



Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the HEalth Briefing. In this issue we focus on graduation 2008 and those who were awarded Honorary Doctorates this year. In the December issue we will be giving you the opportunity to opt for an electronic version of the Briefing which will have a focus on new developments and the people holding joint appointments. We regularly review this Briefing and would be pleased to receive feedback on what you would like included.

Hilary Jones – Dean of the Faculty h.m.jones@staffs.ac.uk

Graduation



This year saw another successful awards ceremony at Trentham Gardens, for the Faculty of Health with around 478 students graduating from the four programme areas; Sport and Exercise, Social Work and Advice Studies, Pre Qualifying Health Professions and Life Long Learning.



Friends, families and supporters turned out for the Faculty's award ceremonies on Thursday 10th July 2008, which celebrated the achievements of our students. Excitement and pride was evident in the hall as we watched our students walk across the stage and receive congratulations from the University's Chancellor, Lord Bill Morris. The ceremony highlighted the efforts, dedication and hard work of the graduates. These achievements were recognised by the applause and celebration from parents, partners, friends and staff who have contributed to their success.

Honorary Doctors

The ceremonies also saw the presentation of four Honorary Doctorates. Honorary Doctorates are presented to individuals who

have been recognised for their outstanding achievement in their field of work; the contribution they have made to the region or society at large. The Faculty of Health celebrated and recognised the achievements of; Sir Philip Craven MBE, Peter Coates, Neil Carr OBE and Ray Edensor

Sir Phillip Craven MBE



Five-time Paralympian, Sir Philip Craven MBE represented Great Britain in wheelchair basketball from 1969 to 1993 and swimming in 1972, before becoming the President of the International Paralympic Committee. Sir Philip represented Great Britain at wheelchair

basketball in five Paralympic Games between 1972 and 1988 and also achieved victories in numerous other tournaments including the 1973 World Championship and 1974 European Championship. Since his retirement from international sport, Sir Philip has concentrated his efforts in promoting Paralympic sport. He now serves as the International Paralympic Committee's representative on several international organisations including the foundation board of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the Administration Council of the International Committee for Fair Play (CIFP). He was also a prominent figure on the London 2012 organising committee for the Olympic and Paralympic games. In 1991 Sir Philip was awarded an MBE by the Queen for services to wheelchair basketball, and in 2005 was made a Knight Bachelor for services to Paralympic sport.

Peter Coates



Stoke City Football Club Chairman Peter Coates is enjoying his second spell at the club which is celebrating its promotion to the English Premier League. A lifelong Stoke City fan, Peter first became actively involved with the Potters in 1985 when he was appointed to the club's board. He

was made Chairman in 1989 and initiated the club's move from the Victoria Ground to the newly built Britannia Stadium. During his first spell with the club, Peter witnessed the team's relegation to the old Football League Third Division, before achieving promotion from the now renamed Second Division to the Championship. He stepped down as Chairman in 1997 returning to his position as Stoke City Football Club Chairman during 2005. He paid £1.7 million to buy back the club and a further £3.3 million to cancel the debts. Upon his return, Peter's aim was to take the stable Championship side into Premiership within five years; a dream which was achieved this season.

Neil Carr OBE



South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Chief Executive Neil Carr OBE is a firm believer that nursing is the most humane of the sciences and the most scientific of the humanities. Born in the North East of England, Neil completed his postgraduate studies in public sector management before turning his energies to meet the needs of a fast-moving, complex society. These insights have driven him to become one of the foremost nurse leaders in the country. Neil has championed consultant nurses, nurse prescribers, advanced nurse practitioners and nurse-led services, which led to an invitation to advise former Prime Minister Tony Blair and former Health Secretary John Reid. Neil has developed good interlocking

relationships with many educational institutions and especially with Staffordshire University. In the 2005 New Years Honours, Neil was awarded the OBE for his services to Health Care and Nursing.

