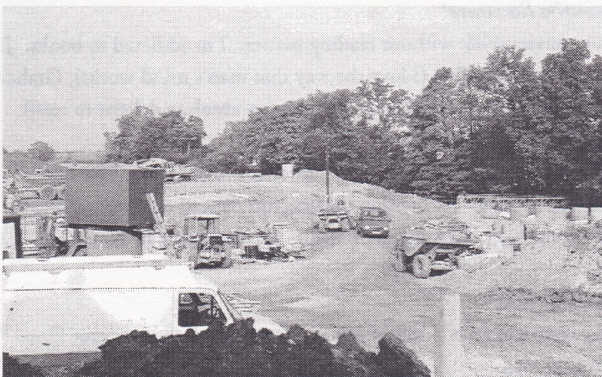


The raising of the residences

Handed over to the College the evening before the students arrived, the two new Halls of Residence at Park offer 600 more campus places between them. Work has already begun on the next 300...

The start

Northamptonshire's rolling dumper trucks



The finish

The finished product - Simon Senlis and Spencer Percival Halls of Residence

The in-between....

Northamptonshire's rolling cardboard box mountain



...and the morning after



Proud architect David Allsop,



A relieved George Wilbourne (Estates Manager)



Employed builders,



And Northamptonshire's rolling (fatigued!) students

Welcome to the Sir Gordon Roberts School who joined Nene on 1 August as part of the new Faculty of Applied Sciences. The last edition of **NENE News** contained a reference to 'the Sir Gordon Roberts College of Nursing'. The correct title was the Sir Gordon Roberts College of Nursing and Midwifery and apologies are offered to all staff for any distress that this error might have caused. A full introduction to the new school and its head, Mr Leo D'Arcy will appear in the next issue.

Spotlight Exposé - Sheila Plowright



Don't put your daughter on the stage, Mrs Barker. Not advice that was heeded by the young York-born Sheila, ad girl turned actress. From her present position as P.A. to Assistant Director, Dr Berry, she charted her career for **NENE News** from the benign embrace of Rowntrees in York to the seduction of stage and screen as an actress and model in the swinging sixties. Not many people are able to say of The Beatles "they were a nice bunch of lads - pleasant, ordinary kids." Even Ringo Starr, eloquent to the end, spoke for Sheila - "I like your dress. Is it a dress." (well, what did you expect?). Sheila's lively career has included a television mini-series, *'Misadventure'* with Hattie Jacques, playing Chekhov's *'The Cherry Orchard'* and *Macbeth* at the Chichester Festival Theatre and *Macbeth* in Norway and overshadowing Bob Hope in the London Evening Standard with a photograph of her beside the Embankment Sphinx. All rounded off with "bits of radio and television, all the usual stuff" (really?).

The theatre first discovered Sheila at school. Originally offered the part of the Virgin Mary in the renowned York Mystery Plays, she was soon recast as Eve "as they considered my voice too sexy" (the woman with the renowned sexless voice who got Sheila's original part was none other than Judi Dench). After school, Sheila took up an advertising position with Rowntree and Co, who in the interests of the continuing education of all their staff who were under 18, unwittingly provided her with an ex-actress for an English teacher who encouraged and supported her talent. It was a short step from playing the indomitable Gwendolyn in *'The Importance of Being Earnest'* at a Rowntree production to a position at York Theatre. An interview at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts materialised out of a flying visit to London and recognition by a luminary of the theatre. She soon dispels "the myth that RADA was a finishing school for rich people - its damned difficult to get into." During her years at RADA, Sheila rubbed shoulders with the likes of John Thaw, Tom Courtney, Edward Fox and Sarah Miles - "Albert Finney had just left."

At the start of her career in the sixties, Sheila and friends "razed around London, had a great time", catching up with The Beatles at Finsbury Park, where the mass hysteria was "terrifying" and the seats finished strewn with the assorted knickers of a largely young, largely female and wholly uninhibited audience. Auditions were not always, however, a test of acting ability - Sheila remembers the "big, fat, greasy tycoon" who auditioned her for the leather-clad part in *The Avengers* attempting to cast the part in time 'honoured' fashion - on the couch. Needless to say, he failed (and Linda Thorson got the part...). Auditioning for television commercials was likewise not always a pleasant experience: "they were ghastly, like a cattle market. You always expected to be prodded."

After touring Norway and Denmark as Lady Macbeth, Sheila made regular jaunts from London to Northampton to visit a friend. (Reader, she

married him.) She spent four years with the Northampton Rep then moved to France with her husband and three year old son. More career variety included English teaching and a position in the high powered language department of the French Chamber of Commerce. On returning to England, Sheila taught French for a short while before taking up a post as secretary for the Chief Finance Officer of the Northampton Development Corporation. A computer course at Nene led to the job of secretary to the Dean of Management and Business and then to her present position. To bring things right up to date, a Combined Honours course in Art and Design presently occupies much of her spare time.

Which roles did you most enjoy?

Shakespeare, for the pleasure of the language or Helen Keller's tutor Annie in *'The Miracle Worker'*.

Which part did you most want to play?

Schiller's Maria Stuart.

Favourite literature?

I can't envisage life without reading matter...I'm addicted to books. John Fowles, Umberto Eco (I love the way that man's mind works), Graham Greene (a master) and Wendy Perriam (an absolute delight to read).

Favourite music?

Mozart (particularly the Clarinet Concerto), Beethoven, The Beatles (we all liked The Beatles. At London parties, you danced to whatever was on the go at the time). If a song has words, I like to be able to hear them. Cool jazz.

Favourite film?

'Singing in the Rain' - full of fun and laughter. I adore horror films. Why, I have no idea.

Most treasured possession?

I don't have possessions. I don't like possessions, they're a trap. My clarinet, left to me by my old tutor brings me one of my greatest pleasures in music and reminds me of a very dear friend.

Motto?

Carpe diem (seize the day)

Greatest challenge?

It has to be my degree (a part time Combined Honours course in Art and Design and English). I enjoy it very much. It certainly keeps your brain active, widens knowledge and scope. Now I have an excuse to read novels again.

Heroes?

I don't have any heroes. [If any...] those who make the most of life, who enjoy life, who have open minds.

Most respected person?

In this world? My boss, for the incredible amount of hard work that he puts into his job. If you're talking about politicians, forget it. I'm a cynic.

Villains of the piece?

I hate moaners

Humour?

Tony Hancock, Peter Ustinov - "a witty, urbane raconteur", Bill Cosby, Red Dwarf, Cheers, Roseanne, Jo Brand.

Relaxation/hobbies/leisure?

Europe, travelling, languages (fluent French, and some Spanish, Italian, and German). I like going off on my own abroad. I don't need an escape. I like my life.

Attraction of Higher Education?

