



STAFFORDSHIRE
UNIVERSITY

shine on



■ CREATE THE DIFFERENCE

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chair of governors welcomes in challenging new era

New chair of Staffordshire University's Board of Governors, Steve Burgin, looks forward to an exciting phase in the University's development.

As UK Country President for engineering giant Alstom, Steve is responsible for the UK activities of a world leading engineering company in the fields of power and transport with a 5000 strong workforce.

And he is embracing his new role at the University in much the same way – eager to help build on the strengths of the University's Schools and Faculties while keeping a keen eye on the development of the £287 million University Quarter project, which aims to deliver a much needed boost to the area's skills base and the regional economy.

Although Steve's office is in London, he lives in Stafford and feels he has a special affinity with the institution which he graduated from with a BSc honours degree in Electrical Engineering in 1979.

"I'm a local kid who's done a degree locally, started as an apprentice and worked up to become an international manager," said Steve. "I relate very much to the ethos of the University and believe that our mission as governors is to ensure the governance of the University is robust and appropriate – that it has a clear strategy, a well detailed plan and is meeting all its obligations and commitments - and then we have the mission to bring further value and support to the University wherever possible."

"I'm immensely proud to be a Stoke person and to be able to contribute to the advancement of the University at this exciting stage and about the opportunity to be part of progressing the University to the next phases of it's development."

As a businessman with more 30 years experience, Steve is aware that the current recession presents serious challenges to both public and private sector but believes the University's links with industry will work in its favour.

"We need to work hard together to drive the University forward while continuing to build it. I think the links to industry and the public sector like the NHS are fundamental to our development. One of the areas I see myself working in is encouraging business to see the University as a place to harness and develop the best skills in the area in addition to providing the skills that are attractive to the county, the nation and internationally."

As a father of three, who has witnessed his eldest daughters graduate and pursue careers in law and accountancy and the youngest about to commence a degree, Steve also feels passionately about the important role Universities have to play.



He said Staffordshire University's continued success lies in its ability to be seen as accessible, diverse and relevant, adding: "The role of the University is to provide an environment to develop the talents people have and to equip them with the tools to take up meaningful jobs – that's our job. We want to develop people's ability to apply themselves to the outside world. Knowledge with application will best position our students in the job markets of the future."

Commenting on Steve's appointment, Vice-Chancellor Professor Christine King said: "We are delighted to welcome Steve to the chair as he brings with him valuable experience of both business and industry and knowledge of the global marketplace. As a graduate of Staffordshire University, he also feels passionately about his roots and the benefits of higher education which we can harness as we move towards the next exciting phase of the University's development."

Steve enjoys "switching off" in the gym or going for a run and each year takes part in the Stafford half marathon. He also enjoys skiing holidays with the family and while he's not an avid sports fan, he admits he "always keeps an eye" on Stoke City FC and plays a small part in "promoting them wherever I travel".

1000 Stoke youngsters set to graduate by March 2010

A Children's University which recognises and values the learning that takes place outside the classroom has been launched in Stoke-on-Trent.

The exciting initiative is being operated by Staffordshire University which has secured the funding to set up a Children's University in the City and which is busily validating the activities of a range of organisations responsible for community learning including libraries, museums, theatres and football clubs.

Aimed at young people aged between 7 and 14, those taking part in validated activities will be presented with a Children's University passport which enables them to keep a record of the activities they successfully complete.

There will be three levels of award recognising the hours the 'students' have put in and participants will be invited to don cap and gown at a special graduation ceremony where they will be congratulated on their achievements by Staffordshire University Vice-Chancellor Professor Christine King, who is taking on the role of Chancellor for the new Children's University.

Peter Jones, Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning Co-ordinator and Project Manager for Children's University in Stoke, said: "The Children's University is a national body which has been around since the early 90s. It's designed to be a fun positive learning experience and because there's something to aim for, it encourages young people who aren't normally involved to become more actively involved in their local communities."

"As well as confidence building for individuals, it is about engaging them in learning and obviously it is hoped that their Children's University achievements will encourage them to move forward and achieve greater things in the future."



Among the first organisations to have their activities validated is the winner of this year's prestigious Arts Fund prize, the Wedgwood Museum. Learning and Access Manager Nigel Spicer (pictured above with Professor Christine King) said, "We recognise that if you go somewhere on a day trip or on holiday your learning continues and so we're delighted to be part of this wonderful initiative."

The parents we've spoken to think the Children's University is a wonderful idea as did the judges from the Art Fund Prize who visited us recently."

It is anticipated that many youngsters will become involved in the Children's University and organisers hope that by March 2010, 1000 children will be close to graduating with their bronze certificates which recognises 30 hours of validated CU activity.

For more information visit www.staffs.ac.uk/stokecu

proud sponsors of Obama exhibition

The Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery was the venue of a reception to promote the World Premier of Obama's People, an exhibition of photographs originally commissioned to celebrate the American President's inauguration.

The prestigious event, hosted by Staffordshire University, invited members of the professional, business and creative communities to share the occasion and view the impressive portraits which capture today's leading political figures in the USA.

The evening included a drinks reception and canapés, followed by speeches from Paul Richards, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Staffordshire University, and Rhonda Wilson, the Exhibition Curator and Creative Director of Rhubarb-Rhubarb photographic agency.

Staffordshire University was one of the sponsors of the Obama's People photographic exhibition.



Staffs Uni reaches out to community from City Centre location

Staffordshire University took the opportunity to showcase a wealth of life-enhancing opportunities from a prime city centre location.

The University took up residency in the Potteries Shopping Centre during the summer to showcase the wide range of courses and help and support available to local people, organisations and businesses.

A packed programme of activities ranged from specialist weekly careers advice sessions to course related workshops and demonstrations on everything from motion capture animation to forensic fingerprinting.

The University's Formula Ford racing car, which is maintained by students on the Motorsports Technology degree, even made a pit-stop at the shop.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Staffordshire University Paul Richards said: "Staffordshire University is very much a part of the community it serves and we are grateful to the Potteries Shopping Centre for allowing us the opportunity to showcase the University to members of the public who might not know about the many opportunities we have to offer."



"Earlier this year we became one of the first institutions to announce that it was ploughing the £500,000 VAT windfall back into the community to help people made redundant or at risk of redundancy to access higher education courses."

"On top of that we have secured additional funding which will enable us to help graduates in the area who may be struggling to find suitable employment to access a structured programme of careers support."

Roger raises uni's reputation

News of Staffordshire University's reputation for employability has been spreading fast – around the country's premier race circuits including Brands Hatch and Donington.

As part of the University's drive to reach new audiences, fast-track Law degree student Roger Grimshaw, 44, was sponsored to take part in the 18-race Mini Challenge which was televised on Sky Sports and Motors TV and is part of the Dunlop Great and British Motorsport Festival.

Roger, who has recently completed his two year degree, was assisted by students on the BSc(Hons) Motorsport Technology course who worked to make the the Mini raceworthy and assisted him trackside.

