

## Fruitful Future for O.T.



*With the new Kelmarsh building recently opening at the beginning of the year, Ann Turner, Head of Division of Occupational Therapy, gives us a brief history into how the new facility established itself on Park Campus.*

November 2nd 1997 saw a gathering of over 250 ex students and staff from St. Andrew's School of Occupational Therapy who united to wish farewell to the School's current site in the grounds of St. Andrew's Hospital, where it has been housed since its foundation in 1941. As the second oldest School in England, St Andrew's has a 56 year history of training occupational therapists. Its original cohort of only six students worked in the hospital wards and were taught by local doctors and craftsmen.

As the School grew it moved to a site in Priory Cottage. A grand house, now a listed building, it was originally the home of the Medical Director and, to this day, the buttons used for calling the maid up to the bedrooms can be seen in rooms now converted to staff offices. Despite only being allowed to use the back staircase in Priory Cottage many students from the early days forged exceptional careers. St. Andrew's has trained occupational therapists who have become heads of training schools, District O.T.s, Service Managers and Chairmen of Council.

With the changing face of occupational therapy education, the occupational therapy school merged with Nene College of Higher Education in 1992. Whilst remaining, until now, on its existing site, the occupational therapy School metamorphosed into the Division of Occupational Therapy within the Nene Centre for Healthcare Education.

During the move onto Park Campus many archival artefacts, including an original Camden Rehabilitation Cycle Fretsaw and a Fletcher Wiltshire over-bed weaving loom (pioneering rehabilitation equipment from the 50s and 60s) have been unearthed and dusted down. In discussion with the college of Occupational Therapists these, and other artefacts from the early days of the profession, have become of interest to the British Museum in relation to their celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of the National Health Service.

The School began operating from its new site in January. Its design includes, amongst other features, an excellent daily living suite which has been designed to facilitate the development of an Independent Living Centre to serve both the local population as well as staff and students at Nene and practitioners in local occupational therapy services.

In her address, Lady Braye, former Chairmen of the Occupational Therapy School Management Committee, marked the celebration of this move as a "rite of passage" and in the history of the School of Occupational Therapy. The existing strong links with St. Andrew's Hospital are set to remain and the School looks forward to the next stage in its long and fruitful history.

*Ann Turner*

## **Radon Research**

The radon research group, led by Dr Paul S. Phillips (Environmental Science) and Mr Tony Denman (Visiting Fellow) continues to go from strength to strength. Their academic, and educational, papers have been well received by the research community and they are going to Cambridge, April, to give a lecture to the Cambridge Society for the Application of Research.

This is a recognition of the importance of their work as this organisation only deals with areas that are of current or emerging priority. The lecture, Silent but Deadly - Radon, at Churchill College should further cement the good name of Nene.

The Northamptonshire Resource Efficiency Project - led by Dr Paul Phillips - continues to go from strength to strength. This very significant County Project is financed by Regional Government funds. In its first six months it has exceeded all the targets set by the Government and is receiving interest from across the world. Dr Phillips has recently been invited to lecture on this at the "International Conference on Solid Waste Technology" in Philadelphia this Autumn.

*Paul Phillips*

## **National Depression Day**

Wednesday 22 April was National Depression Day, aiming to attack some of the common misconceptions about depressive illness. Joanna Lester of Student Services put up displays in Holdenby Reception and the Students' Union giving information about depression and where help could be reached. Anyone who would like further information can contact Joanna on ext. 2404.

# STAFF *Sport*

## Staff Vs KUS ( 5 - 2 )

If the world cup didn't go ahead this summer many of the spectators watching this annual match would still feel contented that they had seen the best football played this year! Fresh from their latest victory over BABS students, Nene staff took on the curiously youthful might of Kingsthorpe Upper School; hungry for another win.

The pre match warm up or 'kick around' for Nene staff, lead to a display of an 'All-Black' chant by the opposition as they tried in vain to deter the confident Nene in front of a capacity strong crowd (Nene's substitutes). The match started with the ball being volleyed from end to end with spectators watching the sky for the majority of the time to get any glimpse of the action. The first twenty minutes were pretty even with both sides showing signs that they could indeed play football and not just run around looking professional. A breakthrough came midway through the first half. A run from a KUS player down the left hand side of the pitch saw him score from just outside the area with a lob over Nene's keeper. On retrospect it would be fair to say that Nene's MAKE SHIFT KEEPER was caught off guard napping or that he simply wasn't tall enough. Either way it was a blip on Nene's horizons as this only encouraged them to find an equaliser before half time.

