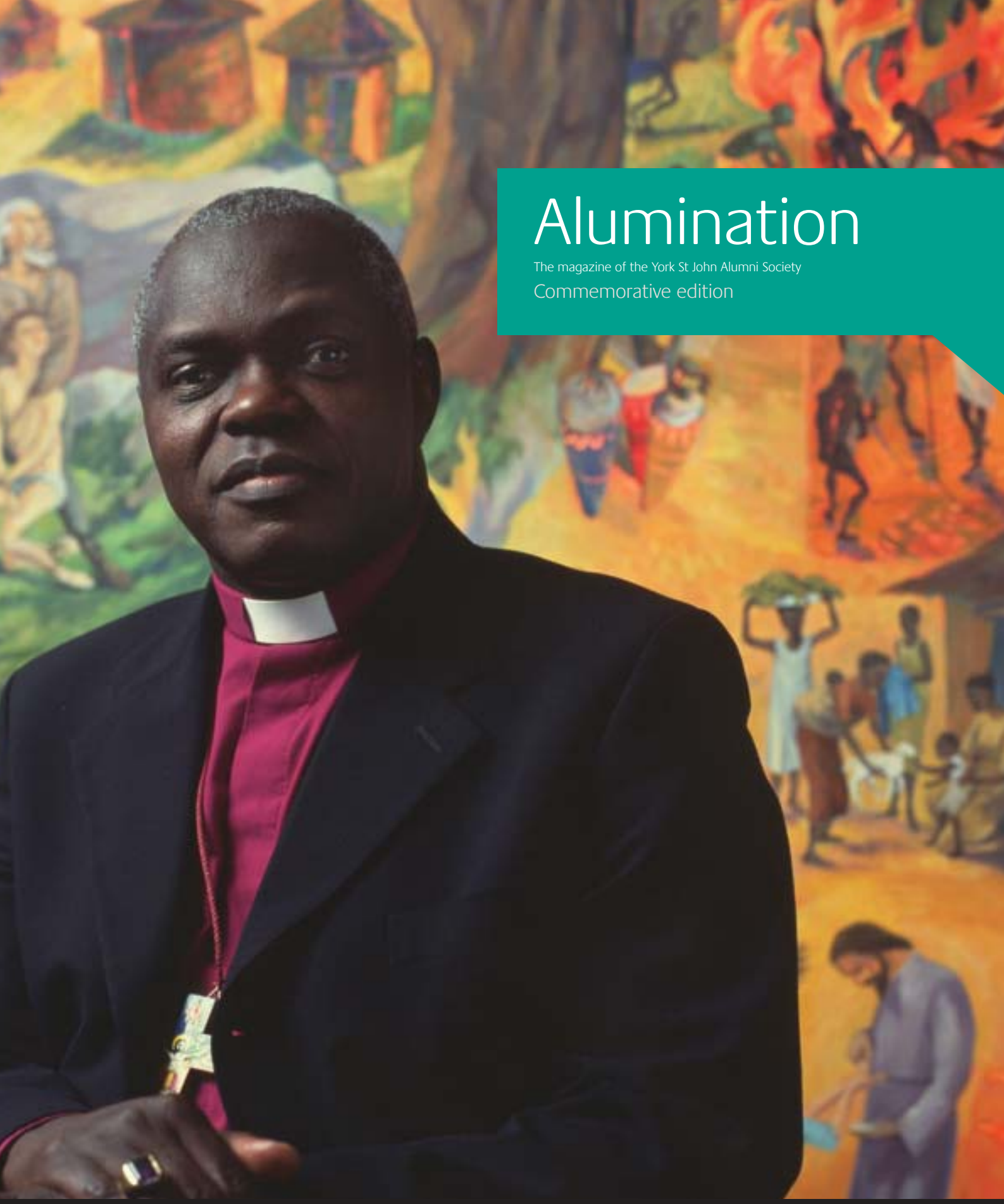
Alumination

The magazine of the York St John Alumni Society

Commemorative edition



York St John University

Issue 7 | Spring 2007 | Introducing York St John University

Faculty News | University News | Chancellor Profile | Alumni Profiles and much more

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The Editorial team would like to thank all those who have contributed to this publication. The opinions expressed in Alumination do not necessarily reflect the views of the Office for Institutional Advancement or York St John University.

Welcome from the Vice Chancellor

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the first edition of Alumination since York St John officially adopted its new title of University. In this special edition of Alumination, to mark a new era, you will find articles ranging from the International Conference on Peace and Reconciliation to the partnership between York St John University and the North Yorkshire Police. This diversity of material is reflective of the inclusive institution our new University has become - building on the legacy of former students and staff.

As well as finding this edition of Alumination entertaining and educational, I also hope you will find it helpful in explaining how you can stay involved with York St John.

If this edition of Alumination motivates you to find out more about what becoming a University means to York St John, may I invite you to visit us? If you would like to take up this opportunity please contact Brett Arnall (E: alumni@yorksj.ac.uk, T: 01904 876432) who can give you details of events you may wish to attend at the University or he can tailor a visit to meet your specific needs.

I look forward to meeting with many of you as you return to York St John for future events.

With best wishes,

Professor Dianne Willcocks

Vice Chancellor

Students, staff, governors, alumni and friends at York St John have been united in celebrating the achievement of University status. On Monday 24 July 2006, on a stunning summer day, the Quad was the setting for the first gathering of the York St John community to welcome the wonderful news. 165 years after its foundation as a Higher Education institution, York St John received official approval from the Privy Council of the UK to become 'York St John University'. We officially became York St John University on 1 October 2006.

The first celebration in the Quad

The York St John community has worked long and hard for many years to achieve this recognition, going through several processes of intense scrutiny to gain Taught Degree Awarding Powers in 2005, approval to use 'University College' in February 2006 and now, the final endorsement of our success, in the announcement of York St John University in July 2006.

Staff and students at York St John University, celebrated receiving university status in style on Friday 3 November with a party on campus, which was a great success.

A kids' party kicked the night off, where the staff's children were invited to join in with the celebrations. A champagne reception was held in the dining room from 7.00pm, where staff were invited to join the Vice Chancellor to toast the University's success. From 8.00pm there were a number of acoustic sets by Jess Morgan, a jazz quartet and Ali Lawrence which continued through the night.

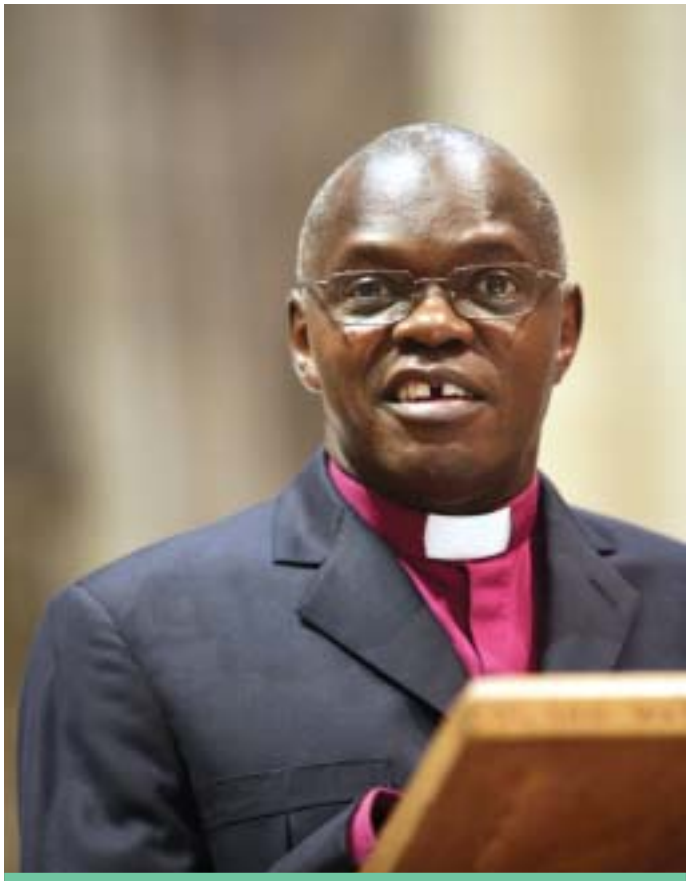
A great atmosphere in Temple Hall

Temple Hall was also alive with music, Leeds University Union Dance Band started the night with great numbers such as Come Fly with Me, and Mack and Knife. A local band, Fine and Mellow followed and entertained crowds with quality tunes including Let's Stay Together and Signed, Sealed, Delivered.

Fine and Mellow perform in Temple Hall

The Students' Union was open until the early hours with music from various local DJs who played a variety of music styles to keep staff and students entertained throughout the night. Staff and students tucked into a renowned Hog Roast whilst enjoying the music and a fajitas stall was also set up outside the Union and the Crush Bar.

Archbishop is the first Chancellor of York St John University



Dr John Sentamu, York St John's first Chancellor

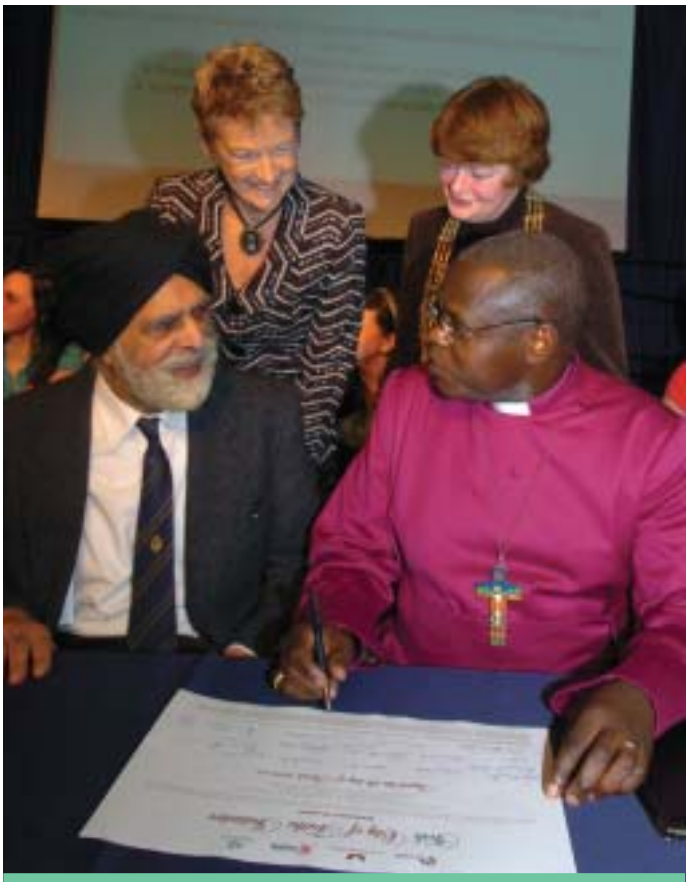
The Vice Chancellor and Board of Governors of York St John University are delighted that the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, is the first Chancellor of York St John University.

