

Introduction

As we begin another academic year it is encouraging as always to reflect upon the successes of the previous year which are the result of the hard work of staff, students and partners alike. This edition of Health Brief contains a sample of some of those achievements from both staff and students with of course a focus on Graduation 2011.

We are also pleased to welcome our first cohort of Osteopathy Students who joined us in September. This is a collaboration with the College of Osteopaths and it is good to be working alongside colleagues from the college who are based at our Stoke campus.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your in-put to these successes and look forward to another positive year for all of the programme areas in the Faculty.

Linda Thompson
Faculty Director – Recruitment and Partnerships

Faculty of Health Awards Ceremony



Sunshine and Smiles at Graduation

Breaking with tradition the sun shone all day at the Faculty of Health Graduation Ceremony on Monday 11 July 2011. Family, friends and staff gathered to congratulate students on their achievement. It was a fabulous day and started with a very inspirational speech from **Dame Claire Bertschinger DBE**, the nurse who inspired Sir Bob Geldof in his work with Band Aid and Live Aid, as she received her Honorary award from the University.

The whole day was set aside for graduates from the Faculty, with 195 Sport and Exercise and Social Work and Advice Studies undergraduate and postgraduate students graduating in the morning, and 219 Healthcare Professionals undergraduate and postgraduate students in the afternoon. There were over 1500 guests offering their support and congratulations during the course of the day, resulting in an electrifying atmosphere in the awards 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 and prosperous future.

Graduation at Staffordshire University is a fabulous occasion with staff there on the day supporting and congratulating students making it extra special.



The following thank you from an MSc Sport and Exercise Student, Brian Porter, really sums this up. *"I just wanted to express my sincere thanks for making Graduation such a very special day yesterday. The setting was magnificent but that was only part of it. The whole atmosphere was very special, and that came from all of you. Thank you. Forming a 'guard of honour' and applauding us through to the reception was a wonderful touch. Totally unexpected and really lovely. Yesterday will live in my memory for a very long time and ensures my time studying with Staffordshire will be remembered with fondness."*

Among this year's graduates from the Faculty were some who may be familiar faces to you as members of staff also received awards including: Emeritus Professor Bernard Moss who received his PhD and Mark Lovatt who was awarded a Masters Degree. Other staff completing awards were Dr Jamie Barker, Dr Peter Coffee, Dr Jill McDonald, Dr Nageen Mustafa, Dr Nigel Thomas and Dr Anna Tsaroucha who all completed the Certificate of CPD: Research Supervision, increasing further the number of PhD supervisors we have in the Faculty. Rachel Good who received a Postgraduate Certificate in Education; Lee Pardy-McLaughlin who received a Postgraduate Diploma in Higher and Professional Education and Sioban Richards, Kairen Roche, Caroline Scovell, Dawn Suffolk and Sarah Woolley who all received a Post Graduate Certificate in Higher and Professional Education.

Why not have a look at the video clips from the daily 'diary room' that was available during graduation for staff, students and guests to leave messages on. Some of these have been uploaded onto facebook. There is a video of clips from the Monday which is from those attending the Faculty of Health graduation ceremonies and also one with 'highlights' which includes some from the Monday as well as the rest of the week ([facebook.com/staffsuni](https://www.facebook.com/staffsuni)). l.j.thompson@staffs.ac.uk



Staff

Helen Burrell

I have taken up the post at Staffordshire University as the Service User and Carer Co-ordinator for the Faculty of Health. The aim of the project is to recruit young adults and people who have experiences of social and health care services, to come forward to share these experiences with students who are training in health care or social care services. The project also aims at getting service users and carers to get involved with how the courses are planned and what they contain, interviewing students, attending meetings that support the various courses offered by the university and any other areas where service user and carer involvement can enhance the way the university works. h.s.burrell@staffs.ac.uk



James Capper

I am joining Staffordshire University having spent the last few years working for the Youth Sport Trust. My national role focused on working with Head Teachers, Principals and corporate partners to develop a whole school or academy impact through Sport and Health specialisms.



My second key area of work recently was developing and implementing a strategy to create a crosscurricular learning legacy from the London 2012 Olympics by combining PE and Sport with Art, Music and Science/Engineering/Technology. These workshops, hosted by schools, are being led by Olympians who have a genuine interest and exceptional skill in the respective subjects as well as in their sport. Prior to this I worked as teacher for a number of years having gained my PGCE at the University of Chester (Physical Education) and an MSc in Information Technology at Keele University. My undergraduate degree was completed at Loughborough University where I studied Physical Education and Sports Science and was very proud to be part of a B.U.S.A gold medal winning team for Hockey in 1999. I joined the Faculty of Health as a Senior Lecturer in Physical Education and Sport Coaching on 1 April. j.capper@staffs.ac.uk

Colin Watt

I am very pleased to have joined the Faculty of Health in Social Work and Advice Studies as Senior Lecturer in Social Work (Children, Young People and their Carers). Although I have been involved in practice teaching and training for several years, this is my first full time post in HE and I realise I have a lot to learn. My last job was with the NSPCC where I managed a number of child protection services, supervised managers and practitioners and acted as a specialist consultant to partner agencies on safeguarding matters. I enjoyed it and it was always challenging, though I came to realise that I wanted to be more involved in teaching and research. I think these are exciting times for the social work profession and I believe the strong partnerships that Staffordshire University has forged with local statutory agencies will enable it to play a significant role in developing the profession.

