

HopeTimes

Issue 11

THE NEWSPAPER FOR LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND STAFF

Government confirms Hope 'World-Leading' in Theology and Social Work

Liverpool Hope University is celebrating the results of the latest Research Assessment Exercise in which research in areas of Theology & Religious Studies and Social Work & Social Care has been recognised as 'world-leading'.

The results show a huge improvement in nationally and internationally recognised research compared to the last national evaluation exercise which took place in 2001. Some research in Theology & Religious Studies and Social Work & Social Care was recognised as 4*, the highest rating available. Three quarters of Theology's research was rated at international level.

Commenting on the outcome, Professor Kenneth Newport, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research & Academic Development), said, "This represents a massive step forward for the University. Comparisons

between this exercise and the one that was conducted in 2001 are difficult given the fact that the scoring system has changed; however the improvement is probably in the region of ten-fold".



Professor Kenneth Newport

The University did well across the board with subjects such as Music and Computer Science rating highly. Over one fifth of research in Computer Science, Education,

Theology and Music was rated as internationally excellent.

In 2001, the University had just one subject, Theology, rated as nationally recognised. There are now nine subjects - Computer Science, Politics, Social Work, Psychology, Education, English, Theology,

Drama and Music - where peers from other universities have adjudged research at Hope to be nationally and internationally significant.

Professor Pillay was at the University's new Research Institute, St Xavier's College, Mumbai, India, when he received the news. He said, "I am extremely delighted with the outcome of the report and I would like to congratulate all staff who contributed to the research exercise. This is an excellent foundation upon which to build as we continue to broaden and deepen our research portfolio. For an institution of our size and type we are punching above our weight and are making a significant contribution to the research agenda of the region as a whole".

The University was assessed on nine different academic disciplines, all of which out-performed the 2001 national rankings. In all nine areas work was placed in the higher 2* and 3* grades. Liverpool Hope University submitted 72 staff for this exercise, fewer than many larger universities.

2008 Research Assessment Exercise - explanation of grades

4* - Quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance, and rigour.

3* - Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which nonetheless falls short of the highest standards of excellence.

2* - Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.

1* - Quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.

U/C - Quality that falls below the standard of nationally recognised work.



Hope spreads its wings

Hope is now at an airport near you. Following the installation of a backlit banner in the departure hall at Liverpool John Lennon airport last year, Hope currently has two further billboards spectacularly displayed on the approach to the airport terminal.

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News in brief

Sir Jeremy's return to The Cornerstone



While Sir Jeremy Isaacs is visiting the University on Foundation Day to receive his honorary Doctorate of Letters, he will also be going to The Cornerstone campus. Sir Jeremy will be 'turf cutting' in the ceremony to officially mark the beginning of work

on Phase 4 - Hope's new £6.4m Centre for Music, Performance and Innovation. Sir Jeremy's links with Hope began at The Cornerstone and he has taken part in the annual arts festival based there.

Work to begin in the Spring

Work will begin on the new building for the Education Deanery in the Spring. Given the Government's commitment to accelerate work on public sector projects, the start date for the £7m project has been brought toward.

National Student Survey

This year's survey is now under way and, until Saturday 14th March, all third year undergraduates (except top-up students) have the opportunity to take part in the survey which is now in its fifth year. Apart from the valuable feedback the exercise provides for the University and the Funding Council, students who complete the survey online have the chance to win airline tickets and music vouchers.

Visit www.thestudentsurvey.com for more information.



Hope Academy

In late January, members of staff were invited to a presentation of the two final bids for the design of the new Hope Academy. The University is the co-sponsor, with the Catholic Archdiocese and Anglican Diocese of Liverpool, of the new Academy to be opened in September 2011 in Newton-le-Willows.

Dr Liz Gayton presented details of the bids, answered questions and canvassed opinion. A further series of meetings with sponsors and others will follow before the final decision is taken on 13th February.

If you have a story you would like to include in a future edition of Hope Times, please email editor@hope.ac.uk

Time to think about Volunteering?

The modern graduate moves into an increasingly competitive job market.

Whereas 20 years ago graduates were competing against people with a similar, and most likely predictable, set of skills, now graduates are a more diverse group in terms of age, life knowledge and experience. To be competitive as graduates, students need to develop their skills and experience.

Students need to build up their skills set around their degree, yet have less time than ever to do so. The modern student is busy, with a part-time job, a busy social life both on and offline, family commitments not forgetting around 15-20 hours of lectures and tutorials as well as study time.

So how does today's student find the time and what are the options?

Time for a 'time audit'

To begin with, students should not dread the prospect of taking on more and it can easily be done with some good time planning. Indeed, taking control of your time to make time for skills development and experience is a skill in itself!

Do an audit of your time: write down how you spend your time. Be detailed and honest. Look for gaps in your week and be willing to move things around to make blocks of free time for skills development.

Most students will say they are too busy to volunteer or undertake work experience, but this attitude won't go far in a competitive graduate market. Modern life is busy but this is a positive not a negative; accepting this and getting to grips with it is the challenge!