The Archbishop was installed at a ceremony at the beginning of March 2007 at York Minster in front of an audience of staff, students, alumni and partners from across the region and beyond. As the very first Chancellor of the University, Dr John Sentamu is the ceremonial head of the University and will serve as a source of wise counsel to the institution.

John Tucker Mugabi Sentamu graduated in Law from Makerere University, Kampala and is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda. He practised Law both at the Bar and at the Bench before he came to the UK in 1974. He read Theology at Selwyn College Cambridge where he gained a Masters Degree and a Doctorate, before training for ordination at Ridley Hall Cambridge, then part of the Cambridge Federation of Theological Colleges.

Following his ordination in 1979 Dr Sentamu served as Assistant Chaplain at Selwyn College, Cambridge. He was Chaplain at HM Remand Centre Lachmere House from 1979-1982 and curate of St Andrew's, Ham in the Diocese of Southwark.

Dr Sentamu was appointed Bishop for Stepney in 1996, Bishop for Birmingham in 2002 and Archbishop of York in 2005. He is a Primate of England and Metropolitan, a member of the House of Lords and a Privy Councillor. The Installation of the Chancellor in March 2007 took place almost six months after the launch of the UK's newest University, which was in the first week of October 2006.



Dr Sentamu at the City of Faiths initiative at York St John

Dr Sentamu is also a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. His interests include music, cooking, reading, athletics, rugby and football. He is married to Margaret and they have two grown-up children, Grace and Geoffrey.

On Wednesday 13 September 2006 the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York launched the Ebor Lectures on Theology & Public Life at York Minster.

In a wide-ranging lecture he argued that 'God's purposes can be uncovered through a threefold approach of trust and worship of a loving God, love of neighbour and caring for creation. God will be God without humanity. But without God humanity would be naught.'

The Archbishop considered the importance of Christianity as a force for social justice through the actions of individuals such as George Cadbury, Joseph Rowntree and Joseph Storrs Fry and of charities and organisations such as Shelter, Save the Children, and the Samaritans, but that good works alone cannot earn redemption.

He decried the dehumanisation of the individual which takes place during international conflicts such as that in the Middle East, 'the cheapening of human life which is now taken almost for granted by those in power.' He also condemned the misinterpretation of God's purposes by 'so called "Islamic terrorism". A religious person who commits acts of terror denies the faith they appear to profess.'

Some of the 700 attendees

Finally, the Archbishop welcomed the fact that, 'It has often been Muslims, as well as leaders of other faiths, who have joined with Christians in refusing to accept the creeping secularisation that would replace "Christmas" with "Winterval", and remove references to faith from public noticeboards for fear of causing offence. It is both my view and my experience that most British Muslims do not feel threatened by our Christian moral foundations but by the cynicism of secularised culture that denies its own foundations. What they object to is the attempt to build human society without God.'

In conclusion, he said that 'If we throw ourselves on the grace of God and seek his purposes, our vocation - while never pitching our tent in the valley of relativism - is to see everyone in England, people of faith and none, not as enemies but as beloved neighbours and friends. All made in the image and likeness of God.'

The Ebor Lectures

The Ebor Lectures are a response to the growing need for theology to interact with public issues in contemporary society. Public theology is about engaging in dialogue with a range of communities on issues wider than narrowly defined religious matters. This series of lectures aims to promote public conversation and to contribute to the formation of personal decisions and collective policy-making in economic, political and social spheres. It is also an ecumenical project that seeks to exchange insights between academic religious traditions and to build bridges between church and other religious groups. The lectures relate faith to public concerns including politics, economics, contemporary culture, religion and spirituality, society and globalisation, local and global Christianity.

The theme for 2006-07 is *Liberating Text? Revelation, Identity and Public Life*. In the contemporary context sacred texts are often regarded as deeply problematic contributing to the rise of fundamentalisms. In relation to the Abrahamic faiths, the Ebor Lectures for 2006-07 seek to discover how traditions of interpretation can be used to release the potential of sacred texts for public life. How can sacred texts be interpreted in ways which illuminate and re-imagine public life? How do religious traditions negotiate their identity in relation to the meaning of their sacred texts in ways which are both faithful and open to new insight? How can a sacred text contribute to the exploration of public life?

York Minster, York St John University, the Methodist Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the Churches Regional Commission are joint partners in this major ecumenical project. This ongoing series of lectures will be delivered at York Minster and York St John University alternatively once a month between September and June (six lectures). The lectures will then be published in book form every year.

For more information about the forthcoming lectures please see our website: www.yorksj.ac.uk/eborlectures

Graduation 2006

Family and friends attended one of four ceremonies held over two days last November to celebrate the success of the 2006 graduates and that of this year's Honorary Fellows.

2006 graduates celebrate their success

British journalist Kate Adie was one of three exceptional individuals awarded an Honorary Fellowship. Her most high profile role was that of chief news reporter for the BBC news, during which she became well known for reporting from war zones around the world. Kate has also been awarded the Richard Dimbleby BAFTA in 1990 and an OBE in 1993.

British Journalist Kate Adie

Also receiving an Honorary Fellowship was Wolfgang Mastnak who has had many links with York St John University in previous years, collaborating with conductor Ralph Bateman in a series of performances of Mozart Piano concertos with the University's string orchestra. He has three PhDs in Mathematics, Clinical Psychology and Music Education and Ethnology. He is currently a Professor of Music Pedagogy at the Hochschule in Munich and also a Professor at the Conservatory in Shanghai.

Cynthia Cockburn received an Honorary Fellowship from the School of Health & Life Sciences. Cynthia has worked closely with women peace activists in conflicting countries. Some of her publications in this area include 'The space between us: Negotiating Gender and National Indenties in Conflict', and 'The Line: Women, Partition and the Gender Order in Cyprus'. Her most recent research has involved mapping and analysing feminist opposition to war as a growing, global and social movement.

Class of 2006 memorabilia

The Office for Institutional Advancement has several Class of 2006 t-shirts and jumpers in stock. The items were available at the graduation ceremonies and feature the names of all the students that graduated on either the Thursday or the Friday.

Graduation jumper
Grey with black print

Graduation t-shirt
White with navy sleeves

If you would like to order any garments please contact:

Kate Hutchings

T: 01904 876741

E: k.hutchings@yorksj.ac.uk

Please state what day you graduated and the size you require (S, M, L or XL).

Vice Chancellor visits Japanese alumni

In October 2006 Vice Chancellor Dianne Willcocks, accompanied by Japan Projects Officer Dr Hisashi Nakamura, met York St John alumni in Osaka and Tokyo during a visit to South Korea and Japan. During the meetings Professor Willcocks gave seminars on the current agenda for UK Higher Education and York St John as it became a university.

Vice Chancellor Willcocks with alumni from Osaka

Event dates for 2007

9 May	Foundation Day
20 May	Fun run/walk at York Racecourse
12-16 September	London to Paris cycle ride
13 October	YSJ Day at the Races (York Racecourse)

We are also planning a range of other events for 2007 including a Fashion Show, Themed Meal and other challenge events. If you have any ideas, we would welcome your views and suggestions or if you would like to be involved with a specific event please contact the Advancement Office.

Calling all Old John's Rugby players

On Saturday 4 November 2006, a group of 12 former students, led by Jon Nissler, from the years 1979 - 83 returned to the University. All had been members of St John's RUFC and it was at their request that a meeting was convened with the Deputy Vice Chancellor, David Maughan Brown and Andy Smith, Director of Institutional Advancement (former Head of Sports Science & Psychology). Also in attendance were John Maw (President St John's RUFC), David Stockton (President of the Students' Union), Nic Humphries (former Ist XV Captain and Coach), Mark Lawrenson (former Club Captain), Mark Farrer (current Club Captain) and Mark Oliver (current First XV Captain).

Earlier in the year, some of those present had made a special trip to York to play a part in the Old John's weekend. As a result, some of them had met in Geneva where they indicated their desire to provide help for University sport, particularly the Rugby Club in whatever ways they could.

In the presence of the two senior executives from the University a useful discussion took place before both sides agreed to go away to consider ways forward. One major step was taken, however, in that it was agreed that a sustained effort should be made to attract more former rugby players to join the Alumni Society and at the same time increase the membership of the sub-set of former rugby players. Communication with these people would be possible through the Office for Institutional Advancement.

If you are reading this article, you are almost certainly a member of the Alumni Society but you could encourage others to join by asking them to contact Brett Arnall. It has been my privilege to share many of your rugby experiences over the years and I am also aware of the loyalty that you show to your former College, which is now a University.
I would hope that you would want to become one of the larger 'team' that we hope to establish.

John Maw

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E: k.hutchings@yorksj.ac.uk

Students' Union news

It has been a memorable year for the Students' Union sabbatical teamwith a refurbished Students' Union, a brand new website and two fantastic welcome weeks. A range of activities were held during Welcome Week including regular events such as the SSHH! BBQ, Pyjama Pub Crawl and the Welcome Fair. New activities included ice skating, Freshers' Fest, an Ikea trip and much more. Both welcome weeks went extremely well but seemed to go so fast, time really does fly when you're enjoying yourself! Other activities organised throughout the first semester also went really well including the trip to see Razorlight in concert and the opportunity to watch a show at York Theatre Royal. We still have a lot more events to come and hopefully they will also be successful.

Zippy puts in an appearance during Welcome Week!

We had a prosperous and rather eventful Tri-Varsity, which was held at Hull this year. Many of our sports teams played against Hull and Teesside. Unfortunately, overall we didn't win, however we didn't come last either! The final results were: Teesside 7, York St John 5.5 and Hull 5. We may not have won but our spirits were still high and we had loads of fun partying the night away in Hull Students' Union! Next year we should be hosting the event and as we are getting bigger and better we will hopefully get the victory we deserve!

October was National Domestic Violence Awareness month which was supported by a campaign run by the Students' Union and the University welfare service. This campaign included the phones for safety scheme where staff and students could donate old mobile phones, which would then be recycled to produce life-saving devices.

A range of activities were organised throughout the campaign such as the promotion and visit from York Women's Aid, White Ribbon Campaign party, 'leave your aggression here' sumo wrestling and basic self-defence, and a fundraising pub crawl. All in all a huge amount of awareness was achieved along with a considerable number of donations for anti-domestic violence charities.

As we have now become a university it was only right that we celebrated this long-awaited and fantastic status. The Students' Union helped organise the celebrations which comprised of acoustic sets in the dining hall including Jess Morgan and pianists Alistair Lawrence and Jonathan Taylor. The Leeds University Union Dance Band and Fine and Mellow performed in Temple Hall, and in the Students' Union, DJ sets from our very own entertainments team, Kinky Indie and Bomb Squad. It was a brilliant event and a super way to celebrate our success in becoming a university.

Best wishes Dave, Donna and Anjuli

Visit our homepage: www.yorkysjsu.co.uk

An enjoyable start for Donna, Dave and Anjuli

In the last year, the Students' Union has had an influx of new blood to help support the Sabbatical Officers and their fellow students, who give up their time for free. Without these volunteers the Students' Union would not be able to provide the quality of service and engagement, not only with students but also the local community, which it has supplied for years. This year, volunteering has suffered seriously under the impact of tuition fees, however many students are still dedicated to seeing their Students' Union succeed and represent the full range of beliefs and values of an ever increasingly, diverse student body.