Roger said: "It just seemed like a golden opportunity. It's great to have Staffordshire University students as my race team and I've been proudly promoting the University's courses at every opportunity." Roger's racing Mini and the race truck which is used to transport the vehicle to race circuits, is decorated with the University's distinctive 'accelerate your career' branding.

Dean of Law, Rosemary Evans said: "Studying for a degree over a two year period, rather than three, has clearly been of no hindrance to a high achiever like Roger and we are delighted that he has been flying the Law School flag at racing circuits throughout the country."

Roger also took the opportunity of the Mini Challenge to raise awareness of his chosen charity and new employers; Cannock-based Newlife Foundation, which provides support for disabled children and their families.

To re-cap on Roger's progress throughout the season visit www.staffs.ac.uk/accelerate.



student shines light on british burlesque

A photography student is looking to change popular misconceptions about the British burlesque scene through her work which was part of Staffordshire University's 'irresistible' Art and Design show.



Having recently changed her surname by Deed Poll to her stage name, Lauren Cherryfox has become increasingly involved with the British burlesque scene over the past four years, after being inspired by 1950s pin-up Bettie Page.

The 26-year-old, who lives in Stoke-on-Trent, has introduced a regular burlesque night at a Burton-on-Trent pub, as well as performing, singing, dancing, making costumes and taking photographs. Her passion for photography prompted her to join the University's BA(Hons) Photography degree in 2005 and she was among those graduating this summer.

Her study of Burlesque entitled 'strange and beautiful' formed a part of the annual Art and Design show Irresistible 2009 and at the show's opening, Lauren was singled out at one of two winners of the prestigious Scarr-Hall Memorial Trust award.

She said: "I started with a completely different idea but it was thwarted by logistical problems. Eventually it dawned on me to produce a study of burlesque, which never occurred to me to begin with."

She said although people are generally interested in the idea of burlesque, there is also a belief that it is just "posh stripping". "What we do in the UK has a lot more to it than people expect," she said. "It's more about the show – it's got anything and everything,

including a compere/comedian, singing and bands, acting and circus performances – it's not just about stripping and showing skin.

"When I say that to people they're often surprised because they don't realise the variety involved. It is an artistic endeavour and its popularity is growing across the Midlands, especially in Birmingham and it's pretty big in Manchester too."

As a member of a burlesque community group, Ministry of Burlesque, Cherryfox has contacts with enthusiasts and professionals around the country.

She said: "Over the course of four years it has become more and more a part of my life."

And she is currently in the process of publishing two books about the British burlesque scene; one containing her photographs of burlesque artists; and the other about the British scene, the performances and the performers. Both are entitled *Strange and Beautiful Burlesque*. She added: "I loved the photography course. My lecturers, the technicians, the students, they've all been so supportive. I started not knowing a lot about the technical and critical side of photography and through their help and support I've really been able to excel." Her work was shown at London's Association of Photographers (AOP) gallery in June.



Graduation 'Class of 2009' special



top journalists scoop Staffordshire University's highest honour

Husband and wife journalists Andrew Marr and Jackie Ashley have scooped Staffordshire University's highest honour.

Both were made Honorary Doctors of the University in recognition of their contributions to journalism during the University's Awards Week which saw around 3000 students graduate.

Accepting his award, Andrew gave graduands the benefits of his experience. He landed his first job as a trainee reporter for the Scotsman in 1981 – after failing an interview with the BBC having downed a few beers and fallen asleep in the park!

He said: "I know at the moment this is said to be an awful time for journalism and lots of you will be wondering 'is this really going to be the right move for me'. A long time ago I was coming out of university in a recession and people were saying the same things then."

After stints on the Daily Express and the Independent, Andrew was appointed the BBC's Political Editor in the year 2000 thus making him one of the best-known faces on British television.

He added: "If you feel in your guts that journalism is for you - you have a short attention span and a passion for reporting the truth - then you absolutely have to follow your heart and go for journalism and not listen to the doubters and naysayers."

Upon receiving her award, Jackie said: "As the mother of three teenage children I expected to come somewhere like here but I didn't expect to be the one in the cap and gown."

"Stoke was my second home as a child because of my father's work. We had a home here so it is lovely to be back to add to my happy memories of Stoke-on-Trent."

On the same day manager of Stoke City FC Tony Pulis was honoured for being an inspirational role model to aspiring footballers and managers, as well as for the support he has shown the sports and broadcast journalism students.

In his acceptance speech he paid tribute to the aspiring journalists. He said: "The Staffordshire University students we've had at the club over the last two years have been excellent. Their professionalism has been superb."

"Staffordshire University and Stoke City Football Club are very much a part of the community, and this is such a fantastic community that I am just proud and honoured to be a part of."

The University was also praised by former graduate and Honorary Doctor Bill Garrett. Since graduating from Staffordshire University in 1990, Bill Garrett has risen to Head of Technology for Television Production at the BBC.

He said: "The University is focused on making the technology modules on the courses absolutely appropriate to the industry and today's graduates will fuel the new advancements in technology."

Esther Rantzen CBE and Dame Joan Bakewell DBE (pictured below) brought a distinctly human side to the proceedings when they were honoured for their work supporting the young and ageing populations respectively.

Congratulations to all of our 2009 honorary graduates: Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE, Jackie Ashley and Andrew Marr (pictured left), Dame Joan Bakewell DBE, Gordon Banks OBE, Cordella Bart-Stewart, Patricia Callaghan, Bill Garrett, Tony Pulis, Esther Rantzen CBE, Nitin Sawhney, Graham Stow CBE, His Honour Judge Simon Tonking, The Lord Wedgwood of Barlaston, and Jonathan Wilkes.



raising the goalposts for sports journalists

Staffordshire University Masters graduates Seb Hutchinson and Sameer Jain are at the forefront of sports broadcast journalism, reporting on national and international events, games and matches for two renowned media organisations.

Their time at the University, however, has given them the skills and knowledge to advance and they are now looking to further their career successes.

Sameer, 26, from Luton, is a Production Journalist for ITN Sports News. He said: "It's a great course because they encourage you to learn every aspect of the job. We were learning about television and radio journalism and we were learning so many different skills – it really was all encompassing.

"The lecturers are professionals from the industry with years of experience and it's a credit to the University that so many of our fellow students are also working within the industry themselves."

He added: "Now, after finishing the course, I'd like to continue where I am, but maybe go into the area where Seb is, as a producer."

Seb, 24, from London, is an Assistant Producer for ITV Sports. The course at Staffordshire University has allowed him to move a step closer to his ambition of becoming a sports commentator.

He said: "A lot of what we were learning on the course you come across in the real world - out there on the job."



"Where I work, there is someone for every step of programme production, but we were learning about all of these steps ourselves. In these competitive times, when jobs are scarce, we've got all these skills and that will be a great investment further down the line."

He added: "I have always wanted to do commentary and going through a course like this is the best way to get started because, behind the scenes, we see everything that goes into making programmes."