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Successes

Faculty of Health Flies High in Guardian League Table

The Faculty of Health's suite of Nursing and Paramedical Studies awards achieved 5th place in The Guardian University League Tables. The Guardian league tables cover full-time undergraduate courses and are ranked by the Guardian according to a variety of indicators. We are delighted at this national recognition of our programmes and of the commitment from our staff to deliver a high quality of learning to our students.

Student Satisfaction Continues on a High

It is good to see that courses from Staffordshire University, Faculty of Health, have done so well again in the National Student Survey 2011. Social Work continues to show improvements in student satisfaction, Sport maintains its strong position and Nursing at Staffordshire University is in the top 3 in the UK. There is always room for improvement however this is great news for the start of the new academic year. This hard work as ever is from partners as well as staff and you too should be proud of your significant contribution towards this achievement.

Teamwork is the Secret to Placement Success!



Sport and Exercise have recently received some positive media coverage in respect of their student placement activities. Staffordshire University students will be spending hundreds of hours working to boost sporting activity among the region's schools. Ahead of the London 2012 Olympic Games, school pupils will be given more opportunities to get involved in sport by over 50 third year undergraduates on placements. Starting in October, each placement involves 150 hours work over six months in schools, sports development departments & local coaching companies with organisations in Stoke-on-Trent, Stafford, Burton upon Trent, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Chris Lee, Senior Lecturer in Coach Education and the Sport and Exercise lead on placements, comments: "It is pleasing to see that our placement activities are being positively recognised in the region. We have been running placement modules using our existing placement framework model for the past 5 years and we continue to develop and refine it to suit our growing placement needs. A key reason for the continuing success of the placement experience is the layers of support that we have built in for helping students manage their experiences. Each placement student has a host liaison person, a direct university supervisor & a module leader to turn to for guidance, help and advice. We set the bar high for students in terms of our expectations of them to challenge themselves and to make the most of what is a high quality learning opportunity for them where they get the chance to apply theory to practice in real life environments. In turn, however we recognise our responsibilities to the students to make sure they feel secure and supported in their placements. In this respect, placement management is a real team effort from a staffing perspective, an example of this is that in January 2012 we are projected to have approaching 100 students on placement with 15 Sport & Exercise academic lecturing staff involved in their supervision. Our direct supervisory staff do a great job in supporting students and are a very significant factor in the continuing growth of this important element of our teaching portfolio."

For further information please contact Chris Lee on c.g.lee@staffs.ac.uk

Another Prize for the Service User and Carer Group

On 14 July 2011, one of our 2nd Year social work students, Tracy Pestana, attended the Social Work and Social Policy Subject Centre of the Higher Education Academy (SWAP) Awards in Manchester with Professor Moss and two members of the SUCG, to receive the prize which was £1,500 for the SUCG to utilise as a group to further enhance their skills for our Social Work students. This award recognises the innovative work being done in the Faculty involving service users and carers in social work education.

First Prize in BMA Book Awards

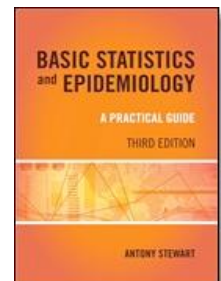


Professor Tony Stewart (Sport and Exercise, Faculty of Health) won first prize in the 'Basis of Medicine' category in the British Medical Association Medical Book Awards for his text, *Basic Statistics and Epidemiology: a Practical Guide. 3rd Edition*, published by Radcliffe Publishing of Oxford.

Tony was presented with his prize by Dr Suzy Lishman FRCPATH, Registrar at the Royal College of Pathologists, at a reception at BMA House on Wednesday 14 September

2011. There were 11 contenders in the category that had been "highly commended", including one by a Pulitzer prize winner. Overall, the competition had nearly 700 entries.

The text is core reading for students on Staffordshire University's successful Masters in Public Health award (taught by Distance Learning) that Tony leads and teaches on.



Full details can be found at:

www.bma.org.uk/library_services/medical_book_awards/2011bookawardswinner.jsp

Upcoming Events

Seminar: Messages from Adoption and Permanency

Lee Pardy-McLaughlin is hosting a lunchtime seminar in conjunction with Staffordshire County Council and the City of Stoke-on-Trent, on Wednesday 16 November 2011, 12.15 – 3.30 pm, Ashley Building, Leek Road, Stoke (lunch included), Key note speaker: Martin Narey. For further information, or to book a place, please email miranda.smith@staffordshire.gov.uk no later than 9 November 2011.

Open Days

The University will be hosting open days during October and November for students considering full-time undergraduate study in 2012-13. We also have a small number of places available for Adult Nursing commencing March 2012 and anyone interested can make an application now through UCAS.

Saturday 12 November – Stafford and Stoke

Saturday 26 November AM – Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

For further information or to book on please go to:

www.staffs.ac.uk/courses_and_study/open_days/

New Professional Doctorate for the Faculty of Health

The Faculty of Health is launching a new Doctorate in Professional Studies following a successful validation in July. The University Validation Panel commended “the integrated approach within the Faculty of Health” and commented that “this development was a good example of different areas working together to produce a flexible and strongly multi-disciplinary award.” The new Doctorate is designed for those who remain committed to their career, but who wish to bring to it the skills of research, analysis and reflection that are best learnt in a university environment. The programme is designed to use the experience and questions that the student brings from their professional life, supporting them in developing an original contribution to research and so helping them to make a unique contribution to the knowledge-base of their profession. The structure of the award is designed to give substantial, structured support to students returning to study and while they are developing their own research ideas, through a range of taught modules and through the opportunity to share experience with other students. This provides a firm base for their research project and the writing of their thesis.

Further information is available from:
Faculty Admissions Team
t: Health admissions:01785 353766
e: healthyoptions@staffs.ac.uk

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

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