With pressure increasing for student's to make the most out of their time at university, combined with the increasing demands to be financially self-sufficient, the average students' free time is no longer as significant as it once was. This impacts directly on volunteering, and also indirectly on the local community that students have traditionally supported and worked closely with in a variety of ways. This year our primary school literacy project has become stronger and now works in partnership with more schools than previous years, but without significant numbers of time-rich students it becomes harder to establish new projects which can address local needs.

Whether volunteering takes the form of being president of your club or society, or helping entertain children on a Saturday morning (to give their parents a well deserved rest!), it has never been more important to stress the benefits of volunteering. Many students do not realise what a bonus volunteering makes to CVs, future job prospects and even their outlook on life. People often overlook the contribution students make to the local community, the focus often being on the noise students make and the 'mess' they take with them everywhere they go.

Rewarding engagement with the local community

Volunteer profile

Vicki Nixon BA (Hons) Comparative Media (2006)

I have always wanted to be involved with volunteering and thought doing that bit extra on top of my degree would help me in the future. It was so rewarding, finding out things we take for granted are so appreciated by others. One of my highlights was mentoring a 16 year old boy struggling with GCSEs. It was easier to help him manage his coursework and revision because I had been through similar experiences.

It certainly benefited my student experience, not only did I have the opportunity to help others, but I also met some great friends both in the volunteering committee and through events organised outside of York St John. My experiences of volunteering have made me realise I want to continue and make volunteering or charity work part of my career.

Vicki supporting the Pick It Up Campaign

If you are interested in having yourself profiled then contact alumni@yorksj.ac.uk. By doing this you will be helping to encourage a greater number of students to actively engage with their Students' Union, their local community and their own personal and professional development. It is important to continue to look to the future and build strong graduates who can proudly represent York St John University as they move through life, promoting the good work the University and Students' Union do together in shaping and supporting the next generation of society.

John Maw walks from York to Malton to raise money for SPARK and St Leonard's Hospice

Former student, staff member and YSJ Honorary Fellow, John Maw, walked 20 miles on Sunday 15 October 2006 to raise money for SPARK and St Leonard's Hospice. John left Malton Railway Station at 9.00am, going through Coneysthorpe, Castle Howard entrance, Bulmer, High Stittenham, Flaxton, Strensall and Earswick along the way. He arrived back at York St John University well before his target of 6.00pm! John (pictured below) raised over £300 for St Leonard's Hospice and over £200 for SPARK.

Professor Andy Smith meets up with John enroute

YSJ Corinthians

YSJ Corinthians are a group of students, staff and former students at the University who work with the Office for Institutional Advancement to raise funds to support their peers and the University by participating in fun and challenging events.

The Office for Institutional Advancement would like to invite all alumni to join this group. We are hoping that many of the current students who become Corinthians will also become active and leading members of the University Alumni Society after they have graduated.

Members of YSJ Corinthians receive regular updates on discounts (eg York Races), progress reports and information on how to participate in forthcoming fundraising events such as quizzes, London to Paris cycle ride, annual fun run, fashion show, coast to coast walks, themed meals, golf championships and more!

If you would like to register as a member or have any ideas you would like us to develop on your behalf please contact the Institutional Advancement team, E: k.hutchings@yorksj.ac.uk or T: 01904 876741.

CITYsj is here

CITYsj Productions is a York St John University funded project, which this year launches the commercial wing of the Film & TV department in the Faculty of Arts. The company will produce high quality film, television and multimedia products, professionally produced by York St John graduates, supported by York St John staff.

Formerly known as The Fourth Year, CITYsj Productions will employ directors, producers, designers, web designers, sound recordists, editors, actors, camera operators, PAs, composers, animators and other general crew members, on a freelance basis, drawn from graduates and talented local independent filmmakers, to work in a professional capacity on commercial films for regional organisations.

Another role of CITYsj will be to facilitate co-production with other professional film and television companies in the region. This may involve subcontracting elements of project work, or providing skills and equipment to enable them to deliver their own projects, further strengthening the film production capacity in North Yorkshire.

As well as the opportunity to work professionally on commercial projects, and alongside external production companies, CITYsj graduate freelancers will have access to practical and vocational workshops to ensure their skills remain current. It is hoped that through employment with CITYsj, talented graduates will be able to support their own creative enterprises, and in doing so increase the film production output in the region.

Ultimately CITYsj Productions will form part of a wider regional framework which will incorporate North Yorkshire Filmmakers Network (an online networking community and forum) and YSJ Film Commission (a short film commissioning and production company focussing on high quality short film production, distribution and release).

Filmmakers wishing to register their skills with CITYsj Productions must ensure that they are registered as self-employed for tax purposes.

For more information about CITYsj Productions, or to find out how to register please e-mail: citysj@yorksj.ac.uk

Marathon Des Sables - Sports Science Support David Methley

Ian Sadler, Lecturer in Exercise Physiology and Brett Wilkie, Lecturer in Health and Nutrition are providing sports science support for David Methley who is attempting to complete six marathons in six days in the Sahara desert during late March 2007. The first stage of this support has been to establish current levels of fitness and nutritional intake. Based upon these assessments the sports science team has provided training and nutritional guidelines for the athlete to follow in the run up to the event.

David prepares for six marathons in six days

The second stage of the support will focus on the design of an individualised fluid replacement strategy to support David during the event. A student on the BSc (Hons) Sport & Exercise Science programme will work on this as part of their dissertation under the supervision of Ian and Brett. The final stage of the support is acclimatisation prior to the event. This involves David exercising in a hot environment which aims to prepare his body for the extreme heat that he will be competing in.

The data gathered from this support will be used in a third year module on the BSc (Hons) Sport & Exercise Science programme. The module is Physiology of Maximal Performance and this type of work will help to exemplify the demand of ultra endurance events. In addition, David will be invited in to speak to the students about his experiences on his return.

We look forward to updating you on how David fared in the next edition of Alumination.

Peace Garden opens

In August 2006 a Peace Garden was opened at York St John University by Ms Mami Mizutori, Director of the Japan Information & Culture Centre at the Embassy of Japan in London.

The Peace Garden is a re-design of the original Chapel Garden and has been created in a Japanese style by the Grounds team at York St John to represent tranquillity and calm. At the heart of the Peace Garden is the Hiroshima tree which was grown from the seed of a tree which survived the Hiroshima bombing and was donated to York St John on 4 May 2005 by the National Federation of University Co-operation Associations of Japan.

A relaxing setting within the beautiful grounds

International Society

Alumni are invited to join our International Society in its inaugural year. Our society offers students, staff and alumni the opportunity to celebrate our many cultures and the diverse nature of our community. As an international institution we aim to provide members with cultural events, visits, trips, talks and workshops to further understanding of the world around us.

Membership is free to all freshers, students, staff and alumni of all nationalities and cultures. We aim to keep the cost of events and trips to a minimum and often these are at no cost to members. Activities range from trips to local tourist attractions such as Fountains Abbey and the Lake District, food, dance and music events, wine tasting and talks from leading cultural authorities.

For further information please e-mail: h.fu@yorksj.ac.uk

International Conference on Peace & Reconciliation

From 15-18 August last year Theology & Religious Studies hosted an International Conference on Peace & Reconciliation - a topic high on the agenda of governments and religious leaders as well as being of concern to individuals and communities. Indeed, only a couple of days before the conference started there was a major security alert at British airports which resulted in disrupted flights for some delegates and prevented others coming at all. In spite of this over 150 people attended the conference from 16 different countries as far afield as South Africa, Korea, China, India, Germany, USA, UK, Bangladesh, Australia, Malta and Sri Lanka.

Peace and reconciliation will not happen on its own. And it will probably not happen if it is left to politicians! It is a process that all members of society must engage with and the academic community is not exempt. The hope therefore was that in bringing together scholars, religious leaders and students from diverse backgrounds, we would increase insight and understanding into the causes of violence and discord and find real ways forward in the search for peace and reconciliation.

The conference attracted scholars and students from around the world to attend the three days of lectures, consultations and discussion. Professor Gerhard Sauter, Emeritus Professor of Systematic and Ecumenical Theology at the University of Bonn, Germany, gave the first address and spoke movingly of the re-unification of Germany following the collapse of the Berlin Wall. Reconciliation, he argued, is a costly business: it requires a diligent search for common ground, a willingness to embrace shared agendas and visions, and a long term commitment to see the process through. He was followed by a number of notable speakers, among them Professor Choong Chee Pang from Fudan University, China and Professor Robert Schreiter of the Catholic Theological Union, USA and Radboud University, the Netherlands.

l-r, Professor Sebastian Kim, Pauline Kollontai, Kathryn Dunn & Revd Greg Hoyland

Dr Cecelia Clegg of University of Edinburgh and author of *Moving Beyond Sectarianism: Religion, Conflict and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland* argued that any move towards reconciliation entails a re-negotiation of identities on the part of all involved. Speaking from many years experience involved in the Northern Ireland peace process, Dr Clegg reminded the conference of the Croation Theologian Miroslav Volf's powerful observation that peace comes about when people have 'the will to co-exist'.

The conference was not without tension. A particular focus on the Korean Peninsula highlighted not only the problems of re-unification between North and South Korea but also historical tensions in the region between Korea, Japan and China which have on-going influence on international relationships.

Over 20 papers were presented in seminar groups on topics ranging from interfaith dialogue to the language of reconciliation. Seminars tackled subjects such as the nature and meaning of reconciliation, does religion help or hinder, truth and trust in negotiations and issues of identity and diversity in communities.

The conference coincided with the Archbishop of York's week of prayer and fasting for world peace held in York Minster. Dr Sentamu had been invited to open the conference but was due to be away at that time on a family holiday. He had written to the conference organisers sending his blessing and best wishes for the conference but cancelled his holiday in order to undertake his vigil. Some of the conference delegates joined him in the Minster and he spoke with several of them on the Wednesday afternoon.

What of the future? A book containing chapters written by the keynote speakers along with contributions from the University's Professor of Theology & Public Life, Dr Sebastian Kim and the Faculty's Deputy Dean Pauline Kollontai is to be published next year. Over the next five years annual consultations of academics, organised and hosted by York St John in different international locations, will be held as we continue the search for peace and reconciliation between and within nations.

Revd Greg Hoyland, Senior Lecturer in Theology

Have you visited the Fountains Learning Centre recently, and used the Library and Information Services? If not, you may not be aware of the changes that have taken place. You can join the Library annually for £20, unless you hold a City of York Library card, when the fee is reduced to £10. Membership entitles you to up to 15 items at any one time from the LIS collections.

As an external Library member you can also register as a guest user on the University network, giving limited on-site access to networked PCs, LIS electronic information sources and the Internet. This will allow you to search many of the databases you may have already been using whilst studying at the University and is a good way of staying in touch with what is happening in your subject area, or if you are considering further research. If you are interested in this, please enquire at the Information and Help Desk on the first floor of the Fountains Learning Centre. There is no extra charge for this service.