The constant pressure on KUS's defence eventually lead to the equaliser on the stroke of half time. A crossed ball into the box lead to a scuffle of action and the quick footed Brendan D'Cruz slammed home the well deserved goal.

Before the second half got underway Nene rearranged its team and brought on fresh legs to try and clinch the game. With Nene's first choice keeper out injured, the captain Roger Dixon opted to place this reporter in goal under much protest, the team would now clearly suffer through lost experience and my quick pace out on pitch, I thought. However this was not the case. Nene's fitness or KUS's lack of it started to show as two goals were scored in quick succession. One of the best moments of the half came when a corner crossed in from the right met the head of Jamie Weatherston and he headed Nene further ahead. This was followed by a soft free kick from Jamie which the keeper reacted to by letting the ball slip through his hands (Jamie would tell you otherwise).

Nene's flurry of goals continued through the second half and was momentarily stopped by a finish from one of Kingsthorpe's younger players but this didn't tarnish a 5 - 2 victory in favour of Nene as the final whistle blew. Glen Hoddle must now surely recognise the talent that is Nene - University College Northampton's Staff Football Team.

## Many congratulations

...to Bill Brakes for completing the London marathon course on Sunday 26 April.

...to Corri Farquharson for finishing 15th in the Merseyside Ladies Cycling Association Road Race in Skelmersdale on 19 April. Her next major event is the National Championship 10 mile time trial.

## Badminton Challenge

A 'friendly' badminton match took place on April Fool's Day between Nene staff and our (retained) architects Gotch Saunders and Surridge, resulting in an unexpected but, of course thoroughly deserved(!) victory for Nene by 20 wins to 14. Several members of staff were seen in an entirely new light, their hitherto unknown aggressiveness coming to the fore, matched only by their drinking proficiency afterwards in the Sunnyside. There is talk of a possible return match at either cricket or rounders as GSS wish to 'put the record straight'. Our thanks go to Matthew Waite (Nene) and Derrick Ward (GSS) for organising a very enjoyable evening and to Gotch Saunders and Surridge for providing the trophy which is on display in Mobile MO2!

*Ann Barr, Estates Office*

## Women's lunchtime running

If there are any women out there who have discovered or would like to discover the joys of running and would like some company for lunchtime (or even evening) runs, I would love to set up a regular group. Whatever your standard of fitness, if you are remotely interested, would like to start training up for next year's London marathon or simply get out of the office and into the fresh air for half an hour, please contact Amanda Black in CAMs on ext. 2486 or via email. Bradlaugh Fields makes a great run and the Sports Hall facilities at Park are free for staff. So get out there and go for it!

# STUDENT *Sport*

## Results

The 'Llamas' Saturday Football team reached the Pinner Cup Final for the second year running. The final was held for the first time at Sixfields, the home of Northampton town FC.

## 'Big' Jack for Sports Awards Night

Football legend Jack Charlton will be the special guest speaker at this year's Sports Awards Evening. The event, now in its sixth year, will be held at the SU, Park Campus on Wednesday June 3. Also appearing is comedian John Moloney who has recently appeared on Channel Four. Once again, there will be awards for all the College teams, culminating in the 'Sports Personality of the Year' award.

*Graham Starmer, SU Clubs and Societies Officer*

## Law student is top road racer

Mark McKay, a mature student on the LLB has managed to combine a successful career as a road racing cyclist with his study and a part time job. Winner of the King of the Mountains title (shades of Peer Gynt?) in the 1993 Milk Race, Mark is still confident of his abilities. "I still think that, given the right backing, I can be at the top of the tree as a rider in England, but with college, I'm looking further down the line at my future."

# STUDENT News

## Law Society



President and Vice President of the Law Society Clare Bennett and Lisa King with Lord Slynn of Hadley

The Law Society Annual Ball took place at the end of February at the Swallow Hotel. As usual, it was a very successful evening and saw that everyone let their hair down with a few beers and an excellent three course meal! On top of this Lord Slynn of Hadley provided us with a few words which kept everybody's interest and generated a few chuckles. On the whole, everyone who attended had an excellent evening and we would like to thank all who came along and supported the event.

