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Welcome



I am delighted to welcome you to the latest issue of Connect, our dedicated alumni magazine. As part of our University community you play a vital role in our future success as ambassadors, volunteers, industry partners and benefactors.

Since gaining research degree awarding powers in 2005, the University has gone from strength to strength, achieving success in learning and teaching, research, enterprise, community engagement and in developing our international profile through links

with overseas alumni. The University is operating in an environment that is likely to become unprecedented in its levels of competitiveness. As we embark on a new strategy to position ourselves as a high quality provider of education and other services, it is vital we recognise, reflect upon and showcase pride in our ongoing achievements and future goals.

You will see in this edition that we have ambitious plans for the University and in September 2010, the re-developed Newton building was opened by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal. The building has undergone an £11 million re-development and is home to the School of Science and Technology.

Continued support of our Scholarship Fund has enabled us to offer a range of scholarships and awards. During 2010, more than 100 students have benefited from these.

In 2011 the University launches its first annual giving campaign to alumni. This new initiative is designed to provide support for current and future generations of students through donations to the Chancellor's Fund. I invite you to join the growing number of individuals, alumni, friends and organisations who are already playing an active role as donors by supporting this activity.

We are proud of our global alumni network and thank those of you who support us.

NAD

Professor Nick Petford PhD DSc FGS ACIM Vice Chancellor

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Contact the Alumni team

We welcome your comments, letters, photographs or articles to Connect magazine but we reserve the right to edit any contributions.

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Graduations 2010

Scholarships = success for accountancy students

The first John Lowe Scholars have graduated from the University's Northampton Business School.

Bijal Mandalia, who achieved a First Class Honours degree, and Kerry Wood both graduated with a BA in Accounting and Finance, while Waldemar Nikiel earned a BA in Financial Information Management.

The John Lowe Scholarships are available to students wishing to study finance and accounting at the University.

Bijal Mandalia said: "Receiving the John Lowe Scholarship was an immense help to me through the three years of my course. The scholarship helped provide the necessary means to progress in my education.

"I was delighted to achieve a First Class Honours degree and would like to thank the donors for supporting me."

A Master of Philosophy at 88

They say wisdom comes with age, and 88-yearold Ernest Sharp was a perfect example when he was awarded a Master of Philosophy for his study of waste management at our Graduation Ceremonies in July.

Popular student Ernest had previously graduated with a 2:1 for his first degree in Wastes Management and Pollution Control from The University of Northampton at the tender age of 82.

Graduation day celebrations

Generous former student Sammantha Hammond dug deep into her own newly-qualified pocket to help two students from the School of Education to attend their graduation.

Sammantha said "My graduation ceremony was a memorable occasion and I know that financial constraints can prevent some students attending this special day.

"I took the decision to make a donation to support two students who would otherwise be unable to attend their graduation."

Sammantha, a 2009 BA (Hons) Primary Education graduate, made a donation of £100 and attended the 2010 ceremony where she met Clare Sharp and Victoria Wood the two recipients of her award.

First class couple hope to make a difference

Graduation was a triple celebration for Neil Shaw, who received his degree in Third World Development.

As well as achieving a First Class Honours degree, he also won the Bernie Ashmore Award for his contribution to international understanding, and his proud father flew over from South Africa for the big day.

Neil worked on a number of development projects in South Africa, his home country, and plans to continue working in the field of international development. His girlfriend, Laura Keren, also graduated in July 2010 with a BA (QTS) in Primary Education. She hopes to bring her skills into play when they find a suitable placement overseas and together they hope to make a difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable people.

The Award is dedicated to Bernie Ashmore. Bernie, who died at just 57, managed Oxfam's Primary Education Unit. He believed in people, and inclusion and social justice was of great importance to him. It was entirely fitting that Neil should receive the award in his name. He received the Bernie Ashmore Award for his overall contribution to the course and his level of engagement. Bernie would have been delighted – brilliant in the classroom and enthusiastic about the ideas he shared with children and teachers – he spent his life encouraging and supporting people just like Neil and Laura.

Scholarship support for fashion graduate

Graduating with a BA (Hons) in Fashion was hot new talent Garry Butterfield, who received scholarships from The Leathersellers' Company and The Worshipful Company of Curriers. In a hugely successful year, Garry's collection was selected as a River Island Gold Award Finalist at London Graduate Fashion Week, followed by an award from stylejob.co.uk for Best Artistic Direction at the Northampton Fashion Show. You can view his collections at

www.garryjamesbutterfield.com

Honorary Doctorates and Fellowships

Six high-profile recipients were presented with Honorary Doctorates and Fellowships at the Summer Graduation Ceremonies in July.



Councillor Gina King Honorary Fellowship

Gina has played a major role in the public life of Northamptonshire and is the longest serving county councillor, dedicating a large part of her many years service to the education sector of Northamptonshire County Council.

Councillor King has a long-standing relationship with The University of Northampton as Chair of the Board of Governors (of Nene College) from 1985 to 1989.

She is a member of the management board of Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Service and is a member of the Royal & Derngate Theatre Board. She has been at the heart of many fundraising activities for charity and has worked with St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton.



Maurice Jones Honorary Fellowship

Maurice has had a direct impact on the success of The University of Northampton, on the exploitation of our knowledge base to the benefit of our economy, and on the lives of many of our graduates.

Starting his career as an apprentice electrical engineer, Maurice worked for some of the early computer manufacturers before striking out on his own to create not one but three companies on both sides of the Atlantic.

He has performed outstanding services to knowledge transfer, having been a Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) Adviser with the Department of Trade and Industry (now the Technology Strategy Board) for many years.



Bishop of Brixworth, Frank White, Honorary Fellowship

Bishop Frank White has been a committed supporter of the University since becoming Bishop of Brixworth in 2002, and arranged for the Church of England to fund a 0.5 Chaplain post within the University's multi-faith Chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy offers support and encouragement to students and staff of all faiths and none.

He has worked closely with interfaith and other Christian denominational leaders in Northamptonshire and has a close and active interest in homelessness and poverty in Northamptonshire. Bishop Frank became assistant Bishop of Newcastle in November 2010.



Baroness Flather of Windsor and Maidenhead, Honorary Doctorate

Baroness Shreela Flather is a teacher and politician. She has been a Life Peer since 1990, the first Asian woman to be elevated to the House of Lords. She was also the first minority woman councillor, one of the first Asian women to become a magistrate and the first Asian woman mayor.

As a member of the House of Lords she campaigned for fair education, race equality and women's development and health.

She has served in senior posts in councils and public bodies, both national and international, involved in refugee, community, race relations, and women's sexual and reproductive health.

She has recently published a book on extreme poverty and exploitation of woman. In 2009 she was honoured by the Indian President with The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, the highest honour conferred on overseas Indians.



Lord Boswell of Aynho Honorary Fellowship

Lord Boswell is a former Whip and Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. More locally, he served as Conservative Member of Parliament for Daventry for many years until his retirement in 2010.

Tim Boswell's interest in education was evident by his local commitments to governorships of both primary and secondary schools, and his national role as Conservative Minister for Further and Higher Education from 1992/95. During that time, Lord Boswell handed over the powers to award taught degrees to this University (then known as Nene College).



Martin Lambie-Nairn Honorary Doctorate

Martin is one the world's leading authorities on television brand identity, producing work which has influenced television production across the globe for more than four decades. In the UK, his outputs included pioneering 3D Animation for the launch of Channel 4 in the early 80s and his contribution to the creation of the ground-breaking satirical programme 'Spitting Image'.

Described by Professor Jeremy Myserson of the Royal College of Art as "the most influential design consultant in British television, and perhaps even the world," Martin is a Royal Designer for Industry, a Fellow of the Royal Television Society, a past President of Design and Art Directors UK and has been given numerous awards for creative excellence including a Gold Design & Art Direction Award for the Channel 4 brand identity and a BAFTA for his work for BBC2.

OVER 50 COUNTRIES AND COUNTING

Since graduating in 2001 with a BA (Hons) in American Studies, Tony Giles has visited over 50 countries and has just published a book about his experiences, 'Seeing The World My Way'. His experience is made all the more extraordinary because Tony is blind, 80 percent deaf without his hearing aids and had a kidney transplant two years ago.

Bungee-jumping in New Zealand, skydiving in Australia and partying through the night in New Orleans make for fascinating reading, as Tony's way of seeing the world is through his other senses. He has proved that disabilities don't have to be a barrier to travel or ambition, and the next stage of his trip is to visit South American and Antarctica in January 2011.

Tony started travelling as part of his degree placement in 2000. Since then he has visited every populated continent, dipped his feet in every ocean and travelled to all 50 states of the USA.

Tony told us: "When I started travelling it was all about escapism, it was about escaping from responsibility, parents and myself. Things have changed over the years, as I have matured. Now it is just about learning and meeting people from different walks of life and different cultures and seeing how people feel in different situations, day in day out. Things that we don't think about".

"People ask me why I've come to their countries and what I know about them, which is a bit odd. To me, I am just another tourist, another backpacker. I just happen to be blind. I like places that are a bit unusual and to do things that are slightly different. I don't know if I would have wanted to travel as much had I been sighted. I imagine my challenges in life would have been different".

He has visited every populated continent, dipped his feet in every ocean, travelled to all 50 states of the USA, sky-dived and bungee-jumped his way around the world.

Tony was diagnosed with cone dystrophy and photo phobia at around nine months of age and partial deafness at the age of six. Both senses gradually deteriorated. He credits his family with giving him the independence to live life to the full. After attending a boarding school for the blind in Coventry, he faced more challenges when he came to University to read American Studies.



Speaking about his time at University Tony said: "I received financial support from my Local Education Authority to purchase equipment with speech in order for me to write my essays and read handouts and books. Academic texts are extremely difficult to obtain in Braille, and too bulky to read. I can touch type without speech, but having software that reads everything I type and the entire screen if I command it makes studying much easier. I employed fellow students to help me research books, find quotations and correct my spelling and grammar.

"I have a scanner with speech, which allows me to read any typed text including my post. This vital piece of equipment enabled me to function at university at the same level as sighted students. I had to scan the books myself and then listen to the entire text. This took twice as long as a student reading with sight, but it made me more determined to learn."

Travelling is what Tony enjoys and hopes people will read and enjoy the stories and ideas in his book, 'Seeing The World My Way'.

"I hope it will inspire someone, not necessarily to go round the world, but just to do something that is one of their challenges, to stretch themselves, to overcome something," he added.

Tony sums up his unflinching thirst for discovery and excitement by revealing what keeps his feet itchy: "Really, I want all the freedom I can get."

Seeing the World My Way, is published by SilverWood Originals (£8.99), available from all good bookshops and Amazon, and has also been chosen by the RNIB to be transcribed into Braille.

