It is good to see another issue of The Connection and I would like to thank all those colleagues who contribute to the content and coordination. A special welcome to readers in the Department of Lifelong Learning who have recently joined us in Student Services and we look forward to continuing to develop our many existing links and collaborations.

2016 sees the launch of the University's new Strategic Plan which has been developed over a number of months, with considerable opportunities for input from staff and students - and I know that many Student Services colleagues fed in their views. Meanwhile we have been developing a new Student Services Strategy Map, as our own means of responding to the University strategy and to form a shared reference point for our work in the coming years.

The Student Services Strategy website has been comprehensively refreshed and relaunched to reflect the new strategy, and you can also find there a link to the overarching University Strategic Plan website. Can I encourage everyone to look at both of these sites - a good starting point is here: http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssd/student-services-strategy.

Over the months to come we shall hear more about initiatives, projects and developments across Student Services designed to complement our new strategic direction, and in support of the University Strategic Plan and other important reference points like the Learning and Teaching Strategy. Our new Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching is attending the departmental staff briefing in January to touch on these points, and we will also hear at that briefing from Willy Kitchen, the new head of Lifelong Learning.

I look forward to seeing you at briefing sessions during the rest of the year. You can find the future programme at

http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssd/staff/training/briefings

and past presentations are available in the Google Drive folder for Student Services staff.

Dr Andrew West, University Secretary
Congratulations to Matthew Martin (Skills Development Co-ordinator) who celebrated the birth of a baby daughter, Edith, on 20 Jan!

Student Recruitment and Admissions - Congratulations to:

- Heather Macleod in Admissions on the birth of her little girl on 24th November, Isobel Skye (known as Izzy)
- Becky Stevenson in the International Office on the birth of her little girl on 9th January, Summer
- Ian McGarry in Admissions on the birth of his little boy, Thomas Patrick
- Charlotte Cherrill in Admissions on the birth of her little boy on 22nd January, name still to be confirmed!

University of Sheffield Enterprise (USE)

Congratulations to the following members of our team:

- **Liz Taylor** (and Lewis) on the arrival of Charlie on 27 March 2015
- **Anna Nibbs** (and Phil) on the arrival of Joe on 2 October 2015
- **Darren Chouings** (and Kate) on the arrival of George Alex on 28 January 2016

Happy 21st on 10 January 2016 to Laura Crabtree in Registry Services
Steve Fish honoured with Significant Influence award

Former Director of the Careers Service and Deputy Director of Student Services, Steve Fish has been honoured with an Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) Significant Influence Award.

The award recognises the work Steve has undertaken to promote employability initiatives within the University and our region, including his support for the Graduates Yorkshire project.

Initially run by our University on behalf of the other universities in Yorkshire and Humber, Graduates Yorkshire sought to promote employment opportunities with regional employers to graduates wanting to work across Yorkshire and the Humber. Renamed as Gradcore, the company is now working more widely across the UK with over 40 universities.

Steve was also involved from the outset in setting up the RISE project, a partnership initiative between our University, Sheffield Hallam University, and Sheffield City Council. RISE seeks to enhance Sheffield’s reputation as a key graduate destination by increasing the number of employment opportunities within the city.

Working primarily with local enterprises, graduate placements are identified and support is offered to companies looking to recruit appropriate applicants. The RISE project is recognised nationally as one of the most successful of the regional employment programmes.

Steve was also instrumental in the creation of the Great Ambassadors China Scheme at our University. This seeks to place students and graduates who have knowledge of the Chinese language with companies that are seeking to develop, or enhance trade links, with China.

Presenting Steve with his award, AGCAS Company Law Member Stephen Boyd said:

“A true inspiration to colleagues, and a leading voice regionally and nationally, Steve has typified the very best of AGCAS in ensuring that, even in these days of a competitive Higher Education sector, the principles of collaboration and collective endeavour for the good of all our students continues in our profession.”

September 2015
Welcome to the New Starters and an update on Staff Changes

Projects and Development Team (PaD)

Dr Laura Lane took up the post of Researcher in the Widening Participation Research & Evaluation Unit (WPREU) in December.

In late November we also welcomed Stephanie Powell to the WPREU team as a Graduate Intern for six months. Stephanie will be working on the statistical elements of the University’s investigation into the attainment gap for BME students.

Fern Merrills joined us on 4 January 2016 as Project Officer (Achieve More). We also welcomed students Chloe Coleman and Monisha Khanna who are both working within the Achieve More team.

We have welcomed Laura Maltman, on secondment from Recruitment and Admissions, in February to cover Jessica Bailey’s role as Student Partnership and Projects Manager while she is on maternity leave from the 5th February.

Dr Sara Banning, Achieve More developer in the Projects and Development Team left in early January to focus on educational development consultancy work - thanks for her contribution to developing the Achieve More pilot with second year students.

Student Support and Wellbeing

In December, Aunam Quyoum joined us as a Graduate Intern for 6 months, working on the BME attainment gap project – a joint project with the WPREU team. Aunam is working on the qualitative strand of the project which involves carrying out research with students.

