

**Keele University**  
Annual Review 2010



KEELE  
UNIVERSITY

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# Vice-Chancellor's Report

It has, without doubt, been a challenging time for universities. The Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn included a 40% cut in the HE budget, and the Lord Browne Report, *Securing a Sustainable Future for Higher Education*, will result in a significant change in the way in which universities are funded.



Professor Nick Foskett  
MA PhD PGCE FRGS FRSA  
Vice-Chancellor

As we look back on 2010 we will see it as a period of great change. Teaching will largely become funded by student fees only. The student fees regime will change radically, with universities able to charge up to £9,000 per annum from 2012, but in a competitive market and with strong government control on their obligations to spending on access and widening participation as a condition of being able to charge more than £6,000.

A high quality student experience needs to be maintained to attract students. Keele is committed to ensuring prospective students from all backgrounds have the best Higher Education opportunities, and to ensure good value, top quality teaching, well structured courses and enthusiastic staff.

The University's excellent performance in the National Student Survey demonstrates the value it offers through the high quality experience students have during their time at Keele. The University was placed among the best in the country for the quality of its courses, with an overall satisfaction score of 89%. The results in every category of the survey showed an improving position for Keele. It is a reflection not only of the excellence in teaching and learning, but also of the strong Keele "community", which supports all aspects of the life of students during their time here.

A tangible example of Keele's commitment to facilitating access and opportunity is that our Charter Anniversary Year (2012) will have as its focus a major fundraising campaign to help create an endowment fund to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

This Annual Review is my first since joining the University in the summer of 2010. It gives an overview of the work of the faculties and of some of the successes we have enjoyed.

Keele's research grant income continued to rise to another record level of £11.7m during the last financial year. One third of this income comes from the prestigious research councils, followed by 22% from Central Government and 21% from charities. Along with quality related funding (following the Research Assessment Exercise 2008), Keele received over £18m to support its research activities during 2009/10.

Despite these turbulent times there are many positive aspects of our work highlighted in this review to applaud.

A study published by the Foetal Epi-genetics group in the Research Institute of Science and Technology in Medicine, together with Nottingham University and Derby Children's Hospital, received considerable media attention for their world -beating findings linking folic acid supplementation in pregnancy, DNA methylation and birth weight in newborn babies.

The University's internationally renowned research and teaching on issues affecting older people is featured and there is a focus on Keele's vision to be a hub to bring together researchers, local communities, schools, national and international experts, and those wishing to learn about sustainability.

Internationalisation is crucial as we develop as an institution and move forward. We have seen an increase in the numbers of international students coming to Keele and two key international collaborations were announced by the University during the year.

The Indus Training and Research Institute in Bangalore is working with Keele to launch a teacher training programme, leading to a Professional Graduate Diploma in International Education - the first such programme of its kind in India. It is intended that the new programme will be the start of a successful partnership with ITARI.

Representatives of Nanjing Xiaozhuang University visited Keele to further cement the co-operation reached with the Faculty of Natural Sciences. Nanjing Xiaozhuang University has received approval from the Ministry of Education in China for 40 students to progress on to the final year of Keele's BSc in Environment and Sustainability, after undertaking three years of their degree at Xiaozhuang.

There have also been major developments on campus. The latest stage in a major, multi-million pound project to refurbish the student halls of residence on campus was completed during the year. A £3million project at Holly Cross was the last of the residential blocks to be given a complete overhaul, completing a 10-year programme that has seen a huge investment by the University.

# Faculty of Health

## Report of the Dean

Major grants from Wellcome, NIHR, MRC and the EU, alongside accreditation of our undergraduate Masters programme in Pharmacy and introduction of an MSc in Advanced Professional Practice, provided notable highlights for the Faculty in 2010.

We welcomed the appointment of Pauline Walsh as Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery and Professor Elaine Hay as Director of the ARUK National Primary Care Research Institute. Four professorial promotions, six externally funded fellowships, excellent feedback in the National Student Survey and opening of the KAVE, a 3D-enabled virtual learning facility developed by the School of Pharmacy, have enhanced the Faculty.

The Medical School continues to move towards final accreditation. Year 4 of the new curriculum is being delivered and development of the final year is almost complete. A major focus has been to strengthen relationships with our NHS partners across the health economy to ensure consistently high quality clinical placements. Applications rose by 55% and international interest has increased. More academically minded students are encouraged to take a year out of programme to undertake an intercalated Masters degree. Postgraduate medicine continues to grow with addition of new MMedSci pathways, alongside development of the Clinical Leadership Academy, a joint enterprise with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science.



Professor Andy Garner  
Dean of Health

The School of Pharmacy gained full accreditation for the MPharm programme, which allowed entry into the Guardian International League table and No. 2 ranking in the UK. Installation of the Virtual Immersion Environment (KAVE) is an outstanding facility for 3-D simulations of our interactive virtual patient. Software programmes for anatomy, physiology and chemistry have been installed. On-line access to virtual patients, as part of the HIEC programme, provides support for continuing professional development of healthcare staff. The School's enterprise culture and links with the National Centres for Prescribing and Pathology Benchmarking attracts substantial funding, linked to its standing as a centre of excellence in medicines management and prescribing practice.

Nursing and Midwifery is consolidating its position as a provider of high quality education and training, as evidenced by excellent NSS results and improved standing in national league tables. A Masters degree in Advancing Professional Practice was successfully validated and 10 students commenced study in 2010. The school is undertaking a project on behalf of the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to evaluate access and progression in nurse training as it moves to all-degree entry in 2011. Projects in learning disabilities nursing and death by indifference have resulted in the development of excellent resources for use within clinical practice. Two staff received fellowships from the NIHR and SHA to undertake research in conjunction with the Institute of Primary Care Sciences.

The QQME inspection of Health and Rehabilitation, undertaken jointly by the Health Professions Council and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, proved extremely positive with numerous commendations for exemplary practice. The University's own QA inspection resulted in similarly high praise. These results are reflected in a 97% NSS satisfaction rating. The new curriculum framework for physiotherapy, developed on behalf of the SHA, is being implemented, ensuring the School remains at the forefront of physiotherapy training and can respond to the increasing need for specialist Masters level training and professional development. Efforts internationally have seen a significant increase in overseas recruitment to both UG and PG programmes. Formal partnerships have been established with Shingu (Korea) and SRM (India).

The research institutes continue to perform well. Translational clinical research within ISTM in the field of stroke medicine was recognised by a Department of Health award of £375k to Professor Christine Roffe to establish a Hyperacute Stroke Centre at UHNS. Research for Patient Benefit grants totalling £450k were awarded to Professor Warren Lenney, for evaluating the use of breathe analysis to identify infection in children with cystic fibrosis, and to Professor Khalid Ismail for his work on perineal injury and repair in childbirth. Professor Gordon Hamilton received £2.5million from Wellcome Trust to undertake field trials with synthetic sex pheromones to aid control of leishmaniasis and Dr Fredric Tripet received funding under the MRC African Leader Scheme to support research into malaria. Dr Alan Richardson received a MRC grant to study ovarian cancer. Other research to hit national headlines included Dr Josep Sule-Suso's work using the Diamond synchrotron aimed at improving diagnosis of cancer by imaging single cells.

Professor Elaine Hay has taken over from Professor Peter Croft as Director of the Research Institute for Primary Care and Health Sciences and the Arthritis Research UK Primary Care Centre. Professor Croft led musculoskeletal research at Keele for 16 years, building from essentially nothing to create an internationally renowned centre. The focus has been on delivering an extensive portfolio of NIHR and ARUK programmes of clinical research and building new collaborations linked to membership of the National School for Primary Care Research. New grants have supported the development of young clinical and health professionals, including six NIHR Fellowships. Support for research career development was evidenced by the promotion of senior lecturers Krysia Dziedzic, to Professor of Musculoskeletal Therapies, and Nadine Foster, to Professor of Musculoskeletal Health.

The Faculty is also supporting development of the local health economy by undertaking evaluation and training linked to Fit for the Future, a programme designed to deliver new models of community-based care driven by a new hospital that opens in 2011, with 25% fewer beds. A Health Services Research Unit has been established, via funding from the HIEC, to evaluate care pathways at the primary-secondary interface, thereby exploiting the expertise of both research institutes.

## World First Study into Birth Weight

A study published by the Foetal Epi-genetics group based in the Research Institute of Science and Technology in Medicine, together with Nottingham University and Derby Children's Hospital, received considerable media attention for their findings linking folic acid supplementation in pregnancy, DNA methylation and birth weight in newborn babies.