Staffs Uni graduates are 'best in show'

Design graduates from around the region have been named as Best in Show at a prestigious creative industries exhibition this year – which saw over 2,000 students from 100 universities in attendance.

The D&AD New Blood Exhibition, which took place at London's Kensington Olympia, was made up of over 170 stands from students on more than 135 different courses from around the country.

Only 24 pieces of work were selected by the judges for Best in Show awards; among them were two from Staffordshire University's Graphic Design course, one from Animation and one from Advertising and Brand Management (ABM).

"No other University were honoured with as many awards, including the London colleges!" said Barbara Ridley, Award Leader for BA(Hons) Graphic Design.

"This was particularly pleasing for Animation and ABM, receiving their very first "best in show" New Blood awards – this being only the second time they have exhibited at D&AD."

She added: "These courses at Staffordshire University have firmly established themselves as creative, innovative and highly professional receiving positive recognition from industry."

"Once again a great deal of hard work, preparation and organisation from staff has made this amazing success possible."

Among the Staffordshire University students showcasing their work at the exhibition – which took place between June 29 and July 2 – were

Graphic Design graduates Mark Johnson, Matt Forrester, and Benedetto Fantauzzo, aged 21, 22 and 24 respectively.

Matt, from Newcastle-Under-Lyme, said: "We were chosen from a selection of 32 from the Graphic Design course based on the work we did. And then, at the exhibition, the University got the most "new blood" awards which was great."

Benedetto, from Stoke-on-Trent, added: "At the exhibition I spoke to a lot of people from other universities and they were commenting on our work – it was great for networking."

Animation graduate Rachel McGrath, 21, from Cambridge, was one of the recipients of a Best in Show award. She said: "My tutor asked me if I would like to take part and I thought it would be a great opportunity. I didn't think I would win anything and I wasn't initially sure what I got the award for but I am so proud that I won."

Two other award winners were Advertising and Brand Management graduates Adam Lowe, 20, from Birmingham, and Dan Needham, 22, from Leek. Together with fellow graduates, the pair have launched their own company, 3 Monkeys No Banana, at Staffordshire University Business Village at Stoke.

Adam said: "The New Blood award was for all our work on our advertising campaigns which we did during our course at Staffs. It's great to receive the award and get the recognition for the work we put in."

Pictured on page 7 are the winners of the New Blood awards at their graduation ceremony.

Adrian scores a qualification hat trick

The Head of Community Programmes at Stoke City FC has scored a hat-trick by adding a master's degree to his existing graduate certificate and FE College qualifications.

Adrian Hurst, 36, has worked at Stoke City FC for the past 17 years, working his way up to his current role, delivering education and sport initiatives to young people around the region.

Adrian (pictured with Tony Pulis) said: "I've been on courses in the past and have a graduate certificate in Community Practice, but this MA in Community Practice from Staffordshire University is the best I've been on."

"The support of the staff was fantastic and the lecturers always went above and beyond. It was good to do something academic as I felt the need to formalise my qualifications, and as it is related to my field, it has really helped with my work at Stoke City."

The Community department headed up by Adrian aims to provide opportunities for all, regardless of their background, ethnicity, economic status or physical ability.

They have recently secured funding of £1 million pounds from the Premier League and funding partners, to roll out several projects across the city over the next three years.



healthy career for law graduate

One graduate from Cheadle has landed her dream job with the NHS after carrying out a rigorous series of tests and assessments, online and in a face to face interview.

Amy Garside, 21, decided to study law at degree level after enjoying her A level in the subject and achieving a good mark. This spurred her on to enrol on the Staffordshire University LLB(Hons) Law course, which she found to be a "really good course with so many topics and lots of insight."

Throughout her time at Staffs, Amy worked part time while she was studying. She said: "It was really hard work fitting it all in but it was very interesting and ultimately very rewarding." During her third year she applied for two jobs, one at the NHS and one working at a local firm of Solicitors. Though she was eventually offered both positions, Amy decided to accept the NHS job.

The position of HR Trainee is part of the Graduate Management Training Scheme and is based at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire, where she will have three placements covering different aspects of HR within the NHS.

She said: "I am being sponsored to do my Postgraduate Diploma in HR Management by the NHS and so hope to become a Senior Manager and eventually a HR Director within the trust. I chose to take the NHS job as I felt it would be a varied and interesting position that would offer me many challenges and opportunities."

"I am really excited about beginning this career path, and would like to thank the University staff members, Janet Spence, Joanne Beswick and Julie Smith, who were always supportive and brilliant throughout my course."

"Although I have gone slightly off the Law path, I hope that I serve as proof that you can get a job once you've graduated if you try hard enough and that all your hard work will pay off once you have a degree under your belt!"



Carol battles illness to finish foundation

Cancer survivor Carol Morgan overcame her illness to complete a foundation degree in complementary therapy and she now plans to carry on and achieve full honours.

After being diagnosed with breast cancer in January this year, Carol, 48, battled through and, following months of treatment, including a mastectomy and chemotherapy, she is now on the road to recovery.

"I was going to leave the course at the end of January because I didn't feel up to it but my family encouraged me to carry on, which kept me going," Carol said.

"This last year has been difficult because I have been receiving treatment but I managed to get through it."

Carol, who has three children, aged 10, eight and five, is now considering taking her academic career further. She added: "I've always done complementary therapies and now, after completing the foundation degree with Shrewsbury College, I want to do the top up and bring that to a full honours."



exciting future for first class couple

Tony Henderson and partner Louise Gill believe the skills acquired on the Forensic Computing degree puts them at the forefront of a new technological revolution.

Tony and Louise met at Staffordshire University after enrolling on the BSc Forensic Computing course and believe their University experience has been First class.

Tony, 22, said: "Staffordshire was the only place offering forensic computing and it has a great reputation for computing courses so it seemed the obvious place to go. It has been very enjoyable and I've learnt lots of new things as it's quite wide in the subjects it covers."

Having both achieved a First, Louise, 24, has already landed a job in the field working as a software engineer for a government department while Tony has his sights set on a job with West Midlands Police Force Forensics Division.

Said Tony: "It's a commercial position in an area which is only just emerging and it'll be really good to get involved while it's still in its early stages."

Louise added: "I was offered a job after an interview on completing my placement year – it was a huge relief to have a job offer actually in place for when I finished the degree provided I got the results, and now I am due to start there later this year after a summer placement at CERN in Switzerland."



career blitz for games programmer

Ed Catchpole is looking to make his mark on the computer games world having landed his dream job.

The BSc(Hons) Computer Games Programming graduate achieved a First in his degree and will be working at Blitz Games Studios in Leamington Spa, where he completed his year's placement.

"University was fantastic – everything I expected and a whole lot more." said Ed, 21, from Birmingham. "The computer department has a fantastic reputation and it was the exact course I wanted."

During his placement, Ed was put to work on the eagerly awaited action shooter game Dead to Rights which is due for release this Autumn and is expected to be as big in gaming circles as Halo and Call of Duty.

Ed added: "Blitz are fast making a name for themselves and not far off becoming a household name. During my placement I was able to work on the actual shooting mechanics but I'd like to work my way up to get more responsibility for the core elements."



