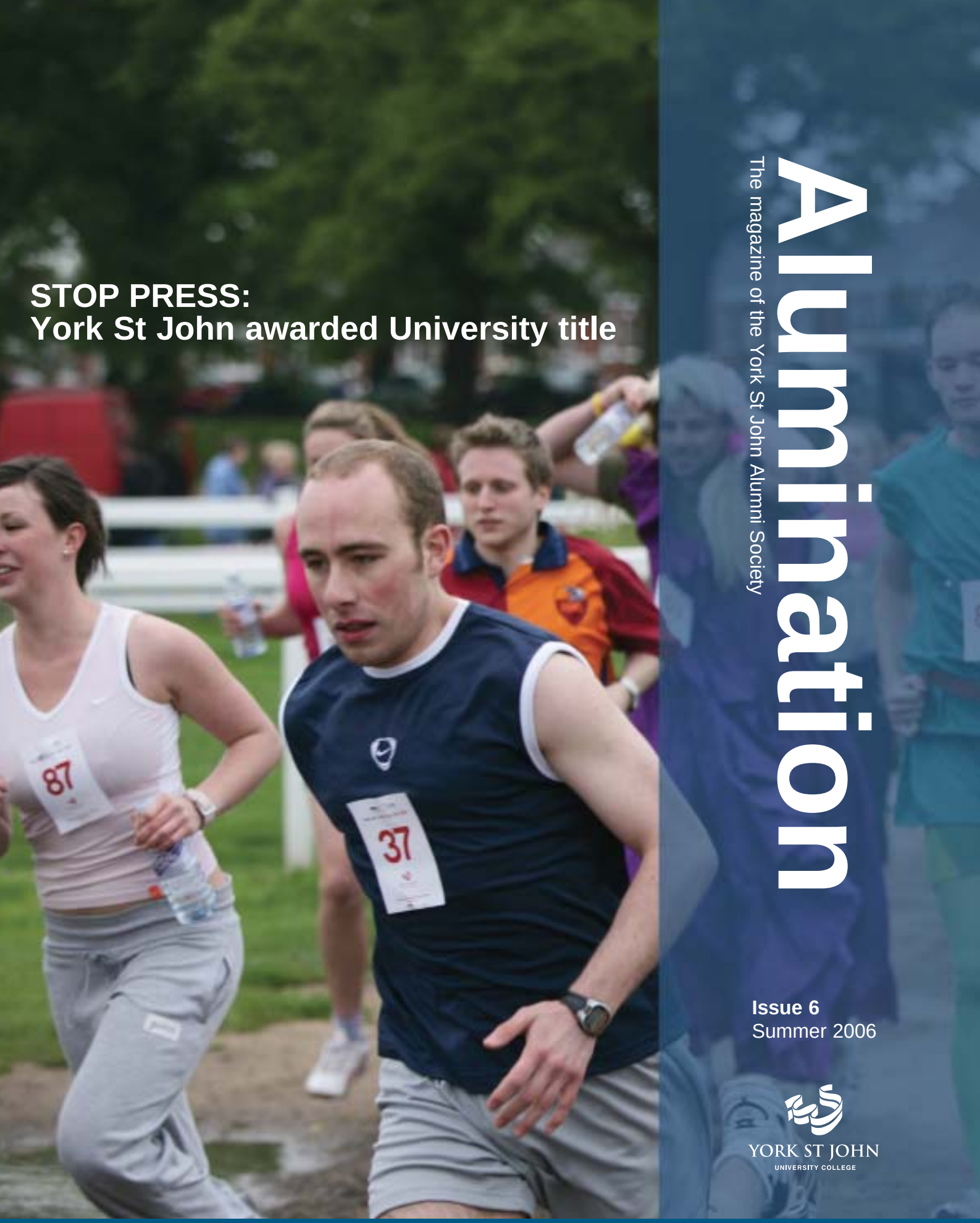

Alumination

The magazine of the York St John Alumni Society

STOP PRESS:
York St John awarded University title

Issue 6
Summer 2006

YORK ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

In this issue

The launch of SPARK | New name for York St John | School of Professional Health Studies
News from Alumni groups

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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 Alumni Office or York St John University College.

Welcome from the Director of Institutional Advancement

Having been at York St John for over ten years, some readers of Alumination will know me from my former roles as a Lecturer and Head of the School of Sports Science and Psychology. In my new role, as Director of Institutional Advancement, I look forward to communicating with you as I work closely with Brett to further improve the service we provide to our Alumni both in the UK and across the globe.

I am extremely passionate about YSJ and its mission to provide an excellent, open and progressive Higher Education. This organisation is an extraordinary place to belong to and this has enabled me to develop many friendships over the years with students, alumni, colleagues and external partners.

As we went to press with this edition of Alumination we heard that YSJ had achieved University title; this led to some last minute rewriting to make sure you were kept up-to-date with developments. In the next edition of Alumination we will go into more detail about how we gained University status and what it means to students - past, present and future.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Alumination and I would like to congratulate all those of you who have completed your studies this year. If you would like to meet with me or one of my team to discuss your views on how we can improve our links with the Alumni please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Professor Andy Smith

Director of Institutional Advancement

Tel: 01904 716738

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Institutional Advancement at YSJ

Where did you go to university? Most of us have been asked this question at some point. It demonstrates that where you study for your degree remains important long after graduation. One of my goals as the first Director of Institutional Advancement at York St John is to further realise the self-evident pride and ability of the Alumni to ensure that when you answer this question the person you are talking to is suitably impressed and understands the very special qualities of YSJ and its graduates.

The question 'where did you go to university?' is an interesting place to start this short article as YSJ has just been awarded University title and will become York St John University in the autumn of this year. The award of University title signals another major milestone in our development, following our achievement of Taught Degree Awarding Powers (see Alumination, Issue 5, Winter 2005).

Institutional Advancement Team L-R Kate Hutchings, Andy Smith & Brett Arnall

It is my belief that the 8,000 members of our Alumni Association represent a major repository of experience, expertise and energy. If YSJ is going to take all the opportunities embedded in Taught Degree Awarding Powers and University title then it needs to find new and creative ways to work with its Alumni. This includes developing new membership services for you and ways of keeping you in contact with YSJ. These might include ensuring you are aware of the continuous professional development programmes on offer and our Town & Gown lecture series. In addition, it includes exploring new ways in which you can help us support our students and fulfil our mission in providing an 'excellent, open and progressive Higher Education that embraces difference, challenges prejudice and promotes justice, shaped by York St John's Church Foundation'. We have already made a start on this aspect of our work through the launch of our Annual Scholarship Fund (SPARK - Securing Potential and Releasing Knowledge) which offers financial support to students. You can donate to this fund by contacting Brett Arnall (tel: 01904 716432, e-mail: alumni@yorksj.ac.uk). We hope to build on this work by providing other time and cost effective ways in which you can invest in the future of YSJ by introducing new fundraising events and a legacy programme.