It's interesting

Ambitions?

To go up in a glider. It's nice to have something to look forward to. I like doing things for the first time.

Directorate News

The Director's Speech

In his annual address to College staff, the Director delivered customary thanks and welcomes - the former for all the efforts made over a difficult period of recruitment during the Summer and the latter to the newly incorporated Sir Gordon Roberts School of Nursing and Midwifery. The bulk of his address, however, concerned the elucidation of the multitudinous, complex and at times downright contradictory policy issues which have beset the world of higher education over the last year - "there are few policy issues or initiatives internal to the College - the agenda for the coming year will be set primarily by external forces."

On the debate perhaps closest to the College's collective heart - university designation - the Director explained that "essentially there have been brought into the equation a time element and a numerical expectation in terms of research students and completions. There is no doubt that the goal posts have been moved - indeed it could be argued that they have been moved off the field." However immediate priorities, with university status in mind remained the building up of a good body of research students and continuing to maintain high standards in both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. On the issue of standards, the Director was adamant. "We must not run the risk of any unsuccessful subject assessments. We must have a good outcome to the HEFCE Quality Audit later this year...over the next few years our record must be unblemished or as unblemished as we can make it. Nene must no longer be the best kept secret in higher education." To this end a major campaign for a University for Northamptonshire has recently been launched, with the backing of local politicians. The County Council's Northamptonshire 2000 Working Party on Education, Employment and Economy report states "By the year 2000 (and it is hoped to be much sooner) Northamptonshire must surely have its own university. The change in name in itself means little; it is the associated raising of expectations and ambitions leading to high quality outputs that will make the difference." Their continued support will be essential.

Of those problems facing the higher education sector over the next few years the Director identified the following as his major themes.

- Funding, or the lack of it
- Standards and the bureaucratic demands of the various groups assessing standards
- The increasing stratification of the higher education sector
- The introduction of the credit system
- The mass expansion and changes in student funding within the sector. "I have to tell you that however much you may dislike the idea, either politically or morally or educationally, that students should actually contribute to the cost of their education, I believe it is not only on the political agenda but that it has to be on the agenda."
- The introduction of GNVQ's as an alternative means of access to higher education

In addition, real recognition of students' interests and response to their needs is now seen as an essential element in higher education. The College has interpreted the spirit of the Students' Charter in a way that will require "checking the reality of provision at faculty and department level." All departments will thus be required to draw up plans for implementation and action in relation to the charter, which commits the institution to continuous improvement.

In summing up priorities for the year ahead, the Director laid great emphasis on research and staff development, enhancing Student Services, extending links with the community, developing consultancy, promoting overseas links and recruitment, extending flexible course provision for students, extending access and local opportunities in education and the continued better marketing and promotion of Nene. In conclusion, he stated "as I reflect on the past year and review the year ahead, I have real confidence that Nene knows what it stands for...my aphorism for the coming year must be pragmatism with principle - or principle with pragmatism...we must stand up against the philistinism of external pressures. And that is why we must be confident and not ashamed as a College to contribute to the debate and to the development of higher education."

The Director's Other Activities

Any Director or Vice-Chancellor inevitably, and rightly, as part of their job leads a very public life. That is a part of the job which I fully, and willingly, accept; and, most of the time, enjoy. Inevitably much time is spent in both entertaining and attending functions and receptions of a semi-social nature, both locally and nationally. I have also spent time since I became a Director in visiting many of our link institutions overseas. But by far the greatest amount of my time away from College goes on attending meetings and committees.

When I first came to Nene in 1989 I took the decision to curtail my outside activities and for the next three years spent most of my time in College. Then two years ago I agreed with the Chairman of Governors that I should begin to get more involved nationally and to spend more time out of College. Over these past two years that activity has grown considerably. I am now heavily involved nationally; at the busiest time of the year it can account for two to three days a week. I therefore felt I owed colleagues some explanation of how I spend that time and to share with you the way in which these national links may be beneficial to the College.

I am first of all a Director of HESA, the Higher Education Statistics Agency. HESA was set up by the institutions to provide a responsive and effective system of data collection, analysis and dissemination for publicly funded higher education in the UK. As a result, HESA seeks to make people better informed about the characteristics of students and institutions.



The Board, which meets four times a year, consists of Vice-Chancellors and myself representing the Colleges. In turn, I represent the Board on the Committee of Management which consists of statisticians and officers of the Department of Education, the various Funding Councils and the institutions in order to agree on recommended detailed statistical procedures and requirements.

I am also a Board member of HEQC, the Higher Education Quality Council (the only institutional head, incidentally, to sit on two of the major agencies established after the 1992 Education Act). HEQC was established by the universities and colleges in order to undertake the regular auditing of institutions' quality processes, to disseminate good practice and to act as a national voice on quality issues in higher education. The Board includes Vice-Chancellors, two College Heads and lay members. The Council's work is divided into Quality Audit and Quality Enhancement and on behalf of the Board I am a member of the Quality Enhancement Advisory Group which supports the maintenance and enhancement of quality in higher education institutions and contributes, both nationally and internationally, to the development of policy in higher education.

Directorate News

I also represent the Colleges on the Degree Awarding Powers Committee which considers all applications for degree and research degree powers and subsequently advises the Secretary of State. As a result of my membership of this group I am involved in scrutiny panels and their visits to institutions to consider application for degree powers. Finally for the HEQC I am a member of the Chairman's small group on personnel matters, advising on staffing structures and salaries.

For the past twelve months I have been Vice-Chairman of the Standing Conference of Principals (SCOP), which is the equivalent to the CVCP for the Colleges and represents the College Heads in England and Wales. This involves me in regular meetings of the Council of Management, but much more importantly involves me in, and gives me access to, meetings with a wide range of people of importance and influence in higher education. Though John Patten never met us, we have already had a meeting with Gillian Shepard since she took over as Secretary of State. We would have access to the Minister for Higher Education on significant issues. We would meet regularly with the Permanent Secretary and other senior officials of the DfE, as well as with the Chief Executive and Senior Officers of the Funding Council. We meet with the Education spokesmen of the other major parties and have meetings with members in both the Commons and the Lords who are interested in education. SCOP itself may not be a very influential body, but as representative of the Colleges it is a stake holder in many of the agencies responsible for various HE activities and its senior officers are consulted on major issues of interest and development.

Less demanding commitments involve me in representing the Colleges on the Council of Validating Universities. CVU exists to articulate the interests of universities and other degree-awarding bodies which approve courses in other institutions and organisations. Its remit includes validation, accreditation and franchising.

I am also the SCOP member of the European Social Fund Company which was established in 1990 in order to manage applications from universities and colleges for programmes operating under the European Social Fund. We oversee all the arrangements for selection of bids and allocation of funds on behalf of the European Commission.

