



STAFFORDSHIRE
UNIVERSITY

horizon

Autumn 2008

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Business Evolution – to show the region means business!

An ambitious project designed to upskill the region's workforce and boost business opportunities has been launched by Staffordshire University.

Business Evolution is an employer engagement project which aims to deliver bespoke learning solutions to meet the needs of regional business and their employees.

Staffordshire University already has a strong track record working with a diverse range of employers including the RAF, Staffordshire Police, the NHS, Britvic and Alton Towers.

Business Evolution is looking to build on that reputation and a dedicated team of consultants has been recruited to engage with employers who are looking to compete nationally and internationally – but who are limited by the skills gap and the cost of training.

Chris Watson, who is leading the taskforce, said: "Business Evolution is part of the University's overall strategic objectives to address the needs of business. The objective is to up-skill employees in response to the ever-increasing competitive environment, and Business Evolution has access to the full range of solutions that Staffordshire University and its partners can offer for all levels of work-based learning, through a single point of contact."

Dr Steve Wyn Williams who worked with the Higher Education Funding Council (hefce) to develop the pilot said, more than 1000 employees were set to benefit from the project which would revolutionise the skills base and create new opportunities in the region.

He added: "The project will also be hugely important in realising the University's ambition to be one of the leading business-facing institutions in the country."

Staffordshire University is also set to open a new Business Centre at the heart of the University Quarter development which will play a part in the project in future years.

Anyone wanting to find out more about Business Evolution can call t: 01785 294178 or visit www.staffs.ac.uk/businesssevolution



new degree set to solve leadership skill shortages in the West Midlands

Staffordshire University has joined forces with Birmingham City University to launch a new on-the-job foundation degree to support the development of the region's business leaders. The two universities will work with employers to tailor advanced work-based learning opportunities that increase the skills of their staff whilst boosting the bottom line of the business.

Both universities are working with a third partner, The Working Manager Limited, whose expertise in hi-tech learning will help to deliver the new course to business leaders via an online academy. The Foundation Degree in Leadership and Organisational Management, which is equivalent to the second year of a three-year honours degree, was officially launched at a prestigious event hosted at the Hotel du Vin in Birmingham.

"This educational development will make sure that employers across the West Midlands can offer a complete career development package, enabling staff to get a degree building on their day-to-day roles and longer term ambitions," explained Cathy Gilbert, Director of Sales and Student Recruitment at Staffordshire University.

"The Working Manager provides a website that gives employers access to leadership development at a time that suits them and their staff, while being assured of having access to the most up-to-date

academic thinking." She added: "It will also assist in staff retention, as it will provide a foundation for managers' growth within the business rather than encouraging them out of the company!"





new gateway to city

Transformation begins to create new symbol of 'civic' pride

Ambitious plans to build a new learning hub for post-16 education and a state-of-the-art science centre in a strategically important part of the city have been given a boost.

The proposed new facilities are part of Phase One of the University Quarter project, an education-led regeneration scheme which aims to attract £250million-worth of investment to the area. To kick-start this vision, the University Quarter partnership has successfully acquired the Roebuck Hotel on Leek Road, Stoke-on-Trent. This is the start of a series of planned property purchases along this section of Leek Road to make way for two flagship buildings that will jointly create a new gateway to the city.

Featuring bold, eye-catching architecture the exciting new developments will be clearly visible from the overlooking mainline railway, signalling to visitors the start of a new-look Stoke-on-Trent. Plans for the new facilities include the City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College.

The Sixth Form will relocate from its current site to one directly overlooking the junction of Leek Road/Station Road, Stoke. Opening in 2010 the new Sixth Form, working in partnership with the nearby Stoke-on-Trent College, will provide a hub for 16 to 19-year-old learners and places the University Quarter project at the heart of the city's educational restructure.

Also planned is the Staffordshire University Science Centre, a cutting edge facility that will support Staffordshire University's excellence in areas such as forensics, psychology, biology and environmental sciences. The integrated learning labs will be open to school, college and university students, as well as being accessible to the wider community by providing exhibition space and commercial opportunities for science-based start-up companies.

Staffordshire University Deputy Vice-Chancellor Paul Richards, Chair of the University Quarter Steering Group, said: "Ultimately our vision is to provide opportunity, attract investment and create a better quality for all those who live, work or study within the University Quarter.

"By creating a high profile gateway, the Phase One plans will help attract further funding to this important part of Stoke-on-Trent – this initial phase will kick-start subsequent projects and other exciting concepts."

Mr Richards said future schemes, will include support for creative industries, business and professional development, engaging directly with employers to determine their need and the creation of a 'knowledge hub' providing a home to a library and information-based resources and fledgling businesses working in the local knowledge economy.

VC to shape future of HE

Vice-Chancellor Professor Christine King will be leading a national review looking at part-time Higher Education study. Professor King has been hand-picked by John Denham, Secretary of State for Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills, who is calling on experts to help safeguard the world-class status of the UK's Higher Education (HE) system.

Mr Denham made the announcement about Professor King's appointment in his speech to delegates attending the annual conference organised by the National Funding Council for English Universities (HEFCE). Professor King will report on the future of part-time study in the HE sector and help to shape national policy.

"I am delighted to be given this important role," said Professor King, who is recognised as leading a University that pioneers flexible learning. I will be talking to a range of colleagues throughout the sector, as well as student representatives. This will be a shop floor view to determine what is likely to happen in this important and fast-growing area of learning."

Staffordshire University has a strong reputation in reviewing education policy through its own centre of excellence, the Institute for Education Policy Research. The University is also currently supporting a number of Government-backed initiatives to broaden access opportunities. For example, Staffordshire was recently awarded more than £3million by hefce to deliver customer-focused courses that will meet the needs of employers.

Staffordshire University is also the UK's leading pioneer of fast-track degrees, another Hefce-funded pilot project. The success of this scheme has won the praise of Government ministers.



beer king talks big business

The entrepreneur behind the Cobra beer success story enthralled business leaders at a packed forum staged by Staffordshire University. Lord Karan Bilimoria of Chelsea CBE DL was speaking at the University's latest 'Big Conversation ...' event, which is sponsored jointly by the University's Business School and the North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The interactive event was hosted by ITN television reporter Nina Nannar, at the Pavilion venue in Stoke-on-Trent and filmed by graduate film-makers. The impact of globalisation was the evening's theme and Lord Bilimoria, who is an honorary graduate of Staffordshire University, said local businesses should look towards India and China for new opportunities.

"No business today can afford to ignore India and China. These are two countries that make up a third of the world's population and they are the two fastest growing economies in the world," said the founder of the Cobra beer empire. Because of the ease of communication, because of the ease of travel, because of the internet and technology, you can operate globally as a two-person business."