Tony is hosting an event about his travels and his new book on 27 September 2011. For further information email:

lynn.margetts@northampton.ac.uk http://www.tonythetraveller.com/



From running a school to raising a million – former student Glennis Hopper tells us how she turned tragedy into a crazy charity.



Using her head to create Crazy Hats

As a child I loved all aspects of school life and always wanted to be a teacher. I was fortunate to have some very good teachers in good schools and supportive parents and I was accepted at what was then Nene Teacher Training College.

It was a great three years and I thoroughly enjoyed everything about the course, the lecturers and fellow students, some of whom I'm still in touch with. My chosen subjects, as well as the customary education modules, were art and biogeography (a mix of biology and geography) and looking back all of these gave me a very good grounding for what lay ahead in the classroom.

I had planned to stay on to obtain my Batchelor of Education degree, but half way through my third year I was offered a teaching position in Rushden with my Certificate of Education. I stayed at Whitefriars Junior School for eighteen very happy years, working with wonderful children and wonderful staff. In that time I was lucky to be awarded two different secondments; the first being a year away to return to Nene College to undertake my BEd degree.

My second secondment came about when I was accepted on to the Northamptonshire Advisory and Support Team as an advisory teacher for primary design and technology and as part of the county's new team for delivering training for

the new national curriculum that had evolved. Exciting and challenging times! I began to get itchy feet and wanted to explore the world of education in different ways and set my heart on first securing a Deputy Headship and later a Headship.

The experiences I gained were huge and I was successful in gaining a Deputy Headship in a multicultural school in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. Here, I spent a further five years in which time I gained my Master of Arts Degree with the University of Leicester and the National Professional Qualification for Head Teachers; all fired up to go for my dream of being a Head Teacher.

I was asked by the local education authority to help with a failing school, working alongside a temporary Head teacher. Little did I know, at that time, how my life was to change. The school was inspected and fell into Special Measures with nine key issues. The challenge was on to bring the school round in less than twelve months. Sadly, the acting head's wife was diagnosed with breast cancer and he took compassionate leave, leaving me in charge. I hope I rose to the challenge and accepted welcomed support from an experienced consultant head teacher. Our newly-formed and highly experienced staff worked with great gusto and were almost in a position to be taken

out of Special Measures. It was a privilege to be there and I was delighted to be offered the permanent post back in March 2001.

Imagine my devastation when I, like the previous acting head's wife, was diagnosed with breast cancer just three months later in June 2001. I was 46.

This was such a cruel blow and my mind was in turmoil. After all the necessary investigations and results I had a lumpectomy in August. I was further shocked to be told the cancer had spread and that I would need a mastectomy followed by chemotherapy, radiotherapy, more drugs and, most crushingly, I would have to take a year off school to cope with the treatment. What was I to do? I had no option but to simply go with it and put my faith and trust in the medical professionals.

Having chemotherapy meant I lost my hair, one of the hardest psychological side-effects for me. I hated wearing a wig and as it was cold I chose to wear hats. While trying on various styles in a department store the idea came to me that the children would like this – to have a crazy hats mufti day in school to raise a little money for the hospital where I was being treated. It would raise the awareness of the wonderful work the nurses do in the eyes of the children, show the importance of giving to others and above all, to do something that was fun in what was a most

serious case. I knew it would also be a project that would keep me tuned in with the children and something that would keep me occupied.

I put a plan of action together and very soon other schools indicated they would like to take part. Parents also arranged for their places of work to have a Crazy Hats Day and even the hospital agreed to take part. On March 17, 2002, a year to the day since I had secured my headship, 85 schools and numerous companies across Northamptonshire donned an array of absolutely crazy hats for charity.

It was later that we realise the enormity of what we had started - over £20,000 had been raised in one day - a day that was charged with emotion! The children were amazing and were full of other ideas as to how money could be raised.

It was as if something had arrived in the county for people whose lives had been affected by breast cancer in any way to relate to.

I never did get back to being Head teacher. It was a sad ending. I was too young to retire, and devastated that my career was over. Thank goodness for Crazy Hats! I decided to throw all my energies into making the fundraising develop into something quite different and do my utmost to make a difference to breast cancer care. Friends came on board to help, as did past and present pupils. In time we were in a strong position to fund new equipment and resources at both Kettering and Northampton breast care and oncology units.

We became a registered charity in 2005 and secured rented accommodation in Wellingborough. In 2010 we celebrated reaching our first £1 million, having supported all kinds of projects including breast reconstruction at Leicester.

We are, without doubt, a 'people's' charity. We organise many events each year, have hundreds of kind supporters as well as designing specialist goods for sale. And we also have huge amounts of fun, meeting wonderful people each and every day.

For more information email: crazyhats@btconnect.com, visit the website www.crazyhatsbreastcancerappeal.co.uk phone +44 (0)1933 442999.

The Centre for Community Volunteering at the University supports Crazy Hats through its volunteering activities and it has been nominated as the chosen charity for the University for 2011.

Linda Davis, Head of the Centre for Community Volunteering said: "We are really pleased to be helping to support Crazy Hats and will be working with them to identity a range of volunteering opportunities that benefits them and develops key skills for the students."



Fashion designer shares secrets of success

A former student who went on to carve a career in fashion design took time out from the catwalk to talk to current undergraduates.

James Long, a successful fashion designer specialising in menswear and accessories, graduated from The University of Northampton (then known as Nene College) in 2000 with a Foundation course in Art and Design.

He returned to the University and met students studying within the School of The Arts, giving insights into his career within the fashion industry and hearing about their aspirations.

James commented: "While studying, I realised that fashion was something I could make a career out of. My love of fashion was cemented at an early age when I used to catch a train to London and walk round Camden looking at all the amazing clothes.

"After graduating from Nene College, I studied an MA in Menswear and Accessories at The Royal College of Art in London. My collections were viewed by several high-profile magazines, including Dazed and Confused who profiled me as a designer to watch. Through various press opportunities I was able to apply for The Fashion East MAN show, an award set up by Top Man which awards a bursary and a slot on The London Fashion Week catwalk.

"My course at Nene was amazing and experimental. Along with another student Rosie, we used to visit the local leather factories and with the off-cuts that were given to us.

"My lecturer, Clive Ramsdale, was a strong and encouraging teacher and really opened my eyes to the different disciplines in the arts.

"I thoroughly enjoyed returning to the University and having an opportunity to meet current fashion students and talk with them about their ambitions. My advice to them is to research and inform their ideas and to truly believe in their creations. An artist that is driven and passionate will spark interest in others.

"Looking forward to the next 10 years, my ambition is to increase my stockists to a level where I can support myself and my staff. I would love to have a presence in New York and expand my collection to make it a brand and, perhaps at some point, produce a collection of women's wear."



Victoria Curtis – The magical experience of talking with hands

Victoria Curtis, BA (Hons) Joint Award English, graduated in July 2010. Victoria tells us about her work with the Northamptonshire-based charity Talking With Hands.

I was born deaf and believe that acting and performing helped me deal with the challenges I have faced, I have always been interested in performing which made it an easy choice to study Drama and English at the University. After graduating in July 2010, I became a Youth Team Leader with a Northamptonshire-based charity Talking With Hands.

The charity was established several years ago by a large group of profoundly deaf and hard of hearing people to provide equal access to the cinema.

It arranged for a hearing interpreter to sign a film in British Sign Language (BSL) with subtitles, which enabled deaf people with their families to have equal access to a hearing cinema world. Realising that there was no

reason why a deaf interpreter could not sign the film to other deaf people, the charity made this happen. On the December 8, 2001, history was made when a signed screening of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was a sell out. Deaf people in England now have equal access to the cinema world.

My work involves working with the local MP through the charity to win a film education contract. If this is successful, I will be signing at films, delivering drama workshops in relation to learning about the films, and expanding English Language for BSL speakers to schools up and down the country. We hope that we will also be able to extend this service to Scotland and Wales.

I meet many people who ask me about the University and I am proud to be a graduate.

The University has given me my life back! If I am lucky enough to gain highly commendable achievements or important contacts, The University of Northampton will be top of my list for recommendations whether for study or as a choice for financial funding.

www.talkingwithhands.org.uk

Sam Wadsworth, BA Fine Art, 2002

It is now eight years since I graduated with a BA Honours in Fine Art. I arrived with a determination to be a professional artist and my time at the University allowed me to focus on that goal in a very positive and enabling environment.

When I left University I continued to paint daily in my small studio flat, exhibited widely and undertook numerous portrait commissions. I subsidised the income I made from painting with a part-time position teaching A- level Art.

My paintings were becoming more focused and my work started to grow in popularity. I was invited to exhibit with the Royal Society of Portrait Painters for the first time in 2005. The portrait I showed was very well received and led to a number of commissions and an interest from Rolf Harris Star Portraits.

I won a number of art prizes and work was going very well, enabling me to focus full-time on what I loved: painting. In my first year as a full time professional artist I was voted Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the Federation of Small Businesses.



At this point I was working in London and had a large client base there. I subsequently was invited to become a member of the Worshipful Society of Painter-Stainers. The society, whose past members include Sir Joshua Reynolds and Sir John Millais, is a great ambassador for the arts, promoting and encouraging with various prizes and awards. I continue to paint and exhibit widely, a few of my recent commissions being the CEO of a large London advertising agency, the MD of a New York investment firm and a prominent UK actor.

Sam is a regular exhibitor with the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. In 2009 he was made a member of the Livery Company of the Worshipful Society of Painter-Stainers, London. Once Artist in Residence at The University of Northampton and Maison Crème Anglaise Studio & Gallery in Burgundy, France, Sam has also worked in Japan. Examples of paintings by Sam Wadsworth can be viewed at www.samwadsworth.co.uk

Probation proves right niche for Tim

Tim Rosier, a Law LLB (Hons) 2000 graduate, works for the National Probation Service as a Seconded Probation Officer. In a recent interview, Tim tells us about his career.



In general, Probation Officers work with adult offenders to address the root causes of their offending behaviour and to ensure the risks they present are managed properly in the community, either on a Community Order or prison licence.

I am currently seconded to a regional, specialist, multi-disciplinary unit which manages interventions that help vulnerable people resist getting drawn into radicalisation and different types of violent extremism. This is very much the 'hot potato' at the moment and is linked to the 'Prevent' strand of the UK government's Counter-Terrorism strategy. The role is varied and uses my qualifications and skills in networking, understanding sensitive issues of human rights and working with challenging individuals. It includes the risk assessment and management of referrals, supporting colleagues in the Probation Service and other agencies and contributing to training and awareness-raising across the public sector by speaking at a variety of conferences and symposiums both here and abroad.

I am privileged to have recently returned to the University ten years after I graduated, to speak at a conference on Radicalisation and New Media, organised by Dr Matthew Feldman, Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences. I am excited and encouraged by the work being undertaken by the Radicalism and New Media Group and I look forward to staying connected with their important work.

