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The University sector undoubtedly faces a period of challenge as it seeks to meet rising student expectations at a time of reduced public funding and, like all institutions, Keele will face difficult choices in the coming months and years. However, this University has taken positive steps to position itself to meet this challenge, including measures to improve the student experience, focus its research and to diversify its income streams.

We can look back over a hugely successful 2009 in which the University won its first Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher Education, has seen the transformation of the heart of its campus with some imaginative projects and has been at the forefront of some internationally excellent research work.

The University was extremely proud to receive the prestigious Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, which recognises the outstanding work and dedication of the team in our internationally renowned Primary Care Sciences Research Centre on the causes and management of chronic pain, such as back pain and arthritis. In 2008 it was chosen to be the Arthritis Research Campaign’s National Primary Care Centre.

Practical applications of their research work have created beneficial results for the wider economic health of the nation and the health and wellbeing of an ageing society, which has led to direct improvement in the quality of life for affected individuals. While this is a great honour for Primary Care at Keele it is also a reflection of the excellence of the whole University.

Across the University research grant income was a record £11.02million in the last financial year, up by 24 per cent on the previous 12 months. Significantly, income from the prestigious Research Councils showed an increase of 21 per cent, and now represents 33 per cent of the total, while money from industry and commerce increased by 29 per cent and funding from the EU was up by 27 per cent. This is an exceptional success story for Keele. It is the result of a real team effort and we are now beginning to reap the benefits of the setting up of the Research Institutes. Other successes include a major grant of £5.7million from the HEFCE Strategic Development Fund which will allow the University to make progress towards our objective of being the Ultimate Campus University for the 21st Century and allow the development of key University strategic projects, such as Active Ageing, Environment and Sustainability and also Employer Engagement and CPD.

Among the developments that have visually enhanced the centre of the campus and added to our teaching facilities was the striking School of Pharmacy building, officially opened by Professor Sir Alasdair Breckenridge, Chairman of the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority; the provision of an additional wet laboratory, built to the highest environmental standards, and the upgrading of the Dorothy Hodgkin Building.

The University performed well in two major national league tables, being placed 42nd in the Times Good University Guide and 42nd in The Independent’s Complete University Guide. It was particularly pleasing that in the Independent Keele was placed 20th in the country for student satisfaction.

The excellence of our teaching was highlighted with the award of a National Teaching Fellowship for Dr Jonathan Parker, a Senior Lecturer in Politics — the third such fellowship for Keele academics in the last two years.

Keele Conferences continue to enjoy success at national level. The team took the gold awards in the Best Value for Money Conference Venue and Best Conference and Banqueting Staff categories and also won silver in the Best Academic Venue category at the annual Meetings And Incentive Travel Awards.

Finally, after almost 15 years as Vice-Chancellor this will be my last annual report. I am proud of what we have achieved over those years and particular highlights include the establishment of an undergraduate Medical School, which had been dreamed of from the very beginning of this University, the development of the Science Park and the foundation of the Moser Centre Social Sciences and Humanities research facility. The Queen’s visit in 1999 was memorable and the official opening of the new entrance by Her Majesty allowed us to unlock the potential of a large area of the campus for a new phase of academic and commercial development.

My successor as Vice-Chancellor is Professor Nick Foskett, who will take over in August 2010. I know that he is looking forward to taking the lead at Keele and to working with a first class team of staff as he leads this fine institution into the future.
The Faculty of Health has enjoyed notable success during 2009. In addition to the successes of the Research Institute of Primary Care and Health Sciences and the School of Pharmacy highlighted in this report, the Faculty has attracted major grants and made significant appointments.

The Medical School goes from strength to strength. Accreditation of the new Keele curriculum by the GMC continues to go well, thanks to the tremendous effort of the senior management team and the input of all staff in the School. Our position in the top 10 of national league tables reflects the quality of education and training offered to students and their overall satisfaction with the course. Professor Richard Hays, Head of School over the past four years, returned to Australia to become Dean of Health at Bond University. We were delighted to welcome Professor Val Wass as the new Head of School. Professor Wass is an enormously experienced clinical academic who comes to Keele via King’s and Manchester and will lead the school through implementation of years 4 and 5 of the curriculum and full accreditation.

The School of Health and Rehabilitation welcomed Dr Cath Bücher, a senior lecturer in the Faculty, as the new Head of School following Professor Marilyn Andrews’ move to become PVC for Teaching and Learning. Dr Bücher’s experience and leadership will be vital during a period when physiotherapy commissioning by the NHS has come under intense pressure with cuts to home student numbers. The School is already addressing the consequent financial shortfall through recruitment of overseas students and expansion of postgraduate training courses. A new curriculum framework for physiotherapy education in the West Midlands commissioned by the SHA was designed at Keele and is due for accreditation next year. The School is ranked in the top 5 for student satisfaction amongst the 35 institutions in the country.

A major highlight for the School of Pharmacy was the move into its new home following the £6.6million refurbishment of the Hornbeam Building, modification to the adjacent MacKay Building, which houses pharmacy laboratories, and creation of a state of the art science laboratory shared between the faculties of Health and Natural Sciences. The new School of Pharmacy was opened by Professor Sir Alasdair Breckenridge, Chairman of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency. The opening was marked by a short symposium during which Sir Alasdair was presented with a T446 copy of the Pharmacopeia by the Vice-Chancellor.

In addition to maintaining its pre-eminent position in CPD provision and virtual learning, the School is in the fourth year of an undergraduate MPharm programme and preparing for the last round of accreditation by the RPS. The first cohort of pharmacists graduates in 2010.

Nursing and Midwifery has enjoyed three years of stability under a new senior management team lead by Professor Rebecca Jester. The undergraduate curriculum has been revised and reaccredited and the portfolio of postgraduate courses expanded. The School is developing a strategy to support research capacity and capability building, along with preparing for nursing to become an all degree profession by 2013. Keele, with the West Midlands SHA, is seeking to become an early adopter of the new qualification with a substantial shift of intake from its Diploma to BSc course from the next academic year. Keele stands out in being able to fill all its places, enjoying one of the lowest attrition rates in the country and is ranked 13 out of 73 schools for student satisfaction.

Research in the Faculty has seen the key appointment of Professor Gordon Ferns as Director of the Research Institute of Science and Technology in Medicine and Director of R&D at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire. The success of ISTM under Professor Alicia El Haj is evidenced by its grant income, which has been the highest of the seven research institutes at Keele throughout her period as Director. Professor Ferns is a clinical biochemist with an interest in atherosclerosis. Previously Dean of Postgraduate Medicine and Clinical Director of the Surrey and Sussex CRN at the University of Surrey, Professor Ferns will bring vast experience of developing clinical research, working at the interfaces of laboratory, secondary and primary care.

Primary Care and Health Sciences is a genuine research institute as it is substantially funded from external sources, notably the ARC and NIHR. The Institute received the Queen’s Anniversary Prize and under the leadership of its Director, Professor Peter Croft, became one of just seven centres that constitute the National School of Primary Care. Although the focus of the centre has been on delivering three major clinical research programmes covering a range of musculoskeletal and arthritic disorders, the Institute continues to set the pace at Keele, attracting a further £3million in grant income during 2009.

