

Welcome to Globe, the newsletter of the Partnership Office, School of Flexible and Partnership Learning at the University of Derby.



Awards Ceremonies MSc Strategic Management South Africa 2006

Yet again, the award ceremonies for the MSc Strategic Management proved a huge success not only with the students, but with staff at the University of Derby, our partner organizations, parents and families. Malawi and Botswana ceremonies are always colourful, with that intoxicating blend of formality and informality that only Africa can bring. Duplicating the Derby January ceremonies to the letter, they were punctuated with the sounds of the military band, drumming in each graduand in Malawi and the ululations of joyful family and parents in both Malawi and Botswana. Magic!

As usual, the ceremonies were ably presided over by the Vice Chancellor, John Coyne and The Dean of the Faculty of Business, Computing and Law, Fiona Church, in Botswana and Malawi respectively. Thirty five students graduated in Botswana, with eight obtaining a pass with Merit and forty nine in Malawi, with one passing with distinction and eleven passing with Merit, a magnificent achievement, keeping up the

tradition of success of past graduates. Again, as usual, our graduates came from all areas of life- the United Nations, the Military (surely Malawi after years of staunchly supporting the programme, has now one of the most highly educated senior commands anywhere!!), the Government, the Church, hospitals, industry and commerce and not forgetting the new High Commissioner of Malawi to South Africa. The Malawi ceremony was graced by the Honourable Ted Kalebe, the Deputy Minister of Finance and in Botswana by Michael Lesolle the Executive Director of the Botswana Accountancy College, our new partner in Botswana.

A great big thanks to the team at the Malawi Institute of Management, prodigiously led as usual by Benson Kandole, the Executive Director and to The British Council team Botswana, equally led by Director Stephen Forbes, for arranging two 'to be proud of' ceremonies, once again.

Steve Carter

Included in this issue:

- A welcome to Lincoln College
- News from West Notts College
- Developing a partnership – a case study- Swiss Hotel Management School
- Celebrating the success of our Fd Educare graduates
- New 'Blackboard' software
- RAF partnership 'takes off'
- Collaborative Audit – the final word
- Staff Development opportunities/summer conferences and more...



Editorial

Welcome to the second edition of your new –look partnership newsletter, from the Award Winning Team in the School of Flexible and Partnership Learning. If you have logged onto the website, or seen a copy of Connected since Christmas you will know that the Learning Through Work team, partners with the RAF amongst others, were awarded the Times Higher Education Supplement's annual award for "most imaginative use of distance learning" – the HE "Oscar". The team received the Award from Diana Rigg at a glitzy ceremony in London in December. Also more recently the Compact team have worked with Aimhigher Derbyshire and the University's I4L unit (innovation for learning) to create a web-based resource for people looking at progression into HE with a focus on vocational courses. Launched last week, the website, www.getintoHE.org.uk has been given the annual award for innovation and creativity by the Derby and Derbyshire 14-19 partnership.

The last Newsletter was issued just as Collaborative Provision Audit was upon us. You will all know by now that the exercise was highly successful, and that QAA have broad confidence in all our collaborative provision, a testament to colleagues across the University, but also to all our partners in the UK and overseas who commit so much time and energy to making our

partnership work so well. Thanks to one and all.

The UK Partnerships Office continues to develop the concept of progression accords, and we have recently joined the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, (SSAT) <http://www.specialistschools.org.uk> whose work nationally is helping to promote specific links between schools and colleges which have a particular curriculum focus and HE institutions. We are currently in the process of linking up several of our partners with individual programmes in the University in order to develop guaranteed progression arrangements for school and college students into named University courses.

Our team is working hard to offer all our FE partners the opportunity to bring their Access students to the University for Access progression sessions, letting students taste a range of HE courses early in their Access studies. The most recent is reported in this newsletter.

If your institution is interested in either of these developments please contact the team – Rachael Nicholls (Progression Accords) r.nicholls@derby.ac.uk or Val Blundell (Access into HE experiences) v.blundell@derby.ac.uk.

Staff development opportunities for partners are increasing and we are on schedule to have a full annual calendar available from next academic

year, to support the revised Associate Lecturer Scheme being re-launched in the Summer. I hope that as many of you as possible will take advantage of the bumper week 2nd – 4th July when there is the University's Learning Teaching and Assessment Conference followed by the Collaborative Partner conference, both in Buxton, and then the Compact Progression conference here at Kedleston Road. It will be a busy and productive three days for us, and we hope for you too.

