Celebrating International Women’s Day at Keele

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SKILLS for work and life
As a graduate of Keele myself, I am immensely proud of the supportive and diverse community and culture that we have on our beautiful campus, which helps our students and staff to grow and develop, regardless of gender, race, disability or sexual orientation.

We join universities and organisations around the world this month in celebrating International Women’s Day, and this edition is packed with stories about women at Keele, whether they be members of staff, students or alumni, and highlights just a small number of the amazing things that they do here or have achieved in the wider world. I hope that you enjoy reading it as much as we did compiling it.

Dr Anne Loweth
Inspirational women

We asked our community to let us know who inspires them at Keele...

Claire Slater
Head of Student Support
"Claire is inspiring in many ways – I am, though, blown away so often by her desire and energy to help and support others".

Julie Best
Student Accommodation Manager
"Julie motivates our team no matter what is happening".

Margaret Hollins
Head of Business and Finance
"Within a year of joining Keele, I knew that she was my role model and I try every day to make her proud".

Lisa McWilliams
Head of Careers and Employability
"Lisa is everything a leader should be (in my opinion) – thoughtful, reflective, strategic, inspirational, compassionate, fair – she makes it look easy and I love working for her".

Dr Siobhan Holohan
Senior Lecturer in Sociology
"Siobhan is an inspirational teacher, mentor, leader and researcher who has guided me on the bumpy road of becoming an academic".

Professor Mihaela Kelemen
Director of the Community Animation and Social Innovation Centre (CASIC)
"Mihaela is an inspirational academic in many ways. Her work ethic is exceptional but despite being extremely busy she always finds time for colleagues and students, offering informal mentoring and putting people into contact with others in her extensive network. Professor Kelemen is immensely invested in the development of her junior female colleagues. She is also incredibly patient and kind and so understanding of issues faced by female academics".

Kerry Jones
Development Manager (Arts and Public Engagement)
"Kerry is multi-talented and does an excellent job. I admire her creativity and vision, her outstanding public engagement skills, and her quiet, calm style of leadership".

Jane Wilkinson
Student Support Administrator and Disability Adviser
"Jane is the heart and soul of Disability and Dyslexia Support at Keele and has been a constant source of support for students and colleagues".

Dr Tracy Lovatt
Deputy Director of Postgraduate Programmes
"She is energetic, a great communicator and very inspirational to many staff members and students".

Dr Lisa Dikomitis
Senior Lecturer in Sociology of Health
"Lisa works tirelessly to support her family and promote her career. Her obvious ambition and self-belief are accompanied by a warm, funny and optimistic nature. Her aura is infectious. Lisa makes those around her more confident and shared ventures more fun. Nothing is ever too much trouble and her ongoing commitment to a positive and progressive working environment is both admirable and successful. Lisa is the most enthusiastic and positive person I have met. Her passion for her work and drive to improve care for people across the globe is inspirational".

Professor Pauline Walsh
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
"Pauline must have overcome a number of barriers and faced many challenges throughout her career; she appears to have done this with humility and effort rather than single-mindedness and this makes her a true inspiration to me. It can be done".
Professor Marilyn Andrews
Emeritus Professor and former PVC
Education and Student Experience

"Having come from a health professions
background and many years of experience
in the NHS, Marilyn combined her professional
values with her ability to spot, foster and
courage talent among those around her,
bringing great humanity and exceptional
insight to her many roles."

Dr Helen Galbraith
Director of Student and Academic
Services, Academic Registrar,
and Secretary to Council

"Helen finds time to be supportive of others
in more junior positions and she is active,
together with colleagues in SAS, in working
towards continued improvement of diversity
within University governance."

Gill Kaminski
Security Receptionist

"Gill has worked at Keele for over 38 years
and she always responds positively to change,
takes everything in her stride, is cheerful
in difficult situations and always, always looks
after her customers in a friendly manner.
I always want Gill as part of my team – she is
a true professional and pleasure to work with."

Dr Sharon George
Lecturer and Course Director for
MSc Environmental Sustainability
and Green Technology

"Sharon’s passion for her subject is
courageous, and she is so generous when
sharing her knowledge with others. She goes
above and beyond to raise awareness of
environmental issues, and is a strong role
model for female scientists."