These national activities are complemented at the more local level by my membership of the Strategic Education Forums of the Northamptonshire TEC and the Greater Peterborough TEC. National targets for education and training were established in 1983 and it is the responsibilities of the TEC's through their Educational Forums to co-ordinate the effort and activities of a range of local bodies in setting local targets within the national framework and in promoting action to help achieve them.

Finally and most pleasantly I am appointed by the Lord Lieutenant to sit on the Advisory Panel for the County Record Office. So once a term I have the opportunity of attending at least one meeting whose subject I am supposed to know something about.

Dr S M Gaskell

Faculty Recap

Appointment of Deans

An Appointments Committee of the Governing Body interviewed applicants for the posts of Dean of the new faculties in May and recommended to the Board at its meeting on 6th July that Di Hayes, Geoff Otley and Mike Penny be appointed as Deans of the three new Faculties.

Faculty Titles

After consultation with staff, the Deans have recommended the following faculty titles to the Director which he has agreed. They came into effect on 1 August.

Faculty of Applied Sciences

(Dean: Geoff Otley)

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Dean: Mike Penny)

Faculty of Management and Business (Dean: Diane Hayes)

Locations of Subjects and Schools

Following upon the establishment of the new three faculty structure, the Director has now made some further necessary decisions regarding schools and subjects. The School of the Built Environment will remain independent. Future organisation will be determined in the proper context of the long term plans for this area of activity. The Sir Gordon Roberts School of Nursing and Midwifery will transfer as a unit to the new Faculty of Applied Sciences. As agreed with the Health Authority, the longer term arrangements most appropriate for Nursing and Midwifery in relation to Health Studies will be fully debated with all staff involved over the next twelve months. The position of Social Work and its relation to the developing area of Health Studies will also be included in this discussion. For the present, however, Social Work will remain within the Faculty of Applied Sciences. No case was made for moving Sociology to

match HEFCE categorisation. Mathematics will remain within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, but all three Deans are being asked to work at ways of co-operating and maximising the resources in the area. Modern Languages, whose work is so closely involved with Business Studies, will transfer to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The location of computing within an HE establishment is a common problem. Recognising the validity of the arguments for the distinctiveness of two operations, it has been decided to continue with Computer Provision in both the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Management and Business. However, the Deans concerned are being asked to co-operate much more closely in this area and produce an over-arching programme and a formal plan for Computing Studies within the College. Computing staff in both faculties will liaise closely both in marketing and providing computer studies.

Dr Gaskell

Faculty of Applied Sciences, Dean - Mr Geoff Otley, Schools of:

Leather Technology
Environmental Sciences
Engineering and Technology
Built Environment
Health and Life Sciences
Sir Gordon Roberts Nursing and Midwifery

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dean - Mr Mike Penny, Schools of:

Education
Art and Design
Social Studies
Cultural Studies
Behavioural Studies

Faculty of Management and Business, Dean - Mrs Diane Hayes, Schools of:

Management
Business
Law and International Business
Professional Studies
Information Systems

The Problem

Welcome back to the stress of working in the high pressure, deadline driven, rapidly changing world of Higher Education. Unfortunately a month of healthy recuperative activity will not make up for the other eleven stress filled months in the year. Now, the beginning of a new academic year, is the time to take stock of your lifestyle. In the light of recent findings, are you giving yourself the best possible deal in terms of health and quality of life?

Here are some facts to mull over. About 330,000 people had a heart attack in the UK last year. Unfortunately, people working in H.E. were disproportionately highly represented in that figure. Occupational and cultural factors conspire to predispose people to coronary heart disease (CHD). There are several groupings of risk factors. Some we can do nothing about; for example, CHD is more common in males than females. However, post menopausal women run a similar risk to men because it is the hormone oestrogen which has a protective function. Age also plays a role, the risk of CHD increases to a peak in the 65-74 age group. Hereditary factors are also important, particularly if parents or grandparents suffered with CHD at a relatively young age. Other factors, or groups of factors are more controllable. Smoking accounted for around 70,000 of those deaths from CHD last year. Smoking impairs the ability of the blood to carry oxygen and introduces a cocktail of toxic waste products into the lungs. Diet is also a critical risk factor. For many years, cholesterol was considered to be the main culprit linking diet to CHD. Recently this has been replaced by trans-fatty acids, these are substances which are used to turn oils into spreadable fats. The link between fatty acids and CHD has not been clearly established, however the general message is, to avoid this risk factor, cut down on the fat. The link between obesity and CHD is less equivocal. A high percentage of body fat places strain on the heart for two reasons; firstly the simple mechanics of pumping blood around a large amount of tissue, and secondly that in becoming obese, fatty tissue is deposited in the arteries, effectively decreasing the cross section of the vessel. The pump has to work harder for the same amount of flow. The consequences of the resulting high blood pressure should not be underestimated. The final major risk factor is stress. We need some stress to motivate us. However, by being continually activated, the sympathetic nervous system becomes chronically fatigued leading to a range of 'diseases of adaptation' such as ulcers, diabetes, migraine, depression and in the long term a compromised immune system. This is a depressing litany of symptoms. What can you do except have another fag and worry?

The answer to many of these health problems is available without prescription. If you exercise regularly (through 12 months of the year...) you can reduce your risk of coronary heart disease 10 fold, yes 10 fold!, that includes to a somewhat lesser extent people who report one, two or all three of the main risk factors identified. Exercise is able to offer a measure of immunity to CHD, the most rampant killer of our time.

The prescription for exercise reads;

Frequency; 3 times per week (once is better than nothing, aim to build up to three)

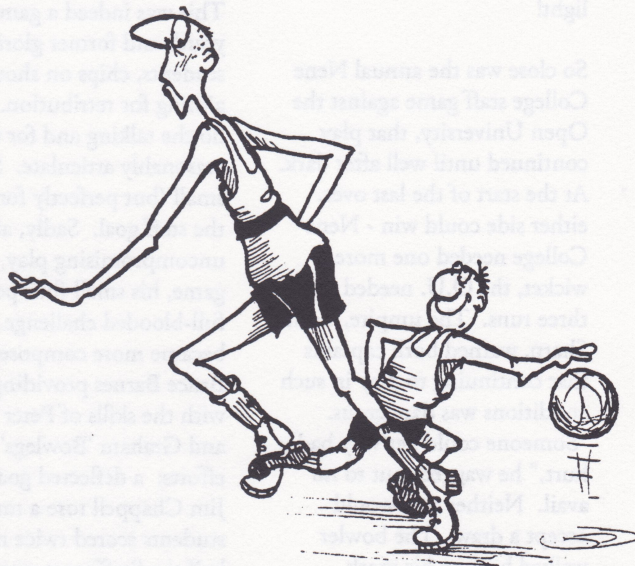
Intensity; to begin with, simply exercise to the point where you feel very slightly breathless, no further. If you can't hold a conversation you are working too hard.