MSc prepares Emma for world of work

Having completed her degree in marketing management, Emma Tweats took the opportunity to continue her full-time study with an MSc in International Marketing.

She said: "I absolutely loved it. There was a great mix of nationalities and cultures on the course so it enabled me to learn from others too. One module took us to Prague where we got to visit different companies and learn about their entry modes into the foreign market.

Emma from Congleton who won best overall performance for postgraduate business awards, said the course leaders had been very accommodating, even to the point of running a module that only she attended.

Her efforts have also paid off as Emma has been successful in landing a great job as a research executive with the market research company Adelphi Research UK in Bollington.

She said: "I handed my dissertation in on the Friday and started work the following Monday. I'm finding that the different modules I studied really prepared me for work, and its great to put what I learnt into practice."

"I'm loving what I'm doing now, and once I've gained some experience in the field of marketing, I'd quite like to do some lecturing in years to come and share what I've experienced with others."



James tops up job prospects

An employee of a global water systems company has walked away from University with a First Class Honours Degree, after taking the plunge at the age of 19 to begin a HNC and further his career.

James Carr, 32, from Stoke, embarked upon his career as an apprentice Electrical Maintenance Technician in 1996, while undertaking a HNC on a day release basis followed by a HND shortly afterwards.

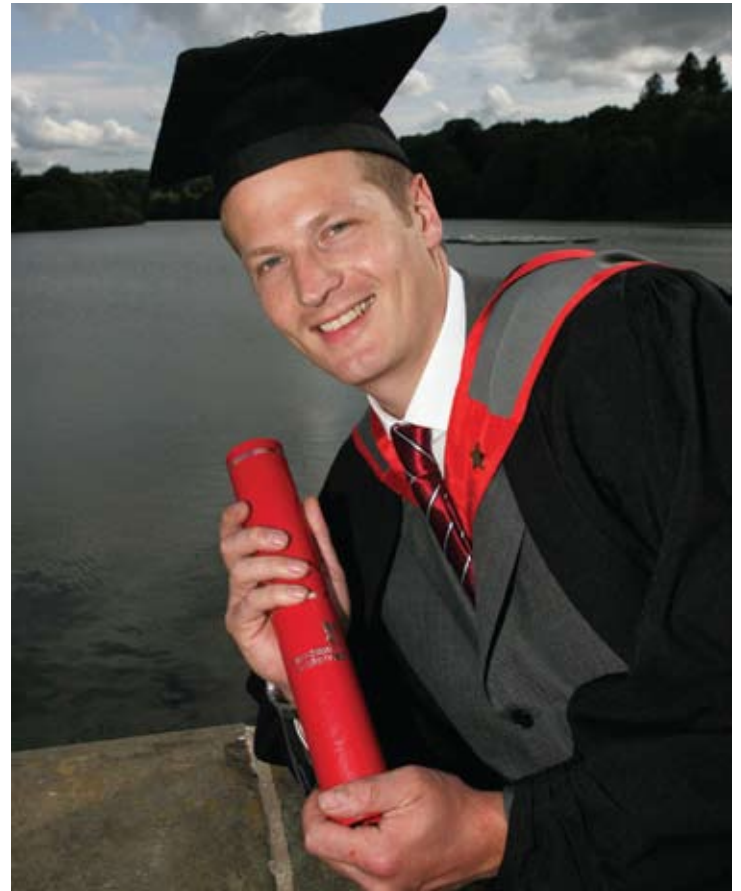
In 2001, he was offered a position as a Service Engineer for Veolia Water Systems, a global company that has an office in Stoke-on-Trent. James progressed through the company to a Senior Commissioning role with Veolia Water-Aquamove. During an appraisal James was encouraged to turn his HND into a full degree, and it was suggested he go along to Staffordshire University to see what was on offer.

Now, after eight years of working at the company and three years of studying part-time at Staffs Uni, he has graduated with a First Class Honours BSc Mechatronics degree.

James said: "When I first started it was a struggle returning to study after six years, but work supported me throughout my degree and it feels good to be a graduate!"

Since his studies, James was promoted from Commissioning Engineer to Project Manager and now has a lot more responsibility at work as well as a team to manage.

He hopes to keep topping up his qualifications and progressing in the company, by completing some short courses in Management in the future.



GradEx winners set to impress BBC boss

Two first class honours students from Staffordshire University have been invited to take a tour of the BBC's Visual Effects Department, by the corporation's Head of Technology, Bill Garret.

Bill was a judge at the University's graduate work exhibition, GradEx09, and was so impressed by two students' winning projects that he invited them to visit the BBC to network with industry professionals.

The students, Philip Swart, 25 and Graham Linfield, 22, met up with Bill at their graduation ceremony, where he was also being awarded with the prestigious title of Honorary Doctorate of the University.

Philip Swart achieved a First Class Honours BSc in Film Production and Technology and won first prize at GradEx09 in the FX category, for his work entitled "Pushing the Boundaries of Low Budget Film Making".

Philip said: "Studying at Staffordshire University was excellent. The course was really good and I knew it was important to be highly motivated. You get a lot more out of it that way."

Graham, from Dartford, also impressed Bill with his final project involving 3D modelling and lighting for automotive design.

Graham said: "To have it recognised by someone in Bill's position and to know he has faith in me really is very rewarding. Hopefully visiting the BBC will open up some doors for me, as I would like to see myself as a Chief 3D modeller for a Visual Effects Company in the future and this could be the start!"



Philip Swart, Bill Garrett, Award Leader Peter Hughes and Graham Linfield

leap of faith for business school's Liz

A Business School employee has managed to give structure to a lifetime of knowledge, by cementing her career with a First Class honours degree in Business and Accounting.

Liz Binns, 53, from Nantwich, decided to apply for a job in the University's Business School after returning to the country from Florida and deciding to take new direction in her life.

Liz had previously taken care of the business side of her husband's events company, but after suffering the shock of his sudden death, Liz decided to start a part-time degree, fitting her studies around her new job.

She said: "The course was a great way to formalise and give structure to what I already knew about the world of business, and add to it throughout my degree. The lecturers were great and always helped me. They were marvellous at pointing things out and gave good advice right from the top downwards."

"When I returned to England I didn't know what to do. Working for my husband's company had always been very demanding in a good way, but I knew I needed to go in a different direction and channel some destructive energy from this tough time into something positive."

Liz is still working at the Business School as a Business Award Administrator and would one day like to teach at the University – a recent ambition brought on by achieving her First Class degree and by proving she can do anything she sets her mind to!



degree prepares volunteer for overseas mission

A graduate is heading for Mongolia to continue his life saving work, after completing his degree and co-founding new organisation, First Aid Africa.

Mike Taylor, 23, worked with friend Sam Abrahams to set up the company which teaches high school students to deliver first aid to their peers, and pass on the knowledge to people in their communities.

After studying for A levels, Mike travelled to Moshi in Tanzania to work with a group of volunteer teachers.