Dr Emma Surman
Senior Lecturer KMS

"Emma is one of the most inspiring women
I have ever worked with. She is an exemplary
colleague in terms of generosity of spirit,
work ethics and in terms of leadership ethos."

Dr Dimitra Blana
Research Fellow ISTM

"Dimtra has boundless energy and a positivity
that is hard to match. She is more than
comfortable crossing boundaries between
disciplines, methodologies and cultures in
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Professor Marie-Andrée Jacob
Professor of Law and Athena
SWAN Team Lead

"Marie is a true scholar, who lives and
breathes research. She is immensely
giving in her time and feedback."

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Dr Zoe Robinson
Director of Education for Sustainability

"Zoe has driven sustainability forward at
the university level, and, for many students,
is the face of ‘sustainability’ at Keele."

Sarah Lawton
Trials Manager

"Sarah is an amazing Trials Manager
who manages to juggle 100 roles whilst
working under significant pressure."

Máiréad Walsh
Programme Director for Counselling

"Despite her heavy workload, Máiréad’s door
is always open for both staff and students,
and she has a wealth of counselling
experience that she generously shares."

Dr Mariangela Palladino
Lecturer in English and Deputy
Programme Director, English and English
and American Literatures

"Mariangela is successful and hard-working
and powerful, and she uses her knowledge
and her power to help younger academics
to find their power."

Dr Sue Hunter
Director of Postgraduate Programmes
Allied Health Professionals Research
Network (AHPRN) Keele Hub Lead

"Nothing is ever impossible in Sue’s mind,
she drives things forwards and finds a way
to achieve what is required even when
significant barriers exist."

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Diane Mason
Undergraduate Programme
Administrator (SPIRE)

"Diane has achieved some great results as
a runner and her commitment, drive and
determination are inspirational. She began
running to keep fit and in 2014 completed her
first marathon. In 2016 Diane was diagnosed
with breast cancer. Following surgery and
radiotherapy she ran the London marathon
in 2017 within a time that is “good for age”
and this year Diane has set ambitious goals
to complete three more, raising funds for a
breast cancer charity. Go Di!"

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A springboard to success...

Keele offers a wide range of professional development programmes and workshops, including Springboard – an award winning personal development course for women.

Springboard is open to both academic and professional services staff, and comprises four full-day workshops over a three-month period. Collectively and individually, women work to reflect on their goals, develop their strengths, and learn and practice skills such as assertiveness and goal setting.

Keele’s Kirstie Dolphin recently discussed the programme with Dr Jackie Potter, who oversees the programme, and Cat Hallam, Learning Technology Officer for the Faculty Humanities and Social Sciences, who completed the course in 2015.

How to Book

For more information or to book onto the next course search Springboard on the Keele University website.
Jackie

How did you get involved in delivering Springboard at Keele?

When I was working at Trinity College Dublin I was asked to go and speak to a group of female researchers on Springboard about my career and my experiences in higher education. I found this really useful; it helped me reflect on my career and professional ambition and the events and choices that had shaped that. Three years later I started working at Keele and I introduced the course and made it open to any woman working in the University. In the past five years we have had nearly 100 women from Keele take part.

What is the course about?

The workshops are designed to ensure that the participants get to know and trust each other in order to help define their personal and professional goals, and work together to achieve them. Attendance at the workshops is only one part of the course. Groups of three participants meet between workshops to support each other using peer support and the principles of coaching. There is a workbook that the course participants also use to explore their values, define their goals and to develop the skills they need to achieve them. Topics covered by the course include assertiveness, projecting yourself in the workplace and reaching your goals.

Why do you think this course is a positive step for women who want to progress their career?

Springboard is a great course for people who want to take stock of where they are in their career, or their personal life, and make changes or achieve goals. The focus on assertiveness, finding your core values and setting goals leads to notable changes in the confidence and aspirations of participants. As they work towards their goals, with the support of their peers, their success drives their confidence and their ability to further succeed. Perhaps unsurprisingly, for many participants one outcome of the course is the desire to develop their professional profile further. Women who complete the Springboard course report being more confident in their own abilities and clearer about their ambitions and aspirations for both their work and home life.

Cat

How was your experience attending the course?