Avoiding the temptation of the couch and computer

A recent survey for The Times Higher Educational Supplement showed that 40% of students watch television for two to three hours a day and 3% watch for more than five hours a day. The survey, published in September 2008,

also showed students spent a significant amount of time on social networking sites and some 9% of students spend 11 to 20 hours a week on social networking.

Students should think about ways to use their time more effectively. Volunteering is a flexible option which can improve skills and provide a feel-good factor. Some examples of volunteering opportunities in the North West are with organisations such as:

- Childline, which counsels children by telephone and online. Hours are flexible and 40 hours of training is provided,
- Nugent Care Society, which provides support, education and friendship to people with learning difficulties, and
- Refugee Action, which offers advice, community development, training and campaigns to support asylum seekers and refugees. There are opportunities to volunteer in administration, mentoring and raising refugee awareness.

These are just some examples of the sorts of projects you could get involved in which will improve your skills set and help you to develop your knowledge. Volunteering is flexible and easier to fit into a busy schedule.

Of course there are also many work experience options out there as well - just call into the Student Success Zone for full details on a variety of schemes or check out www.stepenterprise.co.uk and www.step.org.uk/

For an overview of what's out there, go to:

Student Employment Services
www.studentemploymentservices.co.uk

Top Internships
www.topinternships.com

Everything You Wanted to Know
www.everythingyouwantedtoknow.com

Remember the key to fitting everything in is to make time or rather take control of your time!

Shane Moore and Alice Bennett
Student Success Zone

Coming Full Circle

January saw an important presentation at Hope which was linked to one of the University's founding institutions, Christ's College.

In 1965, Mgr Alexander Jones was Head of Divinity at Christ's College. While at Christ's, Mgr Jones, after whom Hope's Graduate and Research



Mike Hopper and Professor Pillay

Centre is now named, oversaw the editing of what was to become the standard Catholic version of the Scriptures in English, namely *The Jerusalem*

Bible. Building upon and drawing heavily from the earlier work of a team of French-speaking scholars who had produced, in French, a radical new Bible translation based upon the very best Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, Mgr Jones gathered a group of scholars. These included the well-known author, JRR Tolkien, and the theologian and philosopher Anthony Kenny.

Mgr Jones was so keen to see his students had copies of the new Bible version that he gave each of them a copy, straight off the presses, in order to aid their studies. However, it transpired that this first run had printing errors which had to be amended before the work could go on the bookshelves.

Now one of the original copies, with errors, has been donated to the University by Margaret Ward, a student from that year. The text was presented to the Vice-Chancellor & Rector, Professor Gerald Pillay, by a friend of Margaret from those student days, Mike Hopper.

Hope in Harmony

Hope is a partner in the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's successful bid for funding for the In Harmony in Liverpool project.

The bid is one of only three which were successful and it has attracted a share of some £3 million in funding over the next

three years, as part of the Government's In Harmony pilot project.

In Harmony is a community development project aimed at using music to bring positive change to the lives of children in the most deprived areas of England and delivering benefits across the wider community. The In Harmony in Liverpool project will deliver an intensive music programme for children in West Everton and provide new opportunities for the wider West Everton community. Very young children, parents and community

groups will also be able to engage with live music through participation and performances in community settings and venues including the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.

Music activities will be delivered by professional musicians from the Orchestra and Liverpool Music Support Service, supported by musicians, staff and students from Liverpool Hope University.

Kathy takes First Prize at Pontin's Talent Contest

Liverpool Hope student, Kathy O'Grady, who stunned a celebrity judging panel with her rendition of 'All That Jazz', has taken first prize at a Pontin's Talent Competition and is set to record a covers album.



After the contest

Kathy O'Grady from Widnes, who is studying to be a teacher at Hope, was one of 60 contestants, who went on to join 13 others in the 'Starquest Finals Weekend' which took place last November.

Celebrity judges Jack P Shepherd and Scott Wright of Coronation Street and Kevin Simm, former member of pop group Liberty X, were impressed with Kathy's talent, content, presentation and star quality.

21 year old Kathy will now record a five-track album at Revolution Recording Studios in Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire in

February, which will include a track with other contestants from the grand final and a CD cover photo.

"I am really excited for the recording session as I have never done anything like that before. I am so grateful to Pontin's and the judges for giving me this opportunity and to everyone that has supported me. I had an amazing time and I got the chance to meet some wonderful people. All the people that took part were incredibly talented and I cannot wait to see them again in February."

Kathy, who is currently in her second year of a four year BA(QTS) course, continued, "I am training to be a Primary school teacher. I have always wanted to be a teacher and have loved my time at Liverpool Hope so far. English Literature is another passion of mine so I have really enjoyed it. It is so interesting and enlightening and I love exploring the meanings within the texts we study."

"The teacher training course is especially demanding and challenging. However I really enjoy it, particularly during school placements when I actually teach whole classes. I love working with children and can think of nothing more rewarding and exciting. I am particularly interested in sensory learning in the early years of education and in special education."

