Vice-Chancellor’s Report

The academic year 2006/07 has seen substantial progress in a number of exciting initiatives at Keele and as we move towards our goal of becoming the Ultimate Campus University for the 21st Century. Just as the University set the standard for campus universities in the middle of the last century, we aim to set the pace for the integrated, outward-looking academic communities of the future.

This review gives an overview of some of the many successes we have enjoyed during the year, including the discovery of three new planets by our Astrophysicists, which has been recognised as being among the world’s top ten most important scientific discoveries of 2007. Academic endeavour is at the heart of our activities. Our seven Research Institutes have established a strong infrastructure to support developments in teaching and research, preparing for the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise and increasing the number of grant applications. Our Research Services have announced another record year with research grant applications in 2006/07 totalling over £75m. There were almost 600 grant applications with the majority made to the prestigious Research Councils. In addition, two Keele-led international projects had been successful in securing prestigious Marie Curie Initial Training Networks grants under the European Framework 7 programme. The two projects, which involve a total of 23 partners, are worth €6m–€8m and will bring early career researchers from across Europe to Keele.

The University is also developing its course portfolio introducing new degree options and structural changes to meet the changing needs of students. The 2006/07 academic year saw the arrival of the first students on the new undergraduate Pharmacy course – another important milestone for the University. Another example of an exciting new degree course is the BSc in Environment and Sustainability, one of the first courses of its kind in the UK and one which crosses the traditional Science/Social Science divide. The course derives from Keele’s distinctive multidisciplinary approach and aims to produce graduates who are conversant both with the scientific aspects and the human causes and costs of complex environmental change. This new cross-disciplinary degree spans all three of our faculties and reflects the very core of the teaching ethos at Keele.

Hundreds of young learners have come on to the Keele campus during the year to get a first experience of university life. Our intake of students from state schools is already 93.5%, against a benchmark of 85.6%, but we are continuing to reach even more pupils from backgrounds currently under-represented in Higher Education. Our Widening Participation team have enjoyed much success through links with schools and colleges in the region and organising events and residential stays. The Keele’s link project, developed to strengthen and develop partnerships in the community, already has a membership of 15 schools and colleges.

Keele has long contributed to the cultural, professional and intellectual life of its region. We have seen many high profile speakers come to the University to share their knowledge and experience through the Public Sector Series and Women In Science lectures. Posters such as Roger McGough and Sean O’Brien have performed to large and appreciative audiences and the University has also featured local writers through its popular Poetry Lunch series and its first Poetry Competition. Scientists as varied as Humphrey Lyttleton, the Galeazzi Ensemble and Japanese Taiko drummers have underlined our commitment to enhance the cultural well-being of the area.

The University's status as one of the UK's leading academic and commercial growth with some high value, knowledge-based industries on the new site will strengthen the long-term competitiveness of the area and attract innovative companies offering graduate level employment.

Another prestigious development is the Claus-Moser Centre for the Humanities and Social Sciences, which is nearing completion on a site at the heart of the campus. The Centre, to be named after our former Chancellor, Lord Moser, will accommodate research in Humanities and Social Sciences. Keele has a very distinctive multidisciplinary academic offer allied to nationally and internationally recognised research and a strong regional impact in terms of commercial development, health care, community activities and the Arts. You can read something of these varied achievements in this review of Keele during 2007. Professor Janet Finch, CBE, DL, AcSS Vice-Chancellor

The Science Park is already recognised as the hub of a regional ‘cluster’ for Medical and Healthcare Technology. The new development site will provide a vital role in developing a sustainable economic future for Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme and North Staffordshire. The establishment of new high value, knowledge-based industries on the new site will strengthen the long-term competitiveness of the area and attract innovative companies offering graduate level employment.

Vice-Chancellor’s Report
The Faculty of Health continues to meet its performance targets. Both Research Institutes have expanded in terms of staff numbers and grant income; undergraduate recruitment in the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy remains buoyant, whilst Nursing and Midwifery and Physiotherapy have remained stable against a declining national picture.