In addition to enhancing the professional service YSJ provides to its Alumni, the Office for Institutional Advancement will also be attempting to secure corporate sponsorship and grants from Trust Funds to support our students, to invest in learning resources and to support staff research and development. We believe that as an Institution on the verge of becoming a University, we have a lot to offer potential partners and we look forward to extending our external focus and regional impact.

As Alumni members you know what a special place YSJ is and how important the people who study and work here are. I hope that over the coming years you can help me and my team spread the word and support our students and our mission.

The new Institutional Advancement Office is here to provide a service to the Alumni and to help you stay in contact with YSJ. Please do not hesitate to phone or write to us if we can help you in any way or if you would like to meet to discuss any ideas you may have, our contact details are as follows:-

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Alumni office update

Membership update

As the YSJ Alumni Society reaches its third year we now have over 8,000 members! We have been delighted to help former students from Ripon and York St John get back in contact with each other and keep you updated on what is happening at York St John. One simple way you can be sent regular updates is to receive our News and Events e-bulletin via e-mail. If you are not already receiving these you can request this by e-mailing alumni@yorksj.ac.uk

We are currently working in conjunction with our database provider to finalise a forum through e-vision whereby members can log in (securely) and communicate with other members who wish to have their contact information available on the forum.

Class of 1970 reunite after 35 years

Four members of the Class of 1970 reunited in York for the first time in 35 years in July 2005. All were former YSJ students, attending the College from 1967-1970. Their re-acquaintance with the York campus involved a tour of some of their old haunts. Organiser Ruth Ritchie said 'we had a fantastic day and reminisced into the wee small hours. We also had a special mention on Radio York, who played us Amen Corner's “If paradise is half as nice” (a favourite song of ours from that era!)'.

In the picture, from left to right are: Jan Duckhouse (McAllister), Ruth Ritchie (Lodge), Jenny Candy (Iliff) and Heather Watson (Wansey). If anyone remembers us and would like to get in touch, they can contact Ruth at redruthums@hotmail.com

A special mention on the radio for the girls!

Ripon information

In the next edition of Alumination there will be pages dedicated to the Ripon reunion which took place in July 2006, we look forward to providing pictures and a write up from this event, which was a huge success. We would be very pleased to receive profiles of former Ripon students to include in the magazine or on our webpages, please send them in to alumni@yorksj.ac.uk

College Archivist, Roger Wolfe is encouraging any former Ripon students to contact him should they be interested in finding out what archives we have available from Ripon or if you would like to contribute anything to the archives. Roger has a variety of archives and information, including photographs of students every year from 1872-1976 and various other years following.

You can contact Roger by e-mail r.wolfe@yorksj.ac.uk or by telephone 01904 716605.

First international alumni groups established in Japan

YSJ is delighted to have established its first international chapters in Osaka and Tokyo. Both groups were formally established during visits made by Head of International Office, Dr David Moulds and Japan Projects Officer, Dr Hisashi Nakamura.

Tokyo Branch

Osaka Branch

Exclusive Alumni Society benefits & discounts

Your Alumni Society membership card may be required to confirm bookings with external companies or show as proof of membership.

***The following companies & establishments in York offer various discounts to YSJ Alumni Members**

Company	Contact	Location	Details required when booking
Monkbar Hotel	01904 638086	Lord Mayor's Walk	Quote York St John Alumni Member
Grange Hotel	01904 644744	City Centre	Quote reference York St John
Holiday Inn York	0870 400 9085	Tadcaster Road	Quote corporate ID: 954292711
York Theatre Royal	01904 623568	City Centre	Quote Alumni membership number
Yorkboat	01904 628324	City Centre	Membership card required on entry

ysjactive at York St John

Our fitness suite is fully equipped with CV, fixed and free weight equipment and staffed at all times. It is open every day (opening times vary each term). We welcome returning Alumni and friends/family of Alumni as members. There is an initial annual fee of £10 membership, thereafter use of the facility is 'pay as you go' (with 10 or 20 session cards available to purchase). New members must undertake an 'induction' prior to using the fitness suite.

Category	10 sessions	20 sessions
Alumni	£30.00	£57.00
Friends/Family	£34.00	£64.00

Classes

Recreation & Sport Services runs a varied weekly programme of health and fitness classes suitable for all abilities, which are open to Alumni and members of the public. Classes normally run weekdays between 5.00pm-7.00pm and our regular classes have included Fitness Yoga; Step 'n Tone; Legs, Bums and Tums and Circuits. Most classes are aimed at beginner-intermediate level. Participants 'pay as you go' for all classes. (Cost: £3.50 for Alumni/Externals [£2.50 for Circuits])

*Hotel discount scheme

York St John has teamed up with Intercontinental Hotels to offer a 25% discount at numerous hotels all over the UK and Europe. For calls in the UK book on 0870 400 8135. Please quote 'exclusive rate'. Alumni membership card may be required to confirm bookings.

*Environmental Transport Association (ETA)

York St John Alumni Society has teamed up with ETA to offer its members a 50% discount on car breakdown cover and a 45% discount on renewal. Contact the ETA on 01932 828 882 quoting ref: 1832-2001.

*Collette Worldwide Holidays

The YSJ Alumni Society has teamed up with Collette Worldwide Holidays to offer members quality escorted travel holidays to some of the worlds most amazing destinations. Each year there will be opportunities to attend tailor made holidays for Alumni and friends which will contain a mix of cultural visits, social activities and will be accompanied by an academic expert to provide extensive background information.

*National Car Rental

Alumni members can now also take advantage of car and van hire discounts in the UK and abroad (in over 80 countries worldwide). Members can also enjoy the luxury of the Guy Salmon fleet in the UK from a Mercedes to the power of a Porsche at surprisingly affordable prices. For a National car or van quotation or to make a booking please call 0870 191 6950

To benefit from these exclusive rates make sure you quote:
A000664 for UK Car hire
A000665 for UK Van hire
8577490 for International Car hire
A000664G for Guy Salmon hire

* Please note York St John accepts no responsibility for bookings made with external companies. All bookings and discounts are subject to availability and terms and conditions apply. Please see the Alumni webpages (www.yorksj.ac.uk/alumni) for further information or contact the Office for Institutional Advancement on 01904 716432.

Students' Union news

'All for one & one for all!'

This year York St John Students' Union has gone from strength to strength especially in developing its relationship with the University College. During our time here there have been many changes and with the support of the University College we have overcome many obstacles.