Springboard, unlike any other programme I had attended, well and truly surpassed my expectations both professionally and personally. The group of academics and professional services staff provided a supportive environment to discuss career aspirations, goal setting, navigating the challenges of work/family balance and offered pragmatic solutions. It’s one of the few programmes available that provided this holistic overview, a space to reflect on decisions made in the past that impacted on the present day and mapping out plans for the future.

How has the course benefited your career progression?

The course supplied a simple yet powerful tool, a Springboard workbook. The workbook offered opportunities to reflect on my ‘whys’ and areas that mattered most to me. By completing the programme, it was evident that I am particularly interested in the world of technology, past, present and future. At the time of taking the course, I worked in the School of Medicine in e-Learning and e-Assessments. When the position of Faculty Learning Technology Officer was advertised in September 2015, I immediately realised this area fell further in line with my core interests. I now work with six schools within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences primarily responsible for advocating the innovative use of learning technologies to enhance staff and student experiences. I also recognised that instead of being a passive bystander I can be a change catalyst for matters close to my heart, which has led to me pledging to raise money annually for causes related to education access, and I am now involved in the Athena SWAN, Race and Equality Charter, and Equality and Diversity initiatives. This year, I will be attending the Aurora Women’s Leadership programme which aims to address the under-representation of women in leadership positions in higher education.

Three years on from Springboard, I have received enormous support and encouragement. For me, the biggest take-home was the support available, mentorship, coaching and defining what matters to each individual, including a fantastic network of supportive women. It may sound clichéd, but Springboard truly was a springboard in my life and I would definitely recommend the programme!
Dorothy Hodgkin:
An Inspirational and Pioneering Scientist

Many members of staff at Keele pass through the doors or walk past the Dorothy Hodgkin Building every day, but who was Professor Dorothy Hodgkin?

Born Dorothy May Crowfoot in 1910, Dorothy was a British chemist known for a number of influential discoveries including developing protein crystallography and deciphering and confirming the structure of insulin, penicillin and vitamin B.

In 1964 Professor Hodgkin became the first and only British woman to win the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her determination by X-ray techniques of the structures of biologically important molecules. Her formula was the starting-point for the synthesis of chemically modified penicillins that have saved many lives, and she was regarded as a pioneer scientist in the field of X-ray crystallography studies of biomolecules.

Professor Hodgkin was born in Cairo but grew up in England and received a first-class honours degree in Chemistry from the University of Oxford. Professor Hodgkin completed her PhD at the University of Cambridge, and in 1936 she was appointed as Oxford’s first fellow and tutor in Chemistry, a post she held until 1977.

The Dorothy Hodgkin Building on the Keele campus was originally built to house the Department of Physics, and in 1988 when Professor Hodgkin gave a lecture at Keele the main lecture theatre in the building was named after her. In 2002 the building was fully refurbished and Professor Hodgkin’s eldest son and family visited Keele to unveil a plaque officially naming the entire Dorothy Hodgkin Building in honour of her.
Fact File

- Professor Hodgkin was only the third woman to achieve a distinction in Chemistry from the University of Oxford.

- She taught former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who installed a portrait of her in Downing Street in the 1980s – even though Professor Hodgkin was an open Labour supporter.

- In 1953 she was one of the first people to see the model of the double helix structure of DNA in Cambridge.

- When she won the Nobel Prize in 1964, she was by then a grandmother.
Managing Britain’s biggest campus

The Grounds Team at Keele manages the maintenance of the woods, lakes, sports fields and parkland on Keele’s 600-acre campus, which is one of the largest in Europe.

We caught up with Head of Grounds, Jane Barker, to find out more about what it’s like to be Head of Grounds at one of the largest campus universities.

What does a typical day look like for you?

My typical day usually involves site meetings to discuss plantings or landscaping on newly-built areas. I can go from chairing meetings to muddy walks in the woods checking our rhododendron for signs of infection. No two days are ever the same and that’s what makes my job so interesting! I work with amazing people in Estates and there’s always something to be involved with.

What kind of projects have you been working on recently?

Recently we worked with the Students’ Union to set up a group for students to help them cope with the pressures of revision and exams and this has proved popular – the students who have been involved helped to lay paths in the Memorial Garden and have planted trees. I previously worked in an acute mental health ward using horticulture as a therapy to help people with anxiety, depression and panic attacks.