The announcement that Keele had been awarded one of 17 HIECs will provide further opportunity to develop health services research in the Faculty and across the local health economy. The bid, led by the Dean, will provide direct funding of £1.4million to develop partnerships with UHNS and the PCTs to evaluate care pathways introduced as part of the redesign of healthcare in Stoke and Staffordshire. A focus on comorbidities at the primary-secondary interface will exploit the strengths and expertise of our two research institutes as well as the experience of our four schools in developing innovative educational and postgraduate training programmes to support workforce development.
Avatars Training Pharmacists of the Future

Avatars are helping to train the pharmacists of the future in Keele’s School of Pharmacy. Students interact with the computer-generated characters to gain experience in effective communication and decision-making.

Learners talk with the “patient” via voice recognition technology or by typing questions into a standard computer interface and the “patient” responds verbally or with a range of non-verbal gestures to indicate emotions such as pain, stress or anxiety. At the end of the session the “patient” gives feedback to the trainee about their performance.

A team in Keele’s School of Pharmacy developed the “virtual patient” to help students to explore a number of different conditions, including dyspepsia, hypertension, asthma, allergic rhinitis, gastroenteritis and period pain. When ethnicity, age or gender is relevant to the treatment of the patient, the case can be designed to demonstrate to the learner how such factors are clinically significant.

They have also developed a “virtual doctor” to help with the training of pharmaceutical sales representatives.

“Training students to carry out one-to-one interviews is very resource-intensive as you need to get people to role play the part of a patient or doctor. Using the Virtual Patient allows us to explore the full patient consultation and to let the student learn from mistakes in a safe environment that would not be possible in real life,”

Professor Stephen Chapman, Head of the School of Pharmacy

Keele awarded prestigious Queen’s Anniversary Prize

Keele has been awarded a prestigious Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, in recognition of the work of its internationally renowned Primary Care Sciences Research Centre, home to the Arthritis Research UK National Primary Care Centre. The Centre studies the causes and effects of chronic pain (especially back pain and arthritis) and aims to develop treatments which help people to reduce the severity and impact of pain in their daily lives.

Since the Centre was founded in 1996 between academic departments at Keele and local NHS partners, it has attracted funding support totalling £27 million from major UK research bodies; created a general practice network of 30 participating practices; established long-term studies of pain, involving more than 50,000 patients; recruited 3,419 participants into nine trials, comparing common treatments and prevention programmes for chronic pain in primary care and established a multi-disciplinary staff of 106 dedicated to the support of primary care research into chronic pain.

Peter Croft, Professor of Primary Care Epidemiology and Director of the Centre, said: “The Centre was pleased to represent the University in applying for the Queen’s Anniversary Award, and we are delighted to have been awarded the prize. This is a tremendous achievement and gives recognition to the high standard of research undertaken in the Centre, to the dedication and hard work of all our staff, and to the local health professionals, patients and members of the public who support our research.”
Report of the Dean

It was a great privilege for me to take up the role of Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences in April 2009, and to join the largest and most diverse of Keele’s three Faculties. As I have come to know colleagues in the Faculty’s six Schools and four Research Institutes, and to learn about their work and that of our undergraduate and postgraduate students, I have been hugely impressed by the Faculty’s strength in depth and breadth. A brief report gives room for only selected highlights of a busy year, one in which new degree programmes were launched, collaborations were developed, research and enterprise activity flourished, and the Faculty’s work continued to receive positive external recognition.

The beginning of the new academic year saw the inauguration of a new structure for undergraduate programmes; early indications are that the increased choice and flexibility that it offers (including the possibility of studying a foreign language) are being welcomed by students. Intensive work has been undertaken, and continues, on a range of new postgraduate programmes; those beginning in 2009 include the MA in Creative Writing in the School of Humanities, and the MA in Creative and Critical Practice, with associated seminar series, in the School of Public Policy and Professional Practice (PPP).

PPP’s undergraduate and postgraduate Social Work programmes underwent five-yearly review by the regulating body, the General Social Care Council; both were unconditionally re-approved, with commendation for the excellent quality of the submission. Teaching excellence was also recognised when a Keele award for learning and teaching went to Sherilyn MacGregor (School of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy), while Jonathan Parker, of the same School, was one of fifty recipients of prestigious Higher Education Academy National Teaching Fellowships.

Student employability and career-planning were high on the agenda for all Schools, notably Law, where Judge Alistair McCreath, an alumnus, spoke in March about the current challenges and opportunities facing the bar, and Andrea Knight, a partner with Knights LLP and also an alumna, contributed in October to a roundtable discussion designed to help first-years start thinking about their careers. Another high-profile returnee, in November, was Keele graduate Michael Mansfield QC, who before delivering a public lecture held a question-and-answer session with Law School students.

The international opportunities increasingly open to Keele students were exemplified when at the beginning of the year students on the MA in Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice (Law/SPIRE) visited TISS in Mumbai. In July, undergraduates taking English and Justice (LPJ) are featured elsewhere in this Annual Review. But there are other noteworthy examples of the wide-ranging, multidisciplinary research conducted in the Faculty, not least three ESRC awards for seminar series: ‘The Impact of Migrant Workers on the Functioning of Labour Markets and Industrial Relations’ (Public Policy and Management); ‘The Socio-Politics of Biosecurity’ (LPJ); and ‘Regenerating English Medium-Sized Post Industrial Cities’ (LCS and LPJ). Two HUM members, Dr Lucy Munro and Professor Charles Townshend FBA, were awarded highly-competitive Leverhulme fellowships for research on early-modern drama and Irish history respectively. Research achievement across the career spectrum was rewarded: Dr Helen Wells (Centre for Criminological Research, LPJ) received the British Society of Criminology’s Brian Williams Prize for the best article in a refereed journal by a ‘career-young’ criminologist, while Dr Richard Luther (LPJ), Convenor of the Keele European Parties Research Unit (KEPRU), was awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art for his contributions to the study of Austrian politics.

Further international collaboration came in the form of an agreement allowing students from Singapore Polytechnic University (SPU) to join the second year of the Music-Music Technology programme, with a number of Keele students visiting SPU for six weeks under a Prime Minister’s Initiative scheme.