The latest initiative; *'Achieving Professional Development'* recognises the great work of our volunteers in areas such as leadership, mentoring, organisational skills, presentation skills, and IT skills. 'APD' now gives students a qualification which benefits their CVs.

Over 40 clubs and societies are now recognised within the Students' Union with new clubs joining throughout the academic term. On average our Union Council ratified at least two clubs/societies each month and we expect this number to grow come the start of the new academic year. To note a few: we have welcomed a new professionally orientated Management Society, the Student Christian Movement, the Baha'i Society, a group of gymnastic girls known as our very own Cheerleading Squad and many more. We recognise that this has been an immense year and we were very proud to be able to facilitate the students' needs.

This year the new Students' Union Sabbatical Officers were officially welcomed in by the outgoing Officers as part of the Foundation Day celebrations on Wednesday 10 May 2006. This will now be an annual occasion on Foundation Day, when we celebrate the first day YSJ opened its doors in 1841.

New sabbaticals were officially installed on Foundation Day

A successful year in YSJSU saw six teams from our Sports Clubs demolishing their BUSA leagues, so many congratulations to the Rugby League, Men's Football, Women's Football, Netball 2nd team, Netball 3rd team, as well as our brand new Cricket Club, all of which won their leagues. Building work is underway on new changing room facilities at Hull Road, helped by an award of £400,000. They should be ready for full operational use come September.

The Musical Production Society did us proud this year with an outstanding performance of *'The Wiz'.* This included many laughs and lots of fun along the way! We also hosted a very successful *Pick it Up* day on 3 June where we litter picked the local area and invited local residents to join us for a barbeque.

The litter picking team!

After 26 years of deliberating between York University and YSJSU, 'Nightline' (a confidential telephone service run by students for students) has been set up and is in full use during term time between 8.00pm - 8.00am.

It has been an absolute pleasure and honour over the last 12 months to work with a vibrant and friendly community, full of students who make our job worthwhile - you have made it the dream job, and we hope you have all enjoyed our work and time here!

Finally… our 'Strategic Plan' has been an ongoing document that will hopefully result in the move to a new building (fingers crossed) so watch this space!

Best wishes, Jack, Anna and James

YSJ club profile - The Rowing Club

The Rowing Club have always been a strong club at YSJ, not only because they are one of the oldest clubs but because they are still one of the top clubs. Last year the club competed regionally and nationally against the best sportspersons in the country. Last year, as winter drew in and the river reliably flooded, the club focused on indoor training with special attention on the ergos. Their efforts paid off when they walked away with three gold Medals, a silver and a bronze at the Manchester National Indoor Rowing Competition.

The Rowing Club with Sir Steve Redgrave

When not taking part in competitions, the club has been fundraising for a new boat. It has taken several years of 24-hour rows, slave auctions and too many bag packs, but eventually sufficient money was raised to buy a new Men's Heavyweight coxed four '*Crouse*'. The boat was delivered in January this year. With help from the Association Project Fund, the club were also able to purchase a launch boat for their coach. To celebrate this great achievement, the club held a boat-naming ceremony when Chaplain Jeremy Clines blessed *Crouse* and the launch boat named after John Maw.

Since January, the club has bought a second hand Sims 4+ named Wilf Mellor. The club is always expanding and looking at ways to build upon recent successes. The club now aim to break into the eight races by buying their own eight seater. Not only will this make training freshers much easier but it will be a new challenge for the club and their coach and we will have to wait and see how they fare. But if recent years for the club are anything to go by, there should be lots more success ahead.

L-R - Alex Cleeland (Rowing Club President 05-06), John Maw, Principal Willcocks & Ron Burcham (Coach)

We are keen for old members to get back in touch with the Rowing Club through the Alumni Officer and to share their experiences of the club as we attempt to rebuild their history amongst the club members past and present. We are looking to set up a Rowing Alumni Database where past members receive regular updates about current and future events within the club calendar and possibly an annual rowing meal. If you are a former member of the rowing club, Elizabeth 'Betty' Carver (Rowing Club Alumni contact) would like to hear from you about the club and your experiences.

Please e-mail alumni@yorksj.ac.uk to forward your messages or any further information.

University College news

STOP PRESS:

New name for York St John

We are delighted to announce that we have received the official letter from the Privy Council of the UK approving our request to become York St John University.

This wonderful news comes after years of determination and hard work from the York St John community and is a well-deserved endorsement of the excellent achievements we have accomplished as an organisation throughout our 165-year history. We would like to thank all our Alumni for the part they have played in that history and in their ongoing support.

We will begin using the title 'York St John University' as of 1 October 2006 and there will be a series of events to celebrate our new status over the coming months. Our new Chancellor will be announced soon and will be installed in a ceremony at York Minster on 7 March 2007.

YSJ had only recently officially adopted the title of York St John University College on 1 February 2006. The University College name was blessed at a ceremony on campus on Tuesday 21 February. Invited guests joined staff and students of York St John University College in the Chapel to celebrate the occasion.

We very much look forward to the future and hope that you can continue to share with us the exciting times ahead, with the commanding status that 'University' brings. This excellent news was received as this publication was about to go to print and the next issue of Alumination will focus on the award.

The gift of learning for a wider community

Partners from across the public, voluntary and Further and Higher Education sectors in North Yorkshire came together at the beginning of December 2005 to launch the Higher Learning for Communities project, which aims to make relevant courses available to communities which are currently underrepresented in higher level learning.

The project, which is led by Aimhigher North Yorkshire, has secured £716,247. It is hoped that just over 650 individuals from across York and North Yorkshire will benefit from the opportunities this funding will offer over the next two years. The funding success follows a number of pilot schemes which ran across North Yorkshire, setting up vocational courses at degree level and providing information relevant to people's needs.

The partners will be running short accredited HE qualifications of varying lengths around the region for people with training needs in, for example, the voluntary sector, for carers, for the unemployed or for those currently in paid work who wish to gain further qualifications. One such course is the Certificate in Sports Development, which has been an incredibly popular project.

Opportunities for individuals across York and North Yorkshire

York - a City of Faiths

On Wednesday 8 March, the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd & Right Hon Dr John Sentamu gave an address at the launch of the *York: City of Faiths* initiative here at YSJ. *York: City of Faiths* aims to bring together a number of different faith groups in York who will work together to make the City more multi-faith aware.

As well as an address by the Archbishop of York, speakers included Dr Indarjit Singh OBE, Director of the Network of Sikh Organisations UK and Editor of the Sikh Messenger, Councillor Janet Greenwood, Lord Mayor of York and Professor Dianne Willcocks, Principal of YSJ. York faith groups, who at the event signed a Statement of Intent, included Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh.