This edition of Globe has a wide variety of news and events from around the world, and I hope will offer something of interest to everyone. We are particularly pleased to be able to report on the Graduation ceremony in Botswana, and to include a reflection on the development of the Swiss partnership with SHMS. Closer to home, we welcome Lincoln College as a new partner and are very grateful to one of our longer serving partners, West Notts College for a piece giving their views on our partnership.

Look out for the next edition in the Autumn, and let us know if there is something you would like to see in Globe 3, or if you have a contribution to offer.

Jeff Braham, Editor

News from the Partnership Office – Admin Team

In our last edition, we mentioned that as part of the School of Flexible and partnership learning, we are keen to develop strategic relationships and partnerships. We are pleased therefore to announce that two new partnerships have recently been approved by the University.

Lincoln College will join the ranks of our existing collaborative partners to deliver the Foundation degree in the Built Environment (Construction) and is expected to begin recruiting for a September 2007 start.

Our other new partner is the Botswana Accountancy College which is expected to offer two programmes via off campus delivery from April 2007. The postgraduate programmes are: Master of Science in Strategic Financial Management and Master of Business Administration.

We look forward to working collaboratively with these two new partners of the University.

Part of the work of the Partnership Office is to provide administrative support to all of our collaborative partners both in the UK and overseas (we even have a dedicated administrative team who provide support to our largest collaboration with Inter College, Israel, due to the scale of this operation). Our role is to work with University faculties, partner staff and students operationally.

Usually (but not exclusively) this involves the arrangements for student enrolment, provision of access to online resources (University of Derby Online – UDo), creation of student cards, student record maintenance, support for Assessment Boards including results distribution, development of our student record system for collaborative partners and an overview of arrangements for Award Ceremonies.

We are always working feverishly behind the scenes to maintain and enhance the service we can provide to you all and with this in mind, we have been putting together a questionnaire to enable everyone to have an opportunity to tell us what you think of the admin service we provide and to suggest enhancements for the future. Our questionnaire will be sent out to you all shortly. We would be extremely grateful for your input!

In terms of technological improvements, we are pleased that we have been able to develop our systems recently to provide online access for students to grades and personal information through UDo. This enhances the usability of our UDo systems for students and represents a step forward. Further developments are in the pipeline – watch this space!

Our Collaborative administrative team is structured as follows. Please feel free to contact us:

Tee Holden – Administrative Manager – Tel: 01332 591633 – Email: t.holden@derby.ac.uk

Jonathan Moss – Administrative Officer (Team Leader - Collaboratives) – Tel: 01332 591184 – Email: j.moss@derby.ac.uk

Fiona Hector – Administrative Assistant (UK Collaboratives) – Tel: 01332 591181 – Email: f.hector@derby.ac.uk

Natalia Taylor – Administrative Assistant (Finance and UK Collaboratives) – Tel: 01332 591360 – Email: n.taylor@derby.ac.uk

Laura Williamson – Administrative Assistant (Overseas Collaboratives) – Tel: 01332 591362 – Email: l.williamson@derby.ac.uk

Leigh Belk - Administrative Officer (Team Leader - Israel) - Tel: 01332 591354 - Email: l.belk@derby.ac.uk

Charlotte Abbott – (Senior Administrative Assistant - Israel) - Tel: 01332 591361 – Email: c.abbott@derby.ac.uk

Finally, now that our new magazine is up and running, we would like to offer you all an opportunity to feedback your thoughts on its content and design and to suggest improvements. The magazine is a useful communication tool which can: promote the good work that we all do, talk about sharing areas of good practice and shout about the successes we have had!

In order to facilitate this, we have created a questionnaire which we have included within this mailing and have made available online through our website: www.derby.ac.uk/fpl. Please have your say and feel free to contribute to our future editions!

If you have an idea for future content please contact the editorial team, Jeff Braham and Jonathan Moss in the Partnership Office: j.braham@derby.ac.uk / j.moss@derby.ac.uk.

West Nottinghamshire College

At West Nottinghamshire College, we pride ourselves on our strong links with our university partners, and with the University of Derby in particular. We now have four Foundation Degrees running through the university – Business Improvement Techniques, Built Environment, Educare and Motorsport. This is in addition to our other sixteen courses on offer through the HE route.