Time; to begin with only maintain the intensity for a few minutes, aim to build up to twenty minutes.

To gain the full benefits of exercise, participation should be a regular feature of your lifestyle. A two week binge of exercise will not help you. The body takes longer than that to adapt to changes in activity; in fact you probably won't notice any difference in fitness in less than a month. Persist, the body gradually responds. Weight comes off in the same way it goes on, ounce by ounce. There are also many psychological benefits to exercise, the most widely reported being the 'feel good factor'. Exercise in its many forms does make you feel better. Don't 'just do it' - DO IT AND ENJOY IT. If it stops being enjoyable, do something which is! And as a final comment, if you don't think you have the time to do it - look at the statistics - you don't have time not to.

Tony Westbury

SPORT



The Solution? Recreational Usage Of The Sports Hall

Starting from Monday 17 October, Park Sports Hall will be available between 1pm and 2pm daily for recreational use. The programme for Park Sports Hall is:

Monday Badminton

Tuesday Volleyball

Wednesday Basketball

Thursday 5-a-side Soccer

Friday Hockey

The programme will change throughout the term, to ensure different activities are available on different days. To protect the Sports Hall floor, please ensure that you have clean, non-marking footwear.

Step Aerobics, from 12th October Wednesdays at 1.30-2.30 in the Dance Studio. There is a

limit of 25 steps, first come, first served. It is hoped that further Aerobics, Step and Circuit Training sessions will begin soon, with a view to running at least one session daily.

Runners regularly meet and run from the Park Sports Hall. Come and join in. The groups go at the following times:

Monday 8am

Tuesday 12.30pm

Wednesday 12.30pm

Thursday 12.30pm

Friday 8am

There are all levels of runner in the groups, come along, enjoy the running and the scurrilous conversation!

The Umpire Strikes Back

There may well have been a breathless hush in the close that night, but hardly a blinding light!

So close was the annual Nene College staff game against the Open University, that play continued until well after dark. At the start of the last over, either side could win - Nene College needed one more wicket, the O.U. needed just three runs. The umpire, Tom Sharp, warned both captains that continuing to play in such conditions was dangerous. "Someone could get very badly hurt," he wagged, but to no avail. Neither side would accept a draw. The bowler walked back to his mark, disappearing into the darkness. Silence descended. The batsman stared into the stygian gloom beyond the far wicket, straining for a glimpse of the approaching apparition. And then the thud of approaching hooves, the crack of willow on leather, the crunch of leather on bone, a howl of pain, the peal of laughter at the white-coated sage hopping about at the bowler's end. Yes folks, the umpire is always right!

In the end, the O.U. won a hollow victory, the ball having been hit unfairly in to the darkness at deep extra cover. The bare statistics? Nene College batted first, making 122 in 15 eight-ball overs (Jonathan Gaskell 45); no relation? The Open University 123 for 9 wickets in 14.5 overs. A good time was had by all and the two captains - Nick Watson (O.U.) and Tony Westbury (Nene) agreed to a repeat contest next year. That would be a good one to win.

Tom (Hopalong) Sharp

A Game Of Two Halves

Some of the crowd are on the pitch....

They think its all over....

And as another tutor collapsed with injury or heat stroke, it was.

Saturday 11 June; 10.30am, the collective might of the Staff All-Stars Soccer XI took on a suspiciously strong team of students. This was indeed a game of two halves, the Staff aiming to recapture youth and former glories, limbering up for the World Cup. The students, chips on shoulders and disputed exam grades to the fore, aiming for retribution. The game began. The students let their feet do the talking and for the first time all year could be described as reasonably articulate. Solid defence from 'Big Jon' Stevens and small (but perfectly formed) Gordon Hughes repelled attempts on the staff goal. Sadly, after twenty minutes of abrasive and uncompromising play, Gordon became the first casualty of the game, his small (but perfectly formed) sesamoid bone broken in a full-blooded challenge. As the first half progressed, the Staff became more composed in possession. The cultured left foot of Bruce Barnes providing good service to Mick Sumpter (the man with the skills of Peter Beardsley and the shorts of Anne Summers) and Graham 'Bowlegs' Smith. Bad luck dogged the Staff's first half efforts; a deflected goal from the students took them into the lead, Jim Chappell tore a muscle and became a one-legged goalie. The students scored twice more before half time. Early in the second half the Staff team was reduced to ten, Graham Smith chased a through ball, his hamstring did not cooperate fully. In recognition of the financial situation, his post was not filled. Amazing though it is to report, the ten men began to dominate the game, a penalty converted by Mick Sumpter and a disputed goal from a corner kick brought the score back to 3-2. As the second half progressed and both teams began to run out of steam a stalemate developed. It was broken by two well worked goals on the break by the students. The finale was provided by the Man of the Match, Mick Sumpter, who weaved his way through a packed defence to score. Battered and bruised the Staff team retired to Sunnyside, it is rumoured that some have retired on a more permanent basis.

Tony Westbury (again)



News In Brief

- Colin Jones, stalwart of the British School of Leather Technology, retired this Summer from a career which began at the Northampton College of Technology (St George's Avenue) in 1956. We wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement.
- Continuing the 'leather' theme, collaboration between Nene's British School of Leather Technology and the British Leather Consortium has been made official with the signing of a formal protocol. This will include cooperation at all levels making mutual use of equipment and staff resources and identifying and providing areas for further study at research level.
- The first Harborough training day for teachers was held recently at Welland Park College. Teachers discussed the issue of dyslexia, looking at typical spelling errors and how to identify and plan for dyslexic students. The INSET (In-Service Training for Teachers) courses have also recently received a boost from a Department for Education grant to fund a conference to be held on October 11 helping 'returners' to the teaching profession. Two European Community funded courses will be run in September and October, also for returners to teaching.
- Teacher training activities have expanded as far as Finland, with a group of Finnish teachers spending a week at Nene through an association with the University of Oulu in Kajanni. The teachers looked at the English educational system, multicultural education and foreign language teaching for primary aged teaching. A longer course is planned for next year.
- The College's retained architects, Gotch, Saunders and Surridge, have generously donated £3000 to help fund some of the recent TEMPUS exchanges. Nene's partner institutions include Kaliningrad State University in Russia, Minsk State Linguistics University, Belarus, The University of Silesia Soskowiec (Poland), Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan (Poland) and University College, Galway.