Although Kathy has been singing from an early age and has taken singing lessons since she was 11 years old, this was the first time she had ever entered a talent competition.

Sam's punching above his Weight

Sam Maxwell has only been at Hope for one term, but he's already putting the University on the map in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) boxing league.

Sam, a first year Sports Studies and Business student, recently won the 'Boxer of the Championship' trophy at a BUCS tournament, emerging victorious from two bouts.

"I had two fights. In the first one I stopped my opponent in the second round. The second fight went to four rounds."

Sam, pictured with his trophy and tournament medal, didn't start out his sporting career as a boxer, "I used to do kickboxing before that and my kickboxing coach said I needed to improve my punching so I went to boxing and that was it! Boxing just took over."



In addition to representing Hope at national level, Sam is also committed to his local club, "I fight for Higherside Amateur Boxing Club in Prescott in the 60kg category and I've been with them for ten years, since I was ten."

"I'm fighting in Sheffield tonight, in a club show. I'm the only boxer from my club fighting but all the others are coming along to support me."

"I'd love to pursue boxing as a career. At the ABAs this year, my first fight is with last year's winner, so if I get past him, the rest of it should be easier!"

Donna's Glittering Start to the New Year



Second year Childhood & Youth Studies student Donna Littlehales had a glittering start to her 2009 when she attended the Disability Sports Events (DSE) awards ceremony on 5th January.

The wheelchair athlete, who competes regularly at national level, was named DSE North West Sports Personality of the Year, as well as DSE Most Improved Athlete of the Year.

Donna says, "I didn't know I was going to win beforehand. It was a shock, especially to get Sports Personality of the Year".

The awards were presented by Olympic medallists Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson and Colin Jackson. However, Donna wasn't too star-struck by meeting these sporting giants, "I'd already met Tanni Grey-Thompson because I'd competed against her in May last year. She has retired from racing but coaches young athletes and raced against us while we were training".

Winning the two awards made a good start for what will be a busy year for Donna - first up is a race meeting at an unusual location, "I'm doing the Silverstone half marathon in March on the Silverstone race track. The race is four or five laps of the track and last year's event had almost five thousand competitors."

"At the end of May I'm doing the Liverpool half marathon and then the DSE senior championship in Blackpool, as well as the next British Wheelchair Athletics Association championships."

Like other competitive sportspeople, Donna has one other date looming in the future: 2012. "My big aim is to compete in the 2012 London Olympics. We'll have to wait and see what happens!"

News in brief

New Role for Professor Pillay



The New Year sees the Vice-Chancellor & Rector, Professor Pillay, taking on the role of Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside. In his new role, Professor Pillay will assist the Queen's representative, Lord-Lieutenant Dame Lorna Muirhead, with a range of civic duties within the county of Merseyside.

Postgraduate Study at Hope

Hope's Postgraduate Study evening (4pm to 7pm) on Tuesday 3rd March will be an excellent opportunity for prospective students to meet with academic staff to find out about the range of postgraduate opportunities available. There are a lot of new programmes starting in September - an up-to-date list is available at www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate Students will also be able to find out about research opportunities.

All graduates of Hope are entitled to a 20% fee discount if they study for a taught or research postgraduate programme (this does not include PGCE).

Pre-paid - a Great Success



Before the auction

The Cornerstone Gallery's 'Pre-paid' exhibition and auction, which took place in December, proved to be a great success.

Gallery Curator Jason Jones, said, "The response from the invited artists was wonderful and the work received was of a breathtakingly high quality and integrity, not to mention the privilege of exhibiting works by Sir Peter Blake, Martin Greenland, Mike McCartney, Paul O'Grady and Holly Johnson. A total of 81 postcards were exhibited and sold 'anonymously' by auction. Both events evoked an air of excitement and conversation". The auctioned postcards, now reunited with the name of each contributor, can be viewed at www.hope.ac.uk/cornerstonegallery/postcards

Over £2,000 was raised on the auction night, aided by the online silent bid process established alongside the exhibition. The net proceeds from the auction will be donated to the Artists' General Benevolent Institution (AGBI) who would also like to offer their thanks and appreciation. A similar event is planned for this December.

Graduation

Just some of the stories from the Hope's first Graduation of 2009 which took

An International Career



A varied life, taking in the worlds of business, travel and sport, brought Nilashis Ghosh to Hope.

Nilashis says, "I was successfully running my own travel and tourism business, serving companies like ITC, Taj Group of Hotels and ORIX, when I realised that I needed to enhance my academic qualifications and knowledge. I was looking

for a course which had both international appeal and acceptance. For me to go back to full-time study after nine years was extremely difficult and it was crucial that I chose the right course in the right University. However, I was able to take this important decision in a few minutes after I met Dr Keith Paterson, who recommended the International MBA course.

"I had completed my first degree in Finance with Honours in Accountancy from The University of Calcutta - I am a BCom (Hons) graduate. I've been happily married for eight years and blessed with a three year old son, Ssnehnil. My parents live in Calcutta.

