

SHOWCASE

HEALTH COMMUNITY EDUCATION

NEWSLETTER • OCT 2009

SCHOOL OF HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION STUDIES

News flash!

Turn to page 2 to find out more about our 'outstanding' Ofsted Results.

Managing change in key professions is top priority for new Dean



Pictured: Professor Kath McCourt, FRCN

One of the UK's top nursing professionals has been appointed as Dean of the School of Health, Community and Education Studies.

Professor Kath McCourt takes up the post at a crucial time for the future development of the vital professions supported by the School and believes Northumbria is well placed to equip and develop the workforce of tomorrow.

She says: "This is an exciting and challenging time for everyone working in the health, education and community professions.

"Social workers, teachers and nurses are all facing massive change within their professions and it is essential that we prepare our students to meet all future needs and expectations. To do that effectively we must remain at the forefront of change.

"We have an excellent track record of close partnership working and I aim to develop our staff

and students to ensure we provide the professions which underpin our society with the highest possible standard of education, training and development."

She was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing (FRCN) in April last year – the highest honour that the RCN can bestow – for her exceptional contribution to the advancement of nursing and health care.

She is also Deputy Chair of the Northern Region of the RCN, is a member of the Governing Body and advises the RCN on International Issues.

Professor McCourt continues: "We have a team of dedicated professionals, who offer a unique blend of academic and professional practice expertise and they provide our students with the highest possible quality of teaching. 60% of our students are from the North East and we have a high proportion of mature students who are often managing their professional studies alongside a full-time job and personal responsibilities."

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Teacher training courses come up trumps in Ofsted inspection

Teacher training programmes have been rated “outstanding” following a recent inspection by Ofsted.

Their reports state that the courses to train early years, primary and secondary school teachers are “outstanding” in relation to the consistently high-quality of course provision and the achievements of the trainee students.

Further training programmes including School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) courses which run in accordance with the North East Partnership and the North Tyneside Young People and Learning Directorate were also rated as “outstanding”, as was a partnership programme which leads to qualified teacher status for secondary school design and technology teachers, while programmes to train Further Education teachers were rated as “good”.

The inspectors assessed evidence from all aspects in Initial Teacher Education, including its partnerships with 200 primary schools, 50 secondary schools, employers and local authorities, and even the close links enjoyed with schools in the London Borough of Newham. This provides students with the opportunity to teach

minority ethnic groups to help to develop their confidence in inclusive education and working with children in the early stages of learning the English language.

The Ofsted report commended the School for:

- “excellent communication and support given to trainees through innovative and personalised training;”
- “high-quality partnerships featuring a strong commitment to local and regional workforce development;”
- “excellent leadership and management of programmes where the ethos is focused on developing skilled, reflective practitioners,” and “focus on ensuring trainees’ wellbeing.”



Melyvn Brown, Lecturer in Education pictured with Gerry Rice, Associate Dean of Education

The School was praised for the flexible programmes it runs, which allow modules and sessions to be easily adapted to meet the needs of individuals and groups as well as incorporating teaching on new initiatives, developments and research.

The inspectors also commended the effective selection of high-calibre students to study on the teacher training programmes and the subsequent high employment rates for graduates.

Gerry Rice, Associate Dean for Education said: “The Ofsted report is a hugely encouraging commendation of the efforts we have made to provide an outstanding experience for our trainee teachers. We are delighted with the outcome and see the results as a tribute to the hard work of HCES staff, school partners and our students. We are all very proud of the strength of the partnerships that we have with schools and how we all work together to provide future teachers of the highest quality.”

News flash! The Social Work team are justly proud of their new league table rankings in the *Times* and *Guardian*, which place them as being the highest in the North East.

Major investment in new academic staff at HCES

The University has launched a three year £17.8 million Strategic Investment Fund and a major recruitment drive to attract 70 high-quality academic staff to the North East, as part of its continuing development strategy.

As part of this recruitment drive, the School has benefitted from this strategic investment through the appointment of four new members of staff.

The new recruits joining HCES are Mima Cattan who is a Professor in Public Health, Tony Hildreth a Professor and reader in Medical Statistics, Pauline Pearson who is a reader and Professor in Nursing and Nikki Adams who is a Professor in Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy.