HEFCE News

• **Congratulations** to all those involved in the course provision for Applied Social Work and Business and Management Studies. The HEFCE Quality Assessment exercise credited them both with a 'satisfactory' rating. On the Social Work provision, points that were praised included the integration of academic theory with social work practice. All of the classes observed during the assessment visit were at least satisfactory and "a significant proportion was excellent...Tutors communicated clear aims and objectives...and innovative and participative classroom exercises were used to good effect." Business and Management Studies impressed the assessors with "the competent and professional nature of the teaching", the "care and support offered to all students", "the importance placed on international business education" and the "thorough quality assurance procedures."

• Our regional HEFCE officer, Sarah Turpin has moved on to a new job. Her replacement has not yet been named, but in the meantime, all enquiries should be sent to Ms Gill Mackie, Assistant Regional Officer, on 0272 317317.

• With regard to awarding university titles, Ministers have proposed as an additional criterion that an institution should have demonstrated a track record in offering its own degrees in its different subject areas, and that its strategic plans offer the prospect of those standards being maintained in the future. The Council has agreed to provide advice on this criterion to Ministers, on request.

• £9 million will be provided in 1994/95 for non-formula funding to support specialised research collections in the humanities.

• The Pearce Report included in its recommendations the establishment of a financial intermediary to help institutions raise capital in the financial markets. European Capital has been commissioned to produce a report, whose recommendations will be reviewed with the DfE.

• HEFCE funding for the academic year 94/95 consists of £2615 million in recurrent grant to support teaching and research, and a further £707 million to compensate institutions for the 45% reduction in tuition fee levels announced by the Secretary of State for Education on 30 November 1993. Additional funding will be provided to encourage growth in numbers of part-time students, particularly in Science and Engineering. The HEFCE has set maximum aggregate student numbers (MASNs) for each institution to reinforce the government policy of consolidation. In calculating MASNs, the Council has taken into account in-built growth in student numbers, the extent to which each institution responded to the Government's message of consolidation in 1993 and the need to protect growth in science and technology.

• Recommendations published in a Joint Funding Councils' Libraries Review Group report have been given full support by the HEFCE. Aiming to improve and develop library provision in universities and colleges over the next 10 years, the review group identified shortage of study space as the most pressing problem facing libraries in the HE sector. Funding of specialist libraries and developing the use of information technology were also covered in detail. Copies of the report available from the HEFCE external relations department.

Association Of University Administrators

The AUA is the only professional body representing all Higher Education administrators.

Formed from an amalgam of the Association of Polytechnic Administrators and the Conference of University Administrators, the Association aims to "advance education for the public benefit by fostering the development of sound methods of administration and management in higher education by education, training and other means". Nene's AUA branch is now a year old and already leading by example with the recent appointment of Stephen Marshall to the National Executive. Its committee consists of: Stephen Marshall,



Jill Bowers

In essence, contact with other institutions underlines our own professionalism.

The committee would like to stress that the AUA is there to represent all administrative staff. Although there is a small charge for membership, benefits for personal and professional development are many. These include: opportunities to contact colleagues in other institutions, staff development and skill sharing, training and internal networking (as Kathryn Powell points out, the AUA presents "an opportunity to talk internally



l to r: Stephen Marshall, Melva Duley, Zsa-zsa Chadwick and Kathryn Powell

Melva Duley, Jill Bowers, Kathryn Powell and Zsa-zsa Chadwick. 24 members throughout the College meet twice termly - this year's events included presentations by Chris Cooper on Student Services and a fact-finding/skill sharing visit to Reading University. The next National Executive Committee meeting will be held at Nene - the first time such an occasion has been held outside the 'old' universities. The high profile Annual National Conference (attended last year by 14 College members) aims to provide an intensive 3 days of training, networking and staff development sessions. It is impressive to note that a recent Equal Opportunities session attended by a member of Nene's AUA Committee highlighted just how well organised Nene was in respect to Equal Opportunities. Our quality assurance systems are also seen to be forward looking.

with colleagues - something there is no time to do during the week."). Members also speak of broadening horizons and 'norm-referencing' through contact with staff at other institutions. As Melva Duley commented, "there are direct spin-offs for the College through networking by members of the AUA." If you feel that your job could benefit from professional representation at a high level, please contact Stephen Marshall, Branch Correspondent.

Events

The AUA held a well attended first meeting of the Summer term on 9 June, and welcomed Chris Cooper, Director of Student Services as guest speaker. Chris gave an informative talk covering the existing role and organisation of Student Services and outlining future planned developments.

STUDENT NEWS

First class honours in the academic year 1993-94 went to:

BSc Health Science Studies

Sandra Paine

BSc (Hons) Podiatry

Tina Gooch

Kay Harrison

Aban Irani

Yasmin Irani

Wendy Sadler

Claire-Marie Walsh

BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy

Susan Beckett

Michael Watkins

Bachelor of Education

Martin Nightingale

Kathleen Wardman

BA (Hons) Business Studies (full-time)

Andrew Holland

BA Business Studies (part-time)

Michael Allman

Annette Kelleher

Pippa Marriott

BA (Hons) European Business - German

Erk Schuchhardt

Karen Suckling

BSc Computer Studies (part-time)

David Conway

Geoffrey Fellows

Ian Gausden

BA (Hons) Combined Studies

Lee Brooke

Andrew Cooper

Jean Davies

Iris Gotschi

Mark Marrington

Amanda Preston

BSc (Hons) Combined Studies

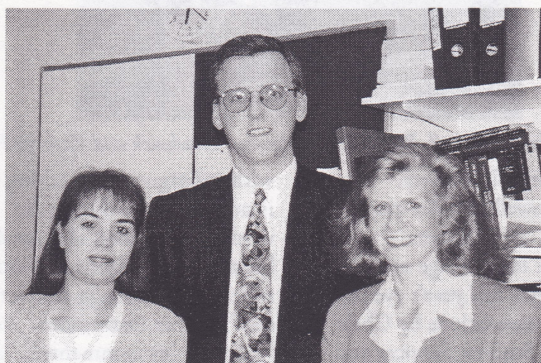
Helen Ashman

Patricia Newborough

Lorraine Norfolk

Daniel Short

Andrew Shrubsole



l to r: Pippa Marriott, Michael Allman and Annette Kelleher

Design Students Get Their Teeth Into Dental Project

BTEC National Diploma Three-dimensional design students Andrea Jackman and Mark Kemp had their design chosen for the play area in the waiting room of the new 'state of the art' Derngate Dental Practice in Towcester. Thanks to their efforts, apprehensive children will be able to take their mind off the impending drill. The 3-D Design students were approached by Pauline White of the Derngate Dental Practice to present proposals for a small play area in the new surgery. Working to a limited budget, they were asked to consider safety, age range of users and amusement value as well as specifying the colour scheme, flooring, lighting and toys. The students also undertook the decoration of the area themselves. As an incentive, the practice offered £250 to the students whose design was selected. Winners Mark and Andrea chose an educational theme with brightly coloured lettering stencilled on the walls, a blackboard and chalks for writing and drawing, 'stickle' bricks for building and musical books to read. Pauline and her colleagues felt the design was most appropriate as it had a timeless theme with educational value and could be easily maintained. Course leader John Czernik believes that working to the constraints of 'live' projects is an important part of the students' design education, giving them a sense of purpose and helping to develop confidence in their abilities.