We can rely on the university to actively support our collaboration, through sharing good practice, or even offering tutors to deliver on programmes here at WNC. We have had in-house workshops delivered by UoD staff from the School of Flexible and Partnership Learning, from the Quality Enhancement Department and from our schools of learning at the College. Our staff have attended the open staff development events at Kedleston Road and at Buxton. We are hoping to offer the module “Introduction to HE Teaching” to staff considering delivering at HE level for the first time, and to open access to the Learning through Work programme to staff across the college.

Just how active the relationship is was demonstrated recently when Professor John Coyne joined us at our graduation and commendation ceremony at nearby Thoresby Hall commenting on the wonderful surroundings and conceding that his other option for the weekend would have been to attend the graduation ceremony with the university’s partner institution in Switzerland! Amongst those we were commending were the Educare graduates,

who had attended their University of Derby ceremony on the previous Saturday. The award for the School of Early Years and Care went to Joanne Slaney, whose dissertation may well be published in the future. She is now studying to progress her Foundation Degree into a BA Hons and is planning to move onto to Teacher Training next year.

The FD in Educare was our first FD collaboration with the university, and it has gone from strength to strength over the years. This year for the first time, we have run two first year groups due to increasing numbers, and we plan to run both a full-time and a part-time programme next year. This year has seen the revalidation of the programme, which will become the FD Children and Young People’s Services from this September, when for the first time we will be offering a pathway for teaching assistants, as well as the Early Years options.

The breadth of our staff’s commitment to university level provision for the Mansfield and Ashfield communities was demonstrated during the approval event for the new programmes on 29th January, when the panel commended Claire Barke from our Learning Resource Team on her commitment to and awareness of the programme – thanks Claire!

Thoresby Hall



HE students at the college currently benefit from the support of the Learning Resource Team and their tutors and from an HE base room equipped with tutorial space and open access PCs, as well as from the expert advice of our HE Operations Coordinator, Lucy Beckett.

We are looking forward to the opening of our new building in 2010. We currently have plans to provide a larger dedicated HE centre to accommodate the continuing growth of our HE provision through the University of Derby and our other partner HEIs.

Eleanor Taylor

Associate Director
(HE Curriculum & Quality)
West Nottinghamshire College

Lincoln gets the Green Light

Lincoln College Campus



The School of Technology is pleased to announce that a successful validation was held earlier this year to franchise its prospering Foundation Degree Built Environment (Construction) to Lincoln College. Dr John Begg, Subject Head Built Environment and Engineering, worked closely with Kevin Williams, Head of Construction at Lincoln College in conjunction with FPL staff on the project. Lincoln College hope to recruit around 20 learners on the programme starting in September this year. This is the second franchise of the programme, currently also being offered at West Nottinghamshire College.

Commenting on the success Kevin Williams said “I am delighted to be able to offer a University of Derby qualification to our students in Lincoln. Our employer sponsors are impressed with the programme and have indicated strong commitment to send students here.”

Dr John Begg said “We designed the initial programme with the needs of employers in mind and it has been a great success. We are hoping the students who complete the programme at Lincoln will study at Derby for the top up to honours degree and gain professional standing.”

Plans for the future include possible sharing of expertise between institutions, especially on sustainability and green issues, with joint events between staff and students from both institutions.

News from Overseas Partners

The development of a partnership – Case Study The Swiss Hotel Management School (SHMS), Leysin, Switzerland

The recent successful BA Travel and Tourism Management Approval Event held at the University of Derby Buxton campus on March 1st, 2007, celebrates the most recent milestone in the UDB-SHMS Collaborative Partnership. The occasion gave BA Programme Manager, Irene Sweeney, MA Programme Manager, Megan Woods, and UDB-SHMS Project Manager, Tony Loynes, cause to reflect on the evolution of the relationship over its life of eight years.