The new MBE curriculum commenced in September and will lead to a joint Manchester and Keele award being replaced by a Keele degree – the culmination of three years hard work by staff across the Medical School that was rewarded with very positive reports from the GMC Quality Assurance and Basic Medical Education team.

Expansion of clinical teaching in Shipston, academic appointments in primary care, including a new Chair, and recruitment of additional staff to manage curriculum delivery and assessment have underpinned growth in the Medical School during 2007. Developments at postgraduate level have been slower but, based on internal and external reviews plus wide consultations with NHS partners, a revised portfolio of high quality professional and academic postgraduate courses will be introduced.

Adapted from the report of the Dean.
A new study to investigate and promote independence and social engagement among older people in disadvantaged communities has been launched by a team in the Research Institute for Life Course Studies.

The three-year project seeks to move away from an assessment of the problems associated with ageing in urban communities towards a new focus on the role of community action in contributing to a more active form of ageing in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

The main aims of the investigators are:

- To clarify the issues older people resident in disadvantaged communities identify as important regarding social engagement and independence.
- To assess the impact of different community initiatives on active ageing.
- To identify the particular social and psychological processes involved in promoting active ageing through such community initiatives; and
- To develop policy recommendations for promoting active ageing in disadvantaged communities.

The research, funded by the New Dynamics of Ageing project, a joint research council initiative, is designed to have community, policy and theoretical implications, and outputs will be aimed at both academic and a range of ‘user’ audiences.

The project also aims to promote the development and sustainability of community initiatives with diverse groups of older people by involving community residents and partners in discussions about potential research outputs. Outputs are likely to include forums in each of the study areas to discuss the findings and to consider plans for extending the initiatives.

The venture is being conducted in several neighbourhoods: in Manchester and the research team will work closely with partners in the city to encourage the design of policies and practices that can improve the quality of older peoples’ lives. A wider audience of policy-makers will be targeted through workshops, aimed at informing the ongoing development of Manchester City Council’s ageing strategy.

In terms of theory, the research programme will contribute to both disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge about quality of life among older people.

Promoting independence and social engagement among older people in disadvantaged communities

A new and innovative study to investigate and promote independence and social engagement among older people in disadvantaged communities has been launched by a team in the Research Institute for Life Course Studies.

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Promoting independence and social engagement among older people in disadvantaged communities
Facility of Natural Sciences
Report of the Dean

Although I’ve only been at Keele for a few weeks, it’s really exciting to be part of a University that is welcoming, enthusiastic and forward-looking. To set the scene, Keele has developed a range of science programmes over the last 3-4 years that have proved popular with students, providing a strong foundation for future developments. On the research side, the extensive activity in environmental and sustainability areas place the Faculty of Natural Sciences as a major player in the University’s plans. So what were the major achievements in 2007?

In the School of Computing and Mathematics, the computing area has quickly established iTiVB (Information Technology Management for Business) as a successful undergraduate programme. The software engineering group has won a ESRC EPIC grant entitled ‘EPIC’, and hosted a major conference at Keele, whilst statistics and research methods are the topics of two books published by Gordon Rugg. The research themes in mathematics were also successful, with a £2.7m EU consortium grant led by Maria Heckl, continuing projects at the mathematics/medicine interface led by Graham Rugg. The research institute in the Faculty is the Research Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine in England (STM) on cross-fertilise imaging technology between geophysics and medical physics research. Within iEPSAM, the astrophysics research and clean technology work has been identified already, whilst Peter Styles has won major grants in the clean energy area, and has been asked to chair a Government Panel developing criteria for assessing sites for geological disposal of nuclear waste. Keele is also one of three new institutions to contribute resources to the UK National Grid Service (NGS). Peter Styles (Director of iEPSAM) said: “We are one of the smaller UK universities with a computer cluster, but we punch well above our weight in these bespoke modelling areas.”

So 2007 was a very successful year, with major achievements across all areas of teaching and research. It is great to see awards for teaching excellence alongside major research successes in astrophysics, clean energy, and immunology – 2007 has undoubtedly provided an excellent springboard for the future of the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

Professor Pat Bailey
Dean of Natural Sciences

ASTrophysics group discovery
among world’s top ten science discoveries

The discovery of the extra-solar planets WASP-3, WASP-4 and WASP-5, led by Keele’s Astrophysics Group, has been cited by Time magazine and CNN as the sixth most important science discovery of 2007.