Roger Smith, Head of School of Art and Design

OT School

A particular mention must be given to the Occupational Therapy students who raised £600 to send fellow student Elizabeth Anyu home to Uganda for the vacation for the first time in two years. The money was raised through B-B-Q's, beetle drives, selling lunches, jumble sales, half-price hairdressing and displayed considerable ingenuity on the part of the students. Course leader Annie Turner said "I think its been a tremendous effort. What has been so nice is that they have all pulled together as a group." Particular credit must go to students Lynn Gates and Terry Miller who masterminded the operation.

MODEL SUCCESS

'Model' pupils put on a spectacular end of term display thanks to the initiative and commitment of Nene's teacher training students. Thirty B.Ed. students added a touch of magic to local primary schools by introducing the concept of papier mache. A similar project has been run for three years, shadowing the National Curriculum's initiative to encourage the idea of learning artistic appreciation through an 'artist in residence'. As Jim Bassett, B.Ed. Course Tutor (Art) commented "the project bridges art and technology...children learn about the nature of construction". So involved did some of the B.Ed. students become that a few stayed on voluntarily in school long after the end of the project in order to progress and develop the ideas raised with the children. The impressive results from the Queen Eleanor Lower School on the Towcester Road are shown in the photograph with the children themselves and Nene students Anne Willett and Glenda Profit.

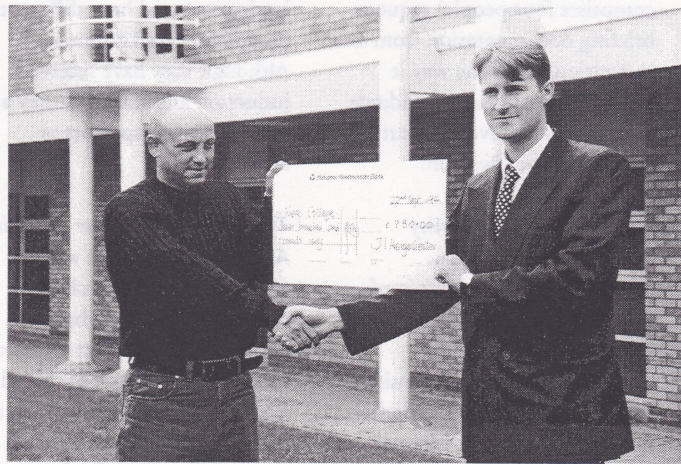


Fashion

The work of Nene's HND Fashion student Julia Dale came Highly Commended at the 9th British Fabric Association Design Bursary awards. Judged by Children's Wear designer Joan Priest, Debenhams Children's Wear selector, Jay Seal, Childrens Clothing International Editor Su Pearce and BFA's Chairman and Vice Chairman, Robin Alexander and John Slingsby, all were impressed by the exceptionally high standard of entries.

Money for old rag

Courtesy of a £750 boost from Manpower, Northampton, the Students' Union is now able to improve its publishing operation for the students' magazine, Nene Scene. The first Fresher's edition is now in full colour! SU President and Communications Officer, Steve Waring, saw the magazine as an "essential part of students, contact with the Union". In these days of opt out clauses for students, Union operations need to be visible and high profile if they are to attract the attention - and custom - of the student 'client'. This said, Steve does not see a bleak future for the SU, envisaging that students will come flocking to join up "when they realise what they can get from it...the social ethics and the material benefits." Manpower's representative, David Chubb, sees the generous donation as the start of a more formal collaboration between the job agency and Nene College. "We have worked with Nene College for many years, and Steve was asking for sponsorship for Nene Scene. It is a good way to support the students who we have a good relationship with." Although close and formal links between a temporary employment agency and a higher education establishment would seem to be very much a sign of the times, Manpower has in fact been associated with Nene's students for 15 years. It is an indication of the relative paucity of the government grant now that use has to be made of agencies such as Manpower even during term time. As David explains "students are very flexible. It's a two way thing. Students have times when they're free and we have clients in Northampton who need flexible staffing." All in all, a triumph of collaboration?



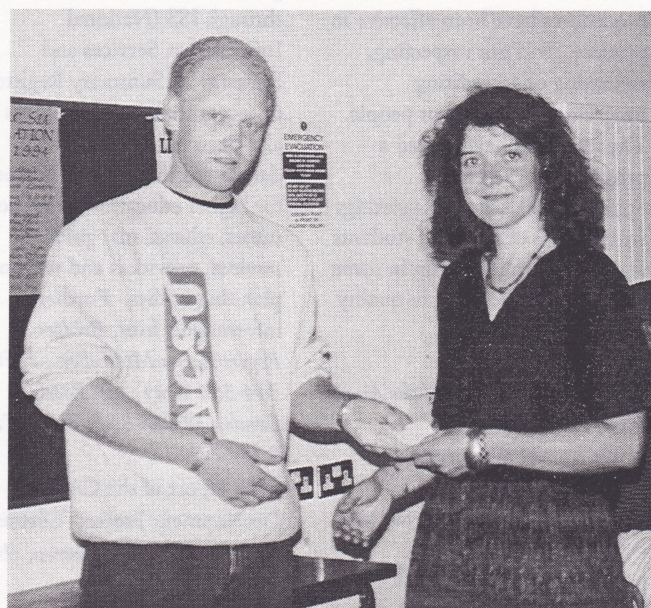
Manpower's David Chubb presents the cheque to SU Officer Steve Waring

Ana Starcevic

One of the first graduates from the MA in Women's Studies at Nene has the distinction of being the youngest serving police inspector in the county. She is also one of only two female officers in Northamptonshire qualified to carry weapons. She is conscious of the fact that she is seen as a role model for other women, and was determined during her firearms training to acquit herself well. The 100 per cent she scored in her final training shoot more than adequately proved her point.

Ireland in Canada

3rd year BA Business Studies student Steven Ireland is definitely not a man out of his depth. He has been selected for the Senior Olympic squad of windsurfers, making him one of the top five in his sport in the UK. This selection took him to Savanna (USA) for the Pre-Olympics in September, and to Canada in August for the World Championships.