Other changes have taken place at the Main Desk and Loans Counter, so if you are already a user, please take note. From the start of the Autumn term, issuing of items has gone self-service. To issue items to yourself, simply follow the instructions on screen at the Issue points. When you have finished all your transactions a receipt is issued, showing the titles of the items borrowed and the date for their return.

When you return items, there is also now a designated Returns point for all items. If the Library and Information Services desk is closed, you can use the Book Return Box adjacent to the main entrance. For collection of holds, or for items that cannot be issued from the Issue points, and for basic enquiries use the Collection point at the far end of the counter.

Issue points for self-service

Issue points for self-service

Also beginning from the Autumn term renewals and holds are no longer done by staff at the counter. Instead you can do them yourself by accessing the User Services option on the online Learning Centre catalogue. Simply link to the catalogue from the Learning Centre web pages (http://www.yorksj.ac.uk/library/learningcent/), click on User Services, Renew items on loan and enter your LIS userid and PIN. PINs are being mailed out to all users, so if you don't know yours, contact the Information and Help Desk or E: library@yorksj.ac.uk. Phone renewals will still be accepted if you don't have Internet access (01904 876700).

In another new development, LIS is now able to accept payment by credit or debit card. This is only for amounts in excess of £5, and so can be used to pay for joining the Library. Finally, if you've not visited the Fountains Learning Centre recently, or want to view facilities before you visit, why not try our new Virtual Learning Centre tour? This is a pilot version, and will be extended and made more interactive over the next year. It can be viewed at:
http://www.yorksj.ac.uk/library/learningcent/virtualtour/

As ex-students of the University your comments will be valuable, so please let us know what you think of this new feature.

Important contact details:
Learning Centre web pages:
http://www.yorksj.ac.uk/library/learningcent/

Virtual tour of the Learning Centre:
http://www.yorksj.ac.uk/library/learningcent/virtualtour/

Main Desk and Loans Counter T: 01904 876700, E: library@yorksj.ac.uk

Helen Westmancoat - Deputy University Librarian

Jenny Webb - York St John, 1965

President of the Association of the Colleges of Ripon & York St John (2006-07)

Jenny addresses the Association at the 2006 reunion

The new President of the Association speaks to members at the annual luncheon. Jenny's address was as follows:

Vice Chancellor Professor Dianne Willcox; Chair of Governors Robin Guthrie; Right Reverend David Smith; Reverend Canon Val Hewetson; Members of the Association.

Forty-four years ago Canon Lamb, the then Principal of St John's College wrote, 'The coming of the first full batch of women, perhaps about 60, is timed for September 1964. In this present session (1962) there will be a few bold pioneers, not more than five, who will be able to learn the ropes so they can provide leadership and guidance when the larger numbers begin to arrive.' It was also in a newspaper article that I saw, and as I always wanted to teach, I decided to apply, rather than to go on to university (in those days, as you know, degrees were not needed to teach). Seven women were actually accepted (including Barbara Holmes and myself) and were labelled by The Daily Mirror as the 'Magnificent Seven' - and had our photographs printed in their newspaper and the York Evening Press. Included in our letters of acceptance were our lists of clothing needed, including lounge suits, trilby hats and seven pairs of underpants!!

The seven pioneers (I love that!) did throw themselves very much into all the life of the College. I remember working out, as the only mathematician in the group that we could each go out with one student per fortnight without treading on anyone's toes! The first afternoon, with the rest of the new students, we decided to go down to Monk Bar Scout Shop to purchase our College scarves. Unfortunately the shop didn't believe us and we had to go back to get proof that we were new students of St John's, despite being women! The second night several of us ventured up to the gym at the Croft to play badminton. That lasted one visit only, it was nearly a sacking offence for women to be there, as there were no changing facilities available for women so it was not deemed suitable for us to be up there! A very similar message was given to those of us who joined the Rowing Club as coxes but we did manage three months on the river before management realised we were there. We did manage to sneak into the loos though when needed, with guards outside!! As we were not allowed to walk through town in tracksuits we had to leave due to lack of facilities. In fact we weren't allowed trousers at any time.

Outgoing President Graham Taft welcomes Jenny in

We did find a club that welcomed us with open arms that first term - the Harriers, where we would direct competitors around the course up at Hull Road playing fields - not very athletic but at least we were eventually part of a club. Later that first year we did make many inroads to most of the sporting side of College. Brook Street gym was converted for us and the College Badminton Club moved there, plus we had our own tennis and athletics teams, affiliated to the men's clubs. The late Nick Whitehead was our coach for the athletics, he was a wonderful man and so enthusiastic about us being there. Despite us having to enter as many events as we could (at least two each) often it being the first time we had done that event, we had some good times and have excellent memories of it all!! Every one of the 'Seven' contributed to as much of the College life as was possible; drama, choir (memories of singing in York Minster remains with me always), playing croquet and tennis with 'Prinny', helping with the College Folk Group, 'The Exiles' and more. Any volunteers for croquet will be welcomed by John Maw later on this afternoon!

Some tutors were indifferent to us to start with, but the majority were excellent, helpful and gentle with us. I myself have very fond memories of the aforementioned Nick Whitehead, plus Henry Mills and Dunc Eddington from the Maths Department. George Cramer, a very patient man who managed to get me through the Tech Drawing (I still remember him trying to explain what a cam did!!), Reg Howlett, Jim Fairburn and of course Jane Allen, our mentor and protector!! Jane is still around, living up on the North York Moors and has a very active mind, remembering most things!!

I still have wonderful memories of my three years here. It was here I met my husband, John, who was in the Maths Department with me. We had three years of an excellent platonic friendship whilst at St John's and eventually did marry in 1967. We have spent most of our teaching careers at the same schools, in Selby and Pocklington.

Although we were always thought of as the first women at St John's there was in fact a group of women accepted in 1843, living in Monkgate. Apparently they were fairly neglected at times and it took 19 years before women were moved to the new College at Ripon.

I must make a special mention to the Reverend Canon Val Hewetson who participated in our service in Chapel earlier. Val is a former science teacher, some of the time in York at The Mount and at Joseph Rowntree, who became one of the first women priests in this area, so I feel that it is particularly appropriate for her to be here today with me. Thank you Val.

To be asked to be your President this year I feel is a great honour (it also looks very impressive on my CV - pity I don't need it now!). I was very proud to be one of the first women here and this is just the icing on the cake. To represent you at the various functions this coming year will be a great pleasure, especially the degree ceremonies at York Minster, and also attending some of the branch dinners and I thank you for those. College has developed continuously over the years and our arrival was only one step forward in this development. I came back in 1985 for a term's secondment and I noticed a change in that the College had expanded and opened itself to a much wider group of people since the sixties. The Association continues to support all the changes of the College, especially when it becomes a university in its own right and I look forward to being involved in this change. I thank, on behalf of the Association, the Vice Chancellor and all the staff for the hard work they have put into achieving this status.

Ladies athletics team, 1963-65

Finally, I must also thank both John Maw and Bill Smith for all the support they have given me and to Graham Taft for an excellent year as President.

Jenny Webb

President of the Association of the Colleges of Ripon & York St John 2006-07

Jenny (bottom row second left) and the girls are pictured with the late Nick Whitehead who was their PE lecturer. Nick won a bronze medal in the Rome Olympic games in 1960 for being part of the 4x100 metre relay team.

Supporting York St John - 2007 University Appeal

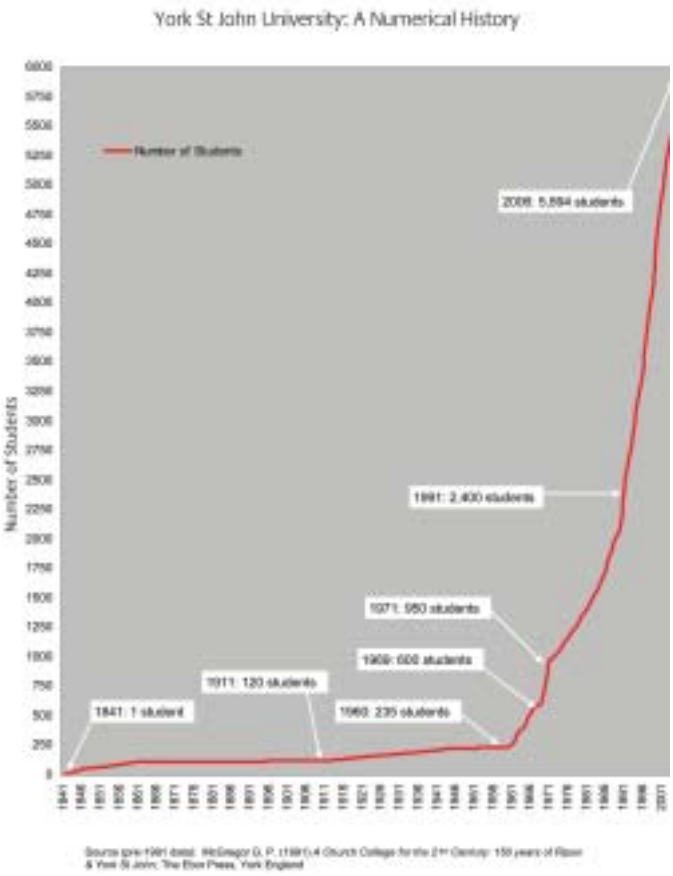
We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all those of you who have already supported SPARK (Securing Potential and Releasing Knowledge) campaign. In our first year you have helped us to raise over £24,000. These funds have supported students who experience unexpected hardship and have seen us award six SPARK Scholarships to first year students.

This special edition of Alumination marks York St John's transformation into a University. Whilst this is a culmination of more than 150 years of academic effort and student accomplishment it should be seen as a starting rather than a finish line. Whilst much has been achieved a lot remains to be done if York St John is to continue to fulfil its vision to create and deliver a distinctive and progressive form of Higher Education that secures student success for a diverse community of learners. To continue to prosper and provide students with the best possible learning experience York St John will need to continue the pace of change illustrated in Figure 1 and Table 1.

Figure 1: A Numerical History of Student Numbers

(produced by Planning & Performance Officer, Andrew Fern)

As the graph showing student numbers demonstrates, the University is doing well at opening its doors to more students. Whilst this rate of growth is unlikely to continue in the future, a challenge that can be overcome with your support is ensuring that as numbers grow we continue to treat students as individuals and retain the spirit that makes York St John such a special place. As Table 1 (opposite)



demonstrates, to ensure York St John has the facilities commensurate with the status of a modern University it has required significant investment in new learning resources. These have provided our students with opportunities to learn in state of the art facilities. We continue to develop these through our Clarence Street development shown in the illustration below.

Illustration 1: A Signature Building on Clarence Street

As a new University and registered charity (no: 529589) we are fundraising to support our future development. Funds donated as a result of York St John gaining University status can be nominated for either our endowment or the SPARK fund. Funds donated to the endowment will help shape the long-term future of the University to provide access to disadvantaged students, maintaining and enhancing our campus and supporting our research and scholarship. Donations to SPARK will support students who experience unexpected hardship and will fund further scholarships.