Following an initial communiqué by SHMS in 1998, the partnership began in earnest the following year, when the University of Derby started preparations for off campus delivery at the stunning SHMS campus perched on the mountainside overlooking Lake Geneva. Early 2000 saw the launch of the BA (Hons) Hospitality Management, followed two years later by the MA Hospitality. Given the popularity of the programmes, SHMS took the decision to expand further. Thus, in 2004 it acquired a new campus in Leysin comprising of two impressive buildings. Previously a sanatorium and hotel, they were renovated to state of the art standards to accommodate their new guests – the students. By this stage, the franchise for BA in Hospitality Management had been awarded and off campus delivery was taking place for MA Tourism Management, MA Hospitality Management, BA Events Management, BA (Hons) Travel and Tourism Management in addition to the Combined Subject Programme. During this period of direct delivery by University of Derby Buxton, SHMS faculty participated in various elements of staff development, such as shadowing and mentoring, becoming familiar with QAA and UoD policies and procedures. This period also saw the

The Leysin Campus of the Swiss Hotel Management School



strengthening of the relationship on many levels – institutional, programme and module with contact maintained through reciprocal visits, in addition to telephone and email correspondence. This ensured that when the Approval Event for full Franchised Delivery by SHMS took place in April 2006 a culture of trust, confidence and synergy was well established leading to a cause for celebration on both sides as the franchise was approved.

Professor David Gray, Dean of University of Derby Buxton says “The partnership we have with the Swiss Hotel Management School is something to be proud of. The academic teams work very closely together on the ongoing development of the delivery of the curriculum. And the link with SHMS brings an additional dimension to our

programme content that no other Higher Education provider within the UK can offer.”

Both parties realize that the highly successful evolution of this partnership to date is in large part down to the continuous commitment of SHMS staff to development and improvement, and their continued commitment to enhancement is demonstrated in a variety of ways, e.g. contributing to curriculum design, attending collaborative provision events and staff development. A commendation of the BA Travel and Tourism Management event expressed recognition of SHMS as a ‘learning organisation’, always keen to emulate good practice. SHMS staff have every intention of continuing to do so and of seeing their relationship with UDB continue to strengthen.

Compact Developments in Buxton

Katie Wood is the new Compact Development Officer for Buxton. As the Scheme is relatively new to Buxton, this is an exciting and challenging time for Compact to develop in previously uncharted territories! Schools and colleges surrounding the Devonshire Campus are being targeted, introduced and signed up to the University of Derby Compact Scheme. The main focus of recruitment to the Scheme is the Peak 11 schools- three have already signed up and two more are on the

verge of signing their Agreements. Alongside the Peak 11, Katie is also hoping to forge links with schools and colleges in Cheshire, Greater Manchester, South Yorkshire and the Staffordshire Moorlands.

To support Katie’s work with these new partners, and to ensure that a range of exciting and stimulating activities can be offered there will be a mentor training session for Buxton-based HE students at the end of March delivered in conjunction with Aimhigher. Compact activities in schools and colleges can

then begin in earnest. A Travel and Tourism taster day for South East Derbyshire College will go ahead in April in conjunction with Aimhigher and there will also be a trip to the Kedleston Road campus for Buxton’s FE students which will focus on raising the awareness of issues relating to higher education and will help FE students with their decision making processes at this important time. As well as this a full scale taster day for the Faculty of Culture and Lifestyle is being planned for July.



Celebrating the success of our Fd Educare graduates

On the 12th February, the University held a celebratory event to mark the achievement of our graduates from the Foundation Degree in Educare. The programme is offered at the University and at outreach centres in Sheffield, Rutland and at our collaborative partner, West Nottinghamshire College.

During the event, graduates received their DfES Senior Practitioner award and had an opportunity to thank all those who had supported them through their studies – families and friends, work-based mentors, Head and deputy teachers and managers.

The DfES introduced an Early Years Sector-Endorsed Foundation Degree in 2002. This allowed a new level of professional practice to be set up in the Early Years Sector – the Senior Practitioner. This Degree recognises experienced practitioners work and aims to help raise standards and give individuals the recognition they deserve.

The first graduates were awarded Senior Practitioner status in 2002. At this year's awards ceremonies held by the University in January, there were 84 Educare graduates.

Many of our students were nursery nurses and teaching assistants working in nurseries and schools quietly washing paint pots in the corner! Many of our graduates have progressed into leading teams and developing new areas of the Early Years service. An example of this is one of our first graduates, Lisa, who stated that the Foundation degree had been a life changing experience for her. The degree allowed her to become a Manager of the Positive Play Services in Sheffield LA.

A recent audit by the QAA also noted that a strength of the programme was the number of the first cohort who had been promoted or secured new jobs within the Early Years sector. In fact some findings emerging from recent research suggests that around 73% of



Fd Educare graduates who received their DfES Senior Practitioner Award

graduates are not in the same job role as the one they started the degree in and graduates suggested that the most important outcome of the FD was that their experience and expertise as early years practitioners was now valued – a heartening fact!