Lord Bilimoria made his comments after officially launching the Stoke Business Village, which is home to graduate entrepreneurs and a range of small fledgling businesses. Staffordshire University already

has long established and successful links with India and China, with a number of overseas partnerships. The University is also one of the most successful in the UK in attracting Indian students to its UK campuses.

To view the 'Big Conversation with Lord Bilimoria' and the official opening of Stoke Business Village visit:
www.staffs.ac.uk/about_us/news_and_events/big_conversation/index.jsp



bright future for Sadia

The future's looking bright for Crafts graduate Sadia Sultana, who is planning to set up her own lighting design business in Pakistan. Sadia, who was born deaf, was awarded the annual Scarr-Hall Memorial prize which recognises students who have overcome difficulties in completing their award.

Speaking through her signer Janet Cummings, Sadia said: "It was a fantastic three years and the tutors were very helpful. However I'm really confident and wanted to achieve things and so that was my aim. I specialised in lighting because it's something I'm really interested in – the different patterns and the effects on the atmosphere."

Sadia, 24, who lives in Stoke-on-Trent and previously studied Art and Design at Newcastle College, is looking to make her lamps in Pakistan and export them back to the UK.

She exhibited her work at the annual Art and Design degree show, Splash, which featured the work of over 350 final year students from a diverse suite of awards including fine art, photography, ceramics, animation, graphics, product design, surface pattern and media production.

Regeneration was an underlying theme for a number of fine artists. BA(Hons) Fine Art graduate Kate Lynch used clay and mud sourced from regeneration sites around North Staffordshire to colour wash the gallery walls for her final year work Painted History, which also made reference to the recurring colours and pattern of wallpaper and paintwork seen on the exposed interiors of derelict homes.

Meanwhile, Matt McCafferty, 23, of Stoke-on-Trent, produced a series of oil paintings which focused on the City's post-industrial heritage. He said: "I focused on the North Staffs Hospital site which is in a state of flux and the maternity block which is something of a monolith and due to be demolished. The painting has glorified it and changed its context as a building."

Another of the students, Elizabeth Norman, uses sound recordings to tell the story of Bothomes Hall near Buxton which was compulsory purchased for a road building scheme that was never completed.



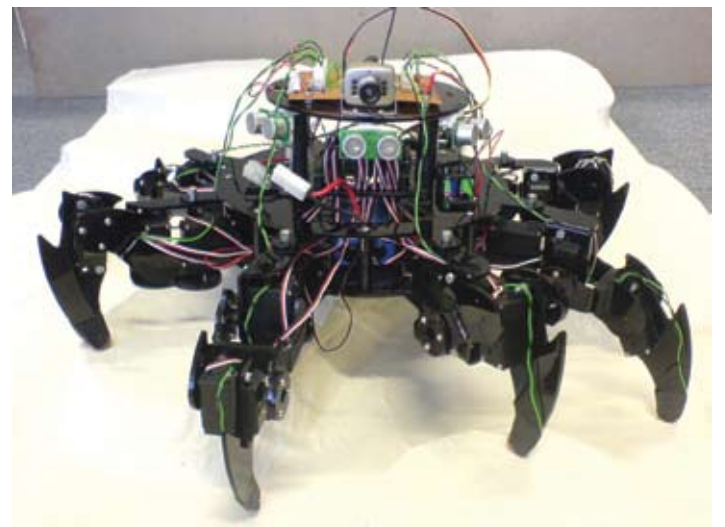
where robotic spiders roam

A robotic spider and an animated dragon were just two of the student projects on view to visitors of Staffordshire University's Gradex 08. The event, which took place on the Beaconside campus, showcased the work of final year students on the computing, engineering and technology courses at the University.

The eight-legged walking robot is the work of Martin Garland who was studying for a BSc(Hons) Design Technology for Robotics. Martin developed his interest during his first summer at University when he stayed behind to construct a two-legged robot. For his final year project, he opted to build an eight-legged robot which he felt would have more adaptations – including space exploration!

His robot has the ability to walk forwards while adapting to the terrain it is crossing and stepping over obstacles in its path. His construction has already impressed would-be employers – resulting in one firm offer of employment and an exciting assessment day with a company that develops satellites.

Meanwhile Joe Deuchar, 21, from the BSc(Hons) Computer Games Design course, researched lizards and reptiles as a means of breathing life into his animated dragon. Joe is hoping his project will help him find work in 3D modelling.



bring the bling

Staffordshire University has joined the ongoing fight against dementia by entering into a unique partnership with The Alzheimer's Society.

The partnership was initiated by Vice-Chancellor Professor Christine King, who has an active interest in the Society and is also a carer for her elderly father who suffers with dementia. The University is also heavily involved in issues affecting older people through its Centre for Ageing and Mental Health.

The partnership with the Alzheimer's Society aims to raise money for the Society's care, provision and research and to this end the University has launched the Bring the Bling campaign.

This encourages people to donate items of broken and unwanted jewellery to Staffordshire University. Any precious or good condition pieces will then be sold to a specialist merchant on behalf of the society.

Our talented crafts students will then re-use, re-cycle and re-invent the broken pieces into new, unique items, which will be sold on, along with any precious pieces, to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society and the care of older people.

Donations can be made in person to the Finance office at Stoke and Stafford campuses or simply send your Bling to:

Vice Chancellor's Office
Staffordshire University
Room BL060
Blackheath Lane Campus
Stafford
ST18 0AD

So have a clear out, empty your drawers and get rid of those tangled, broken, unwanted and forgotten pieces that you no longer want.

For more information, call 01785 353608 or email press@staffs.ac.uk

**"Bling us your Bling now,
You know it's the best Blinging
Bling to do.**

**Get your Bling tings toBlinger,
then Bling them over to us to
reBingle them.**

You know it makes sense."



Benjamin Zephaniah, Poet



MentorVista

Calling all alumni – could you help? Could you give a current student the benefit of your experience? Remember how hard it was to get started in your career? How useful it would have been to have a personal mentor, lending a helping hand? Now you can have this role for a current student through MentorVista, a project run by the Careers and Employability Service.

We are looking for alumni who can pass on their knowledge, skills and experience to final and penultimate year students. You would help raise your mentee's aspirations, recognise their skills, help in their personal and career development, give them knowledge about your career area and generally help them to be successful.

Mentoring a student can bring immense satisfaction, as you have a chance to:

- Share your knowledge and experience with the professionals of tomorrow
- Enhance your communication, leadership and coaching skills

- Gain a fresh perspective to help you reflect on your own work practices
- Promote your organisation and even talent-spot and recruit new colleagues or successors.

