



## ***Health and Safety Award***



*David Symon (l) receives his Diploma from Sir Neville Purvis*

Nene's Health and Safety Advisor, Dr David Symon has been awarded the British Safety Council Diploma in Safety Management. One of only 40 people to gain the Diploma this year, Dr Symon studied safety law, communications, advanced safety management, occupational health & hygiene and risk management. The course was intensive, with a full five weeks training and five (more usually 18) months of theory and practice. Director General of the British Safety Council, Sir Neville Purvis explained "Good safety is good business and can save firms hundreds of thousands of pounds. In achieving the Diploma in Safety Management, David Symon has shown a commitment to improving health and safety in the workplace. Proper training for people at all levels of a company is vital, as accidents and illnesses at work cost this country up to £16 billion every year." The growing importance of an awareness of health and safety in the workplace is amply illustrated by the jailing of no less than six company directors and managers last year for health and safety offences. Dr Symon reinforces this. "It is no coincidence that the most successful businesses have the highest standards of health, safety and welfare. Low standards of health and safety dramatically reduce efficiency and profits. 90% of businesses that have a major fire cease trading within two years of the fire. In 1996-7 at Nene there were 367 incidents reported, of which 113 were false fire alarms. The fire service could charge the College up to £600 for each false alarm. I would not be surprised if the cost of incidents involving Nene College employees was well in excess of £100,000 and this figure is likely to be much larger if stress related ill health is considered. As the first full-time health and safety adviser at Nene College it is my aim to raise the standards of health and safety to a level where we would achieve a 5 star safety rating in an external audit. Clearly this will only be possible with the proactive support of each and every employee."

### ***Fees and Loans Workshop***



*Two participants in the successful 'Fees and Loans' workshop, organised for careers advisers, teachers and heads of VIth forms to address the implications for future generations of higher education students of the new fee structure.*

# SPOTLIGHT EXPOSE - Neville Holcombe



*Neville Holcombe*

two years. He rarely visits Park Campus but at Avenue Neville's face is as recognised as the building itself - a comparison which I know he wouldn't mind. As Neville pointed out himself "I make a point of knowing everyone on this campus, all the staff and even most of the students!"

Born in Bognor Regis, Sussex and raised in Littlehampton, Neville joined the army straight out of school at 15, serving 25 years. Neville claims to have only had three jobs in his life "The Army where I was involved with the radio, controlling the airwaves so to speak. The post office for six months and here at Nene College". Neville came to live in the Northampton area by chance. An army colleague told him that there was work and a house available in the area over the Links way. So, married by this time, Neville came to Northampton, saw the job for the College advertised, applied and within weeks started his position.

"It was as simple as that! My job title hasn't changed much in all the time I have been here. I was originally Superintendent caretaker and now I'm the Security Manager for the campus. It's essentially the same job but with more responsibility through the years."

### **What's your earliest memory of the College?**

Well for one thing it had a whole different atmosphere then. Staff were more relaxed and everyone knew each other. The College has grown so much in recent times that I think you lose that closeness between members of staff. However I still know pretty much everyone here but it has changed significantly! On the other hand though cleaners and caretakers weren't as respected and thought of as part of the team of staff that they are now. Cleaners were stereotyped as not knowing much but I feel that's all changed now, certainly over here.

### **What about the students - have they changed?**

Definitely. When Avenue first started up, the majority of students came here to do apprenticeships - builders, brickies etc. They were a different type of student to the people you get at the college now. For one thing they were mostly young lads coming to learn a trade and there was always one or two trouble makers amongst them. But as I said before I try to get to know many of the students over here and most of them are very friendly and good to have a chat with.