Ray Edensor



Ray Edensor is affectionately known throughout the region as 'the Running Paramedic'. Born in Stafford, Ray found his vocation in the Staffordshire Ambulance Service, serving for more than 20 years as a paramedic and on the Air Ambulance in 2000. He took up

running in 1994 after attending a series of accidents, the death of a close friend and the loss of his father-in-law Ken after a short battle with cancer. These events inspired Ray to run the London Marathon, after reading that Macmillan nurses were looking for people to raise money for cancer research. Ray ran his first London Marathon in 1995 raising £1,500 for Macmillan Cancer Nurses. After his first few marathons, Ray decided to run in his paramedic uniform consisting of a green jumpsuit, and a paramedic rucksack with life saving kit weighing 30lb, to get more sponsorship. He has now run marathons worldwide, and in 2006 he ran the equivalent of 26 London Marathons on consecutive days culminating in the official London Marathon in April of that year. Ray has also raised over £250,000 on behalf of the Dreams Come True organisation which grants wishes for children with life-limiting illnesses. Not content with this feat, Ray has also run all the way from the Eiffel Tower to the Blackpool Tower in the aptly named Two Towers run, to augment his fundraising.

Curriculum Development

Many major programmes in the Faculty have been revalidated during the past year which are due to commence from September 2008, they include the following:

Pre-registration Nursing

Our new awards consist of one year Common Foundation Programme and two

years Branch specific (Adult, Mental Health and Child) nurse education, leading to the award of RN/Dip Nursing Practice, RN/BSc Nursing Practice or RN/Bsc Hons Nursing Practice. There are a number of changes which will offer our students an exciting, dynamic and focussed award, with inbuilt flexibility to support individual learning needs. All students will now experience inter-professional learning days where they will study with and alongside students following other health and social care awards. Students will have clearly identified theory blocks followed by practice placement blocks enabling students to follow a care pathway during the whole of their clinical placement. They will spend 50% of their time in clinical practice and 50% in theory. The students nursing skills will be assessed in practice each year and the student will be required to keep an Ongoing Achievement Record which records their achievement and challenges in practice over the three years of their award. This document will be shared with their mentor in each placement area so the mentor has a greater understanding of the student's achievements. To facilitate student centred learning, and to support family friendly policies, the award now includes ten flexible days per year which may be taken in clinical practice but only after negotiation with the placement and the University. An elective placement is retained at the end of the award to enable students to focus their learning on areas of their own professional interest and can help them gain confidence in preparing for the role transition from student to Registered Nurse. The use of virtual learning environments, values exchange; problem based learning, small group work and the use of our clinical skills laboratory all add to the variety of methods used to support student learning. We believe this programme to be the next stage in a new and exciting journey for nursing and nurse education which places Staffordshire University as a benchmark institution in this area and will assist individual's achieve their goal of becoming a Registered Nurse.

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Pre-registration Midwifery

The BSc (Hons) Midwifery Practice award will commence in September 2008. The new award addresses important changes initiated by the Government and the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). The current award has a number of strengths which have been retained and built upon. For example,

student midwives have an elective placement that continues to be well evaluated. To date, students have visits to a wide range of countries as well as specialised units, where their experiences have been rich and varied. The high calibre of midwifery placements and mentor support also contribute to the continuing success of the award. The curriculum has been developed in three main areas; an emphasis on normal childbirth; caseload midwifery, and experience in a variety of maternity care settings. Midwives are expert practitioners in normal childbirth. Government policy emphasises a wider choice in maternity care for women and their families, most notably the choice of place of birth, therefore the local Trusts are re-configuring the maternity services to provide more care in the community and midwife-led units. Students will spend the first year of the programme in the community and midwife-led units. In addition, they will have a small caseload of clients so that they can be actively involved with these women throughout their childbirth experience in a variety of settings. The midwifery placements in Staffordshire and Shropshire provide the ideal experience and philosophy for normal midwifery practice; indeed, both Trusts have received awards from the All Party Parliamentary Group for Maternity. Healthcare in the 21st Century is based upon an imperative for different professionals to work together effectively. Student midwives will undertake planned activities with students from other areas such as nursing, operating department practice and social work. The midwifery team were commended on the high standard of the submission, in particular, their team approach to award development, the high level of staff support for students and the level of student involvement in the development of the programme.