You don't need mentoring experience or to live near to the University: mentors register online and are chosen by students; support material and worksheets are provided online, and Careers and Employability Service staff are on hand to provide advice and encouragement. You could arrange to meet your mentee personally or you could communicate by email or telephone.

This is an opportunity for you to be involved in the life of the University and to contribute in a practical way to the success of its students. Go on, create the difference! For more information and to register as a mentor, go to www.staffs.ac.uk/mentorvista. If you have any questions contact the MentorVista Project Team on 01782 294991 or email mentorvista@staffs.ac.uk

helping you grow a fruitful career

The Careers and Employability Service at Staffordshire University offers a number of services for graduates – so don't worry, there's plenty of help available even though you've finished your studies.

If you want to chat through your career ideas with an Advisor then you are more than welcome to book an appointment to see one at either our Stoke or Stafford Careers Services. Don't panic if you've moved away, we also offer an e-guidance service which allows you to chat to a Careers Advisor via email. Submit your query at www.staffs.ac.uk/careersadvice.

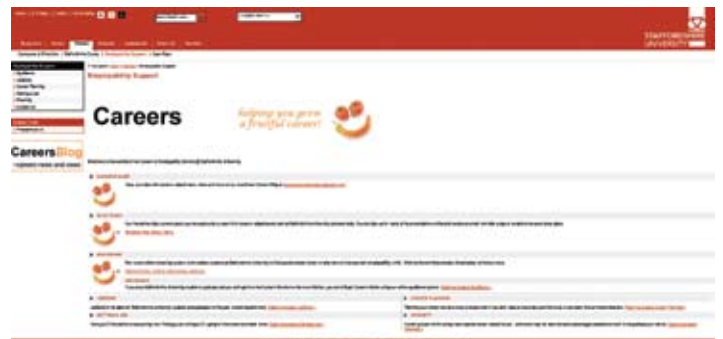
In our JobZone we also offer the following services for graduates:

- Online national graduate fairs – we've got a Law Fair and National Fair coming up in November/December. Find full details at www.gradfairz.com
- Graduate jobs online – our extensive database of graduate vacancies can be viewed from the JobZone website. Follow the graduate link at www.staffs.ac.uk/jobzone
- Graduate placements and employability training are available through Graduate Advantage. Look out for work-based projects in the graduate link at www.staffs.ac.uk/jobzone.

Visit us online at www.staffs.ac.uk/careers, or email careers@staffs.ac.uk

Stoke Careers is in the Thompson Library, on the ground floor opposite B:10. You can call us on 01782 294991.

Stafford Careers is in the Beacon Building, on the ground floor opposite Dolce Vita. You can call us on 01785 353233.





Graduation 'Class of 2008' special



calling all the heroes

'Running paramedic' Ray raises money on route to receiving his honorary degree

A night shift, cramps and heavy downpours didn't stop the paramedic Ray Edensor from running from his home in Stafford to receive Staffordshire University's top honour.

Ray, pictured left who is affectionately known as the 'running paramedic,' has raised more than £250,000 for the Dreams Come True organisation which grants wishes for children with life limiting illnesses.

In recognition of his marathon fundraising efforts, Ray was made an honorary Doctor of the University at the Awards Ceremonies which took place at Trentham Gardens. Accepting his award, Ray Edensor said that he'd seen his fair share of tragedy as a paramedic working on the front line but nothing was more tragic than seeing seriously ill children.

He said: "I wanted to give something back to the profession I work for - the NHS - and if everyone just gave a little time and energy then the NHS would be even more fantastic in terms of patient care. I'd like to thank family and friends for putting up with me working 12 hour shifts then disappearing off on 18 mile runs to train and to my work colleagues who have helped me... I'd also like to thank the University. I feel so humbled and it's absolutely fantastic to be here."

Ray was among a number of Staffordshire "heroes" honoured by Staffordshire University at its Award Ceremonies. These included top Asian entrepreneur Mo Chaudry who recently starred on television's Secret Millionaire and blind opera singer Denise Leigh.

Mo, who originally graduated from Staffordshire University with a Sports Science degree, said it was a life-changing pep talk from former Vice-Chancellor Keith Thompson which was instrumental in his personal success.

"I bucked my ideas up and focused on my studies but if it wasn't for his kind and wise words I wouldn't be where I am today. Addressing the graduands, he added: "I was there with you 25 years ago. What you have is youth, vitality, energy and drive to make anything possible.... It's all possible and I'm a living example of that so follow your instincts and you'll deliver."

National figures singled out to receive the honour of Doctor of the University included husband and wife design team Wayne and Gerardine Hemingway and BBC journalist Alan Johnston, who was kidnapped during his posting on the Gaza Strip.

In his acceptance speech, Alan recounted his experience of visiting an orphanage in Afghanistan. "I remember one small boy who was walking with his plate to the table and thinking to myself how he'd got off to the worst possible start and how I'd had the benefits of education in one of the world's richest countries. I seemed to have everything and the boy seemed to have nothing."

"Then he looked at me and gestured to say 'come eat with me, share it - there's enough for both of us'. What I hadn't really learned at that time was the generosity and largeness of spirit demonstrated by that boy."

Alan also told how after his kidnap, he'd experienced "depression and near despair," but that he'd also discovered an inner strength which had helped him survive his four months in captivity. He added: "If you go to any hospital you see people coping with terrible injuries and illnesses and yet so often you see people conducting themselves with real grace and dignity."

"You've years ahead of you and there may be difficult times but when you encounter them you might find more strength than you'd expect... Go out and make the most of the great opportunities you've earned."

This year's recipients:

Neil Carr OBE

Mo Chaudry

Peter Coates

Sir Philip Craven MBE

Carol Ann Duffy CBE

Ray Edensor

Wing Commander Andy Green OBE, MA, RAF

Wayne Hemingway MBE and Gerardine Hemingway MBE

Alan Johnston (pictured below)

Denise Leigh

Mike Short

Helen Tse

Joanna Yarrow



personal touch pays off

Raj Brightman gave up his Telecoms business in order to enrol on a Law degree at Staffordshire University.

And it's a risk which has certainly paid off as the father of six from Newcastle has earned himself a First and a £10,000 scholarship from the Inns of Court to study the Bar at Nottingham Trent.

"I have always wanted to be a barrister," said Raj, 35, who has been working as a Court Process Server while studying for his degree. "I have gone from having no A levels to achieving a first class honours degree. Luckily I've got the scholarship or I'd have had to stop there."

Raj, whose dedication was also recognised with the Sweet and Maxwell prize for best final year performance, added: "The course was excellent. The main benefit is the personal touch you get from staff both administratively and academically. They talked me through the worries and that freed me up to do my best."