After spending four months travelling through Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi, Mike decided to head home but with a new understanding of Africa and its problems.

He went through the Clearing process to secure a place on Staffordshire University's BA(Hons) Modern and Popular History award. Now, three years later and with the Ray Jenkins Prize for his outstanding work under his belt, Mike is back on the voluntary beat.

He said: "I wasn't sure what I would do once I had finished but I knew I wanted to carry on working as a VSO as it is so rewarding and you meet some brilliant people and have such memorable times.

"In 2007 Sam had a brainwave about setting up First Aid Africa, so because of my past experience, he came to me for help.

"I'm so glad I came back to England to do a degree," he added. "It has helped me so much during the planning of First Aid Africa and understanding the region we are focused on."



sporty twins follow teaching ambitions

As a twin sister, Stacey Arrowsmith is used to a little healthy competition.

"My sister Donna and me were always doing the same things, and though it can get a bit competitive at times, we have just always done everything together" said Stacey, 22.

"We spend a lot of time together socially and we both wanted the same thing, so although Donna is a year ahead of me she waited for a year before officially graduating and now I can join her to start my PGCE in Teaching Coaching!"

Both studied at Staffordshire University, and Stacey has just completed a BA(Hons) Sport Development and Coaching degree. She and her sister have always been sporty, beginning their football careers at the age of 10 - with Stacey playing for Stoke City Ladies Football Club and her sister playing for Dudley Ladies FC.

"The course was really good and it exceeded my expectations. It was hands on and I got some great experience at St Peters High School doing Teaching Coaching, so I can't wait to start my PGCE in September."

Both Stacey and Donna would like to teach at first, perhaps setting up a coaching business together in the future, working with the council to get kids off the street and get more kids, particularly more girls, into sport.



degree first for dedicated youth worker

It has been a long progression from playwork to becoming an academic pioneer for first class honours graduate Martine Beech.

Martine, 46, from Bradwell, has been involved in working with children for some time, as a mum, teaching assistant, youth club worker and brown owl at her local Brownies group.

She decided to become qualified in the field she was so passionate about, and so began an Advanced Diploma in Childcare before coming to Staffordshire University to do a Foundation degree.

With the success of those qualifications fresh in her mind, she enrolled on a BA(Hons) degree in Childhood Studies, a new course that was being piloted, starting in January 2007.

Martine again proved her academic ability and determination by graduating with first class honours, becoming one of the first success stories from the new two year degree.

She said: "Getting back my results and seeing that I had first class honours was such a high – I hoped I had done well as I had put in a lot of hard work so it was great to get that mark and all my family are really proud."

After a well earned break from studying Martine hopes to begin a Masters degree, also in the field of Childhood.



entrepreneur Prosper on fast track to fortune

Aspiring millionaire Prosper Williams has taken a step closer to achieving his dream, after he graduated with a First Class Honours in Business Management and Entrepreneurship.

“Down the line, within six or seven years, I see myself running my own million-pound organisation or at a very senior level within an organisation,” he said. “Once I have achieved that I would like to do a PhD – that’s when I’m in a secure position.”

The 24-year-old businessman from London has already launched his own company with the aid of the University’s SPEED scheme, which offers business support to students during their placement year.

Prosper added: “I set up my company, Exquisite Opulence, selling high end clothing for plus-sized ladies. It was an open market and it seemed like a good business to get into and the first year or so has been fruitful.”

“Basically, I wanted to launch my own business so I chose a course that would help me do that. And I chose Staffordshire because of the quality of the award here.

“The course is set up fantastically. The tactical economic side was very rigorous and this expanded my understanding. And the breadth of knowledge of the lecturers was also fantastic because they brought real world experience and knowhow.”

Prosper has also secured a place on a Masters course at Cass Business School, in London.



Mark is a fire service asset

Fire service employee Mark Adams says his journey through education has given him a leg up the career ladder.

Mark, 44, who lives in Stafford, started working at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service on a disabled training scheme in 1984. Twenty five years on he has gained promotion through the ranks and since April 1 has been working as the Head of the ICT department at Fire Service HQ.

This year Mark graduated for the third time having achieved an MSc in Computer Science - with Merit - at Staffordshire University. He said: “This has been my biggest challenge and my first experience of blended learning, but the Service gave me some time to study and I’m of the opinion that it’s the best way to do it and that you can still manage your work if you’re committed to it.”

During his time at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Mark has completed an ONC and a HNC. He also studied simultaneously for a BSc(Open) in Maths Science and Statistics with the Open University and a BSc(Hons) in Applied Computing at Staffordshire University.

“The Service has paid for all my study and has been willing to support my career development,” said Mark. “Obviously this comes with its own rewards although I’ve had my fair share of late and sleepless nights to get where I am.”



nurse Victor celebrates degree with new job

Hard work and perseverance has paid off for BA(Hons) Nursing graduate Victor Banda, originally from Zambia.

Victor, 45 from Oakhill, worked at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire for six years. He had often thought about Higher Education, but had always believed he would not be able to cope with the workload because of his dyslexia.

Then someone recommended Staffordshire University. Victor said: "I thought I would give it a go as it was recommended specifically because of my dyslexia and I found the support right from the beginning to be very good."

"I was given extra time for my exams, had use of a laptop at home and was given lots of one to one time with my personal tutor, Caroline Loven. She was very supportive and built up my confidence. I originally just signed up to do a diploma but because I got good marks I was invited back to do a full degree!"

Victor had to carry out several placements as part of his course, his favourite being at Dovegate Prison in Uttoxeter. "Working at the prison was definitely one of my highlights of the course. It was quite scary at times as nursing staff had to admit prisoners and carry out assessments when there were problems, but it was just so different and exhilarating."

Victor began a new job in January thanks to the experience and knowledge he acquired while doing his degree. He now works in the Cardio-Thoracics department of the University Hospital of North Staffordshire, but hopes to return to University to do a Masters degree so that he can work as a specialist in his field.



university experience opens up new chapter

Geoff Price had worked for 42 years in accountancy before taking a life changing step – and enrolling at University at the age of 60.

He said: "I thought I'd retired from full-time employment and felt that I needed a new challenge. Both of my sons had been to university but I left school at 18 and started a career in accountancy, which I thoroughly enjoyed, but I had always wondered if I could have achieved a degree if the course of my life had been different."

Geoff, who was widowed in 2001, enrolled on a Step Up To HE course at Staffordshire University before enrolling on the BA(Hons) Modern and Popular History course.

"I met the most amazing people from all walks of life," said Geoff who also found time to return to work part-time as an accountant for Railtrail Tours Ltd in Leek. "I just love the University, and I am extremely grateful for the support and enthusiasm displayed by all of the staff in the History group."

Indeed Geoff found University had more to offer than an education – since he met and married second wife Sue. He added: "Sue and I met on the Step Up to HE course and that in itself has opened up a new life for me."