Working for the National Probation Service is both rewarding and challenging. Very often people have just had a bad start in life or a particularly difficult experience which has hit them for six. To be able to help someone become more resilient to negative influences and become a positive and valuable contributor to society is incredibly rewarding.

Becoming a Probation Officer is not often something you dream of becoming as a child. I originally planned to pursue a career as a solicitor until I changed my mind half way through my degree. If I'm honest, like many people, I still wasn't sure what I wanted to do after my graduation. I was fascinated by criminal justice and loved working with people but hadn't found my particular niche. The reality is that my qualifications and life experiences led me to work for the Probation Service.

A year after my graduation, I applied to one of the regional Consortium of Probation Areas which oversees the Trainee Probation Officer programme. The process was lengthy and very competitive, involving several stages of assessments including interviews, a presentation and a written exam. On gaining a place on the Trainee Probation Officer programme, I spent two years undertaking the Diploma in Probation Studies and a Bachelor degree in Community Justice (comprising psychology and criminology of offending behaviour, penal policy, law etc.) at the University of Birmingham.

Probation Officers come from a diversity of backgrounds. Having a degree is not a prerequisite to getting on the training programme. However, having a relevant degree and qualifications, alongside suitable experience of working with people, is extremely useful in proving your ability to engage with difficult and vulnerable people. Undoubtedly, the modules I undertook during my course on criminal law, the legal system and the enactment of the European Human Rights Act 1998 into UK law in 2000 have served as invaluable in my work within the Probation Service. My degree also equipped me with skills in critical thinking, analysis and advocacy, all of which have been useful in my every day role.

Studying law at Northampton helped me to better understand what my strengths and weaknesses were as well as develop areas of personal interest and confidence. The benefit of studying a degree that gave me such a good grounding in many careers meant that I had room to change and develop. I spent two years post-graduation finding my niche but deliberately sought out jobs and voluntary opportunities during that time which would bolster my experience of working with people.

To be able to help someone become more resilient to negative influences and become a positive and valuable contributor to society is incredibly rewarding.

Since training as a Probation Officer, I have deliberately sought to take opportunities within the Probation Service in a diversity of areas and specialist secondments in the wider Criminal Justice System. I hope to build on my variety of experiences by undertaking further studies at a Masters level, seeking to move up the management tree and maintain an interest in cutting-edge developments within Criminal Justice. The biggest hurdle will be the savage cuts to the Public Sector. However, continually pursuing a diversity of skills and experiences will, I hope, ensure that I continue to utilise future opportunities and develop both personally and in my career.

Marianne Taylor - from Midwife to Mayor

Former student Marianne Taylor celebrated her 25th year in Northampton as the town's premier citizen – the Mayor.

After beginning her career as a nurse and midwife, the mum-of-two became a Health Visitor, working with pre-school-aged children and their parents, before passing on her skills and experience to other Health Visitors and moving into Community Management.

The family moved to Northampton in 1987 and Marianne visited what was then Nene College's Avenue Campus, as she lived nearby, to see what educational facilities were available.

At that stage Marianne was busy being a mum to her own two youngsters, but in 1991 she decided to return to study, and undertook a Masters in Women's Studies at the newly-named University College Northampton (UCN), focussing on eco-feminism.

Marianne said: "I felt it was the right time. My return to study was part of my continued learning and it gave me confidence and self-esteem, as well as broadening my community contacts.

"I learned new IT skills and it gave me a better understanding of how to share my own experiences with other people."

On graduation she took up a post in Student Services at UCN and continued working with the Central Festival Opera (which was based in London and locally).

The decision to move into politics came in 1998 when she stood in the borough council elections as a Liberal Democrat for the ward of Kingsley. She won the seat and has served the residents of Kingsley for 12 years, sitting on various committees, becoming Chair of the Licensing Committee. On Thursday 20 May, 2010, Councillor Taylor became the 770th Mayor of Northampton, and only the thirteenth lady Mayor.

Marianne spent much of her childhood in the West Country, and has lived in Italy, France and Spain before moving from London to Northampton. Married for 32 years, her husband Martin has supported Marianne in all her roles and has spent the year as the Mayor's Consort.

In addition to being a borough councillor, Marianne still works locally as a health professional, and is passionate about working to safeguard the welfare of children.

She said: "Northampton is a beautiful market town with a wonderful sense of heritage and



character. It was a huge honour and privilege to be chosen as the Mayor. Northampton is a very special place that I have grown to love as my home and the place I wanted to raise my family."

During her Mayoral year, Councillor Taylor chose to raise money for two charities:

Crazy Hats Breast Cancer Appeal is a Northamptonshire charity which was founded by another former University alumni, Glennis Hooper*.

Home-Start, Northampton, is part of a national charity that supports thousands of parents who are struggling to cope. The charity is there to help families with young children, from all backgrounds, who are in need. The charity has set up a network of almost 16,000 trained volunteers who support them through difficult times.

Marianne has always co-joined her health education and political career – working together for Northampton communities

She is an avid supporter of Northampton and the University, promoting it nationally and internationally when travelling.

*Glennis Hopper is featured in this edition on page 6.





Hi-tech Newton building welcomes Princess Royal

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal visited the University on 28 September 2010 to open the impressive new home of the School of Science and Technology, the Newton building.

Newton, a Grade II listed building situated next door to the existing Avenue Campus, has undergone an £11 million re-development which has seen it transformed into a state-of-the-art technology and research centre. The building is home to the School of Science and Technology and provides a technological boost for businesses across the county.

As well as student science, engineering and technology lectures, The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing, the East Midlands Non-Destructive Testing Centre and NVision are also based in Newton building, offering numerous opportunities for business engagement.

NVision, supported by a funding package of $\pounds 3$ million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), is a unique 3D immersive technology centre which offers the latest visualisation technologies to aid design and marketing.

The funding support has enabled the University to establish this unique learning and research environment and our thanks go to all those who have supported this project, including the Higher Education Funding Council, Northamptonshire Enterprise Ltd, the East Midlands Development Agency and the European Regional Development Fund. The development also received the backing of the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation.

The Princess Royal was given a tour of the facilities and donned her 3D glasses to witness the capabilities of the NVision technology.

Professor Kamal Bechkoum, Dean of the School of Science and Technology, said: "As Royal Patron of the Women Into Science, Engineering and Construction campaign, the Princess Royal's visit boosts our endeavour to advance gender equality in science, engineering and technology".

For further information on our NVision services email **nvision@northampton.ac.uk**







The University achieves The Frank Buttle Trust Mark

The University has been awarded
The Frank Buttle Trust Mark' (FBT) a nationally-recognised award that shows
our commitment to those studying with us
from a care background. The Frank Buttle
Trust set up the Quality Mark in 2006 in
recognition of Higher Education institutions
who go that extra mile to support students
who have grown up in children's homes or
do not have an orthodox family background.

Jenny Dunstall, Deputy Head of Student Services said: "Having achieved a successful submission of a project plan for The Frank Buttle Trust quality kite mark, the work starts here in assuring that all possible measures are taken to encourage and support University of Northampton current and future students from care backgrounds."

About the Trust

The Frank Buttle Trust is the largest UK charity providing grant aid solely to children and young people in desperate need. The trust became aware that the challenges for young people attending university who had been in local authority care are radically different to those faced by the vast majority of students. In 2001 the Trust commissioned a five-year action research study 'By Degrees: Going to University from Care'. The final research report demonstrated that those who succeeded did so against considerable odds, both in terms of pre-entry support and that within the higher education institution.

The process of applying to and succeeding within higher education is a challenge for any young person. It is significantly more difficult for someone who may not have the traditional parental involvement. Once they enter higher education, students from care backgrounds may find that they have limited, if any, financial support on arrival, no residential accommodation in holidays and no family support to fall back on.

Further information on The Frank Buttle Trust is available at

http://www.buttletrust.org



Substantial Investment for Sunley Management Centre

Sunley Management Centre, The University of Northampton's conference centre, has established itself as one of the premier business venues in the county.

Following substantial investment from the University and a donation from the Bernard Sunley Foundation, the centre now offers some of the best facilities for clients in the private, public, voluntary and third sectors.

A new and striking Business Networking Area at Sunley proudly features the University's colours in its decor and furniture, while providing free wifi and drinks for business visitors.

It is the ideal place for meeting clients and colleagues or catching up on the laptop. In addition, Sunley's popular lecture theatre has undergone a facelift, making it one of the best multi-use facilities of its kind in the business. At the heart of this 120-seat space is its world-class audio visual equipment, perfect for clients who need up-to-date technology for presentations and conferences.

Now operating under the University's trading company, The University of Northampton Enterprises Ltd, Sunley will also see further improvements to the building in 2011, including renovation of the conference rooms to complement the new networking area and lecture theatre, wireless internet throughout the building and the very best audio visual equipment.

Sunley Management Centre is conveniently located at the entrance to The University of Northampton's park campus, and has its own dedicated secure car park for clients. It offers dining facilities and 29 en-suite bedrooms.

It has enjoyed hosting many prestigious business clients. Northamptonshire Chamber's Business

Exhibition was held for the first time at Sunley in October 2010 and was extremely well attended. Paul Griffiths, CEO of Northamptonshire Chamber, had nothing but praise for Sunley as a business venue, saying the day was an overwhelming success. Guy Salmon Jaguar (Northampton) Ltd chose Sunley to show off two new Jaguar models to a business audience, and Managing Director Graham Etherington said: "We are delighted to forge this link with Sunley Management Centre. It really is a perfect match."

Other regular visitors to Sunley have included the Institute of Directors and Rexel Senate Ltd, who use the centre for sales training. Chris Palmer, Learning & Development Manager at Senate Electrical and Denmans Wholesale, said: "In over 30 years of using various venues all over the UK for training sessions, I can honestly say the staff at Sunley, are the best I've come across, always friendly and helpful."

During 2011, Sunley will be running a vibrant advertising campaign across the internet, making use of new media such as Facebook and LinkedIn to promote itself as a conference and weddings venue. The marketing campaign, headed by a revamped website, is underpinned by the values of space, time, light, quiet – some of the key senses that users of Sunley can expect to experience. Dovetailing perfectly with the University's current campaign, Sunley's marketing activity will showcase the centre's prominence as the perfect place to think, discuss, eat, relax and be inspired.

For booking enquiries email sunleyreception@northampton.ac.uk

Engineering students meet Formula 1 ace Lewis Hamilton



Richard Harvey a third year student studying BSc Engineering within the School of Science and Technology met Lewis Hamilton, the British Formula 1 racing driver at an event hosted by Santander Universities in December 2010.

Santander Universities held the event at their Milton Keynes office and Richard was amongst a group of students who took part in a special Q&A session.

