

The Schools had a highly productive year with the introduction of a new MA on European Environmental Regulation in the School of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy (SPIRE) and on European Human Rights to be taught jointly by SPIRE and Law. An exciting new development is a cross-faculty undergraduate degree on the Environment and Sustainability.

These developments have been made possible by new appointments in SPIRE in the environment area, including Professor Tim Doyle from Adelaide. CESSW has been successful in a number of areas, including the award of a contract to provide a Subject Knowledge Enhancement course in Chemistry for a minimum of three years. An Urdu pathway has been introduced within the PGCE in Modern Languages. Keele is the lead institution in a consortium of seven European and Australian universities that has obtained EU funding for a three-year undergraduate student exchange programme in Policing, Governance and Security. A new MA in The Ethics of Policing and Criminal Justice has been established jointly with PEiK. In the School of Humanities, Music is developing a collaboration with the Royal College of Music which we hope will enable the development of new Master’s courses, and proposals are being developed by colleagues in English for programmes in Creative Writing. SEMS had an external review to help us to develop and position our business and management programmes most appropriately, and we are currently discussing the feedback.

We have made a number of extremely good appointments, including those to Chairs in Politics, Law and Social Psychology. We were highly delighted when one of our recent appointees, Dr Charlotte Williams, a senior lecturer in Social Work, was awarded an OBE in the New Year’s Honours List, for services to the development of policy and practice relating to ethnic minority groups in Wales.

We have a new Learning and Teaching Committee and new Directors, Dr Jonathon Parker, Learning and Teaching, and Dr Matthew Wyman, Teaching Quality, who are working with me on programme development and on ensuring best practice across the Faculty. I have established a Faculty Operations Board with wide representation, which meets three times a year and have held two information-sharing sessions, which are open to the whole Faculty.
ENOUGH TO GET BY? OLDER PEOPLE’S EXPERIENCES OF POVERTY

According to official data, around one in five older people in Britain currently live in poverty. However, such statistics mask the lived experiences of people who live on sometimes very low incomes.

Building on earlier work that explored older people’s vulnerability to different forms of disadvantage, a team based in the Centre for Social Gerontology (Research Institute for Life Course Studies) recently completed a study which highlighted some of the difficulties faced by many older people in making ends meet.

The study, commissioned by Help the Aged, illustrates the diversity of poverty in later life. Drawing on group discussions and in-depth interviews with older people, the research shows how many pensioners adapt to living on a low income. The stoical attitude adopted by many research participants about what constitutes the essentials of life was summed up by one older man in the following way: “I think if you have enough to eat and a bed to lie in it’s as much as any [one] can do.” The study reveals the low expectations held by many older people who live in poverty, and concludes by suggesting the need for new types of poverty measure that better reflect individual circumstances in later life.

‘Necessities of life: older people’s experiences of poverty’ was written by Thomas Scharf, Bernadette Bartlam, Jenny Hislop, Miriam Bernard, Andrew Dunning and Julius Sim. The report was launched at a pensioner poverty seminar organised by Help the Aged in Whitehall, and attended by James Purnell, Minister of State for Pension Reform at the Department for Work and Pensions.

JUSTICE, MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC

Academic researchers and press officers met at Keele to discuss the use of information management strategies to improve public confidence in criminal justice at a one-day workshop hosted by the Research Institute for Law, Politics and Justice.

Participants debated to what extent public confidence in the administration of justice is affected by negative and persistently distorted media reporting. The question of what, if anything, can and should be done to improve public confidence dominated the discussion. The establishment of media-handling functions (ranging from the deployment of communications officers to the resourcing of sophisticated corporate communications departments) to provide different segments of the general public with reliable first-hand information is well established across the entire field of criminal justice, both in Britain and abroad. However, it is far from settled what, if any, public relations strategies should be pursued and what such strategies can realistically achieve.

Professor Richard Nobles from Queen Mary University of London delivered the keynote lecture on the topic of ‘Public Confidence in Criminal Justice: the Lessons from Miscarriages of Justice’. Dr Lieve Gies (Keele), Ms Martina Feilzer (Oxford University), Dr Marjke Malsch (Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement) and Dr Rob Mawby (UCE) presented their research findings. Mr Peter Farr, Chief Public Information Officer, and Mr Mike Wicksteed, Head of Judicial Communications, introduced the newly established Judicial Communications Office for England and Wales.

Dr Lieve Gies

Vince Taylor, Director of Implementation of The Northern Way gives a lecture entitled, ‘The Northern Way and its Importance to UK plc’ as part of the Public Sector Series | Dr Peter Knight, School of Physical and Geographical Sciences, is an invited speaker at the Geographical Association annual conference in Manchester. Dr Knight talks about his recent book “Glaciers and Glacial Landscapes” | The Association of Social Anthropologists holds its annual conference on ‘Cosmopolitanism and Anthropology’ at Keele. There are some 230 delegates from all over the world | Professor Anne Worrall, Dr Barry Godfrey and Professor Susanne Karstedt, Research Institute for Law, Politics and Justice, are appointed to the Editorial Board of the British Journal of Criminology | Professor Michael Rigby, Research Institute for Public Policy and Management, is appointed to the body of reviewers of the European Science Foundation – the organisation which links all the Research Councils of Europe | 52 students from 13 Staffordshire and Cheshire schools enjoy a fun-filled day of chemistry at the Salters’ Festival of Chemistry, in partnership with The Royal Society of Chemistry, at Keele
During the past year the Faculty of Natural Sciences has made a significant number of new appointments in the run up to the Research Selectivity Exercise. In all cases we were fortunate in attracting a strong field of candidates. Professors Michael Murray and Graham Rogerson were appointed to the Schools of Psychology and Computing and Mathematics respectively. Four lecturerships were appointed to strengthen world-class research in Mathematics and Astrophysics.

Other appointments were made to replace staff in Psychology, to underpin the new very successful undergraduate course in Forensic Science and to enhance teaching and research in Geography. Two of the Geography posts were joint appointments with the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, further developing existing cross-faculty collaboration.

A number of joint appointments were made between the School of Life Sciences in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and the School of Pharmacy in the Faculty of Health as part of the launch of the new degree in Pharmacy. A new Faculty Business Manager, Mrs Ximena Canter, joined us in October and has already made a major contribution to management and new initiatives within the Faculty.