"I intend to do everything that I can to put the degree to good use and would particularly like to be involved in research into the history of the North Staffordshire area", added Geoff, who was awarded the Webberley History Prize for outstanding achievement.



double degree delight for mum and daughter

Mother and daughter Paula and Bekki Houghton, enjoyed two graduation ceremonies this year after they both finished their degrees at the same time.

Bekki received a BSc in Exercise and Health, while Paula was awarded a BA(Hons) in Early Childhood Studies.

Paula, who had previously attained a foundation degree in Early Years, said: "I'm very proud of Bekki. It did feel a bit weird coming to University at the same time but we have been able to support each other. My husband did all the household stuff whilst we were studying, so that also helped."

Having previously worked in a children's centre and also as a Play and Learning Development Worker, Paula is now a Parent Support Worker for Staffordshire County Council.

"Learning at Staffordshire University has given me more confidence to go for the better jobs," she said.

Her daughter, Bekki, has landed a job on the Natural England funded Walk to Water project, which is being run by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council in the Haregate area of Leek.

She said: "My course was really helpful and has given me the knowledge to take on the job. I like helping people to improve their health through practical activities and that is what my job is about – I learnt about all of that on my course at Staffs."



inspirational finish for GradEx prizewinner

A career in computing has been beckoning to Kunal Verma since a young age and, despite suffering a stroke in his early 20s, he has taken a step closer to fulfilling his ambition.

The 25 year old Computing Science graduate from Wolverhampton, who previously completed a HND in Software Engineering, collapsed one day at University from a brain haemorrhage.

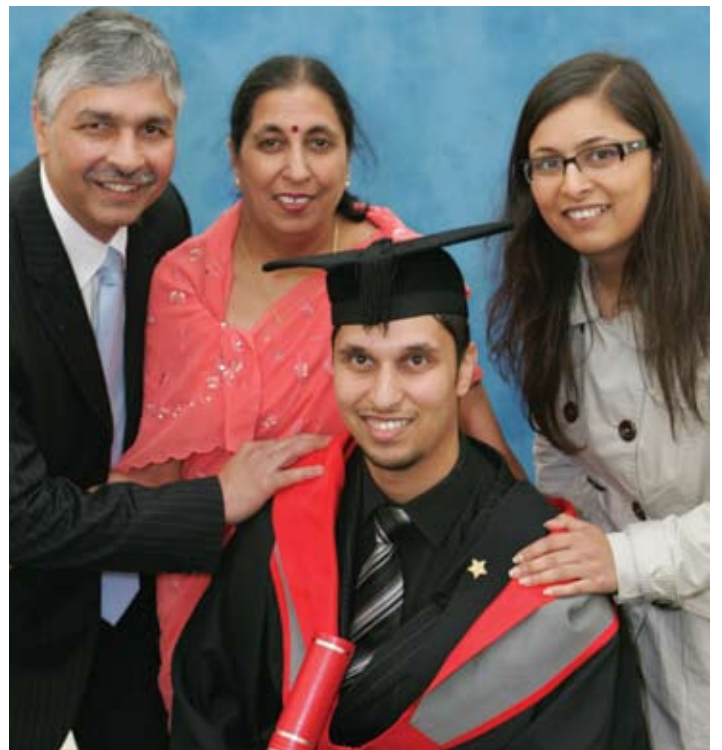
He spent two years recovering before returning to complete his degree, achieving a 2:1, and also collecting first prize in the Computing and Information Systems category at Staffordshire University's GradEx Exhibition.

While away, however, and after spending a great deal of time in hospitals receiving physiotherapy treatment, Kunal was inspired to base his final year project on an NHS database system.

He said: "After I collapsed at University in April 2005 I was rushed to Stafford A&E and then I took two years off. I had to go through rehab and physiotherapy to get some movement back.

"During my recovery, when I was in hospital, I came across the information systems and I found a project. I asked members of staff if they could answer a few questionnaires and I decided to create a database information service – a mobile PDF system."

Now that he has graduated, Kunal is searching for a job in the field of IT. He said: "I'd like to work on hospital information systems and then work my way up within the health service or whatever company I'm in."



The Verma family; father Sushil, mother Rakesh, Kunal and sister, Nisha



hard work sparks success for Charis

It's been a rollercoaster first year in business for Crafts graduate Charis Jones who is on track to make a living as an artist blacksmith

While high points include being recognised as one of Barclay's 100 Top Businesses for their Trading Places Awards and making the finals of the Lord Stafford Awards in the Entrepreneurial Spirit category, the remainder of her time has been taken up with honing her techniques and creating enough pieces to exhibit and sell at the same time as caring for her two children – "lots and lots of very hard work".

She said: "It's been a complete life change and I think you have to be the right sort of person. Juggling work and family is tough and running your own business – you have to be absolutely committed and prepared to do everything yourself but I love it!"

"I work much better for myself than I would for anyone else as no-one else can claim the credit for what I do – I stand and fall on my own merit."

Charis, who began her business Sculpted Steel in October last year with help from the University's Enterprise Fellowship Scheme (EFS), embarked on her journey into Higher Education five years ago following her divorce.

"I couldn't go back to being a stage technician because of the unsociable hours so I did a Foundation degree in Art and Design in Stourbridge and this led on to me going to University and the course at Staffordshire was the best option within a reasonable distance."

At the onset, Charis, 37, knew she wanted to run her own business but she took the opportunity of her first year to explore the materials she most like to work with.

Having chosen to specialise in sculptural steel, Charis applied for the EFS - also attending a three day Business Initiative course - and was fortunate in securing premises at Beaverbrook Equestrian Centre near Leek where she had worked as part of a rural Education Arts Project.

Her attendance at New Designers last year resulted in her showing her work at a garden exhibition in Hampshire where she is exhibiting her work for a second year. She has also worked on a number of larger commissions which include three sculptures for the former Chatterley Whitfield Mining site and making the awards for the Stoke Your Fires Animation Festival.

Charis was also one of five Early Career Artists to take part in the Space, Place and Identity project run by Beaver Arts in Newcastle and she is putting forward a proposal which she hopes will see her chosen as one of the five commissioned artists next year.



She is also eagerly anticipating a move to the forge at Etruria Industrial Museum where visitors to the Stoke-on-Trent visitor attraction will be able to witness Charis at work as the resident artist blacksmith.

"The last year has been about getting myself known and profile raising rather than making money," said Charis. "It's also been about making my work as high standard as I possibly can and now I'm much more confident and much happier about going to events and selling stuff."

Charis is preparing to showcase her work at Artfest in Birmingham and Ludlow Christmas Fayre, as well as keeping her fingers crossed for success in the Lord Stafford Awards. At the same time she hopes to keep up momentum by securing some public art commissions for town and city centres.



film-maker brings home TV 'oscar'

Staffs graduate and Emmy award winner Andrew Rowell is living proof that you don't need to live in London or Los Angeles to succeed.

Andrew, who graduated from the BA(Hons) Film, TV and Radio studies in 2004, is a partner in the Stoke-based video production company Junction 15 with fellow graduate Darren Teale.

