

Introduction

Welcome to the June 09 edition of Health Briefing which has a focus on the main events of **HEalth Factor 09**. This has now become an annual event which this year had the theme of People Matter. So thanks to all of you who contributed or joined us during the week.

Hilary Jones
Dean - Faculty of Health

HEalth Factor 09 – ‘People Matter’

Basil Ashford memorial lecture: ‘Performing in Extreme Environments’

On 29 April 2009, Sport and Exercise at Staffordshire University hosted the 7th Basil Ashford memorial lecture as the centrepiece of the Research Seminar Series run by the University’s Centre for Sport, Health and Exercise Research. The lecture is an annual event held in honour of Basil Ashford who was Head of Department here at Staffordshire University, North Staffs Poly, and before that Madeley College of PE. Basil was very well respected for his research in the area of Sport and Exercise Psychology, along with providing a substantial contribution to Higher Education curriculum. In the 1980s Basil developed at Madeley the first BA in Sport and Recreation Studies. It was the first sports degree outside of PE teacher training. Basil played a major role in the development of sport as an academic discipline in Higher Education and had a huge impact on the lives and careers of many of his students and colleagues.

This year’s lecture was delivered by Professor Mike Tipton. Indeed, Mike was a student of Basil’s at Madeley College, where he studied for a degree in Physical Education. Mike is currently Professor of Human and Applied Physiology at the University of Portsmouth. He studied at Madeley and London before joining the University of Surrey. After 12 years in the Robens Institute and European Institute of Health and Medical Science he moved to the University of Portsmouth in 1998. He has spent over 17 years researching and advising in the areas of thermoregulation and in particular, survival in the sea. He has published over 150 scientific papers, reports and book chapters in these areas. His book *Essentials of Sea Survival* was published in June 2002.



Professor Mike Tipton, Professor of Human and Applied Physiology, University of Portsmouth

Professor Tipton is a member of several National and International Committees and provides advice to a range of universities, government departments and search and rescue organisations.

Professor Tipton gave an outstanding lecture on the effects of extreme environments on the body and how knowledge of these effects is utilised by coaches, athletes and health professionals. An invited audience of local and national academics and representatives from the world of sport and health (including undergraduate and post-graduate students) were captivated with tales of amazing human survival as well as details of life saving research. j.b.barker@staffs.ac.uk



Delegates

Inaugural Professorial Lecture by Professor Wilf McSherry 'Treatment versus Care! Reintegrating Spirituality and Dignity'

Professor Wilf McSherry, Professor in Dignity of Care for Older People, delivered his inaugural lecture on 27 April 2009 entitled '*Treatment versus Care! Reintegrating Spirituality and Dignity*'. The lecture was given at the Shropshire Education and Conference Centre (SECC) to an audience of academic colleagues, colleagues from The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust along with his family and friends from various parts of the country.

Wilf started his lecture by giving the audience an overview of his own academic and personal journey to the appointment of Professor in Dignity in Care for Older People. He thanked his peers, mentors and family for the inspiration and support he received from them throughout his nursing and academic career. He also thanked Staffordshire University and The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust for appointing him to this exciting and challenging role.

He argued that in recent times, health care has witnessed the emergence of a number of high profile, political and professional campaigns urging nurses and health care professionals to recapture and restore caring

at the heart of everything they do. It was suggested such campaigns are a worry because they signal all is not what it seems within our health care system. Wilf indicated that there has been a demise in the fundamental or essential skills and qualities attributed to care and caring.

Wilf described how the phrase 'treatment versus care' is an excerpt taken from a transcript of an interview he had undertaken with a middle aged gentleman who was dying from terminal lung cancer. The gentleman was able to distinguish between treatment and care suggesting he received treatment in the hospital and care in the hospice. The lecture explored what was meant by 'treatment' and 'care' including the concepts of spirituality and dignity. Wilf presented reasons why these have been displaced within health care.

Wilf concluded his lecture by suggesting that the challenge for all working in health care was to reintegrate spirituality and dignity in care so that those primary and founding values are again at the heart of all we do. This will ensure patients and the general public receive treatment with care throughout the entire health care system.

L-R: Professor Paul Kingston, Staffordshire University
Professor Margaret Bamford, Chair of The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
Professor Wilf McSherry, Professor in Dignity of Care for Older People, Staffordshire University / The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
Mr Paul Richards, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Staffordshire University
Mrs Trish Rowson, Director of Service Delivery, The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
Miss Hilary Jones, Dean, Faculty of Health, Staffordshire University



Inaugural Professorial Lecture by Professor Nachi Chockalingam – 'Feet: A Feat of Engineering'



Professor Nachi Chockalingam delivered his inaugural lecture on 30 April 2009 entitled *Feet: A Feat of Engineering*. This lecture, delivered to an audience at the TV studio brought together Nachi's academic colleagues and research partners along with his family and friends from various parts of the world through the world wide web.

While giving an insight into his academic and personal journey to the appointment as Professor of Clinical Biomechanics, Nachi highlighted the support he received from some of his research collaborators, colleagues and students.

L-R: Dr Teeranlall Ramgopal, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Staffordshire University
Professor Nachi Chockalingam, Professor of Clinical Biomechanics, Staffordshire University

He touched on the evolution of bipedal gait where we lost our prehensile hand, gaining in the process a pair of feet with an intricate design and mechanism as we see it today. He went on to indicate that, whilst there is a plethora of research in the area of foot pathology and orthotic devices in a clinical sense, there is still a lack of understanding of the structural functions of the feet in an engineering sense.