The Faculty has a good track record of developing new and innovative curricula with the aim of maintaining recruitment. During the past year the School of Computing and Mathematics established a degree course in Information Technology for Business Management in conjunction with the Sector Skills Council for IT and Telecommunications that brings funding for additional students, staff and infrastructure. The first cohort of students started in the 2006/2007 academic year. Overall the Faculty has maintained good recruitment to its degree courses. Of particular note is strong recruitment to the physical sciences, particularly chemistry and physics.

Other achievements in teaching include Professor Yibin Fu winning £40,000 as part of the MAGIC consortium to deliver postgraduate teaching over the world wide web and Dr David Bedford with Dr David Miller (education) being awarded £108,000 to establish a Further Mathematics Network in North Staffordshire aimed at improving the recruitment and retention of A level students in Mathematics and Further Mathematics. The MSc in Counselling, now in its second year, has proved extremely successful with 50 full-time students.

Faculty scientists have enjoyed another successful year on the research front. The SuperWASP (Wide Angle Search for Planets) yielded its first results with the discovery of two new planets. Astrophysicists also had their Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council grant renewed at a significantly increased level of funding and were awarded a second Research Council UK Fellowship.

Other research highlights in the School of Physical and Geographical Sciences include major Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) grants awarded to Dr Nigel Cassidy to develop innovative approaches to ground penetrating radar interpretation using numerical modelling and inversion techniques and to Professor Mark Ormerod to develop a molecular understanding of deactivation issues in methane reforming catalysts. The new GRID-based CLUSTERVISION supercomputer funded through the Science Research Investment Fund was commissioned. This will generate continued growth of interdisciplinary environmental research and support enterprise and knowledge transfer activities.

In the School of Life Sciences successes include a Wellcome grant awarded to Professor Paul Eggleston and a Medical Research Council grant to Dr Nigel Cooper and funding from the Midland UK Protein Crystallography Consortium to Professor Trevor Greenhough and Dr Annette Shrive. In her role as President of the British Society for Parasitology, Professor Hilary Hurd steered a successful bid to the Gates Foundation that provided 228,000 US dollars enabling 100 delegates from resource-poor countries to attend the large International Congress of Parasitologists in Glasgow during August.

The Faculty is continuing to upgrade its teaching and research facilities. The past year has seen substantial refurbishment in the School of Physical and Geographical Sciences to support laboratory teaching in Physics, Forensic Science and Earth Sciences, as well as research laboratories for sedimentology and glaciology. Substantial investment has been made in forensic and analytical equipment including a Raman microscope, fluorescence spectroscopy, additional UV/visible spectroscopy and a visual spectoral comparator.

The School of Life Sciences underwent major building work that has provided state-of-the-art teaching laboratories for delivering both life science and pharmacy teaching and new research labs to support the Centre for Applied Entomology and Parasitology.

The National Physiotherapy Research Network launches a regional research hub at Keele. The NPPRN aims to encourage and facilitate engagement in physiotherapy research nationally | Professor David Burghes, Director of the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics, officially opens the ‘Keele and Potteries Further Mathematics Centre’ at the University. The Centre is part of a national initiative, overseen by ‘Mathematics in Education and Industry’ and funded by the DfES | Newcastle Borough Council’s Planning Committee resolves to grant planning permission for the expansion of the University and Science Park onto 70 acres of land, adjacent to the existing campus
As the Sun sets over South Africa, high on a remote plateau, a computer tastes the wind with its electronic sensors and casts an infrared eye over the sky to check for cloud. The conditions are good, so the roof of a small, white building opens to reveal an array of sensitive electronic cameras. That night, as on every clear night, the SuperWASP-South instrument scans the heavens and measures the brightness of millions of stars, looking for the tiny blink of a new planet crossing the face of a distant star.

The Super-Wide Angle Search for Planets is the UK’s leading extrasolar planet detection programme. The SuperWASP-North instrument started observations of the northern hemisphere in 2004. The astrophysics group at Keele University are responsible for the construction and operation of the SuperWASP-South instrument which started regular observations of the southern hemisphere in May 2006.

SuperWASP-North generated 13 billion measurements of the brightness of 6.7 million stars using five cameras during 2004. Specialised software was developed to identify the few stars that dip in brightness by about one per cent for a few hours every few days from these data. This event, called a “transit”, is the characteristic signal of a Jupiter-like gas giant planet orbiting around a Sun-like star.

Further observations obtained in August 2006 at the Observatoire de Haute-Provence in collaboration with Swiss and French astronomers confirmed the discovery of the first two extrasolar planets discovered by the SuperWASP team, WASP-1b and WASP-2b. The resulting announcement was widely publicised and was the most popular item on the BBC news website that morning. Keele astronomers were involved in the selection of candidates for observation and the analysis to determine the size and density of the two planets.

There are now 12 transiting extrasolar planets known, including WASP-1b and WASP-2b. The properties of these planets are giving astronomers clues as to how planets form around sun-like stars. SuperWASP is now operating with 16 cameras, so the team expect to revolutionise this new and exciting area of astrophysics. SuperWASP-South has now taken more than 600,000 images of the night sky so we looking forward to finding the first planets with SuperWASP-South during 2007.

Innovative numerical modelling research by Dr Nigel Cassidy of the Applied and Environmental Geophysics Group (AE/G) has led to him being awarded the prestigious, international EUROGPR award for the best research applications paper at the recent 11th International Conference on Ground Penetrating Radar, GPR2006, in Ohio, USA. The paper, titled “GPR Signal Dispersion and Attenuation Characteristics of Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids: Hydro-carbon Contamination” is one of the outcomes of a two-year, Natural and Environmental Research Council funded research project on the application of Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) for contaminated land problems. The state-of-the-art numerical modelling utilised during the project was initially developed during his PhD studies at Keele and has led to broader application areas and cross-discipline funding.

In January, he was awarded a new, three-year, £260,000 Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council grant titled “Inversion, Modelling and Analysis of GPR In Near-surface Environments (IMAGINE)” in collaboration with Dr Lorenzo Crocco at the Institute for Electromagnetic Sensing of the Environment of the Italian National Council of Research in Naples and Dr George Tuckwell of STATS Ltd, St Albans. Primarily aimed at near-surface engineering applications and landmine detection, the project aims to develop new and innovative approaches to GPR data interpretation using ‘automated’ numerical analysis techniques.