Andrew won the Emmy for his work as a remote camera operator at the Beijing Olympics last year. He won the award with Edward Austin, another Staffordshire University graduate, who runs Longton-based Eclipse Broadcast which manufactures and supplies specialist equipment to the television industry.

Andrew said: "I never once thought about it – you just do the job to the best of your ability. One of my colleagues mentioned that it would be great to be nominated for best team but it was just a passing comment."

Andrew, who works for Sky Sports filming premiership football matches, was asked whether he wanted to do some work for American broadcast company NBC at the Olympics.

"We filmed all of the beach volleyball and were working from 6.30am through to midnight most days. We were also involved in the opening and closing ceremonies, in the NBC studio and the diving as well as setting up a camera overlooking Tiananmen Square.

"It was, without doubt, an incredible experience and we filmed numerous celebrities including David Beckham and George Bush alongside legendary athletes like Michael Phelps."

Earlier this summer Andrew received an email to say that they had indeed been nominated for best team but that they hadn't won. However this was swiftly followed by news that they had won the 'outstanding technical team remote' category.

Andrew said: "It's absolutely amazing and not something you ever think you'll win during your career. It's a massive achievement and recognition for people like us and proof that we can compete with the very best. I hope it opens some more doors for us."



Junction 15 was set up in 2005 with support from the University's Enterprise Fellowship Scheme (EFS). Based in Burslem School of Art, Andrew and Darren were joined last year by another graduate Suzanne James, who completed a placement with the company.

They specialise in corporate work and their recent clients include Vodafone and JCB. Junction 15 also undertake work in schools teaching skills to pupils and staff as part of the creative curriculum.

Last year Darren and Andrew worked with a dying heroin addict and his family to edit harrowing home video footage and the result 'Ben: Diary of a Heroin Addict' has since been screened on Sky1 and was shortlisted for a BAFTA.

design duo are creative force

Graphic design graduates Amie Whale and Craig Slater have pooled their talents and are busy proving themselves a creative force to be reckoned with

The team, who graduated in 2005, have set up their own business Eighty3Creative on Wolverhampton Science Park and are adding to their list of satisfied customers on a weekly basis.

Amie and Craig first met on an Art Foundation course at Stourbridge College and both progressed on to a BA(Hons) Design: Graphics at Staffordshire University.

Amie, 25, who graduated with a 2:1, said: "The graphic design course has an exceptional reputation. Staffordshire University was my first choice, it was a fantastic course and I loved every minute of it. It gave us the background to set up on our own."

"I left thinking I would like to set up my own business but felt I still needed experience in the design industry. I had a lot of interest from the final year show and did a work placement with a design agency, based in Wolverhampton, who decided to employ me full time. I learnt a lot there and it gave me a lot of contacts within the local area."

It was while working at the design agency that Amie resumed her friendship with Craig, who worked freelance for the company, and with several years experience behind them, the creative duo decided to go it alone.

"I'd heard that the Wolverhampton Science Park offered business incubation units for creative start ups, we did our research, and moved to the premises in November 2008." said Amie, who is Managing Art Director. "In the first six months we made a profit and it really has gone well as we've picked up a lot of public sector clients."



Their growing client list includes Bristol Primary Care Trust, Sandwell Council, Shropshire Fire Service and Wolverhampton University.

"We've also worked with West Midlands police to develop a media campaign to raise awareness of domestic violence among same sex couples," said Amie "and this is a theme that continued through our work with Pink Shield for Gay Pride week."

Indeed Eighty3Creative – so called as both Amie and Craig were born in 1983 - is performing so well that they are looking to employ new designers on a graduate placement scheme.

Craig added: "We don't want to get complacent. It's down to knowing the right suppliers and right people to approach and this stems from our University education which we feel sets us apart from some of our competition."





no hold-ups for film-maker Chris

A graduate film-maker returned to his roots to deliver the first public screening of a short feature about England's best known highwayman

Chris Stone, who graduated from Staffordshire University's BA(Hons) Media Production course, is director of Turpin which is produced by actor Les Hemstock who also takes on the lead role as the legendary Dick Turpin.

Said Chris: "Les's family had a farmhouse, Mulberry Farm, which was used as a hideout by Dick Turpin. We scripted the film together and did a casting call and were delighted to get Jeremy Bullock who plays Boba Fett in Star Wars and Caroline Munro who played a Bond girl in The Spy Who Loved Me."

Staffordshire's Sandon Hall provided the main location for the filming and the White Lion pub near Barthomley, Crewe, was the tavern for the production which took over 12 months to complete and which involved over 1000 people.

Former graduates of Staffordshire University made up much of the crew with graduate Richard Jack co-starring as Turpin's accomplice Tom King and Staffordshire University Professor Ray Johnson taking on the role of Judge Rookwood.

Chris said: "It was like doing a mini Hollywood production as it involves all the elements of a fantasy adventure like horses and sword fights. A period action film is so difficult to achieve on a small budget. We did much of the post production in Hollywood where Les has moved to and the industry professionals who've seen it have been really impressed and don't know how we managed it.

"It'll now be pushed in America and the UK in the hope of getting a distribution deal. We've already secured a future screening at Pinewood studios and the main thing is to get it shown and entered in major film festivals in Los Angeles, New York and Cannes. The ultimate would be to get into the big films which I've always wanted to do."



firm foundations for therapeutics company

Having never met before starting a Staffordshire University Foundation Degree in Complementary Therapy, Adele Webberley and Amy Hargreaves have since become best friends and are launching a business together.

The enterprising pair from Stoke-on-Trent are now running Therapeutics UK, an alternative therapy company which sends trained practitioners to clinical and care centres, or private homes, to administer treatment.

“The idea is we want to take the company away from the hippy idea of alternative therapy and instead use advanced, science based practices, which is what we learnt on the course,” Adele said.

The aim of the company is to only employ staff that come through a similar foundation degree to their own or through higher education.

And both Amy, 24, and Adele, 40 (pictured above) have hopes to progress their own academic careers, giving them an even better understanding of healthcare and further boost the credentials of Therapeutics UK.

Amy said: “The business is going to fund the studies and the important thing is to maintain professionalism, so we would both like to do the honours degree and then possibly go further – maybe a PhD eventually.”

Both partners have had experience in the therapeutics industry before they started their foundation degrees, which took place at Stoke-on-Trent College.

Amy carried out Swedish massage at VCTC level – a specialist award body offering a range of vocational qualifications in subjects such as beauty therapy, sports therapy and health and fitness – and then decided she wanted to advance. She said: “I’d been looking to do something new but I didn’t do any A-Levels so to go onto a foundation degree was very different for me.”

Adele has come from a career in the Prison Service before entering the field of therapy. She said: “I started in 1990, left in 2005 and never went back. I got to the point where the job became demoralising so I decided I wanted a change.”

She added: “I work well with people – and my Grandmother was a herbalist – so I decided to try complementary therapies because it seemed to be the right way to go.”

When the pair met on the Complimentary Therapies Foundation Degree, they began helping each other and became best friends. Adele admits that “our ages are very different,” but said: “When I had ideas I could bounce something off Amy. She became somebody that I could depend on.”