It’s hoped that this will continue to grow in popularity as the students that took part reported that they really enjoyed themselves.
What has been the busiest day for you on campus so far?

The 10 days we had just before Christmas last year where it snowed every day – we were in from 5am to 5pm constantly. We got through about 80 tonnes of grit just to keep the campus open, but the thanks we got from people all over the University was brilliant – it really kept us all going!

Who inspires you?

The most inspirational person I’ve met at Keele has been Fiona Cownie; during my first years at Keele she was the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education and Student Experience and we met to discuss my plans for supporting and engaging with students – she was always so enthusiastic and full of good ideas and I looked forward to our meetings. Now she has gone back to teaching there are some very lucky law students who get her time.

Globally I am inspired by the writings of Maya Angelou, the American writer and poet – I always quote her lines – ‘People forget what you say, people forget what you do but people never forget how you make them feel’ – I think this is so true.
In January 2018, Becci was awarded an honorary degree by Keele University in recognition of her outstanding career in the fire service, her contribution to the safety of the people of Staffordshire, and for being an exceptional role model and a champion for diversity in all its forms.

I am very humbled to think that my contributions to the Fire Service and importantly the communities of this great County have been viewed as worthy of such recognition.

Becci Bryant
Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Becci Bryant is currently Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, and is the first woman in the UK to have achieved this prestigious position, after beginning her career as a firefighter.

Keele University
Winter Graduation 2018

In January Keele welcomed graduands and their families and friends to campus for a wonderful day of graduation ceremonies.

Take a look back at the Winter Graduation event on our official blog where you can read prizewinner stories and student interviews, along with pictures and videos on Facebook and Twitter. Official blog: blogs.keele.ac.uk

Sanctuary Scholarship student graduates from Keele University

Student Cynthia Ariana who received a full scholarship under the Article 26 asylum seeker project graduated from Keele University in January.

Article 26 supports asylum seekers and forced migrants who wish to attend higher education in the UK but are unable to access funding via traditional routes.

Cynthia, 22, originally from Kenya, applied to study Psychology with Sociology at Keele University in 2014 through Article 26 and was awarded a full three-year scholarship.

Cynthia said: “My time at Keele was amazing, despite everything that was going on at home the support I received at Keele helped me to focus on my education. I made great memories, and met some of my best friends.

“I was also introduced to many people in my situation which made me realise I was not the only one affected. I also received further support from Keele University’s Student Services team with my visa renewal and with a hardship fund award after facing a setback.”

Cynthia now lives in Essex and is working as part of an Adult Health Team within a local council, and plans on going back to university to undertake a postgraduate degree in developmental or educational psychology.

Speaking about her experience with Article 26, she said: “For me the process was very straightforward. I contacted Keele University to find out if there were any available places, and later went for my interview. Everyone was very friendly and understanding – for once I felt like someone wanted to help me. The interview was a way for the panel to understand my situation and the barriers I have faced accessing education and what I did to overcome them.

“For anyone thinking of applying I would advise them to go for it. It is an amazing and life-changing opportunity that has been set up by a very supportive team, that believe in your ability and they understand how hard it can be when facing a difficult situation.

“Everyone at Keele was very supportive in encouraging me to succeed in my education. If I had any immigration problems there was an advisor there to make the process easier too.”

For more information about Keele University’s work with the Article 26 project please visit www.keele.ac.uk/asylumseekers
The Conversation

As a member university of The Conversation, Keele academics and PhD students have the opportunity to contribute editorial-style articles for digital publication.

Conversation articles tend to be short, at around 700-words long, and can either be about topical issues or directly connected to research findings. As The Conversation is a not-for-profit charity operating with creative commons, these articles can subsequently be republished in national newspapers all over the world – in the past 12 months, Keele academics have written 75 articles, which have been read by almost 1.5 million people worldwide.

Dr Janet Hoole has written seven articles for The Conversation – making her Keele’s most published author on the platform. Here she shares her experiences of writing for the network:

“After I wrote my first article, I was contacted by BBC Radio to take part in an interview; I’ve now written seven articles and have done several radio interviews, and many of my articles have been picked up by newspapers – including the i newspaper and the New Zealand Herald. So my articles have had a lot of exposure all over the world, which is fantastic. I’d really recommend any academic or PhD student to consider writing for them – it’s been a great experience for me and created lots of opportunities.”

