Real world impact
Information for Schools, Sixth Forms and Further Education Colleges
Innovative thinking for the real world
Hello and welcome to the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) and our first schools and colleges newsletter for the 2011/12 academic year. We hope you enjoyed your summer break and are feeling refreshed and energised as we begin this new academic term.

Although I only took up my post as Vice-Chancellor of UCLan in July of this year I have been extremely impressed by the University’s commitment to helping people from all walks of life to make the most of their potential and achieve their career goals. My predecessors have always placed a strong focus on employment and that’s set to continue, it’s really at the heart of what we’re about. Today employability skills are embedded into all of our degree programmes and despite the current economic conditions it’s an encouraging Government statistic which shows that 93.3% of UCLan graduates go on to employment or further study six months after graduation.

Junior University taster gives teenagers appetite for education

Aspiring teenagers from the Lancashire area are celebrating after graduating from the Junior University, a motivational programme at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan). Year 10 high school pupils donned their caps and gowns in front of their proud families and friends after completing the six-month Junior University (JU) course at UCLan. More than 250 youngsters signed up to this year’s popular programme. The students had the opportunity to taste some of the academic world with workshops in various subjects including forensic anthropology, games design, physics (robotics), policing, nursing, languages, education, tourism and events management, criminology and sociology, marketing and sport. The students also took part in a range of social activities and team building exercises.

JU is in its third year at UCLan. It aims to raise the aspirations, and broaden the knowledge, of high achieving students in the local area and motivate them to consider applying to study at university when the time comes. All the activities have taken part in the evenings and over weekends.

If you would like to be involved in Junior University 2014 in Burnley or Preston please contact Carol Rissol 01772 894443 or email: schoolsandcollegesliaison@uclan.ac.uk

We have a great deal planned for this year so thought we’d share some of our news and highlight a variety of the exciting events we’ve got planned over the next couple of months. These include the European Day of Languages on 25 September, the National Sports Roadshow on 7 November, the RSC Chemistry Enhancement Day on 14 November and of course the hugely popular Lancashire Science Festival which this year takes place between 26 and 28 June 2014.

Other highlights and dates for your diary include a range of University Experience Days while other activities on the Preston campus including open days on Saturday, 28 September 2013, Sunday, 29 October 2013 and Saturday, 30 November 2013. Please contact us should anything in this newsletter catch your eye; we would be delighted to welcome you and your students to UCLan. We are equally happy to arrange to visit your school or college to support your own events or your work to inform your students about Higher Education.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you over the coming term.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerry Kelleher

A warm welcome from the Vice-Chancellor

National Student Survey (NSS)

The latest National Student Survey (NSS) results show that Student Satisfaction has risen at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) with nearly eight-and-a-half out of ten students saying they are happy with the quality of their overall educational experience.

The results of the latest National Student Survey show that UCLan’s overall satisfaction rating has risen to a figure of 84%, an increase of 2% on the previous two years. A range of important academic areas have seen increases in satisfaction levels in the past 12 months including: teaching, up 2% to 85%, academic support, up 1% to 80% and learning resources, up 2% to 88%.

- UCLan has been recognised as one of the top three modern universities in the UK for the quality of its library resources and services and the accessibility of the IT facilities.
- The University sits in the top 25% of English universities for providing clear marking criteria.
- UCLan has been rated in the top 25% of UK universities for providing detailed and clear feedback.
- UCLan has been rated in the top 25% of UK universities for developing its students’ key employability skills of communication and confidence in tackling unfamiliar problems.

A wide variety of subject areas achieved high levels of satisfaction with 18 ranking in the top 20 nationally. Among those best performing subject areas were: Forensic and Archaeological Science, Architecture, Law, Microbiology, History, Philosophy, Public Relations and Physical Geography and Environmental Sciences.

UCLan Preston Campus

Based in the heart of Preston, the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) aims to offer students a superlative experience through an unrivalled combination of quality teaching, support and excellent facilities. With a wide range of courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, UCLan has been recognised as one of the top three modern universities in the UK for the quality of its library resources and services and the accessibility of the IT facilities in the recent National Student Survey.

