

## Review of 2010



**2010 was another excellent year for the Faculty of Health, our staff and our students with some notable successes, some of which are outlined below.**

**Students:** July provided another wet day for our Award Ceremony but as always this did not dampen spirits of the many students graduating. There were excellent results obtained in the National Student Survey, in all areas of the Faculty but particularly Nursing where students rated the Faculty very highly indeed, achieving 100% satisfaction in some areas putting us in the top 3 in the UK. The Faculty was

3<sup>rd</sup> in the Guardian League Tables for nursing and paramedical subjects which was very much based on indicators around the student experience. We have had another year of high quality, buoyant recruitment onto our courses and did not need to enter the clearing system for any of our courses this year.

**Research and Enterprise:** The Faculty received excellent feedback on its Applied Research Centres (ARCs). Both ARCs in this Faculty were congratulated by the panel on a very successful first year of operation as Applied Research Centres. Panel members recognised the effective way in which both Centres worked with visiting professors and honorary researchers and particularly highlighted this form of collaboration as a model of good practice which should be disseminated to other ARCs. Both were congratulated on their contribution to building a vibrant research culture at Staffordshire University and both will continue to receive university recognition and funding. This is tremendous feedback for staff in the Faculty and partners involved in the ARCs and very encouraging - well done everyone.

**Learning and Teaching:** We took our first cohort of direct entry paramedic students in September on a 2 year programme. We continue to work with new technology to develop our online resources for students and improve the student experience. There was a very successful accreditation visit from the British Psychological Society (BPS) at the end of February to re-accredit the MSc in Sport and Exercise Psychology. This is the only BPS accredited distance-learning MSc in Sport and Exercise Psychology in the UK. The Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Life Long Learning Network completes its work in January 2011. I have been privileged to chair the very successful Health and Social Care Discipline Group of this LLN which has delivered on all its targets. I would particularly like to thank Anne Longbottom, the Health and Social Care Discipline Co-ordinator, and Nici Westraadt, Administrator, for all their hard work and support to make this happen, as well as all those involved in delivering its many projects.

**Partners:** We are very pleased to be working with a range of new partners across the Faculty this year including the Institute of Money Advisors, College of Osteopaths and Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust and to continue to work positively with our many existing partners. We are very pleased to be involving colleagues from practice in our student Fitness to Practice processes which ensure that only suitably professional students qualify and gain professional registrations in health care or social work.

**Staff:** As always none of this would be possible without the commitment of all staff in the Faculty and our supporting university services. The social work and advice studies team was recently restructured to reflect the current practice demands and we see this area as having great potential for new developments. We have also welcomed a number of new staff into this area as part of the restructure. Staff continue to develop and improve the processes to support all this work as well as completing various personal development opportunities and qualifications, publishing, making conference presentations, completing PhDs and all sorts of other achievements.

Best wishes to you all for a successful 2011.

Hilary

Hilary Jones  
Dean of the Faculty of Health

## Involving Partners

It has been my pleasure to edit this Health Briefing for the last two years and be able to pass on and share our news and successes with all of you. My role in the Faculty of Health is Faculty Director for Recruitment and Partnerships. The recruitment element is focused on student recruitment which potentially has some challenging times ahead.

In terms of Partnership, many staff across the Faculty are involved in this work in one way or another and so I very much aim to have a strategic view of the wide variety of partnership work we are involved in. The contacts and links we have with our many colleagues from across the Health and Social Care and Sport and Leisure sectors are extremely important to us and to our students.

I have now met many of you who receive this briefing and those of you who work with us on a regular basis. We always welcome opportunities to work in partnership and certainly the partnership side of my role is one I would very much like to develop further during 2011. If any of you would like to discuss further any element of working in partnership or look at other opportunities to work collaboratively with the University and Faculty I would welcome the opportunity to discuss your ideas and explore opportunities and would be very interested in meeting with you.



If you wish to arrange a meeting please contact me on [l.j.thompson@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:l.j.thompson@staffs.ac.uk) or call Nicola Smith on 01785 353679.

Linda Thompson  
Faculty Director - Recruitment and Partnerships

## Upcoming Events

**Celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans History Month**  
Wednesday 23 February, Stoke campus - 'Gay Footballers – Wanted or Unwelcome?'

You are invited to attend this event that has been organised to celebrate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans History Month. Professor Ellis Cashmore and Jamie Cleland will be presenting the findings of their recent research into the attitudes of football fans towards gay football players.