"Without my family I would have never been able to achieve what I have today. It starts with my Mom and Dad back home. Back in India no one can dare to dream to give up their career and go back to study

after nine years, especially when they have their family with a child. However, my wife Sudipa was with me all the time and without her support I would have never been able to do this. We are ever grateful to our God for helping us and showing us the path of success."

Studying at Hope wasn't Nilashis's first time in England, "My first visit to this country dates back to when I played for North Perrott Cricket Club in Somerset. Having played since I was nine, I was a professional cricketer and coach in the past, reaching national and international level. I was North Perrott's highest batting average scorer in 2001.

"I would like to mention a few people, whose help and support has been invaluable - Carol Crawford, Accommodation Officer, the Business Bridge team and Abdul Sallam,

International Co-ordinator, and to thank Nancy Cooke and John McCarthy in Marketing, Recruitment & External Relations, for providing a wonderful opportunity to work with the International Recruitment team. I have also found the academic staff extremely helpful and supportive especially Bill Punshon, Award Director, and John Brinkman, Dean of Business & Computer Studies.

"I consider myself lucky that I chose Hope, because the amount of support I've had from people here has helped me to build new hopes out of all the difficulties my family and I were going through. I came to Hope hoping to turn my dreams to reality. Today I can say that I am definitely in the process of achieving my goals and building new hopes for my future.

Thank you Hope, thank you Liverpool."

An Eventful Time at Hope

Sarah McNally is graduating with a BA Honours in Criminology this January, after an eventful three years. In addition to moving university and completing her course, Sarah gave birth to a son.

"I studied for two years at Chester University, before transferring to Liverpool Hope for my third year. I did this to move closer to home as I was pregnant, and needed support to complete the final year.

"I found the tutors very helpful and supportive. I had many hospital and doctor appointments during my third year due to my pregnancy and the tutors were all very understanding in moving awkward deadlines or helping me catch up.

"My baby was born a month premature with an emergency delivery as I had developed pre-eclampsia. He was born just 4lb 1oz, but was beautiful! He spent seventeen days in the special care unit and then needed a lot of care when he finally came home.

"I faced sleepless nights and exhaustion whilst I struggled to achieve a degree to make my baby proud. Without my Mum and Nan sitting with the baby and pushing me to finish my assignments and revise, I would never have found the emotional or physical strength to finish my degree."

Despite all the upheaval, Sarah has no regrets about finishing her course, "I found my last year very exciting and really enjoyed the topics covered. It helped me to become more focused in knowing what career path to follow. For example I was really interested in the module of the degree programme.

"I couldn't have completed my final year without my family behind me! My goal was simply to pass my degree and still be sane! I plan to be a full time mother for a few years and in the future I hope to work for the police in the areas of profiling or probation."



Getting the Best out of Hope

William Dixon has successfully completed an MA in Business Management, commuting to Hope Park from Connah's Quay in North Wales.

"I graduated in 2007 from Lancaster University with a degree in Geography. Hope was recommended by a few friends and it was easily reached from home."

Despite living off-campus, William made sure he didn't miss out on University life. "Two of the things which attracted me to studying in Liverpool were my passions for both football and music. I have used the accommodation of fellow students to attend games and nights out, it'd be rude not to!

"One of the modules was an outdoor-based exercise titled 'Managing Teams' where my class went to the Snowdonia for a week. We were to work efficiently and effectively as a team and conquer one of the mountains. This was very rewarding given the differing backgrounds and levels of fitness as such.

"Although I commuted to the campus all year (up to three times a week) I did not

feel left out, so to speak. I would be lying if I said I wasn't looking forward to going each day.

"I found my course to be all I hoped it would be, and more. I thought that everything would change in an MA when compared to my BSc, you have to keep your head down and get through it. It has been quite the opposite. Liverpool Hope has a much more welcoming atmosphere and spirit than some other universities I have visited."

With his course complete, William plans to say farewell to academia for now, in order to enter the world of work.

"My aspiration is to find a graduate scheme in commercial business, and although a qualification is required, experience counts for so much more - there's only so much bar work on a CV can get you!

"My time at Hope has been great and each person I met

has been very helpful, from librarians to the staff in the refectory. The tutors and lecturers have been amazing too. That's half the battle I think, if you're cool with them then your mind is more focused."



n Success

place on the University's Foundation Day - Wednesday 28th January 2009.

A Time of Enjoyment, Learning and Growth

Alison Benson has had an involvement with Hope since 2001, when she embarked on a BA in Music with Theology & Religious Studies.



Graduating with first class honours in 2004, Liverpool-born Alison went to work as a school chaplain and began to study for a PGCE, along with a Masters in Ministry.

"I'd always been encouraged academically by my parents who were, and continue to be, a great source of support.

"I found my tutors helpful and supportive, especially when it came to writing my dissertation. Peter McGrail provided

suitable support to keep me working, but not to add unnecessary stress! He is a very wise advisor.

"I really enjoyed the Masters course. I was able to further develop my knowledge and skills and it gave me the opportunity to write essays and a dissertation about topics of interest to me."

"I found my tutors helpful and supportive, especially when it came to writing my dissertation."