The research published in the journal Epigenetics received extensive national and international press coverage and was featured on BBC television. The study was supported by the World Cancer Research Fund and used state-of-the-art epigenetic array technology that provides a world-first report of a link between changes in specific genes of newborn babies, folic acid supplementation during pregnancy and weight at birth.

The significance of the research lies in its potential to predict low birth weight with greater certainty using these new generation clinical biomarkers. The research also offers to shed light on the underlying causes of low birth weight, along with the potential to intervene earlier in pregnancy in order to prevent poor outcomes, such as premature delivery, or even loss, as well as the longer term health related consequences.

Pioneers: Research group leader, William Farrell, Professor of Human Genomics, Research Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine (ISTM), and Professor Khaled Ismail, Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, ISTM/ University Hospital of North Staffordshire, with Kimberley Yearsley and baby Adrian. Picture by courtesy of The Sentinel.



## New Keele Designed Physiotherapy Curriculum

A comprehensive curriculum framework for physiotherapy training, designed by Keele on behalf of West Midlands Strategic Health Authority, covers the spectrum from healthcare assistant to consultant practitioner. Implementing the core element of this programme commenced with the new intake of students onto the BSc (Hons) programme in September 2010.

The programme received formal approval at a joint event involving the Health Professions Council (regulator), Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (professional body) and University QA office. An innovative spiral curriculum is structured around five key strands of physiotherapy – Clinical Practice, Therapies, Health and Wellbeing, Professional Practice and Evidence-based Health and Rehabilitation – and designed to ensure that graduates are equipped to engage effectively with a rapidly changing health and social care environment to deliver the highest quality, patient-focused care.

These elements are introduced, developed and enhanced over the three years of study and emphasise the shift towards enhancing the quality of care, via a health model based on personal responsibility and disease prevention. Throughout, students develop knowledge, understanding and skills, both generic to healthcare and specific to physiotherapy. Learning occurs in the School's well-equipped facilities on the campus, facilitated by clinical tutors and during a wide range of practice-based clinical placements, supervised by approved clinical educators, with their extensive knowledge and experience in a range of clinical specialities. Initial feedback on the new programme from both students and external examiners looks set to ensure the continued success and reputation of the physiotherapy programme at Keele.

Professor Alison Blenkinsopp, Professor of the Practice of Pharmacy in the School of Pharmacy, is awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours for services to Healthcare.

Professor Andy Garner, Dean of the Faculty of Health, leads a successful bid to create one of the country's Health Innovation and Education Clusters (HIEC) to be based on the Staffordshire and Shropshire health economy. The grant of £970,000 will support set-up costs over the next three years.

The Royal Astronomical Society's Group Achievement Award for Astronomy 2010 is given to 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). SuperWASP, a consortium of eight academic institutions which includes Keele, 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.

Shadow Minister for Health, Stephen O'Brien, MP, visits Keele to be briefed on the University's health teaching and research activities. The Conservative MP was taken on a tour of the Medical School by Professor Andy Garner. He also took the opportunity to visit the Centre for Applied Entomology and Parasitology, where he had in-depth discussions with staff about their groundbreaking work on sandflies and the genetic modification of mosquitoes to control malaria transmission.

January 2010

# Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

## Report of the Dean

2010 was another year of success for the students and staff of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Among the numerous noteworthy achievements by our students was the Neil and Gina Smith Student of the Year Award to Darrell Simkins (Music and Educational Studies), while Sophie Lake received the accolade of 2010 'Law Graduate of the Year' from Graduate 100, an initiative developed with leading employers to profile and promote Britain's highest-achieving students.

Robert Ratcliffe and Jon Weinel, PhD students in the Research Institute for the Humanities, each had two works selected, against ferocious competition, for performance at the prestigious International Computer Music Conference in New York; indeed, Robert's works were performed in a dozen countries over the course of the year. And Liz Lefroy, a student on the newly-launched MA in Creative Writing (School of Humanities), became the first recipient of the Roy Fisher Poetry Prize, generously endowed by the poet laureate, Carol Ann Duffy.



Professor David Shepherd  
Dean of Humanities  
and Social Sciences

For staff, too, there is space to highlight only a small number of the many and diverse achievements illustrating the Faculty's national and international profile. This was exemplified in 2010 by members of the School of Law and Research Institute for Law, Politics and Justice (RI LPJ): Dr Andrew Francis was appointed one of the first four Academic Fellows of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, while his colleague Dr Marie-Andrée Jacob was awarded the Socio-Legal Studies Association Article Prize for the year's most outstanding piece of socio-legal scholarship. Dr Ambreena Manji began a two-year secondment as Director of the British Academy's British Institute in East Africa, based in Nairobi, becoming the first academic from outside Oxbridge to hold this post.

International activity loomed large in the work of the Faculty as a whole. Keele Management School maintained its position as by far the University's strongest recruiter of international students, both undergraduate and postgraduate. While consolidating existing partnerships, such as that with KDU College Malaysia, KMS also established new ones, notably with Guangdong University of Finance, Guangzhou, China. For the School of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy the focus was Turkey: SPIRE's flourishing contacts with the Dialogue Society promise to lead to collaboration on education and research with a wide range of Turkish institutions.

The School of Public Policy and Professional Practice (PPPP), already delivering its MBA Education in Thailand, reached agreement with the Indus Training and Research Institute (ITARI), Bangalore, to develop programmes of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) and staff development, making Keele the first overseas institution to offer full-time ITE in India. But perhaps the single most important development on this front was the inauguration of the Language Learning Unit (LLU), which makes a vital contribution to the University's internationalisation strategy by bringing together the staff responsible for the institution-wide teaching of both modern languages and English for international students. British Council accreditation of LLU's English Language Unit was renewed, while under the banner of the national Routes into Language (RINTOL) initiative LLU organised three successful events on 'Making Languages Work', involving significant outreach to local schools and employers.

A further example of such community engagement was the outstandingly successful day conference for AS and A2 students, 'Sociology Bites', organised by the Schools of Sociology and Criminology and PPPP, and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). With the employability of graduates in mind, Sociology and Criminology also introduced a module entitled 'Working for Justice'. Similarly, KMS forged closer ties to the business community through the establishment of an Employer Advisory Group and development of collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Management, while PPPP, as well as launching a Professional Doctorate for social workers, joined forces with the Faculty of Health to establish a Clinical Leadership Academy.

Key Faculty contributions to the University's strategic priorities of Environment and Sustainability and Active Ageing are highlighted elsewhere in this Review. Keele's leadership in the field of ageing is further underscored by the appointment of Professor Miriam Bernard, RI Life Course Studies (LCS), as President of the British Society of Gerontology, while our credentials in research on environmental politics and policy were recognised by the European Consortium for Political Research, which funded a summer school organised by Dr Sherilyn MacGregor (SPIRE/LPJ) and attended by 21 PhD students from all over the world, who worked intensively with leading specialists from Europe and North America.

A welcome surge in the recruitment of Keele PhD students was just one example of the year's research successes, which also included major awards from ESRC in LCS (Dr David Gadd, Dr Claire Fox) and LPJ (Professor Andy Dobson); a grant from the Magistrates' Association (Professor Barry Godfrey, LPJ); and, in the RI Humanities, prestigious fellowships awarded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (Dr Anthony Kauders) and by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (Professor Barbara Kelly and Dr Alastair Williams).

## Valuing older people

People aged 50 plus are a major part of the UK population and Keele is set to expand its work around ageing across research, professional development and community education. The University has an international reputation for research and teaching on issues affecting older people and professionals working in the field.

And with people living and staying active longer, there are opportunities for educational, voluntary and leisure activities well beyond retirement age. Keele is developing a major programme of engagement with a variety of stakeholders involved with older people as well as groups of older people themselves.

Keele's Centre for Social Gerontology organised two courses on an ageing society for the Valuing Older People partnership, an initiative to improve life for older people in Manchester.

Six weekly 'taster' sessions, developed by Dr Mo Ray and Professor Tom Scharf, covered topics such as: key issues in demography for an ageing society; health and well being; social care and social support; age based discrimination; policies for ageing societies; research and ageing.



Astronomer Royal and President of the Royal Society, Lord Rees of Ludlow, officially re-opens the Keele Earth and Space Observatory after a major transformation designed to open up the natural sciences to a wider audience. The centre aims to raise people's awareness of science, while continuing its long-standing commitment to teaching and outreach.