Undergraduate students Jessica Schneider and Christine Hughes represent Keele in the Students in Free Enterprise UK competition. They present their development of a programme to teach financial literacy to schoolchildren.

The Physical Geography module, “Global Environmental Change”, led by Dr Peter Knight and taught by a team from the School of Physical and Geographical Sciences, is featured as a case study of good practice in a new report commissioned by the Government’s Department for International Development and published by the Royal Geographical Society.

Sir Derek Wanless gives the fourth lecture in the Public Sector Series 2005/06, entitled “Securing Good Health for the Whole Population”.

MAY 06
RECORD BREAKING YEAR FOR RESEARCH INCOME

Keele enjoyed a record breaking year with Research Grant Income of £9.4 million being recorded during 2006 – beating the previous record of £8.2 million in 2002. This shows true growth of income and is an early indication of the positive impact of the Research Institutes created at Keele as part of the KEELE2006 restructuring. Over 500 applications, valued at a total of £57 million, were made during the year across the seven newly formed Research Institutes.

WELLCOMEx TRUST BIOMEDICAL IMAGE AWARDS WINNER 2006

Pond life: Vaginicola
Dr Dave Furness, Research Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine, won this competition for the fifth time. The image is a scanning electron micrograph of a pond dwelling protozoan, Vaginicola.

FUNDING FOR ENTERPRISE ACTIVITIES

Keele was awarded £1.7 million under the third Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF3) funding round, for the two years to August 2008.

KEELE SPIN-OUT ACTIVITY

Intellectual Property commercialisation income and spin-out creation has resulted in £800k annual income, with Keele returning the 11th highest level of IP income nationally.

Intelligent Orthopaedics Limited
Intelligent Orthopaedics is a joint spin-out from Keele University, Staffordshire University and the University Hospital of North Staffordshire. The company produces the Staffordshire Orthopaedic Reduction Machine (STORM), a medical device designed to help orthopaedic surgeons improve unstable tibial fractures prior to fixation.

SciSite Limited
SciSite specialises in the non-destructive testing of concrete structures. Its patented technology identifies faults in large scale structures such as bridges, buildings and highways.

PDS Limited
Prescribing Decision Support Ltd provides bespoke high-end, decision making and analysis software to the pharmaceutical industry. The development of further tools in specific disease areas is ongoing.

MagneCell Limited
MagneCell was formed to exploit novel technology from biomedical research at Keele. The patented technology is developing a new type of bioreactor for use in tissue engineering. MagneCell won the Impact Through Innovation Award at the Lord Stafford Awards in November 2006.

LORD STAFFORD AWARDS

Keele continues to support the Lord Stafford Awards, which is now in its ninth year. This year saw a record level of applications. The scheme is now beginning to attract national attention as an example of a best practice model to reward collaboration between industry and Higher Education.

REGIONAL ENTERPRISE ACTIVITIES

Income generated from academic enterprise increased to £460k – this was 30% up on the figure for 2005 which, in turn, was 25% upon the previous year.

DRIVE

Directing Research Into Viable Enterprise for Growth (DRIVE for Growth) is an EU project to promote and increase knowledge transfer between research organisations and small-to-medium sized enterprises through the development of a database.

Digital Central
Keele is a partner in West Midlands project, Digital Central, which aims to assist the region to become nationally and internationally recognised for its digital media and music sectors.

STUDENT ENTERPRISE

The Stepping Stone
The Stepping Stone is a business incubation facility on the Science Park for staff, students and new business start-ups. The aim is to nurture more spin-out and graduate start-ups and to attract entrepreneurs with technologically innovative business ideas.

Professor Peter Styles, Director of iEPSAM, is appointed to Chair the Review Panel for the European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling of the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program | Honorary Membership of the Royal College of Music is conferred on Professor John Sloboda, School of Psychology, in recognition of his services to the RCM and music | Keele University Athletic Union (KUAU) wins the prestigious ‘Most Improved University’ award at the Annual British Universities Sports Association Presentation Dinner. Outstanding successes by KUAU teams and clubs sees Keele climb the BUSA Championship ranking by an impressive 50 places | Professor Ilana Crome, Academic Psychiatry Unit, is elected to the Executive Council of the newly formed Faculty of Academic Psychiatry at the Royal College of Psychiatrists | Government Minister, Beverley Hughes, MP, gives the final lecture in Keele’s highly successful Public Sector Series for 2005/06. She speaks on the “Government Perspective on Children, Young People and Families”
Enterprise Fellowship Scheme (EFS)
Funding for the EFS scheme, a collaboration of seven West Midlands based partner universities, ended in 2006. During the four years of the scheme, Keele achieved its target of establishing 14 EFS Fellows, ten of whom went on to establish their own technologically innovative companies.

EnterpriseFest 2006
More than 300 delegates attended Keele’s third EnterpriseFest event, with a ‘People, Planet, Profit’ theme. The aim was to equip students with the relevant knowledge to build a sustainable enterprise in the 21st century.

Business Ideas Competition – BIZCOM
Keele entered a record number of entries into BIZCOM, a student business ideas competition sponsored by Mercia Institute of Enterprise. Adam Palmer, a 3rd year PhD student in Chemistry, won first prize of £1,000 in two categories (Business Idea and Social Enterprise Idea) with his ideas for ‘Ecologym’, an energy efficient exercise equipment company, and ‘Natures Calling’, which promoted school visits to the countryside.

SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise)
Students Jessica Schneider and Christine Hughes represented Keele in the SIFE UK National Competition. They presented their workshops on teaching financial literacy for schoolchildren to 12 key business representatives from companies such as HSBC, Wal-Mart and L’Oreal.
Jessica was selected as one of five UK SIFE students to join a 10-day ‘Voyage of Understanding’, which was funded by the HSBC Education Trust and operated by the Tall Ships Youth Trust.

UKSEC National Business Plan Competition
Kate Pearson and Anthony Ratcliffe, who are studying Earth Systems Science and Computer Science and Geology respectively, reached the finals of the UKSEC (Science and Enterprise Council) National Business Plan competition for their Stepping Stone based company, Platypu Media Systems Limited.

RESEARCH INSTITUTES LAUNCHED
Keele University’s seven prestigious Research Institutes – supporting and promoting world-class studies into a wide range of fields – were officially launched during 2006.