Dr Janet Hoole

Here’s a selection of some of the thought-provoking articles written by Keele women in the last 12 months.

1. What happens when you age – a scientist debunks popular myths about sex and brain power
   Dr Dana Rosenfeld
   People over the age of 65 make up a larger percentage of the global population than ever before. As this ageing of society only really took off in the last century, it’s unsurprising that much of what we think we know about ageing is untrue...

2. Ten ‘stealth microplastics’ to avoid if you want to save the oceans
   Dr Sharon George and Dr Deirdre McKay
   Theresa May’s new environment plan sets ambitious goals for plastic waste reduction. But there’s lots of room for slippage. One goal is to eradicate all “avoidable” plastic waste, though it’s not clear how “avoidable” will be defined...

3. Do cats purr when humans aren’t around?
   Dr Janet Hoole
   Why do cats purr? Humans tend to think that purring is a sign of happiness in a cat – and indeed it can be – but there are other reasons why our feline friends produce this particular vocalisation...

4. How does a country become a country?
   An expert explains
   Dr Rebecca Richards
   Within the space of a week last autumn, the people of Catalonia and Kurdistan were asked if they wanted to live in an independent country. If referendums result in declarations of independence, what happens next? It may seem straightforward, but it’s not that simple...

5. Come on, Mr Trump – you can’t claim credit for another president’s successes
   Dr Gabriella Legrenzi
   Since almost immediately after his inauguration as 45th president of the United States, Donald Trump has been claiming credit for what he sees as a miraculous recovery in the nation’s economy. Barely a day goes by without a tweet trumpeting a new jobs deal or the strength of the US stock market. But how much credit is actually due to his administration?
Melian Mansfield

Melian Mansfield (1965) is Chair of the Early Childhood Forum. After studying Maths and French at Keele, Melian went on to a career spanning all sectors of education, including early years, primary and secondary. Melian returned to Keele in 2017 to deliver a keynote speech at the launch of the Children and Young People’s Research Network.

Lynn Caroline Saunders

Lynn Caroline Saunders (1986) was awarded an OBE in the 2017 New Year Honours list for public and voluntary services to prisoners in the UK and abroad. After graduating from Keele she worked as a Probation Officer for five years before joining the Probation Service on the accelerated probation scheme. Lynn has worked for the Prison Service since 1992 becoming a Senior Manager in 1996 and has been a Governor in several prisons since 2000.

Ros Kerslake

Ros Kerslake (1979) is currently Chief Executive of the Heritage Lottery Fund. In 2006 Ros was appointed as first CEO of the Prince’s Regeneration Trust and over the next ten years established it as a leading heritage-led regeneration charity. In 2016 Ros was awarded an OBE for services to British heritage, and in 2017 Ros was awarded Doctor of the University, in recognition of her outstanding contribution as a strategic leader in philanthropy and local urban regeneration.

Denise King

Denise King (1988) is currently Chief Executive of Girlguiding Scotland. After initially embarking on a career as an accountant, Denise had a change of heart and began her career in Girlguiding at the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, before spending ten years as Chief Executive of Girlguiding UK. Since 2013, she has been Chief Executive of Girlguiding Scotland.

Manali Lukha

Manali Lukha (1997) is Head of ITV Weather. After developing a passion for meteorology whilst at Keele, Manali began her career at the Met Office as a software programmer, but after moving into the Met Office Media Team, she now manages ITV’s weather output (national and regional) across broadcast and online, and also appears on both local and national television news.

Morgan Davison

Morgan Davison (2009) was the first Keele in the USA Scholar, supported by a scholarship created by alumni in the USA. She graduated with an MA in Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice in 2011 and now works as the Director of Child & Club Safety at Boys & Girls Clubs of America. She has a long and impactful record of charitable and development work in Africa – often using sport to promote human rights and equality issues.
Leadership

Pro Vice-Chancellor of Education

Professor Helen O’Sullivan

Professor O’Sullivan started her new role in January and joins Keele from the University of Liverpool, where she was Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (Online Learning) and Professor of Medical Education.