We are proud of all our Fd Educare graduates and wish them well for the future.

Elaine Hallet

Faculty Teaching Fellow: Foundation Degrees
Education, Health and Sciences

Education Studies at the Chalk Face of Collaboration

Cert Ed (PCET)/ PGCE FE

We had a “massive” increase in student trainees on the PGCE FE (30 to 41), thanks to HEFCE, and our College partners were fantastic in providing the additional placements for them. We seem to have some real stars this year as a number of them are already promised jobs with their placement college for September 2007!

The Cert Ed has had a large increase in numbers across the partnership, with Derby College (DC) having year 1 for the first time, rather than focus on the 7407 as a route in. This has resulted in an increase in staffing at DC and we welcome both old friends and new to the delivery team, Jill Julian, Maureen Finch, and Melanie Lancer to name only a few. Stephenson College has also had an increase in numbers, and this looks set to continue. We also welcome Roger Campbell back to the South East Derbyshire College (SEDC) delivery team!

We are getting more people moving onto the BA Education Studies from partner Cert Ed provision, and alongside our Teaching Assistants this is really enriching the groups in year 3. Two very keen students from Loughborough College!

It has been a tough year for all the PCET team, we have had Ofsted, still ongoing, and affecting both Derby & Buxton sites and

SEDC, QAA Collaborative Audit, with Derby College, and now QAA “HE in FE”, mainly focused on Stephenson College. This has put a lot of pressure us and our partners, as we are all very small teams, with a number of other responsibilities as well! The upside is that so far the feedback has been very good, a lot of significant positives from Ofsted and 6 commendations from QAA, the main one, we thought, being the strength of our relationship with partners!

Please support us in May, when Ofsted come back to look at our students teaching, make them welcome, they have been very fair so far, and kindly provide shoulders for student teachers to cry on, it is a major stressor for them as well!

Alongside all of this partners have been meeting very frequently with us over the revalidation of the PGCE/Cert Ed, due to national changes in the Standards, which are 9 months behind, but we still need the course validated and endorsed by September, no pressure there then! Partners have been very supportive in attending these meetings and have worked with us to make sure that the new programme is ideally focused on Post-Compulsory issues. There will be a range of new option modules, including a specialist “Teaching the Deaf” module from Derby College.

The same partners have also supported our

new initiative Foundation Degree “Teaching in the Post-Compulsory Sector”, we now have 5 pathways ready for September in ESOL, Engineering, Literacy, Public Services and Design Technology. These new routes will allow teachers the opportunity to study part time in their subject as well as gain the Teaching Qualification, giving them a 50% subject based course, and the chance to continue to BA/BSc if they would like to.

All of our partner colleges, Adult and Community Education and training providers are part of a bid for Centre of Excellence in Teacher Training (CETT) with us, led by South Leicestershire College. We understand this to be the only East Midlands bid in the second round, and if successful will give us all excellent opportunities to drive forward developments in the sector, increase all our enrolments, as well as benefit from the work done by the CETT team!

I'd like to thank Lynn Senior, Pete Scales and Kath Headley, it has been a very hard year so far, but we couldn't have done anything without the support of our college partners, who have been fantastic, and must wonder sometimes if they work here!

Thank you for everything, it really is a pleasure, and a privilege, to work with you all.

Jo Pickering



RAF partnership continues to take off



Members of the consortium with RAF personnel and the Red Arrows.

On 25th January 2007 the Foundation Degrees in Applied Business, and Leadership and Management, were officially launched at RAF Scampton, home to the Red Arrows display team.

These new Foundation Degrees are the result of further collaboration with the RAF. The University of Derby's Learning Through Work Team in the School of Flexible and Partnership Learning, and the Faculty of Business Computing and Law have again worked in a consortium with other Universities to provide a flexible approach to awards. The consortium approach means that as well as flexible content around a core framework, varying methods of delivery including traditional face to face learning and distance learning, ensure that the programmes suit learners' preferred method of learning as well as being flexible enough to meet individual circumstances.

At the event The Honourable Air Commodore David Murray, Assistant Chief of Staff (Training) from the RAF's No 22 (Training) Group, and members from the four consortium member universities, signed the partnership agreement. Also present were learners who have already started their studies on the programme, working towards their degrees.