The City of Faiths initiative at York St John

Rob Eastman receives prestigious award

Alumnus & staff member, Rob Eastman, was recently part of a successful team from Arts Action York that received an award from Quentin Blake at the British Museum in April, 2006.

As one of the artists involved in the York Big Draw 2005, Rob was invited to attend the award ceremony by Arts Action York of York City Council who organised the York leg of the event.

Rob ran a weeklong workshop in York Minster which invited members of the public to come and draw whatever they felt inspired by, irrespective of age, experience or ability. About 500 people responded over the course of the week and though many took their drawings home enough drawings were left to fill 12 display boards.

The Big Draw is a national event organised by Drawing Power, launched six years ago as part of a campaign to encourage people to draw in museums and galleries. It has since been widened to include a broader range of buildings and locations. It is open to anyone, and is intended to be both educational and fun; and encourage people to observe through drawing, and thus come into a better understanding of what they are looking at. October's Big Draw offers over 1500 events across the country, and more information on the Big Draw or Drawing Power can be found on their website www.drawingpower.org.uk.

L-R Simon Cowell (Film Maker), Rob Eastman (artist-Minster Big Draw), Dave Fleming (Arts Action), Quentin Blake (Artist, Illustrator), Vanessa Langford (Arts Action), Emily Harvey (Arts Action Coordinator).

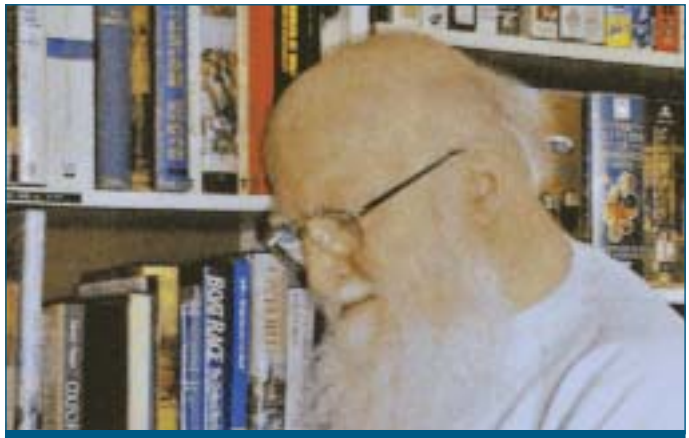
A wonderful gift

Over the last 15 years friend of YSJ Christopher Dyer has made regular gifts of a chosen volume to the Library in memory of his great friend Brian Sourbut. Christopher would annually send a title chosen by the English faculty that was recommended by the lecturers and was linked with contemporary scholarship.

The gifts were made in June to mark Brian's birthday, following a tradition when they were youths that on each other's birthdays they would exchange books.

Brian Sourbut is warmly remembered by colleagues and Alumni as an inspirational Head of English. During his career Brian established a very forward looking department committed to putting excellence in learning and teaching at the centre of its work. He was always imaginative and innovative in his own teaching of students.

York St John passes on its warmest thanks for the continuation of this wonderful gift from Mr Dyer in memory of Brian.



A tradition between friends

York St John says farewell to long serving staff

Liz Maynard, the College's Disability Coordinator retired in May 2006 after 23 years at YSJ. She was one of several staff who recently said farewell at the Long Services Awards dinner on Foundation Day. Liz was instrumental in setting up the Disability Unit which provides comprehensive support for students from the application stage through to graduation. Liz was very student-centred and committed to helping and encouraging students to overcome problems and make the most of the opportunities available to them. Many of you will remember Liz as a Social Science and Women's Studies lecturer.

Reunion event with 21st anniversary gig by Dr Love

Those students who attended St Johns between 1985-1990 may remember the College band Dr Love and their legendary gigs in the Union and Temple Hall. In what will be the biggest reunion event for many years, virtually 21 years to the day since they first played, all the original members are reforming for a big reunion bash in Temple Hall. Mark Saturday 2 December 2006 firmly in your calendars and meet up with all your old friends. Event details and tickets on www.doclove2006.com and www.oldjohns.co.uk

SPARK

Securing Potential and Releasing Knowledge

SPARK - The YSJ Annual Fund was launched in October 2005 to secure funds for student support. Money raised has supported students who experience unexpected hardship and has been used to fund a series of scholarships for the 2006-07 academic year. We were able to offer substantial support to an international student, whose family business was destroyed by the Tsunami disaster. With this funding the student was able to complete their programme of study. Further substantial SPARK funding for unexpected hardship is available for the forthcoming academic year. Updates will follow.

SPARK was officially launched on Saturday 29 October 2005 at York Racecourse with the inaugural York St John Fun Run/Walk. More than 40 runners and walkers completed the 5km course. The race was led off by former students (and members of the Association of the Colleges of Ripon & York St John) John Board, John Maw and Robin Cooper all of whom attended York St John in the 1950s! YSJ was delighted that members of the Association could lead off the event, following their support, in many ways, over the years. The event raised over £1,300.

The second fun run took place on Sunday 14 May 2006, with over 80 participants taking part. In chilly and damp conditions the runners and walkers were joined by Zippy, a camel and an unsinkable canoe made by the Rowing Club! Student clubs and societies were strongly represented on the day, highlighting their commitment to be involved with YSJ's fundraising campaigns. The second annual fun run raised over £2,000.

Both events had a wonderful family feel on the day - with ages ranging from 5-74! Thank you to our sponsors Aramark Catering, The Association of the Colleges of Ripon & York St John, Unison, Jenson: the Printsmith and York City Council.

Association members lead the way!

YSJ community unites for the second annual SPARK fun run

Roll of honour	2005	2006
First male	*Andrew Palmer (North Yorks Police)	*Michael Quinn (YSJ student)
First female	Julie Fern (YSJ staff)	Julie Fern (YSJ staff)
Runner-up	Alex Cleeland (YSJ student)	Alex Cleeland (YSJ student)
Second runner-up	Mark Sullivan (YSJ staff)	Ben Morris (YSJ alumnus)
First under 16	Billy Elwell (friend of YSJ)	Harry Elwell (friend of YSJ)
First walker	Uche Anikwenwa (YSJ student)	Uche Anikwenwa (YSJ student)
Club/Society award	Musical Production Society	Rowing Club

*indicates overall race winner

Wonderful support from the YSJ community

Since the launch of the SPARK campaign YSJ has received wonderful support from the YSJ community. The scheme was initially launched to Governors and senior staff, receiving an extremely positive response, including a £3,000 donation from Principal Willcocks. The Association of the Colleges of Ripon & York St John Management Committee were equally supportive in immediately agreeing to make an annual £500 donation when they were introduced to the scheme. Our first appeal to the Alumni community was sent out in November 2005, bringing an overwhelming response from former students of both York St John and Ripon.