A special event demonstrated the wide range of exciting research projects at Keele, on a national and international level, as well as the University’s contribution to the regeneration and economic development of North Staffordshire.

There was a showcase of research projects, collaborating companies, stakeholders and funding agencies, and a new publication, entitled ‘Knowledge for Life’, highlighting many of Keele’s research strengths.

Projects featured in the publication include: the genetic modification of mosquitoes, making it impossible for them to pass on malaria; a non-invasive technique for diagnosing medical conditions based on the analysis of a patient’s breath; the search for new planets; and the use of vegetable and animal waste in solid fuel technology.

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

Keele’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Janet Finch, said: “Keele is a university which places high value on excellent research and we support internationally competitive expertise throughout the natural sciences, social sciences, Health and Humanities. We aim to provide an environment where high quality research can flourish, where we can encourage multidisciplinary work and support researchers to share their expertise to the benefit of the UK economy and the nation’s quality of life.

“We are proud of our achievements in high quality multidisciplinary research and in the application of research knowledge to beneficial outcomes, and the establishment of Research Institutes will help to develop these strengths further.”
In 2006 Widening Participation (WP) continued its large-scale outreach activity, engaging over 6,000 individuals directly and a far greater number using bespoke new media resources and a large-scale e-mentoring programme. WP sought to be proactive, using research to inform our outreach programme and streamlining engagement with the community through a fully-launched KeeleLink partnership programme.

In 2006, WP also began to focus far more on the support needs of students post-university entry. This included developing employability skills and work experience, involvement in the design and implementation of bursaries (financial support), dissemination of IAG (Information and Guidance) and the further development of the enabling curriculum through Foundation Year programmes. This affords individuals the opportunity to reach the academic and skill level required to access and succeed in Keele undergraduate programmes from a greater diversity of starting points.

KEELELINK

Following a pilot partnership project in 2005 the refined KeeleLink Partnership was launched at Keele Hall in October. Over 75 delegates attended the launch event, which introduced the partnership, its benefits and linked activity that schools could access through widening participation. This included outreach and WP projects as well as booking of Keele facilities and Science Learning Centre courses. To date over 100 schools and colleges have joined the scheme.

SCHOOL PLACEMENTS

Involvement of undergraduates in student placement schemes and outreach activities has been an important part of the work of widening participation allowing undergraduates to earn money but more importantly build up valuable work experience and increase their employability.

Widening Participation and Education have formed a unique partnership approach to undergraduate placements, which has been commended by the Training and Development Agency. To date Keele has placed 150 undergraduates in 45 schools encompassing six local authorities.

BURSARIES

Dr Sarah Hatfield, Helena Thorley and Helen Johnson worked to develop bursary programmes which would directly focus on widening participation groups in order to complement outreach and further assist the University in recruiting, retaining and increasing the employability prospects of under-represented groups, e.g. a scheme for under-represented ethnic minority groups and also another scheme for work-placement experience, designed to help increase the employability of non-traditional students. The marketing of this scheme involved a research-informed booklet allowing immediate access to any of the bursary categories. This innovative scheme was nominated for a Times Higher Award in November 2006.

INFLUENCING THE INFLUENCERS

Widening Participation has increasingly recognised the importance of influencing individuals who have daily contact with school-aged students and other individuals in the community who may be considering progression to university. Consequently, our most recent Aimhigher Staffordshire project has sought to focus on raising the awareness of Higher Education amongst parents, teachers, careers advisors, community groups and others. Deena Sandom, co-ordinator of the Influencing the Influencers’ project took up post in 2006 developing a research-informed training and outreach programme. Part of this work has included running an introduction to long-running residential events such as The Six Towns Residential Project and HE Summer Schools for parents and their children. This gave parents a real understanding of what we hoped to achieve and allowed them to ask questions about Higher Education in an informal and supportive environment. For many this was their first visit to a university and feedback revealed that they felt ‘very reassured’, wished they ‘had the opportunity when they were at school’ and thought that Keele was ‘really friendly’.

HEALTH PROJECTS

Keele University’s Healthcare Strand project (funded by Aimhigher) has included a number of very successful activities including e-mentoring of prospective state school medical applicants by medical undergraduates, work-based placements, interview and application and taster sessions. Helen Baker, the project co-ordinator, was invited to share best practice at conferences, including The National E-mentoring Conference and received recognition including commendations from The Brightside Trust on the development of a highly successful e-mentoring model.

In February, Helen Baker and Sarah Hatfield successfully bid to roll out this model to other areas of healthcare and to lead the West Midlands region. As a result in 2006 it was possible for students from any school or college in the West Midlands wishing to pursue a career in healthcare to be e-mentored by undergraduates studying a wide range of subjects, including medicine, nursing, physiotherapy and biomedical science at a university in the region. Birmingham, Warwick, Aston, Staffordshire, and Worcester Universities are all working in collaboration with Keele to provide not only an e-mentoring service but a programme of enrichment activities. Examples include; career taster days, admissions coaching, and work experience placements. The enrichment programme is designed to engage learners who wish to pursue a healthcare career and to equip them with skills and experience necessary to achieve a place on a relevant higher education course.

Keele is also leading the development of the West Midlands Healthcare Forum as a means of sharing best practice within healthcare strand work with teachers, admissions tutors and career guidance services including the NHS careers service.

In July 2006 Keele also ran a Healthcare Summer School for Aimhigher Cheshire, targeting students who needed a range of more specific taster courses and work experience in order to progress onto appropriate health and medical courses. Following excellent feedback we hope to run this event again in 2007.
FOUNDER YEAR DEVELOPMENT

As part of a widening participation project, Professor Peter Haycock has developed and directed Foundation Year (FY) programmes which have been operational in all faculties from September 2006. The Humanities, Science and Social Sciences FY programmes have been consolidated and a new programme, the Health Foundation Year, started in September. There has been a record number of student enrolments across all programmes, over 150 in total, including three overseas students taking the International FY. Most Keele schools now offer FY modules and a collaboration with Wedgwood Memorial College has allowed delivery of additional modules.