There are a number of ways in which you can make a donation to the support Britain's newest University by contributing to its endowment. These include:-

1. **Forwarding a cheque** - all you have to do is forward a cheque made payable to York St John University in the envelope provided. If you are a UK tax payer York St John can claim tax relief on your donation, which means an extra 28% to the University at no extra cost to you.

2. **Committing to a legacy** - all you have to do is contact Professor Andy Smith (Tel: 01904 876738 or e-mail: a.smith@yorksj.ac.uk) to find out about helping to make a long-term difference to the University by leaving a legacy in your will.

With your support the University can continue to develop its work to be inclusive, transforming, progressive, relevant and approachable. You can help future York St John graduates benefit from a great experience - just as you did!

Thank you.

Professor Andy Smith, Director of Institutional Advancement

Table 1: Adapted from: A Strategic Transformation Timeline 1999 - 2008 by Colin Parkin

Date	Strategic Transformation
July 1999	New Principal Appointed
September 1999	PWC Review Curriculum | GVA Grimley Review Estate | Completion of Limes Hall of Residence (£2.2m)
	Completion of Croft AWP (£0.5m)
November 1999	Received Planning Permission for NGC - Hull Road
	Decision made to withdraw from the Ripon Campus
January 2000	Construction of City Residence (£3.7m)
	Governors Approve Curriculum & Estate Recommendations
March 2000	Hull Road Land Sale (£1.8m)
September 2000	Restructuring & Collaboration Fund bid approved (£3.4m) | Former Year 1 Ripon intake to York - LMW
March 2001	Round 4 Poor Estates bid approved (£2m)
May 2001	Purchased Wynsor Site (£1.1m)
June & July 2001	Curriculum Changes Agreed | Ripon Campus Sold (£8.5m)
	Phase 1 Adaptation of Existing LMW Facilities (£3.25m) | Commenced Ripon Migration
	Completed York Planning Application process
2002-2003	Widening Participation: YSJ becomes lead HEI for North Yorkshire Partnerships for Progression (P4P) initiative
March 2002	Purchase of CYC Lorry & Coach Park site (£1.5m)
April 2002	Commencement of New build (Fountains, Foss & Skell)
October 2002	Approval of Hefce Capital Round 2 Bid (£0.5)
November 2002	Commencement of Croft Disposal Process
2003 - 2004	Widening Participation: YSJ becomes lead HEI and Area Banker for North Yorkshire Aim Higher
May 2003	TDAP Formal written application to QAA
June 2003	Completion of Fountains, Foss & Skell buildings (£11.3m)
September 2003	Completion of Phase 3 LMW Adaptation - Refurbishment (£2m)
October 2003 - June 2004	TDAP Scrutiny QAA Assessors
October 2003	Hefce Capital 3 Bid Submitted (£1.5m)
December 2003	Croft Area 1 Disposal (£5.6m)
2004	Academic Partnerships: YSJ key role in successful SDF bid for Higher York partnership Lifelong Learning Network
2004 - 2005	Widening Participation:
	YSJ contributes significantly to achieving changes to proposals for AimHigher.
	York Settlement Trust donation of (£100k) for Widening Participation activities.
	YSJ lead role in successful (£716k) partnership bid (Higher Learning for Communities) to European Social Fund.
February 2004	Hefce T & L Capital 3 Bid Approval (£1.1m)
March 2004	Commencement of Holgate Project (£3.7m)
July 2004	Partnership Negotiations Commence with North Yorkshire Police
October 2004	CETL C4C and ALPS Bids Submitted
December 2004 - April 2005	TDAP further Scrutiny by QAA Assessors
January 2005	CETL C4C and ALPS Bids Approved (£5.5m)
March 2005	Hefce Capital 4 Bid Approval (£1.8m)
July 2005	Commencement of CETL Projects
September 2005	TDAP: Grant of Taught Degree Awarding Powers by Privy Council
	North Yorkshire Police relocate Training College to YSJ
October 2005	University Title: Formal written application to QAA
October 2006	University Status - Formal Implementation | Planning Permission for Clarence St Corner Received
November 2006	CETL Target Completion Date
February 2007	C4C Formal Opening
March 2007	Clarence St Corner Construction Commencement (£11m)
	Navigation Road Student Residence - Commencement of Construction (£9.5m)

Association of the Colleges of Ripon & York St John

The Association website can be viewed as follows:

The Association Website features as an item on the official site published by York St John University. To access the Association Website go through the following sequence:

www.yorksj.ac.uk
York St John University (homepage)
About Us
Former Students Alumni Society
The Association of the Colleges of Ripon & York St John

Judith Hewitt to be next Association President

Mrs Judith Hewitt (R/70) will be President of the Association 2007 - 08. Judith is a member of the National Management Committee and also of the York Branch. We look forward to her presidency and wish her all the best in her year of office.

Judith Hewitt (Ripon/1970)

Reunion 2007

Reunion 2007 will take place on the weekend 14, 15 and 16 July. Application forms have been sent out with the White Rose in March 2007. Also included will be the minutes for the Annual General Meeting 2006 and the Agenda for 2007. Please remember that any propositions regarding a change to the Constitution must be with me as General Secretary at least two calendar months before the meeting.

E-mail address list

I am still trying to establish an up-to-date e-mail address list so that I can have immediate contact with members. It would help if all members of the Association who have this facility could e-mail john.maw@btinternet.com in response to this request.

Branch events

Hartlepool:

Contact: Maureen Chapman T: 01429 262656
12.5.07 AGM & lunch - Oakroyd Hotel

Manchester & North-West:

Contact: Stan Parkinson T: 01617 642319
28.4.07 Reunion and AGM
Chetham's School of Music - Manchester

Newcastle:

Contact: Joan Marrs T: 01912 674575
3.3.07 Lunch - Speaker - Canon D Elkington
6.10.07 Lunch followed by Speaker
Both events to take place at the Cathedral

Southern:

Contact: Graham Gibbs T: 01277 217035
16.6.07 Summer Outing
13.10.07 AGM & Dinner - Civil Service Club

York:

Contact: John Maw T: 01904 424514

Contacts

President: Jenny Webb	T: 01759 302701
General Secretary: John Maw	T: 01904 424514
Treasurer: John Whitworth	T: 01228 536687
Data-manager: Ernie Cobbold	T: 01493 740557
Reunion Co-ordinator (York): Bill Smith	T: 01253 346008

John Maw

Ripon Reunion

The Ripon Reunion Group was formed in 2003-04 with former Ripon students who wished to continue to meet in Ripon, even though the College is no longer there. The weekend of 6-8 July 2006 saw about 150 of us meet together for our second 'new' reunion.

We use the Spa Hotel in Ripon as our base and because we get such an excellent deal some members arrived the previous Thursday. Our first formal event was a dinner on the Friday evening when 40 of us enjoyed a superb meal. The rest of the evening was spent chatting and laughing. While those of us who stayed the night enjoyed a hearty breakfast, those who were spending the day in Ripon began to arrive. By 10.30am, the Spa was a buzz of excitement as members began to greet their lifetime friends, catching up with news and discussing their memories as students.

Former students from the 1961 year group

It was a beautiful day as we set off to walk to the Cathedral for our service. What a delightful experience it was to hear people singing so enthusiastically the traditional hymns and psalms and to hear the organ so beautifully played. We were even joined by some visitors to Ripon who thought the service wonderful and marvelled at the number of people who travelled, some long distances to be with their friends. For the second time the address was given by Reverend Geoffrey Rider, a lovely caring man. He is about to celebrate 50 years of ordination and had been thinking about the past. He likened his experiences to our experiences. We live in the past, present and the future but there is a fourth dimension in time - the eternal now. The more we live in this dimension of time, the more the other dimensions are enriched.

At the end of our very special time in the Cathedral, photographs were taken and we took a leisurely stroll, taking in the delights of Ripon and back to the Spa to eat a delightful lunch. The staff and the service in the Spa were superb and nothing was too much trouble for them.

The newly refurbished ballroom was a splendid setting for our lunch. Those who were celebrating '40, 50 and 60 years out' had balloons on their tables and after lunch were presented with cakes, complete with candles. The most special celebration went to Muriel Cross who had left College in 1941, yes 65 years out! Muriel had thought her days of Ripon reunions were over because of the transport situation, but we found her a coach that went directly from Liverpool to Ripon, and so she was more than delighted to be with us.

After lunch, year groups got together in lounges and outside to continue with their stories. Many people said they felt as though they had only left college yesterday. Some people even managed to eat afternoon tea, while others took a stroll into Ripon, but all too soon people started to leave to return home. The lucky ones among us had another dinner and another hearty breakfast, while the really lucky ones got to stay until Tuesday!

It's now almost 20 years since I came home from a Management meeting and asked my husband Ken how he would feel about helping me to organise a college reunion. However, it's one of those things we will never regret. We have made so many friends and to see the joy and hear the laughter of so many people enjoying themselves, every second of the hard work is worthwhile.

The 1958 year group enjoy lunch together

The next Ripon Reunion is to be held 26-28 June 2008 and the Ripon Spa have said we can increase our numbers, so get the date in your diary now!

Sylvia Shepherd (Ripon Reunion Coordinator)

Muriel Cross - Ripon 1941, celebrating 65 years on! at the 2006 Ripon Reunion

In September 1939, in the bleak and threatening days of the outbreak of the Second World War, an 18 year old Muriel packed her trunk in her home in Liverpool and sent it ahead to Ripon. She followed later, she says, with trepidation, not knowing what was in store, her gas mask hanging from her shoulder. The barrage balloons which surrounded Liverpool were a constant reminder of possible danger from the skies, but perhaps of more immediate concern was the unknown territory of a residential teacher training college, where everything would be very new and very strange. The steam train went all the way from Liverpool to Newcastle, stopping at Ripon, where in those days there was a railway station. Soon Muriel was to get the first glimpse of the College that was to be her home. What followed, in spite of rationing, wartime shortages and restrictions were two very happy years, during which friendships to last a lifetime were formed. Muriel began in her first post as a probationer teacher in 1941, with a class of 50 infants, all five years old. She remembers her first task as being an air raid drill - all 50 gas masks on and checked and then everyone under desks, including teacher, in two minutes!!

Muriel celebrating 65 years out at the 2006 Ripon Reunion

A rich experience of schools followed, in both the inner city and the leafy suburbs and promotion to Deputy Headteacher came quite soon. By 1958 Muriel was Headteacher of Laurence Road Infants School, where she spent ten happy and successful years before achieving the post of Headteacher at Blackmore Park Infants School in 1968. It was while she was there that she took part in the Science 5-13 project providing in-service training to probationer teachers, at the Ethel Wormald College. Like all good teachers, she knew the importance of giving back and sharing skills. Retirement came in 1982, since then Muriel has been able to make the most of her hobbies and interests. She enjoys gardening and theatre going, whether plays, opera or ballet; indulges her love of good food and pleasant company in several luncheon clubs; has become a seasoned traveller, with visits to far off places such as California, New England, New York, Rio de Janeiro and the Rockies as well as a number of European cities.

