

HRH The Princess Royal to open Newton building

HRH The Princess Royal, Royal Patron of the Women Into Science and Engineering (WISE) campaign, will officially open The University of Northampton's Newton building in September.

The £11 million re-development of the Grade II listed building, formerly Kingsley Park, on St George's Avenue, Northampton, has seen it transformed into a state-of-the-art technology and research centre.

The building is home to the University's School of Science and Technology, and the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing. It also houses the East Midlands Non-Destructive Testing Centre; and NVision, a facility which provides specialist services using immersive 3D modelling and visualisation capabilities.

Professor Kamal Bechkoum, Dean of the School of Science and Technology, commented:

"We are delighted that HRH The Princess Royal will officially be opening the Newton building. Newton provides a technological boost for students and businesses across the county and I am proud of what it offers and the facilities we have in-house."

Funding for the project came from the Higher Education Funding Council, Northamptonshire Enterprise Ltd, the East Midlands Development Agency and the European Regional Development Fund. The development also has the backing of the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation.

Professor Nick Petford



University welcomes new Vice Chancellor

Professor Nick Petford has started in his role as the new Vice Chancellor of The University of Northampton. He succeeds Ann Tate who retired after eight years in the role.

Professor Petford is a geologist by training and is well-known for his work in the area of volcanology. He was formerly the Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise at Bournemouth University.

Professor Petford said: "I am honoured to join The University of Northampton as Vice Chancellor. The sector will face unprecedented challenges over the next few years and Ann Tate will be a hard act to follow but our future will also herald new opportunities."

"I am tremendously excited by the prospect of working with staff, students and Governors on the next stage of our journey towards becoming a truly world-class university."

The Chair of the Governing Council, Mrs Deirdre Newham, said: "I am delighted to welcome Professor Petford to The University of Northampton. Under the leadership of Ann Tate, Northampton was granted university status in 2005 and has positioned itself as a leading provider of higher education for the region and beyond. In succeeding Ann Tate, Professor Petford will build on her success by leading our ambitious vision for the University set out in our new Strategic Plan."

Teachers from Hong Kong visit School of Education

Primary School principals and teachers from Hong Kong visited The University of Northampton as part of a project to observe methods and practices for the inclusion and teaching of students with special educational needs.

The group attended seminars held at The University of Northampton and also had the opportunity to visit primary, secondary and special schools across Northamptonshire.

University launches new website

The University of Northampton has recently launched a new website that offers a range of benefits and improvements for visitors.

The website has a fresh new design and has been restructured to make it easier for visitors to find the information they need. It also offers an improved course finder where potential students can find out everything they need to know about the courses they are interested in studying. Explore the website at www.northampton.ac.uk

University celebrates ten years of Criminology

Ten years of Criminology study within the University's School of Social Sciences were celebrated at a recent event. Staff and students were joined for the day of seminars and workshops by guests from criminal justice organisations from across the county.

University leads on sustainable development project

The University of Northampton is one of 11 higher education institutions to receive substantial funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to take forward sustainable development projects in their region.

The University has been awarded £188,073 by HEFCE to work with multiple partners across Northamptonshire to find solutions to lower the carbon footprint of the whole county. De Montfort University, University of Lincoln and the University of Hertfordshire will also sit on the project steering group to assist with their academic expertise and to help ensure the project is replicable across the higher education sector.

School of Education is 'Outstanding' in Ofsted report

The University of Northampton was awarded 'Grade 1 - Outstanding' for its Teacher Training provision in a recent Ofsted.

This is the third consecutive occasion that the University has been awarded the highest inspection grade.

Professor Ann Shelton-Mayes, Dean of the School of Education, commented: "This is the third time in succession that our Primary and Early Years Initial Teacher Training programmes have been judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

"This is a wonderful achievement that reflects the professional commitment of all the University and partner school staff who work in Initial Teacher Training to develop our future teachers."

Graduate success celebrated at Summer Ceremonies

The University of Northampton celebrated the achievements of 2600 graduates during four days of graduation ceremonies held at Park Campus.

Students from across the University's six schools were joined by family and friends as they received their awards.

Amongst the graduating cohort was 88 year old Ernest Sharp, who was awarded a Master of Philosophy for his study of Wastes Management.

Ernest commented: "It's never too late to learn. I feel like I have achieved something and I'm very proud. It's important to keep your mind occupied and your mind and body active. I have got a lot of pleasure from meeting the people on my course."

Also joining Ernest were identical twins who graduated from the School of Education and Northampton Business School; the first graduates from the University's Foundation Degree in Environmental Cleaning Management; and the largest graduating cohort of researchers in the University's history.