There is now an entry route via the foundation year into all principal programmes, except Social Work. In addition, a special route has been developed for visually impaired students. This has been designed to train sighted undergraduates interested in becoming support workers for visually impaired students. This year the programme is being piloted solely with sighted support worker trainees, with a view to opening the full programme to visually impaired students in September 2007. The announcement of HEFCE funding for the Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Lifelong Learning Network (LLN) has opened the door to further developments from next September. It is anticipated that we shall then be able to increase the number of non-A-level applicants for the FY who have instead taken vocation level 3 qualifications at college. FY modules have recently been validated, which will provide support for these students with regard to numeracy, learning and study skills to prepare them for principal study in an HEI environment.

In order to accommodate the increased activity, the FY Centre now employs four members of staff, with funding for additional support targeted at LLN developments due to start from April 2007.

INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Australia

Keele, as the lead institution, together with the University of Manitoba in Slovenia and the Institut des Etudes Politiques de Grenoble, France bid successfully for one of only four EU-Australia programmes. This enables four Keele undergraduate Criminology students annually, for the next three years, to spend a semester at either Griffith University in Brisbane, Flinders in Adelaide, Monash in Melbourne or the University of Western Sydney with a grant of €3000. In return, Keele has welcomed a student from each of the Australian partners. The Keele students will go to one of the European partners to join the other EU and Australian students in a one-month summer school, where they will be taught by EU and Australian staff. The first summer school will take place at Keele and will focus on Policing the City: Safety, Diversity and Communities. Keele students now have the option of spending a semester in one of seven Australian universities.

USA

The International Alumni Officer, John Eason, has worked closely with the Centre for International Exchange and Languages (CIEL) in integrating the North American alumni activities. A system of mentors has been established, whereby Keele students going out on Study Abroad are paired up with a Keele alumnus, who helps them experience life outside of campus.

South Africa

Being a member of the Commonwealth Study Abroad Consortium (CUSAC) has enabled Keele to bid for the new initiatives fund. As part of this a bilateral visit programme between Rhodes University in Grahamstown and KwaZulu-Natal in Durban has been set up to see if student exchanges can be established for 2007/8. Dr Annette Kratz, Head of the Centre for International Exchange and Languages, was elected onto the CUSAC Board as the representative for Europe.

Tick off to Take off

Keele students who opt for study abroad are now taking a compulsory course on Intercultural Communication as part of the Complementary Studies programme, which includes a web tutorial taking them through the practical aspects of applying for visas, courses, housing, etc. This has been developed by Dr Erica Arthur, Keele’s Study Abroad Adviser, and Tino Brunzel, an intern in CIEL from the Fachhochschule Stralsund in Germany.

Japan

This year the students from Daio Bunka University, Tokyo were joined by a group of students from Otani University, Kyoto. This enabled both groups not only to have a campus and home stay experience but also to join together in visiting local attractions as well as improving their English. Hokusei Gakuin University from Sapporo sent their second group of Social Gerontology students to Keele to learn about the British situation in contrast to what is happening in Japan. Kyoto University of Foreign Studies sent their fifteenth group to Keele and together with their host families and Keele friends enjoyed the snow on their last day.

Leonardo

Keele’s involvement in European work placements under the EU’s Leonardo Programme enables up to 10 young workers to obtain a postgraduate qualification (an MRes) as well as gain experience in laboratories in France, Germany, Sweden, Spain, Norway, the Netherlands and Poland. Five students have set off to Poland, Germany, France and Sweden to work at the Nencki Institute in Warsaw, the Pasteur Institute in Paris, the University of Montpellier I, the Hannover Veterinary Institute and the University of Gothenberg.
This was the sixth year that Keele presented awards for excellence in the field of learning and teaching. The University is committed to the delivery of high quality educational programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and the rewards are presented in recognition of the role of academic staff in the design and delivery of those programmes.

**INDIVIDUAL AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO:**

**Patricia Black**, Senior Lecturer and Postgraduate Programmes Development Manager, School of Pharmacy, has developed a record of leadership and innovation for her work reflected in achievements both within the Faculty of Health and in national indicators of esteem. Within the world of pharmacy education, Patricia is in the top three of leading edge developmental academics. She has had a major influence in areas such as the uptake of learner-centred programmes and best practice in the adoption of new learning technologies. Patricia has led the development of online learning supported by her own studies at the Open University.

**Verity Aiken**, a Learning and Teaching Assistant (LTA) in the School of Criminology, Education, Sociology and Social Work, has provided enhanced support to students and academic staff in the context of increasing student numbers. Verity has been highly innovative in developing the potential of the LTA position as a key role supporting students and staff.

**Dr Paul Yates**, Academic Staff Development in the Staff Development Unit, has taken a particular interest in assisting learning and teaching assistants, sessional teachers and laboratory demonstrators. He has been prominent in leading discussions in areas such as peer assessment of teaching and the use of learning outcomes and has developed a particular interest in the needs of newly appointed staff specialising in chemistry.

**TEAM AWARD**

**Drs Peter Knight, Zoe Robinson and Richard Waller**, School of Physical and Geographical Sciences, received the Team Award. Their work focused on helping students to develop a professional attitude to their discipline. This involves preparing them for a lifelong engagement with Physical Geography, either as professional practitioners or as environmentally responsible citizens. The team has developed an innovative approach to learning and teaching, with a focus on independent learning, student peer assessment, involvement of employers, and utilisation of the Virtual Learning Environment.

**KEY APPOINTMENTS**

**Dean of Health**

**Professor Andy Garner**, PhD, DSc, a leading scientist with experience of industry and the NHS, was appointed as the new Dean of the Faculty of Health. He was previously Head of the School of Medicine at the University of Manchester.

A pharmacologist by background, Professor Garner has held senior positions in academia, the NHS and pharmaceutical sectors. After obtaining a PhD in pharmacology, he undertook postdoctoral research in Uppsala, supported by the Royal Society and Swedish MRC. He joined AstraZeneca (then ICI) in 1978 as Head of Gastro Intestinal Research and was appointed Company Senior Scientist in 1982.

Professor Garner spent 1993-97 in the United Arab Emirates as Professor of Pharmacology and Research Dean in the country’s first medical school. He was Research and Development Director, then Executive Director at Hope Hospital, one of the three major teaching hospitals in Manchester, before moving to the University of Manchester to become Head of the Medical School in 2002. He has published over 100 papers, edited six books and is a recipient of the Research Gold Medal of the British Society of Gastroenterology.

