

Introduction

As you will see by the items that follow it has been a very busy few months for the Faculty. It has also been a very positive time for students and staff and it is encouraging to see the many achievements and successes.

In this issue you will find some of the many new developments we will be introducing in the coming 12 months, have the opportunity to find out about some of the new staff we have appointed and most importantly see examples of the successes of our students.

If you would like to find out more about any of the articles please do contact the various contributors and if you have any suggestions for inclusion in future editions we would very much like to hear from you.

Hilary Jones
Dean – Faculty of Health

Faculty of Health Awards Ceremony



Sport & Exercise students celebrating after the official ceremony

Despite the rain, it was yet another fabulous day at Trentham Gardens on Tuesday 7 July when students of the Faculty of Health graduated at their Awards Ceremony. Family, friends and staff gathered to congratulate students on their achievement. The whole day was set aside for graduates from the Faculty, with 167 Sport and Exercise and Social Work and Advice Studies undergraduate and postgraduate students graduating in the morning, and 256 Healthcare Professionals undergraduate and postgraduate students in the afternoon. In the morning, there were over 600 guests offering their support and congratulations, and approximately 1000 in the afternoon, resulting in an electrifying atmosphere in the marquee.

We wish all of those who graduated this year, including those who were unable to attend their ceremony, all the best for a successful future.

Gordon Banks OBE, former England and Stoke City goalkeeper, **Esther Rantzen CBE**, broadcaster and children's advocate, and **Dame Joan Bakewell DBE**, broadcaster and older people's champion, were also awarded Honorary Doctorates of the University and also offered their congratulations to the graduates.



Esther Rantzen CBE & Dame Joan Bakewell DBE



Gordon Banks OBE

Among this year's graduates from the Faculty were some familiar faces as members of staff also received awards including: **Steve Suckling** from the Centre for Practice and Service Improvement, **Jamie Barker** and **Naomi Ellis** from Sport and Exercise who were awarded their PhD's. **Jill McDonald**, Programme Area Manager for Social Work and Advice Studies was also awarded a PhD from the University of Leicester. l.j.thompson@staffs.ac.uk



Dr Steve Suckling



Dr Jamie Barker & Dr Naomi Ellis



Dr Jill McDonald

Progress

New Courses

The Faculty has introduced a range of new courses to compliment its portfolio of awards with students already having commenced on some programmes as early as September 2009.

Undergraduate Sport and Exercise Developments

New Undergraduate courses commencing this semester are **BSc Sports Therapy** and **BSc PE and Youth Sport Coaching** which are welcome additions to the Sport and Exercise portfolio, adding further to the breadth of areas covered and strengthening the links to Health as a broad definition for the Faculty. We have also introduced, in partnership with Newcastle College and the City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College, a **Foundation Year** which then gives successful students direct access to BA(Hons) Sport and Exercise programmes at Staffordshire University. In addition we have introduced a **Foundation Degree in Sports Development and Coaching** in partnership with Burton-on-Trent College and Stafford College. Both of these developments are through the Staffordshire University Regional Federation (SURF).



Members of the first cohort of BSc Sports Therapy Students during their first week.

Postgraduate Developments

New Postgraduate Programmes include a **Masters in Public Health (Health Informatics)** which has been developed in direct response to an identified need and in partnership with the West Midlands Teaching Public Health Network. We have also developed a new range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses for Health Professionals working in the field of Biomechanics: **Postgraduate Certificate (PGC) Clinical Biomechanics and Diabetes**; **PGC Clinical Biomechanics in Orthotic Therapy**; **PGC Clinical Biomechanics and Pain Management in the Lower Limb**.

The Lifelong Learning team have reviewed the **MSc Applied Ageing and Mental Health** programme to ensure currency, replacing it with an online distance learning version: **MSc Ageing, Mental Health and Dementia**. They have also introduced a new **Masters Award in Palliative Care**. Both of these add to existing work in the Faculty in both of these areas.

Foundation Degree Developments in Health Care

September 2009 will see the commencement of two innovative awards – a full-time **Foundation Degree in Mental Health (FdSc MH)** and a part time **Foundation Degree in Health Care Practice (FdSc Health Care Practice)**. The Awards have been designed in partnership with service users, carers and local NHS Trusts, and are the core qualification for Assistant Practitioners who have been successful in being appointed to a trainee position within their respective organisations.

We will also be introducing a direct entry **Foundation Degree in Paramedic Science** which will be available from next year which is in collaboration with West Midlands Ambulance Service. This will build on the success of our current Ambulance Technician to Paramedic conversion programme. This programme will commence in September 2010 for 30 students.

For information regarding any of these new courses please contact us on 01785 353766 or by email at healthyoptions@staffs.ac.uk

New Chair of the Board of Governors visits the Faculty of Health

I was pleased to welcome Steve Burgin, new Chair of the Board of Governors, for a short visit to the Faculty on 19 June 2009. This provided an opportunity for an initial briefing and discussion on the work of the Faculty and he was able to meet a small number of staff. Steve was very positive and enthusiastic about what he heard and plans to visit again in the not too distant future. As far as I recall this is the first time a member of the Board of Governors has visited the Faculty to meet us and hear about our work so it was good to meet him as he takes up his new role. h.m.jones@staffs.ac.uk

People



Tony Stewart has recently joined the Faculty of Health as Professor in Public Health. Prior to this, Tony worked here on secondment as Visiting Professor in Epidemiology. He is an experienced NHS Consultant in Public Health and healthcare researcher. His specialist subject areas include epidemiology, statistical analysis, evidence-based healthcare, health technology assessment and clinical governance. He has worked in the NHS since 1993, having senior level responsibility for many public health areas including cancer screening, children, sexual health, eye services, maternity and perinatal mortality, health needs assessment and R&D. He has strong links with the Faculty of Public Health, the Royal Society for Public Health and West Midlands Public Health Training Scheme. He

has published textbooks on clinical audit, medical statistics and epidemiology. Tony will help lead the developments in public health teaching and public health research. Tony can be located in the Brindley Building, Stoke, and contacted at antony.stewart@staffs.ac.uk

Dr Pete Coffee has been appointed to Sport & Exercise as a senior lecturer in sport psychology and research methods. Pete's research interests comprise: main and interactive effects of attributions upon self-efficacy, emotions and performance; attributions across time; attributions in social contexts; social identity theory and leadership; and, social support. He has published in European Journal of Sport Science, Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology, Journal of Sports Sciences, and Psychology of Sport and Exercise, and his work has been presented at a number of international conferences. Pete is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and an Accredited Sport Psychologist with the British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences. Pete can be located in Brindley BG32 and contacted at p.j.coffee@staffs.ac.uk or on 01782 294424.



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

An electronic version of this document is available on www.staffs.ac.uk/faculties/health/partnerships/healthbrief