The move will also strengthen the University's prospects in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise in 2014, the successor to the 2008 RAE. It is intended to help the University grow its research and innovation income and profile, and its capacity for PhD student supervision.



A who's who of PhD studentships:

Name: Jason Scott

Area of interest: Service user involvement in patient safety

Email: jason.scott-2@northumbria.ac.uk

Jason joined us in January. He is studying a PhD in service user reporting of adverse events and perceptions of what is safe care.

Speaking about his area of research, he said: "This research particularly focuses on developing a service user definition of patient safety in care transfers and using this definition to create a mechanism that will allow service users to identify and report safety incidents when undergoing a care transfer."



Name: Helen Atkin

Area of interest: Neuro-rehabilitation and neuropsychiatry

Email: helen.atkin@northumbria.ac.uk

Helen started with us in February and is studying inclusive practice which involves exploring assumptions and their relationships with 'nudges' for change with neuro-rehabilitation and neuropsychiatry.



Name: Hung Nguyen

Area of interest: Application of creative thinking techniques in teaching chemistry

Email: hung.nguyen@northumbria.ac.uk

Hung Nguyen has previously completed an English language course in Northumbria's English Language Department prior to starting his PhD studies. Hung enrolled in May and is studying the application of creative thinking techniques in teaching chemistry to high school students.

His research topic is an "investigation of creativity in the field of chemistry teaching for high school students in Vietnam".



Name: Allan Brownrigg

Area of interest: Psychotherapy

Email: allan.brownrigg@northumbria.ac.uk

Allan Brownrigg, Lecturer, who originally transferred from Salford University is currently half way through his PhD in young people's accounts of psychotherapy following self-harm.



New Director of Practice Placements at HCES

Carole Proud has been appointed new Director of Practice Placements

Her work will support the development of practice-based learning within HCES. Carole joins us from NHS South of Tyne and Wear where her practice was focused on child health and health visiting. She has also focused on practice-based learning, working with practice educators and students as a Practice Placement Facilitator.

Carole will join the team in October. She said: "Practice-based learning is at the heart of all prequalifying programmes in the enabling and caring professions. HCES already has an excellent reputation in this area. I am also really looking forward to returning to the School where I was previously a Senior Lecturer and, in particular working with the Placement Office team, academics and staff in practice to ensure and enhance the quality of our practice placements. This is an exciting time to be involved in the changes in professional education particularly when service delivery is also changing rapidly."

Social Work stakeholder event success

The annual stakeholder event for BSc (Hons) Social Work held in June, was focused on involving service users and carers in the assessment of students, particularly in practice settings.

Key contributions were given by Gina Hardesty, Project Manager for Service User and Carer Involvement at the University of Lincoln, who spoke about her work with the Service User Participatory Advisory (SUPA) group at the University of Lincoln. Particular focus was given to the development of a module created and delivered entirely by service users and SUPA group "surgery" for students to discuss issues relating to service users and carers directly with service users themselves.

Julie Gosling and Kevin Chettle of Advocacy in Action, Nottingham have been involved in the training of professionals across the country for 20 years. They discussed the ways in which they are involved in assessing social work students on their communication and interpersonal skills prior to going on placement, using a feedback sheet with visual symbols.

The event was attended by 65 people, including service users and carers, academics, practitioners and students.

News flash! The School is expanding its Integrated Children's Workforce area with a new degree BA (Hons) Applied Parenting and Family Studies which will commence with approximately 30 parenting support advisers from Durham Local Authority.

Community worker nominated for award

Second year BA (Hons) Child Care Practice student, Sue Newton has recently been awarded the Lord Mayor's Award for services to the community.

Sue is studying on the Work-Based Learning route programme and is currently working on a project which involves developing inclusion within Heaton Community Centre.

Currently Chairwoman of the Community Centre, Newcastle Community Buildings Network, and Newcastle Action for Parent and Toddler Initiative, she also organises and runs several projects and has been instrumental in setting up new groups.

Karen George, Operations Manager for Community Facilities with the City Council, put Sue forward for her contribution to the

Community in Number One Neighbour Award. Karen explained: "Sue puts so much of her time into supporting community projects. She is in the Community Centre all hours, often late at night or weekends. She is so dedicated. Sue really deserves recognition and an award for the work that she does. She spends her life doing things for other people."