Although developed alongside the RAF, these programmes are equally applicable to managers in any organisation who wish to pursue a work-based approach to a qualification in Applied Business or Leadership and Management. On achieving a Foundation degree learners may then top up, with further study, to a BA honours degree.

Leap Ahead – the Lifelong Learning Network for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire begins to live up to its name

The newly established Leap Ahead Lifelong Learning Network, a consortium of the University of Derby (project hosts), Nottingham University, Nottingham Trent, the Open University, and the eight FE colleges in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, has now appointed its Director (Mike Braund) and Administrative Manager (Val Williams).

Lifelong Learning Networks have a mission to raise levels of employer engagement and students entering vocational HE programmes. Through multiple activity strands:

- supporting institutions in developing innovative, accessible programmes
- working with employers to ensure that HE curriculum is vocationally relevant
- increasing the amount of high level skills training supported by employers
- developing formal progression agreements and common credit frameworks
- mapping vocational provision pathways
- offering information, advice and guidance on vocational HE opportunities to learners 19+ who fall outside existing IAG provision

The Leap Ahead LLN is also running a national trial of e-portfolios with vocational and work based learners. This strand is based at the University of Nottingham and is running an evaluation with Derbyshire vocational learners.

Leap Ahead is focussing on LSC and EMDA priority sectors for Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire, Engineering, Construction, Hospitality and Tourism, and Retail.

This project is currently recruiting team members who will work to deliver the ambitious targets for new learners, employer engagement, and new HE courses over the next three years.

If you would like to learn more about Leap Ahead please contact Mike Braund on 01332 592257.

The 'Blackboard' Jungle – a quick update

From September 07 Derby University will replace the underlying software that provides you with access to course resources in UDo. The service will continue to be called Course Resources and you will continue to access it via UDo. The new software is an industry standard product called Blackboard.

The university has spent a lot of time choosing this new software and we believe Blackboard will provide all students and staff with a wide range of tools and opportunities to enrich and improve their learning and teaching.

We also believe that it will provide an additional level of flexibility

and support for students studying away from the main campuses. As we rollout the new software it will provide opportunities for staff and students to use new technologies such as:

Blogs: A blog or weblog is an online journal available through the web. Updating a blog is "blogging" and someone who keeps a blog is a "blogger." The ease of publishing information through a blog has led to huge readerships and potential influence for writers who would not previously have had access to a mainstream audience.

Wikis: A wiki is a website or similar online resource which allows users to add and edit content collectively. This allows any user to edit



Report's 'Broad Confidence'

The University has received praise from the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) following a recent audit of its collaborative provision.

Our links with international partners such as Inter-College in Israel, Swiss Hotel Management School and the Vakalo School of Art and Design were placed under the microscope, alongside UK partnerships with Derby College, other FE colleges and other organisations. Partnership activity accounts for about 6,000 of our students.

This report concludes that quality and standards are good, and 'broad confidence' is the best result a university can get, so that's excellent news. Professor Colin Raban, Director of Quality Enhancement, said: "It's a credit to the University and evidence of the changes Derby has introduced over a number of years to overcome the issues it had previously encountered in this area. "It is the result of efforts made across the University,

everywhere from the faculties and the central departments to the partner agencies. We are taking a more strategic view of partnership work and it has resulted in properly directed change."

As there are no advisable or necessary outcomes from the report, the University has just been given desirable recommendations for action.

These include ensuring that promotional materials produced by partner organisations give prominence to the University as the awarding institution. And adopting a broader approach to sharing with students, the details of the feedback they give on their learning experiences, and reporting our progress on the action we've taken as a result.

Features of good practice found by the audit team include:

- The close relationships the University develops with partner organisations at all

levels, through a variety of joint activities approached in the spirit of genuine partnership.

- The overview report on annual monitoring, highlighting its effectiveness as a focus for rigorous analysis of collaborative activity.
- The active involvement of University staff in assessment processes, especially in the moderation of marking, which also has a strong developmental element.
- The creative approach to gathering student feedback, which includes both formal and informal processes of finding out information directly from students and indirectly through the partner organisation.
- The comprehensiveness of the documentation and guidance available to staff and the extensive range of staff development opportunities.

Operational Manuals

As I'm sure most of you will agree the Operational Manual is the most important document you receive from the University as it contains essential information about how your collaborative arrangements should work in practice.