Richard commented: "I was invited to represent The University of Northampton to meet Lewis Hamilton at an event organised by Santander. It was an honour to meet one of the top Formula one drivers and along with University students from all over the UK, I took part in a Q&A session. He was very entertaining and informative, giving detailed answers. It's an experience I will never forget and will continue to brag about for years to come".

The Students' Union has taken the top prize of 'Best Club' in Northampton's Best Bar None Awards.

Northampton's Best Bar None scheme was launched by Northampton Pubwatch with support from the Community Safety Partnership.

The pubs and clubs were judged on whether they had adequate measures and policies in place.

The awards are the result of much hard work by the Students' Union to demonstrate its social responsibilities both to the students of The University of Northampton and the local community.

Mark Norman, Commercial Development
Manager of the Students' Union said:
"Winning the Best Club Award in Best Bar None
is a testament to how hard the staff work to
provide a safe environment for our customers.
The Students' Union is known for being a safe
place for students to go and now we have an
award to prove it."



An update from the Careers and Employability Service

Graduate Internships

The Careers and Employability Service has successfully run a funded Graduate Internship programme, placing 65 graduates with local companies. This has been invaluable in helping them gain paid work experience in a real environment. Many have led to a permanent role at the end of the internship. Even in cases where this hasn't happened graduates feel the internship has given them more confidence in applying for their next role.

Graduates and Employers have commented on the benefits of the internship:-

Dawar Javed - BA Hons - Business Studies

"Firstly, it has been a great experience! Everyone at Chelton Brown has been extremely welcoming and helpful. I've improved my time-management, communication, presentation, writing and designing skills.

"The Directors have always kept me involved in everything that's going on and I've been to many business events and meetings, where I've met and interacted with a lot of people.

"My ideas and suggestions have always been welcomed, respected and considered by all, which has increased my confidence. I have been given considerable authority and decision making power that has allowed me to become more independent in terms of work."

Nick Martin - BSc Engineering

"I have learnt invaluable engineering, IT and design skills that are impossible to simulate in an academic environment. Working in a small company I have been able to attend business meetings in various companies and learn a lot more about what goes on behind the scenes in a business. My confidence in my own ability to learn new things and have faith in my engineering discipline has vastly improved."

Tracey Ewer - BA Fashion Marketing

"Undertaking the internship has given me a big growth in confidence and development of my communication skills. I have gained project and event management skills and a general understanding of working in a different environment. Being able to increase my skills and gain experience whilst earning a wage has been one of the best decisions I have made and has given me time to decide what I want to do in my future career."

Studioworx - Newport Pagnell

"The University of Northampton initially supplied 4 graduate profiles in response to our application. These were good candidates, relevant to our application and we were glad to appoint one graduate on a 3 month internship. Both parties have found the internship very rewarding and beneficial and we have offered the graduate a permanent role upon completion of the internship."

Chelton Brown - Northampton

"I have really enjoyed working with the graduate, we tend to employ more mature staff, due to the nature of the business we do. We have found having new fresh ideas, motivational and enjoyable for the senior management team as well as the rest of the team."



Careers Fair

Our annual Careers Fair took place on Wednesday 27 October 2010. This event was open to students and graduates from all universities and a number of local and national exhibitors attended from across a range of sectors.

Our next annual Careers Fair will take place on 3 November 2011. Details will be available nearer the time on our website -

www.northampton.ac.uk/careers

Our services

Remember as a graduate of The University of Northampton you can still access our services (including our online vacancy database): visit www.northampton.ac.uk/careers to find out further details on all of our services and events or email careers@northampton.ac.uk

Graduate recruitment

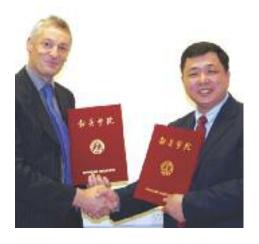
The University's Careers and Employability Service is running a small research project to see what additional support its graduates felt that they could have had whilst at the university that would have enabled them to secure their first graduate role. The team is particularly interested to hear from those graduates who are the first in their family to experience higher education. If you would like to take part or would like more details, please contact Lynn Finn, lynn.finn@northampton.ac.uk. The Careers and Employability Service is available to all of its graduates on an ongoing basis with no time limit - we are here whenever you need us www.northampton.ac.uk/careers

Interested in mentoring?

The Alumni Office in conjunction with the Careers and Employability Service are about to launch a mentoring scheme. If you are a graduate and you would like to support one of our undergraduates to gain valuable employability skills, we would like to hear from you. Full training will be provided. For more details, contact Lynn Finn,

lynn.finn@northampton.ac.uk

Relations with China have strengthened further thanks to a memorandum of understanding made between The University of Northampton and Shaoguan University.



Memorandum of understanding signed with Shaoguan University

Mr Zheng Zeng, President of Shaoguan University, and Mr Huaming Huang, Director of International Affairs at Shaoguan University, met Vice Chancellor, Professor Nick Petford, during a visit in September 2010.

Zhe Thomas Zhang, Assistant Director, International Office commented: "Shaoguan University is a prestigious institution situated in Southern China, close to the border with Hong Kong. The two universities have been working together since 2003 and have joined forces to launch numerous co-operative degree programmes and research projects. They were recently successful in achieving a joint bid for research funding from the British Council.

"The joint programmes brought about by the partnership allow Chinese students to complete

the first part of their higher education at Shaoguan University and then progress to Northampton to complete the final part of their studies. Thanks to the continued partnership, the University has in recent years received over 20 members of academic staff from Shaoguan University, who have conducted valuable research and course shadowing.

"In the next few years it is hoped that over 100 students a year will have the opportunity to take part in exchange programmes and for the first time, students from The University of Northampton will have the opportunity to travel to Shaoguan for work and study placements and experience life at a Chinese university."

University invests over £1 million in PhD research posts

The University has announced 24 new fully-funded and supported PhD research studentships, signifying the largest single investment in research degrees for the HE institution.

The total investment of the research posts, announced in October 2010, is £1.1 million, a strategic commitment to new research and knowledge transfer developments for the University, fitting in with its targets and future vision.

This follows on from the University receiving Research Degree Awarding Powers in 2005, and the success of the 2008 UK-wide Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), where the University was awarded £5 million in recognition of its excellence in research across a wide range of academic and private sector orientated disciplines.

The University also had its most successful academic year to date in 2008/09 for new contracts for research, worth £6.3 million from 54 contracts, and £4.1 million from

117 contracts in knowledge transfer, exceeding the previous year by more than £3 million.

Professor Nick Petford, Vice Chancellor, said: "Our investment in these research posts has a huge potential impact on the economy, both nationally and regionally, and our own development and targets for research recognition and success.

"The investment is part of our commitment to the British knowledge economy and the studentships will go on to inform our research and teaching, with the knowledge being absorbed back into all of our activities, both within the University and with our external clients.

"The studentships will have a major impact on the applicants and their own academic career developments, as well as helping to build stronger academic themes for The University of Northampton in areas where we want to grow our distinctiveness and excellence."

Speak Easy helps international students' confidence



Going to university is exciting and daunting for all new undergraduates, but consider how much more challenging it would be if you had a limited command of English.

Kate Swinton and Katie Sneddon from The University of Northampton saw first-hand how this affected the confidence of new international students accessing support services, and recognised that providing an opportunity to practice talking English would make a real difference to them.

So the volunteer-led Speakeasy project was born.

With support from the Centre for Community Volunteering team, Kate and Katie have recruited, trained and supported 13 staff volunteers, who regularly meet students one-to-one, in pairs or small groups.

The format of the half-hour sessions is mostly informal as students come from various countries across the world and really enjoy hearing about English culture and sharing their own. They chat with their friendly volunteer while gaining confidence and practice in speaking and understanding English.

Around 25 students so far have received support, but more volunteers are needed to keep up with demand.

Local alumni with around an hour a week to spare on campus would be most welcome to join the project.
Email speakeasy@northampton.ac.uk

University Teaching Fellowships announced for 2010/11



Six members of academic and support staff have been announced as recipients of the annual University Teaching Fellowships for 2010/11 and will officially be presented with their Fellowships at the University's winter Graduation Ceremonies on 13 February 2011.

The University of Northampton's Teaching Fellowships celebrate excellent work in learning and teaching, recognising and rewarding staff impact on, and enhancement of, student learning.

The recipients are:

- Professor Andrew Pilkington, Sociology, School of Social Sciences, for his work using film to train police officers in equality and diversity issues.
- Eunice Lumsden, Senior Lecturer in Early Years, School of Education, Heather McBryde-Wilding, Academic Support Manager, Information Services and Hannah Rose, Academic Librarian, Information Services, for their collaborative work recognising the diversity of learning needs which resulted in significantlyenhanced completion rates.
- Fiona Barchard, Senior Lecturer in Adult Nursing, and Marylyn Richardson, Senior Lecturer in Community Nursing, School of Health, for an enhancement initiative which elicited a very positive impact for BSc Nursing (Adult) students.

University awarded official Fairtrade status

The Fairtrade Foundation noted the University's application as 'excellent' in accrediting the University with Fairtrade University status, in February 2010.

The accreditation was the culmination of 18 months of work and it guarantees producers in developing countries a fair and stable price for their products that covers their costs and enables them to support their families and invest in a better future.



Home Grown

Three University staff members look forward to their graduation in February 2011 having successfully completed MBAs at Northampton Business School.

Lisa McKenzie, School Manager, School of Health said:

"While I had worked within the University since 1998, enrolling on the MBA course within the Business School this was the first formal educational qualification I had undertaken since attending Nene College to complete an OND in Business Studies. How strange it was to walk from one side of the campus as School Manager for Health to the other as a student within the Business School. While the course was very demanding academically, it was the juggling of full-time work and part-time study, along with family commitments, that I found challenging.

The wealth of knowledge and experience brought to the classroom by all parties was invaluable and although there were many moments of desperation there were also many giggles along the way. The MBA journey was truly rewarding and most valuable was the support from my fellow MBA peers.

My dissertation focused on Continuous Improvement within the Higher Education sector, with some of the research undertaken informing a project that I am currently managing in conjunction with the local NHS Local Healthcare Workforce."

Rob Howe, Head of Learning Technology and Media Support told us:

"After family discussions and many short management courses, I decided in 2007 to take the plunge and go for the part time MBA. While I was ready for a substantial amount of extra work, the demands of part time study, a full time job and a family with three children meant that I had to find extra hours in the week – luckily I found that the early morning was a great time to get assignments and reading completed. The course was excellent and I was really able to reflect on my current work and activities, learn new skills and have made some lifelong friends".

lan Hardwick, Commercial Manager (Estates) graduated from the University in 2000 with a BA (Hons) Business Studies.

"When I joined the University in 2005 I never imaged that in February 2011 I would be graduating with an MBA. The demands of balancing the academic work, research and assignments alongside a personal life is tough but in the end highly rewarding. Luckily for me the burden was shared by a fantastic study group and the support we provided each other was invaluable.