Muriel recently became her Year Correspondent and has been keeping members of her year group in touch with each other ever since. In 1946 she was present at the inaugural meeting of the Manchester and District Branch and is very proud to be a founder member who is still to be seen regularly at the, now renamed, Manchester and North West Branch of the Association. Elected to the Management Committee of the amalgamated Association in 1982, Muriel was then elected to the Office of Junior Vice-President two years later and became the President of the Association in 1986. During that year, she was able to enjoy official visits to the other branches and was very happy to be welcomed in Hartlepool by Jean Appleby and in London by Doreen Scott, both close friends from her college days and whose hospitality was renowned.

Congratulations, Muriel, on your 65 years of loyal membership, friendship and service.

We look forward to sharing many more.
Eileen Gibbon

Ripon Cathedral before the 2006 reunion service

Mountain Woman - Jo Gibson's burning ambition

Former Vice-President of the Students' Union, Jo Gibson, is currently working as Welfare Adviser for York St John University. Jo now exercises her considerable skills in personal relationships in providing students with help and advice regarding such matters as accommodation, finance, benefits, employment and consumer issues.

Jo is now in her ninth year at Lord Mayor's Walk having completed her three-year course in Sport & Exercise Science, serving as Vice-President Education and Welfare Officer of the Students' Union for two years and working for the College and now the University since graduating in 2001.

Scafell Summit, Three Peaks

There is, however, another side to the relatively slim physique and quiet demeanour which Jo portrays and that rests in the burning ambition she has to climb Mount Everest, an aspiration she has had since she was a child. She recalls with great clarity the climbing of Whernside at the tender age of six, when she accompanied her father to the top of the well-known mountain in the Yorkshire Dales. It was to be these early experiences of walking and scrambling with family, which fostered and continued to enhance her love for the high mountains.

Regular activity in the outdoors was to follow interspersed with challenges like the Three Peaks - Ingleborough, Whernside and Penyghent, which were completed as an overnight expedition in association with her father and sister. A slightly different activity came about in 1997 when she tackled the Great North Run. But it was the mountains, which continued to fuel her desire, and after years of enjoying a whole range of expeditions, particularly in her beloved Lake District, she attempted and succeeded in climbing the three highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales in a 24 hour period. For the record, Ben Nevis was ticked off in the early evening and the ascent of Scafell Pike was commenced as dawn broke. Once down, all that remained was the dash to Wales where Snowdon awaited. Some feat. Some young woman!

While the summit of Everest remains Jo's ultimate goal, there is a less ambitious one that she felt sure that she could achieve. This was to take on the trek to Everest Base Camp in association with an international company specialising in such expeditions. With an exceedingly long walk from Kathmandu and an altitude of 5545 metres to contend with, Jo prepared herself well. She did a weekly distance run on the roads, attended circuit training sessions in the Foss Building, she also took advantage of the Fitness Suite and occasionally went swimming. In addition to all of this activity, she continued with her hiking and climbing activities at weekends. Unfortunately, having arrived at Kathmandu, unrest broke out across Nepal leading to the cancellation of the trek and Jo with the problem of getting a flight home. This she did and her response was to complete the walk from Keswick to Barrow, some 40 miles, the following weekend. She also participated in TrailWalker 2006 with a group from York St John, covering 100 kilometres of the South Downs Way in less than 30 hours.

Jo is still determined to make the journey to Everest but in the meantime the plan is to take on Toubkal, which at 4000 metres is the highest point of the Atlas Mountain Range in North Africa. Her plans are to accomplish this expedition in 2007 before returning to Nepal and Everest in 2008.

Fairfield Summit, The Lake District

Jo's favourite...

- Walking and climbing area in Great Britain - The Lake District
- Walk - The Fairfield Round, especially in winter conditions
- Clothing manufacturers - Berghaus and North Face
- Magazine - Trail
- Piece of equipment - other than map and compass, head torch

We wish Jo every success as she walks for her charity Cancer Research UK. More details will be provided later.

A York St John & Ripon Affair
Jeff & Margaret Blakeborough

Margaret Brown joined Ripon College in 1953 and it was at the Christmas Dance (1954) that she first met Jeff Blakeborough. Jeff had arrived at St John's College in 1954 and like many other Johnsmen, he had responded with enthusiasm to the invitation to go to the dance.

Having travelled by coach from York, Jeff found the dance to be quite a formidable affair with staff patrolling the dance floor and lighting that remained on full throughout. He danced with various partners but one in particular he felt was the best he had ever danced with and naturally he requested her 'pleasure' on several occasions. A carefully ordered departure organised by the staff did not prevent him from arranging to meet Margaret on Boxing Day in York. They went to the Castle Museum and returned to Jeff's home in York for tea.

Jeff & Margaret in 1957

Clearly a romance was blossoming to the extent that Jeff, in the summer of 1955, cycled to Ripon to meet Margaret. With Jeff arriving unannounced, Margaret was able to secure use of the 'Entertainments Room' on the condition that the door remained unlocked. The relationship continued through meetings at Folk Dances at both the Ripon and York Colleges. There was a problem to overcome in that, should Margaret want to go to York for such occasions, it meant an interview with the Principal in order to get permission to arrive back at Ripon half an hour after signing in time of 10.30pm.

Jeff and Margaret were married on 27 July 1957 in her home town of Southport where she was teaching in a local school. Jeff, unfortunately, was teaching in York but true love found its way when Margaret applied for and was successful in getting a post at Ralph Butterfield School in Haxby, York. It was at that time that they bought their current home in York.

Next year they will celebrate 50 years of happy married life. We wish them well.

Jeff & Margaret in December 2006

Mark & Anne Dransfield

Mark and Anne Dransfield (nee Hellowell) met at the Ripon campus of Ripon & York St John in 1995 where Mark studied Communication Arts and Anne studied English with QTS. They married on 29 July 2006 at St Michael's Church in Great Edstone and had the reception in a marquee at the family farm.

Anne's twin sister Jane, who studied from 1995-99 at the York St John campus was chief bridesmaid. Best man and the groomsman, Tim Jolly and Nick Wood also studied at Ripon. Mark and Anne honeymooned in Croatia.

Mark is currently the E-Learning Support Officer at York St John University.

Mark & Anne Dransfield

The provision of innovatory and exciting new courses in Sport and Physical Education has been a feature of the University for many years. Thousands of our former students have gained careers in the sport sector working as administrators, coaches and physical education teachers. A recent initiative based in the Faculty of Health & Life Sciences is helping to continue this tradition. The Centre for the Study of Sport & Spirituality was established in 2004 to further society's understanding of the complex relationship between sport, physical endeavour and the human spirit. Although the Centre operates in a multi-faith context that acknowledges the value of all world religions, much of the intellectual and applied work undertaken currently focuses on the intersection between sport and the Christian faith.

Dr Mark Nesti, Reader in Sport Psychology

The Centre has produced a major new multi-disciplinary book on sport and spirituality to be published by Routledge in Spring 2007. Dr Mark Nesti, Reader in Sport Psychology and Nick Watson, Director of the Centre, have been invited to join the editorial board of the International Journal of Religion and Sport which is the first ever journal in this area. A major international conference on sport and spirituality will be taking place at the University in August 2007 at which some of the most important scholars from across the world will be presenting their research. Modules on sport psychology and spirituality have been written for undergraduate courses and the new MSc in Sport Psychology offered in the Faculty.

The only one of its kind in the UK, if not in the Western world, the Centre's potential has been acclaimed by a wide range of distinguished academics, theologians and sports practitioners both within this country and abroad. Members of the Centre, led by Professor Andy Smith, Director of Institutional Advancement, have been

Nick Watson, Director, Centre for the Study of Sport & Spirituality

actively seeking funding to support future planned activities such as support for research students, outreach work, seminars and consultancy work.

For further information on the work of the Centre and information for potential donors and sponsors, contact Nick Watson
E: n.watson@yorksj.ac.uk or view the web pages
www.yorksj.ac.uk/sportspirituality

Trailwalker 2006 (14-16 July 2006)

In September 2005 Mark Sullivan suggested to Year 3 Sports Studies & Physical Education students that some of them might like to join him on a charity walk. Once a number had volunteered he told them that it consisted of 100km (62.5 miles) in under 30 hours, over the South Downs Way in July 2006! Plus they each had to raise a minimum sponsorship of £250, the money being equally split between Oxfam and the Gurkha Welfare Trusts. By the time of the walk there were 18 participants in five teams.

The team finished on Brighton Race Course in just over 26.5 hours and created a record for Trailwalker by being the first five teams to complete the walk together.

Thanks go to John Maw and the Association Project Fund together with Sports Bulk Supplies for helping with the cost of the minibus hire.

The date for the Trailwalker event for 2007 is 14/15 July, anyone interested in participating please e-mail: Mark Sullivan:
E: m.sullivan@yorksj.ac.uk

We've been busy with a range of exciting developments since we last communicated and I wanted to share with you just a few which I felt would be of particular interest.

Bologna Process

Bolognese sauce (Simon Sweeney)

Everyone knows that Spaghetti Bolognese is a classic of the Italian cuisine, although in Britain it tends to have too much meat and not enough sauce compared with the real thing. However, in Higher Education, Bologna now represents something else.

Simon Sweeney

Since 1999 the European Commission adopted the Bologna Process as a set of objectives towards building an integrated European Higher Education Area to establish a common framework so that qualifications and quality assurance are transferable, mutually recognised and integrated. In each country a committee of individuals encourages institutions to conform to Bologna recommendations.

Last year I was appointed one of 15 Bologna Promoters in the UK. This involves attending seminars and promoting Bologna so that the system becomes established in all Higher Education Institutions. Bologna encourages student mobility, and that can only happen if modules have a common and transparent credit rating which is mutually recognised. Bologna introduces European Credit Transfer System and there is a common framework for assessing and guaranteeing quality. This is not a straightjacket - national authorities and individual institutions are responsible for quality, Bologna seeks to make procedures open and transparent.

On graduation all our students receive a document called the Diploma Supplement when collecting their degree certificate; a transcript of the student's performance in all modules, with the number of credits per module clearly indicated, useful for employers and students alike. I promote the European dimension to the student experience, both in terms of learning about how the UK is part of the wider Europe, but also in terms of travel and study abroad and believe students will find enormous value and potential from international perspectives in planning careers. After graduating, this could involve working abroad or for a European company. Bologna also relates to staff mobility, international links between institutions, collaborative projects, research, skills and training, and lifelong learning.

Aside from this, make your Bolognese sauce with less meat and more celery. Don't forget a glass of Italian white wine in the mix as well. Also, when you add Parmigiano, make sure it is freshly grated off the block, not that sawdust stuff from a plastic tub!

Yang Guo reflects on the Student Experience

The Faculty is currently host to over 200 students from 36 countries. Yang from Nanchang, in China achieved an MA in English Language teaching and presented alongside her tutors at a national conference this year. Yang, now undertaking a PhD in America, describes her 2003 visit to York when she joined a Teacher Development Programme for University English Teachers.

I've been back in Nanchang, China, for a month now. I missed Nanchang with a passion while I was in York, but now that I'm home, I realise how living and studying in York was one of the most precious, unforgettable and rewarding experiences of my life.