"I am very sad to be leaving Staffordshire University but I am volunteering for whatever I can and intend to carry on using the Law Library."



gap year for Pat, 69

Pat Thompson from Harlow in Essex embarked on her Forensics Science degree hot on the heels of her daughter Rachel's own graduation from Staffordshire University.

"It was to keep the brain alive," said Pat, 69. "I'd always wanted to do a degree and been saying so for years. I'd read Rachel's course book and it looked so fascinating."

"Everybody mucked in and helped me move. I've loved it and I've found people locally to be more friendly with strangers than where I'm from. I've made some fantastic friends and the lecturers have been wonderful."

Pat, who in her varied career has worked on the design for Concorde and also with children with special needs, said she'd found the study experience "hard, but fun" and her hard work paid off when she earned herself a First.

Pat, who travelled to her graduation ceremony in a limousine with her fellow graduands, now intends to take a gap year but is intent on continuing her studies with a Masters degree when she hits 70.



double delight

It's a double celebration as brothers graduate together

Two brothers, who decided to study two very different subjects at the same time and at the same university, celebrated their graduations during the same week.

Gareth Terrace, 23, had been working in IT Sales for two years when he decided it was time for a change of direction. He had always wanted to get into Computing and decided he would sign up to do a three-year degree in Computing at Staffordshire University.

At the same time however, his younger brother Sam, now 21, was also applying to go to university. Although he had chosen Journalism as his discipline, Sam had also chosen Staffs Uni for his Higher Education and so the brothers found themselves studying at the same place, at the same time.

Sam Terrace, who now lives in Norwich, said: "It was just a coincidence really. Although some siblings would probably hate the thought of their older brother being at the same Uni, it didn't really bother me as we were on separate campuses, Gareth was based in Stafford and I was based in Stoke."

"I started a BA(Hons) in Journalism as I have always had a love of words. I did well in English at school and I also have a love of motors, so I thought perhaps I could become a Motor Journalist. I enjoyed the course very much and although some of my lecturers left, which was difficult, I made it through with the support of the other lecturers

in the Uni. I worked in London on a placement with Auto Express as a reporter which was brilliant. My degree has equipped me to do a wide variety of jobs so who knows where my career will take me in ten years time. I wouldn't say no to a job in Top Gear but I'm an open minded chap so anything in Motor Journalism would be great!"

Brother Gareth is a now a graduate in BSc(Hons) Multimedia Computing and is seeking employment in software development He said: "I'm going for lots of interviews now that I've graduated and I just want to do something I enjoy, which hopefully my degree will allow me to do! I'm really glad that I got my head down and stuck it out throughout my degree and now have something I can show for all the hard work."

"I think it was hard for our mum when we both left home at the same time to go to University, but it really wasn't a problem for me to be there with my little brother, it was actually quite handy to have someone there I could borrow money off!"

As Gareth looks for a job in Software Development, Sam is thinking about heading to London to begin a career in PR, although he is sure his heart will stay in the motor industry. The one thing that the brothers are both certain of, is that wherever their new careers may take them, they will always keep their close friendship, strengthened by their University experiences.



top job for best computing student

Steven Perry, 22, of Wombourne, won the Britannia Building Society prize for best computing student. As well as achieving a first for his BSc(Hons) Network Computing, Steven has landed a place on a graduate scheme with Crewe-based motor manufacturers Bentley.

He said: "I'd heard Staffs was really good for computing - one of the best in the county - and I was able to remain living at home. The University was great and I really enjoyed my placement year which went down well in the interviews for Bentley." He is pictured below with Dean, Mike Goodwin and Julie Haycocks and Mark Mellor from Britannia Building Society.



Mums passion for museums

Diane Sanders has taken the first step on the ladder of a career in Museums after completing her degree at Staffordshire University. Diane, 44, from Hednesford, achieved a 2:1 in her BA(Hons) English and History degree and has accepted a position at Tamworth Castle as a Museums Assistant – a far cry from her previous role as "mum, housewife and secretary".

"I wanted to go into teaching English but History took over and I decided I wanted to go into the Museums Service," said Diane, who was presented with Andrew Poynton Memorial Prize for outstanding achievement. The mum of two who studied for A-levels at Cannock College added: "I don't think I'd have got the job if it hadn't been for the placement with Staffordshire Museums and Archives Service." Diane hopes eventually to study for a Masters in Museums Studies.



Sam is high climber

BSc Geography with Mountain Leadership graduate Sam Doyle, is destined to be a high climber. Having graduated from Staffordshire University with a First, he is heading to Aberystwyth to study for a Masters degree in Glaciology.

Sam, 21, was awarded the best final year undergraduate prize in Geography as well as Faculty prize for the best independent research project which focused on landforms in Snowdonia. Four days after graduating, Sam flew to Greenland to lead two expeditions.



distance learning aids scientist

One scientist is progressing in her career after obtaining an MSc from Staffordshire University. Lianne Card, 29, from Cambridgeshire, wanted to continue her education and climb the career ladder.

"I started a degree in Biological Sciences when I was 18 and after graduating I got a job with Thermo Fisher Scientific in the RND Department, developing new tests for human disease. I decided to start an MSc in Molecular Sciences, by studying through distance learning. The course was really good and the lecturers were brilliant."



late entrant scoops award

With a CIMA qualification in chartered accountancy already under her belt, Sharanniya Balakrishnan, 23, was able to transfer on to the third year of the BA(Hons) in Finance. She said: "It was really brilliant. I missed the first two years but when I came I didn't feel like a new person and, importantly, my lecturers were really helpful as University was a new experience for me."

Sharanniya achieved a First in her degree also scooping the Thiel prize for best overall performance. After some invaluable advice from senior lecturer Paul Hammond, she was also successful in landing a job as a Finance Assistant with Northampton based Avon Cosmetics.



ahead by degrees

A dedicated Civil Servant has worked her way to the top and collected a wealth of qualifications along the way. Jane Kennedy, 37, began studying in 1989 when she began an HND in Business and Finance. At this time she was working for the Highways Department of Staffordshire County Council and decided to study part-time so that it wouldn't affect her work.

Luckily, the Council supported her throughout her studies and now, nearly 20 years on, Jane has been awarded her sixth qualification, a PhD in Local Government Performance. This follows on from her original HND, a BA(Hons) in Business Administration, a Postgrad diploma with Distinctions in Professional Managements, an MBA with Distinctions in Business Administration and a Postgrad certificate in Research Methodology.

A Senior Research Manager with the national Audit Commission, Jane said: "My Chief Executive at Staffordshire was really supportive and helped me secure the field work for my PhD. I left school and wanted to study business. My dad was doing an MBA in Business Administration at the same time as I started my HND and it inspired me to carry on, get more worthwhile qualifications and get to where I wanted to go."