Sir John Gieve, Chairman of Vocalink and former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, gives the 2010 Annual Distinguished Lecture in Economics, organised by Keele Management School. The lecture, titled "The return of

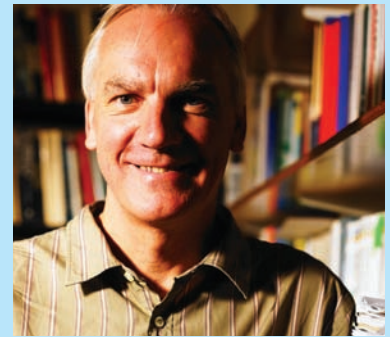
Each week was based around a themed quiz, discussion, presentations and debate and there was time for networking, socialising and talking. Evaluations from participants were consistently good and provided useful suggestions for improving and developing the course.

Written information was provided and learning was tailored to individual interests, including investigating poverty and older age and population distribution, and older people from black and minority ethnic communities.

As a result of taking part in these courses, participants have gone on to attend Centre for Social Gerontology seminars, as well as an open lecture at the Keele Gerontology summer school. There is also considerable interest in the British Society of Gerontology conference, hosted at Keele by the Centre for Social Gerontology in 2012, as well as interest in pursuing other courses at Keele.

complexity - economic policy after the financial crisis", attracted a large audience of over 200 members of staff, students and the public.

The University is presented with a prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education by The Queen and Prince Philip at a special honours ceremony at Buckingham Palace. The Award recognises the work of the Keele's internationally renowned Primary Care Sciences Research Centre. The Centre's work is focused on chronic pain (especially back pain and arthritis) - the main cause of disability in the United



Andy Dobson

## Reducing Energy Consumption through Community Knowledge Networks

An interdisciplinary team from the social and natural sciences at Keele, led by Professors Andy Dobson and Mark Ormerod, and the Marches Energy Agency, was awarded £453,000 to carry out research over 30 months on 'Reducing Energy Consumption Through Community Knowledge Networks'.

This major grant, in the face of stiff competition from over 80 other applications, is an indication of the high regard in which Keele's interdisciplinary, sustainability research is held. The award is part of a £4million investment from the Economic and Social Research Council and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

Professor Dobson, pictured, said: "We know the 'clean' generation and use of energy is one of the biggest challenges facing us today, yet while most of the focus has been on tackling energy issues at an individual level, we know less about the potential for community-level initiatives to drive positive change."

The research will focus on knowledge networks in two types of community, which are called 'switched-on' and 'hard-to-reach'. The aim is to compare and contrast the energy reduction challenges in the two types of community and see which strategies work best in each of them. The hope is that the results will be transferable to similar types of community beyond the target groups. Fieldwork will be carried out in wards in Shrewsbury and Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Kingdom and the developed world. In 2008 it was chosen to be the Arthritis Research Campaign's National Primary Care Centre.

Keele were, for the 12th year running, winners at the Meetings & Incentive Travel Annual Awards, announced in London. Keele Conferences and Events claimed the Silver award for "Best Conference & Banqueting Staff" and the Bronze Award for "Best Value for Money Conference Venue".

# Faculty of Natural Sciences

## Report of the Dean

It is always a challenge to try to review the activities in the Faculty from the preceding calendar year. On the one hand, there are too many achievements to be able to record them all, whilst many projects are 'on-going', making it hard to pin down specific successes.



Professor Pat Bailey  
Dean of Natural Sciences

Of the 'work in hand' projects, especially noteworthy are major improvements to the Lennard-Jones reception area and research labs, an exciting range of international collaborations with universities like Xiaozhuang in China (for which Tom Duan, our Faculty International Officer, deserves special mention), and the renovation of Home Farm (see feature on the next page). The latter will be opened in the summer of 2011, and will provide a focus for the environmental initiatives that have been so successful in recent years.

Although I'll mention research again under the subject headings, it is great to see EPSAM continuing to perform strongly, with 29 new PhD students starting research projects, and research grant income up 24% on the previous year. Of the many achievements, one that warrants special mention is the 2010 Group Achievement Award for Astronomy, received by the Wide Angle Search for Planets (WASP) team from the Royal Astronomical Society.

Taking selected highlights from the Schools, Computing and Mathematics has been successful in winning two prestigious Marie Curie Fellowships, one in applied mathematics and one in software engineering. The School also boasts a new 'Green IT Lab', including an impressive robotics facility. There have been strong links developed with local schools, and this has helped achieve a continuing increase in undergraduate numbers, as well as strong uptake in new postgraduate programmes. The School hosted the UK Mathematics and Senior Mathematics Team Challenges, and has a growing outreach programme, running events at Keele each year for over 2,500 students, from over 100 local schools and colleges.

In the School of Life Sciences, Biomedical Sciences (with its 'double accreditation') continues to be a hugely successful undergraduate programme; this is now supplemented by a new MSc in Biomedical Blood Science, and Glenn Hussey has successfully steered this through the accreditation process. Major new research projects include a £875k award on a DEFRA project to control thrip infestation of strawberries; William Kirk and Gordon Hamilton are leading on this project, having invented a pheromone approach to controlling the pest. But the research highlight concerns work from the entomology group, with Gordon Hamilton leading a five-year, £2.5million Wellcome Trust project to carry out field studies in Brazil, to control the nasty parasitic disease leishmaniasis. Finally, congratulations to Peter Thomas, who has been elected as a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London – the world's oldest biological society – for his work on tree biology and ecology.

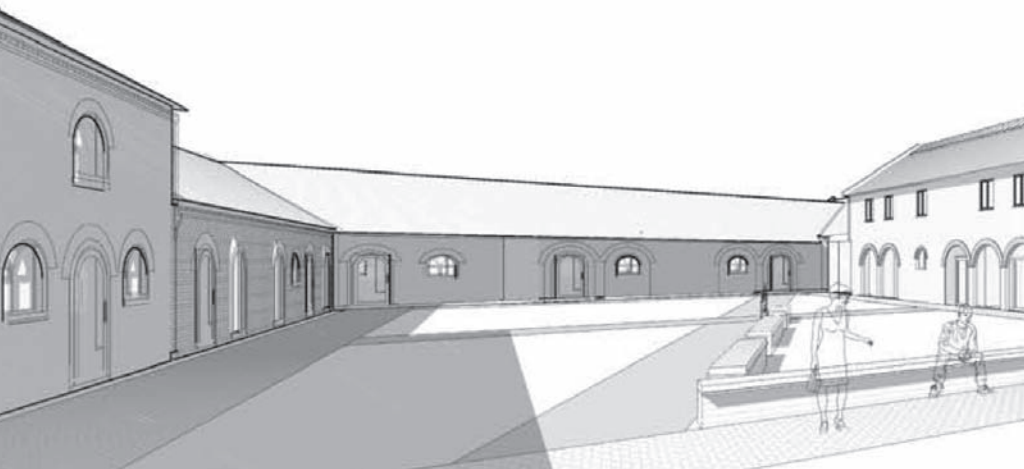
In the School of Physical and Geographical Sciences, major grants include a five-year STFC Advanced Research Fellowship to John Taylor (astrophysics), several grants on the environmental/sustainability agenda (Mark Ormerod and Zoe Robinson), and an ecological study on bees led by Falko Drifjhout. A total of eight teaching innovation awards have been funded through Keele and HEA grants; the excellence of the teaching has been recognised by a fantastic performance across the School in the National Student Survey (Chemistry, Forensic Science, Geography and Environmental Science all came in the top four for overall student satisfaction), and by the presentation of a Keele Excellence in Learning and Teaching Award to Katie Szkornik (Geography). At PGT level, Project Green was highly commended in the Green Gown and Lord Stafford Awards, offering environmental training and internships to 175 graduates.

In Psychology, teaching success has also been rewarded by two Keele innovation awards, and Claire Fox received a Keele Excellence in Learning and Teaching Award (the third for Psychology in two years). From an array of research grants, the Marie Curie Fellowship for Ken Rotenberg and Sally Sargeant is particularly noteworthy, as were two major grants to Claire Fox. Finally, there was an unusual but highly prestigious award of an IgNobel prize to Richard Stephens, who has been studying the beneficial effects of swearing; the prizes are awarded at a glittering ceremony at Harvard University, and celebrate research which 'first makes people laugh, and then makes them think'.