More recently SPARK has been embraced by YSJ students, particularly by the Student Clubs & Societies. With support from the Students' Union, Student Clubs & Societies were well briefed on SPARK and how it would support fellow students. Support was shown in representation at various events (including the fun run, quiz nights & sports matches) and text book and mobile phone donations schemes.

In recognition of the support, YSJ was very proud to present two SPARK awards at the 2006 Annual Sports & Societies Dinner held on 8 May at York Racecourse. The Men's Football Club were presented with the SPARK Club/Society of the year. The club agreed to donate proceeds from their RIP review to SPARK as soon as they heard about the fund, making a wonderful contribution of £296.70. The second award presented was for the SPARK personality of the year. This went to Alex Cleeland of the Rowing Club for his support in encouraging others to be actively involved with SPARK and his forward thinking for further fundraising support for the Rowing Club after completing his studies. Alex has finished runner-up in both of the fun runs.

Scholarships available for the 2006-07 Academic Year

The following scholarships (£500 per annum for three years full-time or pro rata part-time) are available for the 2006-07 academic year:

Scholarship	*Criteria (a brief overview)
Disabled student	Facing costs beyond the rate of the Disabled Students Allowance.
Mature candidate	Over 25 with minimal prior HE experience & first generation HE applicant.
Sports related	Regional standard or above who would face barriers to maintain participation.
Compact student	Pupils selected by 'Compact partner' schools across the region.
International student	High academic standard of previous experience in the proposed programme.
Foundation related	Attendees of a faith school in any of the four foundation dioceses.
Arts related	Evidence of a very high standard of work in the public domain relevant to any visual or performing arts field at YSJ.

There will also be three 'reward' scholarships comprising one-off payments for:

Progression student	Excellent achievement on programme moving from Foundation degree to a professional award or honours degree.
Outgoing exchange	Excellent achievement on programme involving a study abroad programme for three months or more.
Young achievers	Excellent achievement on programme, 18-19 years old who has moved from home to York to study.

*please note each scholarship has various criteria the applicant must match. The full Bursaries & Scholarships leaflet can be viewed on the Alumni webpages - www.yorksj.ac.uk/alumni

As the SPARK fund grows annually we will be able to offer further scholarships.

Thank you

On behalf of York St John please accept our most sincere thanks to all those of you who have made contributions to SPARK, whether it be by donation, supporting an event, donation schemes, promoting the initiative or sponsoring an event. You have helped us surpass our expectations by raising over £20,000 in our first year.

We will be producing a donor leaflet in the very near future where we look forward to providing further information on SPARK.

School of Professional Health Studies news

International study opportunities for Occupational Therapy (OT) Students

A new international programme for OT students was launched in February 2006 between Leonard Cheshire International and York St John. Leonard Cheshire International is the largest provider of services for disabled people in the UK. The partnership is giving OT students the opportunity to carry out their final professional practice placements in a range of challenging locations around the world.

OT students on 3 month placements

Earlier this year the first group of seven students spent three months working and learning about community rehabilitation with Leonard Cheshire International services located in South Africa, Sri Lanka and Southern India. The range of tasks included one-to-one sessions with disabled people, supporting community workshops and collaborating with craftsmen on the accessibility of local buildings and wheelchair design.

YSJ students supported local communities

YSJ also sent four second year students to Oslo University where they undertook a placement and participated in taught modules at Oslo University College.

YSJ Centre for Excellence for Teaching & Learning (CETL) and Collaboration for Creativity (C4C)

Arts and Health

In 2006 a group of third year students launched Arts and Health: insights in health, illness, disability and social care: a project which aims to enable students to explore health and social care related issues through, fiction, autobiography, poetry, film and theatre. The project aims to foster the capacity for empathy, the appreciation of difference and an understanding of the illness experience. The project comes under the CETL umbrella entitled 'Collaboration for Creativity'. Funding supports the production of a DVD/web-based teaching and study resource, providing guided material for students to work with the arts.

Assessment & Learning in Practice Settings (ALPS CETL)

York St John is part of ALPS - a collaborative programme between five Higher Education institutions with proven reputations for excellence in learning and teaching in health and social care. ALPS aims to build on existing strengths across the partnership to ensure graduates from health and social care fields can perform confidently and competently as they commence their professional careers (improving the standard of care).

In collaboration with the ALPS IT Group, YSJ has launched a £30,000 pilot project to explore the use of mobile phone technology, linked to Blog and Flickr websites, to generate information on student learning in the workplace. This project has been supported by YSJ based e-learning advisors Gerry Kregor and Mark Dransfield.

YSJ staff from Occupational Therapy & Physiotherapy are working with students to evaluate and identify ways in which the technology can contribute to the enhanced assessment of student performance on professional work placements. Students on placement gather and transmit data back to their personal Blog and Flickr sites where it is analysed by academic staff.

The Patient Experience Project

Sally Fowler-Davis, Principal Lecturer in Post Registration at YSJ, has helped secure funding of £79,000 for a new project with the NHS Institute for Innovation & Improvement, a national organisation to promote excellence and innovation across the health system. The NHSI aims to enhance service delivery in the NHS by focusing on innovation, learning and leadership development in an integrated and efficient manner.

The funds will be spent on a new partnership between YSJ and York Hospitals Trust to create a module of study and have it evaluated for use on a nationwide scale. It has arisen directly as a result of the making of *'Learning from Listening,'* a film project which will be used as learning materials in the new module of study. The module will help student practitioners learn about how they themselves and their teams can act in ways that transform services and improve the patient experience.

The pilot module delivery will take place as part of the hospital training and development programme. It will be open to nursing and allied health professionals in their final stages of training, doctors in their first place of employment and the entire cohort of third year Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy students at York St John.

Sally Fowler-Davis, promoting excellence & innovation

Employment opportunities for newly qualified physiotherapists

In a year when qualified physiotherapists were experiencing difficulty in finding employment, our graduates bucked the trend by having very high levels of employment. There has been growing concerns about the shortage of posts for newly qualified therapists in the NHS, but for YSJ graduates the results have been much better than the national picture.

Collaboration with the Gulf States

Increasing interest in the development of Allied Health professions in the Middle East has resulted in a wave of enquiries from Gulf State governments interested in accessing occupational therapy and physiotherapy expertise at York St John.