Upon being nominated for the award, Sue said: "I think the local community is extremely important," she explained. "No matter who you are or what your background, the local Community Centre has a place for you. It's all about empowering people."



International applicants increase by half

For the first time ever the School is looking to enrol over 100 directly recruited international students to start in September. Added to the 80 plus Egyptian Government sponsored students who will arrive in October, this means there will be around 200 international students on campus.

This huge increased number of students is due to a number of initiatives which have been put in place over the past year. The concurrent launch of new marketing materials along with a new programme has meant that the number of applicants has increased by 50% over the last year.

The largest increase has been in applications for the new MSc Physiotherapy Studies programme which was developed due to the high demand in India. In total there have been 64 applicants, 55 of those being from India.

HCES student chosen for BUCS squad

Jenny Montgomery a BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy student has been chosen to be part of the British Universities and College Sport representative squad (BUCS). BUCS is a national organisation for Higher Education sport in the UK. Alongside Jenny, Tessa Burton a BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sport Science student at Northumbria was also selected for the British representative squad.

Sarah swept the board by wowing *The Recruiter*

Sarah Stancer, a BSc (Hons) Social Work student was nominated by recruitment agency AJ Social Care for an award given by *The Recruiter* magazine after proving to be an outstanding worker in the challenging area of social care.

The award is for the UK's champion temporary, contract and interim worker for those employees who are flexible and impress their agency for going the extra mile during the National Temporary Workers Week 2009.

Andrew Brindley, director at AJ Social Care, told *The Recruiter*: "She always keeps me up-to-date on what she is doing. I never have to chase her for anything. Sarah has also worked very closely with a client on a very delicate matter and produced an outstanding, well-written report that must've taken her a lot of thought, time and effort."

After Sarah was nominated for the award she said: "It was a bit of a shock to receive the award. I thought I was just doing my job. I did not realise I was going the extra mile. It was just what I was doing because I was enjoying the job."





Julie McDowell, award-winner

The EYPS race starts at Northumbria

During the summer City Campus East held the first North East Regional Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) conference for over 150 delegates.

The conference was organised by the University and Sunderland University to celebrate the achievements of Early Years Professionals (EYPs) in the area. Both the University and Sunderland University wanted to ask challenging questions about the role of EYPs and to think about how their professional expertise could be recognised. The delegates who attended the conference gave them the opportunity to give their opinions on how EYPS should be supported and developed across the region.

An important part of the conference was to involve delegates in a series of activities which allowed them to highlight possible issues faced by EYPs as well as sharing their ideas on the future development of EYP.

The conference also contained an awards

ceremony celebrating the success of EYPs. HCES student, Julie McDowell won the EYPS Student of the Year Award.

Pauline Jones, Senior Programme Manager Early Years from the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) gave the keynote address describing the progress that has been made in the development of EYPS since its arrival three years ago. After Pauline gave the keynote address a delegate said "I feel more assured about the longevity of the status."

After the conference a delegate said: "It made me realise that there are lots of people willing to work towards the same targets."

"It's good to talk to people from other local authorities and actually see what they are doing – it's great to see how fantastic the region is."

Upcoming Key Events for your dairy

Monday 28th September

- Professor Miles Hewstone: Reducing Intergroup Conflict Seminar

Wednesday 30th September

- Modern Matron Masterclass: Transition from 'Ward' to 'Board'

Saturday 10th October 2009

- Institutional Undergraduate Open Day

Thursday 29th October

- Modern Matron Masterclass: Patient Safety

Thursday 12th November

- Health Alive Recruitment Event

Friday 13th November 2009

- Eating Disorder Masterclass

Tuesday 17th November 2009

- Modern Matron Masterclass: Clinical Leadership

Friday 20th November 2009

- Health Alive Recruitment Event

To find out more about any of these events please contact:
alice.andreasen@northumbria.ac.uk

News flash !

Turn to page 6 to find out more about a Higer Doctorate being awarded to one of our Associate Deans.

Lecturer wins scholarship to learn latest surgical techniques

Catherine Bainbridge, Operating Department Practitioner (ODP) lecturer won a prestigious scholarship to learn the latest surgical techniques.