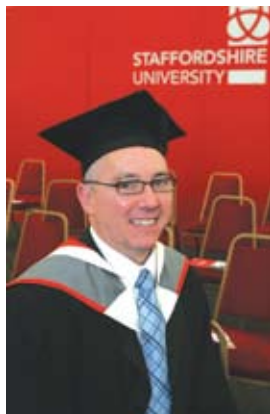


"I've not looked back since! All of the staff are just so enthusiastic and helpful and I found studying this way really cost effective." One of the highlights of her studies was a two-week visit to Arizona in America, where she visited another university to find out about other ways of studying and where she forged some lasting friendships. She said: "I've enjoyed every minute of my time at Staffs and though it was hard work with a lot of tears, it has all been worth it!"

tool-maker turns teacher

An engineer for a tool making company in Coalville has traded in his skills to become a qualified teacher, after being awarded a BA(Hons) in Education by Staffordshire University. Martin Willoughby, 43, was working at Ashby School in Leicestershire as a Cover Supervisor, when a colleague asked him to skill up.

Martin signed up for a three-year, part-time course, run by Staffordshire University's SURF scheme at Burton College. After being awarded his degree, Martin successfully became the Year Tutor at Ashby School for Years 10 and 11. He said: "It has been fantastic working with all of the kids, it is so rewarding and I love it! I have been really lucky to have had this opportunity and the school has been really supportive."



Dan lands job outdoors

A successful placement at an outdoor activity centre played a major part in landing Dan Masterman his first job. Dan, 21, from St Albans, Hertfordshire worked at Stanley Head Outdoor Activity Centre in the Staffordshire Moorlands while studying for his BSc(Hons) Geography with Mountain Leadership degree at the University.

And as well as earning a First for his degree and winning the Faculty prize for best workplace project, Dan has been offered work as an Instructor at Stanley Head with the possibility of securing a full-time position later this year.



first choice for psychologists

Staffordshire University's reputation for its teaching quality and friendly and supportive staff received a further boost during Awards week. BSc(Hons) Psychology student Chriso Kleanthous from London scooped a First for her degree and the Faculty prize for best undergraduate performance and British Psychological Society prize.

Chriso, 21, (pictured below, far right) who is going on to study a Masters in Child Psychology at Kingston University, said: "Everyone to do with the course has been really supportive and really friendly and I definitely made the right choice coming here."

Victoria Aldridge of Lincolnshire (pictured fourth from left) who also achieved a First in her BSc(Hons) Psychology degree won the Faculty prize for the best final year project. She added: "I'd heard about the Psychology Department at Staffordshire University and that it's a nice friendly place to study." Victoria, 21, whose project looked at eating psychology, is hoping to study for an MSc in Research Methods in Psychology at Liverpool University.



following in Father's footsteps

A part-time lecturer and Staffs Uni student plans to follow in her late father's footsteps after achieving a M.Res in Computing Science. Emma Hollands, 26, from Endon in Staffordshire, was studying for her first degree, a BSc in Computing Information Systems, when she experienced the devastating loss of her father. Despite this tragic event, Emma managed to achieve a first class honours degree and was inspired to extend her education even further.

She said: "My dad was a teacher in Design Technology and I found out he had cancer while I was doing my GCSE's. It was during my first year of my BSc that he passed away, but instead of making me give up, it made me even more determined to do well in my studies and make my father and my family proud and the work really helped to keep me going."

Emma was always interested in computers and after completing her first degree, she decided to follow in her dad's footsteps and completed a PGCE in ICT and has spent time working as an IT Graduate on an Industrial Graduate Scheme. She now works part-time as a Lecturer in the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Technology at Staffs Uni and has just completed her M.Res in Computing Science.

She said: "I decided to return to Staffs Uni to study my M.Res and have discovered that teaching is my passion. That is why I decided to focus my Masters on the Technology for Learning research domain, and while studying, I was fortunate enough to be a part-time Lecturer, which was enjoyable and extremely rewarding."

"I would like to thank my supervisors for their guidance and support throughout my M.Res, as well as my lecturers and the students who participated in my research. Finally I would like to thank all of my family, my boyfriend and my friends for their ongoing support and particular thanks to my mother who has supported me throughout and of course my father, who I know would have been proud to see this day."

Emma now plans to do a PhD in Computing Science before becoming a full-time Teacher like her father, preferably as a Computing Lecturer at Staffordshire University, which is her dream job!



new skills open doors

A mature student has engineered himself an exciting new future, despite being diagnosed with severe dyslexia in the first year of his course. Robert Sadler overcame his difficulties as well as some personal bereavement and is now the proud holder of a BEng(Hons) in Network Engineering.

Says Robert, 48, of Harlow in Essex: "The dyslexia was a distraction for me and the troubles I encountered have definitely added to the pressures of the course. Luckily I had great support from the University staff, in particular Chris Howard and Neil Packard, who really know their stuff and helped give us all that extra push that kept us going."

Robert's degree has opened the door to an exciting new career in Environmental Recycling, working for the Civil Prison Service, a career, he says, his time at Staffs has stood him in good stead for. He adds: "Staffs is fantastic for mature students, you're never short of support or help here. I decided to come to university because my lack of qualifications was holding me back. I wanted university to open avenues for me and Staffs certainly has."



in touch with reality

Two friends discovered they had the X factor during exciting work placement

Samantha Ayling, 22, from Maidstone and Richard Todd, 21, from Derby, met during their second year at Staffordshire University and soon forged a firm friendship.

As Film, Television and Radio Studies students, the pair soon discovered that the work placement they would have to find for their course, could open the door to a whole lot of potential.

Richard said: "I decided to do this course as the open day visit showed me the great facilities here and I realised I could learn some great skills that could be applied to other jobs within the industry."

"I met Samantha on the course when she was an actor in a film I made during the second year and we became friends. I had done some work as a runner for ITV's The X Factor during the previous summer and then out of the blue, Talkback Thames called me as they were about to start filming a new series of Britain's Got Talent and needed more staff."

"As they needed more people, I thought of Sam as I was working with her on the student station, Sub.TV and thought it would be a good opportunity for both of us."

Although both Richard and Sam were working as Day Runners for Britain's Got Talent, they ended up with very different jobs on the show.

Richard dealt with technical aspects to the programme and Sam worked closely with the show's contestants. During the filming, the pair travelled all around the country, from Blackpool to Birmingham, and were on hand for most of the 'judge days' filming. During one show, Samantha even managed to get herself in the limelight.

She said: "There was a bit where Simon Cowell entered the room and there I was, holding open the door for him! When it was aired, we both watched it religiously and it was good fun, the people are the best bit of the job and we had a really good laugh."