September 2005 saw the first student, sponsored by the Qatari government, join the BHSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy programme. This particular student was extremely well qualified having already had several years experience as an occupational therapy assistant in his own country and two years pre OT education in the USA. He hopes to return to his own country, for his third year professional practice placement and is already planning how he will take a key role in the development of the profession in his home country. The Kuwaiti Ministry of Education has also expressed interest in sponsoring students to undertake the Occupational Therapy programmes at York, so there may soon be a much larger cohort of Arab students at YSJ.

This exciting opportunity is the first example of the innovative partnerships that the School of Professional Health Studies can now engage in following the award of degree awarding powers to YSJ

Postgraduate Developments

PhD registration at YSJ has improved considerably under the leadership of Professor Patrick Doherty and the School of Professional Health Studies is now hosting five PhDs with main supervision responsibility and involved in co-supervising two inter-school PhDs. We have a steady flow of staff and external candidates preparing to register for PhDs in the School next year. In light of our PhD aspirations we have combined efforts with our regional HEI partners to set up a PhD researcher and supervisors forum. We have successfully run one weekend workshop and one summer school for PhD researchers.

On 1 August 2006 the School of Professional Health Studies merged with the School of Sport Science & Psychology becoming the new Faculty of Health & Life Sciences.

C4C: Collaborating for Creativity…one year on

C4C, York St John's Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning has been up and running for one year. The past 12 months have seen significant progress, with C4C actively enhancing learning opportunities within four modules across two schools. Projects currently engage more than 250 students with opportunities for all YSJ students, staff and the wider community to participate in some C4C events. It is hoped that there will soon be projects across all schools, increasing opportunities and participation across the University College. At module level C4C has provided resources for engaging guest lecturers, organising field trips and hosting events to help students excel within their studies.

Students rehearsing

Current projects include Elizabeth Sandie's 'Living Writers in the Curriculum' which has seen Mark Doty, Jean Binta Breeze, David Almond, Jane Hirshfield and Claire MacDonald visit YSJ to engage with students by sharing their writing advice and experiences.

Louise Larkinson and Nick Rowe take a creative approach to medical humanities by using film, drama and literature to explore health and social care issues in their project 'Arts insights into health, illness, disability and social care'. Nick and Louise have set up a Health Studies Film Society which meets regularly to screen relevant films and discuss the insights they offer into patient experiences.

Gweno Williams' project '21st Century Interpretations of Renaissance Texts' has given students the opportunity to visit Bolling Hall, a fully furnished Jacobean house and museum in Bradford, where they performed a seventeenth century play with a family connection to Bolling Hall.

Roger Clark's project 'Literature of Childhood' will launch in September 2006 and will offer students the opportunity for research into, and online publication of, little-known historical material from the YSJ archive of Victorian and Edwardian children's books.

The C4C core team is now in place with seven members of staff. The team consists of: Professor Gweno Williams, Head of C4C CETL; Barbara Mulroy, C4C Manager; Rebecca Reese, Senior Administrative Assistant; Tom Butler, Technical Manager; Chris Brooke, Digital Film Technician; Jennifer Nicholson, Exhibitions Technician; and Gillian Sowray, Senior Administrative Assistant (riverlines).

The core team supports Fellows with their projects, enabling them to realise their ideas for new learning opportunities for students. In October, the team will be working alongside students, staff and partners in an exciting new centre incorporating the refurbished and renovated Chapel Theatre and workshop wing, centring around a contemporary glass foyer, which provides a reception and exhibition space and a focal point for C4C. The new multi-disciplinary centre will be opened by Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate.

Early work renovating the Chapel Theatre

With so many opportunities already available at YSJ, C4C staff are delighted to play a part in enriching the student experience and have received many favourable comments from students. Following the 2006 Writers' Festival organised by C4C and kindly sponsored by the Royal Literary Fund, Katie Smith, a 1st year English Literature student enthused: 'Please, again next year! Invaluable stuff'. Katie also described a Living Writers workshop by Claire MacDonald as: 'Unusual, bizarre, unforgettable, once in a lifetime'.

With more exciting projects being planned and implemented, YSJ can look forward to C4C's next phase.

The Braidley Bunch

Rowan and Martin Braidley and their son Danny have a unique link to York St John. Rowan and Martin met here as students in 1973, Danny enroled as a student in 2001.

Both parents studied History as their main subject at Gray's Court, Martin trained for secondary teaching and Rowan for middle school teaching. After they received their Certificates of Education, both stayed at YSJ for a further year to study for a BEd (Hons).

During their student years in York Martin lived on School Corridor and Nottingham Corridor, whilst Rowan lived in Blocks E and D on campus. In their final two years they lived in a large shared house on Marygate, which was prone to flooding! Martin played football and water polo for the College and organised and played in the British College Championships at the YSJ pool on Lord Mayor's Walk.

They first met when Martin asked Rowan to dance before whisking her off (ahem!) to a party at the Croft residence. Rowan fondly remembers her student experience in the mid-seventies:

'As a student I managed to live off £20 a month, when a new pair of Levis would cost £5! I remember wearing platform shoes and cycling through the centre to a party dressed like a Bay City Roller, and listening to the Eagles and Led Zeppelin on Martin's portable tape deck. I also recall seeing a concert at College with Ralph McTell, a well-known folk singer. He was drunk because England had been knocked out of the 1974 world cup by Poland and he fell off the stage!

I had a great time studying at York St John and have close friendships with two other couples who also met there. York was a great place to live. It has been lovely to be able to reacquaint myself with the College and the shops while Dan is living there. The friendly atmosphere of the College and the beautiful buildings and campus are still there alongside the new buildings which have been built recently. Dan's graduation last November in York Minster was wonderful.'

The Braidley tradition, Danny's graduation in 2005

Currently Martin is Head Teacher of Woodhey High School in Bury, Greater Manchester, whilst Rowan is a Special Educational Needs Advisory Teacher in Oldham. Danny is staying in York and hopes to pursue a career in Further and Higher Education Marketing.

Danny was a YSJ student from 2001 - 2005 and has just completed a year as an employee of the University College. Danny studied English Literature with American Studies and in October 2005 became the first Graduate Intern in the YSJ Marketing Office. One of Danny's projects was to co-organise the second annual SPARK fun run with the Office for Institutional Advancement. Danny helped recruit many staff and students and was Race Director for the event.

Race Director for the second SPARK Fun Run

He fondly remembers his experiences at YSJ:

'I had the best four years of my life as a York St John student and it's been great conveying this to other people in my role in the Marketing Office. I've made a lot of good friends here, both as a student and as a member of staff, and I will always be grateful for the good times I've had here.'

News from Alumni Groups

The Association of the Colleges of Ripon & York St John

Association Members Support to York St John

The Constitution of the Association clearly states that 'to advance the aims of the College' is also one of its own aims. It uses such phrases as 'assisting in publicising', 'acting as an advocate', 'playing an active role in recruitment' and 'where possible, providing financial assistance' to substantiate this aim. It is of interest to look at the past year to make an assessment as to how significantly the Association is seeking to achieve its stated aim and objectives.

