

SHOWCASE

HEALTH COMMUNITY EDUCATION

NEWSLETTER • JULY 2008

SCHOOL OF HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION STUDIES



welcome

May I take this opportunity to welcome you to the first edition of our newsletter, *Showcase*.

The sheer volume of good news generated by our School is astounding and this newsletter is dedicated to celebrating the many and varied successes of our staff and students who make Coach Lane a vibrant, friendly and progressive place in which to learn and work.

I hope you will join me for what I am sure will be an enjoyable and informative read.

Professor Roy Stephens, BA CPhil PhD
Dean of School



COACH LANE LOOKS TO ITS FUTURE

An outline planning application regarding the potential re-development of Coach Lane Campus (West) has been submitted to Newcastle City Council.

THE University undertook a major Phase 1 expansion of Coach Lane Campus in 1997 at a cost of £22 million.

The outcome of the planning application will inform the overall programme for the potential delivery of a Phase 2 development at Coach Lane Campus (East). If successful, it will result in the single site consolidation of the School of Health, Community and Education Studies.

Professor Roy Stephens, Dean of the School, said:

"This is an exciting time for all staff and students at Coach Lane and we eagerly await the outcome of the planning application.

"We have a commitment to offer the highest quality student experience and the potential re-development will be a further step towards our goal to continue to provide a stimulating and inspiring place for all staff and students at Coach Lane.

"The demand for our programmes continues to increase year-on-year due to consistently high market demand and over the next five years we expect to further grow our presence domestically

and internationally, therefore there is a need for us to provide new and improved facilities for the delivery of core activities."

Having no fewer than 8,000 full- and part-time students, Health, Community and Education Studies is the largest of the nine Schools at Northumbria University and as such is the only one to boast a campus devoted solely to its areas of expertise.

David Chesser, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources) at Northumbria University, said:

"Northumbria's Estates Master Plan for both campuses, at Newcastle City Centre and at Coach Lane, is based on the principle of suitability for purpose. The University's vision is to be one of the world's leading teaching and learning universities, renowned for the excellence of the student experience. Therefore our facilities and accommodation have to be the very best we can offer. Our plans for the further development of Coach Lane Campus are very much part of that vision."

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School of Health, Community & Education Studies

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Kath McCourt with (L to R) Kevin Roy, Lucy Bennett, Danielle Pickering and Alison Rutherford

KATH'S EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION IS RECOGNISED BY TOP NATIONAL AWARD

Professor Kath McCourt, Associate Dean, has received a top national award, for her exceptional contribution to the advancement of nursing and health care.

PROFESSOR McCourt has been made a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing (FRCN). The Fellowship is the highest honour that the RCN can bestow.

Professor McCourt says: "This is a great honour. I have dedicated my career to furthering the quality of nursing and nurse education and it is therefore very special to have my achievements recognised by the RCN."

Dr Peter Carter, Chief Executive and General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing says: "Professor McCourt is an outstanding academic and professional nurse, and it gives

me great pleasure in congratulating her on receiving this prestigious award. She has been at the forefront of driving cultural, health and social care reform in the UK.

"Her influence has been felt throughout the process of NHS service modernisation and reform.

"She has pioneered the creation of knowledge transfer partnerships and has been at the forefront of incorporating work-based learning into post-qualifying frameworks".

Professor Kel Fidler, Vice-Chancellor at

Northumbria University says: "Throughout her tenure at Northumbria, Kath has helped develop and nurture the University's strong links with the nursing community throughout the world.

"She is committed to driving forward the very highest standards of training and education in a profession which she cares about passionately and she is an inspirational role model for all our nursing students. We are delighted that Kath's exemplary career and achievements are being recognised by the Royal College of Nursing."

MOSAIC REFLECTS UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS

Adult learners on BA (Hons) Learning in Families, Schools and Beyond have teamed up with community artist Jane Dodds to produce a beautiful mosaic which is combining their creative and academic skills.