Collaboration was also the watchword as the Faculty’s first Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) was launched in April. Together with the School of Computing and Mathematics, the School of Economic and Management Studies (SEMS) set about helping KMF, based in Newcastle-under-Lyme and one of the UK’s leading sheet metal fabricators, with an annual turnover in excess of £21.5m, to develop and embed a sophisticated shopfloor data capture system. In September SEMS was reborn as the Keele Management School, which got off to an excellent start with outstanding recruitment to its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Two major research projects based in the Research Institutes of Humanities (HUM), Life Course Studies (LCS) and Law, Politics and Justice (LPJ) are featured elsewhere in this Annual Review. But there are other noteworthy examples of the wide-ranging, multidisciplinary research conducted in the Faculty, not least three ESRC awards for seminar series: ‘The Impact of Migrant Workers on the Functioning of Labour Markets and Industrial Relations’ (Public Policy and Management); ‘The Socio-Politics of Biosecurity’ (LPJ); and ‘Regenerating English Medium-Sized Post Industrial Cities’ (LCS and LPJ). Two HUM members, Dr Lucy Munro and Professor Charles Townshend FBA, were awarded highly-competitive Leverhulme fellowships for research on early-modern drama and Irish history respectively. Research achievement across the career spectrum was rewarded: Dr Helen Wells (Centre for Criminological Research, LPJ) received the British Society of Criminology’s Brian Williams Prize for the best article in a refereed journal by a ‘career-young’ criminologist, while Dr Richard Luther (LPJ), Convenor of the Keele European Parties Research Unit (KEPRU), was awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art for his contributions to the study of Austrian politics.
Unique Project Throws the Spotlight on Ageing

A unique study is set to throw the spotlight on how ageing has been portrayed on stage and will lead to a new social documentary performance and exhibition.

Researchers from Keele have teamed up with the New Vic Theatre Education Department, the Victoria Theatre Archive and older people living in North Staffordshire to explore the role of theatre in local life and how it has presented key issues that have touched the area.

The project, entitled ‘Ages and Stages: The Place of Theatre in Representations and Recollections of Ageing’, is funded by the national New Dynamics of Ageing (NDA) Programme, a multi-research council initiative with the ultimate aim of improving the quality of life of older people.

The interdisciplinary research team is led by Professor Miriam Bernard of the Centre for Social Gerontology at Keele. They will examine historical representations of ageing through detailed literary and cultural analyses of materials held in the Victoria Theatre Archive and focus on recollections and contemporary representations of ageing through qualitative interview work with four groups of people who are now old and were: sources for the Vic’s ground-breaking social documentaries, such as the ‘Fight For Shelton Bar’ and ‘Nice Girls’; volunteers with the theatre; audience members throughout their lives; or actors and others who made their lives in the area and continue to be part of the local community.

Materials gathered will then be used to work with the Youth Theatre and older people to create a new social documentary about ageing and intergenerational relationships and an exhibition.

Citizenship Tests “Reinforce ‘Us and Them’ Atmosphere”

Citizenship tests and ceremonies fail to increase shared values and build common bonds among newcomers to Britain, researchers at Keele have found.

Dr Sherilyn MacGregor and Professor Andrew Dobson, Research Institute for Law, Politics and Justice, with doctoral candidate Gavin Bailey, conducted a pilot study funded by the British Academy to investigate the citizenship test and ceremony that have been in place in the UK since 2004.

Using Stoke-on-Trent as a local case study, they conducted interviews and focus groups with key people involved in all aspects of the process.

Throughout the project, Dr MacGregor, who emigrated from Canada in 2004, went through the citizenship process herself and a blog of her experiences forms part of the data on which the research draws.

The general conclusion of the study is that the process is failing to create ‘British citizens’ with the ‘shared values’ that the Government claims will enable greater social cohesion.

Dr MacGregor says: “We found, and I have personally found, that the process is exclusionary: it serves to reinforce an “us and them” atmosphere rather than creating a climate where citizenship can flourish.”

Degrees and diplomas are awarded to 420 postgraduate, undergraduate and nursing students at graduation ceremonies in the University Chapel. Television and film director, Ken Loach, is awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters in recognition of his outstanding contribution to film.

An antique Delft earthenware plate, made in about 1750, is presented to the University to mark the 10th anniversary of a collaborative relationship between the Instituut voor Management & Bedrijfskunde, Amstelveen in the Netherlands and Keele.

Keele Conferences win gold awards in the Best Value for Money Conference Venue and Best Conference and Banqueting Staff categories at the annual Meetings And Incentive Travel Awards. The team also wins silver in the Best Academic Venue category.
Faculty of Natural Sciences

Report of the Dean

Walk into the area of campus dominated by the Faculty of Natural Sciences, and you are immediately struck by the massive improvements in the buildings, especially by the Dorothy Hodgkin refurbishment and nearby Hornbeam Building. Internal improvements have been important too (affecting Geology and Psychology), and more is planned in 2010.

But the centrepiece has to be the new MULTI-lab – as far as we are aware, the only BREEAM excellent wet lab, with state-of-the-art sustainability features. The Faculty was really saddened that Allan Darlington, whose enthusiasm and skill had helped guide the project forward, died only a few months after its completion.

However, the environmental theme leads into the other major development in 2009 – the winning of a £3.4m HEFCE grant to establish a ‘Sustainability Hub’, which will be a resource and teaching centre to be established through the renovation of Home Farm. Whilst the Hub Building is work only just in progress, another refurbishment/extension was completed when the Observatory upgrade was finished; it features an enlarged lecture theatre and enhanced observing capabilities, and was officially opened by the Astronomer Royal, Lord Rees. Three other Faculty-wide achievements are worthy of special mention – firstly the renewal of Athena Swan Bronze status to the University for its work with ‘Women in Science’ and, most impressively, the award of Silver status to the School of Life Sciences. On the teaching side, Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics won a joint bid to HEFCE for 100 additional undergraduate students, against fierce national competition, in recognition of the quality of their graduates in these high priority areas. And returning to the environmental theme, ‘Project Green’ is another HEFCE project won by the Keele team, to train 140 graduates in sustainability for business, through a short course linked to an internship.

Research successes in the Faculty are too numerous to list, but a major achievement for EPSAM is its high rating in RAE2008, announced in 2009, and which identified 85% of the wide-ranging research as internationally important. With research income up by an amazing 43% on the previous year, and a bumper intake of 22 new PhD students, the RI is going from strength to strength. To pick out two highlights – Michael Montenari has achieved one of the highest accolades in the field of evolution and biodiversity by being elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, for his ‘Deep-Life Hypothesis’ research. And the WASP team has continued to discover extraordinary news-making planets, especially the fact that WASP-17 orbits its star in the opposite direction to the star’s rotation.

Switching specifically to the Schools, the success of Life Sciences’ programmes in Biomedical Sciences continues apace, with re-accreditation from the IBMS and approval from the HPC – don’t worry about the acronyms, it simply means they rank as among the best such courses in the UK. The £3m EU Marie Curie project called NEMO (reported last year) is flourishing; and it was great that the leader of that programme, Dave Hoole, was promoted to Chair of Fish Diseases.

In Physical and Geographical Sciences, the environmental theme has seen the first intake to the Environment & Sustainability BSc degree, as well as a new MSc in Environmental Sustainability & Green Technology. Geographer Rich Waller was one of the four ‘Keele Learning & Teaching Excellence Award’ winners this year, and the School now boasts six such award holders, which probably explains their continued high performance in the National Student Survey. Finally, at professorial level, it is a delight to welcome Clare Holdsworth (Social Geography), and to congratulate Coel Hellier on his promotion to a Chair in Astrophysics.