"We could sometimes be filming to after 10pm, so it was great when one of the performers would start mucking about and make everyone laugh, the atmosphere really kept you going."

Both have jobs lined up now that they have graduated. Samantha has secured herself a permanent role on Trisha Goddard as a Floor Assistant and Richard has just finished working on Channel 4's Gok's Fashion Fix and is about to start filming on the new series of BBC2's The Apprentice. Both would ultimately like to produce, Richard as an Editorial Producer, and Samantha as a Production Manager.

The pair have also been asked back to do the next series of The X Factor and they may also be working together again on a new programme called Twigg's Fashion Swap.

Richard has some advice for anybody who would like to get into Film, TV or Radio. He said: "Everything on TV is commissioned, so if something you want to do comes up, you need to jump on it as quickly as you can."

Samantha added: "If production managers don't like your attitude or your work ethic, then you won't get far in that programme. At the end of the day, personality and hard work always wins through."



outstanding achievement

An exceptional Law graduate has been awarded the Queen Mother's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Former Army Policewoman, Anna Warters, who was also celebrating excellent results in her degree, says her time at Staffs was "an absolute pleasure."

The 28 year old from North Yorkshire had spent seven years in the Army when she decided to take a complete change of direction and study to become a barrister. Excelling on her course and achieving consistent good marks, Anna won numerous awards and a scholarship from the Bar Council Scholarship Trust for her hard work. As if that wasn't enough, she is one of 60 students selected to attend summer school in Sicily this year, on an International Specialisation course.

During her three years at Staffs, Anna lived the student life as much as possible and was a member of both the football and hockey teams at the Stoke campus where she was based. For the foreseeable future, Anna's next steps are mapped out. She has earned a one-year prominent place at the Inns of Court Law School at City University in London, so will be moving to London where Anna will be the first ever Staffs student to have a place on the most prestigious course in the country.



top marks for supportive friends

Amy Chevin and Cheryl Button were determined to make the most of their opportunities when they enrolled at Staffordshire University just two years ago. Having both previously dropped out of degree courses, the pair acted as support for one another throughout their time at Staffordshire University. Single mum Cheryl, 27, said: "We've worked together and at times we've both phoned each other up in tears."

But their hard work and determination paid off when both were awarded Firsts in their BA(Hons) English degrees. Amy, 24, from Stoke said: "Coming in at Level 2 forced me to talk to my lecturers more and take advantage of their help. I was a 2:2 but slaved for the whole of the third year. I'd particularly like to thank Mel Ebdon who was phenomenal all the way through."

Cheryl who has applied for funding to continue her studies with a Masters in Eco-criticism said: "It's been a lot of hard work over many evenings and I've had to be quite disciplined but I can't fault a member of the English team and I'm so glad I came here now."

Amy is going on to do an MA in Negotiated Study and plans to do a PhD. Cheryl too has set her sight on a PhD in the hope of becoming a lecturer.



sweet smell of success

When Forensic Science undergraduate Alison Davidson started thinking about her degree project, she never dreamed her idea would go on to achieve two prize winning science awards and a first class honours degree. Alison, 38, of Stone, was awarded the Top Undergraduate Academic Performance in Forensic Science, as well as a £50 prize for the Best Project in Forensic Chemistry, for her innovative analysis of the forensic use of perfume.

"I thought it would be an interesting idea to analyse 30 different perfumes to see if you could tell them apart with a simple analytical technique, rather than by just the smell," says Alison. "It meant spending a lot of time in the lab and taking a lot of perfume swabs from skin but I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of doing the project, especially as I got to use a lot of analytical equipment."

Alison is positive about her experience at Staffs "It's amazing to just discover things about the world. Before I decided to come to university, I worked for BT and suddenly decided on a career change when I was 35. I'm so glad I did because I've loved every moment, and it's just so great to be receiving this award for something I enjoyed doing."

In the future Alison hopes to stay on in education to do an MPhil and a PHD. "My project was the best thing about my course, I definitely



want to continue doing more lab research into it in the future. It's been a great three years."

single mum goes solo

One single mum faced a struggle when she decided to become qualified in the industry she loved, by giving up singing and working in sales and signing up as a full-time student. Lauren Myatt, 29, gave up work and signed up to a three-year BA(Hons) Journalism degree at Staffordshire University.

"It was such a gamble but it has paid off!" She said, "It was very difficult at times to fit in going to lectures, doing coursework and looking after my son, but I had a great support network and my Mum and my Nan were brilliant, offering me childcare and some financial aid, to make it easier for me to do well in my degree."

Now a graduate, Lauren can look back and see just how well she has done. Not only has she worked as a Producer of popular Channel Five chat show Trisha Goddard for three months, but she was awarded a First Class Honours Degree and has also launched her own magazine, which was originally designed for her dissertation project.

Her creation - Sole Magazine - is a local entertainment title that gives reviews of local places, including bars, restaurants and venues, a variety of interviews with bands such as Kasabian, information on what is going on in the area and many other features. "So far it's going well. It's not making an awful lot of money at the moment as I am still establishing myself, but we are doing well enough to launch another issue in Birmingham, which will be happening very soon!"

"I have got a First Class degree for my course, I feel I have worked really hard and my son is proud of me. I am so glad I did it and became a student. I 'um'ed' and 'ah'ed' for ages before taking the plunge, but the University was great in supporting me through it and now I couldn't be happier."



on the level

Claire Eccleshall, 40, works as a teaching assistant at The Grove School in Stafford. She also works for the Nurture Group Network which helps children with emotional and behavioural difficulties to be successfully integrated into mainstream schools.

She believes her Foundation Degree for Teaching Assistants has given her the confidence to go into schools and conduct interviews – a requirement of her role with the Nurture Group network.

Claire, who is progressing on to a BA(Hons) Educational Studies degree at Staffordshire University, said: "My confidence has grown since I started studying. Previously I would never have had the confidence but now I feel I'm on the level where I can converse with teachers and head teachers."



employer support

Joanna Bailey was sponsored by her employers Newcastle Borough Council to undertake the Foundation Degree in Applied Computing at Stoke-on-Trent College.

Joanna, 26, from Newcastle, said she found the course "very rewarding and enjoyable" and she was looking forward to progressing on to the BSc(Hons) Applied Computing degree at Staffordshire University in September. She said: "I started at the same time as I got an IT job in the Council and I've actually climbed the career ladder as I've progressed through the course."



a force first

Police Sergeant Marcus Ferns, 36, who is stationed in Tunstall in Stoke-on-Trent, is among the first in the force to graduate with a Foundation Degree in Neighbourhood Policing.