Amy added: “While on the course I came to rely on Adele to check my work and help me. We’ve definitely become best friends and we wouldn’t have met if it wasn’t for the foundation degree.

“As well as that, I’ve definitely been impressed with the level of support we’ve had and the time the lecturers have given to us. I’ve loved it.”

graduate skills help BT beat recession

The first cohort of BT apprentice technicians to receive tailored training at University while working on the job, have just graduated with top quality foundation degrees while securing full time positions with the company.

The group stand out against the recession, as not only do they have full time employment with BT as Technicians, but they can also return to Staffordshire University at any point to top up their qualifications and receive a full degree in Computer Networks and Security.

BT approached Staffordshire University in 2006 when it identified a need for a group of apprentices to expand their technical skills to work in specialist areas of the company.

Created in partnership with Accenture Learning, BT, E-Skills UK, Stoke-on-Trent College, the new foundation degree was created by the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Technology at the University, and is designed around BT's specific requirements to equip their apprentices with the knowledge, understanding and transferable skills required for them to be successful in their field throughout the future.

Jerry Comber, Apprentice Lead for BT Operate said: "This group of apprentices are the first ever to get a Foundation degree through this collaboration with BT and Staffordshire University."

"It has been a huge success and we are really pleased to be celebrating their achievements - we hope they are the first of many intakes to come."

The two and a half year course is taught at Stoke-on-Trent College for the University, and students can continue in their full-time employment while they obtain their degrees through part-time study. As well as allowing BT's apprentice staff to gain professional development, the foundation qualification also provides them with a route to carry on with a one semester bridging course, to achieve a full degree in Computer Networks and Security in the future if they wish.

Jerry Comber said: "By allowing our apprentices to study part time while continuing in their roles full time, they are getting the most out of studying with work based learning and we know we have now got high quality employees, with recognised qualifications and no study related debts."

"It feels like quite a momentous day and it is great to see them all graduate. Everyone at the company is very proud of their achievements."





New recognition proves KTP is the business

A collaboration between Staffordshire University and ceramics firm Aynsley China Ltd has been recognised as outstanding

The Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) was embarked on in 2006 with the aim of setting up an in-house design resource with associated new digital technologies and to re-establish Aynsley China as a design led manufacturing business.

The successful KTP Associates, Claire Renn and Adele Barnes - both Staffordshire University MA Ceramic Design graduates - worked closely with Professor David Sanderson and Aynsley China's Head of Design, Paul Hulme to introduce fresh new ideas into the company. As well as winning the Lord Stafford award for Achievement in Innovation last year, the KTP has now been recognised by a panel of independent assessors who have awarded a certificate of excellence.

The KTP Grading Panel awarded the highest grade of 'Outstanding' to the KTP for achievement in meeting KTP objectives and this in turn makes it eligible for a national award.

Professor Dave Sanderson said: "This is an excellent result and additionally coming on the back of our success and recognition in the Lord Stafford awards.

"Our extensive links with industry naturally enhances the learning experience of our students. Enterprise is central to our activities in ceramic design and we hope that this will encourage other companies to want to do business with us."

KTP Advisor for the West Midlands Dr Russ Bromley added: "Stoke-on-Trent has very particular business needs and it's particularly gratifying to be working with established companies such as Aynsley while they streamline their business to suit the modern age – and an added bonus for that work to be recognised so highly."

He added: "Although the KTP is now completed, one of the Associates remains working with Aynsley China and the new ranges are beginning to take off."

Staffordshire University is currently involved in nine KTPs including one with Dudson which looks to implement a new manufacturing strategy to ensure that production remains economically viable in Stoke-on-Trent.

graduate company scoop top business award

Graduate film-makers Inspired Film and Video were crowned 'Start Up Business of the year' at the Sentinel Business Awards earlier this year

The category recognises a new independent enterprise that is both entrepreneurial and creative and the prestigious awards evening was attended by businesses from across the region.

Judges were looking for evidence of early financial success together with a sound business plan that is likely to ensure continued growth and sustainability.

Inspired have rapidly become one of the leading media production units in the area and 2008 saw Inspired increase their turnover by 50%, invest in new premises in Newcastle-under-Lyme, new staff, new equipment and training.

"We are delighted to be recognised in this way," said Daniel Stubbs, Inspired's Managing Director. "Like all businesses we are keen to grow but our company roots are very much here in North Staffordshire and for that reason this achievement is extremely important to us."

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Paul Richards said: "It is great to see one of our start up businesses doing so well and for that to be recognised

by the broader business community is testament to the hard work Inspired have put in to making their business a success."

"It was also fantastic to witness so many of our graduates represented among the award winners as Staffordshire University is about creating a dynamic workforce for the region and empowering and enabling students to start their own businesses."

Inspired started trading in October 2006 and have gone on to make films for a variety of local, national and international organisations and businesses. Their client list includes Port Vale Football Club, Skanska, Sibelco UK and Cannock Chase District Council. Most recently the company has been commissioned by the University to produce a film which focuses on the impact of the £287 million University Quarter development in Stoke-on-Trent.

The company is also responsible for the documentary about the Potteries dialect 'May Un Mar Language' and the documentary about food and drink in Staffordshire 'A Flavour of Staffordshire' which was recently praised by HRH Prince Charles.





The class of 2009 deserve our congratulations. All of us at the University are immensely proud of their achievements.

Shine on focuses on some of our graduates and their success stories. It is good to know that at a time of recession our graduates will be making a real difference to the economy. We know that the skills and experience that our students develop at Staffordshire University gives them a real advantage in the job market.

Our economy and society needs highly qualified and creative people. Our graduates have both of these characteristics. Many of them are deciding, particularly in the current economic climate to enhance their skills even more.

That is why the University is offering Staffordshire University graduates up to £1200 off the cost of postgraduate study plus access to our Graduate Futures package.

We wish you well whether you are looking for a job, in a new career or returning to follow a postgraduate course with us. We are always here to support you and we would love to know your story. Please keep in touch.



Professor Christine E King. CBE, DL
Vice-Chancellor, Staffordshire University.



Our Graduate Futures package includes

- Up to £1200* off postgraduate study
- Information, advice and guidance interviews
- Free one day careers workshops
- E-guidance on how to recession-proof your career
- Access to gradFairZ.com - our virtual graduate recruitment fairs
- Access to JobZone – our job vacancy service
- The opportunity to set up your own start-up business in a dedicated incubator unit with financial, administrative and entrepreneurship support.

To find out more call 01782 294991.

* graduates of Staffordshire University are entitled to 15% discount off postgraduate study, up to a maximum of £1,200. This amount reflects the saving available to a graduate taking our Legal Practice Course.

Don't be a stranger. Wherever you are, we're still here - University life doesn't have to end at the graduation ceremony. As a former student you will always be part of Staffordshire University. So keep in touch – and we will do our best to support you in whatever ways we can. You can now update your details online at: www.staffs.ac.uk/alumni



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