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

Project leader Dr Colin Bailey said: “At Time has recognised the search for extra-solar planets inspires both the public and scientists. We are on a wave of exploration that will ultimately tell us whether there is life elsewhere in the universe and it is thrilling that the Keele Astrophysics Group is playing a leading role.

“These planets transit their host star, which means we can deduce their radius, mass and composition, making them very important for understanding how planets form and evolve.”

The School has a large proportion of female students studying science, particularly forensic science, and has recruited a number of female lecturing staff in recent years. The Faculty of Natural Sciences has also increased the number of young talented women to lecturers, particularly in the physical sciences. The Faculty is focused on developing their careers so that they stay in the profession and reach their full potential. These young women act as important role models to undergraduates and postgraduates and being part of the ATHENA CHARTER is key to Keele’s commitment to increasing the number of women in SET.

The University itself ran the AWARE staff development programme for women and the ‘Women in Science’ lecture series, which saw a number of high profile female speakers talk about their careers and their disciplines.
Record-breaking year for research income

Keele has enjoyed another record-breaking year with Research Grant applications in 2006/07 totalling over £75m, which is a one third increase on the previous year’s record of £57m. There were almost 600 applications made to a range of sources, the largest proportion of which were made to the prestigious Research Councils. During the year there was also a significant increase in European Union applications, which were supported by specialist expertise in Research & Enterprise Services.

Researchers Secure Prestigious Marie Curie Training Networks

In December it was announced that two Keele-led international projects, which had been submitted to the prestigious Marie Curie Training Networks, were successful. The two projects are worth a total of £6m-£8m and together involve twenty-three partner universities across Europe for training, and some will incorporate nine research partners located in the UK.

Spontaneous oscillations are a common feature in gas turbine combustors. It is led by Dr Maria Heckl from the Research Institute for the Environment, Physical Sciences and Applied Mathematics and involves fourteen partners from academia and industry in the UK, The Netherlands, France, Germany, Spain, Czech Republic and the USA. It aims to train twenty young researchers (seventeen PhD students and three post-doctoral researchers) over a four-year period researching into the analytical, numerical and experimental aspects of combustion, structural vibrations and aerodynamics.

Spin-out activity increases at Keele

nanoTherics Ltd, which was established in September 2007, will utilise nano-magnetic particle technologies for gene transfection and therapies. The company is attracting investment towards what will hopefully be rapid business expansion.

National success for SIFE

In April, Keele’s SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) Team competed in the National Championship Finals in Carson, Calif. where they were runners-up to Imperial College, London. They were awarded one of the coveted Spirit of Enterprise awards, sponsored by Make Your Mark, a DTI-funded initiative to promote social entrepreneurship. SIFE is active in over 1800 universities across 47 countries and is sponsored by some of the largest corporations in the world, who recognise that SIFE students, who run projects to provide economic benefits to others, prove to be excellent graduate recruits.

Business enterprise

Keele’s business and industry consultancy activities attracted over £680k during 2006/07. Keele attracts 53 studentships and is developing strong collaborative partnerships with organisations.

Green transport idea wins BIZCOM 2007

Over 40 guests gathered in Keele Hall for the BIZCOM 2007 (Business Ideas Competition) award ceremony where the winner, Neel Siddhant, collected a cheque for £1,000. Neel, who was studying for an MA in Environmental Politics, won with his innovative business idea for green transport called Green Triangle. The runners-up, Adrian Lim (3rd Year Chemistry and Business Studies) and Paul Jones (2nd Year Chemical Engineering) each received £250 for their innovative business idea for green transport and £500 for an innovative idea for green transport called Green transport idea wins BIZCOM 2007.

Students win hot-desking in science park

Keele has recruited five undergraduate students to their allocation of places on the SPeed (Student Enterprise Education) programme. The scheme provides a one year package of enterprise training, business support, mentoring and up to £4,500 each to help start their businesses. This regional scheme is led by Wolverhampton University and engages 13 partner universities across England and Northern Ireland by the end of the two years funding. SPeed will have helped 750 students explore their entrepreneurial flare.