However, over the years some manuals have become rather lengthy and complex with too much detail already contained in other University documents or available on our web site. As a result the Collaborative and Distributed Learning sub committee has commissioned a review of Operational Manuals to report in June.

If you have any specific comments to make about the contents of your Operational Manual, please email Amanda K Greason a.k.greason@derby.ac.uk.

Accredited Lecturers

Some of you reading this may already be Accredited Lecturers, others may not have heard about the scheme. Those who have applied may be wondering what difference it has made to their academic life apart from an additional line on their CV. All of that will soon change as the whole scheme is being reviewed.

If you have any specific comments or general observations to make about the Accredited Lecturer's Scheme that may help our review process, please email Amanda K Greason a.k.greason@derby.ac.uk.

the content of webpages through a simple browser. The most influential example is Wikipedia, an online encyclopaedia developed and maintained by members of the public through the Internet. "Wiki wiki" means "rapidly" in the Hawaiian language.

Podcasts: This is a term derived from Apple's "iPod" and "broadcasting", is a method of publishing audio or video files to the Internet, allowing users to subscribe and receive new files automatically. It first became popular largely for audio files but more recently the technology has been extended into vodcasting (video rather than audio files).

Blackboard provides a range of improved facilities including better discussion forums and enhanced support for group working.

We have already piloted Blackboard, as part of UDo Course Resources on a small number of modules and the general feedback

has been positive from both staff and students. Most users seemed to find the new software easy to learn. As we implement the new software on a wider range of modules we will be providing online support and booklets to help you use the system.

As with any major new ICT project there have been some technical teething problems and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all students for their help and patience in resolving these.

A specific support programme for University staff and staff in partner institutions is being rolled out during the next few months.

Staff development for the use of Blackboard is being co-ordinated by Dave Foord, who can be contacted on d.foord@derby.ac.uk or 01332 591746. If you want to book into any of the training sessions, then please email e-dev@derby.ac.uk giving the dates and times of the session, and which collaborative institution you are at.

Monday	23/04/07	09:30 – 12:30	Derby (Kedleston Road)
Friday	04/05/07	09:30 – 12:30	Derby (Kedleston Road)
Monday	14/05/07	16:30 – 18:30	Buxton
Thursday	17/05/07	13:30 – 16:30	Derby (Kedleston Road)
Thursday	24/05/07	09:30 – 12:30	Derby (Kedleston Road)
Thursday	24/05/07	16:30 – 18:30	Buxton
Wednesday	30/05/07	13:30 – 16:30	Derby (Kedleston Road)
Monday	04/06/07	13:30 – 16:30	Derby (Kedleston Road)
Tuesday	05/06/07	16:30 – 18:30	Buxton
Tuesday	12/06/07	09:30 – 12:30	Derby (Kedleston Road)
Wednesday	20/06/07	09:30 – 12:30	Derby (Kedleston Road)
Friday	29/06/07	12:30 – 15:30	Derby (Kedleston Road)

Alternatively, if you cannot attend any of the above, support will be available at the summer conferences (see over), via online materials or by negotiation a roadshow could be brought to your institution. Contact Dave Foord for details.

John Wallace – Pathfinder Project



Clinical Skills suite

First Progression evening for South East Derbyshire Access students

Access students from South East Derbyshire College followed in the footsteps of their peers from Derby College and Burton College by attending their own Progression Event on the evening of Tuesday 13 February. This was the first event of its kind to be held at Kedleston Road.

The students were taken on a tour of the Clinical Skills Suite and were able to attend a choice of programme and career related talks on Occupational Therapy, Radiography and Nursing. Amongst other things they learned that Radiography is not just about X rays and that Occupational Therapy is about mental health as well as physical health. However, the highlight of the evening was clearly the tour with everyone being impressed by the quality of the facilities and the technology available.

"It makes it real" and "It's absolutely wonderful" were just two of the comments made during the evening.

The students were not the only ones to be pleased with the event.

Alex Pryor, Access Manager at South East Derbyshire College wrote "Thanks for the visit. I found it fascinating as I know the students did. They were very impressed with the facilities and inspired for their future learning. I would very much like to make this an annual event."

When the students were asked, at the end of the evening, what effect coming to the event had had on their career plans their replies included:

*'This has made me more determined'
'I am now more certain of what I want to do'
'It has put my mind at ease'*

We are more than happy to arrange this type of event for any of our FE partners.