### **Are there any moments which stick in your mind?**

Two really. One of the most comical, well I suppose in hindsight it is, was when the Sports Hall set on fire. I was dressed up ready to go

In my job I don't get to visit Avenue Campus on many occasions; the buildings and the staff are still somewhat alien to me as opposed to Park Campus. So when it was decided that I would be interviewing Neville Holcombe, Avenue's Security Manager for this piece I did not know I would be meeting one of Nene's longest serving staff. Neville has held his position at Avenue Campus for twenty

years of age came to the office shouting and screaming that the sports hall was on fire! Well we eventually put the fire out after some time but it turns out that after the police became involved the little kid that raised the alarm was the one who started it in the first place!!! Let's just say I didn't end up going out that night because of the smell of smoke. Another incident that springs to mind was when we had a flood here. Around the front of the building where the staircases were, above there was a huge tank room. Someone was working up there one day and knocked a tap off - there was water everywhere! It looked like 'Niagara Falls' as water poured down both staircases.

### **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

I love meeting people. There's not a department I can't go in where someone will have a chat and a cup of tea. I have a great bunch of staff working for me here including 46 cleaners. Talking of chat there is not one thing I don't know about women's problems!! You have to learn to listen and appreciate staff to get the job done.

Is that one of the virtues you need to do your job?

Certainly. You do need to be a good listener. Looking after your staff is one of my main priorities and that means listening to people's concerns. You also have to be able to get things done and delegate tasks.

### **Who have you most admired during your time here?**

Les Skelton who was the Admin Officer over here and the old Assistant Director Arthur Angus. Arthur was a real gentleman and often liked a heated discussion or two with myself at times.

### **What do you do to relax?**

I used to enjoy visiting the Lake District three or four weekends a year with different members of staff. We would hire out a minibus and would drive out there so we could go on long walks. It was breathtaking sometimes with blue ice covering the landscape.

### **Sports/Hobbies?**

Until just recently I would go running. Everyday I would go around the Racecourse three times - I think that's about six miles. My record was eleven times once!!

I also enjoy horse racing. About three times of the year I go off to places like Thirsk and York.

### **Favourite Film?**

Any sort of mystery.

### **Book?**

I have read all the Agatha Christie novels and used to read two to three books a week in the army. I have a visual defect now so I don't really read.

### **Music?**

Any of that light music played on Radio 2 on a Saturday.

### **Any ambitions?**

Maybe one day to visit Malaysia again if I can afford it - which was one of my army postings. I've visited many places during my time in the army and would like to go back there.

### **How would you like to be remembered around the College?**

That I was always myself.

*Ricky Butler*

## Applications for Student Scholarships



*Simon Douglas in the Himalayas*

Within the next few weeks, students will be invited to apply for this year's Graduation Ball Scholarships. The scholarships are applicable for those who wish to pursue a one-off activity in the academic, sporting or expedition fields. Last year's recipient, Visual Arts student Simon Douglas, took part in a British Schools Exploring Society Expedition to the Himalayas. If any lecturers know of students who may be appropriate for this type of funding, please encourage them to apply. The total money available is £2500 - and it will therefore not be possible to help all applicants, but some will undoubtedly benefit.

## National Application Armageddon deferred - but Colleges suffer

The heavily trailed (or grossly hyped) major decline in national higher education applications this year has not happened. The final UCAS figures at the end cycle indicate that the fall is unlikely to exceed 3%.

But the pattern of applications has been disrupted with marked winners and losers. Some effect is geographical, with institutions who are distant from major population centres suffering declines (e.g. Exeter University has lost 9% of its applications), other losers are many of the former polytechnics and most Colleges of Higher Education. Winners have tended to be urban "traditional" universities.

Nene has seen a decline of 11% in its applications, about average for the CHEs. Nearly half the loss can be attributed to two major areas, Education (along with national trends) has lost 223 applications - over 2% of Nene's total, whilst the Psychology area has attracted 217 fewer applications. In both these cases the hope must be that, because of a high applications to places ratio, then final enrolments may not suffer proportionally.

Another significant national trend has been the way in which new course developments can effect institutional outcomes. For example, Edge Hill College has developed a good number of new courses this year, including Psychology, Media, Drama, Leisure Management and Criminology (Royal Flush!?) and has increased market share. Nottingham Trent has developed few new courses and has lost market share. Nene had relatively few new courses this year, but a crisp recruitment performance last year can largely be attributed to four new courses which started then.