Clare Bennett (Law Society President) and Lisa King (Vice-President)

## The slow Road to Uganda

Jonathan Dawson, Year 3 BSc Environmental Science student describes his work experience abroad with the 'Frontier' organisation.

In my second year at Nene, I challenged myself to the task of juggling college work with fundraising, so that I could complete my 'work experience' abroad as I wish my vocation to involve environmental work and travel. Uganda was my destination mainly because it was so distant and exciting. The fund raising process was half the journey. It is advisable to think of the most wacky way of doing this (people do not tend to give you a sponsored walk, but may give more to spending a day with green jelly down your pants)! I opted for the sponsorship approach, contacting companies and organisations for funds. Nene gave a sum through its own grant scheme and my own personal finances (including a student loan) made up the shortfall.

The expedition itself was unbelievable, although the destination had changed from that advertised to another part of Uganda due to rebel activity in our primary destination. Nsadzi Island, on Lake Victoria, was the first destination, where we had to survey the island to determine its future uses as it was going to be turned into a sustainable project whereby an eco-tourism camp will be designed and an agro-forestry plot was already emerging to feed the tourists. The work was hard, but that just gave you the excuse to play hard (we valued beer over food, both of which we got from a supply run every week). Interaction with the villages gave you the opportunity to develop language skills and social cooperation skills. A satellite camp was set up on the next island called 'ngamba', where again we surveyed the island using transect plots and bio-diversity techniques. This time, the work was for the Jane Goodall Institute, whose primary interest is in primates especially chimpanzees. Our work enables an understanding to be developed, so problems the chimps might face on the island, and the effect the chimps will have on the island can be investigated. The last three weeks saw us move to a Savannah area near Emburu National Park. The plot of land we surveyed was owned by the President of Uganda and our task was to find the best area for one lion's use. Because this lion was too

habituated to simply be let loose into the wild, a very large electric fence will be erected to give him the freedom he needed. During this phase I came down with 'jardia', a stomach complaint that caused me to make many sprints to the 'Bog Trench'! I also found out I was suffering from Bilharzia, a parasite which had invaded my body through swimming in Lake Victoria. These were not happy times, but I was glad the organisation was prepared for every eventuality and were professional to the end.

If you look at it as a challenge of all your skills, social and practical, then the rewards are massive. It's important to remember that talk is cheap and experiences are everything, so....GO FOR IT!!!

## Student Successes in Brief

- Winner of the first sponsorship award for students of the Diploma in Gerontology was Karen Russell. The sponsorship is an annual award given by Ashbourne Homes' Argyle House in Northampton.

- Mark Harrison won the first Patricia Wills Memorial Prize for the best MA Modern English Studies dissertation entitled 'Static Dreams: Imagining the Body Unbound'. Patricia Wills was a member of the initial course intake who died last year after a short illness.

- Three international students were featured on Anglia Television in April in a novel cookery programme. Shot in the kitchens of the new Halls, thanks go to all the domestic, accommodation, security and maintenance staff who made the day possible and to the students who gave up their kitchens for a hectic day of filming.

- Second year students on the HND Graphic Design course won gold and bronze awards in the Institute of Packaging Student Awards. Wing Pui Man won the Gold Star Award of £250 and the Boots Contract Award of £500.

- Also from the HND Graphic Design, Matthew Robinson won the Consort Royal Graphic Design Award for the design of the 1997 calendar and Karen Edmunds won an award for PR work and organisation.

- Three Nene students - Catherine Summerlin, Christa Best and Lynsey Harper - represented their institution within the South East University Netball Squad in Nottingham. The tournament attracted both present and future England players.

- First year BSc Product Design student Morag Larsen was to run the London Marathon on April 26th in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief.

- BA Graphic Communication student Gurminder Gill won the Barclaycard competition to design a mural to celebrate the launch of the new Barclaycard building.

- Oliver Leviathan, BA Visual Arts student won another Barclaycard competition to design a trophy for the 1998 Company Barclaycard Executive Traveller of the Year.

- With the final votes in and counted the new sabbatical team for next year are Paul Buckley (President), Kumel Singh Heer (Vice President - Communications) and Dan Persaud (Vice President - Welfare). The new term of office starts on July 1st.