In Psychology, BACP approval of the MSc in Counselling Psychology was important recognition of the quality of that programme, whilst Keele’s position on the national stage was underpinned by the hosting of three national conferences over the summer. However, Psychology staff obviously crave the limelight! Emee Estacio featured on Phillipine radio, John Wearden headlined in New Scientist and in the French Science & Vie as well as BBC on-line, for his work on time perception, and Richard Stephens kept getting in the news for his work on the benefits of swearing! And as if that is not enough the School has set up its own Twitter and Facebook accounts.

In Computing and Mathematics, a joint team of 2nd and 3rd year students from the BSc in Information Technology Management for Business have been crowned champions in a student debating competition run by e-skills UK. And another student, Sam Williams, studying Computing & Neuroscience, has won a prestigious HSBC Student Bursary Award. Meanwhile, mathematics is proving ever more popular at Keele – having come 6th in the Times League Table, it has seen applications rise almost fourfold in two years. Support for teaching has come from the innovative secondment of Richard Collins from Stoke-on-Trent 6th Form College, providing a superb school-university link.

So 2009 has seen major successes in all areas of the Faculty, from new buildings to bizarre planets; from national awards for students to blossoming research. But many of the achievements should be precursors for greater successes in 2010, which promises to be both challenging and exciting.
Astrophysicists at Keele have been at the forefront of planet discovery since the formation of the SuperWASP team, the UK collaboration that has so far detected 18 planets in orbit around stars other than the Sun (extrasolar planets or exoplanets).

The SuperWASP team has been so successful that it was awarded The Royal Astronomical Society’s Group Achievement Award for Astronomy for their outstanding contribution to astronomy.

SuperWASP is a consortium of eight academic institutions: Keele, the University of Cambridge, the IAC, the Isaac Newton Group of telescopes, the University of Leicester, the Open University, Queen’s University Belfast and St Andrews University. It uses two clusters of eight cameras, one on La Palma and one in South Africa, watching for characteristic dips in the brightness of stars as planets pass in front of them. Despite their modest resources, the team has made a world-class contribution to exoplanet science.

Among the discoveries by Keele scientists in 2009 which hit the headlines around the world was WASP-18, a planet so heavy (10 times the mass of Jupiter) and so close to its host star (having an orbit only two per cent of Earth’s orbital radius) that it is expected to destroy itself within a million years, an exceptionally short timescale compared to stellar evolution.

The Keele team also found WASP-17 - the first planet to be found orbiting the wrong way around its host star.

The mysterious Voynich Manuscript has defied interpretation since its rediscovery in 1912. Dating from around the 1400s, its 240 pages contain bizarre illustrations and text in a unique script. Its textual structure is so strange that it is unlikely to be in any human language and so linguistically complex that a hoax seemed impossible. The only remaining solution appeared to be an unknown code, but in the ninety years following its discovery, it remained undeciphered.

In 2004, Keele computer scientist Dr Gordon Rugg demonstrated how the manuscript could contain only meaningless gibberish, produced as a hoax using ancient technologies. This finding received international attention but did not show whether the manuscript contained only meaningless gibberish. That question is answered in a new television documentary due to be screened in spring 2010. New tests reveal that there were no corrections to the text in the multiple pages they examined. This almost certainly shows that the manuscript contains only meaningless gibberish – codes depend on error-free text and no scribe could produce so much text without any errors. A paper by Austrian researcher Dr Andreas Schinner independently concludes on statistical grounds that the manuscript was probably produced using the method described by Dr Rugg.

An impressive new state of the art chemical sciences laboratory suite adjoining the Lennard-Jones Building has been built to accommodate the very substantially increased numbers of students studying chemical sciences and pharmacy at Keele. It complements existing new and recently refurbished chemical, forensic and analytical science laboratories in the Lennard-Jones Building. In addition to a large main laboratory, which can accommodate in excess of 80 students, the facility encompasses a separate analytical laboratory equipped with a full range of analytical and spectroscopic equipment, allowing undergraduates hands-on experience of modern spectrometers from the outset of their undergraduate studies. The laboratory is a genuine multi-user facility for undergraduates studying chemical sciences. The principal users are Chemistry and Pharmacy students, but the facility is also used by Forensic Science, Environmental Science and Geoscience students, Foundation Year students taking chemistry modules, and trainee teachers taking the Chemistry Enhancement Course.

New Chemical Sciences Laboratory

Former Secretary of State for International Development, Clare Short, MP, tells a large audience in the Westminster Theatre that concern for aid and development should not be an ‘optional extra’ but an integral part of UK foreign policy.


The School of Medicine, in association with the Royal Society of Medicine, hosts a Medicine Careers Day, entitled “So You Want To Be A Doctor?”, for 250 15 and 16-year-olds who want to find out more about becoming a doctor.

Mysterious Manuscript

A Hoax

The School of Medicine, in association with the Royal Society of Medicine, hosts a Medicine Careers Day, entitled “So You Want To Be A Doctor?”, for 250 15 and 16-year-olds who want to find out more about becoming a doctor.
Research and Enterprise Services (RES) continues to support external organisations and Keele academics in setting up collaborations across a wide variety of activity. Research income and enterprise activity continue to increase. Both are testament to the importance of work being undertaken at Keele and ever-increasing engagement with the users of our academic outputs. This is reflected in the growing emphasis given to employer engagement, optimising partnerships between Keele’s taught courses and external partners across the private, public and charity sectors.

At the interface of research and enterprise, RES has funded three SEA-Change Fellows (Senior Enterprise Academics) to develop major collaborative bids in the fields of Environment and Sustainability; Ageing and Regeneration.

Keele was awarded £434,800 from HEFCE’s Economic Challenge Investment Fund, as part of an £880,000 project to assist unemployed graduates back into work. Our scheme, Project Green, reskills graduates by providing training in environmental business management in conjunction with a placement in an external organisation, working on a business-related environmental project. Seventy graduates were recruited to the scheme and placed with organisations across North Staffordshire and the Midlands. The scheme’s success means we are looking to extend it to other sectors including medical technologies, ceramics, professional services and digital industries.

Record research grant income

Keele’s research grant income hit a record £11.02million during 2008/09 – an increase of 24%. It is the first time that the University’s grant income has reached double figures in millions and compares with £8.9million in 2007/08.

Income from the prestigious research councils increased by 21% and now represents one third of the total grant income, while money from industry and commerce increased by 29% and funding from the EU was up by 27%.

Graduate School Research Symposium

The Graduate School organised its 4th annual Research Symposium, with more than 80 research students presenting their research and nearly 200 attendees.

Invited speakers were Professor Pat Bailey, Dean of Natural Sciences, who discussed ‘the magic and mystery of research’, and Professor Barbara Kelly who, with acclaimed pianist Michael Bell and soloist Karen Radcliffe, gave insights into her research on Ravel.

First prize went to Julie Melville (LCS). The four runners up were John Butcher (EPSAM), Ryad Soobhany (EPSAM), Hannah Moore (STM), and Elizabeth Maddock (EPSAM), who also won the competition to design the Symposium programme cover. The winners went on to represent Keele at the Vitae Midlands Hub regional final at Nottingham University.