Another national feature has been a general decline in HND applications, but two new courses associated with Nene have bucked this trend; Animal Welfare (plus 38 applications) and Media (plus 78 applications). Product Design at both HND and degree level has prospered (plus 24%). Another heartening feature has been a good start by the new Business Enterprise degree course.

Combined Honours at Nene has seen an overall 14% decline in applications but again there have been marked differences between courses. The Psychology major shrank by 26% but the Geography major grew by 10%.

Inevitably the question that arises is how will the overall decline affect actual enrolment here at Nene. The application position for 1998 appears surprisingly close to that for 1996. The outcome then was reasonable, because conversion improved; last year's rise in applications did not bear fruit as actual enrolments.

Steps to aiding conversion have included a much better package being sent to applicants including a clear guaranteed hall place offer; a newsletter to applicants in February is also planned. A complicating factor is that as well as enrolling, students will now have to pay a fee so the prognosis is essentially unclear and crossed fingers and hard work on conversion are probably in order.

### *Honorary Degree for Dr Gaskell*

Dr Gaskell will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Leicester at their final Northampton degree ceremony on July 8. Commenting, the Director said "To receive an honorary degree from any University is a great privilege, but I could not be more delighted than to receive this award from the University of Leicester, since the university has a distinguished record in my own academic field of Urban History and I have had links with Leicester since my first days as a research student thirty years ago.

I also appreciate that in so honouring me as Director of Nene College at this last Leicester University degree ceremony in Northampton, this award reflects the achievements of Nene in its long, fruitful and continuing relationship with the University. It therefore reflects the hard work, commitment and achievements of all the staff of the College who have given me such tremendous support since I became Director in 1989.

[This] is not the end of Nene's relationship with the University, but rather marks a new stage in our joint commitment to promote the highest possible standards of higher education for Northamptonshire."

## 10 Year Training Plan Culminates in National Award

Mature student Graham Murray, currently undertaking a Masters degree at Nene, saw off competition from 2000 entrants to win one of two coveted Supreme Awards in the 1998 National Training Awards Competition jointly sponsored by government and The Times newspaper.

An apprentice-trained electrical engineer, Graham joined the RAF in 1980, but a serious car crash curtailed his ambitions of becoming an education officer. Despite the subsequent four years of hospital treatment and permanent physical disabilities, he embarked on a 10 year training plan which was to see his career progress from 16-year old school leaver with one 'O' level to his current high flying position as Development and Training Manager for GEC Alsthom, responsible for 2,000 employees. At 35 he became the youngest ever Fellow of the Institute of Science and Technical Communicators.

During the 10 tough years of his career development, Graham gained no less than twelve academic qualifications ranging from City and Guilds to Masters degrees. For much of that time, he undertook full and part time work to finance his training. The first three years of the training plan, during which he was still employed full time by the RAF, were particularly tough. As he explained "Working part time to earn extra money was the only option open at the time. Working three nights each week, in pubs and as a disc jockey, raised sufficient money to finance studying undertaken during the remaining four nights." As Graham's remarkable achievements show, he had the motivation and the self discipline to succeed against the odds. "If it's to be", he says "it's down to me".



Graham receiving his award from Angela Rippon and Duncan Goodhew at the Regional Award Ceremony.

## Workings of Art

*As one leisurely strolls around campus one cannot help but notice the collection of new and old sculptures that are now on display. The variety of pieces on show are largely due to the efforts of the Committee of Friends of the Arts and Nene College. Comprising sixteen members and chaired by Lady Robinson, this article gives an insight into how some of the sculptures around campus came about. The Committee first met in 1995 with the aim of creating a collection of sculptures around Nene College.*

The first sculpture however had already been unveiled prior to this in 1993, when an international sculpture competition at Nene saw the now infamous "Bird of Transformation" erected. The piece, by Roland Piché, stands tall outside the staff entrance to the college and was chosen because Mr Piché had a particular interest in the Mediterranean region. His choice of sculpture therefore was the Ibis Bird associated with Egyptian mythology. The sculpture was commissioned to celebrate Nene's jubilee year and was sponsored by Gotch, Saunders and Surridge, the College's retained architects.