The success of the Faculty depends not only on excellent teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and high quality research, but also work with schools and schoolteachers, to improve the teaching of youngsters, and to help them achieve access to university from a range of backgrounds. The Foundation Year has worked hard to achieve this; four of its tutors were nominated by students for teaching awards, and they have played a major role in the development of the 'Access to Keele Programme', in collaboration with the Widening Participation Division of Academic Services. In the Science Learning Centre, record numbers of teachers have attended courses run by the Centre, and it has played an important role in developing the highly acclaimed Primary Science Quality Mark.

Overall, another varied and successful year. There are undoubtedly tough times ahead in HE, but Natural Sciences is in a strong position to flourish in this challenging environment.





## A new dawn for the Keele Earth and Space Observatory

Keele's historic observatory has been refurbished in a major transformation designed to open up the natural sciences to a wider audience.

The observatory has evolved from a centre of scientific research and amateur astronomy to one which will be used by a wide range of visitors to increase the public understanding of science.

The Keele Earth and Space Observatory was officially re-opened by Lord Rees of Ludlow, Astronomer Royal and President of the Royal Society. The £360,000 transformation includes the refurbishment of the existing observatory and telescopes, and an extension to the lecture room and its teaching and presentation facilities. It has been funded by the Wolfson Foundation, alumni donations to the Keele Key Fund and the University.

The centre aims to raise awareness of science, while continuing its long-standing commitment to teaching and outreach. Visitors will be able to experience practical examples of astronomical observations, using equipment dating from the 19th century to the present day.

Professor Nye Evans, of Keele's astrophysics group, said: "The Observatory has a long tradition of exciting both youngsters and adults from the area. We anticipate this new facility will enhance the experience, and continue the strong links we have with the community."



## The Keele Hub for Sustainability

Keele, with the aid of £2.5million secured from HEFCE's Strategic Development Fund, is renovating a derelict 19th Century farmhouse situated in the grounds of the University to become a Sustainability Hub Building.

The vision is for Keele to be a hub with its special features being used to bring together universities, researchers, local communities, schools, national and international experts, and those wishing to learn about sustainability, with activities being coordinated from the new Sustainability Hub Building.

The building will be an exemplar in energy terms, incorporating:

- Solar thermal
- Solar PV
- Climate control and under floor heating
- Rainwater harvesting
- Ground source heat
- Bio-fuel woodchip burner

The aim is to turn the Hub building into a research and educational complex that is

completely energy efficient. The University campus has unrivalled potential in delivering energy from a diverse range of local energy sources, such as coal bed methane, wind turbines and geothermal energy, that are expected to power the Hub building, as well as most of the campus.

The Hub building will comprise of five distinct sections:

- An Exhibition Area, to display the most important technologies.
- A Resource Suite, housing computer-based and hard-copy information.
- Training and Education facilities, in which students, businesses and community members can attend short courses, consult with experts, and evaluate options.
- An Applied Research wing, evaluating technologies throughout the campus, and elsewhere.
- An Earth Observatory, including an 'outreach centre' to demonstrate the environmental importance of the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and the earth's mantle.



Following on from their record breaking telethon, the University's Development Team is shortlisted for the prestigious THE Leadership and Management Awards in the Outstanding University Fundraising Team section. In addition, they are also shortlisted for the best Alumni/Fundraising programme in the HEIST Marketing Awards.

The Maldivian High Commissioner for the United Kingdom, and a graduate of Keele, Dr Farahanaz Faisal, visits the University. The High Commissioner was welcomed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Rama Thirunamachandran and introduced to Professors Pat Bailey, Andy Dobson and Graham Williams, who presented an overview of their work on Environment and Sustainability.

Keele's Students' Union is presented with a prestigious national environmental award at the NUS Services Annual Dinner at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool. The Sound Environmental Impact Awards, now in their fourth year, seek to encourage, nurture, reward and celebrate good environmental practice in students' unions.

March 2010

# Research and Enterprise Services

Research and Enterprise Services (RES) has had a successful year supporting Keele's academics in securing collaborations with a wide range of external partners. RES has also supported an increase in knowledge exchange with business and the community, across a spectrum of activity from research to graduate placements. 2010 saw major changes in the way in which central Government will support national and regional support for enterprise and innovation and RES has been closely involved in developing new partnerships to ensure Keele's enterprise activity continues to benefit organisations locally, as well as nationally and internationally.

## Record research grant income

Keele's research grant income continued to rise to another record level of £11.7million during 2009/10. One third of this income was from the prestigious Research Councils, followed by Central Government 22% and Charities 21%. Along with quality related funding (following the Research Assessment Exercise 2008), Keele received over £18m to support its research activities during 2009/10

Keele's flourishing research environment was also boosted by a record number of research degree students enrolling to commence their studies.

## Major Research Successes

The Wellcome Trust awarded more than £2.5million for a Strategic Translation Award to Professor Gordon Hamilton of the Research Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine, along with co-applicant Dr Orin Courtenay at Warwick University.



Professor Gordon Hamilton

The project, "Field trials of synthetic sex pheromone to reduce visceral leishmaniasis (VL) transmission by *Lutzomyia longipalpis* in Brazil", will utilise an innovative vector control approach to reduce the population of *Lutzomyia longipalpis* and

therefore VL incidence and infectiousness. VL is a potentially fatal disease which affects half a million people worldwide each year.



Dr Frederic Tripet

A major new award of £1million from the Medical Research Council will support links with Africa, bringing together the medical entomology teams of Dr Frederic Tripet at Keele and Dr Abdoulaye Diabate, of the Centre Muraz in Burkina Faso.

The objective is to better understand male mosquito mating behaviour, enabling new strategies to eliminate malaria.

The project will run for five years with significant fieldwork in villages in Burkina Faso and lengthy visits of staff to Keele's laboratories in the Research Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine.

## Exceptional year for enterprise activities

Keele generated more than £2m additional consultancy income in 2010, with 21% of contracts coming from within the West Midlands and with an increase in the amount of work undertaken to SME's to 17%. Licensing income was £323K and saw an increase in the number of new licence deals to 10.

Keele spin-outs have been successful with both nanoTherics and Intelligent Orthopaedics securing additional investment of over £1.7m in total, in a very challenging environment. Collaborative research income was nearly £1.5m, with 11% of contracts coming from the West Midlands and an increase in the amount of work undertaken with SME's to 33%.

RES is supporting two new Medici Fellows in two faculties, who will be involved in a range of enterprise-based projects, including marketing plans for delivery of services and commercialisation of Life Science technologies.

In 2010 RES provided innovation Keele (iK) seed corn funds totalling over £140,000 to a total of 16 projects across the three faculties. Projects supported included feasibility studies for CPD opportunities in the care home industry, through commercialisation of IT related projects, to larger, strategic projects within the Faculty of Health. Since 2007 more than £340k has been invested in 38 projects.

Within the Faculty of Natural Sciences significant studentships were awarded to Dr Falko Drijfhout with the British Beekeepers' Association to investigate the levels of pesticide residues in bees and stored pollen and their effects on bees, to Professor Pat Bailey with AstraZeneca to study the bioavailability of drugs, via the oral route, using a conjugated transporter molecule and to Dr Stefan Krause with the Environment Agency for investigations into advanced techniques for tracing pollution and attenuation hotspots at the interface between rivers and aquifers. Dr Neil Telling from the Faculty of Health has been awarded a studentship with Diamond Light Source Ltd to study iron biomineralisation and beta-amyloid aggregation in neurodegenerative disorders.



## Graduate Partnerships

Funded by £434,800 from the Economic Challenge Investment Fund (ECIF) and match-funded by local businesses and partner organisations, Project Green successfully arranged 140 placements for unemployed graduates in the West Midlands region, in 108 different organisations. Focusing on low-carbon businesses and projects, Project Green resulted in 66% of the graduates going on to paid work opportunities, and 19% choosing to continue their studies towards a postgraduate level course in an environmentally related subject.

Following the success of ECIF, Project FIT was developed in response to HEFCE's subsequent call for graduate internship opportunities in business sectors such as medical technologies, ceramics, professional services and digital industries. Keele bid for £272,000 and placed 170 graduates into 111 small, 20 medium sized and 39 large firms. Both Project FIT and Project Green carried academic credits as well as providing a bursary for each graduate.

Project Green was short-listed for the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges' Green Gown Awards and the Lord Stafford Awards. Both entries were Highly Commended in the Skills and Open Collaboration categories.