New Head of RES

Dr Peter Hooper was appointed as Head of Research and Enterprise Services in September 2007, leading a team of 20, whose expertise spans technology transfer, business engagement, research funding support and governance; and administration of the University’s Graduate School.

Highlights include:

- Dr Vladimir Zhukovskii working with The Asbestos Group on identifying possible rapid methods of detection. This has been supported by the Technology Transfer Fund and an EPSRC grant.
- A studentship oversaw by Dr Eustace Johnson and Cellturn looking into the effects of skin tissue engineering for the treatment of pressure ulcers.
- A studentship oversaw by Professor Nureddin Ashammalhi and Dr Ying Yang with Conmed Corporation looking at soft tissue formation and biodegradable polymers.

August 07

Throughout the year the Keele community was encouraged to participate in a range of academic, cultural, sports and social events that celebrate the global nature of Keele University. With over 2,700 students from over 57 countries, Keele’s cultural diversity and heritage were celebrated across the academic and sporting year.

Annual Review Keele University
Widening participation and lifelong learning

New Media

Upload, a new media resource for Level 3 students, won a Fresh Digital Award under the Freshest Public Sector Service category. As a result of Keele’s success in new media, the Upgrade brand has been developed, which includes all Keele-developed and purchasable products. It will include ‘Stepping Stones Inspire Their Future’, which is due for completion in Spring 2008 and will be targeted at teachers. Thirty-four schools and colleges have taken advantage of the free access to these resources via the KeeleLink programme.

Health

The health project’s team rolled out a health care e-monitoring model to the region. More than 400 pupils have engaged in mentoring with an undergraduate studying one of the health disciplines, resulting in excellent long-term relationships with schools and colleges. As a result of this innovative project, Manager, Helen Hesketh-Roberts, was invited to speak at The Brightbite Trust annual conference on effective e-monitoring.

AimHigher

Keele hosted an AimHigher area programme, influencing the influencers, for the Stoke and Staffordshire area, led by Deena Sandom. The project exceeded many targets and engaged in some challenging areas, including reaching teachers who may influence learners’ decision-making and training over 200 Connexions Advisors. The Connexions project was so successful that it was showcased as an example of national good practice at the first annual AimHigher National Conference.

The parents’ project within this programme has made some major achievements and received national press coverage on its parent involvement scheme.

Outreach events

Widening Participation held eight independently booked events on behalf of various partners, including Staffordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire AimHigher areas, as well as AimHigher CARD, welcoming over 600 pupils. In addition there have been five two-night overnight residential events for 100 young people to engage in a full student experience. The climax of the programme saw Keele welcome 200 Year 10 pupils for three days and two nights, and 100 Year 11 pupils for five days and four nights to our ESF-funded summer school.

Placements

The placement scheme has proved successful in providing an experience of teaching for over 100 Keele undergraduate students. Feedback from Keele’s PGCE recruitment team suggests that as well as an increase in applications, the quality has also improved, which they attribute to those applicants who have gone through the placement scheme. The second phase of recruitment saw 250 applications for just over 100 places.

Foundation year

Since the level zero foundation year (FY) programme was started at Keele in 2000, the intake has grown threefold. In 2000/01, seven students enrolled, over 100 in 2005/06 and 200 in the current academic year. The number of programmes has grown from the original Science Foundation Year to six routes: Science, Languages, Food & Health, an International FY, and a visually impaired students.

LifeLong learning network

The Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Lifelong Learning Network was launched in 2007. Keele is one of three principal institutions managing the network, which is aimed at increasing the number of local learners with vocational educational backgrounds entering and graduating from HE in the sub-region. The network is providing Keele with opportunities for new curriculum developments, from the creation of transferable modules through to full qualifications, as well as progression agreements and involvement with i-49 diplomas.

International highlights

Tick off to Take off

Tick off to Take off, an online pre-adventure guide for study abroad, developed by Dr Erica Artt, Study Abroad Adviser, won the annual Association of University Administrators’ Award for Excellence in Higher Education Management and Administration.