He said: “I will be looking to ensure the Faculty provides distinctive programmes of education and training that will attract the best students, maximise its research performance in preparation for the forthcoming Research Assessment Exercise, and develop effective partnerships with the NHS at local and national levels.”

A £3 million, purpose-built, research and development centre, the Guy Hilton Research Centre, is opened and named by Professor Sally Davies, Director of Research and Development for the Department of Health and the NHS. The School of Pharmacy welcomes its first cohort of undergraduate students. The University has invested heavily in new state-of-the-art facilities for the school and the new course has been 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.
HONORARY DEGREES AWARDED IN 2006

Paul Atterbury, writer, lecturer and member of the BBC Antiques Roadshow team, received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the history of ceramics locally and nationally and in particular to adult education in Staffordshire.

Gordon Banks, OBE, World Cup winner with England in 1966, received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University in recognition of his outstanding contribution to sport and charity work.

John Giffard, CBE, DL, former ChiefConstable of Staffordshire, Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Police Service regionally and nationally and in particular to Staffordshire.

Professor Dame Julia Higgins, DBE, FRA, FReG, Principal of the Faculty of Engineering at Imperial College and Chair of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to science and technology, nationally and internationally.

Professor Sir Keith Peters, KT, FRs, PMedSci, President of the Academy of Medical Sciences and co-Chairman of the Government’s Council for Science and Technology, received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science in recognition of his outstanding contribution to medicine, and in particular medical education, nationally and internationally.

Anthony Francis Wood, long serving member of Court and Council and a former Pro-Chancellor of Keele University, received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University in recognition of his outstanding service to the University of Keele.

HEAD OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

Dr Rebecca Jester was appointed Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery. A registered nurse with specialist professional qualifications in teaching and orthopaedics, she has over 20 years experience in clinical practice in the UK and Sweden working in the fields of orthopaedics and trauma.

She took her first academic post at the University of Birmingham where she worked in a variety of joint academic and clinical posts, including Director of Postgraduate Studies. In 2003, Rebecca was appointed as Reader in Clinical Nursing Research at the University of West of England in Bristol, before moving to become Associate Dean responsible for postgraduate studies at the University of Wolverhampton. Throughout her 11 years in Higher Education, Rebecca has continued to work one day per week as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner in the speciality of orthopaedics.

Rebecca obtained her PhD in Health Sciences from the University of Birmingham in 2001 with funding from a national Smith & Nephew Fellowship. Her research and publications are related to orthopaedics, intermediate care and falls prevention. She is committed to inter-professional learning, maximising the research potential of academic staff in nursing and midwifery, and working collaboratively with key partners in the NHS, independent and voluntary healthcare sectors.

New state-of-the-art forensic science laboratories, in the Lennard-Jones building, are named after Dr Henry Faulds, a pioneer of fingerprinting, who lived and worked in North Staffordshire for almost 40 years. Professor Ellie Scrivens, Health Care Standards Unit, is invited to be a member of the Independent Review of regulation, audit, inspection and complaints handling of public services in Scotland. Dr Jane Boylan, course director for BA Social Work, presents a paper, “How far has social work progressed in promoting children and young people’s participation in decision-making?”, at the World Conference of the International Federation of Social Workers 2006 in Munich.
2006 began with the formation of the Commercial and Facilities Management Directorate. This involved bringing together Keele Facilities Management, External Relations, Keele Science Park, Media and Communications, Graphics and Bookbinding and Projects.

The focus and commitment from the new team has brought many accolades. We were successful in bringing seven new companies to the Science Park as tenants. Keele Conferences scooped three major awards at the Meetings and Incentive Travel Annual Awards, the refurbishment of Keele Management Centre was completed and resulted in 20 new clients, University facilities were enhanced by a £110k investment in pool room equipment, a University-wide Marketing Group was established to drive corporate marketing activity and projects valued at £1.5 million, including the School of Pharmacy and Huxley Life Sciences, were finalised.

CATERING

The catering team put in an impressive performance at February’s TUCO (The University Caterers Organisation) Competition and Training Event. Executive Chef Peter Walters and his team, which included Deputy Executive Chef Bernd Wolf (who had previously been awarded a TUCO Chef of The Year Gold Medal) and apprentice chef Christopher Corbishley, took the top medal in the overall Chefs’ Challenge event and Keele Hall Supervisor, Barbara Ainsworth, was awarded gold in the Food Service category.

Keele’s modern apprentice trainee chef, James Tudor, was placed runner up in the Staffordshire Young Chef of Tomorrow competition and awarded first prize in the hygiene category.

Peter Walters’ key challenge for 2006 was to promote brain boosting diets for students. Using information from Michael Van Straten, a leading nutritionist, he designed a diet for boosting brain activity and helping students to concentrate longer when revising.

In September, Peter and Kim Barnish held cookery demonstrations for new and returning students at Fresher’s Fair, which was supported by a cookbook to teach some basic cooking skills and to eliminate the potential risk of fire.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

The Residential Services team has always felt that when dealing with student issues, face to face contact is far more effective than responding in writing. There has also been growing concern at the lack of an out of hours link. To rectify this and improve the welfare, wellbeing and discipline of students the new post of Residential Manager has been established. The four new appointees will manage the resident tutors, link with hall councils, hall bars and the new social space areas being developed in each hall.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

2006 saw the formulation and formal adoption of the Keele University Energy Policy, which was ratified by the Vice-Chancellor and defines the objectives set for energy consumption and CO₂ reductions by 2010.

Much progress has been made since 2000 to reduce water and gas consumption by utilising technological improvements in boiler combustion plant and sophisticated leak detection techniques.

Electricity consumption, however, has steadily increased and to address this an energy awareness campaign was launched in August to engage all University stakeholders in an effort to eradicate energy waste.

Publications, poster campaigns, a website, seminars and presentations have been delivered and resulted in the recruitment of 50 energy champions to drive forward the campaign. Building audits are being carried out to identify efficiency gains and further technical opportunities.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

The key to the continued success of the Directorate is the focus and commitment toward training and development of staff at all levels. A perfect example of the diversity and style of that training is Open Space.

Open Space is an annual event attended by people from all sections. Everyone is encouraged to discuss issues they feel passionate about and together identify challenges and opportunities.

Challenges being addressed from Open Space 2006 include:

- Integration with the wider University and working in partnership with students.
- Talking with students to understand their expectations of life on a 21st century campus.
- Healthy Campus.
- Care of the campus environment including “green” issues such as recycling and transport.
- Increasing efficiency.