Catherine has won one of the 10 limited scholarships across the country and will be going to a training hospital in Paris.

Catherine secured the scholarship by writing about how she promotes the work of advanced scrub practitioners at the University whilst working at Hexham General Hospital.

Catherine said "The students are training to become ODPs. This is what I first qualified in and I let them know they have the option of training to a higher level if they want to.



"Catherine also commented when winning the scholarship saying "I'm really excited about the scholarship. It will mean I can ensure my skills are up to speed as the technology improves."

Congregation highlights

As it is the beginning of the new academic year we thought we would give you a snippet of just some of this summer's congregation highlights.



(L-R) Professor Charlotte Clarke and Professor Wai Hung Francis Yik who was also awarded a Higher Doctorate at Congregation.

Higher Doctorate awarded to Professor

Professor Charlotte Clarke, Associate Dean (Research) has been recognised for the significant contribution she has made to the field of Nursing.

Professor Charlotte Clarke has had a distinguished nursing and research career and was one of the first in the world to research dementia care nursing at PhD level. Recognised by her academic and nursing peers as a leading authority on older people and dementia care, Professor Clarke is one of the first nurses ever to have been awarded the Higher Doctorate.

Professor Clarke's approach to applied research covers a broad spectrum. It includes research to better understand dementia as a social disability, risk management in dementia care, coping with dementia at an individual level and some of the day-to-day battles that result from a person with dementia having to negotiate their responsibilities.

She said: "Nursing people with chronic conditions such as dementia, is an area of growing importance in our society today and I am delighted my academic research can be applied to practice and make a real difference to the lives of individuals and their carers. This work has been done through work with some excellent colleagues and truly is a multi-disciplinary team effort.

"I am especially pleased to have been awarded the Higher Doctorate and believe this is great recognition for the School of Health, Community and Education Studies and a testament to our partnerships with organisations throughout the health care sector in the North East, across the UK and throughout the world."



Mother and daughter celebrate same day success

Education students Lorna MacLeod, 51 and daughter Fiona Hall, 23 graduated on the same day and are both about to embark on a teaching career.

Fiona graduated with a 2:1 classification in BA (Hons) Early Primary Education and Lorna graduated with a Primary Education PGCE.

Lorna, of Rye Terrace in Hexham started her career as a nursery nurse followed by a stint as a teaching assistant for 15 years. She was then encouraged to further her learning to study a part-time degree.

Lorna said: "The course has been really hard work, but very rewarding. This degree has helped me to believe in myself, especially as I won an award for academic achievement".

Fiona also enjoyed the experience saying: "It's been fabulous, the best three years ever. It's brought us closer together. It was very easy for us to go to each other for advice and support during the course and that really helped."



(L-R) Fiona Hall and her mum Lorna MacLeod



(L-R) Fiona Armstrong, Kerry Mitchel, Helen Donkin, Caroline McElroy, Karen Morton and Mark Morgan

Nursing graduates receive annual Heath Award

Seven of our outstanding graduates have received a prestigious Heath Award for their academic and practical achievements in nursing.

Helen Donkin and Karen Morton both graduated with an Advanced Diploma in BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies (Child). Kerry Mitchell, Fiona Armstrong, Caroline McElroy and Helen Pilkington graduated with an Advanced Diploma in BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies (Adult). Mark Morgan graduated with a Diploma in BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies (Mental Health). All the graduates received Heath Medals and prize money during an awards ceremony at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle.

The nursing graduates were selected by seven trustees. The trustees considered the nurses' academic grades and supporting letters from course tutors, hospital placement staff and

patients. The award is a bequest by George Yeoman Heath MD, DCL, FRCS. George was a surgeon, teacher, President of the College of Medicine in Newcastle and the first Professor of Surgery to the University of Durham College of Medicine in Newcastle. After his death in 1892 he left a legacy to award annual prizes for outstanding nurses in the Newcastle hospitals.

Ann Mott, Academic Head for Post Qualifying and Postgraduate Studies, said: "I think that in the rapidly changing health care climate, the fact that these nurses have achieved such a high standard means that nursing is alive and well and will be a force to be reckoned with in the future."