Former SU President, Alex Brown, presents a cheque to the NSPCC representative

Rag Results

Money raised by students for Rag Week was donated to four local charities - Lowdown (welfare counselling for young people), Northampton MIND (National Association of Mental Health), the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) and Care and Repair (helping older, disabled people to stay in their own homes). These were chosen not only by virtue of their charitable status but also through strong previous links with the College. Lowdown's representative, Steve Burgess is a second year Combined Studies student at Nene. As a voluntary counsellor with the charity, he has undertaken intensive 40 hours of training in counselling skills and welfare rights. The Lowdown also numbers among its volunteers two part time students and Nene alumni, and has previously been helped by Students' Union funding. Helen Inniss-Fitzhugh, Centre Manager of Anchor House (celebrating its 21st birthday) represented Northampton MIND. Previous contact with the College has come through placement students on the Diploma in Social Work course. The NSPCC run a Child and Parent Centre at Thorplands and have also taken Nene's health and social work placement students. Some of our Design students had also previously been involved in making a concept model of the new building into which the NSPCC have recently moved. Care and Repair undertakes maintenance and building adaptation work for elderly people who wish to stay in their own homes despite lack of mobility or bad health. Funded largely by the Department for Environment, their workload has increased considerably since the Government's 'Care in the Community' initiative. Funding from government is "never really enough", says chairman Doug Facer. 4 full-time staff are helped out by Nene student, Kevin Shannon, on a placement year.

HEQC News

**Questions and answers
for participants in the
Audit visit, 3-5 May 1995**

What is the Higher Education Quality Council?

The Higher Education Quality Council (HEQC) has been set up to contribute to the maintenance and improvement of quality, at all levels, in institutions of higher education in the United Kingdom. Through its activities it assures the public, the funding councils and the Government of the quality of higher education provision. It has three divisions: the Division of Quality Audit, which undertakes academic quality audits of institutions of higher education; the Division of Quality Enhancement, which assists institutions to maintain and enhance the quality of their educational provision; and the Division of Credit and Access, which works with universities, colleges and other organisations to facilitate credit transfer, by the development of systems for assuring the quality of portable credits and to assure the quality of access arrangements to higher education.

What is the Division of Quality Audit?

The Division of Quality Audit consists of a small permanent directorate and a number of part-time academic 'auditors'. Its particular concern is with the systems and procedures which an institution has in place to assure itself of the quality of its educational provision. The Division is not concerned with an institution's research activities, but its remit does cover postgraduate education, including research students.

How does an Audit work?

The audit team (which normally

comprises four people) requests briefing documentation from an institution about the way it assures its quality and standards. This covers the five main areas of concern to the Division:

- arrangements for quality assurance in the design, monitoring and evaluation of courses and degree programmes
- arrangements for quality assurance in teaching, learning and communication methods, including the role of external examiners
- arrangements for quality assurance in relation to academic staff
- arrangements for securing feedback, in particular, for taking account of students' views on courses, the views of external bodies such as professional accrediting bodies and employers
- arrangements for monitoring validation, franchising and other forms of programme provision undertaken in collaboration with other institutions.

Nene will have provided the audit team with information on its broad aims and objectives so that the quality assurance arrangements can be seen in context. In its visit, the audit team tries to learn to what extent procedures have been effective in practice. It is not inspecting, validating or accrediting programmes, courses or people. The team will have agreed a programme, giving it opportunities, through meetings with groups of staff and students at all levels, to follow up in some depth matters relating to quality assurance.

Who are the members of the Audit team?

Audit teams are composed of four senior, experienced academic and academic-related staff who have agreed to undertake audits on behalf of the Division of Quality Audit over an agreed period of time. They come from a variety of

institutions and have different disciplinary backgrounds. Although they have received induction and training, they are not full-time inspectors or evaluators.

What will happen after the visit?

A draft report will be written and sent to the head of your institution, who will have an opportunity to correct errors of fact, or misconceptions, based on a misunderstanding of the facts of the matter. In the light of these comments, a final report will be prepared, sent to the institution and published. This post-visit process takes about ten weeks.

Is this a one-off event?

The intention of the HEQC is that institutions will be audited every six years, with shorter review audits every three years.

*Peter Williams, Director, Division
of Quality Audit, HEQC.*

*Further information available
from Dr MJ Daniel, Assistant
Director, Academic Quality.*

•A database of 900 'kitemarked' Access Courses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland has gone on line on the Internet through ISS (National Information Services and Systems). A Summary Register of recognised Access Courses has also been published. This database is intended as a resource for higher education admissions tutors, educational guidance services, providers and national planning bodies. Further information from *Bridget Rogers/Karen McMullen*, HEQC, 344-354 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8BP. Tel: 071 837 2223

•The report of the CAT Development Project 'Choosing to change: extending access, choice and mobility in higher education' has now been published. Most of the

recommendations concern a national credit framework, funding and quality assurance. *Further information available from the address above.*

•The Council of Validating Universities has issued a new code of practice on validation and accreditation with the support of the HEQC and CVCP. This will be incorporated in the 1995 edition of the HEQC's 'Guidelines on Quality Assurance'. In the light of Nene's achievement of undergraduate degree awarding powers, these new guidelines will be more relevant to those involved with postgraduate courses. *Further information from Mr JHE Wood, Tel: 0524 65201 ext. 2774.*

•The 'Learning from Audit' report published recently by the HEQC highlights a number of important aspects remaining to be fully addressed in the quality management systems of audited universities. *Copies available from Orders Assistant, UCAS, Fulton House, Jessop Avenue, Cheltenham GL50 3SH.*

Professorial Appointments

**Following interviews by
the Academic Board, the
following members of
staff have been awarded
the title Professor.**

Professor of Education

Dr Christopher Winch

Professor of Industrial

Relations Dr Helen

Rainbird

Professor of Women's

Studies Dr Gabriele

Griffin

Professor of Geography

Dr Hugh Matthews

Professor of Business

Mr Joshua Bamfield

Research, publications, visits and conferences

•Child Sex Abuse - A Guide for Health Professionals - Celia Timms (writing as Celia Doyle). Celia Timms has also given a paper this Summer at a highly prestigious international conference on child protection.

•The Academic Study Group for Israel and the Middle East (a 16-year-old British charitable foundation promoting collaboration between British and Israeli academics) is offering 16 'modest' travel bursaries to Israel for research scholars in any field of enquiry. Further information from Marketing, ext. 2486.

•Kath Langley was asked by HMI Mike Ive on behalf of BP Oil UK Limited to be one of the six judges for the national finals of the 1994 Youth Hovercraft Competition in July in which 36 schools from all over the country were involved. Kath had previously been a judge for the Young Engineer for Britain Competition and the Gatsby Foundation in 1992. Fellow judges for the BP Competition were Tony James, BP Education Liaison Adviser, Squadron Leader Michael Cole, John Hardwick, Education Consultant, Jeremy Kemp, Hoverclub of Great Britain and Neil Smith, Hoveraid.