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Sport and Exercise Undergraduate Awards

As the new academic year approaches staff in Sport and Exercise are busy preparing induction programmes, student support strategies, and new teaching material for the first cohort of newly validated undergraduate awards. Sport and Exercise have run undergraduate and postgraduate awards since the 1970's, but much has changed since then. We have continually updated and improved our awards to match student interests and employer needs, and have a broad and innovative range of awards to suit

a diverse student population; and have been recognised as providing sport students some of the highest quality education in the country. According to the 2007 National Student Survey conducted by MORI Sport and Exercise were ranked fifth in the country. In February 2008 we validated a range of undergraduate awards. Through curricula and extra curricula activities – such as governing body awards, placements and practice based projects – all of our awards place emphasis on the importance of key vocationally-related skills. For example, one of our new awards for 2008/09 is the PE and Youth Sport Coaching award; which, through a partnership with our local schools, allows students the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and skills in coaching and teaching and provides excellent preparation for aspiring PE teachers. Another exciting development for this year is the collaboration with the University of Madrid, which sees for the first time students from Spain coming to study sport at Staffordshire University. To complement our undergraduate programme we have continued to develop our postgraduate (PG) awards, many of which are delivered via the distance learning (DL). July 2008 saw our first cohort of Pg students graduating with a Masters of Science (MSc) via DL, and as they have made clear to us, they could not have completed a Pg award, if it wasn't for the flexibility of our DL courses. n.b.thomas@staffs.ac.uk

Social Work and Advice Studies

Social Work and Advice Studies awards were revalidated earlier this summer. The biggest change for Social Work over the next year will be the introduction of a part-time route for the BA in Social Work which will start next April and be based at our Lichfield Campus. This is a development our partners have been keen for us to pursue and we expect it to attract a cohort of students for whom the full-time route is not practicable. The teaching will be delivered through blended learning and we are using the expertise of colleagues who teach on the Advice Studies award, which is delivered wholly through distance learning. The Pre Qualifying (PQ) courses in Social Work will be moving into their second year in September, with a number of new modules running for the first time. The curriculum remains contemporary, reflecting changes in policy direction, practice and legislation as well as responding to comments and suggestions made by students and partners. The approach to blended learning on the

Advice Work courses and expanding the use of assessed online seminars have proved a very good way of engaging distance learning students in shared learning experiences. s.a.hill@staffs.ac.uk

Congratulations

Lynn Dudley, a senior midwife working at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire (UHNS) has been successful in obtaining a competitive 'Nursing Research Fellowship' from the Smith & Nephew Foundation. The award of £90,000 will enable Lynn to carry out research relating to the postnatal management of perineal wounds and will form the basis of her PhD studies at Staffordshire University, under the supervision of Professor Christine Kettle (Professor of Women's Health, Staffordshire University & UHNS) and Mr Khaled Ismail (Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist & Senior Lecturer, Keele University & UHNS). c.kettle@staffs.ac.uk

In The News

CARE AND SUPPORT DEBATE JULY 5 - DAVID KIDNEY QUOTES STAFFS UNI
5 Jun 2008: Column 1020- 5.28 pm

<http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/VideoPlayer.aspx?meetingId=1876&st=14:08:38>

David Kidney MP (Lab) "Before concluding, I want to tell my Hon Friend the Minister [The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health Ivan Lewis] that Staffordshire University was a great help to me. "It has a Centre for Ageing and Mental Health, and it wants to contribute to the debate. I would offer its help, with its agreement, to my Hon. Friend in any way that he wants, perhaps by hosting events, running panels to contribute to the debate and advising the Department of Health if it wants it."

Coming up in December 2008

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