The breadth of experience and expertise of the students gives a great insight into the culture and operations of other organisations and the standard of teaching and support offered by the post graduate team helped me reach my goal.

The decision to take on a part time MBA is not one that should be taken lightly as it is a long term commitment to time and effort but I can guarantee that it is one of the most rewarding periods of my life and something that I would recommend to anyone!"

New Vice Chancellor at The University of Northampton

Professor Nick Petford DSc joined The University of Northampton as Vice Chancellor in September 2010.

Previously Pro Vice Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) at Bournemouth University and, before that, Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Kingston University, Nick has worked in industry (BP) and on academic and commercial research projects throughout the world.

A former Royal Society University Research Fellow and Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, Nick has held visiting research



appointments at the Universities of Michigan and Vermont (USA) and NASA and is currently Visiting Professor at Macquarie University (Australia) and the Open University. He has published more than 250 research articles and books and is a highly cited author.

Widely known for his expertise in volcanoes and the engineering properties of rock, Professor Petford's research work embraces field investigations and mathematical modelling in the flow of molten rock, or magma slurries, on earth and other planets. He is currently working with colleagues at NASA on the physics of ice

magma and has turned his attention to modelling blood flow with colleagues at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital.

Nick's contributions to the media on volcanoes include appearances on Sky News, BBC TV and Radio and Richard and Judy. In 2005 the BBC featured the work of his research team in an hour-long documentary Krakatoa Revealed.

During the eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano in 2010, Professor Petford was flown over to the volcano to front a Channel 4 documentary, The Volcano That Stopped The World.

Former University Vice Chancellor receives CBE

Ann Tate, former Vice Chancellor of The University of Northampton (2002-2010) has been appointed a CBF in the New Year's Honours List for Services to Higher Education.

Ann began her career in secondary education in North Manchester and held several teaching posts in further and higher education. She joined the University of Ulster in 1990 and became Pro Vice Chancellor there in 1995. In 2002 she took on the post of Rector at University College Northampton, overseeing its successful transition to full University status, and in 2005 became the first Vice Chancellor of The University of Northampton.

Ann commented: "I see this Honour as recognition for the work of all staff and governors at The University of Northampton over the last eight years. During this time we achieved full University Status, Research Degree Awarding Powers, the major purchase, refurbishment and royal opening of the Newton building, and the list of successes goes on and on.

"Perhaps most importantly, the University has helped put Northampton on the map. We have encouraged and supported the success of thousands of our students and alumni, and become part of the community by working closely with local people and businesses, while also growing our national and international links and status.

"Although I have had a wide-ranging career in education, the letter notifying me of the CBE made specific mention of my role as former Vice Chancellor of The University of Northampton."

Honorary graduates and a former academic also recognised

Peter Ellwood was recognised in the New Year's Honours List and will be knighted. Peter is an



Honorary Graduate, a member of The University of Northampton's Court and previously served as a Trustee on the University's Foundation Board.

Stephen Lloyd Dunmore, Honorary Graduate, received an OBE for Services to the Public and Voluntary Sectors. Stephen recently stepped down as Trustee for The University of Northampton's Foundation Board.

The Vice Chancellor of Teesside University, Professor Graham Henderson, received a CBE. He started his academic career as a lecturer at Nene College in 1975.



The School of Education is building upon its success

A remodelling of the School's Sulgrave building will develop a state-of-the art learning space and several social learning spaces. These new spaces will serve Initial Teacher Training, Early Years, the Children's Workforce and the Wider Schools' Workforce. In addition, there will be a new extension to the building which will create a new entrance and reception, display, exhibition and

The quality of Learning and Teaching space was given particular importance given the need to model best practice in professional development programmes and to match professional

expectations in the context of the 21st Century Schools Building programme. The Student Administrative Teams will also be co-located to enhance effective student support and working with academic teams.

The building is set to increase the research capacity incorporating the School's Approved Research Centre (CeSNER) to channel staff activity and the growing numbers of Doctoral students. This is a response to the Schools international reputation in special needs education and inclusion.

In total the remodelling and expansion will double in size the facilities available totalling a project investment of £3.8m. A major expansion of the School of Education starts this summer.

The School has successfully grown year-on-year in terms of student numbers, professional courses and research. This major investment by The University of Northampton will maintain the School's current position as a nationally recognised outstanding provider in education.

Email Paul Bramble for further information paul.bramble@northampton.ac.uk

Sound teaching of phonics

The Training and Development Agency (TDA) and the National Strategies Team has praised the University for its work in Initial Training (ITT) of Phonics.

The University's School of Education is in a group of 13 out of 61 Higher Education Institutions (HEI) where this aspect of provision has been judged as 'consistently highly valued by Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs)'. We achieved 70% from our NQTs in terms of their confidence in the teaching of phonics compared to the national HEI average of 51%. Consequently the School has been asked to take a lead to further develop this work across HEI ITT.

Phonics involves teaching how to connect the sounds of spoken English with letters or groups of letters (e.g., that the sound /k/ can be represented by c, k, ck, ch, or q spellings) and teaching them to blend the sounds of letters together to produce approximate pronunciations of unknown words.

School of Education is 'outstanding' - again in Ofsted report

The School of Education was awarded 'Grade 1 -Outstanding' for its Teacher Training provision after a week-long Ofsted assessment in March 2010.

This is the third consecutive occasion that the University has been awarded the highest inspection grade.

The report identified the key strengths of the University as:

- · having excellent procedures to ensure that trainees from a range of backgrounds are selected on the basis of their potential to teach
- the good preparation of trainees to teach in a diverse society
- · providing high-quality training that inspires trainees to be successful teachers
- · establishing high expectations that are consistently shared across the partnership to ensure all trainees succeed



- the excellent clarity and cohesion of purpose between centre- and school-based training
- the outstanding quality of resources
- extremely innovative course leaders

Professor Ann Shelton-Mayes, Dean of the School of Education, said: "This is the third time in succession that our Primary and Early Years Initial Teacher Training programmes have been judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

This is a wonderful achievement that reflects the professional commitment of all the University and partner school staff who work in Initial Teacher Training to develop our future teachers."



Pioneering programme gains national recognition

The School of Social Sciences has gained Skillsmark accreditation for the Foundation degree in Policing and Criminal Justice Studies and is now one of only two HEI providers of police training in the country to have achieved this status.

Skillsmark is the nationally recognised quality mark for learning and development programmes in the Justice and Community Safety sector and the award to the School of Social Sciences confirms the rigor and excellence of our innovative provision.

The path to accreditation included an extensive quality assurance process which evaluated the design, content and delivery of the programme in line with employer needs.

The Skillsmark quality framework also signals models of best practice and essential aspects of top quality learning provision. In all areas of scrutiny the programme passed magna cum laude.

Chris Moore, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, said: "We are delighted that the University's pioneering programme has gained well deserved national recognition. This bodes extremely well for our continuing partnership with Northamptonshire constabulary and indeed for our work nationally in police training and broader criminal justice work".

Radicalism and use of new media tackled at conference

The rise in the use of new media by far-right groups to spread extremist messages was explored at a major symposium held by the University's School of Social Sciences.

The conference brought together cutting edge academic research on the contemporary farright across Britain and Europe with a range of practitioners and enforcement bodies. Over 60 delegates from national and local Government, the police, security, probation services, specialists in fascist radicalism and academia attended the symposium.

Organised by Dr Matthew Feldman, Senior Lecturer in Twentieth Century History and Paul Jackson, Research co-ordinator for Northampton's unique research unit, the Radicalism and New Media Research Group, this was the first event of its kind in the UK.

Dr Feldman, who has advised Scotland Yard, SO-15 and the Government on right wing extremism commented:

"New media technologies such as the internet, personal communication devices, portable videos and so on are increasingly employed by the European and American far-right from online radicalisation to cyber-terrorism. Certain groups are using social networking sites to recruit to their causes. This is naturally very alarming and is one of the reasons Northampton is leading on this critical and increasingly important issue".



Grant awarded to complete manuscript on the Royal Navy and the German Threat 1900-1914

The Arts and Humanities Research Council has awarded Dr Matthew Seligmann, School of Social Sciences, £63,347 for his project 'The Royal Navy and the German Threat, 1900-1914.

The fellowship will allow Dr Seligmann to complete the manuscript for a book of between 80,000 and 100,000 words and follows a former grant awarded to him - a British Academy small research grant.

The purpose of the book is to change current thinking on British trade defence policy in the run up to the First World War. It is intended to show that, contrary to the view commonly expressed in the current literature, the British Admiralty gave a great deal of thought to the possibility that Germany would launch an assault on British oceanic trade in the event of the two countries going to war, and developed sophisticated countermeasures to what they perceived as the most likely forms of this attack.

Alumni share their success with next generation of designers

Graphic Communication and Illustration students have a ready-made link to the post-graduate world of work thanks to the attention of cutting-edge design company Stocks Taylor Benson.

The Leicester-based firm has been associated with the University for the past 20 years thanks to the interest of managing creative director Glenn Taylor and designer Neil Watts, who both learned their trade at Northampton.

Stocks Taylor Benson annually awards certificates and cash prizes to the best work exhibited at The University of Northampton's Summer Show by Graphic Communication and Illustration finalists. This year, the winners were Emma Carpendale (Illustration Best in Show), Danielle Self, Steve Goodger, Cerys Langley and Emma Kite (all Graphic Communication Best in Show).

Stocks Taylor Benson have recently created campaigns for huge companies including Tesco, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Black & Decker, Avon and Thorntons.

Watching the Watchman – School of The Arts feted for Alan Moore conference

It was a coup of extraordinary proportions when the school hosted the first international conference on the work of iconic graphic novels author Alan Moore.

'Magus: Transdisciplinary approaches to the Work of Alan Moore' was organised by Nathan Wiseman-Trowse, senior lecturer in Popular Music.

Possibly the most influential figure to emerge from the graphic novel medium, Northampton's own Alan Moore and his wife, the celebrated artist Melinda Gebbie, appeared at the conference which saw fans and academics from all over the world in attendance.

Moore has consistently been at the forefront of the graphic novel medium for almost thirty years, being the iconic figure behind works as Marvelman, V for Vendetta, the revolutionary Watchmen, From Hell, Promethea, The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen and, most recently, the controversial Lost Girls. Alongside his work in the comic medium he has written a novel scanning Northampton across the centuries, Voices from the Fire, and is subsequently working on the ambitious Jerusalem project. He has also worked as an artist, performed and recorded a series of musical collaborations and in recent months, has launched and edited the underground magazine Dodgem Logic.

One of the biggest draws to Northampton in 2010 was the pride of 40 fibreglass lions roaming the streets, all uniquely decorated and auctioned to raise thousands for the Born Free foundation and Cynthia Spencer Hospice.