This national award “acknowledges publicly the dedication, expertise and creativity of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the sector.”

TOTTO was also highlighted as an example of best practice in the 2007 Council for Industry and Higher Education publication Global Horizons for UK Students: A Guide for Universities.

Study abroad photo competition

Students returning from a semester in the USA, Canada and Europe, were able to enter the first Study Abroad Photo Competition. From 80 entries the first prize went to Emma Goode, a student of Earth System Sciences, who spent a semester in Iceland; for a photograph at Reykjavik harbour, ‘The Aurora Borealis, taken on her first night’.

Australia

The second year of the EU-Australia programme saw six Keele students studying a semester at Griffith University in Brisbane, Flinders in Adelaide, Monash in Melbourne or the University of Western Sydney with a grant of £3,500 each. In return, Keele has welcomed six students from the Australian partners. The Keele students will join the Australian students and the other EU and Australian students in a one-month summer school in Slovenia, where they will be taught by a mixture of EU and Australian staff. The summer school will focus on Post-Conflict Policing.

Keele students now have the option of spending a semester in one of seven Australian universities, as bilateral agreements beyond the scope of the EU-funded project have been signed with Griffith, Flinders and UWS.

South Africa

Student Exchanges have been established with Rhodes University in Grahamstown and Kwazulu Natal in Durban and the first Keele students will be going to Rhodes in 2008/09.

Erasmus work and Leonardo placements

Following the success of Keele’s involvement in European work placements under the EU’s Leonardo Programme, undergraduates are now able to use the network to undertake Erasmus work placements. Seven undergraduate students in Life Sciences are gaining laboratory experience in France, Germany and Poland and were joined in January by six MRes in European Scientific Training students in The Netherlands, France and Sweden.

Routes into languages

Keele is part of the West Midlands Routes into Languages Consortium, through which year 8 children from 14 Staffordshire schools learn the importance of continuing with a language at school. The first stage involved 100 children, their families and teachers coming to campus to hear from employers and Keele alumni about how languages are used in daily working life. In the second part the children will spend an overnight stay at Keele and take part in language workshops.

New Media

Upload, a new media resource for Level 3 students, won a Fresh Digital Award under the Freshest Public Sector Service category. As a result of Keele’s success in new media, the Upgrade brand has been developed, which includes all Keele-developed and purchasable products. It will include ‘Stepping Stones Inspire Their Future’, which is due for completion in Spring 2008 and will be targeted at teachers. Thirty-four schools and colleges have taken advantage of the free access to these resources via the KeeleLink programme.

KeeleLink

The KeeleLink partnership project has been in full operation throughout the year and membership has increased to 115 schools and colleges. Members have access to KeeleLink events, the student placement scheme, A2K, KeeleLink Translations, New Media Resources and Teacher Training Opportunities. In addition, several new initiatives were offered and piloted including an Impact Theatre tour in schools for Years 10 and 11 pupils, e-monitoring for Year 11 pupils by Keele students, access to homework clubs, maths and science competitions and a Gifted and Talented Programme. Over 1,500 learners have engaged in events on campus through the project.

The success of KeeleLink has seen the unit commissioned by HERFCE to undertake peer research around the existence of similar institution approaches to partnership with schools and colleges and collation of best practice in this area.

This has been a year of great change for Widening Participation at Keele, with an internal restructure, including new management and the justification of a new University widening participation strategy. The restructure has seen the introduction of the Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning Division within Academic Services, headed by Professor Peter Haycock. It has allowed Keele to engage fully in the Stoke, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Lifelong Learning Network, as well as fully embracing the new widening participation strategy. Within the division, the operational management of widening participation is being led by the newly appointed Widening Participation Manager, Kylie Cross.
This was the seventh year that the University has presented awards for excellence in learning and teaching. The criteria for the Keele Awards for 2006-2007 were an ability to inspire learners and to enable them to succeed in their goals; an ability to influence and inspire their colleagues in their teaching, learning and assessment practice, by example and/or through the dissemination of good practice; a track record of influence within or beyond their own institution or subject area, in relation to teaching, learning and assessment practice, and an ability to demonstrate a reflective approach to teaching and/or support of learning.