Karen receives her award from Nick Hill, Manager of Ashbourne Homes at Argyle House

## Babs Come Home

Every March BA Business Studies students on their third year work placement are invited back to the institution for one day to share their experiences. Working in the Marketing department on my placement year, I went along to meet up with my colleagues as well as share what I had learnt working for this organisation.

The day started with the whole BABs team meeting up after almost seven or more months away from the college. Not every one was able to attend because of work commitments or due to the fact that many students had been successfully placed abroad. It was interesting to see the wide range of positions people had acquired. For instance two people within the group were working for British Steel in Corby while others had taken jobs at Avon, Coca Cola, Kalamazoo, Pizza Land, Rank Xerox and my personal favourite Silverstone. However some students within the groups had taken jobs with charities such as Oxfam and therefore were not being paid for their efforts. Bina Patel commented "Not being paid is difficult but my position within Oxfam gives me so much responsibility, this acts as my motivation to do the job. I run one of the distribution centres which delivers to 30 or so shops in my region which requires a lot of co-ordination and delegation of tasks".

Some students had to overcome the constant label of being 'a student' and had found it hard to gain the respect they deserved from their work colleagues. However, many had displayed their true worth within the individual companies and as a result have been offered a full time position once they graduate.

One of the high points for one student, Adam Peel, was running his own Pizza Land store for the week. "Because the manager of the Drapery Branch of Pizza Land was away for the week I had total responsibility for the store and all the staff. This involved sorting all the takings and wages as well as the buck stopping with myself if there was any customer complaints of any sort. However I wouldn't recommend anyone going into Retail if they don't know what they are doing, the hours are very long and staff can sometimes be difficult to manage. I was lucky I had worked part time in the store before I got this position so no one could undermine my authority and say that I didn't know what I was doing."

The majority of students I spoke to on the day said that their placement had been worthwhile and an invaluable experience in terms of their learning. While some moaned about the long hours and early starts I think people learnt lessons, be they good or bad, that they could never be taught in the lecture theatre.

With thanks to the BABS team for a good day!

*Ricky Butler, placement student with CAMs*

## If they don't believe you, speak louder

From a member of the external relations department at a well-respected Midlands university comes the following advice on marketing your institution. "Say things often enough and loud enough so that enough people end up believing it i.e. "The university of [insert name] is one of the UK's top five research universities and is a high quality, cutting edge, research led, industrially relevant, vocationally orientated leading practitioner of lifelong learning with an international reputation and a commitment to its local region/city/canton/village/hamlet/nearby shopping centre." Could work...."

## Leather Conservation Centre



*Left to right: Geoff Otley, Roy Thompson and Dr Gaskell celebrate the official opening of the Leather Conservation Centre*

## Nene is Lone Northampton Finalist for Business Award

In the East Midlands Competitiveness Awards which took place in late March, Nene won the accolade of being the only representative from Northampton for the 'People' category, in the light of its recognition as an Investor in People. The awards were established "to recognise organisations which are exemplars of best practice and which can be considered actual or potential world class performers." The judges were impressed by Nene's development over recent years, citing the very large increase in the numbers of students attracted to study in Northampton, the high degree of satisfaction shown by students and the recognised excellence in student support. Assistant Director, Dr Daniel, who, with Andrew Castley, spearheaded the drive to attain IiP status, commented. "We remain one of the very few university organisations which has achieved the prestigious Investors in People award, and the achievements which led to our being selected as a finalist are based on the excellence of our staff and the enthusiastic way they have taken up development opportunities. All this feeds through to ensure that students get the very best opportunities to succeed and the judges were clearly very impressed with this."

## Rag Week Update

This years "Raise And Give" week has been the most successful to date. The period of fund raising ended on the 20th March and events included an Irish Night, Llamarama event as well as appearances from Nene's very own 'Spice Girls' and 'Full Monty' boys. Natasha Burton, one of the organisers for the week commented "We are all pleased with the way RAG week has turned out. The total amount of money raised so far is £2,700. This doesn't include the money raised in conjunction with Booth Lane this year which is an additional £2,000". A Car Boot Sale and Fun Day have also been organised for June 7th with the aim of raising further donations. Natasha and John would like to thank everyone involved in the weeks fund raising.