He said: "I was a neighbourhood beat officer in Longton and Meir and took the opportunity to do the course which has helped me with doing the job." Marcus now leads a team of neighbourhood Police Officers and is looking forward to brushing up his leadership and management skills by undertaking a Graduate Certificate at Staffordshire University.



childminder research

Childminder Janet Glew is taking her knowledge to a new level having conducted research on the new curriculum for the Early Years Foundation Stage, due to come into force later this year. Janet carried out the research as part of her Foundation Degree in Early Years completed at Stafford College through Staffordshire University Regional Federation.

Janet, who has worked as a childminder in Newport for 13 years, is topping up with BA(Hons) Childhood Studies at Staffordshire University and intends to continue researching the actual impact of the new legislation.



enterprising foundation

Maxine Bowdler chose to enrol on a Foundation Degree in Creative Arts for Employment, to help her set up her own home-staging business.

"I'm interested in properties and being able to sell property," said Maxine, 33, from Cannock, who is mother to two teenage children and carer for her 83 year old grandmother."

"My intention is to advise and style to help a property to reach it's full selling potential. The course has been useful in highlighting a few areas I wasn't sure about on the business side and to do with laws and legislation. I also found out a lot more information about where to gain help and support."



living the dream

Staffs graduate lands dream job in Renault World Series

With a new job working in the Renault World Series, Staffs graduate David Thom feels he is living the dream.

"I studied Automotive Design Technology at the Stafford campus," said David, 24, who graduated in 2005 with a 2:1. After leaving university, I did a number of motor sporting jobs, gradually working my way up as I went along. I also got to spend a year working in British Formula Three, which was really interesting."

Earlier this year David landed the job he'd always wanted, a Data Analysis Engineer for a company race team who compete in the Renault World Series, a competitive race in which drivers often go straight into Formula One.

David (pictured centre) who lives in Milton Keynes, said "I collect data from cars and analyse it to evaluate the performance of the car and driver. It's a whole lot more responsibility and pressure but it's so worth it – I love every minute of it."

Passionate about cars ever since he can remember, Automotive Design Technology was the only University course that David felt was for him and the skills he acquired during his three years at Staffs have more than stood him in good stead for his thriving career.

"My course was brilliant for providing me with skills in Computer Aided Design, as I use them on a week to week basis," he added, "All my lecturers were fantastic, especially in the final year, in particular Alex Heaton, who provided great support through the final stages of my degree."

Despite the long hours in his new job, David insists he has no regrets and sees himself still doing his dream job in years to come. "The company I'm working for only started last year so I've been with them from the very beginning. I'm looking forward to seeing how we grow and expand over the years. I'd love to see myself in 10 years time still doing this job, I really couldn't be happier."



read all about it

Climbing the journalistic career ladder

First class honours Journalism graduate Antonia Merola had to start at the bottom and work her way up the reporting ladder, but all her hard work has finally paid off now she has landed the prestigious position of News Editor for the Crewe Chronicle. At just 25, Antonia is undoubtedly one of the youngest journalists to undertake such a position.

"It's been a real uphill climb," says Antonia, who graduated in 2003. "After graduating I started designing adverts at my local newspaper, Flintshire Evening Leader before I heard about a trainee reporter position at the North Wales Pioneer.

"Even though I had a degree, I really did have to start at the bottom and train but it was still really enjoyable." Soon after, Antonia was promoted to chief reporter but says she desperately wanted to work on a daily newspaper. And it wasn't long before her expertise gained her another promotion, this time as a senior reporter on the daily Shropshire Star.

Says Antonia: "It was a bit of a commute every day but the job was great. However, I was still on the lookout for a job where I could focus more on news editing." So when she was later offered a News Editor position at the Crewe Chronicle, Antonia jumped at the chance to put all the editing skills that she had gained during her time at Staffs to the test.

"I learned so many useful journalistic skills while I was at university," she says. "Shorthand, Law, Public Affairs and especially design were all such a major part of my course and they come in handy every day." She adds: "Mick Temple, John Rafferty and Barry O'Shea were all brilliant – in fact if it weren't for Barry's influence in design, I wouldn't have got my first job."

It was a love of writing and "a general nosiness" that first compelled Antonia to study journalism. She speaks highly of the course's facilities at Staffs and thinks there are few places better to go to university. "I loved Staffs straight away. The best thing about it is that it's like a little family. You know everyone, everywhere is on your doorstep – it's just like a home away from home."

As for future plans, Antonia, who currently lives in Mold, North Wales says she finally feels content in her current career position and is thoroughly enjoying her time with the Crewe Chronicle. But she's

open minded to the possibility of one day reaching the very top and becoming an editor: "That would be a good opportunity for the future, but I'm so happy doing what I am now. I've come so far since I left Staffs and I really am very lucky."



from stage to screen

Drama graduate lands roles in popular ITV productions

With his acting career going from strength to strength, Drama graduate, Amit Shah, has managed to build up a very impressive resume.

Over the past two years Amit, 27, has starred in numerous stage productions, including the highly acclaimed Trevor Nunn production 'The Royal Hunt of the Sun', 'The Man of Mode' and 'The Alchemist', the latter of which he was nominated for the Ian Charleston accolade awarded to young classical actors.

TV work on popular ITV productions such as 'The Palace' and 'Honest' alongside Amanda Redman followed, giving Amit an opportunity to add some more strings to his actor's bow. "It's been nice to do something different after I've been so used to doing theatre for so long," says Amit, who graduated from Staffs in 2002. "Being in front of a camera is quite odd when you're just used to being on the stage."

And although he now loves every minute of being an actor, Amit says that if it wasn't for the encouragement and support from his lecturers and fellow students at Staffordshire University, he wouldn't

be where he is now. Says Amit: "University undoubtedly built my self confidence. I was always interested in drama but I never believed in myself enough. But the staff were always there to encourage us, in particular Chris Martin our practical drama coach. I always maintain that I would not have half as much confidence to become an actor without my three years at Staffs."

Shortly after graduating, Amit completed a post graduate course at London Drama School and secured an agent before going on to star in numerous London theatre productions. He says the best thing about being an actor is being in front of audiences and making them laugh or cry with his performance: "It's amazing if you manage to make an impact on people."

"I'm thoroughly enjoying doing theatre work at the moment but I would love to be able to do more film and TV work in the future," he adds. Amit has been starring in the powerful family drama Free Outgoing at the Royal Court Theatre and the Edinburgh Festival over the summer.



a place in history

Staffs alumnus is Premier League's youngest ever referee

A lifelong ambition and a determined spirit has earned a former Staffs Sports Studies student a place in history as the Premier League's youngest ever referee.