Improving health in India

Two Indian health professionals awarded PhDs say their knowledge and research skills will make a real difference to the health of people in their home country.

Leah Macaden, a Professor in Nursing and Guru Nagarajan, a Social Worker, both work at the Christian Medical College in Vellore in Southern India.

Leah, whose studies were sponsored through a PhD studentship from the University's Research Development Fund, looked at the risk perception among older South Asians with Type 2 Diabetes in the United Kingdom and says that the findings from her study will definitely help people back in India and the Diabetes services for South Asians living in the United Kingdom.

Guru's PhD focused on community-based rehabilitation with regard to people with disabilities in the urban slums in southern India. The Humane Research Trust funded his research.

Links between Northumbria and the Christian Medical College began nine years ago when Dr Colin Chandler, Director of Postgraduate Research at Northumbria, visited the hospital while on sabbatical. This has led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions and it is hoped joint academic programmes will be developed in the future.



(L-R) Guru Nagarajan and Leah Macaden

News flash! Turn to page 8 to find out more about our photographic exhibition 'On Firm Foundations'.

NSS results testament to commitment of HCES staff

It's that time of year again! The annual National Student Survey (NSS) results have been published and we are delighted to report that the School has again scored highly in key areas:

• 91% OF HCES STUDENTS SAID THAT STAFF ARE GOOD AT EXPLAINING THINGS

• 90% OF OUR STUDENTS SAID THE LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES WERE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THEIR NEEDS

• 92% SAID THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCESS GENERAL IT RESOURCES WHEN THEY NEEDED TO

• 91% OF HCES STUDENTS SAID THEIR COMMUNICATION SKILLS HAVE IMPROVED

The NSS gathers feedback from final year undergraduates on the quality of courses and their general experience since joining their Higher Education Institution (HEI). It is a key measure of the student experience, and is commonly used to inform the decisions of prospective students when applying to study at an HEI.

Dr Pam Dawson, Associate Dean for Learning and Teaching, said: "These results are testament to the hard work of all our academic and support staff who are committed to making the experience of studying in HCES an enjoyable, fulfilling and an ultimately rewarding one.

"As with any survey the response rates are crucial and I am pleased to report that this year's sample is notably higher than last year. The NSS results are very important to the School. They are central to informing our ongoing learning and teaching objectives and reinforce our commitment to the continual improvement of the student experience."



District nurses leaving for work on bicycles, 1950s

150th anniversary of district nursing

2009 marks the 150th anniversary of the foundation of district nursing and the School of Health, Community and Education Studies has been working with the Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) and Northumberland NHS Care Trust to develop a unique exhibition to mark this important historical event.

The exhibition, currently on display, within our Clinical Skills Centre includes a collection of contemporary and archive photographs celebrating the unique nature of district nursing practice. It will be officially opened by Professor Rosemary Cook CBE, Director of the Queen's Nursing Institute on the 1st October 2009 and it ends in December.

Started as an experiment in 1859 by William Rathbone VI, a philanthropist and merchant from Liverpool, district nursing has grown into a service which makes a significant contribution to the delivery of care outside of hospital. While modern district nursing involves the delivery of highly technical care including diagnosis, prescribing and care management the service remains true to its founding principles. The 'On Firm Foundations' exhibition aims to illustrate this through photographs and poetry from around the turn of the last century to the present day.

A team of people are responsible for the development of the exhibition and the contemporary photographs were taken by Pamela Raith, a recent graduate from the Northumbria University BSc (Hons)

Contemporary Photographic Practice. Working with the community teams, Pamela has managed to capture the essence of care outside of hospital.

In addition to the photographs, the team has also worked with staff to write a number of poems to complement those from the QNI's archives. The revival of the tradition of creative writing within nursing practice has had considerable benefits with the approach now being used within pre and post registration education and with patients with chronic disease.

Sue Spencer, Senior Lecturer within the School has developed considerable experience of the use of creative writing both with students and within palliative care. Sue believes that, "approaching the world of health care through the lens of poetry helps people take more notice of the little things that can make a huge difference to people's experience of health care. Poetry requires us to use words carefully and condense thoughts and feelings thus requiring a considered choice and often this process enables people to see the world from another point of view."