“I am passionate about how higher education can change people’s lives and how we can provide that opportunity for as many students as possible. I’m looking forward to helping Keele push forward and differentiate on what we offer our students, and working on employability opportunities and civic volunteer engagements, so our students can learn a wide range of skills and thrive in a complex world.”

Read more about Professor O’Sullivan at keele.ac.uk/pvchelenosullivan

Pro Vice-Chancellor for Students

Dr Anne Loweth

Dr Loweth started her role in September 2017, taking on the strategic leadership of all aspects of student-related activities to promote and enhance the student experience at Keele, encompassing campus life, academic induction, transition and attainment as well as student support and wellbeing.

“I am really proud of Keele’s previous achievements in reaching high levels of student satisfaction and engagement, and I’m looking forward to working with our dedicated staff who go above and beyond to provide the best education and experience for our students. I am passionate about continuing and building on Keele’s supportive community, and helping our students develop to leave as highly skilled, employable graduates.”

Read more about Dr Loweth at keele.ac.uk/pvcanneeloweth

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean

Professor Pauline Walsh

Professor Walsh started her role in October 2017; her previous research focus has been around the student experience and in particular student attrition, belonging and retention and more recently has evolved into exploring the development of resilience within but with a particular focus on their resilience in managing challenging issues during clinical placement.

“I have always had a passion for research led practice and education and since moving to Keele I have been keen to develop the School of Nursing and Midwifery, and I will continue to do so in my wider role as PVC and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

“The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences provides excellent education and world-class research and I’m looking forward to seeing continued growth and development in all areas.”

Read more about Professor Walsh at keele.ac.uk/pvcpaulinewalsh

An introduction to our three female Pro Vice-Chancellors, who make up 50% of our PVC team.
Athena SWAN Charter

Since September 2005 Keele has been a Member of the Athena SWAN Charter, which recognises advancement of gender equality, representation, progression and success for all.

The University currently holds an institutional Athena SWAN Bronze award, two departmental Silver awards, and eight departmental Bronze awards, and we continue to strive towards higher levels of award recognition.

Professor Susan Bruce, Institutional Lead for Gender Equality and Co-Chair of Keele’s Athena SWAN Steering Group, comments:

“We’re committed to the principles of the Athena SWAN Charter and seek to foster equality and diversity across the institution, and at all levels within it. I’m particularly pleased that in the last few years we’ve seen a real step-change in engagement with the gender equality agenda. We have Athena SWAN champions in every eligible School, Research Institute and Directorate, and all either already have a departmental award, have applied for one, or have set a deadline for their award submission.

We’ve also seen the number of women in senior roles grow, with an increasing proportion of female Professors; we currently have 29% – which is higher than the sector average, but we want to increase this even more: our target is 35% by 2020. We also want to see an increase in female Senior Lecturers by then, to 50%.

One initiative that I have been particularly pleased to see progress has been additional support for academic women on maternity leave, and on their return to work.

It is important to recognise that Athena SWAN work, like so many aspects of the work that goes on at Keele, is a team-effort, which depends on the work of women at all levels throughout the University.

I’d like to thank everyone involved, of all and any gender, for their individual and collective efforts to advance the gender equality agenda here at Keele.”
Researchers to contribute to efforts to reduce mobile phone use by drivers

Criminologist Dr Helen Wells, and PhD student Leanne Savigar, have been awarded a grant from the Road Safety Trust, to review the range of innovations currently operating aimed at reducing mobile phone use by drivers.

The project started in January and coincided with the national police operation to stop drivers using their phones at the wheel. The study will encourage practitioners to engage with academic research to help them design and evaluate research-informed interventions.

Having a hand-held or hands-free mobile phone conversation while driving has been found to quadruple the likelihood of a driver being involved in an incident, according to the World Health Organisation. Dr Wells said: “The issue of mobile device use by drivers is one of the biggest challenges facing road safety at the present time. Although the use of handheld devices has been illegal since 2003, the pace of technology development is fast outstripping the ability of the law to keep pace, and of the road safety community to offer an effective way to tackle the problem.”