The second sculpture to be commissioned on campus was Charlotte Meyer's work- "Journey". This was constructed to celebrate the first phase of Nene's £50 million capital building development programme. Some may remember this as the occasion HRH the Duke of Gloucester visited the campus unveiling the new sculpture outside the restaurant and touring a collection of new buildings including the then newly refurbished Grendon IT suite.

The Committee, by way of sponsorship and fund raising commissioned a further piece in 1996, 'Geometry and Stone' by Michael Kenny. Based on a corner site opposite the shops and offices at Park campus, this sculpture has clear references to classical architecture and is intended to be quiet and contemplative.

So what can staff expect in the future from the committee? "The Guardians" by Nichola Godden has just arrived at Park Campus and is set to be officially unveiled later in the year together with "Geometry and Stone". This bronze statue is 6'5 high, has two figures - one female and one male. Interestingly however these statues do not touch yet appear to do so. "The Guardians" is to be placed on the grassed area between the Cottesbrooke building and the restaurant soon.

Coupled with this the committee has secured the loan of Judy Boyt's "Rebellion" sculpture currently at the Chelsea Harbour Exhibition, together with accepting the generous offer of a loan of Philomena Davidson - Davis' work.

The Committee therefore has achieved much in bringing these works of art onto Park Campus and should be commended for their efforts in such a short period of time. Avenue Campus has not been overlooked with recent developments and will feature committee's 1998 proposals.

With thanks to Melva Duley for the information supplied in this article.



Geometry and Stone'

## Modern Times, Modern Apprenticeships

New Personnel Office Junior, Louise Flannery, is one of Northamptonshire's Modern Apprentices. Having left Thomas Becket Upper School in May 1996, Louise worked through the long vacation for family friends. Although initially intending to return to school to start her 'A' levels in that September, the lure of money in her pocket dissuaded her and she started to look around for a paying job. By that time, she says, "going back to school was a last resort". When Nene's Office Junior post came along, she jumped at the chance and joined the College and the VIP scheme with which the job was connected last September. The placement will take at least 18 months to complete.

The VIP scheme to which Louise subscribes is open to 16-24 year olds and provides them with a card to 'buy' NVQ training alongside their chosen job. There are currently over 3,500 trainees in Northamptonshire, of which approximately 1300 are Modern Apprentices. The two main training routes are 'Jobroute', which starts at the lowest NVQ levels and the higher skill level Modern Apprenticeships. The VIP scheme is funded and arranged through the Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce, Training and Enterprise with local training firms, such as INTEC acting as brokers to provide the NVQ skills training elements of the placement. To date, 46 people have completed their Modern Apprenticeships since the scheme's inception in 1995. As the placements are generally not less than 18 months in length, and usually considerably longer, it will be some time before the whole of the initial cohort complete their training and the scheme can be properly assessed.

Louise is realistic about her career goals and the choice she made in not returning to school. "I'll be trained by the time my friends leave school. They'll end up doing what I'm doing anyway." She enjoys on-the-job training but says that she would "never go back into full-time education. I don't think I'll regret it at all - hopefully, I'll come out of it well. I was always confident, even at school. The fact that people were telling me I'd never do it made me more determined to do well. They used to throw statistics at me, percentages of people who end up unemployed- but I'm not going to be in that percentage. I'd advise anyone to do the scheme if they didn't want to go back to school. It is better than agency work - agencies are interested in making a profit whereas INTEC are looking out for you. You feel a lot more secure."