GREEN mosaic tiles in each individual panel link the piece together and the mosaic is designed to reflect the individual identities of the students, as well as the identity of the group as a whole. It was designed as part of a community learning module, which introduces students to learning in a wide variety of informal contexts including community arts.

Carol Loyd and Tracy Beestone were amongst the third year students who took part in the mosaic, which has now been installed at Coach Lane (West).

Tracy Beestone, 38 from Winlaton Mill works at Percy Hedley School in Newcastle where she has been a Communications Support Worker for the past four years. She says: "I have worked in education for a long time and have always wanted to be a teacher – this degree course will help make that dream a reality and this project is helping us develop the skills we will need to go on to teaching in the community."

The BA (Hons) Learning in Families, Schools

and Beyond is a unique course designed primarily for those working as nursery nurses, teaching assistants and learning mentors. The course focuses on understanding child development, family and community learning, lifelong learning, inclusiveness and raising standards, with the emphasis on learning in various contexts, such as the home, the family, educational and community settings.

Since the launch of this unique degree five years ago, a host of government initiatives such as Sure Start and Every Child Matters, as well as the subsequent workforce reform have kept demand for the course high in the North East. Its popularity has also led to the course being offered via distance learning and now students from right across the UK are also enjoying access to the course.

A range of other programmes has also been launched including two Early Years Foundation Degrees, a Higher Education Certificate for Teaching Assistants and a Foundation Degree for Teaching Assistants.

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I have worked in education for a long time and have always wanted to be a teacher – this degree course will help make that dream a reality... ”

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Top 20 Rating

BSc (Hons) Social Work has been rated within the top 20 HEIs in the *Guardian* University League Tables 2009 recently and was the only social work programme in the region to do so.

The School, of course, was very pleased to have its efforts to increase the rating by students rewarded in this way as it confirms that pre-registration Social Work is a well taught programme that is highly valued by students. This success is a credit to the commitment of academic staff, including social work practitioners who put students at the heart of their learning and teaching strategy without sacrificing academic rigour and professional standards.

Employers also really value this programme as the rating shows that Social Work students from Northumbria University have excellent job prospects!



(L to R) Carol Loyd, artist Jane Dodds and Tracy Beestone reflecting on and in the mosaic



Gerry Rice, Associate Dean

SCHOOL AT HEART OF INNOVATIVE PRACTICE

The School is working in partnership with North Tyneside Council on a Remodelling Social Work with Children and Families Pilot Project which will enable early intervention and assessment to increase contact time and prevent further deterioration in social work cases with children and families.

THIS is one of 18 projects nationally, 12 of which have been commissioned and as far as the School is aware, Northumbria is the only HEI to be involved in any of the projects.

Within the partnership, the School's role is to ensure that an evidenced based approach to social work is at the heart of the pilot. All activities will be evaluated to ensure the project is adding value to the services being remodelled, not in terms of "value for money

evaluation" but measuring the activity against the evidence and research base in social work, therefore ensuring critical, flexible and imaginative practice is developed and measured against a strong evidence base. An additional focus for the work is to concentrate on the long-term benefits to children, young people and families of personalised early interventions.

Gerry Rice, Associate Dean for Education and Social Work, said: "This exciting initiative gives the

School the opportunity to be at the heart of the development of new and innovative practice, and is an excellent opportunity to support and promote evidenced and research informed practice. As well as directly influencing practice, there be excellent opportunities to align curriculum and to develop further research opportunities."

The pilot is funded through the Children's Workforce Development Council for an initial three year period (2008–11).



KHALID BECOMES UK'S FIRST ARABIC REFEREE

Trainee student teacher Khalid Elshahaway has become the UK's first Arabic referee.

KHALID has been a referee since 2000. He lives in Port Said, where he taught in El Nasr Secondary School for Boys, but was born in a village called El-Gabriain.