I arrived at Manchester Airport on a rainy day in July. It was so cold. Sitting in the coach heading for York, excited and a little bit anxious, I tried to imagine the days to come in this strange country. Would I be able to adapt to life here? Will I keep up with the class? Two hours slipped by, and we arrived at our destination. The rows of houses in which we were to spend the next four weeks looked like villas. Five students shared a flat, and there were several flats in one house. Our group was separated into different houses, with students from other countries. This was going to be a challenge for us; to get used to living with unfamiliar people. Our tutors explained later that we had been deliberately assigned to separate houses to help us learn to be independent.... 'everyone should have his or her own private space, once you've got used to that, you'll find it's really enjoyable....' And it was, I discovered.

Our classes started on the third day. The building in which our classes were held was over 500 years old. We were told that if the College wanted to put a nail in a wall to hang a picture, they should apply to the government for permission. Our study schedule was well planned and rather busy. We had classes Monday - Friday. Classroom activities were mainly student-centred and included: discussions, jigsaw reading, information gaps, and project work. These methods were very different from those in China.

The one thing that we couldn't really get used to was British food. Fish and chips are delicious, but if you don't want spots, you'd better not try it too often! The bread is bland and hard. Chocolate and cakes are too sweet and high in calories. We really missed our delicious traditional Chinese food!

An unforgettable time at York for Yang Guo

Before we went to Britain, we were told that the weather was weird and that we might experience all four seasons in one day. One minute it was raining and we needed a coat to keep warm, the next minute the sun struggled out from behind the clouds and it was unbearably hot. I felt like I was never wearing suitable clothes! I noticed that people didn't use their umbrellas when it was sunny. For them, perhaps, sunshine was too precious! It was hard to imagine that high temperatures, heat, scorching sun and muggy air were hanging over Nanchang city. The months flew by and words are hardly able to express my complicated feelings about living in York, but there are aspects of my stay that will live in my memory forever.

Where are they now?

Following graduation with a BA Hons Management Studies degree in July 2004, Roda Al-Mannai from Qatar worked as a Trips and Visits Officer for the First Lady in Qatar arranging all international visits. Her position involved travelling and dealing with diplomats and on many occasions attending events with the Head of State. Keen to expand her knowledge in the field of international relations Roda is now studying for an MA in International Communications at Leeds.

Jan Dittrich (Germany) a Year 2 Business Management student achieved the runner up position of 'Judges Commendation' at the Yorkshire Regional STEP Competition.

Counselling

Counselling Studies staff are working hard not just to keep pace with developments in the area of psychological therapies, but to contribute to these. Two members of the Faculty are working with the professional association (BACP) to help fashion the future shape of the profession.

Alan Dunnett is a member of the Core Curriculum Panel advising BACP in its dialogue with the government and with other professional bodies in psychology and psychotherapy and Lynne Gabriel is active as Chair of BACP's Professional Conduct Committee. The subject team is gaining a reputation in research and publication; three new titles from York St John authors have appeared in the bookshops this year.

York St John hosted the first ever Qualitative Research Conference in Counselling in November 2005 and in May 2007 will co-host with BACP the Annual Research Conference.

Comenius

Having a Comenius Centre based at York St John, part of a national network coordinated by the National Centre for Languages, enables us to keep abreast of and be involved in national developments and initiatives, as well as providing a strong resources base. It also raises visibility of York St John both regionally and nationally, through hosting national conferences/training/publicity events.

Innovations

And finally, from the wide range of innovative work currently being undertaken in the Faculty, mention should be made of the intercultural online module which links Language & Linguistics students with students in Sweden and the USA. Although not an exchange in any formal sense, students learn about other cultures by interacting online. One student says 'I've really enjoyed this module as it's given me a chance to find out more about different cultures, particularly Sweden, which I knew nothing about. I've been able to make friends, get their opinions on interesting topics and really like the fact that we were able to communicate online'. Student-initiated exchanges between the UK and Sweden, have been common as students formed friendships and visited each others' homes.

Jackie Mathers - Dean of Faculty of Business & Communication

Thinking outside the square

Katrina Bannigan

Last summer I was extremely fortunate to be supported by York St John University to attend the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) conference in Sydney, Australia. This was followed by five weeks working as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Western Sydney. It is a well known adage that travel broadens the mind. The first lesson of my trip was that the phrase 'Thinking outside of the square' was not a typographical error in the conference programme but the phrase Australians use for thinking outside of the box. This observation was a cue that, in order to be open to new learning, I needed to be more open minded and prepared to have my preconceptions challenged. To share all the learning experiences I had whilst away would be as tedious as a neighbour showing you the complete set of their holiday snaps so I have chosen some highlights:

Is globalisation a double edged sword?

The global world we now live in was the encapsulated by-line for the WFOT conference OTs in action: local and global. This gave me a strong sense of my profession as a global phenomenon and how what occupational therapists do locally can impact globally. Being with thousands of likeminded people reinforced my view that it has never been a more exciting time to be an occupational therapist. In contrast, a key note address given by Rachel Thibeault, an academic from the University of Ottawa, presented a direct challenge to my cosy view of globalisation. We were reminded that globalisation is an economic endeavour and that the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) is in danger of reducing higher education into just a marketable commodity. This does not fit very comfortably with occupational therapists or York St John's central values of social justice. Thibeault (2006) explained '...we have now reached a critical point in history where ethical competence and global identity cannot be seen as mere frills and our work must be imbued with global vision, even in the face of controversy' (p162). (See reference list for website where you can obtain a free copy of the paper).

Retrospective on Gail Fidler's life

I attended a paper session at the conference that included a retrospective on Gail Fidler's life. This was one of those serendipitous moments in a conference where there were no papers related to my particular areas of interest so I just took pot luck. As is often the way with these things I ended up learning a lot. Gail Fidler was a visionary occupational therapist whose contribution to occupational therapy focused mainly on the concepts of the human and nonhuman environments, and the importance of the symbols of our culture and our society (Gillette 2005). This paper was presented as a tribute to her but its aim was also to ensure that the profession does not lose sight of her enormous contribution. The key message I came away with, which I hope will characterise my practice in learning and teaching, is:

'...questions unsettle convictions that had been regarded as entirely settled. Questioners are willing to change when knowledge, reason, evidence, argument and justice warrant, and they celebrate when the profession changes like reasons. As agents of change, questioners upend the status quo constructively when upending is warranted' (Wood 2005: 631).

Gail Fidler questioned the status quo by exploring how everyday activity can better the complex lives of the complex people with whom occupational therapists work (Wood 2005).

Bushwalking in the Blue Mountains

The trip was not all work and no play. As one may expect for an occupational therapy conference, the conference provided opportunities to engage in new activities so two mornings of the week I found myself in a belly dancing class and an African dancing class. And yes I can now shimmy! I had a memorable supervision meeting at Manly Beach with my PhD student, Helen Buchanan, who is based at the University of Capetown. On one of the weekends I was away my colleague, Annie McCluskey, and her partner, Karl, invited me to stay with them in their cabin in the Blue Mountains.

The Blue Mountains are an area of exceptional beauty that gets its name from the blue haze that rises from the oil from the eucalyptus trees. However, when we got there it was a given I was not going to be walking with them. This was because they were coming to the end of a training programme for the Oxfam 100km walk. I walk regularly at home but I have never done a walk on my own. Annie and Karl just assumed I would, showed me a track through a canyon and left me to get on with it. Their confidence in me made me think it was possible. Nonetheless I have never been so scared or exhilarated as I walked down into the canyon, through rainforest, along the creek at the bottom and then climbed up the almost sheer face of the other side of canyon (it felt like Crocodile Dundee country!). I was elated when I finished and it has helped me to understand that I really can do anything I set my mind to. This experience meant I was completely unphased travelling alone in Japan on the return leg of my trip.

The Blue Mountains

Research team meeting at the University of Sydney

I was asked to present the paper I gave at the WFOT Conference to the team at the Rehabilitation Studies Unit, University of Sydney. I had to present the paper at the end of the team meeting. The meeting itself was fascinating. The group ranged in experience from a research assistant to a professor of international standing and they all work together as team. All gave a brief synopsis of the work they were doing that week and what project it related to. Every member of the team was clear about how their work fitted in with the overall work of the centre. As senior and junior members of the team were sharing equally one was able to be a role model for the other. It was a clear illustration of how a research team needs to work collaboratively to deliver a programme of research. My profession, occupational therapy, is research emergent and this meeting gave me a clear sense of how occupational therapists need to learn from the established practices of other research savvy professions. It also reinforced a key message from another keynote lecture; we were told of an old Japanese proverb which states: 'Vision without action is a daydream, but action without vision is a nightmare' (Pattison 2006: 168) (See reference list for website where you can obtain a free copy of the paper). The research meeting was vision and action in action.

Sunrise over Uluru (Ayres Rock)

Overall, my six weeks in Australia followed by a week's annual leave in Japan have been life changing. I have had my ideas about myself, my role as an academic and my profession transformed. On a personal level I have developed an inner resilience and understanding of myself as a person that any personal development course would have been hard pressed to provide. All of this learning is shaping the work I do at York St John University and it provides a clear illustration of how we can learn more by doing something different rather than just going on a course. The enduring motif of my trip is the Red Centre of Australia. The word red is apt; the desert is red, the rock (Uluru/Ayres rock) is red and they are in the baking red sun. It taught me that sometimes you need to be in a place so alien to what you know to reconnect with and appreciate your own humanity, as well as renew a childlike wonder at the world.

The Red Desert

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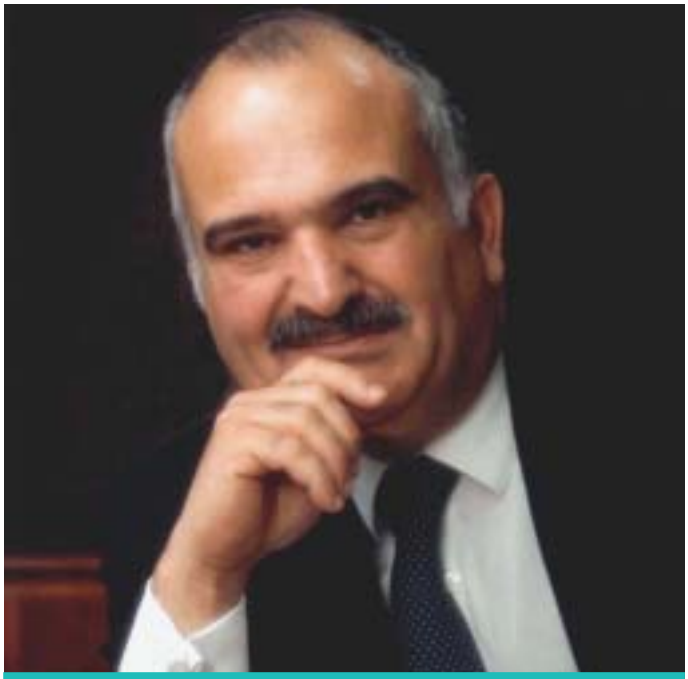
Developing a Shared Consciousness: The Prince El Hassan Values survey



HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal

Prince El Hassan and the University are concerned about:

- The apparent lack of authoritative sources journalists can easily access to make informed comment on the similarities and differences amongst the world religions.
- The lack of global resources available for teachers to educate pupils about the values shared by the major faiths.
- The difficulty in accessing authoritative works that both identify shared values within the major faiths and the linking of these values to passages within the sacred books and traditions of these religions.