Individual awards were presented to:

Dr Peter Knight is course Director of the Physical Geography Dual and Single Honours programmes. His approach has developed and evolved throughout 20 years of professional teaching during which he has sought continuous innovation in pursuit of new ways of helping new cohorts of students from different backgrounds with ever-changing needs.

Dr Peter Chevins is Director of Learning and Teaching in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and in the School of Life Sciences. Dr Chevins contributes to a number of modules in the principal Biology and Neurosciences degree programmes and two Masters programmes for the School of Health and Rehabilitation.

Mark Davys co-ordinates the Introduction to Biology for the School of Health Sciences for the School of Health Sciences.

The Neil and Gina Smith Student of the Year 2007

Medical graduate, Suzy Stokes was the 2007 winner of the prestigious Neil and Gina Smith Student of the Year Award. During her time at Keele Medical School, Suzy performed extremely well academically, gaining a number of prizes, including the Donald Kemp Memorial Prize in 2005, the Year 4 Progress Prize in 2005 and the Royal College of Forensic Psychiatrists Essay Prize in 2005.

In addition to her strong academic performance, Suzy has made a strong contribution to the University and the wider community through her extra-curricular activities. She is joint co-ordinator and founder of the bone marrow charity, Marrow Keele, was co-author of a published research paper on HIV testing and travelled within Europe and to America and Africa gaining experience and training in, amongst other things, wilderness medicine, altitude medicine and space medicine. Whilst studying for her degree, Suzy completed the level one British Sign Language qualification.

Dean of Natural Sciences

Professor Pat Bailey, was appointed as the new Dean of Natural Sciences. He was previously Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences and Professor of Organic Chemistry at Manchester University.

He has wide experience of supporting and leading learning and teaching activities, as well as a strong research record. His excellence in the leadership of learning and teaching has been recognised by a number of awards, including his appointment as a National Teaching Fellow in 2005. His research expertise is in Medicinal Chemistry, for which he has attracted significant funding over many years, and in recognition of which he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1999.

Professor Bailey undertook his BA and PhD degrees in Chemistry at Oxford, and moved to a lectureship at York in 1983. In 1993, he took up the chair of organic chemistry at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh and moved to the Chair of Organic Chemistry at UMIST in 2001. He was involved in the merger of the Manchester Universities in 2004, since when he was the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

His research, which has attracted around £2m of funding and has been published in around 100 papers, has focused on three main themes: developing new methods for preparing heterocyclic molecules of medicinal interest; studies on the synthesis and properties of peptides, and work on protein mechanisms.
2007 began with Commercial and Facilities Management Directorate celebrating its first birthday with a State of The Nation address by the Director, Jenny Tucker, to the whole team. This provided the focus for the following year which included enhancing the student experience, estate developments and achieving income targets. To this end, CFM generated a total income of £20.2m from operations during the financial year. Success was celebrated early on when Keele Conferences were awarded silver in three categories of the high profile Meeting & Incentive Travel Awards Best Conference & Banqueting Staff, Best Academic Venue and Best Value for Money Conference Venue.

A campus for all
There were a number of improvements within the Halls of Residence. The first client of the Student Social Spaces opened with the emphasis on alcohol-free areas for meeting friends and watching TV. Four Residential Managers started in July with a remit to provide a high standard of pastoral, welfare and disciplinary support services to resident students.

The team at the Leisure Centre continued to provide a range of activities to introduce staff and students to a more active lifestyle. Whilst the building undergoes a continuing refurbishment programme, a Sport for All Strategy has led to the development of fitness classes and Intra-Mural Sport for students and staff. A volunteer programme for Keele students aims to integrate the campus into the local sports community and enhance students’ employability.

Keele’s smaller residents enjoyed a newly decorated nursery whilst work continues on the plan for a new facility.

The Marketing team co-ordinated an annual programme of public events including lectures, concerts and the Poetry Live! Keele’s Chancellor.