Ms Savigar said: “The recent increase in the fine and penalty points for mobile phone use while driving will have a limited deterrent effect if drivers perceive little risk of actually being caught and if, as research suggests, even some police officers are unsure as to what actually constitutes ‘use’ or even a ‘mobile phone’. For these reasons, it’s clear that attempts to reduce death and injury as a result of mobile phone use by drivers cannot focus solely on the law enforcement activities of the police, and that the sharing of knowledge between practitioners is vital if the intended outcomes are to be achieved.”

The project will produce its findings in a compendium of notable practice from across the road safety and roads policing communities, as well as presenting its findings at academic conferences and directly to practitioners to share best practice. Innovators in the field will be able to benefit from academic input into their own operations through ‘knowledge exchange consultations’ with the research team.

To follow the progress of the project via Twitter follow @MobileEngaged, or for more information visit the project website keele.ac.uk/mobileengaged
Dr Sarah Laurence has been awarded a £235,000 grant from the Economic and Social Research Council to explore how we recognise faces across substantial changes in appearance, which has implications in security and forensic work.

The three-year study, Recognition of the Ageing Face, will explore how memories allow people to remember familiar faces and determine why unfamiliar face recognition is particularly prone to error when the person has aged, such as proving one’s identity when renewing a passport or identifying a criminal from old CCTV footage.

Dr Laurence said: “The face can change dramatically in appearance as people age. This doesn’t seem to affect familiar, but it makes it difficult to decide whether or not two images are of the same unfamiliar person. My research will look at memory, perception and ageing by examining the different factors that affect a person’s ability to match an image with someone who is now older.”

The research will also assess how experts in security and police settings who have above-average face recognition abilities, known as “super-recognisers”, can match a photo of someone with a face that has changed with age.

Dr Laurence added: “Unfamiliar face matching is difficult, especially if the photo was taken a long time ago – for example, our passports can be up to ten-years old or even more, but super-recognisers at the UK Passport Office must match the person in front of them with that old passport photo. In my study I will test how super-recognisers can generalise photographs across age ranges and the findings could help establish recommendations for recruiting and training security and police personnel.”
Research round-up

Led by Dr Claire Fox, the Children and Young People’s Research Network brings together academics from Keele University’s School of Psychology with colleagues from Staffordshire University and partners from external organisations such as schools, businesses, and charities, to promote, coordinate, and support excellence in research with children and young people.

Projects cover issues including domestic abuse prevention, school-based approaches to mental health, bullying in schools, children’s creativity, safeguarding children, growth mindsets, literacy, and the benefits of reading with children.

Read more at keele.ac.uk/cyp

Led by Dr Yvonne Skipper, White Water Writers gives groups of young people the chance to collaboratively write and publish a full length novel in just one week. The students plan, write, proofread and publish the novel entirely on their own. The novels are professionally published, with an official book launch, and are available to buy on Amazon.

Dr Skipper recently secured additional funding from Higher Horizons+ to allow more groups of young people to participate in the project – which is based on psychological research and has a demonstrable positive impact on participants’ literacy and motivation.

Read more at whitewaterwriters.com

Dr Dana Rosenfeld
The Keele Centre for Ageing Research (KCAR)

The Keele Centre for Ageing Research (KCAR) is a university-wide, cross-faculty research centre drawing together researchers investigating ageing, various age groups, generations and intergenerational relations, and the life course from a variety of disciplines and perspectives.

KCAR has a large number of academic members from across the University, including its Director Dr Dana Rosenfeld. KCAR supports inter-disciplinary ageing research, conducted ethically and in partnership with affected groups and local, national, and international agencies; fosters opportunities for, supports, and enhances national and international ageing-related research collaboration and innovation, and produces excellent research that reflects the diversity, complexity, and richness of ageing as a life-long process, informs policy and practice, empowers members of all age groups, and benefits personal, family, and community life.

Read more at keele.ac.uk/kcar
Professor Clare Holdsworth has been awarded a £152,000 Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship to explore how people cope differently with being busy.

The three-year study, The Social Life of Busyness in an Age of De-acceleration, will explore the diversity of experiences of busyness, including individual differences in experiencing busyness as stressful or therapeutic. It will address the association between being busy and being productive and the extent to which busyness is an expression of time.

Professor Holdsworth will also explore how busyness shapes social relationships and experiences of work, family leisure and the intersections between these. The study will focus on how busyness hinders or promotes productivity, and whether it disrupts activity and creates wealth.