At just 25 years of age, Nuneaton-born Stuart Atwell may be a good deal younger than some of the football players in the Premiership, but his impressive performance and ability to stay calm under pressure has earned him the career he has always dreamed of ever since he was a young boy.

Stuart's father Martin says his son's passion for refereeing became a part of his life long before he even started his course at Staffs Uni. "Stuart has always wanted to be a referee; he's done it for years and years. He really has worked his way up through the football leagues, starting off with the local ones, and then joining Non-league football."

"Not long after that, he was promoted to the West Midlands league, then to the contributory leagues, up until just recently when he got promoted to the Premier League."

Atwell, who graduated from Staffs in 2004, is English football's youngest ever official to reach the Premiership this season, beating the previous record set by Mark Clattenburg, who was 29 when he earned the privilege back in 2004.

Many people who knew and taught Stuart during his time at Staffs are immensely proud of his success; Dr Nigel Thomas, the Head of Sport and Exercise said the University always encourages all their students to follow their dreams. "It's excellent to see Stuart doing so well. The credit goes to all staff within the Sport and Exercise Department who are dedicated to enabling aspiring youngsters to achieve their potential."



First Wave Films

Two friends who met on the very first day of their Film Studies course at Staffs have turned their passion for film into the creation of their own media company.

Mike Gooch, 26, from Cambridge and Rich Light, 30, from Stoke, forged a close friendship in their early days of university through a shared love of cinema. After graduating, with a First and a 2:1 respectively, Mike and Rich got the chance to form their own media company under the University's SPEED scheme, an organisation that provides financial support and help with business start-up training.

It wasn't long before First Wave Films was born and within its first year, Mike and Rich had formed associations with outside organisations such as Port Vale FC, local schools and Stoke-on-Trent City Council. "We've had some great opportunities," says Mike. "Most recently we were fortunate enough to be commissioned to film Gordon Banks, Pele and Archbishop Desmond Tutu during a charity event at Stoke City FC. This was indeed a remarkable experience."

The pair are about to embark on another exciting prospect as they begin documenting a charity cycle ride from Stoke to Amsterdam. It's safe to say that these two had no idea what amazing experiences lay in store for them on the day they first met all those years ago!



Unit 4 Studio

Jacob Roche of Biddulph is hoping skills learnt through his BSc(Hons) Music Technology degree will enable him to progress in the music industry.

Jacob, 20, said: "I'd done two years of music technology at Stoke-on-Trent College and wanted to take it further. I went to see a couple of universities but Staffordshire has great facilities and was my first choice."

Jacob has already tasted success when his band, This Machine Is Off, sailed through to the Jack Daniels Battle of Bands finals last year, scooping the top prize – an all expenses paid trip to Nashville and Memphis.

"It was a pretty amazing five days including a couple of days recording," said Jacob. "We've since gone a bit more electronic and have some gigs coming up. We're also pushing for a management deal."

As part of their degree studies, Jacob and fellow band member Gavin Munroe took advantage of the SPEED scheme which helps students to start their own business. They set up their own rehearsal rooms - Unit 4 Studio - in Congleton which they rent out to local bands and which they now hope to develop into a thriving business.

Jacob said: "It started out as somewhere for us to practice when we kept getting chucked out of people's homes and developed from there. University has been really useful, I've learnt a lot over three years and made the most of the studios there."



Staffordshire Stars

Stoke-on-Trent stars at enterprise and innovation awards

Stoke-on-Trent proved that innovation is alive and well in the City Centre, after six businesses secured major titles at the first ever 'Staffordshire Stars' Awards evening.

The Staffordshire University backed competition, which encourages the role of academia in boosting enterprise and innovation, proved an overwhelming success, with 100 high-profile guests on hand to celebrate the achievements of some of the region's most innovative entrepreneurs and companies.

Helen Soutar (inventor of children's travel activity luggage and founder of Jolly Holibags) and Lauren Van Helmond (a recycled materials sculptor) walked off with two personal achievement titles, whilst Datawreck secured the 'Business Achievement' Accolade in the Student Placement for Entrepreneurs in Education (SPEED) category.

The latter, a professional data and recovery specialist for home and business, was founded by Dan Hopwood, Leigh Trojanowski and Rick Shinger and has benefited hugely from the scheme, which offers free business accommodation, a specialist mentoring programme and funding to get the company off the ground. Backed by this support, the enterprising trio have created a clear marketing strategy and developed a large client base of local companies and IT specialists.

Danielle Payne, Project Co-ordinator at Staffordshire University, picked up the story: "In today's competitive environment, it is absolutely essential that we recognise how important knowledge and innovation is in gaining competitive advantage and this has been reflected in the Government's recent white paper entitled 'Innovation Nation', that calls for greater partnership in creating exciting new products and companies. This is exactly what we are celebrating. In addition to the SPEED awards, we also recognised entrepreneurs and companies who have prospered through the EFS (Enterprise Fellowship Scheme).

Stoke-on-Trent was well represented in this category, with Jane Green's online picture supermarket, PictureNation, recognised for its unrivalled growth and ability to revolutionise a market dominated by international players.

She was joined on stage by Kirsty Shaw – Lighting Designer, who secured the 'Business Achievement' accolade. The enterprising graduate uses inspiration from bright colours and combines it with a passion for contemporary design to produce funky lighting solutions that are being featured in galleries, exhibitions and a number of retail outlets.

"I've learnt a lot of new financial skills, how to network successfully and how to establish my own workshop at the Business Village. As

a result of the funding (up to £12,000), I was also able to buy the machinery needed to turn my designs into actual lighting solutions," added Kirsty.

Dr Dali Dong (pictured below) secured the final prize when he took the Exceptional Commitment Award for his commitment to a Knowledge Transfer Partnership with precision fabricators Grenville Engineering in Tunstall. Having completed his first degree in China before completing his PhD in Mechanical Engineering, the associate uses his skills and knowledge to help the company, a supplier of parts to JCB and John Dennis Fire Engines, to transform a paper based operation into a fully automated electronic system, boosting productivity and sales in the process.

"The KTP is expected to increase revenue by more than £1 million within the next five years and new machinery and technology has been purchased to ensure growth continues," explained Dr Dong, who has since joined the business as Operations Director. "It's a real win-win process. The business gets a host of bottom line improvements and associates have the opportunity to develop new skills in a commercial environment."

Held at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel in Newcastle-under-Lyme, 'Staffordshire Stars' also featured a major exhibition of products and services created with the help of the University and a keynote address from Deb Leary, CEO of Forensic Pathways and International Women Entrepreneur of the Year 2007. Sponsors behind the event included North Staffordshire Chamber, North Staffs Risk Capital Fund and the Hanley Economic Building Society.



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