The University gains a Bronze SWAN award from the Athena SWAN Charter. The Athena SWAN Charter is a scheme that recognises excellence in Science, Engineering and Technology employment in Higher Education. Professor Peter Crome (President, British Geriatric Society) and Professor Chris Phillippson (past-President, British Society of Gerontology) speak in the House of Lords at a meeting held to launch the British Council for Ageing. Undergraduate students Kate Pearson and Anthony Ratcliff reach the finals of the UKSEC (Science and Enterprise Council) National Business Plan competition. Their company Platypi Media Systems Ltd is located in the Stepping Stone office in ICI. Former Vice-Chancellor, Sir David Harrison, CBE, FREng, visits the campus prior to delivering the 37th Annual Wade Lecture at the North Staffordshire Medical Institute. The lecture was titled “Higher Education Over the Last Fifty Years – A Personal Reflection.”
**PHASE 3 DEVELOPMENT**

Phase 3 is a mixed-use development of approximately 70 acres adjacent to Hone Farm, comprising 40-45% University buildings, 40-45% commercial and 15% staff/student residences.

The site will be fully integrated into the University with illuminated pathways and cycle ways linking it to the existing campus to minimise vehicle use around campus. Established woodland within Barker’s Wood and Stacey Plantation will be maintained, with significant investment in landscaping the site.

The development will be serviced by public transport and it is anticipated that site infrastructure will be completed in early summer 2008, after which building can commence once detailed planning approval has been granted.

**STUDENT SOCIAL SPACE**

Another success is the plan to provide student social space, providing alcohol-free facilities to both residential and non-residential students. Amenities will include a quiet/meeting room, multi-channel television room, welfare facilities and vending. It is intended that these facilities will be operational by September 2007.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE**

It was anticipated at an early stage that ultimately one outcome of KEEL2006 would be improvement in health and safety risk management. Following a formal address by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and subsequent advice from the Occupational Health and Safety Unit, Heads and Directors implemented new risk management arrangements. The Health and Safety Standing Committee and the University’s Health and Safety Committee routinely monitor these arrangements.

The implementation of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, which operated from 1st October has engaged the University in every campus building. Work to complete and maintain all fire risk assessments has been successfully undertaken.

The Health at Work Group, amongst other things, has been engaged with agreeing arrangements to implement the University’s Stress Policy, which is high on the HSE’s agenda. Training will take place early in 2007.

The University understands the importance of a proactive health and safety monitoring programme and delegates much of this throughout the workforce at every level. Such co-operation and involvement of staff provides a robust mechanism in terms of health and safety management which ensures the University’s ability to comply with the spirit of its Health and Safety Policy statement.

**MARKETING**

The University’s marketing team was reconstituted within Commercial and Facilities Management under the newly appointed Head of Marketing, Phil Williams. Marketing is responsible for PR, corporate and cultural events, the University’s graduation ceremonies, alumni relations and fundraising. Phil Williams is also taking a lead on developing the University’s website and reviewing and implementing new procedures for internal communications. Working closely with colleagues within the Directorate and across the academic community, Marketing co-ordinated the highly successful launch event for the new Research Institutes in November.

**HALLS OF RESIDENCE REFURBISHMENT**

The rolling programme of refurbishment to student accommodation has continued. To date, more than 1600 rooms have been refurbished. One of 2007’s challenges is to improve accommodation at Hawthorns and it is planned to condense the programme and scope of works to ensure that all blocks at Hawthorns will have been improved by September 2008.

**DAY NURSERY**

Since approval was granted for a 190-place day nursery facility there has been a need to revisit the business plan and take account of the falling birth rate, revised maternity/paternity arrangements and financial support to schools to develop facilities for 3-5 year olds.

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MagneCell Ltd, a company spun out from the University by Professor Jon Dobson and Professor Alicia El Haj, Research Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine, two of the world’s leading academics in biotechnology, wins the prestigious ‘Impact Through Innovation Award’ at the Lord Stafford Awards. MagneCell has developed an innovative bioreactor, which can be used in the growth of tissue-engineered products. Professor Jocelyn Bell-Burnell, the renowned astrophysicist, gives a lecture on her career, her discipline and the perception of women within it, as part of the University’s ‘Women in Science’ lecture series. Keele is one of five finalists in the “Outstanding Student Financial Support Package” category at the Times Higher Awards. Keele’s entry focused on the University’s innovative and broad-ranging package of bursaries and scholarships.
The Volunteer Experience at Keele (VE) project was set up in 2002, funded by the Higher Education Active Community Fund and is a joint project between the Students’ Union and the University. VE not only helps to arrange voluntary placements for staff and students but also aims to support local community activities.

VE has continued to develop and grow throughout 2006, with an aim to support all student and staff voluntary activities, both on campus and in the local community.

VE AWARDS/CSP
VE recognises its volunteers’ contributions, offering four awards that reflect both the hours committed to volunteering and the personal development achieved through the experience.

Since the beginning of the new academic year, the VE project has worked closely with SPIRE and the Complementary Studies Programme (CSP) office in developing a dedicated CSP in volunteering for first year students. This year, more than 15 students have enrolled onto the CSP module and as a result they will be developing their personal skills, as well as their professional and technical subject skills, through a variety of placement opportunities.

Platinum Award Student
Matt Alexander, 20, Psychology and Marketing
Working in association with KUSU entertainment team, Matt (pictured above) organised a charity music event (OXJAM) to raise money in aid of Oxfam. This experience contributed towards him achieving a Platinum VE award certificate in volunteering.

“I always liked the idea of arranging a music festival at Keele. I started the Musicians’ Society last year to try and develop a better music scene at Keele. I was impressed by the success of the society, and this motivated me to move things onto the next level.

“I would encourage anyone at Keele to get involved with projects run by VE. It is a brilliant way to improve your CV and it can be so much fun to be involved in all these different projects.”

VE CASE STUDIES: STUDENT VOLUNTEERING IN 2006
Natasha Kinsmore, 20, Biomedical Science
“I volunteer at a local primary school as a reading helper. I work with three 8-year-old children who read and play games with me for half an hour. The children have been specially selected to attain the maximum development in not only literacy skills but also confidence, enjoyment and achievement in reading.”