The Pride of Northampton (University)

Artists were selected to customise each of the lions and four were given to The University of Northampton's current or past students of Fine Art.

Claire Jarvis, a graduate who recently completed her MA course in Painting at the Royal College of Art, was invited to complete two lions, both with themes related to Northampton town centre. One of the most striking and clever lions, Golden Tales, at All Saints Piazza, reflecting the town's buildings. Her second lion, Still Life: A Market Prowl, was bought by the borough council on behalf of the public.

Clare Hamer, another Fine Art graduate, who has since qualified as a teacher, produced the stunning Crystallised lion, and also worked with Linda Caven on Lot 24, Born Defender, which had a Land Rover theme.

The School of The Arts sponsored a lion which was decorated by two current BA Fine Art students, Lisa Allen and Stephanie Atkinson, both from Northampton. They produced Rennie MacLion in Abington Street. Their design used a collage of textile design patterns by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, as a celebration of the iconic designer's museum at 78 Derngate.

Media students win viral video competition

Two third year BA Media Production students, Cem Kaymaz-Yildiz and Jason Inge have won a UK-wide student competition, the Global Graphics' 2010 video competition, to produce a viral video for a leading international software company.

The competition brief was to make a viral advert for the company, promoting their gDoc Fusion software product, and the competition was open to all students across the UK. Cem and Jason's video breaks down the basic elements of what the gDoc Fusion software can do using comical visual representations of specific computer files. It can be viewed online at **www.youtube.com**





Fashion Show wowed the crowds at Royal & Derngate

With a world-renowned reputation for producing innovative and exciting fashion graduates, it was no surprise that the University's spectacular annual Fashion Show held at the Royal & Derngate Theatre featured a student who is one of the top ten UK fashion graduates of 2010.

BA Fashion student Garry Butterfield based his menswear collection on his love of the London Underground and the intricate detailing of maps, which he has translated into abstract patterns on cowhide.

He saw his work on the catwalk along with 21 other fashion pathway students.

Garry made it through to the Gala Awards Show at London Graduate Fashion Week where he was up for the top award in the country along with nine other students from across the country. His collection has since been photographed by celebrity favourite Rankin.

He was also victorious at the Northampton Fashion Show after winning the Stylejob.co.uk Fashion and Leather Collection Award on the night. Garry credits his success to his training at Northampton and his work experience and sponsorship from Northampton-based sheepskin specialists Easirider. His collections can be viewed at www.garryjamesbutterfield.com

Other awards at the Northampton fashion show included the Highgate House Award for Textiles, which went to third year student Alex Newton, who was also nominated for the Zandra Rhodes Textiles Award at London Graduate Fashion Week. Cordwainers Scholarships were awarded to Joanne Pateman, Dawn Fuller, Surjit Singh, Felly Bachelor and Lucy Gould, all second year students.

A farewell to two long serving members of staff

The School of The Arts said farewell to Christine Midgley, Divisional Leader, Fine Art and Barry Wenden, Course Leader BA (Hons) Graphic Communication Design, when they retired in 2010.

Christine said: "I've been at the University in its various guises for 36 years and I have seen a positive change in it during my time at Northampton from being a small arts school through to what we are today. I passionately believe in art school education and the contribution it has made to our culture. I have been fortunate enough to have been a student myself and then to work as a lecturer in an art school. It is an environment where radical approaches and innovation are encouraged, providing students with the space and time for

them to discover their own creative potential – a very precious time.

Barry Wenden studied painting at Southend School of Art, Manchester Polytechnic and the Royal College of Art, before he began teaching at the then Northampton School of Art in 1973. Within and alongside his teaching career Barry has created a vast and diverse archive of personal work which is strongly autobiographical in nature, operating almost as a visual diary

In November Barry exhibited at the University's Gallery. 'Time Lines' focused on his life-long engagement with lens-based media, the photographic process and the physical mark as a means of exploring themes relating to time, temporality and narrative.



Northampton Business student launches Latvian newspaper for the UK



A student from The University's Business School has launched a newspaper for Latvians living in the UK.

Datsa Gaile, a third year BA Business Management student, is a Latvian national. As well as studying for her degree, Datsa is also a trained bi-lingual paralegal and she saw a need for a Latvian-language newspaper and networking website for her fellow nationals now working in the UK. Her newspaper, Anglo Baltic News, is a monthly free publication, produced in traditional black-and-white broadsheet format.

Datsa credits the University's Enterprise Club for helping her with her publication. They gave Datsa both capital for publishing and information on how to start the business in the UK. Her success with Anglo Baltic News, the first Latvian-language newspaper to be launched since Latvia joined the European Union in 2004, saw her being interviewed at the University by Latvian TV. Entrepreneurial Datsa is currently in negotiations with an airline to supply the paper to passengers flying between London

Anglo Baltic News is distributed to 200 Eastern European shops, who sell Latvian food, nationwide. For further information, please visit www.anglobalticnews.co.uk

Professor Simon Denny, has been awarded a highly prestigious 'Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion', for his outstanding and significant role in promoting enterprise skills and attitudes and received his award at a reception at Buckingham Palace on 12 July 2010.



Queen's Award for **Enterprise Promotion**

The annual Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion, which was first awarded in 2006, rewards individuals who have played an outstanding and significant role in promoting the growth of business enterprise and entrepreneurial skills and attitudes in others in the UK.

The Award recognises Simon's work and support to would-be entrepreneurs through the development of the Business Creation Partnership, which influenced the creation of new business start up support in the East Midlands.

Ian Brooks, Dean of the Business school said: "The Northampton Business School has

developed an international reputation for the support it gives would-be entrepreneurs and their fledgling businesses. The remarkable outcomes from a wide range of purposeful and wellconsidered interventions are credited to Professor Denny and his team, whose tireless devotion to enterprise development has been rightly recognised by this highly prestigious Award.

As a University business school we have developed unique capabilities in managing large scale complex enterprise projects, alongside degree level enterprise skills development. This is in very large measure due to Simon's highly skilled leadership."

Professor Robert Grant welcomed to Business School



The University of Northampton's Business School welcomed Professor Robert Grant, author of the best-selling textbook Contemporary Strategy Analysis, to deliver a guest lecture in November.

The combination of Professor Grant's industrial experience, insightful business commentary and polished delivery was truly inspirational and he gave some very useful pointers as to how management is changing in today's challenging environment.

Professor Grant is the Eni Professor of Strategic Management at Bocconi University in Milan, as well as a Visiting Fellow at Georgetown University. He has taught for many years at UCLA, Georgetown, California Polytechnic and the University of British Columbia. He has worked with companies such as Nortel, American Express, Zurich Financial Services and Lockheed Martin and is on the editorial boards of Strategic Management Journal, Long Range Planning and Strategy & Leadership.

Business School graduate initiates Microsoft careers day at the University

Microsoft held a special careers day for 100 undergraduate and postgraduate students at The University in November 2010. The event was initiated by Northampton Business School graduate Farhin Kahn, BA (Hons) Business Information Systems, 2010.

Farhin, who is now enjoying a career at Microsoft as a Premier Field Engineer, attended the event where students were given a range of presentations about technical career opportunities at Microsoft by members of Microsoft Premier Field Engineering Team.

Microsoft demonstrated the latest technology, including the Windows Phone 7. Rafal Kwiek, currently a student intern at Microsoft, also highlighted the range of freely-accessible software students could download from www.dreamspark.com. After the presentations, students attended a lively networking event with the Microsoft team to discuss career opportunities with the company and to review their CVs.

If this is something your company could offer, we would love to hear from you.



We Re Pc - PC refurbishment and re-use social enterprise

An innovative idea to re-use computer hardware and make technology affordable has been launched by 'We Re PC,' a computer re-use social enterprise based at the Portfolio Innovation Centre, Avenue Campus.

An innovative idea to recycle computer hardware and make technology affordable has been launched by 'We Re PC', a social enterprise based at the Portfolio Innovation Centre, Avenue Campus.

This is the second social enterprise to be set up by the University in 2010.

Taking redundant PCs from the University and other public or private sector organisations, 'We Re PC 'refurbishes them and makes them available for purchase to anyone seeking a cost-effective second-hand computer set-up.

The social enterprise offers a computer, with basic set-up, for £150 or an advanced package, with a warranty and after-sale care service, for £200. A percentage of profits from the sales will then go back to fund bursaries for students at the University.

Professor Simon Denny is one of the directors of 'We Re PC' and the newly-appointed Social Enterprise Champion for The University of Northampton.

"'We Re PC' has been set up following a detailed market analysis of who in the UK was recycling or reusing computers. It will be one of the very few organisations in Europe to take redundant computers from the public sector and reuse them.

We offer a service where we can guarantee a good, working, second-hand computer at an affordable price. The UK can't keep on with this buying and throwing away culture, when we have the technology and skills to repair and reuse.

The main rule of our business is that our profit goes directly back to fund bursaries for students at the University. We look forward to being able to make a difference to the future of students at The University of Northampton.

'We Re PC' is a co-operative with staff and students from the University working as equals, each bringing their own, unique skills and talents to the business.

As a social enterprise, we are determined to use our surpluses to benefit others, and 40 per cent of any surplus is put into a fund. This is held by the University to provide bursaries for students, living in Northamptonshire and from disadvantaged backgrounds, to study degree courses in subjects related to resource reuse, like the low carbon economy and sustainability.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Nick Petford, determines which students and which courses are awarded these bursaries. Buying your reused computers from We Re PC benefits new and existing students - it's a virtuous circle we are proud of!"

Environmental Impact

Europe produces 10.3 million tonnes of electronic waste a year which is about a quarter of the world's total, and this amount is expected to rise to 12.3 million tonnes per year by 2020

Manufacturing one desktop computer and 17 cm CRT monitor uses at least 240 kg of fossil fuels, 22 kg of chemicals and 1,500 kg of water - a total of 1.8 tonnes of materials equivalent to an SUV or rhinoceros

Reusing and refurbishing a computer saves 10 times the energy saved by recycling

The life cycle energy use of a computer is dominated by the production phase (83%) as opposed to the use phase (13%)

Further information on 'We Re PC' can be found at www.werepc.co.uk

For information on social enterprise initiatives at The University of Northampton contact Professor Simon Denny email simon.denny@northampton.ac.uk







Dr Jeff Ollerton on Gardeners' World

Funding by The Finnis Scott Foundation, a Northamptonshire-based charitable trust, is supporting vital research into the conservation of crop and wildflower pollinating insects.

Northamptonshire Trust supporting research

The Finnis Scott Foundation supports research in the area of horticulture and plant sciences, and has awarded £57,000 to support a PhD studentship within the School of Science and Technology.

This three-year project studies pollinator diversity in the gardens of large English country houses, and relates this to the horticultural continuity of those gardens and factors such as the availability of suitable habitats in the surrounding landscape.