## Graduate School Research Symposium

The University Graduate School held its 6th annual Research Symposium, which brought together doctoral researchers and research staff from across the University to present their research.

The event is one of the most prestigious events in the PGR calendar and provides a perfect opportunity to find out more about the exciting, life changing and innovative research that takes place at Keele.

Approximately 260 people attended, providing students with an opportunity to promote their work, network with peers and academics, improve their communication skills and raise the profile of research at Keele.

Former PhD student, Dr Vicky Weise, who has a PhD in Non-Destructive Testing of Automotive Structures - Electrical Engineering and now works for QinetiQ as Strategic Markets Manager, was the keynote speaker.

Dr Lucy Worsley, Chief Curator of the Historic Royal Palaces, leading sixteen members of the curatorial team, was the guest speaker.

## Student Enterprise

Student Enterprise is supporting 28 Keele students and alumni on the 40 week SPEEDWM and EFS business training programmes. The two schemes provide funding packages of between £3,500 and £7,200 for start up businesses, alongside regular mentoring sessions and start-up business training workshops.

The training covers all aspects of business, ranging from market research to how to develop a business plan. Participants are also provided with hot desk office space and a business address in the Stepping Stone incubator unit at Keele's Science and Business Park.

Of the 28 participants there are 18 undergraduates, one postgraduate and nine alumni who, between them, are developing 18 start-up businesses. The varied businesses include environmental consultancy, investment fund management, health and safety training, wine tasting events and a cupcake company.



Professor Chris Main, Professor of Clinical Psychology (Pain Management) is the recipient of the 2010 British Pain Society Medal, following his lecture entitled "Embedding psychological principles within clinical care: the journey from clinical rehabilitation to secondary prevention" delivered at the BPS Annual Scientific Meeting.

Professor Paul Eggleston, Professor Hilary Hurd and Dr Frederic Tripet, Research Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine, are awarded £221,495 by the European Union FP7-Infrastructures Programme to support their research into novel technologies for the control of mosquito-borne disease. The funding is part of a major €8m international initiative entitled INFRAVEC - "Research Capacity for the Implementation of Genetic Control of Mosquitoes", which is co-ordinated by Imperial College and involves 31 international partners from Europe and Africa.

The Software Engineering research group from the School of Computing and Mathematics hosts the 14th International Conference on Evaluation and Assessment in Software Engineering. The event attracts researchers from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, Pakistan, Spain and the UK.

# Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning

This has been a successful year regarding widening participation, especially as the Higher Education climate has presented many dynamic challenges. This has led to a strengthening of the shared services and projects between wider schools and colleges liaison through an expansion of the Keelelink partnership and student support services.

A total of 58% of members have engaged in at least one Keelelink project, which has been significantly enhanced by the expansion of offerings to partners through wider faculty, school and college liaison projects, as well as better communication with members, through the introduction of an e-newsletter to members, the Keelelink brochure and a re-launch of the Keelelink website.

## Developing Keele Student Employability

The Placements Programme continued to develop and flourish. The programme has expanded in recent years and now provides a range of diverse opportunities for students and schools to become involved, with the overarching themes of giving students experience of working with young people in different roles, and giving school learners contact with current university students, thus raising their educational aspirations and attainment. Nearly 200 Keele students were involved in the delivery of Widening Participation projects



## Campus Based Experience

There is a strong tradition of providing innovative and exciting campus based experiences for school and college learners. Seventy-nine schools engaged in 25 campus events, delivered for 2,400 learners. As a result of their engagement 80% said they were now planning to attend university and 65% said this aspiration had developed as a result of attending an event. These included subject specific Key Stage 4 events, university experience days for Key Stage 3, learner journey days for Key Stage 2 and residential experience for nearly 500 learners. In addition, following demand from local schools and colleges for greater provision of academic taster sessions for Key Stage 5 learners, a series of master classes were offered by academics from a range of disciplines across the University.

## Aimhigher at Keele

It has been an exciting year for the Aimhigher Programme at Keele. Additional funding was secured for a new project 'Access to the Professions', which has provided opportunities for new areas of work, such as working with local professionals and organising a residential trip for gifted and talented young people to Oxford University. The new Access to the Professions project was planned following publication of two key policy documents; 'Fair Access to the Professions' and the 'IAG, Quality Choice and Aspirations Strategy'. A central theme of the two documents was to make sure every young person, whatever their background, could aim for the top professional careers. Access to the Professions identifies and works towards overcoming the barriers facing young people when trying to access professions such as medicine, law and journalism.

Projects, such as the Aimhigher Ambassador, have firmly established themselves as an integral part of the Aimhigher programme within Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. Working with a pool of 47 Keele Student Ambassadors, in collaboration with Staffordshire University Ambassadors, the project delivered 51 sessions in 35 schools and colleges and ran 21 Higher Education road shows in schools, reaching in excess of 6,500 learners. Coupled with this, the acclaimed Aimhigher Parents and Carers project, now in its fourth year, exceeded its target of 3,500 parents receiving HE information from parent ambassadors, and 300 parents taking part in specific information events. A pool of 11 parent ambassadors visited five local schools and colleges 12 times during 2010.



## Faculties flying the flag for Widening Participation

It has been an inspirational year for the development of new initiatives focusing on subject specific links and networks with schools and colleges. The launch of a pilot project, entitled Chemical Bonding, was a highlight of this development. The project focuses on the transition from school/college to university, with a particular interest in the field of chemistry. Thirteen teachers from local schools and colleges are involved in the scheme with five Keele academics. This is a collaborative project with Widening Participation, the Science Learning Centre and School of Physical and Geographical Sciences, showcasing excellent good practice in shared services and expertise. A workshop delivered at the national SSAT conference introducing this style of collaborative working between HEIs and schools/colleges received very positive feedback.

May 2010

Medical device company PRO Medical Innovations – a spin-out company from Keele – is the only British-based firm to win recognition in the life science and medicine category of the 2010 Red Dot Awards for Product Design. They were awarded "red dot recognition" for the design of Safeceps obstetric forceps, a modern-day plastic adaptation of the traditional birthing tool.

The Graduate School holds its sixth annual Research Symposium at Keele Hall, bringing together doctoral researchers and research staff from across the University and providing an opportunity to showcase the innovative research taking place at the University.

The School of Physical and Geographical Sciences hosts the Midlands final of the Royal Society of Chemistry National Schools' Analyst Competition.

Whitbread Award winning poet Michael Symmons Roberts reads a selection of his verse to an attentive audience in the Charles Strasser Theatre. The Cheshire-based poet read from his award-winning collection Corpus, which deals with issues concerning the human body and the human genome project, as well as pieces from earlier collections, such as Burning Babylon.

# International Highlights

Two major international collaborations were announced by the University during the year.

The Indus Training and Research Institute (ITARI), Bangalore, India, has started collaboration with Keele to launch a teacher training programme, leading to a Professional Graduate Diploma in International Education. It is intended that the new programme will be the start of a successful partnership with ITARI and a number of areas for future collaboration have been discussed, such as Masters degrees, joint research, early childhood education and the use of technology to support learning. Staff and student exchanges and student volunteering were also topics that have been explored.

Kevin Mattinson, Head of Teacher Training at Keele and Pro-Vice Chancellor, said: "The model of training and development that the programme involves is based on Keele's multidisciplinary approach that has been shown to be successful, and this is amenable to adaption for the Indian context.

"The Keele Professional Graduate Diploma in International Education is a full-time one-year professional course. This is our first collaborative overseas accredited teachers' programme, as part of our internationalisation strategy. It is also the first such programme in India."

Representatives of Nanjing Xiaozhuang University, including the President, Professor Li Hongtian, visited Keele to strengthen the co-operation reached with the Faculty of Natural Sciences for a 3+1 arrangement for students.

Nanjing Xiaozhuang University has received Ministry of Education approval in China for 40 students to progress on to the final year of Keele's BSc in Environment and Sustainability, after undertaking three years of their degree at Xiaozhuang. Dr Zoe Robinson, from the School of Geographical and Physical Sciences, has been to Nanjing to introduce students to the different study methods in the UK and to teach one of the introductory courses. The first cohort of students has already started in China and will come to Keele in September 2013.