Fund-raising
Keele’s first ever Telephone, aimed at strengthening links with former students and securing contributions towards a range of projects, proved very successful with over £332,000 pledged. A team of 40 callers contacted Keele graduates who studied here during the period 1954-1985. Of the telephone calls completed, 60% resulted in a pledge of financial support to the University. This is an exceptional result. All donations will be administered through the Keele Key Fund which allocates funding to projects intended to improve the quality of student life at Keele.

Estate development
During the spring of 2007 the first stand-alone new building within the central campus since 1999 commenced with the construction of the Claus Moser Research Centre, which will provide a hub for Social Sciences and Humanities research. The building is due for completion in March 2008. Infrastructure works also commenced on the Phase 3 extension to the campus.

Major construction projects completed included the Information Services Building upgrade; the creation of student social spaces in three halls; upgrades to the Students’ Union Building; replacement boiler plant to Chancellor’s Building; sports field drainage, plant to Chancellor’s Building; sports field drainage; additional synthetic pitches; University reservoir upgraded; street lighting upgrades.

Training and development
CFM is proud of its commitment to developing staff across the directorate. As a result of contributions from staff in all areas, the team was once again successful in maintaining ISO and IP accreditations following external audits.

Keele conferences, occasions and weddings
Income from this sector of the University broke the £4 million barrier for the first time. This included the generation of £1.3 million of new business, our best ever achievement.

Conference Management, the newest product in the Keele Conferences portfolio, was introduced to key customers. The service is designed to take the academic and leisure market by storm.

Commercial and Facilities Management Directorate

Energy efficiency
The Estates team has participated in a number of high profile awards schemes concerning energy and the environment. In addition to being shortlisted in the National Energy Efficiency 2007 Awards, the University Energy Management Initiative received a special commendation in the Youth and Education Category of the Staffordshire Green Awards (rewarding and promoting best environmental practice in Staffordshire). The Estates team has collaborated with the Students’ Union Voluntary Experience to assist in promoting the ongoing energy awareness campaign across campus.

Catering
Head of Student Services, David Oldham, was a finalist in the prestigious Cost Sector Catering University/College Award. Bernd Wolf, Deputy Executive Head Chef, won the inaugural Staffordshire Master Chef Competition as part of his prize he experienced life as a chef in Chicago.

One of Keele’s modern apprentices, James Tudor, competed in the Young Chef of Tomorrow Competition and was successful in achieving the runner-up prize. In addition, he won the award for best hygiene and safe practice.

The health and safety risk management arrangements agreed with the University following Keele2006 have been shown to be successful with excellent outcomes in terms of proactive monitoring throughout the University. These arrangements will continue to be reviewed as the University evolves, to ensure they remain robust.

All University staff were issued with a new health and safety handbook encompassing a self training package to ensure a full understanding of the risk management processes in the University.

Training of managers and representatives was completed as one of several steps in line with the University’s Occupational Stress Policy.

During the year, the number of staff accidents reportable to the Health and Safety Executive fell dramatically, and well below the national average frequency rate when compared with over one hundred other universities. Reportable accidents to students also fell by one third. A statistical annual report appears on the Department of Health and Safety’s website.
Student experience

Aims and objectives

Set up in 2002, Voluntary Experience, VE @ Keele, is an exciting initiative based within the Students’ Union and funded by the Teaching Quality Enhancement Fund. Working in partnership with a wide variety of local, national and even international organisations, VE @ Keele aims to develop positive links between Keele and the local community, whilst also enhancing student experience and employability by supporting their growth and personal development.

The VE office helps students find a volunteer placement from a wide range of volunteer placement providers registered to suit their individual skills and interests. Current placement providers include organisations that work with young people, the environment, mental health and many more, and with so many to choose from, there is likely to be something for everyone!

New challenges and experiences

Volunteering provides a variety of unique experiences and opportunities, and is a great way for Keele students to develop their skills, help disadvantaged individuals and communities and get involved in social or environmental activities. Volunteering also enables Keele students to make friends, have fun and build a wide portfolio of lay, transferrable skills that employers look for, as well as increasing confidence and raising awareness of social and community issues, enabling Keele students to make a positive contribution to their local community.