Taking two courses at the same time means that Alison has a second graduation to look forward to this year.

"I hope to complete my PGCE in Secondary RE this summer.

"It's never easy to attend university after a day at work but I was well supported by tutors and by people who became friends during the course. It was a time of enjoyment, learning and growth."

A Career in Education

Lynne Berry, Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Tutor in the Education Deanery, graduates on Foundation Day with an MA in Education. Lynne has been at Hope 20 years and she began her career here as an ICT technician. Lynne remembers how technology in schools back then was very rudimentary - comprising mainly of BBC computers.

Lynne teaches students on both QTS (Teacher Training) and other Education Deanery programmes and her research has focused on using interactive whiteboards to support teaching and learning in primary education.

Lynne completed her initial degree at Hope when daughter Evie was just a few months old - Evie, who is now eight and a half, will be here with her dad to celebrate her mum's latest success. Lynne has spent the last eight years studying completing a Postgraduate Certificate

in Learning & Teaching along the way. Lynne says, "Apart from determination, I couldn't have done it without the support of my family".



Lynne says that her studying has supported her work immensely at Hope and that working with schools has also informed her teaching. She has also enjoyed working with

Evie's school, St Austin's, in Aigburth, and remembers a particular project, submitted to the BECTA (British Educational Communications Technology Agency), when the school won first prize in a couple of categories and lots of computer equipment.

Recently Lynne has been working with Masters students on the use of internet technology to support teaching in primary schools and is now developing a module on using animation.

Flying High

International MBA graduate Bassey Ekanem secured his dream job with JW Marriott in Orlando before he has even completed his postgraduate studies at Hope.



all slotted in around my studies before I was finally offered my dream job, but it was all worth it!"

Bassey's ambition and drive was evident from an early age. At just 16 he became the second youngest person ever to have his work published in Nigeria, at 22 he published the first of several books and, by the age of 24, he had his own publishing house, which produced

one of Nigeria's best selling magazines - Youths and Teens - aimed at schools and colleges in Nigeria.

In addition to this he set up and ran his own school called Dreamland International, acted as Youths and Teens' editor and also toured the country as a successful

motivational speaker, helping students to realise their dreams and excel in their studies.

In 2006, while enjoying huge success in all areas of his business, he decided it was time to move to the next level and step on to the world stage. In order to succeed on an international level, Bassey decided to return to university to study for a postgraduate degree, which would develop and refine his already advanced business skills.

"I have a five year plan which, if all goes well, will ensure that I continue to develop personally and professionally while climbing the corporate ladder.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a postgraduate student at Liverpool Hope University and I want to impress upon all students, both international and

domestic, that with hard work you can achieve anything that you set your mind to. I would highly recommend Hope to international students considering studying abroad; it has opened up a whole world of opportunities for me."

Bassey secured his first degree in Biochemistry from The University of Calabar in Nigeria in 1998, before going on to set up his businesses which continue to thrive in Nigeria. He is also the author of several motivational books including The Road to Success, Taming the Lion - Preparing for JAMB and HOPE - How Ordinary People Excel.

In addition, Bassey also completed a Certificate Course in Personnel Practice from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Bassey started work in the world famous hotel chain's Human Resources and Customer Services training scheme last September. He says, "I've always been extremely focused when it comes to my career; a good quality education, regular networking and strong planning are vital ingredients to success. It took eight months of gruelling applications, interviews and return transatlantic flights

Green Hope

Should we recycle any more?

There has been considerable coverage in the news over recent weeks concerning the falling price of recycled products, and the question 'should we still recycle?' has been raised.



New recycling bins on campus

The UK generates around 100 million tons of waste each year from households, commercial properties and industry; according to Government figures some 23 million tons of household waste is dumped into landfill sites per year. The amount being disposed of via landfill requires

reducing as available landfill space declines and landfill tax increases.

It is still a better option both financially and environmentally to recycle rather than send the material to landfill. Whilst

it seems that the economic impetus to recycle has reduced in recent months, it is important to remember that, as with most materials, the price will increase and decrease dependent on market forces and availability of the product in question. Although the markets are fragile in the current economic climate, they are showing signs of stabilising. We need to increase the amount of recycling which occurs from the 10 million tons we recycle each year at the present time. The environment drivers behind recycling still remain: to conserve resources (including energy), raw materials and reduce waste.

Sources: BBC, The Guardian and WRAP

Hope Graduate's Green Career

Hope welcomed back a familiar face before Christmas, as former Geography and Environmental Studies student Gillian Edwards returned to Hope Park to give a talk to current students.



Gillian said, "In my job, I manage all the recycling services and deal with issues and complaints, but I also inform people - I travel around the borough, doing lots of talks

about recycling. I visit hospitals and talk to new mothers about using real nappies rather than disposable ones. I

also run information sessions about home composting.

"My three-person department is responsible for the recycling needs of all 80,000 council properties in St Helens - it's not as easy as it may look! We do huge marketing and advertising campaigns."