Keele jumps six places to 44th position in the Guardian university league table for 2011. The guide, which ranks all UK universities according to teaching excellence, showed that overall student satisfaction at Keele was 87% and satisfaction with teaching was also 87%. In the subject tables Keele is placed 3rd for Pharmacy and Pharmacology, 5th for Social Work, 10th for Geography and Environmental Studies, 11th for Social Policy, 13th for Nursing, 14th for Maths and American Studies, and 15th for Medicine.



## PMI2 - Malaysia

An eight-strong delegation from Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang visited Keele to discuss the PMI2 initiative in Life Sciences, enabling MSc Parasitology and Vector Biology students as well as undergraduate Biology students to spend three months in Penang. Part of the delegation briefed the seven selected students about the kind of projects they would be engaged in as well as cultural aspects of living in Malaysia. This is Keele's fourth PMI2 International Student Mobility programme.

The delegation, headed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, met with Keele's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Rama Thirunamachandran, Dave Hoole, Professor of Fish Diseases, and Richard Ward, Professor of Medical Entomology.

Future potential collaborations were discussed around the Natural Sciences and the Environment.

## Turkey

The Turkish Ministry of the Interior sent seven senior officials to undertake the MA in European Politics and Culture at Keele. In conjunction with the Dialogue Society, who sponsor a number of Turkish PhD students at Keele, a delegation from SPIRE visited Istanbul and Ankara to explore a range of links in Turkey with universities, hospitals, newspapers, business foundations and the Ministry.



## San Diego Entrepreneurship Programme

After stiff competition for places, 12 first year students taking the entrepreneurship module spent a week at San Diego State, where they followed lectures on how to set up a company, attended an Entrepreneurship Fest on the campus, visited a range of companies that had been set up by American entrepreneurs, and talked to Keele alumni who had emigrated to the USA and set up their own companies.

Keele has been successful in its bid to the University Modernisation Fund (HEFCE) for new entrant full-time undergraduate places in 2010/11 and investments in projects to generate efficiency savings. The total funding attracted is £1.2 million and provides 95 additional full-time new entrant places for 2010/11. The full-time new entrant places are across a number of disciplines in both the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Keele Management School.

Project Green, the University's Sustainable Business Programme to assist unemployed graduates back into work, is highly commended at the prestigious Green Gown Awards, which were established to find the UK's most sustainable universities and colleges. The project, run by Research and Enterprise Services and the School of Physical and Geographical Sciences, was shortlisted in the Skills category, which recognises achievement in the development of skills relevant to sustainability.

June 2010

# Teaching Excellence

## Student Satisfaction

Students at Keele rated the University as one of the best in the country for satisfaction with their degree courses. The annual National Student Survey 2010 saw Keele achieve an overall satisfaction score of 89%.

Teaching satisfaction was rated very highly by students and the University also saw improvements in every other category: Assessment and Feedback; Academic Support; Organisation and Management; Personal Development and Learning Resources.

## National Student Survey 2010

Top mainstream English universities

University	overall satisfaction
University of Oxford	93%
University of Cambridge	91%
University of East Anglia	90%
University of Exeter	90%
University of Sussex	90%
Keele University	89%
University of Leicester	89%
Loughborough University	89%
University of Sheffield	89%
University of Warwick	89%

## Keele Awards for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

The winners of the annual Keele Awards for Excellence in Learning and Teaching for 2009-10 were:



**Ben Ambrose**, lecturer in the School of Health and Rehabilitation. Ben has explored ways of using technology to enhance the student experience in the classroom. This has included a trial of bite size video materials and the utilisation of Audience Response Systems across the School. Ben has also focused on driving forward the internationalisation agenda, establishing teaching and learning collaborations in Asia.



**Claire Fox**, lecturer in the School of Psychology. Claire's main area of research expertise is the problem of bullying in schools and she runs a very popular third year special option on this topic. In 2007 she developed a peer e-mentoring scheme for 1st year Psychology students.



**Elizabeth Mills**, Postgraduate Academic Course Manager in the School of Pharmacy. Her main responsibilities are managing the Professional MSc and the Advanced Professional Practice (APP) Programme. She believes that taking the time to get to know the learner's needs and ensuring the courses offered are flexible enough to meet these needs is instrumental in enabling learners to achieve their goals. She has developed the Professional MSc and APP programme based on this philosophy.



**James Peacock**, lecturer in English and American Literatures. Before embarking on his PhD, James was a teacher of English as a Foreign Language, and one of his key interests has been in the possible application of communicative language teaching techniques to the teaching of literature in higher education.



**Katie Szkornik**, lecturer in Physical Geography. Katie is deeply committed to incorporating aspects of her research interest in coastal environments into her teaching. In 2008 – 09 she developed Coastal Environments, a level-3 option module which involves a poster assessment on coastal management, designed to simulate the type of work carried out by environmental consultants and coastal planners. Katie is also keen to inspire and influence students through field-based teaching.

## Student of the Year



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

Darrell Simkins, a 23-year old student in Music and Educational Studies. Darrell performed exceptionally well academically, achieving firsts in every module studied. He was also invited to present his dissertation

at the International Conference of Education in Canada, an indication of the very high standard of scholarship and research skills Darrell attained through his studies at Keele. He pursued part of his studies in a partner university, in the Faculty of Fine Arts at York University, Toronto. While at Keele Darrell participated in extracurricular music

programmes, both on and off campus, and made a significant contribution to musical life at Keele and in the local community. Building upon his experience overseas, Darrell now works as a Study Abroad Peer Adviser for Keele, promoting studying abroad and acting as an ambassador for the University.

July 2010

Degrees are awarded to nearly 1,900 students at a series of 16 ceremonies in the University Chapel over four days. Honorary Degrees are conferred on Gaye Blake-Roberts; Dame Christine Beasley, DBE; Professor Dame Hazel Genn, DBE, QC; Professor Sir David King; Professor Sir David Watson and Professor Paul Wiles.

The journal 'Gender, Work and Organization' holds its 6th Biennial International Interdisciplinary conference in Keele Hall and welcomes 344 delegates from 38 nations, organised in 17 streams and four workshops.

Professor Miriam Bernard, Director of Keele's Centre for Social Gerontology, takes up the role of President of the British Society of Gerontology, following the Society's 39th annual conference at Brunel University. Professor Bernard will lead the Society's work for the next two years.

# Key Appointment

## Vice-Chancellor

### Professor Nick Foskett

Professor Nick Foskett was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Keele University in August 2010. Previously he was Dean of the Faculty of Law, Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Southampton, where he was also Professor of Education.

Professor Foskett's academic expertise lies broadly in the field of educational policy and leadership, with a particular focus on higher and further education. He has an international research profile in HE policy.

His work has included many national and international invitations as a keynote speaker, and as a consultant to government, both in the UK and overseas, on the development of policy in fields such as HE fees, widening participation and educational careers advisory systems. This has led to strong international links in Australia, China and the countries of southern Africa. He has been joint Editor of the Commonwealth's journal in the field of educational leadership, International Studies in Educational Administration.

Professor Foskett is a Geographer and Environmental Scientist by background. After graduating from Oxford University he taught Geography and Geology in secondary schools and sixth form colleges before his career took him into higher education. He still retains a strong interest and engagement in environmental issues and sustainability, and continues to publish and research on the nature and role of field studies, outdoor activities and education for sustainability within primary, secondary and tertiary education.



The School of Physical and Geographical Sciences has its silver Athena SWAN Award renewed for a further three years. It is one of twenty-seven higher education institutions and individual departments that were successful in the latest annual application round. Athena SWAN Charter Awards reward good practice in universities supporting the career progression of women in science, engineering and technology (SET) departments.

A state-of-the-art laboratory at the Malaria Research and Training Centre, University of

Bamako in Mali, which will soon be rearing Africa's first mosquitoes genetically modified to resist malaria, has been officially opened. Its research is part of a partnership, between the University of Bamako and Keele, which aims to develop GM mosquitoes to fight malaria and is funded by an £800,000 grant from the Wellcome Trust.

The programme will build capacity in three important areas: genetic engineering of local mosquitoes; gene products that kill malaria parasites; and fitness and competitiveness of GM mosquitoes.

August 2010

## Honorary Degrees Awarded in 2010



**Dame Christine Beasley**, DBE, Chief Nursing Officer for England, was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science in recognition of her outstanding leadership in Nursing in England.



**Ms Gaye Blake-Roberts**, FMA, FRSA, Director of the Wedgwood Museum, was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University in recognition of her contribution to the arts and heritage in Staffordshire.