With regard to 'assisting in publicising' YSJ, the main way this has been achieved is through the loyalty that former students demonstrate towards YSJ and in the way in which they manifest this by word of mouth. One thinks of the men from 1945-47 who annually demonstrate this loyalty, along with others who come along to the Annual Reunions held at Lord Mayor's Walk and in Ripon. Add to this, other year groups and individuals who return to their former Colleges. Without doubt, the Association Lecture that is run jointly with YSJ, provides an ideal opportunity to bring in, not only our members but also those of YSJ and the wider York community. I would like to think that the *White Rose* and *Alumination* reach out in their respective ways to members and others and as such, provide information about the development and offerings of YSJ.

The word 'advocate' can imply different meanings but in terms of the relationship with YSJ, I would see the Association in a support role. Throughout the year, members of the Association have been prepared to support important events in YSJ like the Conferment of Degrees Ceremonies in York Minster, the Honorary Fellows Dinner and the renaming of the College on 21 February. While such events are normally only by invitation and are made to the Association President, the Association Trustee Governor and the General Secretary, other occasions like the Foundation Day in May, the Musical Production Society of *'The Wiz'* and the Association Lecture, given by former student Jack Linley, were attended by a greater number of members.

It is difficult for the Association to 'play an active role in recruitment' but one has to be aware that for years now, former members of Ripon and York have enthusiastically recommended their former Colleges to their children, grandchildren and friends. To indicate the extent that such sentiments have impinged on recruitment is impossible to calculate but one does hear comment on a regular basis of the connections made. Good support work continues to be done by the Association President, this year Graham Taft, through a presence at various functions, Mary Parker the Association Trustee Governor, whose work is held in great esteem and myself as General Secretary in my day-to-day offerings and perambulations. Such support is reciprocated by the interest shown in the Association by YSJ's Principal, Dianne Willcocks, Brett Arnall and other members of staff.

Indicating that 'where possible the Association will provide financial assistance' is a difficult objective to put into practice as it is a personal matter as to whether people feel the need to give or otherwise. Having said that and now 22 years since its inception, the Association Project Fund has donated over £30,000 to staff/student activities. This year the Management Committee agreed that an annual donation of £500 should be made to the YSJ SPARK Fund. Generous giving by former students from Ripon and York as either one-off donations or those made on a regular basis have been a welcome extension. The Association Fund Committee has also supported activities like the YSJ Fun Run, the Students' Union Sports and Societies Awards Evening and the 'Sshh' and 'Pick It Up' campaigns.

As YSJ becomes a University in its own right, the need to develop activities that can only be achieved by sponsorship becomes crucially important. To this end, YSJ has set up a new Institutional Advancement team of Professor Andy Smith, Brett Arnall and Kate Hutchings to present the reputation of the new University to potential sponsors. The overall message is one of developing the habit of support and giving. Interestingly and with no knowledge of the above development, several former members of the St John's Rugby Club, now holding senior positions in the world of commerce and industry, met in Geneva to discuss how they could help their former College. A meeting is planned to take place at Lord Mayor's Walk in October.

John Maw

Mary Parker, Graham Taft, Ken Ridley with Chairman of Governors, Robin Guthrie at the Honorary Fellows Dinner

The Association Project Fund

The Association Project Fund - 22 years on

It was at a meeting in 1983 that the Committee of the Association agreed to give an annual sum of money to support student activities. Since then the Association College Projects Fund, now in its 22nd year, has provided just over £30,000 towards a whole range of Projects. Guided by a set of six relatively broad criteria, each application is carefully considered before an award is agreed.

Working with disadvantaged and disabled children and adults

Anna Winstanley, a third year student studying Physiotherapy, was keen to contribute her skills to a rehabilitation project and to this end she obtained a placement at the School for Physically Disabled Children in Dar es Salaam. First year student, Helen Maddison, travelled with the Handicapped Children's Fund Organisation to Lourdes in the south of France. She writes, 'This was a really rewarding experience to see children enjoying themselves in being recognised as children rather than children with handicaps.' Both projects were deemed to be very worthy of support.

Desirous of gaining additional qualifications

Hayley Ward considered that joining the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy was important for her future and linked this with voluntary work with pupils experiencing difficulties at a local secondary school. BACP Accreditation in Counselling is a further target on her agenda. Help was given with travel expenses and the cost of fees.

Voluntary participation in activities that should enhance the post-student offering in the world of work and/or in ongoing education

To this end Louise Kouzapas, Carley Ashworth and Anjuli Patrick were three members of a party that visited the Holy Land, Jordan and Israel. Visits to Jerusalem, Galilee, Nazareth, the Dead Sea, Petra and Bethlehem included a night in a Bedouin tent. Nathan Chenery and Susan Kruse travelled to Japan to promote Anglo-Japanese cultural links at the Hida Takayama Museum in Gifu Province. A letter of support for their venture came from Principal Willcocks who was full of praise for the way that they had responded professionally and imaginatively to the challenge of providing visual interpretation of the classical tanka poetic form. Alison Sellars chose the experience of a lifetime for her project in undertaking an exploration of the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador. Such projects represent considerable expense on the part of the students and the Awards Committee was pleased to respond.

Anjuli Patrick & the Palestinian family she stayed with

Representing YSJ

Twelve students, led by Mark Sullivan (Acting Head of Sports Studies), represented YSJ in Trailwalker 2006, a 62-mile trek across the South Wolds Way to be completed in 30 hours. Laura Bates (Year 2) played for the Women's Rugby Union teams at Yorkshire and Regional level. Mathew Gartland and Danny Wilson played in the British Universities Rugby League Championships and were hoping for selection for the four nations competition. Lone cyclist, Peter Williams, who engages with high standard racing, was selected to represent British Universities at the World University Championships in Antwerp, Belgium. Peter performed admirably in both the time trial and the road race, thoroughly enjoying the competition. All of the above named sports players find the high costs of travel and accommodation a considerable drain on their finances.

Community work both at YSJ and in the wider York area

Activities that take place both within and without YSJ provide students with the valuable experience of socialising with others. Perhaps this is most evident with the highly successful Musical Production Society and this year's excellent production of *'The Wiz'* was no exception. At the same time, the elaborate set, costume design and the high costs associated with publicity suggested the need for financial help. Help was also forthcoming for the five students who this year performed in the York Cycle of Mystery Plays. The plays were presented from wagons that were drawn through the streets to stop at four locations in the city centre.