The first field season has involved samples on a repeated basis on seventeen properties from four counties. Across the properties a total of 61 200m² has been sampled for the presence of pollinators which, for the purpose of the study, include butterflies and day-flying moths, social bees and wasps (including bumblebees), solitary bees and wasps, and also hoverflies.

Valerie Finnis, also known as Lady Montagu Douglas Scott, was a well-respected figure in the world of horticulture, who died in 2006. Along with her late husband, Sir David Scott, she created a magnificent garden at the Dower House, at the ancient Boughton House, near Kettering. The couple's legacy was to create a charity supporting wildlife and horticulture.

Pollination expert appeared on **Gardeners' World special**

Dr Jeff Ollerton, School of Science and Technology, appeared in a BBC2 Gardeners' world special on 29 November 2010. The 'Science in the Garden' special with regular presenter Carol Klein dealt with how an understanding of the science behind horticulture can enhance everyone's enjoyment of gardens. One of the themes discussed by Jeff is the suitability of garden flowers for providing food for our declining pollinators.

University project helps save lives in Nigeria's toxic e-waste epidemic

Academics from The University of Northampton have been undertaking vital work in Nigeria to educate electronic waste scavengers on the hazards of what they are doing.

Dr Margaret Bates, School of Science and Technology, and Professor Simon Denny, Northampton Business School, along with colleagues across the University, delivered workshops in Nigeria to 80 delegates. These ranged from scavengers on e-waste dumps to NESREA (National Environmental Standards and Regulation Enforcement Agency). The project has been organised in partnership with the Basel Convention Regional Coordinating Centre for Africa, based at Nigeria's University of Ibadan.

Dr Margaret Bates said: "Nigeria is fast becoming a digital dump for electronic waste in the form of old computers, broken TV sets, second-hand mobile phones and other discarded items from Europe and the USA. This is toxic

waste; piles of computers contain hazardous substances which are harmful to both people and the environment.

"Hundreds of people make their living from looking for precious metal components for recycling within the e-waste, burning the waste to get to them which releases carcinogenic substances. They are literally killing themselves to get to the 'usable' bits from the e-waste.

"Funding was received from the UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), via the British Council, for a two-year project with our partner university in Nigeria, Ibadan, to educate the informal sector about how to break down the waste safely, how to identify what is of value and to provide them with the equipment to do this.

"The University worked with Hewlett Packard, one of the world's leading technology companies, on delivery of the workshops and Reclaimed Appliances Ltd, a Lincolnshire-based electrical and electronic re-use and recycling company. They provided the much-needed safety equipment for the delegates, like boots, gloves, high-visibility jackets and dust masks. Learning Light Ltd, who specialise in interactive learning, provided DVDs to demonstrate how to break down electronics safely.

"Our project has been so successful that the delegates would like us to return and Hewlett Packard has offered to fund more safety equipment. The University is now seeking further funding to continue the work."

Tony is world's first DSc in Leather Technology

Professor Tony Covington, Emeritus Professor of Leather Science is set to graduate for the third time this year.

Tony will become the world's very first Doctor of Science (DSc) graduate in Leather Technology.

Tony, who has nearly 250 publications to his name and already has a first degree and PhD, will be officially awarded his DSc in July 2011-becoming the first academic at the University to achieve this coveted honour.

Professor Covington, said:

"This DSc is a reflection of the international excellence of our department in the University. It is the culmination of more than 30 years' work in leather science; it is the highest possible academic award and recognition of substantial contribution to scientific knowledge and my standing in the international field".

Last year The Royal Society of Chemistry published his first book, entitled Tanning Chemistry. The Science of Leather', which represents 30 years of study and expertise.



First Colombian Corium Club reunion

The first all Colombian Corium Club reunion took place during the XVI Congress of ACOLCUR, The Colombian Society of Leather Technologists and Chemists. Attendees included Juan Manuel Salazar, who graduated from Northampton in 1983, 2010 graduate Juan Pablo Salazar, Eduardo Valencia, a 1974 graduate and Antonio Valencia, a 1979 graduate.





Leathersellers' Company support the Institute for Creative Leather Technologies

A significant donation of £400,000 from the Leathersellers' Company, contributed to the refurbishment and upgrading of the Park Campus-based tannery within the Institute for Creative Leather Technologies. Additional support in the provision of new tannery machinery, raw material supplies and upholstery leather has been provided by a number of organisations. Notable amongst these is the Scottish Leather Group which provided leathers to furnish the Leathersellers' Centre reception.

Scottish Leather Group host Corium reception

The Scottish Leather Group hosted a Scottish Corium reception on 15 April 2010. A group of students studying BSc Materials Technology (Leather) at the University's Institute for Creative Leather Technologies toured the Scottish Leather Group's manufacturing subsidiaries. The Locher Works, a tannery of wet-blue leather in one of the most modern facilities in Europe, was followed by a tour of the Baltic Works, manufacturers of leather for the automotive, furniture, aircraft and marine industries.

An early evening reception was attended by Corium alumni, students and colleagues. Conversations continued over an evening meal held at a nearby hotel.

The ups and downs of Lift Engineering

Two leading experts in the field of lift technology from The University of Northampton have written a new textbook on the subject.

Northampton has a long history of excellence in lift, or elevator, engineering, and its principle landmark is the famous Express Lifts Tower.

J P Andrew and Dr Stefan Kaczmarczyk wrote a new volume called Systems Engineering of Elevators, which describes the building and engineering specifications of lifts in relation to the projects for which they are designed.

This textbook has been prepared to underpin the degrees in elevator engineering at The University of Northampton and to make available the subject matter of the MSc Lift Engineering programme to a wider audience who, whilst interested in the content, may not wish to undertake the full programme of study leading to the award.

The authors have both been involved with the leadership of the University's masters programme and have extensive experience in engineering practice and research in the area of lift technology. Phil Andrew spent 18 years at the Express Lift Company before joining the University while Stefan Kaczmarczyk joined the University in 2002 and is a leading expert in the field of lift engineering, publishing over 70 papers on the subject.

The book Systems Engineering of Elevators will be published by Elevator World Inc (U.S.A.) in 2011.

Post Graduate PhD Lift Engineering Scholarship

To support the active research degree programme within the School of Science and Technology, Lift Technology, the University has launched an appeal to support a Post Graduate PhD scholarship.

With the development of safe and cost effective means of high rise vertical transportation the importance of this appeal cannot be over estimated.

The Lift Engineering studentship will provide an opportunity for research training and doctoral research, which involves broad range engineering and computing disciplines. The School of Science and Technology will enter the next Research Excellence Framework (REF) in a selective number of Units of Assessment (UoA). The REF is designed to assess research excellence through a process of expert review.

If you would like further information on how to support this scholarship email **lynn.margetts@northampton.ac.uk** telephone +44 (0)1604 892842



New facilities for paramedic and dental practice

Students in the School of Health are gaining valuable practical experience thanks to two new training facilities, a Paramedic Skills Laboratory and the University's new Dental Suite.

Dr David Zideman, a Queen's Honorary Physician, and Clinical Lead for Emergency Medical Care at the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games, officially opened the Paramedic Skills Laboratory. It includes a modified ambulance and separate living space that will be used to train students on the University's Foundation Degree in Paramedic Science.

The University's new Dental Suite was opened by Barry Cockcroft, Deputy Chief Dental Officer for England. It provides access to fully-operational dental equipment and gives students on the Dental Nursing Foundation degree programme the opportunity to gain practical experience using key professional tools.



Home birth midwives win top UK midwifery award

Northampton General Hospital (NGH) midwives have won one of the UK's top midwifery prizes for their work on home births.

The home birth team, alumni of The University of Northampton's BSc Midwifery programme and led by Anne Richley, Sally O'Connell and

Babita Williams, scooped the Implementing Government Policy Award at the recent Royal College of Midwives (RCM) Annual Awards.

The three led a team of 12 midwives set up to ensure that choice - as outlined in the previous government's Maternity Matters policy - was given to women, particularly around home birth.

Congratulations also went to Dr Sarah Church, Senior Lecturer in Midwifery at The University of Northampton, who was shortlisted for the 'excellence in midwifery education' award for her work with Northampton General Hospital on an educational programme to enhance the skills and knowledge of midwives from Europe working in the UK.

Staff, students and friends celebrated the 25th anniversary of podiatry education

The division of podiatry at The University of Northampton celebrated its 25th anniversary as one of the country's leading educators in healthcare.

As part of the celebrations, over 100 graduates, undergraduates, placement educators, and associates attended a ball at Whittlebury Hall in Northamptonshire on 1 October 2010.

Marcel Pooke, MBE, who conceived the original idea for a division of podiatry in Northampton and was heavily involved in the working party and fundraising activities, addressed the audience along with two other members of the original working party, Dr David George and Peter Moreton.

One of the original members of staff, Steve Avil, who is still teaching within the Podiatry Clinic on the Northampton General Hospital site, also spoke about the history of the clinic – from its humble beginnings into a specialist building.

Previous heads, Dr Linda Merriman and Patricia Nesbitt, were also in attendance, along with current academic staff and representatives from the School Administrative team.



History of the division of podiatry

The division opened in 1985 as a joint venture between Northamptonshire Health Authority and Nene College. The original team involved senior clinicians at Northampton General Hospital and three members of academic staff at Nene College, Linda Merriman, David Tollafield and John Bardwell.

At first the division offered a National Diploma in podiatry, then three-year-long BSc (Hons) degrees in 1992. The post-graduate masters degrees, MSc in Podiatry, came in 1995.

Senior lecturer and podiatrist Steve Avil explained:

"Marcel Pooke from the hospital had come to Northampton in the late 1970s and had a vision to make Northampton a school of excellence in podiatry – or chiropody as it was then known. It was his energy that really got things moving, along with David George from the University.

"Podiatry deals not only with the feet, but also everything up to the waist. There are several medical areas that affect the health and are treated by podiatrists, including diabetes, geriatrics, paediatrics, sports medicine, biodynamics and general surgery.

"During the first intake there were 18 students and a staff of four, and 15 of the students

qualified. Since then it's grown each year, with around 30 students a year now. We are regarded as one of the best in the country for podiatry and our courses have always been the envy of the podiatry community, because we have such close ties with the hospital, the NHS and private practice.

"Our aim was to create a school that we would have wanted to attend as students. The industry was fragmented back then and our approach was to establish a comprehensive, accessible, problem-solving, general training which made our graduates fit for purpose. Our students are much sought after by the profession, and the majority get immediate job offers on graduation."

Of the original three University staff involved in the project 25 years ago, Dr Linda Merriman is now Dean of Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at Coventry University. Mr David Tollafield DPodM, BSc (Hons) FCPodS is an orthopaedic surgeon, and John is in private practice.



