

Universe

Spring 2010

Activities for advisers in 2010

The University runs regular information sessions for colleagues in schools, colleges and the wider Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) sector.

Advisers' Conference 2010 – HE: Current Themes and Future Trends

Tuesday 26 January, Sunley Management Centre (Park Campus), 10.30am-3.30pm

The conference will consider current issues affecting students accessing university and likely developments.

Keynote speakers:

- Lynne Condell, Student Funding Manager, Liverpool John Moores University and Chair, National Association of Student Money Advisers
- Catherine Kliměš, Manager, Careers and Employability Service, The University of Northampton
- Mike Nicholson, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, University of Oxford

The conference is free to attend and lunch will be provided.

Arts and Social Sciences at The University of Northampton – Information Session for Teachers, Tutors and Advisers

Thursday 21 January, 4.15pm-6.15pm

The event will provide an update on courses, admissions, sector-specific news and planned subject-focused activities for schools and colleges, as well as promoting the development of further curriculum links with regional post-16 institutions.

We can also offer bespoke staff information sessions in schools and colleges.

For more information, or to reserve your place at either event, please contact Melanie Fowler, Recruitment and Liaison Manager, on **01604 893299**, email melanie.fowler@northampton.ac.uk

The 3D immersive 'Cave' and 'Powerwall' at the heart of NVision



NVision is go

Work is progressing well on an £11 million project at The University of Northampton, designed to provide a technological boost for both students and businesses across the county.

The Grade II-listed Newton building on St George's Avenue is being completely refurbished and developed into a technology and research centre that will provide an extended home for the University's School of Science and Technology.

Due to open in early 2010, Newton will house the University's new 'NVision' centre – a state-of-the-art facility providing specialist services to help companies of all sizes develop and promote their products using the latest 3D modelling and visualisation capabilities.

NVision Manager, Stuart Wayne, explains: "NVision will include a suite of immersive virtual reality technologies, underpinned by technical resources and extensive expertise at the University. It will offer significant and exciting benefits to a host of industries, including health, motorsport, games, architectural and environmental organisations - to name just a few".

NVision is part funded by:



University offers support on health and bioscience

The University has scooped a £50,000 contract to run a new initiative aimed at supporting small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) based in the East Midlands.

The 'New Technology Initiative (NTI) for Healthcare and Biosciences' is one of five NTIs established across the East Midlands region to give business in specific sectors access to grants and training through a select network of universities and colleges.

Funded by the East Midlands Development Agency, The University of Northampton successfully pitched for the initiative against four other universities.

Access Day welcomes adult learners

Over 160 adult learners from colleges across Northamptonshire and surrounding counties attended an 'Access to University' event at The University of Northampton, giving them a taster of higher education.

The adult learners from MK College, Amersham and Wycombe College, Northampton College, South Leicestershire College and Tresham College, found out more about routes into higher education, as well as the course offerings at the University.

Year 12 students 'take over'

50 Year 12 students from Countesthorpe Community College, Leicestershire visited The University of Northampton's School of Health in November as part of the 11 Million Takeover Day campaign.

The National event is organised by the Children's Commissioner for England to give children and young people a chance to work alongside adults and get involved in decision making.

The Year 12 students took part in workshops in Adult Nursing and Occupational Therapy and discussed ideas for an updated children's nursing curriculum.

Over 17,000 children and 700 organisations took part in 2008's 11 Million Takeover Day and this year MPs, the Bank of England, schools, the media, police forces, fire brigades, councils, hospitals, charities, youth groups and many more got involved.

TEQUILA\London MD presented inaugural lecture

The University recently welcomed Allan Fraser-Rush, Managing Director of marketing agency TEQUILA\London, for his Inaugural Lecture to mark his appointment as Visiting Industry Professor in Integrated Marketing Communications.

Mr Fraser-Rush delivered his lecture, entitled 'Are brands still believable?', to over 100 guests including University staff, students and local industry figures who had the opportunity to ask questions relating to the topic and discuss ideas with the newly appointed Professor.

The collaboration between TEQUILA\London and The University of Northampton has been benefiting students at the University for over seven years. Mr Fraser-Rush's appointment as Visiting Industry Professor has cemented the partnership to further support the enhancement of learning and teaching and joint activities within the communications and creative industries.

Aimhigher Associates Scheme

For the second year running, The University of Northampton is working in partnership with Aimhigher to provide Student Associates to Milton Keynes and Northamptonshire Schools.

The Aimhigher Associate Scheme provides support to school and college students, from year 9 to year 13, through the use of undergraduate student mentors. The University took an active role in the Aimhigher Associate Scheme pathfinder year and helped shape the project in preparation for the programme to be rolled out to all Aimhigher Partnerships.

The University of Northampton was recognised for its huge contribution to the work of Aimhigher, its partner schools and colleges and its support for learners across the region by being shortlisted for the 'Aimhigher Partner Award' in October. In addition, Alan Williams and Collin Williamson – both students at The University of Northampton, were shortlisted for the 'Aimhigher Associate of the Year Award', recognising their work in encouraging younger students to realise their full potential.



Student Associates Alan Williams (left) and Collin Williamson

Rob Harris entertained students at the 'Create your future' event



Jamiroquai guitarist helps students to create their futures

Rob Harris, guitarist from the popular band Jamiroquai and music producer, visited Park Campus recently for the University's third annual 'Create Your Future' event.