Research Successes

An interdisciplinary research team led by Professor Mim Bernard, Centre for Social Gerontology, is one of only 12 projects to secure funding from ESRC, EPSRC, BBSRC and AHRC, under the final phase of the ‘New Dynamics of Ageing’ Programme. Developed in collaboration with the New Vic Theatre. The award of £372,513, with a linked studentship of £51,510, is for a project titled ‘Ages and Stages: The Place of Theatre in Representations and Recollections of Ageing’.

Professor Shaughn O’Brien, Research Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine, and his team were awarded £400,000 by Bayer Schering Pharma to carry out a study to validate a new version of the Menstrual Pictogram.

Social Enterprise Wins Bizcom 2009

Thirty guests watched enterprising students receive prizes for their business ideas at the BizCOM 2009 awards ceremony.

Jess Bell, 1st Year Music and Music Technology, was awarded the £1,000 first prize for her business idea, OCE Music, a not for profit, music events company, which aims to provide young musicians and technicians with experience in the music industry. Jess was awarded a place, worth £4,200, on the SPEEDWM business start up programme.

The £500 second prize went to Kash Bane, 3rd Year Law and Forensic Science student, with his company Feathersteps Limited, which will supply Latin American and ballroom dance shoes into the UK market. The £250 third prize went to Josh Tedd, a final year student of Forensic Science and Computing, for his virtual world software, 3Life Virtual Environments.
Enterprise Activities

More than £1.9m additional consultancy income was generated in 2009, with 29% of these contracts coming from within the West Midlands and nearly half were with SMEs. Licensing income was £654k and Keele spinouts generated a turnover in excess of £300k and are seeking investment opportunities in excess of £2m. Collaborative research income exceeds £1.5m with 14% of these contracts coming from the West Midlands.

RES is supporting four new Medici Fellows across all faculties who will be involved in a range of enterprise-based projects, including marketing plans for delivery of services, commercialisation of Life Science technologies and exploration of interdisciplinary collaboration in new, overarching areas.

RES supported over £66k on innovation Keele (iK) seed-corn funded projects and has invested £300k since 2007 on 22 projects. The Fund has supported nanoTherics Ltd, increased CPD and CE courses and assisted in leveraging over £600k in additional research and investment funding to Keele.

Keele was also successful in securing four applications for the Advantage Proof of Concept fund totalling £160k. Three were in the Faculty of Health and one in the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

Significant studentships were awarded to Professor Mim Bernard and Dr Emma Head, Research Institute for Life Course Studies, who are collaborating with Manchester City Council and the Beth Johnson Foundation on a Research Studentship, which is examining Manchester’s innovative approach to intergenerational practice across the city.

Another was awarded to Dr. Ka-Wai Wan, Faculty of Health, for research around drug delivery and decontamination of the skin, using polymers/dendrimers as permeation enhancers or percutaneous drug carriers, in collaboration with Professor Jon Heylings, of Science Park-based DTL Limited. Two prestigious studentships were awarded to Professor Graham Williams and Dr Stuart Egan, Faculty of Natural Sciences, in collaboration with the British Geological Society, on modelling variations and linkages in thrust geometry systems using 3-D modelling to compare the geological, geodynamic and rheological evolution of the Rockall Basin.

To increase the number of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships in the West Midlands, the Technology Strategy Board and Advantage West Midlands are funding a £24.3m regional programme. Before 2013, Keele KTP’s are anticipated to bring in an income of over £1m.

Student Enterprise

Record number of Keele entrepreneurs start their own business!

Thirteen young entrepreneurs started a 42 week SPEEDWm business training programme, which gives them a comprehensive support package, which includes 50 hours of business training, grants of £3,000 to £7,000, access to expert mentors plus a business address and hot desk office space in the Stepping Stone incubation unit on the Science and Business Park.

Six of the entrepreneurs are undergraduates whose businesses include the export of automotive accessories, online property services, a personal delivery service, a photography business and a social enterprise to help unknown young musicians and technicians showcase their talents.

There are also four postgraduates on the programme with businesses which include EFT therapy, training and consultancy services and customised jewellery. There are also two alumni, Kash Bane, who is selling imported dance shoes, and Bret Shah, who is offering private literacy tutoring services. They are joined by a member of staff, Gurpreet Grewal-Kang from Research and Enterprise Services, who is setting up a niche catering company.
Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning

2009 has been a reflective year for widening participation at Keele in the light of the publication of many government documents in relation to widening participation issues and policy. The widening participation strategic assessment provided Keele with an opportunity to review and develop its strategy, identifying a number of key drivers and foci, including continued pursuit of the embedding of widening participation across the University, improvements in tracking and data collation to provide quality evidence of impact and the exploration of retention, outcome and destination of Keele students from a widening participation background.

Keelelink

As a result of the reputation of the partnership and more opportunities being added to the partnership offering, membership has grown to 185 schools and colleges, including a number of primary schools. New offerings included the Keelelink Student Ambassadors in Schools project - KLASS, University: A User's Guide and Children's Conferences.

KLASS offers schools and colleges the opportunity to have sessions run in the classroom environment introducing learners to Higher Education, finance, post-16 options, careers and courses through a menu of activities for all year groups. The User’s Guide is aimed at KS5 learners who are applying to university and is designed to enable learners to interact with both academic staff and students, helping them to gain more of an understanding about the learning skills that are vital to success at university. Children’s Conferences are aimed at bringing KS3 students to cover a topic in-depth, complementing the National Curriculum. This year we held five conferences; National Holocaust Memorial, Children’s Rights and Responsibilities, Darwin 200, Anne Frank 80 and Sustainable Energy.

University-based events welcomed over 3,000 learners to campus, e-mentoring is growing in popularity with Schools now working with more than 250 pupils across the UK and providing them with an online student mentor. The student associate scheme saw over 120 students undertake 15 days experience in a school and there were successful Keelelink competitions in English, Mathematics, Science and History.

Aimhigher

As a programme delivered by Keele for Aimhigher Stoke and Staffordshire, 2009 saw the first full year of the new expanded project portfolio, designed to support outcomes and expectations of the Aimhigher Strategy for 2008-2011. The new ambassador project offered a comprehensive menu of activity to schools and the new mentoring programme saw Keele’s expertise in e-mentoring being offered to support the Aimhigher learner progression framework. During the year our award winning Parent Ambassadors spoke to parents and pupils at 22 events at 12 schools, as well as Aimhigher Project Manager, Deena Sandom, talking about the project at several national events. Finally the Aimhigher Staff Development project rolled out an updated ‘Stepping Stones’ CD-Rom providing a high quality resource that is used to benefit the project and the professionals it serves.

Lifelong Learning Network

With the approach of the LLN’s conclusion in December 2010, Keele has played a major role as a principal institution to ensure sustainability of projects beyond the end of the network. Working with the progression operational group, Keele has now signed off a number of agreements continuing to promote the progression of vocational learners.

The University has continued to lead the operational group of IAG and Student Support which merged with the Progression group in July. Keele has continued to show an increase in activity from this newly merged group. The success of bids put to the group has led to a number of research projects run centrally from Keele by academic schools and directorates.