**Professor Dame Hazel Genn**, DBE, QC, Dean of Laws, Professor of Socio-Legal Studies and co-Director of the Centre for Empirical Legal Studies in the Faculty of Laws at University College London, was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Socio-Legal Studies.



**Professor Sir David King**, FRS, Director of the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment at the University of Oxford, was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science in recognition of his unrivalled contribution to Science and Environmental Policy in the United Kingdom.



**Professor Sir David Watson**, MA, PhD, who has been a major influence on the United Kingdom Higher Education system, was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters in recognition of his influence on higher education policy and practice.



**Professor Paul Wiles**, CB, formerly UK Government Chief Social Scientist and Chief Scientific Advisor for the Home Office, was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Criminology and Public Policy.

# Commercial and Facilities Management

Our commitment to putting student needs at the heart of all our activities was further evident during 2010. Colleagues from across CFM participated in a series of workshops which gave us the opportunity to listen to students and to take action to improve the services and facilities we provide. We understand the importance of the positive interaction we have with students and, therefore, we continue to invest in the development of our people and to recognise those individuals and teams who really make a difference to student life on campus.

## The Student Experience

We seek to enhance the student experience in all that we do, from offering a warm welcome to prospective students through to creating memorable graduation celebrations. Positive changes during 2010 included an open dialogue and more opportunities for students to feedback regarding halls and external landlords. New for the autumn semester was a “welcome to Keele” survival box for all freshers, with a copy of our new bi-monthly magazine, “Residence”. This publication is designed to make life easier for students by providing who’s who information, news and updates, welfare contacts, information and KUSU events.

New innovations were introduced by the catering teams, including the development of a campus-wide brand for all catering outlets – taste: keele – which was complemented by flexible meal pricing



and reduced prices at Comus Restaurant plus new meal plan options, allowing students to choose by semester, eat at a venue of their choice and pay in installments.

Students saw a change to the Sports Centre as the sport: keele brand was officially launched with a refurbishment of the centre reception, including achievements highlighted on the sports success wall. New, simple, cost-effective membership options make it easier for students to get gym membership, which is complemented by a partnership with the local swimming pool, where students can enjoy low cost swimming as part of their membership

Providing a safe and secure campus is essential. The Campus Watch initiative encourages students to report any suspicious activity to University Security or local police. Bright yellow stickers are now visible on all student accommodation windows, giving key telephone numbers and serving as a deterrent to potential intruders.

We are continuously listening, talking and responding to student needs – from feedback cards to focus groups and indeed day-to-day interactions – to ensure the student experience at Keele is conducive to enabling students to focus on achievement of their academic goals, whilst enjoying a sense of community.

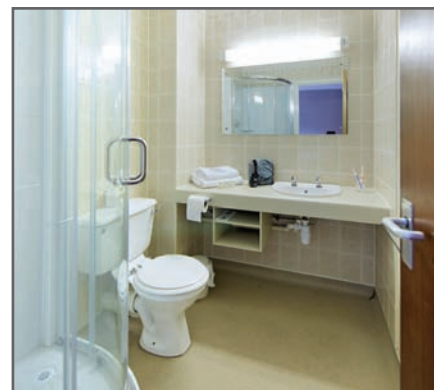


## Transforming the Campus

The latest stage in a major, multi-million pound project to refurbish the student halls of residence at Keele was completed during 2010.

The £3million refurbishment at Holly Cross saw 238 bedrooms, 30 diners, 60 kitchens and one resident tutor flat upgraded. Holly Cross was the last of the residential blocks to be given an overhaul, including an upgrade to mechanical and electrical systems.

This first part of the programme has taken 10 years to complete and has seen a huge investment by the University.



September 2010

Law Graduate, Sophie Lake, is awarded the 2010 Graduate 100 Law Graduate of the Year award. Graduate 100 is an initiative, developed with leading employers and industry figures, that profiles and promotes Britain's highest achieving final and penultimate year students. Sophie has a training contract with DLA Piper to begin in 2011.

Keele's new Language Learning Unit (LLU) is officially launched with a lunchtime event hosted by Professor David Shepherd, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences. Professor Shepherd, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Rama Thirunamachandran, and the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Student Experience, Professor Marilyn Andrews, highlight the importance of English and foreign language learning and support as integral to Keele's strategy of internationalisation and enhanced student experience.

An international workshop focusing on protein structure and function and qualitative protein crystallography is held at Keele. The workshop, An essential guide to 3-dimensional protein structure and its determination, was attended by researchers from The Netherlands, Poland, Denmark, Norway and Germany, as well as staff and postgraduate students from diverse research areas within the research institutes for Science and Technology in Medicine and the Environment, Physical Sciences and Applied Mathematics.





## Events business going from strength to strength

It was another successful year for conferences and events with a number of prominent events, including The British Association of Cleaning in Higher Education; The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development annual conference and The Keele International Cup - Britain's largest international football tournament, with 250 teams competing. We hosted two of the year's most elaborate events - 400 guests attended a Sony Ericsson product launch and AMECON, which celebrated Japanese animation.

Piranha Audio Visual, the Directorate's external AV provider, played a key role in the design, development and installation of Cheshire Fire and Rescue's state-of-the-art training facility.

The conference management team had a successful year supporting over 20 conferences with their sector-leading event management service. Notable clients included The Society of Legal Scholars, the National Association of Cytologists and the Homecoming Alumni event.

## Health and Safety

The Department of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS) continues to provide an essential broad range of professional core support, advisory and regulatory functions to most University activities.

Accident rates amongst staff and students remain at a creditable low level. As part of the overall strategy to reduce accident rates even further DOHS has targeted areas with the provision of bespoke training courses. Most of these courses have been provided in-house and feedback has shown that these have been very well received with the added bonus of being very cost effective.

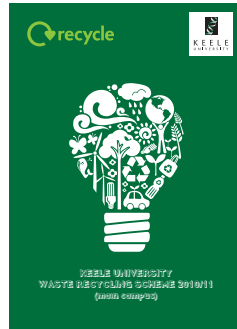
Keele's Occupational Health Service, within DOHS, has responded well to a variety of different requirements and needs from both staff and students, particularly workplace related medicals, immunisation and health screening. Fire safety remains one of DOHS's priority areas. In the last year a review of accommodation fire risk assessments has taken place with many improvements identified and already implemented. Working closely with other support functions across the University, DOHS has had a primary role in the provision of evacuation plans for disabled staff and students.

## Environmental Initiatives

The University is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and has launched, in partnership with the Carbon Trust, a Carbon Management Plan that aims to reduce carbon emissions by 18% by 2015. As part of the Carbon Management plan we aim to further improve energy efficiency across campus and reduce waste and increase recycling rates.

In 2010 Keele launched its environmental awareness campaign - Deep Green Thinking - to raise staff and student awareness about the need to reduce our environmental impact, particularly on waste, energy, transport and associated CO2 emissions. A "Go Green Week" supported the launch where we held a sustainable cooking demonstration; a free screening of climate change docu-drama, The Age of Stupid, and a guided walk of the campus.

A campus-wide recycling scheme was launched with co-mingled recycling collection points introduced across all academic, central services and student accommodation buildings, which allows for cardboard, paper, plastics and cans to be recycled, the key objective being to reduce waste at source and re-use items where possible.



## Celebrating Success

2010 saw the launch of Total Recognition: a scheme to highlight those individuals and teams worthy of particular praise.

Students and staff nominated individuals and teams in four categories. The winners were Sharon Copestick (Catering and Retail) - Employee of the Year; Bob Mander (Security), pictured receiving his award - Unsung Hero; The Medical School Cleaners - Team of the Year; and Sharon Hattersley (Accommodation) - Above and Beyond. Sharon, a domestic assistant, was nominated for the support she had given to a disabled student during her four years at Keele.

Keele Conferences and Events and the Catering teams were also successful during 2010. The conference team were, for the 12th year running, winners at the Meetings & Incentive Travel Annual Awards, claiming the silver award for "Best Conference and Banqueting Staff" and the bronze award for "Best Value for Money Conference Venue". In the Staffordshire Masterchef and Staffordshire Chef of Tomorrow, Keele Hall

Head Chef, Allan Jones, was awarded second place in the Masterchef category, whilst Luke Staton took third place in the Chef of Tomorrow. James Tudor was awarded first prize for Best Hygiene Practise throughout the competition. Kim Barnish picked up the title of Vegetarian Society Chef of the Future

Estates apprentice, Steve Lewis, was "highly commended" in the finals of the West Midlands Apprenticeship Awards 2010. Steve began work at the University in 1982 as a chef, but changed direction in 2008 and joined the estates team, working on sports field maintenance.