Nachi concluded his lecture, embedded with scientific facts, full of pictures and humour in the right mix, with his vision for future research in this area. He outlined, whilst people have looked at the foot and ankle joint in isolation to other parts of the body, a more rigorous research approach in this area would consider the complete human body - in particular the spine and pelvis, crucial to our upright posture. n.chockalingam@staffs.ac.uk

'Protecting Women' Sexual Health Conference – In conjunction with Genito-Urinary Nurses Association (GUNA)

Staffordshire University hosted a very successful Women's Health Conference with the theme of protecting women. The conference was organised jointly by the Genitourinary Nurses Association (GUNA) and the Faculty of Health and was aimed at Health and Social Care practitioners who come into contact with vulnerable women. This is an annual event with a different theme each year.

The conference was opened by the Vice Chancellor, Christine King, who highlighted the importance of the conference theme in the delivery of care to vulnerable women. Christine also read out a statement of support from the Rt Honourable Ann Keen MP, Under Secretary of State for Health, who had expressed interest in speaking at the conference but was unfortunately unable to attend. Ann Keen's letter of support highlighted the Government's commitment in tackling issues relating to 'Vulnerable Women'.



L-R: Jo Delaforce, Chair of Forensic Nurses Association, Forensic Clinical Nurse Specialist, The Haven Camberwell
Dr Julie Jomeen, Director of Research and Scholarship, University of Hull
Kathleen Baird, Senior Lecturer in Midwifery, School of Maternal and Child Health, Bristol University
Professor Christine King CBE, DL, Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive of Staffordshire University
Margaret Bannerman, Senior Lecturer in Sexual Health, Staffordshire University
Justin Gaffney, Chair of Genito-Urinary Nurses Association (GUNA)

The Keynote Speaker, Dave Gee, an Advisor to the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Home Office, gave a very dynamic talk on how Police Forces across the country are committed to increasing the reports and convictions of violence against women.



Keynote Speaker –
Dave Gee MBE, Rape
Advisor to ACPO and
home office

The next session was from Dr Julie Jomeen who spoke about 'Asking Difficult Questions and Dealing with Difficult Answers', followed by Kathleen Baird who talked about 'Domestic Violence'. The last speaker for the morning session was Jo Delaforce from the Forensic Nurses Association and she gave an interesting session about 'Sexual Violence'.

During the lunch break we were very fortunate to have the complementary therapy students from the university providing hand and Indian head massages for the delegates.

The afternoon session was hosted by speakers from the Faculty of Health. Professor Helen Dent gave an interesting talk about 'Vulnerability and Resilience: the Role of Childhood Experiences' and this was followed by Dr's Carol Henshaw and Liz Boath who spoke on 'Women's Mental Health Issues'. The day was rounded off by Professor Christine Kettle who talked about the very sensitive topic of 'Female Genital Mutilation /Cutting'.

The conference was evaluated extremely well by the delegates and everyone rated the Ruxton Suite as excellent.

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Community Care Excellence Network award



L-R: Glen Mason, Director of Leadership and Performance (Social Care), Department of Health
Wendy Sullivan, Co-convenor, Service Users and Carers Group
John Sullivan, Co-convenor, Service Users and Carers Group
Bronagh Miskelly, Group Editor, Community Care

The Social Work Service Users and Carers Group have won a prestigious national award for the work they undertook last year in the social work skills lab at Staffordshire University. Supported by Professor Bernard Moss, the members of the group worked with the first year social work students on a one-to-one basis, to help them develop their

telephone and interviewing skills. This involved developing role play scenarios, giving the students encouraging feedback, and then helping to assess them summatively at the end of the year. Student feedback was overwhelmingly appreciative: "it made such a difference to my confidence, and has really prepared me for my professional practice", is how one student described it. Wendy and John Sullivan, the group leaders, went to London to receive the Community Care Excellence Network award at a special ceremony in May. The skills lab project has also been written up and has been accepted for publication in *Social Work Education*, one of the leading social work journals. The award is dedicated to Barbara Yates, founder member of the group and skills lab champion, who died last year. b.r.moss@staffs.ac.uk

The ProGreSS Project

The ProGreSS project that Dr Christopher Gidlow is currently leading, which aims to get residents of a community in Fenton using their local park, is well under way now. We are still in the consultation phase with the local community, but plan to organise events /activities that will promote more effective and inclusive use of the Foley Field Park. To raise the project profile Chris has been interviewed for BBC Radio Stoke and has had an article in the Sentinel:

www.thisisstaffordshire.co.uk/news/Park-life-idea-asks-families-thoughts/article-961893-detail/article.html

The project website is up and running but needs improvements:

www.staffs.ac.uk/health_progress. For details concerning this project please contact Dr Christopher Gidlow 01782 294330 or c.gidlow@staffs.ac.uk

Foundation Degree Developments

The Faculty in partnership with University of Worcester, Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin and Worcester Lifelong Learning Networks and local employers have formed a consortium, known as the 'West Midlands Consortium'. The West Midlands Consortium has been successful in obtaining funding from FdF/Skills for Care to develop a Foundation Degree Framework with specific pathways for Long Term Conditions and Learning Disabilities. The Faculty will be leading the development of the Foundation Degree and the Long Term Conditions pathway, University of Worcester will be leading the development of the Learning Disabilities pathway. The Foundation Degree in long Term Conditions hopes to welcome its first cohort of students in January 2010. r.p.shepherd@staffs.ac.uk

Health Briefing is produced 3 - 4 times per year. If you have any items you would like included, or have any feedback, please contact Barbara Brown b.j.brown@staffs.ac.uk

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