While Gillian has been pursuing her career, Hope Park has undergone its own set of developments, with the whole campus receiving a make-over. Gillian said, "The place has changed loads - all the buildings are state-of-the-art but I still like the Hilda Constance Allen building. It feels like I've never been away!"

Reporting on the English Way of Life

Although a self-confessed Anglophile, Norwegian student, Nora Ask, only found herself at Hope because her former boyfriend gained a place at Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts. However Nora is glad that she decided to come to the UK and now she might even have found a possible career back home - all because she is living in Liverpool.

Nora is from Lier, a small town between Oslo and Drammen. She is the first person in her family to go to university and is now in the second year of her BA Tourism with Geography degree course.

Nora's sister, Helene, listens to Radio Norway and the station has a weekday afternoon music programme which focuses on popular music over the last four decades and which includes interviews with Norwegians who are living abroad and asks them about life in their adopted countries. Helene told Nora that the programme was searching for more people living abroad to interview. Whilst a little reluctant at first, Nora has now been interviewed for the programme two or three times - commenting on her life here in Liverpool - including what she thinks about 'Scousers', the football (she supports Everton) and what the Capital of Culture Year has been like. Nora says, "At first, I was worried about how my voice would sound but now I've heard it I think it's OK. The interviews last about five minutes, they are recorded and I am able to listen to the programme at www.radionorge.fm I now think I would like a job in broadcasting so I am keeping in touch with the station manager".

Nora was in Norway for Christmas and the New Year and says that, it was difficult to come back as there are two additions to her family.

Settling back into her life in the UK, Nora says says, "Although this year is proving to be more difficult, I am really enjoying it and I can always ask friends to help me proofread my written work".

Although Nora likes lots of things about England, she is planning to return home after she completes her course. Meanwhile she is looking forward to the fieldtrip to Barcelona in February.

Travel Survey

Thank you to all who completed the online travel survey: 26% of staff and 21% of students completed the survey.

The winners were John Patterson, Senior Lecturer in Education, who chose a £50 voucher from Next, and BA English Literature and Theology & Religious Studies student, Esther Law, who has chosen to have a free car parking pass for next year.

The survey included staff and students at the three University sites and was undertaken in December 2008 to determine how people are travelling to the University, the reasons for their

choice and the potential sustainable travel alternatives they would consider.

Over 60% of staff travel less than five miles (26% less than two miles) compared to 62% of students travelling less than five miles and 32% less than two miles. Over 50% of staff and 27% of students travel to the University on their own. The principal reasons given for this are: convenience, the distance travelled is too far for alternatives and the time savings which the car travel offers. One of the main comments received regarding car use was the speed of cars on the University campus: remember that the speed limit on campus is 5mph. When the Travel Plan was produced in 2005, targets were set to increase sustainable travel and several of these targets have been met. Car sharing by students has increased at The Cornerstone campus; single car usage

has decreased by students at Hope Park, and walking to and from the University has increased by both staff and students at The Cornerstone.

The main reasons to encourage travelling by sustainable means are: the introduction of a car sharing scheme; discount bus tickets/passes available through the University; more direct bus routes and more frequent bus services and better street lighting in the local area. A car share scheme has been set up using the Travelwise Merseyside network, details may be found at www.merseyshare.org Information regarding discount tickets/passes is available at www.letstravelwise.org/uploads/documents/jan_08/trav_1199715226_Saveaway_Leaflet_-_Jan_2008.pdf

Hope diary dates for February 2009

Applicant Day

Saturday 21st February from 9.30am to 3.30pm

The year's series of Applicant Days begins on Saturday 21st February when undergraduate applicants will be visiting Hope to find out more about their chosen courses.

Staff available to help should email Emma Fereday on feredae@hope.ac.uk

Arts & Humanities Research Seminars 2008/09

'Am I not a Man and a Brother? Anti-Slavery and Phrenology'

Dr Cynthia Hamilton Liverpool Hope
Tuesday 3rd February at 5pm in Room AJB 007

'Joyce, Dubliners and the use of History'

Dr Frank Shovlin Liverpool Institute of Irish Studies
Tuesday 17th February at 5pm in Room AJB 007

Wandering in the Wilderness: the Search for Sacred Space in Jack Kerouac's The Dharma Bums

Dr Stephen Brie Liverpool Hope
Tuesday 24th February at 5pm in Room AJB 007

Career Development Events

Liverpool Hope Faith Schools Recruitment Fair

Tuesday 3rd February from 2pm to 6pm
Ground Floor, FML Building.

What to do if you don't know what to do!

Tuesday 10th February at 1pm
Seminar Room 2, Gateway Building.

CCUSA

Monday 16th February at 6pm
Seminar Room 2, Gateway Building.

Volunteering opportunities

Tuesday 17th February at 1pm
The Cornerstone (room tbc)

Train 2000 (Business Advice for Women)

Wednesday 18th February between 2pm and 3pm
Seminar Room 2, Gateway Building.