Dr Nigel Cassidy, Research Institute for the Environment, Physical Sciences and Applied Mathematics and the School of Physical and Geographical Sciences, is awarded the 2009 Ludger Mintrop Award from the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers for the best paper published in the Association’s international “Near Surface Geophysics” Journal.

Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, MP, visits Keele for a question and answer session with students.

Judge Roger Dutton, a circuit judge in Cheshire, puts controversial new sentencing guidelines and overcrowding in prisons under the spotlight in a lecture titled “Sentencing by judges or sentencing by numbers”.

May 2009

Annual Review Keele University 2009
International Highlights

Keele University International Study Centre Opens

The Keele University International Study Centre, a joint partnership between leading international education provider Study Group and Keele, opened in 2009. The Centre is the first of its kind in the region and offers international students the opportunity to prepare for degree and masters studies in Business and Management, Computing and International Relations and Politics at Keele.

The students are based at Keele and benefit from all on-campus facilities, within a supportive environment. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Rama Thirunamachandran, pictured with Nick Rhodes, Strategic Development Director of Study Group UK, unveiled a plaque to mark the official opening of the centre.

New links in Asia

Keele has signed student exchange agreements with Hong Kong Baptist University and Korea University in Seoul to complement the Study Abroad agreement with Dongguk University, Seoul. A fourth PMI2 bid, enabling Media, Communications and Culture as well as English Literature students interested in Film Studies to spend a month at Dongguk University, saw seven students spend July learning about new Korean film, learning the practical process of making a film and experiencing a Buddhist retreat.

Overseas Study Visit

Study Abroad Manager, Dr Erica Arthur, was awarded £2,000 from the Prime Minister’s Initiative for International Education for an Overseas Study Visit to a number of Canadian and South Korean universities. The scheme aims to identify relevant aspects of policy and best practice at institutions in key competitor countries with the objective of improving the quality of the international student experience in the UK. Erica presented her research findings at the BUTEX Symposium, Twenty-First Century Challenges for Study Abroad, enabling UK study abroad practitioners to develop their awareness of the practical, academic and cultural issues at stake in working with Korean students and partner universities.

She also took part in a staff exchange with Christine Sullivan, Student Mobility Coordinator at Deakin University, Melbourne, which allowed them to develop a greater awareness and understanding of international academic structures, processes and cultures and has enhanced the long-standing relationship between Keele and Deakin.

Ball State Criminology Programme

Fourteen criminology and criminal justice students, and two of their professors, from Ball State University, Indiana, spent a week at Keele attending lectures on policing, prisons, the probation service and the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. They also visited the Magistrates and Crown Courts in Stafford and Cheshire Police headquarters.

In return twelve first year Keele Criminology students spent a week at BSU. The students, accompanied by Dr Annette Kratz, Head of the Centre for International Exchange and Development, attended lectures on the legal and crime prevention system in the USA, interspersed with practical activities involving ride-alongs with the local police; watching a trial, from the selection of the jury to the judgment, job shadowing of probation officers and community correction officers and tours of Pendleton Correctional Facility, a high-security prison.

Cordoba

The English Language Unit and the Centre for International Exchange and Development welcomed a group of 33 staff from Cordoba University’s Faculty of Economics and Law for an English Communication Course focusing on academic English, in particular the language they would use at conferences or in ERASMUS teaching mobility activities.

Keele’s Estates team is shortlisted for a prestigious Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Award in the Outstanding Estates Initiative and commended for the infrastructure project on the new development site.

Keele is placed 42nd in the Times Good University 2010. In the subject tables Keele is placed 6th for Maths, 13th for Social Work, 13th for Social Policy, 17th for American Studies and 19th for Medicine.

Keele University jumps 41 places in the Green League 2009. Keele is awarded a 2:1, with excellent scores in environmental staff management and publicly available environmental policy and maximum points for Fairtrade Accreditation and the environmental impact of the Students’ Union.
Teaching Excellence

The National Teaching Fellowship Scheme celebrates individuals who make an outstanding impact on the student learning experience and provide a national focus for institutional teaching and learning excellence schemes.

Dr Jonathan Parker, a Senior Lecturer in Politics, was awarded a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy. He specialises in teaching introductory subjects and research methods to students in modules on American politics, mass media, public policy and student volunteering. His research speciality is in public policy and higher education. He received the Keele University Award for Excellence in Learning and Teaching in 2005.

Dr Parker has also been prominent in academic leadership at Keele. He co-authored Keele’s new learning and teaching strategy, assessment strategy and the new degree structure. He has pursued his interest in curriculum design and research methods beyond Keele. He is active in C-SAP, the politics subject centre of the Higher Education Academy, where he participates in the politics reference group and specialist groups on both e-learning and assessment.

He has been leading a project on the shape of the politics curriculum and its approach to assessment for C-SAP and the Political Studies Association.

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Keele Awards for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

The winners of the annual Keele Awards for Excellence in Learning and Teaching for 2008-09 were:

John Hegarty - a Senior Lecturer in Psychology. John’s teaching and learning interests are now in the area of ecopsychology (the study of our relationship with the natural world). He has always been very “applied” in his interests and has had clinical and research roles in cancer support, special needs, and psychotherapy. He likes to make his teaching real-world relevant and uses videos, case illustrations, simulations etc. to bring the “outside world” into the lecture hall.

Sherilyn MacGregor - a Lecturer in the School of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy (SPIRE). She is committed to bringing her research interest in citizenship into her teaching by, among other things, embedding the skills of critical thinking, argumentation and effective communication into her modules and supervision work. She won a Teaching Innovation Award to undertake a participatory evaluation of the module, a project that enabled students to feel included, and colleagues to engage, in collective conversations about teaching, assessment and feedback in SPIRE.

Mark Trueman - Senior Lecturer and Head of the School of Psychology. Mark particularly enjoys working with students who are developing their dissertation research at undergraduate and postgraduate level. He is actively involved in the quality assurance of UK degrees in psychology through his work with the British Psychological Society. Mark is currently engaged in collaborative research into social development, counselling and student learning.

Richard Waller - a Lecturer in Physical Geography and the Course Director for both Dual Honours and Single Honours Geography. Richard has examined ways in which remotely-sensed imagery can help geography students to visualise and interpret physical landscapes and has also investigated the barriers to student engagement with journal literature and the ways in which these can be overcome. This focus on enhancing teaching and learning was recognised by the award of an MA in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education in 2009.

Sam Creavin who achieved a Master’s degree at the same time as his undergraduate studies in Medicine - the first Keele student to achieve this. He performed particularly well academically, gaining “Best Overall Performance” in every progress test over four years, had work from his MPhil accepted for publication and presented at conferences nationally and internationally. Sam also contributed to Keele and the wider community in an extensive range of extracurricular activities.