Amy Copper, 19, Biomedical Science
“I have volunteered for numerous organisations over three years and I have had so much fun. I work as a member of the St John Ambulance team assisting at events, at the Douglas Macmillan Hospice helping in the kitchen and I am a member of the charity ‘breath of Life (Stole) for which I hope to raise money.’

Hannah Wainwright, 20, Law with Criminology
“I have been volunteering with the Caudwell Charity since Oct 2006. I have also been volunteering with Barnardo’s and have just finished my training to be an advocate with them. I started working for the Caudwell Charity not only to help the young children for whom the charity was set up, but also because I wanted to gain some experience in admin and fundraising. The main reason for training with Barnardo’s was for more personal aims. Since training with them I have become much more confident around others, whilst learning a lot about the work of Barnardo’s and how they help young children in the community.”

Claire Briant, 22, Psychology
“I was looking for a voluntary placement in the area of mental health, as this is the area I am interested in working in. I started volunteering at Relate as a receptionist for one afternoon per week. I’ve had such fun and met a supportive and varied group of people. I wish I’d joined VE sooner.”

Igor Kosoric, 20, Human Geography & Media Communications and Culture
“Volunteering at Caudwell has opened my eyes to what is possible if you make the effort to engage. My position at Caudwell consists of assisting in public relations tasks but I am also keen to help out with administrative tasks and have done so in my time with the charity.”

ACTIVE: WORLD AIDS DAY
Active are a society group that works with the VE project, helping to organise and run charity events and activities.

As part of World AIDS Day, the Keele Active Group was out and about on campus raising awareness and collecting money through the red ribbon appeal. Through the many students who donated money, their time and wore the red ribbons, Keele firmly showed its willingness to support the united worldwide effort to fight HIV and AIDS.

NIGHTLINE
Nightline is a confidential and anonymous listening service at Keele. It is a student based listening service for students. Volunteers offer an ear to fellow students outside the normal operation of other services.

Nightline is totally funded by the Students’ Union, which allows it to open every night. Nightline has had one of the best years ever since it started at Keele. There is now a really strong foundation for the development of a much more useful and worthwhile service. A huge amount of time and money has been spent during the year on publicity and general image. This has resulted in larger call volume and increased student volunteer membership.

AWAKE (A Programme for Women at Keele) is launched at Keele. The focus for the day is career development and mentoring. The keynote speaker is Professor Janet Finch, Vice-Chancellor, whose presentation is on Gender issues within Higher Education. About 40 participants from Germany and Britain attend the First British-German Socio-Legal Workshop organised by Professor Susanne Karstede; and Dr Bettina Lange and supported by the Research Institute for Law, Politics and Justice.

One of Britain’s best-known poets, Benjamin Zephaniah, gives an outstanding performance at Keele as part of the Poetry Live! season. Professor Shaughn O’Brien is appointed to two Department of Health committees – the Consideration Panel of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the Stakeholder Group of the 18 Week Delivery Programme.

NOV | 06
The year proved to be the most successful year in the history of team:keele (Athletic Union), with massive success in British Universities Sports Association (BUSA) competitions from individuals and teams.

Members of the swimming club qualified for national BUSA short and long course finals, where they competed against current Olympic and Commonwealth GB swimmers from other institutions. The Women’s Squash team won Gold at the BUSA National Trophy Final and Women’s Rugby was pipped at the post to Gold in the BUSA National Trophy Final by Exeter University. There were also league successes with 10 teams promoted, and BUSA tournament success especially from the Archery Club, which has continued its development with tremendous success in their Non-BUSA national league.

This success was recognised when Keele attended the National BUSA Awards Evening in Sheffield where team:keele staff collected the “Most Improved Institution 2006” award from BUSA Chairman Phil Attwell. This award was presented because of all the achievements by clubs and teams that had competed in the BUSA leagues, knock-outs and tournaments throughout 2005-06, which meant Keele jumped up 49 places in the BUSA national rankings from 109th to 61st out of 149 competing universities.

team:keele also had marvellous results and performances from Non-BUSA and Saturday League fixtures, with consistent victories and successes against some of the best sporting universities and national/regional amateur clubs. Individual performances by team:keele members in external and BUSA leagues have meant some members have been asked or have qualified for international representation trials in their chosen sport.

team:keele has also continued to show its charitable side with club, committee and staff members organising charity events throughout the year raising more than £4,000 for a variety of regional and national worthy causes – pictured right are Rugby Club members Ed Connolly (1st Team Captain) and Roger Weston (Club Captain) presenting a £2,000 cheque to the Donna Louise Trust on behalf of the AU.

Heather Phillips (MA in Social Work programme) was awarded the first Neil and Gina Smith Student of the Year Award at the summer degree ceremonies after she demonstrated academic excellence together with an outstanding individual contribution to student life and the University.

Emma Jackson (Accountancy and Finance) was confirmed as the British number one woman for 800 metres in the under 20 national junior track and field ranking lists with a time of 2:04.43. The City of Stoke AC star runner, who also ran for GB juniors in the World Junior Games in Beijing, was Staffs 1500m Champion, Midlands 800m Champion, English Schools 800m Champion and AAAs national 800m champion.

Rebecca Gridley (Medicine) travelled to India last November to shoot for Scotland in the 2nd Commonwealth Archery Games in the compound bow team event.

She said: “Despite only being at the University for a short time, the Athletic Union was very supportive and understood the commitment I would need to make, both financially and personally to ensure my place on the team. When I received some financial help from the University I was surprised and extremely grateful. It certainly helped with reducing the worries of going to a major competition abroad. The next big university competition is the British Universities Sports Association where I will be competing as a Keele University student in the Female Compound division.”

Dr Charlotte Williams, Research Institute for Life Course Studies, is awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours List for services to ethnic minority groups and to equal opportunities in Wales | Professor Susanne Karstedt, Research Institute for Law, Politics and Justice, is appointed as one of the Editors of the British Journal of Criminology | Lord David Ramsbotham, GCB, CBE, former Chief Inspector of Prisons, gives the first of Keele’s Public Lecture Series for 2006/07. His lecture, “What Price Imprisonment” looks at the financial cost of prison weighed against the social cost | The Communications Director of the Royal Society, Dr David Boak, visits the University to see the scientific research work being undertaken and to encourage further applications to the Royal Society for fellowships.