Part of a cohort of Egyptian students undertaking the Advanced Diploma in Professional Teaching Practice, Khalid regularly takes charge of games in his native Egypt but when he moved to Newcastle to complete his degree, he feared his officiating career could have been given the final whistle so he contacted the Northumberland Football Association, which checked out his qualifications in Africa, and his passion for refereeing was once again kicked off.

Khalid said: "I referee national league games back home and I was delighted to be given the chance to do it over here.

"People ask me what the players I referee here think of having an Arabic referee and I tell them it is the same as any ref. Some like you, some don't.

"Most of all, I am proud to be representing my country and the Arab world over here."

Khalid's course is funded by the European Union and forms a central part of Egypt's Education Enhancement Programme, which aims to bring about improvements to the quality of teaching and standards of education in Egypt.

His studies focus on leadership and management development, information and communications technology, equality and diversity, study skills and the development of English language skills.

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People ask me what the players I referee here think of having an Arabic referee and I tell them it is the same as any ref. Some like you, some don't.

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Khalid Elshahaway

MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENT IN DEAF ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

IN a major collaboration, the School and the North East Commissioning Team for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities have joined forces to develop a brand new Higher Education qualification which will help open up access and revolutionise the treatment available to deaf people experiencing a wide range of mental health problems.

Matthew James, Lead Commissioner for Model Development at the North East Commissioning Team for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities is deaf himself and believes the new qualification is a major step forward in addressing a crucial gap in health care provision.

He says: "Deaf people are faced with a huge gap in mental health services because of their communication needs and they don't have the same access to mental health services as hearing people. There is only one specialist Community Psychiatric Nurse for the whole of the North East who is able to provide the necessary specialist care for the deaf and this is totally unacceptable."

The project will map out the informal training provision which currently exists across the sector for a range of experts in the field. It will test the training needs of mainstream staff whose services should be accessed by deaf people. They will pilot the development,

ultimately leading to a co-ordinated approach to mental health care provision for the deaf right across the North East. The project will also give health care workers and people working with deaf people the chance to work towards achieving the first qualification in the country to combine deaf and mental health issues.

Pamela Inglis, Principal Lecturer in Mental Health and Disability Studies says: "One of the biggest problems to date has been the limited number of experts, with the appropriate skills for dealing with deaf patients, because there is no formal, accredited training available in the area of deaf mental health services.

"We are addressing this problem by offering a fully accredited course, which is flexible in its delivery and which will appeal to a wide range of health care workers including Community Psychiatric Nurses, Gateway Workers, Occupational Therapists, approved social workers, clinical psychiatrists and primary care mental health workers."

This unique project is the first of its kind in the country and it is hoped it will be used as a template for good practice across the country. It has been made possible thanks to the unique collaborative working arrangements of the Primary Care Trusts in the North East.

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FLYING THE KITE FOR THE SCHOOL

Two Health, Community and Education Studies undergraduates, Gemma Charlton and Fiona Baldam, have scooped first prize in the annual Northumbria Student Learning and Teaching Awards. Both are second year students on the Joint Honours programme, studying Childhood Studies and Care & Education: Early Years.

They received their award, of a cash prize of £1,000, at the Students' Union Awards ceremony.

The competition invites students to design a product which promotes teaching innovation. Gemma and Fiona designed a teaching tool called KITE. KITE, a poster with accompanying fliers, can be used by teaching staff to encourage their students to engage in effective group work.

(L to R) Gemma Charlton and Fiona Baldam celebrate their first prize

Professor Charlotte Clarke,
Associate Dean

OUTSTANDING PROGRAMMES RECOGNISED

The School is celebrating after recently being awarded Category A for initial teacher training programmes by Ofsted following outstanding grades being awarded throughout the programmes.

This makes Northumbria University one of the leading providers of initial teacher training in the UK.

A vitally important quality assurance mark, the Category A award demonstrates the outstanding quality of leadership, teaching quality and training and assessment delivered at Coach Lane and by our partnership schools.