Graduates celebrate at Summer Ceremony



Garry Butterfield's collection at the Graduate Fashion Show

Catwalk collections impress at Graduate Fashion Show

This year's spectacular Graduate Fashion Show, held at Northampton's Royal & Derngate, showcased the talents of the University's Year 2 and graduating BA Fashion, Textiles and Footwear pathway students.

Over 20 students presented their work on the catwalk at popular afternoon and evening shows.

Amongst the amazing variety of work on display was a collection by BA Fashion student Garry James Butterfield. Garry's work was fresh from the catwalk at London Graduate Fashion Week, where he made the shortlist of ten students nominated for the top award in the country at the Gala Awards Show.

Former graduates from the University's School of The Arts have gone on to work for top names such as Mulberry, Next and River Island as well as being successful designers in their own right.

Treat for aching feet at London Marathon

The University's Division of Podiatry helped treat the tired and injured feet and legs of runners at the 2010 Virgin London Marathon.

The team from the School of Health, including 25 Final Year BSc (Hons) students and four staff, worked with St John's Ambulance, doctors and physiotherapists to provide medical support at the event.

The School of Health is unique in the service it provides for the event and has been sending a cohort of students to London annually since 1989.

Steve Avil, Senior Lecturer and Sports Podiatrist, explains: "It is a long and very tiring day but throughout the years we have been supporting the Marathon, students have always rated it as one of their best experiences."

HE update

Some of the recent HE headlines hitting the press...

Private university to be created

A new private sector university college announced by universities minister David Willets will be the first of its kind in over 30 years.

London based BPP has ambitions to set up a range of new courses in the next year.

Mr Willets said that private universities will help develop innovative ways of delivering courses, such as online degrees.

Source: BBC News online – www.bbc.co.uk

11.6% rise in applications to UK universities

UCAS reported that the number of applications for UK undergraduate degree courses in 2010 rose by 11.6% compared to 2009.

Mary Curnock Cook, UCAS Chief Executive, said: "Applications are up across the board – young people clearly see higher education as a good option for continued learning and career progression."

Source: UCAS website – www.ucas.ac.uk

Proposed changes to university fees

Business Secretary Vince Cable has called for a radical rethink around university funding. One of the changes discussed would require students to repay tuition fees through a variable graduate tax.

Source: Times Higher Education website – www.timeshighereducation.co.uk

Bursaries increase

The Office For Fair Access (OFFA) has said that universities in England have raised the proportion of income that they make available for student bursaries. The figures show a rise of 0.8% compared to last year.

OFFA was set up to protect access to university for poorer students following the increase in tuition fees four years ago.

Source: BBC News online – www.bbc.co.uk

Create Your Future

An appearance by Rob Harris, guitarist with the band Jamiroquai, helped inspire over 90 Year 12 students to think positively about their plans for the future.

Rob was attending one of the University's 'Create Your Future' events designed to help students develop their entrepreneurial skills.

Participants enjoyed a number of specially designed activities and workshops throughout the day. These included a 'Dragons' Den' style pitch around the music industry, discussions around presentation skills and motivational workshops.

If you would like to take part in the next 'Create Your Future' event on 17 November 2010 please contact David Seaton on **01604 893268** or email david.seaton@northampton.ac.uk

Jamiroquai guitarist Rob Harris



Students taking part in a workshop at 'Be. An Inspiration'



Be. For University

We are running our popular series of 'Be.' experience days for Year 12 students (and equivalent) throughout 2010/11.

The events provide students with information and advice on the range of opportunities that are available to them at University, as well as offering a taste of life on a campus.

Events taking place this year include:

- Be. In Business, 10 November 2010: For students interested in studying Business-related courses
- Be. Creative, 9 February 2011: For students interested in studying The Arts
- Be. Biological, 21 June 2011: For students interested in Human Biological Sciences
- Be. An Inspiration, 23 June 2011: For students interested in Primary or Early Years Teaching and related courses

For more information about how your students can take part call **01604 893299** or email schools.liaison@northampton.ac.uk

Students can also sign up for 'Be.mail' (a free, monthly e-bulletin containing information and advice about university) by visiting www.be4university.com

For more information about how we can help you, contact Melanie Fowler, Recruitment and Liaison Manager, on 01604 893299 or email schools.liaison@northampton.ac.uk

In association with
Northamptonshire
let yourself grow.com



The University of Northampton
Park Campus
Boughton Green Road
Northampton NN2 7AL

Avenue Campus
St George's Avenue
Northampton NN2 6JD

Main switchboard 01604 735500
Study freephone 0800 358 2232
Study email study@northampton.ac.uk
Web www.northampton.ac.uk

Schools and Colleges Liaison
Telephone 01604 893299
Email schools.liaison@northampton.ac.uk