Would this, or something similar, be beneficial to your students? For further information or to discuss your requirements please contact Val Blundell, Partnership Development Officer on 01332 591867 or e-mail v.blundell@derby.ac.uk

University Open Days

Buxton – Saturday 12 May 11 am – 3pm
Derby – Saturday 23 June 1pm – 4pm

Forthcoming Events

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Introduction to UDo workshops

University of Derby online (UDo) is an exclusive facility for staff and students, giving access to a wide range of services and information. This hands-on workshop will give an overview of the functions and features of UDo

Thursday 19 April 10.00 - 11.30 am	Tuesday 08 May 10.00 - 11.30 am
Thursday 21 June 2.00 - 3.30 pm	Tuesday 10 July 10.00 - 11.30 am

Marking and Moderation: Sharing Best Practice 2 May 2007 10.00 - 12.00 noon

An interactive workshop for partner staff teaching on UoD programmes

Linking with employers: Focus on Foundation Degrees 7 June 10.00 - 12.00 noon

An interactive workshop looking at employer engagement

All sessions at University of Derby, Kedleston Road. Other events are planned, visit the Partnership office website for details. To reserve a place on forthcoming events or to suggest future sessions please contact Carleen Osborne, School of Flexible and Partnership Learning 01332 59 1867, email c.osborne@derby.ac.uk For Access to e-learning staff development please go to the University of Derby website then UDo and using your UDo user name and password access the Events Calendar (<https://uintranet.derby.ac.uk/elearn/events.asp>)

CONFERENCES - dates for your diary (Invitations and further information will be sent out to all partners nearer the time)

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Conference Monday 2 July 10.00 - 4.00 pm

Contact Carleen Osborne on 01332 59 1867 or e-mail C.Osborne@derby.ac.uk

Collaborative Partners' Conference Tuesday 3 July 10.00 - 4.00 pm

Contact Mike Bellamy on 01332 59 1613 or e-mail M.Bellamy@derby.ac.uk

Both of the above conferences will take place at the University of Derby's Buxton Campus.

Progression Conference Wednesday 4 July 9.30 - 3.30 pm

This is a free event taking place at the University of Derby, Kedleston Road site. For further details and a booking form please contact Rachael Nicholls, Compact Administrator, on 01332 59 1088 or e-mail r.nicholls@derby.ac.uk

Collaborative Conference

Back in the Autumn, we said that the "collaborative conference" would become an annual event. Now that the QAA Audit is behind us we plan to give much more attention to developing a shared 'enhancement' agenda, taking on board your needs and interests.

You will recall that the last conference was in September and was therefore difficult for some of you to attend, so we are arranging this year's annual conference for earlier in the year. It will be on 3rd July at the University's Buxton campus, immediately after the University's Learning, Teaching and Assessment conference on the 2nd July. This would enable delegates to attend both events, and we aim to arrange overnight accommodation and some kind of evening activity (even if it's only drinks and dinner!) for those of us who are participating in both events.

Although we recognise that it is impossible to meet everyone's different schedules, we hope that this date will be more convenient for more of our partners. We have already had an initial and very tentative discussion on the content and focus of the conference, and themes included 'widening participation', 'working together to improve the student experience', 'new models of partnership working'. We're particularly keen to obtain your views on the focus and structure of the day and your contributions would be most welcome by email to c.raban@derby.ac.uk

It was also suggested that we convene a one day workshop with our FE partners to discuss QAA's new IQER methodology, and to learn from the experience of the two colleges (Stephenson and Burton) who are participating in the pilot exercise. We in QED and FPL have been working with the Forum for Access and Continuing Education (FACE) who will be helping us to mount an East Midlands event in Derby in June.

Colin Raban, Director of Quality Enhancement

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Conference

The second University of Derby Learning Teaching and Assessment Conference will take place on Monday July 2nd at the Buxton campus of the University. All staff in our collaborative partner institutions are invited to attend, and to contribute to the day. We hope it will be an enjoyable opportunity for colleagues from across the University and our partner institutions to meet.

There will be opportunities to contribute to the conference through workshops, posters, demonstrations and displays, on our HE and FE provision. We will all have the opportunity to learn from improvements in teaching and assessment practice through which colleagues are seeking to enhance students' learning and achievement. Please set this day aside so you can be part of an enjoyable and valuable occasion. Later this term further details will be sent about making contributions, and signing up for the conference.

Quality Enhancement Department