•The International Stage - Jenny Rogers, School of Education describes a Summer visit

The Annual Conference of the European Early Childhood Education Research Association moved this year from the heat of last year's location in Greece to the atmospheric climes of the Goteborg archipelago. The three day international conference hosted delegates from as far apart as Russia, the U.S.A., Australia and Finland. A total of 22 countries were represented. The presence and contributions of new delegates from the old Eastern Block gave cause for reflection; they were given a warm welcome. Both red-brick and the new universities were represented, providing an arena for the dissemination of research on the significant effects of 'Interactional Settings' in the education of young children. There was an emphasis on developmental psychology and the interpersonal factors that are found to have a profound effect on young children's learning. My own paper focused on the allied effects of semiotics, exploring the individual understandings and meanings of the young child in the area of mathematics. I was invited to present the findings of my research, the first phase of which has been conducted with Nursery age children. The lecture then generated questions and discussion as to the source of young children's informal mathematical knowledge, and the implications for the curriculum of the Nursery School - which also extends to ages 5, 6 and perhaps 7 elsewhere in Europe. In the UK it has so far seemed that the research covers new ground - but delegates specialising in the area and attending this symposium also considered that my findings open up a new field. The interest of international colleagues, the requests for copies and invitations to keep in touch proved to be really encouraging. The backing of my Head of School was greatly appreciated.

Furthering Higher Education

If you would like to know what a large number of the staff at Nene do in their spare time...read on. The last edition of NENENews (for those who can remember it) called for staff who had continued their education at Nene or Leicester to stand up and be counted. This they have done - in no small measure. There were two reasons for asking. The first connects with the formation of Nene's Alumni Association (no money involved, thanks for asking). A database is being set up as the first leg of keeping ex-students involved, partly through the medium of a biannual alumni magazine. The second is for publication in NeneNews -

Pat Potter, Technician, British School of Leather Technology p/t BSc Chemistry (Leicester) took 7 years, finished 1993. Married, 3 children, "I feel lost with nothing to do". Came to Nene on a 6 wk Women at Work Manpower SC placement and stayed.

Marion Ilsley, Geography p/t M.Ed. thesis (University of Leicester) on 'Teachers as effective curriculum implementers: evaluation of an experiment in in-service education', submitted May 1989.

Glynith Hill, Lecturer, St Andrew's School of Occupational Therapy undertaking an MA in Education, Oxford Brookes University

Diane Waruszynski, Lecturer, St Andrew's School of Occupational Therapy undertaking an MA in Psychodynamic Counselling at Birmingham University

Nancy Wright, Lecturer, St Andrew's School of Occupational Therapy undertaking an MA in Higher and Professional Education, Centre for HE Studies, London Institute of Education.

John Adams, Nurse Teacher, Sir Gordon Roberts MA in English Local History, Leicester University, completed August 1994

Jack Golding, Senior Lecturer in Construction Management MSc in Information Technology in Property and Construction, University of Salford, just completed and has been accepted onto a PhD course at the same institution.

Gary DaCosta, Senior Lecturer, Built Environment MBA in Educational Management, University of Leicester

Bob Smith, Head of the School of the Built Environment MBA in Educational Management

Toby Birch, Principal Lecturer, Art and Design MA in Professional Studies in Education Management, University of Leicester

Lurline Miller, Careers Advisor Ma in Professional Studies in Education Management

Jayn Oliff, College Accountant Part time Diploma in Management Studies, Nene 1990-92

Pauline Jewell, IT Services Part-time Diploma in Management Studies, Nene College

Congratulations are also due to Jonathan Vickers (Management and Business) and Tony Westbury (Sport and Recreation Studies) on the awarding of their respective PhD's in 'Marketing strategy and new product development in the UK credit card industry' (Aston University) and 'The cognitive determinants of state anxiety and their effects on performance in high risk sports' (University of Brighton, Chelsea School of Physical Education, Sport Science, Dance and Leisure)



(l to r David Halton, Norman Copland and Rosemary Watson)

What's On IN November

- 12 'Women in Management' Time and Stress Management day Workshop,**
Sunley Management Centre 10.00am-4.00pm
Further information from Kathryn Powell, ext. 2079
- 15 'Synetics' lecture with industrial case study,**
Professor Graham Rawlinson, University of Surrey
Grendon Lecture Theatre, 7.30pm
Further information from Dr M Molyneux, ext. 2372
- 16 Piano Trios by Beethoven, Suk and Brahms,**
Michael d'Arcy (violin), Hannah Roberts (cello)
and Simon Parkin (piano)
Holdenby, 7.30pm, admission free
- 17 'Managing for Growth'**
Seminar given by Sir Bryan Carsberg,
Director General of Fair Trading
Sunley Management Centre, 12.20pm-2.30pm
Further information from Sue Laste, SMC
- 30 The Swarbrick Singers, solo and accompanied choral music**
from the 19th century, conducted by Ian Clarke
Holdenby, 7.30pm, admission free

Would staff please note that all cars displaying an orange or red sticker belong to disabled students who have open access to the staff parking areas.

Mobile Moves

The mobiles that were until recently a feature of the teaching provision at Nene are now one fewer in number. Sunnyside Lower School now has one more. By virtue of a collaboration between Sunnyside (the school, not the pub), Nationwide and Nene, the not-so-mobile mobile was officially installed at its new home on Wednesday 14 September. Providing a classroom for children who had previously been taught in a crowded corridor, the mobile will be an extremely useful asset. The space thus released can now be used for a community and resources area, possibly doubling as a broom cupboard when the need arises. In his speech of thanks, Chairman of Governors Norman Copland stated that "we have been very fortunate in not only having acquired a building that will solve accommodation problems, but also extra space which gives us flexibility. We can look to the future with a bit of room to manoeuvre."

Congratulations to:

•Jacqui Weetman and Gary DaCosta on their engagement this summer. Jacqui, formerly Faculty Librarian for Design and Industry, is now working on the Gala Project as Guidance Development Officer (of which, more later). Gary is Senior Lecturer in the School of the Built Environment and currently working towards an MBA. As Jacqui commented "met in the Library at Avenue Campus and Gary has been receiving and excellent library service ever since!"

•Equal Opportunities Coordinator, Lesley Best who will continue in her post for another two years.

•Marianne Harding and Wendy Ball on their appointments as Print Room Manager and Print Room Supervisor (Avenue Campus)

respectively

•our Anglican Chaplain, Reverend Barbara Prowse who was ordained Priest in Peterborough Cathedral, and who celebrated Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Kingsthorpe in July. Barbara can be contacted in College any Tuesday around lunchtime in the Chaplaincy (Student Services Building), Park Campus.

NENE News

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Copy and photographs welcomed

For further information, contact either Amanda Black at Top Lodge, ext 2486 or Dr Molyneux, ext 2372.