## Students & Part-time Employment

Educational and Careers Guidance Services have recently completed a research project to investigate the skills which students develop through part-time work and how these skills can be applied to career planning and job seeking. The project, aptly entitled "I only did it for the money" was funded through the Department for Education and Employment Higher Education Regional Development Fund and undertaken by former Nene MA student Dawn Weatherston. A pack for students who work part-time has been produced which encourages the recording of transferable skills developed during their employment and draws attention to the resources available in College. Local employers will also be circulated with information. Further details are available from Roger Prout, Head of Careers and Educational Guidance.

The project recommendations included highlighting 'ideal' student jobs offering 10 hours or less per week, preferably over no more than 2 shifts. More hardhitting was the suggestion that "academic staff may need to consider the structure of courses as it appears to be a key factor affecting students' ability to combine work and study."

## Student Project to Aid Digital Mapping of County Landscapes

NORSCI has agreed to fund a joint project between UCN's School of Environmental Sciences and Northamptonshire Heritage to utilise Geographical Information Systems (GIS) techniques to digitally map historical county landscapes. The project will draw upon the survey of the medieval and post-medieval field systems of Northamptonshire conducted over the last 30 years by David Hall. This survey involves the use of field survey, documentary research and use of aerial survey data. In conjunction with this, the prehistoric and Roman landscapes of Northamptonshire are being mapped county wide by GIS. The students involved in the project will be mapping out a small area of the south west of Northamptonshire between Banbury and Brackley.

## The Hazards of Duke Street



Ryan and Richard in the Walgrave studio

A group of 12 2nd and 3rd year BA Visual Arts students added a different spin to their final year exhibition by renting a town centre warehouse to display their material. As group member Richard Greaves explained, the group wanted to make a name and a place for themselves in Northampton where "there are a lot of people interested in the Arts who just need somewhere to go." The exhibition displayed a variety of media,

from painting and printmaking to photography and sculpture. Ryan Everson and Richard Greaves spearheaded the move to get the warehouse ready for exhibiting and to inform as wide a public as possible of their presence. They hope to carry on the warehouse/gallery next year after graduation and to give those students who wish to take up art as a career a base in Northampton from which to exhibit their material.

## Backing for Bolton bid

The THES (Apr 17) showed Assistant Director Dr Daniel batting for Bolton Institute in its bid to attain university status. Dr Daniel was one of 120 vice-chancellors, external examiners, moderators and visiting professors to sign Bolton's campaign. Meanwhile, Roehampton Institute (like Bolton, currently able to award both taught and research degrees) has stated its preference for attaining full university status through federation with the University of Surrey.

## What's in a Name?

*For a little light relief, a few anagrams of our soon-to-be-new name of University College Northampton*

- Violent, contrary, huge simpleton.
- Lovingly coherent permutations.
- Prettily huge, moral conventions.
- Phantoms rogue violently. Cretin.
- Potentially overnight consumer.
- Honestly violating procurement.
- Unloving or aptly-chosen termite.
- Is not over-the-top, uncleanly, grim.
- Computation grovels inherently.
- Insultingly over-the-top romance.
- Roguishly contemplate inventor.

# HEFCE News

## HEFCE Celebrates Funding Cuts

Professor Brian Fender, Chief Executive of the HEFCE, has come up with a novel way to sell funding cuts to the higher education sector - make it sound like good news. "The Government's new financial arrangements have started to improve the overall funding position of higher education", he proudly announced. "Next year will see a reduction in overall funding per student of less than 1 per cent in real terms". The rationale behind Fender's delight in this cut stems from the massive 35% cut in public funding in real terms that higher education has faced over the last 8 years. In the face of this, a 1% cut must seem like a drop in the ocean. Some comfort can, however, be gained from the fact that the Funding Council are relaxing their stranglehold on student numbers this year. Although limits are still imposed on the maximum number of students institutions can recruit who are eligible for LEA awards, there is no longer a minimum as long as institutions keep within 5% of the standard level of resource.

**Extra student numbers** have been dealt with by allocation through a competitive bidding process. The regional distribution of these extra numbers sees the East Midlands at the very bottom of the scale, both in terms of actual numbers of students and as a percentage of existing numbers.

**The Institute for Learning and Teaching**, a new professional body to promote high-quality teaching in universities and colleges, should be up and running by the autumn. Main tasks of the Institute will be: to develop a national accreditation scheme for training teachers in HE; to commission research into teaching and learning practices and to encourage innovation in teaching and learning.