You may also be interested in some interesting facts and figures from our Annual Review 2012. The full report can be viewed online www.uclan.ac.uk/news/assets/uclan_annual_review.pdf

If you would like to receive a copy of the report, please email Stephanie Swarbrick sswarbrick@uclan.ac.uk

We are equally happy to arrange to visit your school or college to support your own events or your work to inform your students about Higher Education.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you over the coming term.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerry Kelleher

Statistics, facts and figures

TOTAL STUDENT NUMBERS

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Participation

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Preston Open Days

The only way to get a feel for UCLan is to come along to one of our open days.

Saturday 28 September 2013
Sunday 20 October 2013
Saturday 30 November 2013

www.uclan.ac.uk/opendays

The Burnley based graduates celebrating their graduation from the UCLan Junior University.
UCLan’s Student Recruitment team is focused on working alongside schools, academies, free schools, sixth forms, further education colleges and University Technical Colleges (UTCs). Our aim is to raise aspirations and increase motivation among potential students in order to improve access and widen participation in higher education.

UCLan understands the vital role that teachers and parents play in advising students about their progression options and we are keen to do all we can to support them in this process. We can provide support for teachers and parents in a variety of ways to help guide the decisions young people make about higher education, as well as supporting your HE and careers events.

To help your students make very important decisions about their future, the University of Central Lancashire offers a range of activities for students both on the Preston campus and at your school or college. These activities are tabulated on this pull-out centre spread.

For further information, to book places or to arrange any of these events or activities please contact: Catherine Rankin at eliaison@uclan.ac.uk or 01772 894447 or visit www.uclan.ac.uk/schools_colleges
School renamed in honour of famous Prestonian architect

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) has renamed one of its schools after a famous architect who forged his early career in Preston. The new Grenfell-Baines School of Architecture, Construction and Environmental Design has been named after Professor Sir George Grenfell-Baines who studied at the Harris Institute (which later became UCLan) from 1922-1928.

At a special signing ceremony the new school was officially launched by Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines. Sir George Grenfell-Baines was the founder of the Building Design Partnership (BDP), a world-leading architecture, construction and environmental practice. Through the establishment of BDP Sir George became the first architect to recognise that the technical complexities of creating new buildings and environments required a new type of organisation to design them.

His solution was to create a practice in which teams with many professional skills could work together with mutual understanding and respect for each other's design contribution. His philosophy and ethos centred around multidisciplinary working within the architectural, construction and environmental disciplines.

Lancashire Science Festival

Save the Date

The Lancashire Science Festival will be set across three days in 2014. The Festival is free to all and will feature a whole host of exciting presentations, hands-on activities and exhibits. Taking place at UCLan’s Preston campus, this event is a must for anyone interested in science, technology, engineering, maths and health.

Thursday 26 June – Primary Schools (Year 4+)
Friday 27 June – Secondary Schools, Sixth Forms and Colleges
Saturday 28 June – General public

Local pupils top North West schools in biology competition

Sixth form pupils from Manchester Grammar School have triumphed over 22 other North West schools to be crowned the winners of a biology competition run by the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) and the Society of Biology.

The four A-Level biology pupils, Tanmay Dixit, Alvar Paris, Omar Raza and Richard Wu beat their contemporaries after completing 10 tasks in areas including natural history, taxonomy and microscopy.

As the winning team they were handed a new microscope for their school and a book each. Tanmay Dixit said: “We really enjoyed taking part in the competition and we are of course really pleased to have won it. It’s been informative and challenging and has given us a good insight into working in a laboratory environment.”

Now in its 10th year, the event is run by UCLan and the Society of Biology to bring together sixth form students thinking about biology in higher education.

Schools and Colleges from Lancashire, Manchester, Cheshire and Cumbria all took part in the day’s activities. King George V College, St Wilfrid’s C of E Academy and Sandbach School came second, third and fourth respectively.

Balancing Success and Failure

Andrew Tyler, a UCLan student, has recently been named as the winner of the annual UCLan Undergraduate Research Internship Scheme. The high-flyer’s work was selected from 60 research projects undertaken by student interns at UCLan.