Volunteering opportunities

Thursday 19th February at 12pm, repeated at 5pm
Seminar Room 2, Gateway Building

Applying for Teaching Jobs

Friday 20th February between 1pm and 2pm
Seminar Room 2, Gateway Building

Frontier, international volunteering opportunities in conservation and education

Tuesday 24th February at 1pm
Seminar Room 2, Gateway Building

Liverpool Volunteering Fair

Thursday 26th February between 11am and 2.30pm
Liverpool Guild of Students and Liverpool John Moores Students' Union

To book a place at any of these events, please go to www.hope.ac.uk/careers and click on green 'events' tab on right.

Cornerstone Gallery

Altered Communication: A Faculty and Student Art Exhibition

Exhibition open until Friday 6th March
Opening hours: 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, Free Admission

This exhibition showcases new artwork, created by the art faculty and students of Concordia University, Irvine, California, USA, which provides different artists' interpretation of the word communication.

Exhibition at the Gateway

'SOUP' in conjunction with the Education Deanery

Exhibition open until 18th February
Opening hours: 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, Free Admission.

An exhibition of art work by students from the Education Deanery and 'SOUP'; an evolving group of artists all of whom work within Liverpool's prestigious TATE Gallery.

Foundation Hour

Foundation Hour is held at 1pm each Wednesday during term-time providing an opportunity to find out more about an aspect of Hope life. Foundation Hour lasts about 45 minutes with time at the end for some lunch. The programme for February is as follows:

Philharmonic Wind Trio

Wednesday 4th February in the Senate Room, Hilda Constance Allen Building

The Trust Factor in Building Community

Wednesday 11th February

Facing the past for a better future - the Australian experience

Wednesday 18th February

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday 25th February in the Senate Room, Hilda Constance Allen Building

Foundation Hour is held in Room WAR 013 Powys unless otherwise stated. Please see Hope Virtually Daily nearer the dates given for more details.

Hope Theological Society

The Society holds a series of lectures throughout the academic year. They begin at 5.30pm. Lectures during February are as follows:

"Let me tell you about New York": Revelations 17-18 and its Reception in Film

James Hardy, Liverpool Hope
Thursday 5th February

"I saw one like a Son of Man": The Figure of the Eschatological Saviour in The Matrix, The Terminator and other films

Gary Garnett Baylor University
Thursday 12th February

"The Future is just like you imagined": The Absurd Revelations of Southland Tales

Lee Quinby McCauley Honors College CUNY
Thursday 19th February

Theological Dramaturgy and Theodramatic Performance

Ivan Kovacs Canterbury Christ Church University
Thursday 26th February

For more information, please contact Dr John Walliss by emailing wallisj@hope.ac.uk

Inaugural Professorial Lecture Programme

The next lecture in the series is:



(Extra)ordinary Lives: Children and Young People in Today's Society

Rosemary Kilpatrick Professor of Children and Youth Studies
Wednesday 18th February at 5.30pm
Senate Room, Hilda Constance Allen Building

Light refreshments will be available beforehand. If you would like to attend, please contact a member of the Events team on **0151 291 3567** or email events@hope.ac.uk

Research Week

Monday 23rd to Friday 27th February

Research Week provides an opportunity for academic staff and research students to present work and discuss key issues in research. Apart from individual Deanery events, there will be the Annual Poster Day and a Research Supervisor Forum on Thursday 26th February.

Other events will include a session on Research Ethics on Wednesday 25th February, 2.15pm to 4.15pm (led by Professors Chambers and Nixon), and an update on Research at Hope on Friday 27th February, 1pm to 2pm (led by Professor Newport).

A confirmed programme of events with further details will be published shortly.

Sciences & Social Sciences Deanery Guest Lecture

Physical and Physiological Aspects of Down Syndrome Individuals during Exercise

At the invitation of Professor Unnithan, Dr Myriam Guerra Balic from The University of Ramon Llull, Barcelona will give a lecture at Hope.

Monday 2nd February from 5.15pm to 6.15pm in LTC L

Stress Management for Male Students

Thursday 19th February from 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Kevin Rodgers, Head of Counselling & Health, will provide this workshop which will help male students consider how they react to stress and will explore ways to manage it more effectively.

Details of how to book a place will be made available approximately two weeks before the workshop.

The Liverpool Challenge comes to Hope

Tuesday 10th February from 10am to 5pm

This year the Liverpool NHS Primary Care Trust is running a campaign to get residents slimmer and fitter. The Campaign tanker will be at Hope, in the car park at the front of the FML building, and you can go along to find out more about healthy eating and exercise. Information is also available at www.liverpoolchallenge.nhs.uk/

Looking Ahead

Performance and Conferment of Honorary Degree

Wednesday 25th March
Vasily Patrenko, Principal Conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra will receive the honorary award of Doctor of Letters at The Cornerstone.

Postgraduate Open Evening

Tuesday 3rd March from 4pm to 7pm
Gateway foyer

Come along to the Open Evening and find out more about the new programmes which will be available this September.

Meeting of Minds in Mumbai

December 2008 saw the official launch of the University's latest research institute in India. The Institute for Research into Education and Society in Mumbai is a Hope collaboration with St Xavier's College.