The report in particular praised "the very well designed selection procedures which ensure the recruitment of highly committed and capable trainees... the contribution of the partnership schools to the excellent quality of training... the strong emphasis on contemporary and innovative practice."

H BLOCK OPENING PROVES POPULAR

THE School's research and knowledge transfer activities were given a big boost recently when the ground floor of H block was opened following a period of refurbishment.

The School now has contemporary facilities for staff, students and visitors, providing co-location of the School's Research Centre staff, postgraduate research students and administrative staff for research and postgraduate activity.

Funded with £191,428 from HEFCE Science Research Infrastructure Funds, the space provides a social learning environment, meeting rooms, data archive facilities and office space.

Research in the School makes a very significant contribution to the University's activities, with some of the highest income secured per research active academic and with a very substantial group of 72 post-graduate research students. Recent successes include the £5.2 million grant from UKCRC to establish a Centre for Translational Research

in Public Health with partners across the North East.

The doors to the Centre are always open, but a special welcome was extended to staff in the School on 12th May who met for coffee and biscuits.

The Centre will be opened formally by Professor Strike, the DVC (Research & Enterprise), on 2nd July when the School's Research Conference is held.



Raj Bissessur, Associate Dean



Steven Gravel

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

Graduate profile: Steven Gravel
Course: Secondary SCITT in Physical Education
Completion year: 2006
Currently: PE Teacher

What are you doing now?

I am currently teaching Physical Education full-time at Haydon Bridge High School and Sports College in Northumberland and am finishing my second year of teaching. I have found teaching a great challenge and extremely satisfying. It is so dynamic and one day is never the same. I have recently gained a promotion to Assistant Learning Area Leader in PE and will start my new post at a different Northumberland school in September 2008.

What did you most enjoy about your course, and why?

The thing I most enjoyed about the course were the two professional placements which provided an opportunity for me to relate all of the theoretical knowledge that I had gained in my academic programme of study and apply it to real-life teaching contexts. In addition, I think the diversity of study (containing both

practical and academic elements) in the year-long programme made the course interesting and very relevant to teaching secondary Physical Education. The academic programme was delivered by leading experts in their field, which allowed me to have a clear understanding of the most traditional and contemporary educational issues.

What is special about being a student at Coach Lane?

As a student at Coach Lane, I enjoyed making use of the excellent study facilities. You really feel that you are in a positive learning environment which makes studying feel a lot less like a chore. Lecture rooms are modern and up-to-date, the library has an excellent supply of books and there are always more than enough computers to work on. Student support and study skills were always available and accessible which I think is important. Staff at Coach Lane are all very friendly and overall it is an excellent place to learn.

NEW FACES

A new addition to Coach Lane, **Paula Benton** has joined as Senior Lecturer for Joint Honours (Advice, Guidance & Counselling and Professional Practice Studies part-routes). Having made the move from a post as Senior Manager with the Connexions Service in Northumberland, she is thoroughly enjoying her new role and says that the best things so far are her enthusiastic students, friendly staff and good coffee!

Sarah Beck has also taken up the post of Senior Lecturer. Primarily teaching on the BSc (Hons) Social Work programme her position will see her also having some involvement in post-qualification training for social workers. Having been interested in Social Work education for some time, Sarah felt this job was a great opportunity for her to progress in her career.

Previously involved with the University for several years as a student, an agency representative and more recently a visiting lecturer, she has always been impressed by the quality of the programmes offered, the relationships between the University and local social care agencies, and the way service users and carers are involved in the planning and delivery of teaching

In addition, two new posts have been created for the School. **Sarah Glover** joins the team from Newcastle Strategic Partnership as Planning and Information Manager and **Alice Andreasen**, previously a PR and Marketing Communications Account Manager has taken the position of Marketing and Recruitment Manager.

If you have any comments to make about this newsletter, or would like to submit editorial, please contact alice.andreasen@northumbria.ac.uk.