Refreshments will be provided between 5.45 and 6.15pm, the presentation will last for approximately half an hour (6.15 – 6.45pm) and will be followed by questions from the audience. We are expecting the event to finish at about 7.30pm.

If you would like to attend please contact [c.m.ridgley@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:c.m.ridgley@staffs.ac.uk)

## Successes

### Leaders in Podiatry

Three members of the Faculty of Health's Clinical Biomechanics team: Dave Dunning, Senior Lecturer, and Visiting Professors Tony Redmond and Wesley Vernon, appear in a list of top five Podiatrists in the country compiled by The Times newspaper in a special supplement *Britain's Top Doctors* on 13 November 2010. Over six months, Times researchers asked charities, Specialists and professional bodies and associations to recommend leaders in their particular field - those named in the supplement appeared on everyone's lists.

### Osteopathy

We are currently working with the College of Osteopaths with a view to offering a BOst/ MOst from September 2011. This is a part-time course with teaching taking place on alternate weekends throughout the academic year, over a 4 year period. The course will be based in Stoke and will sit within the Sport and Exercise Programme Area. This is an exciting development for the Faculty broadening our portfolio further.

For more information: [www.collegeofosteopaths.ac.uk/index.php](http://www.collegeofosteopaths.ac.uk/index.php)

### Staffordshire Gets Set for the Games

A new and exciting project developed by Staffordshire University hopes to use London 2012 to inspire hundreds of school children across the County with the power of the Games. In partnership with Chris Kirkland, Staffordshire Co-ordinator for the 2012 Games and the network of School Sport Partnerships, the University have appointed four of their Sports Development and Coaching students to placements within school sport partnerships in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.



*Left to right: Erin Munns (Education Manager LOCOG), Amanda Harvey (LOCOG), Neil Gilson (Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent 2012 Ambassador), Lyndsey Meek (Stafford and Stone Community Sports Coach), Steve Glover (Stafford and Stone Partnership Development Manager), Laura Malkin (Staffordshire University student), Nick Smith (South Stoke Partnership Development Manager), Arron Dunn (Staffordshire University student), Sean Evans (Staffordshire University student), Libby Abbott (Staffordshire University student), Nigel Edwards (North Stoke Partnership Development Manager), Lucy Stevenson (Cannock and Rugeley Partnership Development Manager), Emma Starr (Burntwood and Lichfield Partnership Development Manager) and Liz Stonier (Staffordshire Moorlands Partnership Development Manager).*

Libby Abbott, Sean Evans, Arron Dunn and Laura Malkin, all in the third year of their degree, will each undertake a 6 month placement working with clusters of schools in their host partnership with the aim of developing new projects that are inspired by the Olympic and Paralympic Values. The placement will aim to increase the number of schools from Staffordshire that have joined the Get Set Network whilst supporting the ongoing development of school sport. The project has recently been awarded the London 2012 Inspire mark. [c.g.lee@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:c.g.lee@staffs.ac.uk)

### Telford Skate Camp

Coaches from Telford Training Academy invited experts in a variety of fields to deliver lectures and workshops at a four-day skate school held at Telford Ice Rink in August. Amongst those invited were Dr Jamie Barker presenting on Sports Psychology, and Mr Dave Dunning presenting on sports injuries. The event was attended by 52 skaters in total and was followed by a one-day Skate UK training day on Friday with a further 27 attendees. The age range of the skaters was from 5 to 44 and the standard ranged from Skate UK star awards to NISA level 9.

[c.l.blewitt@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:c.l.blewitt@staffs.ac.uk)

### Prevention of Vascular Dementia Project

The Centre for Ageing and Mental Health has been awarded a grant of £38,400 to develop a work programme on 'The prevention of Vascular Dementia' with the North Staffordshire locality Workforce Stakeholder Board. The project will be led by Professor Paul Kingston, Derek Beeston and Dr Buki Adeyemo from Combined Healthcare NHS Trust. [p.kingston@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:p.kingston@staffs.ac.uk)

## Health Factor 11 – The Five Rings of Health

### **Saturday 2 April 2011**

#### **Sexual Health (GUNA) Conference**

Venue: The Ruxton Centre, Beaconside Stafford

### **Monday 4 April 2011**

#### **Inaugural Lecture by Professor Vish Unnithan**

#### **Preventative efficacy of team sports: Cardiovascular and cardio respiratory insights for health and performance**

This Inaugural Lecture will demonstrate the efficacy of team sports in enhancing the cardiovascular health of the general population and also to provide an insight into new scientific paradigms that are being used in the evaluation of team sport athletes.