It is our view that:

- These issues are part of the reason why trust between cultures is at a particularly low ebb at the moment.
- The fostering of mutual respect within and between our various communities is vitally important.

We believe that one way to address the challenges faced in the modern world is to help people realise that they share a basic morality and a similar set of values with 'the other'. Focusing on shared values will provide the basis for agreement and the framework for civilised disagreement in other areas.

With this clearly in mind HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal and York St John University led by Dr Adrian Brockett in the Faculty of Education & Theology have developed a Values Survey. Underpinned by academic excellence, the project has been designed to be both cost effective and to run with clear key performance indicators. We are currently looking for a corporate sponsor or Trust to support this project.

What is the El Hassan Values survey?

The survey will ultimately result in an online encyclopaedia of shared values. This will be in the form of an online database that identifies and explains the shared values within the major faiths (which will also refer to the International Human Rights Law and the Declaration of Human Rights). It will be produced in two phases i) the pilot phase and ii) the roll-out phase during which the final version of the encyclopaedia will be designed and marketed. The pilot phase will comprise of the creation of two databases: an example of the encyclopaedia with data on one or more shared values and an online database of people and organisations working in the field.

Key features of the project:

- The shared values, information from the sacred texts and evidence from the lived traditions of the faiths will come from extensive research conducted over an 18 month period. It will be authoritative and scholars on the project will subject their work to peer group review to ensure its rigour. It is envisaged that amongst the shared values these will be: i) Respect for life ii) Caring for the poor iii) Protection of the weak iv) Charity.
- The online encyclopaedia will be accessible at different levels and aimed at school pupils, journalists, teachers and academics.
- Readers would have the opportunity to contact the Editor of the online encyclopaedia via an email link to suggest inclusion of data from other faiths or new material related to existing entries. In this way the project will be interactive and keep up to date with users' interests.

If you would like to find out more about the project please visit www.yorksj.ac.uk/values or contact:

Professor Andy Smith, Director of Institutional Advancement
E: a.smith@yorksj.ac.uk T: 01904 876738

North Yorkshire Police and York St John University celebrated the first anniversary of their pioneering partnership in September 2006 which has seen 70 student officers complete their 17-week training period at the campus.

The long-term partnership has been an overwhelming success and mutually beneficial to both organisations. Uniformed student officers are now an integral part of student life at the university and they have reaped the rewards of having access to a wide range of high quality learning and sports facilities.

Staff and student officers celebrate the first anniversary with York St John University

Sue Kane, North Yorkshire Police's Workforce Modernisation Training Manager, said: 'The first year of our partnership with York St John has been amazingly successful and we hope it will continue for many years to come. The benefits of training our student officers at a dedicated and local site have been huge. For the first time in the force's history we have a fully integrated training programme which covers all the theory of policing as well as the practical aspects.'

As part of their training, student officers attend a three-day community placement during the fourth week which helps them to build community relationships and see first-hand the intrinsic benefits of working with the community and identifying ways in which this relationship can be increased. They then have to put together a report of their findings and present it to the placement, a representative of the Chief Officers' Team and the Area Commander during their final week. The force have more than 90 placements ranging from charities to businesses from across the county who have volunteered to take part.

'We also have community practicals staged at various times and locations during the course,' said Sue. 'What started out as an excellent opportunity for drama students at the university to take part in the role-play scenarios, has resulted in more than 250 volunteers from diverse backgrounds getting involved with the various mocked-up incidents. By using real members of the community the student officers are receiving valuable feedback on their interaction with the public, whilst at the same time the volunteers are delighted to be directly involved with the development of new police officers.'

As training now takes place locally rather than in Durham or Warrington as was the case for previous recruits, Sue explained that this has allowed training to be tailored to the force's needs and therefore addresses the specific challenges within North Yorkshire and the City of York. 'It also broadens our recruitment potential as it means that people who would struggle to attend a residential course can consider the role of police officer as a career option,' said Sue. 'Overall, it demonstrates our commitment to ensuring the most effective learning environment for our new officers as the learning facilities at York St John are excellent.'

The end of a successful 17-week training period

Professor Dianne Willcocks, Vice Chancellor of York St John University, said: 'It's been a pleasure to work alongside the North Yorkshire Police Training Team and student officers during the past 12 months and it is a relationship that we hope will grow and prosper. The student officers have quickly made York St John their home and have successfully broken down the potential barriers of their uniform to become an important part of the diverse student population. Our friends in blue regularly get involved in fundraising activities towards student bursaries and attend the Students' Union pub quiz nights and other social events. The Police Training College is a valued extension of our continually developing new university and it is great to see the future teachers, NHS health workers, artists and the university community mixing with the police officers of tomorrow.'

If any readers would like to assist with student officer training by taking part in role-play scenarios, contact Community Engagement Officer Jack Woodhams at the Police Training College T: 01904 669123, M: 07979 700901, E: jack.woodhams@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Postgraduate opportunities in the Faculty of Arts at York St John University

MA in Contemporary Arts Practice

For students with an interest in Choreography, Theatre, Fine Art and Music

MA in Contemporary Literature

Postgraduate research leading to the degrees of MA, MPhil and PhD

For further details please contact:
Vanessa Simmons
Faculty of Arts
York St John University
Lord Mayor's Walk
York YO31 7EX
www.yorksj.ac.uk
T: 01904 876433

Experience matters - it's official
Gary Mulholland

For someone who has both a personal and professional interest in experience, I can't tell you how relieved I am that the new age discrimination legislation has recognised what I already knew. That old adage: 'The problem with experience is by the time you've got it, it's too late to use it', is at last being challenged. The Employment Equality (Age regulations 2006), mean that I no longer automatically retire when I am at my most knowledgeable and wise, and I can challenge any pre 65 retirement age if I want.

Social inclusion and equality are one of the clusters of research excellence at York St John, and I have recently completed one of the UK's largest studies into the value of diversity in employment, funded by the CIPD, so I have a professional interest too. The facts are that in most successful cultures, age and wisdom are associated, yet here in the UK experience only counts if you're under 40!

On the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the Faculty of Business & Communication, experience is valued as highly as academic qualification. This recognition of the value of experience has enabled experienced managers to enter degree programmes without traditional schooling, but instead having 'real world' people management and project management skills. Work experienced entrants make such a difference to the learning environment, by participating and sharing their own knowledge, with those that have less, making learning in the classroom more relevant and applicable.

There are two Masters programmes which will typically appeal to an experienced manager wishing to extend their knowledge, and practice their ideas in a supportive and encouraging environment. Here they get an opportunity to share and network with other senior people in a diverse range of organisations, from the NHS executive to the entrepreneur. Age is not a barrier, it's a valuable asset, and I can prove it.

Find out more about the two experience-based postgraduate programmes at YSJ in leadership: MA Leading Innovation & Change E: g.mulholland@yorksj.ac.uk, and MA Leadership & Management E: l.gabriel2@yorksj.ac.uk

Enterprising graduates

York St John is keen to encourage our students to consider the advantages of setting up their own business. Obviously it's not something they can embark on lightly - there are pains as well as gains! So they need to have a clear idea about what it takes to be an entrepreneur or to be self-employed as a freelancer. This is where some of our alumni could help. Would you be willing to take part in a talk or workshop about business start up? Or provide information that we could write up as a case study? Or, best of all, act as a mentor to a budding entrepreneur?

If so please contact Sheila Cross, Head of Careers, who is organising activities in conjunction with the Research & Enterprise Office.

E: s.cross@yorksj.ac.uk T: 01904 876711

Did you complete your Higher Education qualification in 2002-03?

You may recall completing a questionnaire as part of the Higher Education Statistics Agency's (HESA) Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey six months after you finished your studies in 2002-03. You may have seen information from the survey in the media - as part of the University League Tables for example. The information you provided will also have been used within the institution and by the government.

There is now another opportunity for some of you to let us know what you have been doing since you gained your qualification. YouGov/IFF Research, on behalf of HESA, are conducting a survey (Longitudinal DLHE) and they may send you a questionnaire. The questionnaire will ask you to detail your current activities, and some of you will also get the opportunity to detail all the activities you have been involved in since you graduated in 2002-03. Any information you provide will help in reviewing and promoting courses and giving current students an insight into early career progression, as well as providing input to government policy development and review.

If you are contacted by YouGov/IFF Research (by e-mail, post or phone), please take time to complete the survey and return it - your participation is valuable. You will be able to see the results of this survey on the web next summer.

Effective Leadership & Management Workshops

Effective Leadership and Management can make the difference between success and failure for organisations in any sector - private, public or voluntary. This year's programme builds on a successful series of workshops run in 2006 and will provide insight, practical techniques and the opportunity to develop relevant skills and competences. There are two suites of workshops, one for middle and senior managers and one for first line managers and people new to supervision. The workshops will be led by Gary Mulholland, Glyn Littlewood and George Boak, who are experienced in working with leadership and management issues in a range of companies and public sector organisations.

The next workshop for middle/senior managers is *'Thinking and Acting Creatively'*, on Friday 11 May. This workshop applies creativity to leadership and management and business developments and promotions, and demonstrates the power of 'working smart, not hard'. There are tips on how to encourage creativity in the workplace, through identifying ideas and techniques for creative thinking and action.

If you would like to book a place or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact: Catherine Varley, Programme Administrator T: 01904 876949 or E: c.varley@yorksj.ac.uk. The workshops are limited to a maximum of 20 people and will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis.

New qualification for the sports profession

York St John University has developed a new Certificate in Sports Coaching (subject to validation) aimed at sports coaches either professionals or volunteers. This novel part-time programme builds on the University's success in sports coaching and sports science.

The project is part of a consortium bid, led by AimHigher, to the European Social Fund. The success of this bid means that students based in North, East or West Yorkshire will not pay fees in 2007.

The certificate offers flexible learning opportunities to individuals. It combines e-learning and distance learning resources with tutor contact. The new certificate is aimed at anyone who wants to develop themselves within coaching - including how to enhance their coaching practice and how to integrate sport science into their coaching to aid the development of players.

Applications are encouraged from people who have coaching experience and hold a level 1 coaching qualification for any sport. The course will develop your skills to encourage the development of sport within Yorkshire and beyond.

The Certificate consists of two twenty-credit modules which cover introduction to applied sport science for coaches and the coaching process. It is envisaged that each module will last approximately three months, with days set aside for University - based workshops. Online learning will provide guided learning tasks. Students will have access to their tutors via e-mail and telephone, as well as tutorials. The programme provides as much support as possible for students, helping them to fit study around their work, professional and family commitments.

Anyone wishing further information about the Certificate in Sports Coaching should contact:

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E: g.hogg@yorksj.ac.uk, T: 01904 876842

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