Student of the Year

The prestigious Neil and Gina Smith Student of the Year Award was presented to:

Sam Creavin

Degrees are awarded to more than 1,900 undergraduate and post-graduate students at 13 ceremonies in the University Chapel. Honorary Degrees are conferred on David Cooney, James Hawley, Eric Hassall, CBE; Professor Sir Alex Markham and Dame Jo Williams, DBE.

Gathering to investigate musical topics as diverse as Debussy and Dream Theater, nationalism and noise music, compositional indeterminacy and political ideology, more than 150 delegates from 17 countries attend the Sixth International Conference on Music Since 1900.

Professor Dame Sally Davies, from the National Institute of Health Research announces that Primary Care Sciences (incorporating the Arthritis Research Campaign National Primary Care Centre) has been selected to join the prestigious NIHR National School for Primary Care Research.
new planets. Professor Marilyn Andrews was appointed as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Student Experience). Formerly Head of the School of Health and Rehabilitation, and also Director of Learning and Teaching for the Faculty of Health, she is a physiotherapist by background. She worked in clinical practice before moving into Physiotherapy education, and has been at Keele since this discipline moved into the University in 1994. She has played lead roles nationally in the oversight and redesign of Physiotherapy educational programmes. Professor Andrews has had leadership roles in chairing the University Learning and Teaching Committee and served as the Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health.

Kevin Mattinson, Head of Teacher Education at Keele, was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor (Community and Partnerships). He has led the initial teacher education programme since arriving at Keele in 2004 and over this period Keele has become recognised as being one of the leading high quality providers of teacher education in the UK.

He is widely used by other HEIs as an adviser on the Ofsted inspection process. At Keele he has been instrumental in the development of widening participation links into schools, and in supporting the West Midlands Science Learning Centre. He has recently been appointed a QAA Auditor and also sits on a number of national education bodies.

Keele scientists discover a new planet that orbits the wrong way around its host star. The planet, named WASP-17 and orbiting a star 1000 light years away, was found by Keele’s WASP-South search for new planets.

Professor Fiona Cownie, School of Law, is co-opted to the Council of the Academy of Social Sciences. The Academy of Social Sciences is composed of Learned Societies and individual Academicians.
CFM continues to focus on delivering excellent services and facilities for all students, staff and commercial customers. The Directorate is committed to enhancing the student experience at Keele, to contributing to the financial stability of the University and to improving the University’s profile. Our success is underpinned by a philosophy of continuous improvement, and a commitment to staff training and development.

Catering team successes

Keele’s catering team won a string of top awards during the year. At Hospitality 2009 at the NEC in Birmingham Lisa Collis, Deputy Executive Chef, was awarded gold and overall class winner for her Afternoon Tea. Chris Corbishley won silver in the Senior Chocolate Petit Fours Class and Danny Matthews was awarded the Best Hygiene and Safety Medal in the Live Cookery Competition.

The successes continued at the 16th annual TUCO (The University Caters Organisation) awards. Allan Jones, Keele Hall Head Chef, took gold for Chef of the Year, whilst Lisa Amison took silver in the TUCO / CUBO Food Service Skills Challenge 2009. A team of three, headed by Executive Chef, Peter Walters, took bronze in the British Universities Chefs’ Challenge.

Keele was proud to be named as the best in the county at the prestigious Taste of Staffordshire Master Chef and Young Chef of the Future Awards. Allan Jones won the Master Chef Award and Modern Apprentice, Luke Staton, was voted the best young chef 2009.

Investment in the training and development of staff

The Westminster Theatre was transformed into the studios of “This Morning with CFM” for the Directorate’s ‘Annual State of the Nation’ event which took the theme “Think Bigger”, as interviewees looked back at 2008 and gave a taste of what is in store for 2009. What excited the audience most was a special, pre-recorded goodwill message from the real-life presenters of “This Morning”, Phillip Schofield and Fern Britton – what a coup!

Olympic gold medalist Dame Kelly Holmes is guest speaker at the British Universities and Colleges Sport Conference attended by more than 300 delegates from universities and colleges across the UK.

More than 400 delegates attend the Society of Legal Scholars Centenary Conference. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dame Janet Finch, welcomes the Society, whose President is Professor Fiona Cowrie, School of Law.

The Centre for Successful Schools celebrates its 20th anniversary with a conference, ‘Promoting and Celebrating School Success’, attended by more than 100 representatives of educational institutions, leaders of schools and local authorities.

Keele’s School of Life Sciences receives the prestigious silver Athena SWAN award for excellence in recruiting and progressing women in science, engineering and technology. The University also receives a renewed bronze award, originally awarded in 2007 to the School of Physical and Geographical Sciences.

Celebrating Success

Awards were presented to more than 100 staff at a special “Celebrating Success” event, which brought together more than 300 members of staff from across the Directorate. The event also saw the launch of a new initiative called ‘Total Recognition’, a scheme devised by a group of CFM staff to recognise individuals and teams worthy of particular praise. Jenny Tucker, Director of CFM, pictured above, presented the awards, which included health and safety, NVQs, equality and diversity and management certificates. Secretary and Registrar Simon Morris, who paid tribute to CFM staff for their contribution to the success of the University, presented professional qualifications and industry awards. He also presented long service awards to Keith Inman, 25 years; Les Prestwood, 35 years, and Harry Swinney, 35 years.

Keele Conferences struck gold in the Best Value for Money Conference Venue and Best Conference and Banqueting Staff categories and also won silver in the Best Academic Venue category at the prestigious annual Meetings and Incentive Travel Awards, against tough competition. It was the 11th successive year that Keele’s commercial team had picked up a clutch of awards at the ceremony.

Third year electrical apprentice, Ashley Mollart (Estates) was named as one of the top apprentices in the country. He came 2nd in the JTL West Midlands Apprentice of the Year and was assessed in the top 20 of 10,000 apprentices across England and Wales.

Oscar-winning actor Sir Michael Caine was guest speaker at the British Universities and Colleges Sport Conference and also addressed Keele staff and students.

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The Student Experience

CFM seeks to enhance the student experience, from welcoming new students to making each graduation ceremony an enjoyable and memorable occasion. Positive changes introduced in 2009 included online accommodation applications for Freshers, which made the process quicker and easier for both students and staff. In addition, we introduced the ‘Living @ Keele’ video – an introduction to the staff who are available to help students during their stay at Keele, and in particular their first few weeks.

A new reporting system has been introduced to improve response times and tracking outstanding maintenance issues for the 3,200 bedrooms on campus. The accommodation team also introduced a new system for logging and tracking complaints from students who live in the halls. Oaks B block was refurbished during the summer and improvements include better lighting in the bedrooms and more kitchen storage space.

The winter graduation which took place in November in Keele Hall enabled more international students to attend. The change of location also gave a warm and friendly feel to this event. The summer graduation was centred on the Chapel and the Students’ Union. Graduates and their guests left with a positive, lasting impression of Keele which we aim to maintain and develop through our Alumni office.

Transforming the Campus

Keele’s Estates team was among those shortlisted for a prestigious Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Award. The awards recognise the business and management skills of professional staff from estates through finance to human resources in the higher education sector.