Venue: Stafford By invitation, however if you would be interested please contact [n.d.smith@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:n.d.smith@staffs.ac.uk) as we may have some spaces nearer the time.

### **Tuesday 5 April 2011**

#### **Exploring student nurses' first assessment experience: An illuminative evaluation**

A presentation of findings from a doctoral study based on a cohort of pre-registration nurses from Staffordshire University. Aims to stimulate thought and debate around assessment, learning, teaching and the inclusion of mature students.

Venue: Blackheath Lane, Stafford Lunchtime seminar – Thesis Presentation

### **Saturday 9 April and Sunday 10 April 2011**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Staffordshire Conference on Clinical Biomechanics**

Venue: Ashley Buildings, Leek Road, Stoke-on-Trent

### **Tuesday 12 April 2011**

#### **Event: Health Protection Conference**

One day conference run in conjunction with West Midlands North Health Protection Agency  
Chaired by Professor Harsh Duggal, Director, West Midlands North Health Protection Unit,  
Lecturer Practitioner, Staffordshire University

Venue: Blackheath Lane Campus, Stafford

### **Wednesday 13 April 2011**

#### **Readers Seminar by Derek Beeston: Is there a place for 'Virtue' in the 21st Century?**

Venue: Blackheath Lane Campus, Stafford

### **Thursday 14 April 2011**

#### **Steps towards well-being: Exploring a Labyrinth Walk**

A labyrinth walk can aid mindfulness and relaxation, not only as a stress-busting activity but also as a problem-solving and creativity-releasing opportunity.

Venue: Leek Road Campus, Stoke All day event and/or drop in sessions

### **Friday 15 April 2011**

#### **Event: 5K Fun Run**

Location: Beaconside Sports Centre field, Stafford

Time: 10.00am start

For further information or to book on any of these events please go to our website [www.staffs.ac.uk/healthfactor11](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/healthfactor11) which will go live week commencing 14 February 2011.

### **Preventing Falls in Older People Conference – Thursday 28 April 2011**

Venue: The TV Centre, Staffordshire University, Beaconside, Stafford.

Cost: £40 per delegate to include buffet lunch and refreshments.

Topics include: inpatient falls prevention; work of ProFaNE; medication; exercise; assistive technology; podiatry. For further information please contact Mrs Elaine Stanway, Tel: 01785 353742, email: [e.stanway@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:e.stanway@staffs.ac.uk)

### Olympic Role Models: Fact or Fiction? - Friday 6 May 2011

Chaired by Professor Vish Unnithan, Professor of Paediatric Exercise Physiology

The presence or absence of Olympic role models will be addressed from an athlete's perspective by a former British athlete and the ethical, moral and physiological consequences of doping will also be covered.

Location: Ashley Building, Leek Road Campus, Stoke

Time: 10.00 – 12.00pm

For further details contact Nicola Smith on 01785 353679 or Email [n.d.smith@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:n.d.smith@staffs.ac.uk)

### National Nurses Day Conference – Thursday 12 May 2011

In recognition of International Nurses Day, The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust in association with Staffordshire University is pleased to present the *Dignity in Care Conference: Because it Matters*. This will be a full day conference, with high profile speakers and the guest keynote speaker will be **Angela Rippon**.

Venue: The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Cost: £60 per delegate to include buffet lunch and refreshments. For further information please contact: Professor Wilf McSherry, [w.mcsberry@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:w.mcsberry@staffs.ac.uk) or Helen Coleman, [helen.coleman@sath.nhs.uk](mailto:helen.coleman@sath.nhs.uk)

## Research and Development

### Student involvement in research

Two first year Sport and Exercise students - Tom Hulme and Aaron Sharpes – have been involved in the research conducted by Professor Vish Unnithan and his MPhil student, Andreas Georgiou, with the Under-15 and Under-16 footballers of Crewe Alexandra and Wolverhampton Wanderers FC during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. The two students were assisting with data collection that related to talent identification of the young footballer. It is to the credit of these two first year students that, at such an early stage of their university careers, they got involved in research data collection. Their professionalism and attention to detail with the data collection tasks that they were asked to do were a credit to themselves and to the University. [v.unnithan@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:v.unnithan@staffs.ac.uk)

### Centre for Ageing and Mental Health Seminars

Both events will be held in BL125, Blackheath Lane, Stafford, from 12.00 noon to 1.00pm.