Nearly 90 Year 12 students from schools across Northamptonshire and surrounding counties took part in the successful event. The aim was to raise aspirations and confidence amongst the students, promoting enterprise and running their own businesses. The activities included a 'Dragons' Den' style pitch around the music industry, presentation skills and motivational workshops.

Rob was on hand to encourage the students to follow their dreams and think positively about their futures. He also treated guests to an impromptu performance of his music!

David Seaton, Schools and Colleges Liaison Officer, commented:

"The day was highly successful and initial feedback from schools has been extremely positive; they have already noticed a huge change in the confidence of their students who participated."

If you would like to take part in the next 'Create Your Future' event on 30 June 2010, Please contact David Seaton on **01604 893268** or email

david.seaton@northampton.ac.uk

Funding for project on 'history of soldiers'

Dr Matthew McCormack, Senior Lecturer in History, The University of Northampton, will be involved in a joint project on the history of soldiers, which has been awarded funding from a national research council.

The project, entitled 'Soldiers and Soldiering, 1750-1815', was awarded £145,091 by The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Research Grants Scheme and will run for 18 months from August 2010.

Matthew hopes that the project will develop new approaches to the history of warfare, by focusing on the figure of the soldier. He explains:

"We want to shed new light on the experience of soldiering in the decades leading up to the Battle of Waterloo. There is huge popular interest in military history and also in researching the family histories of ancestors who served in the army or militia, so we aim to make our findings openly available."

HE update

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

Weak pound may boost overseas student market

A weak pound and an economic surge among emerging nations could lead to a healthier overseas market for UK universities in 2010, according to an economist.

Robin Bew, editorial director and chief economist at the Economist Intelligence Unit, discussed the impact of the global recession on UK universities' overseas recruitment at the British Council's Education UK Partnership conference in Edinburgh last week.

Mandelson outlines the future of Higher Education

The Government unveiled a new framework for the future success of higher education, setting out the important role universities will play in securing the country's economic recovery and long term prosperity.

Lord Mandelson's vision to sustain university success in more challenging and competitive times sets out the Government's approach on the major issues facing universities, including the need to make greater contributions to the economy, widening access and strengthening research capacity.

The higher education framework, Higher Ambitions, sets out a strategy for universities to remain world class, providing the nation with the high level skills needed to remain competitive, while continuing to attract the brightest students and researchers.

Study reveals lack of awareness over university bursaries and scholarships

It is amazing but true that one quarter of students and parents have not heard of the bursaries that each university has to provide to students in need. So, three years after the controversial top-up fees were introduced, along with a complicated paraphernalia of loans and scholarships, thousands of students don't have the information they need to choose the institution that is best for them.

For details on scholarships and bursaries at The University of Northampton: www.northampton.ac.uk/fees

Sources: THE www.timeshighereducation.co.uk, Department for Innovation and Skills www.dius.gov.uk; The Independent www.independent.co.uk

Leading social enterprise academic welcomed back

The University of Northampton's Business School was delighted to welcome back Professor Eldridge D. Huntington, a leading academic on social enterprise, to deliver a guest lecture recently.

Professor Huntington is Founder of the Center for the Advancement for Nonprofit and Faith-Based Organizations at California State University, USA. He presented his lecture 'Innovative Leadership in a Changing World' to an audience of students and staff from Northampton Business School, charity and not-for-profits representatives and civil society organisations.

Tim Curtis, Senior Lecturer in Social Enterprise, Northampton Business School, commented:

"It is great to get a global perspective on this issue. It's not just the UK that is considering social entrepreneurship a vehicle for social change, but communities all over the world are getting involved. Professor Huntington's work and enthusiasm is an inspiration."

The University of Northampton will commence its new BA Social Enterprise Development degree in September 2010, the second course of its kind in the United Kingdom, and already has 24 students from Third World Development and Business Entrepreneurship courses taking part in first year classes.

Social enterprises are social mission-driven organisations which trade in goods or services for a social purpose.



Year 12 Students took part in 'Be. Biological' in 2009

Be. on campus

For the third year running, The University of Northampton is holding a programme of on-campus experience events for school and college students in Year 12 and equivalent... and this year there are more than ever to choose from.

The experience days give students a taste of what is on offer at university with a focus on a particular subject area. 'Be.' events feature subject taster workshops, as well as information on admissions and careers.

Around 500 regional sixth form and college students took part last year and this year's programme launched in November with 'Be. In Business', attended by over 100 regional sixth form and college students.

The following events will take place during 2010:

- 10 February – Be. Creative – Focus on The Arts
- 17 March – Be. Switched On – Focus on Computing courses
- 25 March – Be. An Inspiration – Focus on Primary Teaching and related courses
- 22 June – Be. Biological – Focus on Human Biology
- 24 June – Be. Legal – Focus on Law

'Be.' events are part of the University's 'Be. For University' initiative, which also includes a HE guidance web resource, www.be4university.com, and a monthly e-newsletter for school and college students, Be.mail.

For further information, please contact Melanie Fowler, Recruitment and Liaison Manager, on **01604 893299** or email melanie.fowler@northampton.ac.uk



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

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