Louise Flannery

## Environmental Update

The Environmental Executive Working Group is again able to report the successful introduction of a number of measures which have helped the College to reduce wastage of valuable resources, usually hand-in-hand with financial savings. The group should be applauded for opting for a pragmatic rather than a dogmatic approach to the issues, easing the necessary process of cultural change in a large organisation.

Major developments include the reduction in recyclable waste of over 30% since 1995/96 and the current recycling on a College-wide basis of paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, metal, used cooking oil and organic material. To improve the recycling of organic waste, 3 new leaf composting silos have been created and a wood chipping machine purchased to recycle tree prunings.

Ongoing developments include a continuous improvement of reporting and data collection concerning energy efficiency. It is hoped to extend this to a building by building analysis. Similarly, the waste disposal and landfill audit is constantly updated. Several bids have been submitted to HEFCE for funding for estate work and refurbishing research laboratories. The partial tarmacing of the student car park at Park will be completed over the Easter vacation, guidelines on the use of email and the printing of email messages have been issued and meetings held with the St George's Community Wildlife Group to enhance and protect the wildlife area in the vicinity of the new Avenue Halls of Residence.

Proposals likely to be implemented in the near future include: providing cigarette receptacles at appropriate points on Park Campus; recycling food waste; further increasing the utilisation of email, noticeboards and scrap paper and reducing circulation lists; promoting the use of A5 over A4 paper; making recycled paper available subject to cost and quality.

*NB for those who like to quantify their contributions, the approximate landfill cost for 205 tons of (paper) waste would be £6,500. (This figure comes from Loughborough University's newsletter.)*

## Student Donation to Memorial Fund



Actor/Director Graeme Savage presents a cheque for £390 to Drama lecturers Frances Babbage and Bob Godfrey. The money was raised by a three night run of Shakespeare's Macbeth.

## Nene Hosts National Student Law Competition - Local Legal Experts Judge

Nene hosted the Northern Heats of the National Client Interviewing Competition on Saturday 24 January.

Twelve universities and colleges from the northern half of the country, including Nene, participated in this tough competition, judged by local 'legal eagles'. The judging panel included John Perkins, Secretary to the Northampton Law Society and Peter Newham of Northampton Borough Solicitors, representatives of counselling and voluntary agencies and practitioners from a number of Northampton Law firms.

Competitors, in teams of two, each undertook two client interviews on different aspects of housing law. The clients themselves (acted by Nene's Performance Studies students) were briefed to remain as uncommunicative as possible to test the team's interviewing skills to the full.

### Competing teams included:

Nene College of Higher Education

Leeds Metropolitan University

Liverpool John Moores University

Sheffield Hallam University

Hull University

Derby University

Staffordshire University

University of Central England

De Montfort University

Leicester University

Warwick University

Keele University with Warwick, Derby and Leicester progressing to the final.



Nene's team of Gregory Pattinson and Madeleine Burton in interview mode

# STUDENT Sport

## Interested in Sports Coaching? Then read on...

The Sport Studies Department in association with Northamptonshire County Council is running the National Coach Development Programme. If you are seriously interested in sport/coaching and want to attend the courses listed below, please contact Sport Technician, Ivan Preston (Sports Hall ext 2144), email [ivan.preston@nene.ac.uk](mailto:ivan.preston@nene.ac.uk) for an application form.

KEY COURSES (7.00pm - 10.00pm). Cost £6 for Nene students/staff, £12 for others

Course	Date
Coaching Children	11/2/98
Motivation and Performance	11/3/98
Delivering the Goods	18/3/98
Understanding and Improving Skills	22/4/98
Mental Preparation for Performance	13/5/98
Developing Endurance	10/6/98
Developing Strength and Speed	1/7/98
Developing Flexibility	7/10/98
Nutrition and Sports Performance	21/10/98
Analysing Performance	11/11/98
Prevention and Treatment of Injury	2/12/98

INTRODUCTORY COURSES (7.00pm - 9.00pm). Cost £3 for Nene students/staff, £6 others.