On behalf of the countless students who have benefited from donations, I would like to thank most sincerely all members of the Association for contributing so generously. The letters of thanks received from the students indicates their most sincere feelings of appreciation and gratitude.

John Maw

The Musical Production Society of *The Wiz*

The Musical Production Society has for more years than can be remembered put on major and most successful performances. Throughout the years, certainly since the 1980s, performances like *West Side Story, Grease, Guys* and *Dolls, Bugsy Malone* and *Sweet Charity* were produced at the Joseph Rowntree Theatre on Haxby Road to the delight of fellow students and an admiring York public. A change of venue came in the late 80s when *Cabaret* was produced in the round with Temple Hall as its venue and since then the Society has continued with its well-established tradition of technically sound and lively shows. This year was no exception, with the audience on all four nights being treated to a quality performance.

For those who have not had the pleasure of seeing *'The Wiz'*, the story begins with Dorothy entering into a strange land where she immediately achieves stardom as a witch killer having disposed of Evamean. Further popularity comes when she sets free the Munchkins who have been trapped for years under the influence of an evil spell. Dorothy is sent in the direction of The Wiz as only he can help her to achieve her desire to return home. Desperate to find a friend, she does so in 'Scarecrow' who is looking for a brain. The two friends soon become three when 'Tinman', who craves for a heart, joins them. Walking down the 'yellow brick road' the three are confronted by a boastful yet cowardly 'Lion' who also accompanies the friends along the way. Overcoming many dangers as they travel, the friends finally have an audience with 'The Wiz' whose hands are tied with regard to securing freedom for Dorothy by the wicked witch Evillene. Having eliminated the witch, Dorothy gains her freedom and all she has to do to go home is to tap her heels three times.

Starting in January, much later than is usually the case, members of the Society were busy singing, acting, dancing, building and painting the set, designing the lighting and making costumes. As one of the largest societies in YSJ, the production occupied 26 performers, 19 musicians and 13 people working behind the stage. A most positive lead was provided by Suzie Lewin (Dorothy), Craig Tobin (Scarecrow), Damian Sealy (Tinman), Ian Fowler (Lion) and Jack Woodhams (The Wiz) but the words of Director, Chris Lewis so accurately summarise the production:

'I have to give a massive thank you to all the people who have helped with this production. I could not have wished for a better Musical Director than Amy Roberts, words can't say how much I have respect for her. Amy and the Band have been amazing. And Gemma Gamewell has proven that not only can she dance but she can also work under pressure. It has not been easy but she pulled it off with style. The cast has been phenomenal and once again raised the standard of the MPS show proving that there really is some breathtaking talent at York St John. To the cast I would like to say how proud I am of you all including the backstage crew. We could not have done it without every single one of you.'

President of the Society, Tim Creasy, in thanking all concerned, singled out Donna Harrison for special praise:
'I want to give an extremely huge thank you to Donna Harrison, the Vice-President. Donna has been a pillar of strength and without her I would not have made it through this year.'
John Maw

An outstanding lead cast

An extremely lively MPS show

The wicked witch Evillene

If you would like to join a mailing list to be notified of forthcoming MPS Performances please e-mail alumni@yorksj.ac.uk or phone 01904 716432.

College History:

Looking at the different names of the College(s) throughout history (1841 - 2006)

Those of you who were part of YSJ in the early 90s would have studied when the College was the University College of Ripon & York St John. Over the years we have been known under a series of identities! We thought you may like to know the different names of the College(s) throughout history.

York Diocesan Training and Middle School

At a General Meeting of the York Central Diocesan Society on 11 December 1839, it was resolved that a school should be established for the 'Purpose of Training Masters in the Art and Practice of Teaching' as soon as sufficient funds could be raised in the Diocese to maintain it. That school opened on 17 May 1841 in premises at 33 Monkgate, as the York Diocesan Training and Middle School.

In 1843 the training of young women wishing to become school mistresses commenced in premises in 14 Monkgate, subsequently to be transferred to the former Men's School at 33 Monkgate when the men moved to new premises on Lord Mayor's Walk in 1846. The Middle School closed in 1858.

Ripon College

In 1856 it became evident that only the Men's Training School could be supported at York and it was suggested that, if the Female Training School was to survive, a new building would have to be provided in the Ripon Diocese. The foundation stone was laid in 1860 and the building was ready to receive its first students in 1862.

St John's College, York

There is no official record as to when the title St John's College, York was adopted. According to McGregor (1991) the change was a 'surreptitious' one as important documentation emanating from the College in the 1890s still used the title 'York Diocesan College'. The early editions of the White Rose, published in the same decade, had as their title 'The Magazine of the Past and Present Students of St John's College, York'. Many of the members of the Association from the 30s, 40s and early 50s will remember the popular usage of the term 'sinjun'.

College of Ripon & York St John

In March 1973 the Department of Education & Science (DES) published 'Development of Higher Education in the Non-University Sector'. As a result, it seemed that few of the Voluntary Colleges, such as those at Ripon and York, could remain as they were. The Government required colleges to show how they could merge with universities, polytechnics or any other colleges so that the new institution could take between 1000 and 2000 students. Principal John Barnett (York) and Miss Gage (Ripon) circulated a 'Declaration of Intent to Amalgamate', which was considered to be in the best interest of both Colleges. In March 1974 Dr Owens (CEO - North Yorkshire LEA) assured the DES that the Authority would welcome the merger. The Interim Governing Body of the two Colleges chose the title 'College of Ripon & York St John' and on 22 November the Secretary of State for Education approved the amalgamation. The new College opened in September 1975.

University College of Ripon & York St John

During the late 1980s discussions with the University of Leeds took place on the conditions under which the title 'A College of the University' might be accorded. In the Summer Term of 1990 the Senate and Council of the University approved the status and style of University College. The title was changed to the 'University College of Ripon & York St John'. By 1998 the College removed the word 'University' from its title, being known again as the College of Ripon & York St John.

York St John College

The new name of York St John College was adopted in 2001 subsequent to the closure of the Ripon Campus when the Governors decided to relocate the entire College at York. A modernisation and new-build programme, designed to accommodate a developing curriculum and an increasing number of students, was in process. The institution was renamed 'York St John College'.

The old and the new building work takes place in 2002-03

York St John University College

With Taught Degree Awarding Powers, confirmed by the Privy Council and announced by Principal Willcocks in 2005, the College moved to once again include the word 'University' in its title. This was dedicated in the College Chapel on 23 February 2006.

Finally, on 1 October 2006 we will become York St John University... a reward for all the efforts of past and present students and staff.

With thanks for the information taken from 'A Church College for the 21st Century' (1991), McGregor GP

John Maw

Japanese Peace Garden

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