The Chancellor, Professor Sir David Weatherall is awarded a prestigious Lasker Award, the most significant U.S. prize for medical research, in New York. He is the only person outside America to win one of the awards in 2010. The 2010 Lasker-Koshland Special Achievement in Medical Science Award honours the Chancellor for "50 years of international statesmanship in biomedical science".

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Rama Thirunamachandran, is appointed to the UCAS Board. UCAS is the world's leading shared admissions service for higher education.

It manages applications for full-time undergraduate courses, together with applications through the Graduate Teacher Training Registry, Conservatoires UK Admissions Service and UK Postgraduate Application and Statistical Service.

Dr Richard Stephens, Psychology, was one of four researchers from across the UK who were honoured for their work at the annual Ig Nobel awards ceremony at Harvard University. The "Igs" are awarded to scientists whose work makes people laugh first, then think. The peace prize was awarded to Richard Stephens and

colleagues at Keele for confirming that swearing relieves pain.

Keele receives a BREEAM environmental impact rating of 'excellent' for the Lennard-Jones Multi-User Laboratory extension. It is believed to be the only lab of its kind in the world to achieve such a rating. BREEAM (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) is the leading and most widely used environmental assessment method for buildings.

October 2010

# Student Experience

VE @ Keele is an exciting initiative that supports student engagement in the community and on campus through volunteering activity. Offering access to a diverse range of opportunities, volunteering through VE @ Keele is a brilliant way for students to put something back, develop key employability skills and enhance their whole student experience at Keele.

VE @ Keele volunteers are encouraged to complete a VE award to reflect on their experience and evidence learning and skills development. Offered at Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum, VE Awards are a great addition to a students' CV in today's competitive graduate jobs market. Students who do not complete an award can still receive a 'Positive Contribution to the Community' certificate in appreciation of their volunteering activities and contribution to the community.

Throughout the year VE @ Keele has worked with a number of voluntary organisations, generated new partnerships and offered volunteer opportunities with a range of charities and not-for-profit organisations. One-off activities in 2010 have included community litter picks, bulb planting at a local National Trust site, charity street collections and a tea party for local residents. Many of these events were held during National Student Volunteering Week and CSV Make a Difference Day.



## Thailand Challenge

The exciting volunteer programme, Overseas Challenge Thailand - now in its second year - was a highlight of 2010. Working with Volunteers for Educational Support and Learning (VESL), Manchester Metropolitan University student volunteer project and Edgehill University, we supported seven Keele students to travel to the northern rural province of Chiang Rai in Thailand to deliver English language skills to primary school age children as part of a six week programme. English language is important in the region and working with VESL ensures teaching placements are in areas where volunteers are most needed and can help to make a difference.

Volunteers undertook extensive training to prepare for Overseas Challenge, including cultural awareness, teaching skills, teambuilding and essential first aid training. Training was facilitated by VE @ Keele, Dr Carol Gray (Director of Student Support, School of Medicine), Russell Clark (English Tutor, English Language Unit) and Keele undergraduate student, Sribhongse Bunnag, a Thai national, who gave an insightful view of culture and language.

Keele Key Fund provided vital funds to help facilitate Overseas Challenge 2010.

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. This year VE @ Keele worked with VESL to support two Thai teachers from host schools in Chiang Rai to visit the UK for a month.

Keele staff and schools also engaged with the exchange visit, and the Thai guests met with Keele Education Department, participated in a TESOL training class, toured the University, experienced teaching in a local primary school and visited places of local cultural interest. This experience has helped to strengthen our relationship with the host communities and contributed to a unique exchange experience.



November 2010

Dr Andrew Francis, Law, is one of four outstanding legal academics elected Academic Fellows of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple. They are the first academics to hold this honorary three-year post.

The University hosts a visit from Dr Moses Satralkar, Curriculum Coordinator for the Indus Training and Research Institute, Bangalore, India. This is the latest stage in work to develop programmes of Initial Teacher Education in collaboration with the Indus International Schools in Bangalore, Hyderabad and Delhi. The University's Teacher Education team, led by Pro Vice-Chancellor, Kevin Mattinson, will also be delivering staff development for wider groups of teachers who are linked to the Indus Schools.

Graduate placement programme, Project Green, involving Keele and Stoke-based environmental engineering company Wardell Armstrong, is among those shortlisted for a Lord Stafford Award in the Open Collaboration category. The project allows graduates to complete a subsidised placement with a local business, while studying for a post-graduate certificate in Sustainable Business Management.



## Volunteering benefits everyone

Student volunteers bring with them a diverse range of knowledge and skills, which benefit the charities that rely on them to help deliver essential community services. Student volunteering also benefits Keele, as students positively represent the University, promoting the benefits of higher education and University facilities across the wider local community. For the individual, volunteering can be a fantastic experience and is a great way to develop confidence and essential transferrable employability skills. It is also a great opportunity to try something new, meet people and get involved with a charity or organisation that helps people, communities or the environment.

All VE @ Keele volunteers are offered an introduction to volunteering and are invited to attend weekly training sessions, which offer an additional learning opportunity, can complement volunteering and are open to all Keele students.

The popular Student Volunteering Elective module enables first year students to represent Keele positively in the community, complements studies and encourages a lifelong commitment to volunteering activity.



## Student thoughts on volunteering:

“Overseas Challenge Thailand 2010 was not only an eye-opening and life-changing experience, but it also taught me a lot and had a positive effect on the community I was placed in.” (Second year undergraduate 2010)”

“Volunteering at Save the Children made me realise that work is not all about money, there are more aspects to it, like motivation, team building, etc.” (Volunteering Elective student 2009-2010)”

“The training provided by VE @ Keele enhanced my understanding and appreciation of the complexities of everything from organising an event to applying for a national volunteer role.” (Undergraduate student 2007-2010)”

“If you want to meet new people, try new things and make your CV stand out from the crowd then get involved with volunteering!” (Undergraduate student 2007-2010)”

“The experience was awesome.” (Masters Student 2010)”

## Team:Keele

The year saw membership of ‘smaller’ clubs boom. Badminton now boasts over 100 members and Keele Boatclub has been a huge success, not only within Keele but also in the competitive environment of BUCS.

As ever, charity work has been of high priority within many clubs of the AU. Men’s rugby have raised over £2,900 for charities, including Donna Louise and Children in Need, and women’s hockey raised over £560.

With one league victory in the first semester, Men’s Fencing did the name of Team: Keele proud, and women’s squash, equestrian and men’s rugby are all set to follow suit. Various outstanding performances have seen Team: Keele storm through cup stages, with teams battling for places in cup finals across the board. Men’s hockey put UClan in their place with a league match home victory of 20-0, quite possibly the highest in Keele Men’s Hockey history. Team: Keele looks to continue to improve as the season draws to a close.

## KUBE Radio

KUBE Radio, the award winning student radio station, has undergone an overhaul of technical equipment and a refurbishment of the studio, including a brand new desk. Radio 1 DJ Zane Lowe cut a ribbon to officially re-open the updated facilities and shared some inspirational words with KUBE members before performing in the Union.

A team of KUBE presenters and members went to the Radio 1 studios in London to represent KUBE Radio on Tim Westwood’s Radio 1Xtra show. As part of Westwood’s ‘College Dropout’ feature, they made a jingle for the show, and KUBE’s Station Manager sang live on air for Lethal Bizzle! KUBE Radio was also visited by D:Ream, who played an acoustic set live on air.

Degrees, diplomas and certificates are awarded to nearly 700 students at graduation ceremonies at the University. Graduands and those receiving awards, and their guests, attended three ceremonies in the Chapel.

The Keele Astrophysics group participate in the discovery of the first planet found to have more carbon than oxygen. The Jupiter-sized gaseous planet, WASP-12b, was observed with NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope and found to have an atmosphere rich in molecules containing carbon but depleted in molecules containing oxygen.

Professor Ilana Crome, Professor of Addiction Psychiatry and Academic Director of Psychiatry, is part of the team from South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust that receives the Psychiatric Provider of the Year award at the Royal College of Psychiatrists annual awards ceremony. Professor Crome is also one of five finalists short-listed for the Academic Psychiatrist of the Year award.

December 2010



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