What the students say:

“After just one year, my course has helped me get off to a flying start with my future career. The content, tutors and assignments have enabled me to build my confidence and expand my knowledge to begin working within my community. I have also gained valuable ‘real life’ experience on my placement working with children and young people with disabilities. I am currently working closely with the ‘Isaac Kitchen Project’ to set up a helpline for young people who may need support with equality and diversity issues at home or at school. This will extend across Lancashire to help reduce isolation within the community. I have also gained the confidence to explore other challenges within the University, such as becoming a Peer Mentor. What I find the most exciting aspect about my course is how many doors it could open for my future. In my opinion I believe it is the perfect option for those students who have a passion for working with children and young people, and would like to explore the possibilities.”

“My first semester studying BA(Hons) Children, Schools and Families has been a success. I was given the opportunity to study at degree level and I feel like I have already learnt so much within this time. The tutors were all very supportive and made lots of time for their students outside of lectures. I’ve really wanted to work with children and I already believe I chose the right course and have learnt more than I expected to in such a short period of time. I have been made to feel at home on this course at UCLan and would recommend it to anybody who wants to work with children, young people and their families.”

For more information see our Website:

http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/BA_hons_children_schools_families.php

Interested students should contact: Dr Kate Bacon (Course Leader) on KVBacon@uclan.ac.uk or 01772 89 2981
Where are they now?

Name: Sarah Bullock
Year of Graduation: 2009
Secondary School Attended: Tameside College
Course of Study: Fashion Design BA Hons (2009)
Job title: Designer, boohoo.com

What made you choose to study your course?

Geography was a subject that always appealed to me due to the breadth of topics it covers, many of which are very pertinent in today's ever changing world. In particular the course offered the opportunity to build knowledge across the board with real options to engage in overseas field work.

What are your lasting memories of your time at UCLan?

For me, UCLan represents all that is valuable about education. In particular I always respect the dedication of the teaching staff to offer the best possible guidance and support throughout my studies. Indeed with regards to my course, one of the most memorable elements was the field study abroad. In my case this took me and my course mates to the Maasai Centre in Kenya where we experienced practical field work in an excellent part of the world.

What advice would you give to graduates wanting to do something similar, or what message would you like to give to those thinking of taking up study?

Whatever course or profession you studied at university, make sure you keep your knowledge strong and up to date throughout for interviews, for example, I had to keep my portfolio on trend with the latest looks and fashion. If you can get experience, paid or unpaid this looks great on your CV and makes you stand out against other candidates.

Has your degree had any particular impact on your current employment or life in general?

Being at university has made me a stronger, more confident and independent person. My degree has made a big impact on my employment as the work I do needs a lot of knowledge and experience in that field. Also working in the industry for 12 months, as part of my course, gave me the opportunity to get my foot in the door.

What did you do after graduation?

After graduating, I enjoyed some great travel experiences overseas combined with some work abroad and eventually a summer internship in the business sector. Eventually I opted to embark upon a MA degree programme at the University of Nottingham.

What is your greatest achievement since graduation?

Sometimes it is difficult to identify just one achievement as often I believe that from one achievement comes another. It is fair to say my hunger for achievement has not stopped. I have completed a postgraduate degree, finished a 140.6 triathlon and the next challenge is an MBA.

What advice would you give to graduates wanting to do something similar, or what message would you like to give to those thinking of taking up study?

Be ambitious and study for the right reasons. Interest in the subject is a must and make the most of your time at university. There are many opportunities to learn and develop new skills outside of class that can complement your studies.

Name: Oliver Fenech
Year of Graduation: 2009
Course of Study: BA Geography
Job Title: Project Manager – Wind Energy Sector

What made you choose to study your course?

The open day at UCLan made all the difference in choosing the course/university. The opportunity to work in the industry for 12 months was one of the highlights, along with the friendly atmosphere and the opportunity to learn a number of skills and gain experience in different areas. I spent four very hard working years at university which included developing a range of skills from pattern cutting to production and CAD work. I gained most of my experience on my work placement at Jack Wills. This made the presentation of my portfolio a lot more professional which helped when it came to my interviews.

What advice would you give to graduates wanting to do something similar, or what message would you like to give to those thinking of taking up study?

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