**Yet more on quality.** A joint working group has been set up to develop performance indicators and benchmarks for universities and colleges. It plans to consult widely on its findings towards the end of this year.

**An interim Arts and Humanities Research Board** is to be established pending a decision by Government on whether to set up an Arts and Humanities Research Council. The Board will allocate research grants as well as postgraduate awards.



*Charles Mynard (left) receives the College Court Award from Sir John Lowther*

## Congratulations to..

... Construction on the successful outcome of the TQA Assessment of Building and Civil Engineering. Their score of 19 reflects very creditably on the course team, who scored top marks for both Student Support and Guidance and Learning Resources. Nick Boutle, Head of the School of Technology and Design commented "We are delighted at the thoroughly satisfactory outcome of the TQA and particularly gratifying was the recognition of the strength of the support and care within the school and the excellence of classroom teaching which the external assessors identified."

## Graphic Synthesiser Project

Run in conjunction with local paper and packaging company Robert Horne, some 15 Product Design students undertook a project to design a paper sample attaché case for the firm's reps. Working in groups, the suggestions put forward by the students were presented to the Board on 24 April. The work of 4 students, Jonathan Hughes, Luke Steele, Philip Rogers and Dominic Camarda was chosen to be put into production - so impressed were Robert Horne that they are currently liaising with their legal department to copyright the design.

## LUNCHTIME CONCERTS



*Colette Henshaw, in baroque dress, performed one of the lunchtime recitals*

## Student Success - Vanita Dhand



"I began" for me on the 23 September 1990. I belonged to the 'Elite Team', the very 1st BABS group. The best years of my student life were spent at Nene, I met great people and had the opportunity to be taught by some great lecturers. Nene College for me was the beginning of my learning!!

In the year of my placement after numerous applications, I successfully gained a placement in Nene at Park Campus; the role I was to undertake was part-time Management and Business Marketing Officer with the brief: "to market all part-time courses within the Faculty." I started with meeting the department heads and course leaders to find out what existed. I decided that it would be beneficial if Nene had a promotional video. Mike Cuthbert, who was my supervisor said "Do it". So I put pen to paper, wrote a script, arranged with students on the DMS and other courses to be part of my video, which I have been informed is still being used nationally." The video was done from scratch, with Vanita drawing matchstick people à la Lowry in place of a storyboard. "I learnt a lot as I was going along and really got the feel for it. I knew I wanted to go into creative marketing. That's where I really got the creative buzz. I learned vast amounts about media, marketing and promotional marketing, gained confidence and a sense of achievement." The confidence in particular came from this early success - many colleagues complimented her on the organisation of the part-time Open Days. "I think a lot of it is that I had the free rein to do it. I wasn't pulled back. I gained a lot out of it. I would say to anyone, if you can get a placement year, do it."

1994 was my final year, dissertations, exams, assignments and lots of worry. After a year of working it was a bit difficult to get into it, but I succeeded. July 1994 - a hot summer's day, I graduated, a day I will never forget!" Looking for marketing jobs immediately after graduation, however, was not a happy time, the procedure was too competitive and the interviews "very pressurised".

After a break in Canada and a job as a marketing assistant in a pharmaceutical stocktaking company. I decided to further my education and join the University of Middlesex to do the MA in Marketing Management." During her course she was lectured by such luminaries as the President of the International Trade and Export Board, the Editor of the British Journal of Advertising and the man who brought the Dime bar to the UK. Hoping for a

break during the placement, she got an interview after only a week, openly admitted her weaknesses to be languages and computing and was offered a job undertaking a project to develop a pan-European computer system! The interviewer, she says, was "completely sold - "Can you start next week?" The company she began work for, Pourshins, sourced food and drink used by airlines to prepare in-flight meals. The Monday of her first week constituted a briefing, on Tuesday, she was at Mosimann's, on Wednesday meeting with the airlines, debriefed on Thursday and on Friday, she met the major suppliers, including Coca Cola where she "pulled out all the talk. It went down a treat.". The system she designed aimed to be a fully cross-referenced database of all the products Pourshins were able to source. Through it, airlines could create a vegetarian, kosher, or gluten-free meal to their own specifications. Advertising space was sold in the form of screen savers. 3 weeks into the job, Vanita had designed the screen savers, written the spec for the software company and got the system up and running. In February 1997, the product was launched internationally in Bruges. The demand was immediate - and worldwide. Entering the International Flight Catering Association's Mercury Award for Innovation, she won the gold medal for her company, received the Award in Seville and was greeted with a champagne lunch in her honour back in the UK. Vanita now manages the whole department. "What started off as a little project my chairman and myself were working on" became an internationally viable solution to an industry problem.