St Xavier's College, affiliated to The University of Mumbai, is in the top ten of higher education colleges in India. A Jesuit college, its mission is similar to that of Hope's in that both institutions strive to educate the whole person and develop a commitment to social justice. Indeed, St Xavier's has much in common with Hope, having similar foundations as well as future aspirations. It was founded in 1869 - it is celebrating its 140th anniversary this year - as a Christian college, only twenty years later than Hope's foundation college. As Hope is seeking full independence from The University of Liverpool by securing research degree awarding powers, St. Xavier's is currently under scrutiny to be given autonomy from The University of Mumbai. Both institutions are committed to high quality teaching, as a mark of academic excellence and both wish to

develop their research profiles. It is this last point, along with the mission to "form men and women, especially Christians and the marginalised, to build a more just and humane world" which prompted Hope to want to partner the College.

The signing of the agreement took place at the opening of a conference organised to coincide with the launch of the Institute. Devoted to the theme 'Education and Society', it was attended mainly by principals and staff from educational institutions in Mumbai. Professor Pillay gave the keynote address on 'The Contribution of the Christian University to Society' and this was followed by a paper by Fr (Dr) Mascarenhas, Principal of St Xavier's College, on the impact of the Jesuits on higher education in India.



Wendy Bignold chaired a discussion before lunch on the 'Christian contribution to Education' with inputs from invited Indian speakers. The afternoon session was devoted to 'Education and Inequality' with Professor Bart McGettrick offering the lead paper followed by discussion groups which reported back in a concluding session.

The launch of the Institute marks a significant milestone for both institutions. By working together to foster a collaborative, trans-national framework the intention is to tackle new projects relevant to current concerns and to address more ambitious initiatives not easily possible within the individual establishments. Both institutions have strong interests in education and can claim a long



involvement with pioneering educational work dating from the nineteenth century. The aim is to build on these past traditions and collective expertise and to develop a reputation for internationally recognised scholarship and research. The vision is that, academically and in mission-terms, we should both be the richer through our joint endeavours.

Wendy Bignold
Vice-Dean of Education

Keith Paterson
Director of International Relations and Associate Dean

North End Writers - a very strong Hope bias!



Alice Bennett, administrator for Liverpool Hope University's Service and Leadership Award, facilitates three creative writing groups as part of her work for North End Writers, a charitable organisation which promotes community and individual advancement through the literary arts. The charity was formed by Liverpool Hope alumna Pauline Rowe, who graduated with the MA in Reading and Writing Poetry in 2005.

Poet and scholar (and former Hope lecturer) Deryn Rees-Jones is patron of North End Writers along with poet and broadcaster Ian McMillan.

In 2008, the charity ran the inaugural Liverpool Young Poets Competition with poet and author (and former Hope lecturer) Michael Murphy as judge.

Membership to the writing groups is free and North End Writers welcomes people with all abilities and experiences. The groups take place at the following times and venues:

- Tuebrook Hope Centre: first Saturday of the month from 10.30am to 1pm
- Norris Green Library: third Sunday of the month from 1pm to 3.30pm
- Fazakerley Library: first Saturday of the month from 2pm to 3.45pm.

North End Writers' community office is based in Tuebrook.

For further information, visit www.northendwriters.co.uk

Housing Re-launch

February marks the beginning of Housing Re-launch and housing guides will be available shortly the Students' Union.

Liverpool Hope Students' Union works in collaboration with Liverpool Student Home (LSH) to run Housing Re-launch. LSH is a joint enterprise with the universities of Liverpool and their students' unions working to increase the choice and improve the standard of accommodation available to students. The agency holds information on around 3,500 landlords and 10,000 students use the service every year.

Landlords advertising through LSH have to meet certain standards and use a LSH contract to rent their accommodation out. By using this service, it protects you from rogue landlords and dodgy properties... and, if you're concerned about a contract, you can contact LSH who will be happy to check it over before you sign.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

With LSH, when you pay a tenancy deposit, the landlord or letting agent must protect it through a Government-backed tenancy deposit scheme. You will receive confirmation and this guarantees you will get your deposit back provided that the property is left in good condition.

What to consider first?

- Who are you going to live with?
- What part of town do you want to live in?
- What type of accommodation do you want to live in?
- How much can you afford to pay?
- Do you want the bills to be included in this amount?
- What length of tenancy do you want?
- When do you want to move in?
- Do you want broadband/ internet access etc?

Viewing properties

Make sure you view the property before signing a contract! Remember:

- Don't go alone
- Take pen and paper for notes
- Don't rush into signing or be intimidated by landlords
- View a few properties before deciding
- View the property in the day and night
- When you do decide, think about whether you want single/joint contracts.

For more information contact Claire Frost, Students' Union Vice-President e-mail: vpres@hope.ac.uk, or pop in to the SU for a chat. Alternatively you can contact Liverpool Student Homes by ringing **0151 794 3296**, emailing lsh@liv.ac.uk, or visiting the LSH website at www.lsh.liv.ac.uk or calling in at 140 Mount Pleasant Liverpool L3 5SR.