Course	Date
Working with Children	25/2/98
Planning and Practice	25/3/98
Safety and Injury	29/2/98
Working with disabled people	27/5/98
Mind over matter	24/6/98
Coaching awards	28/10/98
Body in action	25/11/98

## Winning Ways

Nene's Rugby 1st team will be playing their rugby in the premier league from next season. In a nail biting finale, Nene's victory over De Montfort by 45-8 points secured their promotion topping the league above Sheffield. All the hard work and effort has paid off and surely now Nene can put their skills to good use against rugby giants such as Newcastle and Loughborough.

## Cobblers on Campus

Northampton's premier football team, accurately named 'The Cobblers' came to Nene to play a one-off game against the College's not-so-appropriately named Llama XI, captained by 'The Llama' himself aka Graham Starmer, SU Clubs and Societies Administrator. Jon Ward, Editor of the Students' Union paper reports.

On Wednesday 10th December the Llamas took on the mighty Cobblers in a show piece game to celebrate the opening of the new J.J. Gallagher pitches. The Cobblers side was mainly made up of youth players but there were 3 or 4 who have played for the first team. The Llamas kicked off and despite early pressure actually took the lead through Ross Crick (who else) and for about 10 minutes the

Llamas were leading against Northampton Town. All of this however proved to be too much for the Llama himself (Clubs & Societies Manager) who was excited at being on the same pitch as his much vaunted heroes. Despite offering substantial resistance to the inevitable the pressure became too much and the Cobblers quickly equalised and then took the lead. In the second half the Llamas again acquitted themselves well but were now up against it especially in terms of fitness and technique. The highlight of the second half for the home side was when Ross (who else) scored the team's second goal. From then on it was one way traffic but all the boys said it was a good day and an invaluable experience. Many thanks again to the Llama himself for organising such a prestigious match and to Ross for keeping us in touch (even though we were losing 9-1)

## STUDENT News

### SU Appointments

Ward has become the new editor of the Students' Union paper - Phenomenene. Jon has been at Nene for five years studying a HND in Business and Finance together with a BA in Business Administration and Law. More recently he has completed a Masters Degree in International Business and has big plans for the SU publication.

Jon's recent experience with postgraduate education has influenced him to include a piece on the topic in the next edition of the paper. "I want to inform students about what their options are concerning postgraduate education. Not every one seems to be aware of what is involved and what they can actually do". Jon also wants to tackle topical issues which will be of use to students like advice on car parking and how to fill out a job application. But his plans for the paper extend beyond this and he is keen to double the paper's size by the end of the academic year. "Looking at other student publications you realise that we need more in terms of content and although we are working with a tight budget I am sure myself and my team of editors can achieve this".

Laying down his blueprints for the paper Jon was also quick to include his plans for the up and coming RAG week. "Raise And Give week is all about Raising and Giving as much money as we can to designated charities. The week of fund raising begins on the 16th March and ends on the 20th". The Students' Union hope to donate the raised funds to four selected charities including donations to; meningitis research, The Mayor's charity - Turning Point, The Lowdown in association with Northampton College and WARBL. Already events are in the pipeline including a 'Full Monty' night, street collections and a sports night based around the quiz 'They think its all over'.

Jon would like to invite all members of staff to get involved with RAG week and any ideas are welcomed. Jon can be acted on ext. 2643.



Jon Ward

## Student News in 97

- Past and present construction students at Nene were awarded with prizes for their work by the Construction Industry Management Training Partnership.
- Five BA Business Studies students went to Canada in 1997 to participate in the Championship round of the NIBS case competition. Although Nene missed qualification by one point during the finals, the team according to lecturer Corri Farquharson were "ambassadors for Management and Business at Nene".
- The first student polling booths were opened during the summer of 1997. Final numbers of votes cast exceeding previous year's figures when only 26 students cared enough to vote!!!!
- First year BA fashion student Emma Bassnett won the Cancer Research Campaign Recycled Fashion competition. Wonderbra model Caprice displayed Emma's costume.
- 1997 saw six Nene College students successfully placed on the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme - an eight week business placement which aims to give students experience of a working environment. Only 30 places were available in the county with 112 students applying from top universities throughout the British Isles.
- Second year BA Business Studies students were involved in a collaborative teaching initiative with Whitbread UK this year to aid their examination revision. Students were asked to tackle a real life dilemma faced by the group in 1993 and present their findings to the Managing Director for Whitbread Restaurants.