David George and Peter Norton

"Chiropodist and podiatrist are protected titles by law. In order to call yourself a chiropodist or podiatrist, or say that you do chiropody or podiatry, you must be registered with the Health Professions Council (HPC). In order to register with the HPC new registrants must now have a degree in podiatry from one of the Schools of Podiatry. The title podiatrist has replaced the title chiropodist, although both terms are interchangeable."

The University launches choir



Philanthropy is helping to support music at the University. A donation has helped establish a choir for staff and students. Launched in September 2010, the choir has already attracted over 40 members with performances established for 2010/11

Working in partnership with Silverstone

On the eve of the 2010 British **Grand Prix, the University** attended a high-profile celebratory dinner with more than 200 guests from Northamptonshire's High **Performance Engineering** (HPE) companies.

During the evening the University profiled its new NVision 3D visualisation capabilities and the developing partnerships between the University and Silverstone, which include investment in paramedic rapid response training.

This is the first sector-specific function hosted by Northamptonshire Enterprise Ltd, (NEL) with more planned for the future.

Northamptonshire is home to over 200 motorsports companies and almost 400 HPE companies employing over 16,000 highly skilled workers.

We were grateful of the opportunity to work with NEL and look forward to taking part in future events to raise the profile of the University and the contribution it continues to make to the life of the county and beyond.

Fashion footwear support

The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers supports students studying Footwear and Accessories within the School of The Arts. Scholarships supported by an annual donation of £15,000 provide invaluable financial assistance.

Fashion, Textiles and Footwear at The University of Northampton has an excellent reputation both nationally and internationally and graduates have gone on to become successful designers.



The value of volunteer support



Alumni are continuing to support the University through a variety of activities. They have volunteered by providing career updates, offering work placement opportunities and by hosting events for alumni. Many have returned to the University to meet students.

Brian Lehane, BA (Hons) Economics and Business graduate 1999 commented:

"The University of Northampton is a fantastic place to learn and I developed many vital skills and grew in confidence as a result of my time there. The work they undertake, and the access to experience and resources on offer, gives people a chance to fulfil their potential in life.

I am very grateful to the University for how it prepared me and I want others to benefit from the great things they do for people and the important role they play in our county.

As an alumnus, I understand the value of giving back to the University as an ambassador. Wherever I can I help create awareness or share experience, it is a pleasure

Support of this kind is invaluable and the Alumni and Development office works with Schools and Departments across the University to co-ordinate a range of potential volunteering activities.

If you are interested in 'giving back' please contact the Alumni Office alumni@northampton.ac.uk

Our future - The role of philanthropy

Philanthropy: as defined by the Oxford English Dictionary: Love of mankind; the disposition or active effort to promote the happiness and well-being of others; practical benevolence, now esp. as expressed by the generous donation of money to good causes.

Philanthropic giving will play a major part in the University's future development and donations are already benefiting projects across both campuses.

There is little doubt we face difficult times ahead and raising funds will be more challenging than ever. However, we have a good case to make and all the evidence shows that investment in universities really does make a difference to individuals and society. Even in hard times, magnanimous gestures of faith and goodwill are still forthcoming.

The University has attracted significant philanthropic income by people with a life-long bond with Northampton and a desire to see its students succeed. These funds are not used to fill funding gaps in our core services. Instead they help add value – to drive forward first class research, provide state of the art facilities, to support student scholarships and bursaries and to nurture emerging areas of expertise.

There is a greater need than ever to increase our scholarships endowment fund to support

the brightest and most creative students. Investment in infrastructure and facilities will help to attract and retain staff of quality committed to academic excellence and the development of our research agenda helping raise our profile nationally and internationally.

With less than 12 months to make the most of the government match-funding scheme, we have to redouble our efforts to attract philanthropic support.





Camila Batmanghelidjh

(L-R) Professor Nick Petford and Luis Juste

Nurturing talent

Providing opportunities

Through the generous donations of our supporters, the University is well on the way to achieving its target of £2 million for the scholarship endowment fund.

The growth of support to our scholarship fund has enabled the University to offer an expanding range of scholarships and awards. More than 100 students from across the University benefited from scholarships and awards during 2010.

Supporting children

Camila Batmanghelidjh, founder of the charity Kids Company and Honorand of The University of Northampton, was the guest speaker at the annual Northampton High Sheriff's lecture on 18 November 2010.

Camila speaking on 'Kindness, Priceless: the power of compassion in transforming anti-social childrens lives' told the audience, "Kids Company provides a safe, caring, family environment where support is tailored to the needs of each individual. The services and support empower children who

have experienced enormous challenges to lead positive and fulfilling lives. Despite great difficulties, the children we work with are hugely courageous and embrace the support offered."

The University is collaborating with Kids Company to raise funds to provide scholarships for youngsters who have been supported by the charity. If you would like further information on this initiative email

helen.mannion@northampton.ac.uk

Santander Universities

For many overseas students, philanthropic support is essential to their study. The Santander Universities programme has undertaken to support The University of Northampton to the value of £50,000 each year to 2011, and in 2010 they made available an additional £11,000 and a €5,000 award for a dedicated 'Santander Formula Scholarship'.

Scholarships are awarded to students studying at post-graduate level and to develop Ibero-American partnerships. Valued at £5,000 each,

the scholarships support students across a range of subjects including International Relations, Environmental Management and Masters in Business Administration.

In memory of Robert Wakeford

Robert Wakeford, former Governor and Foundation Trustee of The University of Northampton, made a substantial donation to support the Scholarship Endowment fund before he died in 2009, at the age of 70.

Robert, a Cambridge graduate who went on to run the family construction firm Stepnell Ltd, was passionate about education and was a vocal and supportive ambassador for the University. In recognition of this, the Trustees unanimously agreed to award a scholarship in his memory. The Robert Wakeford Scholarship supports an undergraduate course within the School of Education. The scholarship recipient, Timothy John Howes, a second year student studying for a BA in Primary Education, displays an outstanding and creative flare in the classroom and a passion for education.

The Chancellor's Fund makes a difference

The University's Chancellor, Baroness Falkner of Margravine, presented the first awards from The Chancellor's Fund to six students at Avenue Campus on 23 November, 2010. The presentation evening was also an opportunity to thank donors who support the University.

The Chancellor's Fund, established in March, 2010, aims to raise $\pm 20,000$ a year to provide financial support to students. In these current times, we believe it is vital to build up our own fund, independent of the politics of the day to provide the best support we can for our students to get the best education we can provide at Northampton, now and in the future. Regular giving through the Annual Fund will enable us to achieve this goal.

University Vice Chancellor, Professor Nick Petford, welcomed guests at the event with a thank you for their support and an address on how investment in universities really does make a difference to individuals and to society.

For information on supporting this fund email **alumni@northampton.ac.uk**



The Chancellor, Baroness Falkner of Margravine (centre) and our first cohort of Chancellor's Fund Award recipients, November 2010

First annual giving campaign for University

The University launches its first annual giving campaign to support The Chancellor's Fund.

One of the most personal ways of contacting our graduates is by telephone and during February 2011 current students will be calling alumni to provide an update on developments and fundraising progress at the University.

These phone calls not only raise awareness of the opportunity to give to the University but also build and strengthen the relationship that we have with our alumni. The student callers will ask graduates for their opinions on the University and hear their personal memories about what studying at 'Northampton' meant to them.

We hope that everyone who receives a call will enjoy the experience.

Uganda project with Wateringroots

Empowering...
Embracing...
Educating...
Equipping...

Lora Harvey, a second year undergraduate psychology student, received an award from The Chancellor's Fund to support a volunteering project working with a charity Wateringroots. The charity works within the Eastern region of Uganda on the Kenyan border, a remote rural community, and aims to provide locals with information, knowledge and skills which enable them to live a better life and to help themselves to improve their futures. It currently supports 13 children by sending them to school and providing basic provisions to the families.

Through the Chancellor's Fund award, The Winnie Hall Trust and personal donations, Lora raised £2,250 and this together with donations of items such as clothes, paints and toys enabled her to make a substantial impact during her trip.

On arriving there were already plenty of projects underway and Lora was soon involved in helping to build walls for the village school. The school which has 450 students, was mainly surrounded by papyrus mats but these were not suitable or sturdy enough. With £200 they were able to purchase wood, two new doors and a lockable storage cupboard for equipment. In principle this sounds easy, but not in Uganda. The first task is to find somebody with two trees to sell.



Once purchased, the next tasks are to pay to have the trees felled, pay to have the trees collected, buy the petrol for the vehicle that will transport the trees to the factory, pay the factory to produce the planks and finally pay for the planks to be transported to the village. Finally, the finished school was secure and equipped with basic items for the children.

Although disappointed that establishing the HIV centre was not viable at this time, during her five week trip, Lora worked on several other projects, including clearing a water hole, helping locals to start businesses to enable a family to pay their child's school fees, to expanding the size, operation and efficiency of an existing business. She visited a special needs school and even found time to spend with children in the village, making

hand prints, face painting, toasting marshmallows and making banana leaf pictures.

Lora told us "I had a fantastic time in Uganda, it wasn't all easy, some days were hard physically and others emotionally. There were days when I felt like I could easily come home, other days I never wanted to leave. Life in the village became to feel very normal and I got used to being followed everywhere by groups of children who often called 'Mzungo' or 'Byee'. I was certainly sad to say goodbye to the village and all the friends I made.

If you would like further information on Lora's travels or the charity she was involved with please contact the Alumni Office email alumni@northampton.ac.uk

£1 + 50P = £1.92

No – we haven't made a mistake with the maths. Until July 2011 a donation of £1.00 with Gift Aid and matched funding is almost doubled.

Matched Giving - making your gift go further

Philanthropic support, however modest, has the power to transform lives. And until July 2011, government-matched funding means that gifts made to the University are worth considerably more.

The Government-Matched Funding scheme significantly increases the value of donations made to The University of Northampton. For every £1 donated the University can claim an additional 50 pence. The funding lasts until 31 July 2011 and therefore it is vital that the University makes the most of this wonderful opportunity now.

Ways of supporting the University?

- Support the Chancellor's Fund and donate annually to support a fund that matches your interests
- Establish a scholarship in the name of your organisation or family and support a student for the period of their course. Contact a member of the Alumni team if you would like to establish an endowed scholarship which will establish a lasting named scholarship
- Consider leaving a legacy to support future generations of students. This can be a named fund and gifts to charities are exempt from Inheritance Tax
- Donate shares, land or property. This is one of the most tax-efficient ways in which you can make a donation.
 Donors receive Income Tax relief and the donation is free from Capital Gains Tax (CGT)
- Donate to the Chancellor's Guild and join a network of like-minded individuals wishing to support and be involved in the University's development

Contact us:

Alumni and Development The University of Northampton Park Campus Boughton Green Road Northampton NN2 7AL

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