For further information and to reserve a place please telephone Elaine Stanway on 01785 353742 or email [e.stanway@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:e.stanway@staffs.ac.uk)

9 February	<i>Self neglect in older people</i> Lesley Hayes, Lecturer, Staffordshire University
9 March	<i>Dementia care in acute hospitals</i> Dr Dave Anderson, Associate Medical Director, Mersey Care NHS Trust

### Sport Health and Exercise Research Seminars

All events will be held in BG35 in the Brindley Building, Leek Road, Stoke, from 11.00am to 12.00 noon. To reserve a place on any of the events please email Barbara Brown [b.j.brown@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:b.j.brown@staffs.ac.uk)

9 February	<i>Exercise evaluation of the child with cerebral palsy</i> Professor Vish Unnithan, Staffordshire University
16 February	<i>Social support: What is it and how does it benefit performance?</i> Dr Paul Freeman, University of Exeter
2 March	<i>PhD Research in Sport and Exercise</i> Andrew Evans and Martin Turner Staffordshire University
9 March	<i>Mathematical modelling and its influence on sole design</i> Roozbeh Naemi and Rob Needham Staffordshire University
23 March	<i>Attributions: Measurement, effects upon self-efficacy and performance, and future directions</i> Dr Pete Coffee, Staffordshire University

**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](mailto:b.j.brown@staffs.ac.uk) or Linda Thompson (Editor) [l.j.thompson@staffs.co.uk](mailto:l.j.thompson@staffs.co.uk)

An electronic version of this document is available on [www.staffs.ac.uk/faculties/health/partnerships/healthbrief](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/faculties/health/partnerships/healthbrief)

## People

### Professor Vish Unnithan

I obtained my PhD from the University of Glasgow in 1993, where my research involved investigating factors affecting running economy in children. I subsequently worked in Canada (as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Children's Exercise Nutrition Centre, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, with the late Dr Oded Bar-Or). My work with Oded involved using a multi-disciplinary approach (metabolic, electromyographic and kinematic analyses) to identify the underpinning mechanisms responsible for the high energy cost of movement in children with Cerebral Palsy. I have worked in the USA (University of San Francisco, Syracuse University) and the UK (Liverpool University and Liverpool Hope University). I was delighted to be appointed as a Professor in the Centre for Sport, Health and Exercise Research based at the Leek Road Campus. I was awarded the Hans Stoboy award at the Paediatric Work Physiology Congress in Clermont-Ferrand in 1991 and was made a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) in 1999. I have published extensively in the area of paediatric exercise science and my current research interests are in the cardiovascular and cardiorespiratory responses to exercise in elite child athletes and children with chronic disease. [v.unnithan@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:v.unnithan@staffs.ac.uk)



### Peter Kevern



Although I have a first degree in Biology, I discovered early on that studying plants didn't interest me and went to Sri Lanka to study Buddhism instead. I then joined a religious community and spent time in the East End, then 6 years as a community development worker in the highlands of Papua New Guinea before landing up at Birmingham to do a BD in Theology and a PhD in Ecclesiology. For the last 10 years I've been teaching theology (mostly to Christian ministers), building experience in curriculum design and teaching quality assurance, and developing a line of research into some of the religious issues raised by dementia. I started here in the Faculty of Health in September as Senior Lecturer in Theology & Spirituality, with

responsibility for the MSc pathway in Spirituality, Health & Pastoral Care. My current interests are in the psychology of religious belief, and in curriculum development.

[p.kevern@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:p.kevern@staffs.ac.uk)

### Fiona Irvine

I qualified as a registered nurse in 1984 and spent my clinical career working in elderly care, community care and palliative care. Having completed a Master's degree in health promotion and health education, I moved to work in nurse education; teaching community nursing on both post registration and pre-registration programmes. I have worked at Glyndwr University, Bangor University and latterly, as Professor of Nursing at Liverpool John Moores University. I completed a PhD in 2004 and I have led various funded research projects relating to the organisation and delivery of health and social care services. In my role as Head of Research Capability at Liverpool John Moores University, I have worked with colleagues from health and social care, to develop their research and writing competencies. This is a role that I find particularly rewarding and I am really looking forward to continuing this work at Staffordshire University.



Fiona will be joining the Faculty as Head of Research and Scholarship on 1 March 2011. We very much look forward to Fiona joining us and I'm sure many of you will be keen to meet with her once she settles in. Fiona is Professor of Nursing and will be based in Brindley Building on Leek Road at the Stoke campus.