Professor Holdsworth said: “A contemporary dilemma for economists is that global productivity is slowing down. This is a challenge for conventional social acceleration theories which have been formulated during an era of economic growth, yet as the global economy de-accelerates the pace and character of social acceleration may also change. While we might be doing more, this activity does not necessarily translate into economic gain.

“A novel aspect of my proposed interrogation of busyness is that it will explore the association between activity and productivity, and while influenced by theories of social acceleration I will also consider how busyness is conditioned by economic de-acceleration. In directing attention to the social life of busyness I will evaluate how experiences of busyness, including whether being busy is stressful or therapeutic, is conditional on relationship with family, friends and work colleagues.”

Over the three years Professor Holdsworth will be writing a blog to explore the social dimension of busyness. The blog will draw on reviews and applications of ‘self-help’ books that are currently available on time management. She will carry out secondary and primary data analysis of how people at different stages of their life experience busyness. The research will be developed in collaboration with colleagues at Keele and further afield, including travelling to the University of Melbourne to collaborate with geographer Dr David Bissell.
Keele scientist to job swap with Oxford mathematician

Keele’s Professor Alicia El Haj has received a £195,000 ‘discipline-hopping’ award from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to spend a year exchanging places with the University of Oxford’s Professor Sarah Waters.

From February, Professor El Haj has joined Oxford’s Regenerative Medicine Group, which spans Maths, Computing and Biomedical Engineering, for two days a week. She is exploring how the practical application of mathematics in biomedical research can be used within her own research in regenerative medicine and remote control healing.

Professor El Haj, a Royal Society Research Fellow and a cell engineering professor, is researching how to heal the body by remote control. Her research explores how to steer and guide stem cells injected into the body to a specific location, and remotely activate them, from outside the body.

Mathematician Professor Waters investigates the use of maths in regenerative medicine for modelling, and will be meeting clinicians and tissue engineering teams at Keele to explore new interdisciplinary research areas.

The EPSRC first launched its discipline-hopping award last year with the aim of providing researchers with an opportunity to spend time in a different research or user environment, in order to better understand the need for and potential of research in engineering, physical sciences, mathematical sciences or ICT to have an impact in addressing health challenges.

Professor El Haj, founding director of ISTM, said: “I’m honoured to have been awarded this innovative EPSRC grant, and to be one of the first to take part in this new scheme. “This interdisciplinary collaboration will allow Keele University and the University of Oxford to build on our strong existing research links, and I’m excited to be working with Oxford’s Regenerative Medicine Group to further develop my research in regenerative medicine.”
Discover. Snap. Share. That’s exactly what many of our staff, students and visitors do as they walk around campus.

Here’s a selection of images shared on Instagram over the last few months.

#LoveKeele

Rukia Bi
Muslim Chaplain

Why do you love Keele?
Keele carries a serenity that is unlike any other. The scenic beauty helps you clear the mind and reflect positively. The environment of Keele is one that enhances the mood of all that are associated with it. Love:Keele.

What makes your role exciting?
The role of Muslim Chaplain is one that celebrates diversity and encourages inclusiveness. It allows me to empower students of faith and non faith backgrounds, to be the best version of themselves. Love, Mercy and Compassion

Sandra Gillham
IT Service Manager

Why do you love Keele?
The people. They really are Keele’s greatest asset. Oh and the beautiful campus, I have always felt quite lucky to work here.

What makes your role exciting?
Knowing that I can make a difference to students and to staff across campus is what inspires me to continue to push on and embrace the changes and challenges that technology brings.

Claire Slater
Head of Student Support

Why do you love Keele?
I love Keele, especially its beautiful campus and the inspiring and committed community of students and staff.

What makes your role exciting?
My role is always changing. That’s what makes it exciting. To keep up with the needs and expectations of the changing student population, we can always explore new and innovative ways to engage and work with them. No day is the same and that’s what I love.
Communications Team
The Communications Team is on hand to support colleagues with both internal and external communications – whether it’s around a new research grant, the findings of a study, an academic accolade, or other news.
Please email details to news@keele.ac.uk in the first instance – you can find out more about the team at www.keele.ac.uk/communications