Recognition

VE @ Keele volunteers recognise that volunteering is a fantastic way to develop new skills, put something back into the community and have fun. Many of our student volunteers will go on to have their volunteering accredited and will receive a VE @ Keele award (VE offers four awards, in recognition of volunteering and personal development at levels Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum. Each award involves volunteering for a minimum number of hours and completing a workbook to give evidence that the required learning outcomes have been met.

As VE @ Keele continues to go from strength to strength, we enter 2008 with an air of optimism. To begin the year we are planning a series of events to mark National Student Volunteering Week, which will help us raise awareness of VE @ Keele, highlight the positive impact student volunteering can have in communities and promote VE @ Keele to encourage new volunteers.

Here are some real-life experiences from students who have volunteered with VE @ Keele:

“As a student, it is easy to forget about the world outside of books, lectures and seminars. By becoming a volunteer it provided me with a very welcome respite from the stresses of studying for a degree. Although unrelated to my degree subjects, involvement with the project did benefit my studies considerably.”

“Volunteering gave me first-hand experience of what caring for patients actually involved and how challenging a job in medicine could be.”

“Volunteering bridges a gap between people who wouldn’t normally come across each other in their daily lives.”

New developments

While there have been a number of new developments within VE @ Keele, including a new Project Leader who joined the team in August, VE @ Keele has performed well in 2007, with over 200 students registering to volunteer their time with around 100 organisations working in partnership with VE @ Keele.

The introduction of two new volunteering CSP modules for first year students has proven to be successful, with 83 students enrolling to undertake one, or both, of these modules. Enrolling on a Volunteering CSP module means students can volunteer to complement their degree studies within an appropriate working environment.

Getting rewarded

For 2007 all VE VIP Reward cards. The reward scheme has been introduced to say ‘thank you’ to students who give up their time to volunteer in our local community, and to encourage students to complete one of our VE Awards in recognition of their volunteering and personal development. VE VIP Reward cards give volunteers’ priority exchange into the Students’ Union on set nights, and depending on the award gained, can also include a free drinks and meal voucher.

Team: Keele

Team: Keele enjoyed another successful year, following on from the triumphs of the 2006 season. A successful AU Freshers’ Fayre saw the clubs get off to a flying start, recruiting a record 1500 students for 2006/7.

The return to sports in January 2007 marked a turning point in the sporting calendar. With the BUSA season nearly complete, everyone was well aware of their league positions and what they needed to finish at the top. The rest of the season was filled with determination, as all eyes were fixed on the prize and the hope of landing some silverware.

In the end six teams finished top of their leagues, putting them into playoffs for shields and plates. Women’s fencing finished top of their league, in the highest North West regional league, before reaching the Northern Conference. Following a minor defeat for promotion the team made the last 16 in the country, being narrowly beaten by Edinburgh University.

Football also had a successful season with both Meris I and the Women’s I team finishing top of their leagues.

KUBE Radio strikes gold in New York

KUBE Radio scooped two top international broadcasting awards during the year.

They were awarded the Gold Medal Award for ‘Best Online Radio’ at the New York Festival’s Radio Programming & Promotion Awards 2007. The student station, which has been broadcasting for 20 years, also won the Best Internet Only station at the European Radio Awards 2007.

Five students from the station, pictured, attended a ceremony in New York City to receive their ‘Gold Medal Award’. Their entry was praised for its innovative style and as an excellent example of quality online broadcasting.

The winners were selected by a panel of 12 international judges from the industry and awards are regarded as a highly distinguished recognition for efforts in the field of radio broadcasting. KUBE Radio was not only the smallest station awarded a prestigious gold award but also the only volunteer-run, student station in Europe.

The discovery of the extra-solar planets WASP-3, WASP-4 and 5, is cited by Keele’s Astrophysicist, Professor Martin Hopp, as being the most important astronomical discovery of 2007.

Professor Peter Styles, Director of the Research Institute for the Environment, the Rt Hon Hilary Benn, opened by the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Rt Hon Hilary Benn, opened by the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Rt Hon Hilary Benn, opened by the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Rt Hon Hilary Benn, opened by the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Rt Hon Hilary Benn, opened by the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Rt Hon Hilary Benn, opened by the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Rt Hon Hilary Benn, opened by the Secretary of State for the Environment.