## Salary Negotiations

### Statement from the Director

The Universities and College Employers' Association (UCEA) yesterday held a further series of separate negotiations with representatives of the national trades unions in the sector, following on from the meetings held on 19 March, when an offer of 3.8% was made.

It has been proposed that the offer of 3.8% on all salary points and scales should be achieved in two stages from the appropriate review dates, with 2% payable from the appropriate review date for the first SIX months of the pay year and 3.8% payable for the remaining six months of the pay year. This means that the in-year cost will be 2.9% as compared with 2.6% in the original offer (which proposed that the first EIGHT months should be at the rate of 2%).

The UCEA has made this increased and final offer in the belief that this represents the very best that can be afforded within overall funding limits for the sector and is in line with the pay awards for other public sector groups and the underlying level of inflation.

It is hoped that the unions will now consult with their members about this final offer in order that a speedy settlement can be reached and both the employers and the trade unions can together concentrate their efforts on the very important business being undertaken by the Independent Review committee, which will set the framework for determining pay and conditions for the sector for many years to come.

*Dr Gaskell*

# NEWS *in* BRIEF

- A grant of half a million pounds has been won by Nene - UCN to provide in-service courses train teachers. The money will be received over a three year period for Nene's highly respected In-Service education for Teachers (INSET) programme.
- One of gardening's leading authorities, Mr Peter Seabrook, held a lecture titled "Gardening for Pleasure" in the Large Lecture Theatre in March. Mr Seabrook is probably best known for his television and radio appearances, together with his regular column in "The Sun". The event attracted many different members of local Horticultural Societies and Mr Seabrook marked the occasion by handing out copies of his book.
- Mark Fisher MP, Minister for the Arts, officially unveiled two new sculptures at Park Campus on 24 March. Michael Kenny's Geometry and Stone (by the shops) and Nicola Godden's The Guardians (opposite Fawsley) were purchased through the fundraising efforts of The Committee of the Friends of the Arts and Nene - University College Northampton, chaired by Lady Robinson.
- Carol Phillips of Applied Sciences, participated in a public meeting in March at the University of Reading on food microbiology. Entitled 'Food Microbes - the Good, the Bad and the Ugly, the meeting addressed some of the facts behind the food scare headlines.
- The Director's Report to Court and Financial Statement is available from CAMs (ext. 2017) for interested staff.
- The Conference on Technology Transfer and Innovation in Small Firms run by the TTI will be held from 6-8 July 1998. It is directed at all involved in the exploitation of new ideas in industry, academia and government. Booking details available from Amanda Black in CAMs, ext. 2486.
- The Management Development Course for Higher Education Administrators will be held at St Catherine's College, Oxford from 28 Sept - 2 Oct 1998. Further information from Amanda, CAMs, ext 2486.



Mark Fisher and Nicola Godden with 'The Guardians'

## Jenny Potter



Jenny receives her leaving gift from Roger Prout

Jenny left Nene on 23 March. At her leaving bash, to the strains of a Bix Baederbeck tape, relic from Roger Prout's wine bar tending days, staff celebrated her 12 and a half years at the College, having joined in January 1986 and worked for the Council for 19. A first degree (BEd) at the University of Nottingham led to 4 years as a teacher of Religious Studies and English "and in those days everything else as well as there was a teacher shortage."

A postgraduate Diploma in Careers Guidance at Reading followed, to be updated with an MA in Careers Guidance at the University of Hertfordshire in 1995.

After her wedding, Jenny is moving to a new home in Wraybury, near Staines, where the pub is called 'The Perseverance' and the flight path from Heathrow runs overhead. Roger Prout confessed to a future where he will "be missing her expertise, dedication and hard work." Many of us feel the same way. Who else would be prepared to undertake a radio interview on the skills required by a would-be James Bond without turning a hair. We wish her luck.

### NENE News

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Copy and photographs  
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