Keele was shortlisted in the Outstanding Estates Initiative and commended for the infrastructure project on the new development site. The submission set out the philosophy, approach, design and delivery of the onsite infrastructure for the expansion of the University and Science Park on the 70-acre site adjoining the existing campus. The development is a major driver of the project to become the ‘Ultimate Campus University for the 21st Century’ and the UK’s leading open, integrated intellectual community.

Work to restore the top lake to its former glory was completed, whilst preserving the original construction details of this historical site.

In other developments, a new 150-seat tiered lecture theatre was added to the Dorothy Hodgkin Building, while the exteriors of Hornbeam and the Dorothy Hodgkin benefited from new cladding, transforming the heart of the campus. The surrounding area was landscaped and new internal/external signage was introduced.

Keele continued to perform well in the arena of energy costs. The University’s procurement and energy management strategies and the continuing support of staff, students and Energy Champions across campus have combined to deliver an outstanding performance.

Commercial opportunities

Keele Hall’s new Ballroom re-opened in March, marking a new era for Keele Conferences and Events, by allowing for bigger and better events throughout the year. The team worked hard during the refurbishment to secure a number of large scale event bookings for up to 600 guests, which included the hugely successful Mayor’s Ball, Keele University Athletic Union Ball, Staffordshire County Council’s Tourism Conference, the University Hospital of North Staffordshire Awards Ceremony, Stoke-on-Trent College’s Awards Ceremony and the Donna Louise Trust 10th Anniversary Fundraiser.

Piranha Audio Visual, the Directorate’s external AV provider, played a key role at the three-day annual assembly of the Baptist Union of Scotland, in Glasgow.

Keele hosted the Solar Cup 2009 during April, a competition run on the same format as the World Cup, with qualifying groups and knock-out stages, involving matches between international and local teams, with players aged 10 – 15 years. The tournament, hosted by the Staffordshire Football Association, was celebrating its 16th year.

Health and Safety

The Department of Occupational Health and Safety appointed a new Head, Ian Williamson, and a Fire Advisor, Chris Bromley, following the retirements of the previous post holders in the summer.

The Department continues to pro-actively monitor and review health and safety performance across our sites, working particularly closely with the Commercial and Facilities Management Directorate. Monitoring of data shows that Keele continues to perform very well, with very few significant accidents and dangerous occurrences reported during 2009.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Rama Thirumamachandran, unveils a plaque at a special ceremony to mark the official opening of the Keele University International Study Centre.

Professor Thomas Scharf, Director of the Centre for Social Gerontology, is one of 64 leading social scientists to have the award of Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences conferred upon him in the latest round.

Dr Angus Dawson, Centre for Professional Ethics, School of Law / RI Law, Politics and Justice, is elected Vice-President of the International Association of Bioethics, the leading international organisation focused on bioethics.

David Willetts, MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, visits Keele for discussions with senior University representatives on the Science Park, sustainability on campus, teacher training and links with schools.

The annual assembly of the Baptist Union of Scotland in Glasgow.
Volunteering in 2009

The Annual Celebration event was attended by student volunteers, placement provider organisations, KUSU and University staff. Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Marilyn Andrews, presented 37 VE Awards to students in recognition of their volunteering experiences. Committee members of the student volunteer society, ActiVE, were awarded the prestigious Student Volunteering Gold Award for their achievements in and around Keele village and the VE Award for the Best Volunteer Placement Provider, as voted for by the volunteers, went to Staffordshire Women’s Aid.

A new and exciting partnership volunteer programme, Overseas Challenge 2009, was a great success. Working with Manchester Metropolitan University student volunteer project and the charity Volunteers for Educational Support and Learning (VESL), Overseas Challenge 2009 supported a group of Keele and MMU volunteers to travel to the northern rural province of Chiang Rai in Thailand to deliver English language skills as part of a four week summer school experience for primary school age children.

Volunteer placements, accommodation and in-country support were organised by VESL, who work alongside the Thai education department to ensure that projects are set up where they are most needed. VE @ Keele participation in Overseas Challenge endeavours to develop an educational, sustainable and long-term programme providing not just a cultural exchange and learning experience for Keele students, but also supports Thai communities in the region.

Keele Key Fund provided funds to help facilitate Overseas Challenge and support the VE Project Leader to accompany volunteers for the first two weeks of the programme. Volunteer training in preparation for Overseas Challenge included cultural awareness, teaching skills and teambuilding and was also supported by Dr Carol Gray (Director of Student Support, Keele School of Medicine), who provided essential first aid training, and Russell Clarke (English Tutor, Keele English Language Unit), who with his wife Jeab, gave an insight into Thai culture and language.

During National Student Volunteering Week community events included Afternoon Tea for local residents and a community Litter Pick.
The benefits of volunteering

Student Volunteering CSP modules continued to be popular with over 60 students signing up to take part. Student Volunteering modules not only enable first year students to positively represent Keele in the community, but can also complement studies and encourage a lifelong commitment to volunteering activity.

The following comments demonstrate some of the benefits students have found when volunteering through VE @ Keele:

“...loads of new friends and also contacts who will be helpful in my career in the future.”

“I’m really enjoying the volunteer placements. I think it’s a wonderful way to complete a CSP!”

“My experience volunteering has been a real eye-opener. Though hard work at times, the rewards in terms of skills and experiences make it worth it!”

VE @ Keele continues to offer choice and variety for students looking to develop their skills, have fun and really make a difference, whilst gaining key transferrable skills that could complement their studies and help to put them ahead of the game in the employment market.

ActiVE in the community

Following its reformation in 2008 the student society ActiVE organised community events such as themed coffee afternoons in Keele village hall, a tour of Keele and a barbecue at the Students’ Union. Feedback from villagers was very positive and it is hoped that ActiVE will continue in 2009-2010.

Teleheroes Smash Fund-Raising Targets

A team of 28 Keele student callers smashed all their targets in the 2009 Keele Autumn Telethon to raise more than £200,000.

Three weeks of intense calling, with over 1,000 calls completed, saw the telethon team raise the impressive sum of £191,000 for the Keele Key Fund. This is confidently expected to rise to over £200,000 when the final pledges are received and with government matched funding the figure will be well over a quarter of a million pounds. The callers topped the original £65,000 target after only two weeks but managed to maintain their enthusiasm right to the end of the campaign.

Fundraising Officer Robin Cross said: “This support from our Alumni will provide much needed help to students, clubs, societies and University schools.”

Team:Keele

A year of many highlights for Team:Keele. All of the clubs performed outstandingly within the BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) competition, resulting in a 72nd leader board standing.

Some of the biggest achievements came from men’s football 3rd team, netball 2nd team and women’s squash all gaining promotion. Playing brilliantly during the year they will have to match these performances to stay up.

An individual success from Amy Parker saw her take 4th place in the equestrian nationals supported by some great team performances through the year. In only her first year at Keele we are looking forward to her competing for us over the next few years and bringing future success.

The presentation ball, with guest speaker, Ian St John, was an enjoyable occasion with clubs and individuals picking up their well deserved awards. Chester Kwok, of the men’s fencing team, was awarded full colours for his international representation for Hong Kong.