## ELEVATED STUDIES

Nene is set to become the first institution in the UK to offer an accredited Masters Degree in Lift Engineering. The course is expected to run from September 1998 and will provide a postgraduate level qualification by Distance Learning for people employed in the Lift Industry. In partnership with the Lift and Escalator Industry Association, Lift Engineering has been taught by Distance Learning within the School of Technology and Design at Nene since 1983. The College is, therefore, in a strong position to extend its provision to postgraduate level. Philip Andrew, Course Leader said "We are the only place in the country that offers the course, and one of the only places in the world that offers this kind of study. We tailor the course so that students gain an understanding of how lifts work across the world, and not just one country".

The course will make innovative use of the Internet as a support aid for all its students. All of the students will be able to network world-wide on the Internet with each other and with members of Nene staff to gain advice and support throughout their studies.

Mr Shiner, Technical Director at Messrs Kone Lifts stated "This course answers what I perceive to be a long standing need for a high level academic route to gaining a demonstrable professional competence in this subject. It will assist in the education of young general engineering graduates and more practically experienced engineers to attain a professional level of competence".

# NEWS *in* BRIEF

- Ken Bland, School of Education, has been awarded a grant of £2000 from the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation to research into the current position of the teaching of Japan in the first three years of secondary education. The same foundation awarded a £4000 grant last year to establish a curriculum project on Japan with local secondary schools.
- Moulton College has turned up its corporate nose at Nene's culinary talents. It was reported in the minutes of the Environmental Executive Working Group that Moulton (on behalf of its pigs had) "declined the opportunity to re-cycle the College's food waste." The Group is now hunting for other local troughs to fill.
- With immediate effect, there will be a freeze on staff recruitment. Posts already advertised will go ahead.
- Domestic staff at Nene were offered the opportunity by the OESD to undertake a basic computer familiarisation course. Approximately 40 have since signed up.
- A slap on the back to the Student Women's 1st Rowing four whose thoroughly respectable time of 13.47 in the Cambridge Head race at the end of January compared more than favourably to the College's men's crew who were almost a minute slower. Not bad for a second outing as a crew with a novice cox!
- Joshua Bamfield has been appointed to the post of Visiting Professor in Management
- In 1997, the average starting salary for new graduates, excluding London allowances, was £15,500. More than half of the organisations responding to the AGR survey were unable to fill their vacancies last year. Information courtesy of the Association of Graduate Recruiters
- Congratulations to the BSc Architectural Technology team, whose course has been granted recognition by the Association of Building Engineers, giving graduates exemption from the Association's examination entry requirements. The part-time BSc in Quantity Surveying, approved in July, has also gained recognition from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. These successes follow on from the same School's recognition by the British Computer Society last year.
- Further congratulations to Engineering for their score of 18 out of a total of 24 points in the recent QAA visit report.



## Thanks

The Sunley Management Centre would like to thank Matthew Wootton and his Madrigal Group for entertaining our guests at the Sunley Customer Christmas Lunch on 18 December. Their Christmas music created a warm and festive atmosphere and was enjoyed by all. Many thanks!

*Viv Sloan, SMC Business Development Manager*

## Obituaries

The College was notified on 19 Jan of the death of Mrs Snedker, a former member of the Domestic Staff.

## Promoting Quality in Education

The Centre for Higher Education Studies is running a workshop on 'Promoting Higher Quality Learning and Teaching in Higher Education' on 6 March. Further information from Amanda Black on ext.2486

### NENE News

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