Learning and Teaching Services (LeTS)

We welcome Dr Vicky Crewe who took up the post of Quality Management Advisor for the Faculty of Engineering on 4 January 2016. Vicky will be covering Clare King’s secondment to the Student Systems Project as Functional Development Lead.

301 Student Skills and Development Centre

The 301 Student Skills and Development Centre says a fond farewell to Dale Griffin (Student Skills Centre Assistant) who takes up the post of HR Co-ordinator in ScHARR from March 2016, and Hannah Hunt (Student Skills Centre Assistant) who has taken up a post outside of the University. We welcome Amy Mollekin as a Skills Development Assistant, Jayne Evans as a Peer Learning Co-ordinator, and Chris Knox as a Maths and Statistics Tutor. Louise McInnes joins us as an Academic Skills Development Adviser, covering during Tracy Mayes’s maternity leave. Congratulations Tracy!
Paul Fennell was promoted from Careers Service Deputy Director to the position of Head of Careers and Employability, effective 19th October 2015.

Sadie Brunton was the Careers Service’s first new starter this year. Sadie replaced Jenny Butcher as Student Jobshop Assistant, and started with us on 7th January 2016. Jenny left us on 28th October 2015 to take up a part-time position in the School of Education. Jenny continues to support the Careers Service in her role as part-time as GRADschool Coordinator, effective 16th November.

Claire Conway joined us on 11th January 2016 as Assistant Head of the Careers Service (Information, Advice and Guidance).

Steve Fish took early retirement from his position as Careers Service Director, and Deputy Director of Student Services, with his last day being 30th October 2015.

University Health Service

Since August 2015 we have a new Practice Manager: Barbara Graham.

Dr Alison James, longstanding General Practitioner at UHS, retired on 8 October 2015. She has not been replaced yet but we have two Locum GPs working at UHS: Dr Aftab Khaliq and Dr Catherine Ryan.

Hayley Billingsley joined our team in November as Practice Nurse.

Tess Dodds (Practice Nurse) and Adèle Betts (Receptionist) both left UHS in the first half of January to take up similar posts elsewhere. They both had been at UHS for over ten years.

Lisa Moat has been appointed Practice Nurse and will start with us on 29 February. The receptionist post still needs to be filled.

On 15 February Daniel Hill will join our team as Health Care Assistant Apprentice, the first ever.

Welcome & update round-up

Admissions:
- Matt Page (1 Dec) – moved role to Admissions Manager (Postgraduate)
- Amy Smith (18 Jan) - Admissions Officer (Qualifications)
- James Hill (1 Feb) – moved role to Team Leader
- Andrew Wormald (1 Feb) – moved role to Admissions Officer (Postgraduate)
- Jo Naylor (1 Feb) – moved role to Admissions Officer (Compliance)

UK/EU Recruitment:
- David Broomby (1 Oct) – moved role/team to Student Recruitment Officer
- Alice Blatchford (1 Dec) – UK/EU Recruitment Graduate Intern
- Amy Jones (4 Jan) – Student Recruitment Officer

Outreach & WP:
- Peter Goodliffe (16 Oct) - Outreach Co-ordinator
- Lee Williams (2 Nov) - Outreach Graduate Intern (NNCO)
- Melissa Nance (2 Nov) – moved role/team to Outreach Administrator
- Sandie Szawlowski (1 Dec) - Outreach Graduate Intern (Partnerships)
- Matt Truswell (4 Jan) – moved role/team to Outreach & WP Co-ordinator (Mentoring)
- Olivia Stocker (29 Mar) - Outreach and Widening Participation Co-ordinator (Academic Skills)

International Office:
- Polina Ganeva (2 Nov) – International Office Graduate Intern
- Jennie Stevens (4 Jan) – PA and Office Co-ordinator
- Miriam Brown (5 Jan) – returned from maternity leave
- Alison Witham (13 Jan) – International Officer
- Adam Brown (8 Feb) - International Officer

Recruitment Support:
- Kate Boltwood (11 Jan) – Data and Insight Co-ordinator

DDSS
- Welcomes Cara Russell to the admin team and
- Emma Chatten who is job sharing with Mary Jacques, now returned from maternity leave.
- Sarah Armour has returned to her former post of disability adviser

University of Sheffield Enterprise (USE)
- Holly Wildish-Jones joined the USE team on 1 December as a Graduate Marketing Intern on a one year contract.
- Liz Taylor is returning to her role as Enterprise Officer following maternity leave.

UCS
- Laura Neasmath has been recruited to cover the post - Laura is joining UCS from Barnsley College. We wish her well!
Goodbye’s

Admissions:
• Jane Clark moved to the Faculty of Science
• Becky Masaba-Kituyi will be starting her maternity leave on 4 March.
• Marcus Phillips on secondment to Student Systems Project
• Adam Cater moved to SSID

UK/EU Recruitment:
• Tom Hyde moved to London
• Robbie Pickles moved to Lancaster
• Laura Maltman on secondment with Projects and Development Team

Outreach & WP:
• Ruth Grey left to focus on voluntary work.
• Andrew Cheung left to travel around Canada.
• Ruth Edwards moved to Manchester University
• Lucy Scheinkonig is on maternity leave

Recruitment Support:
• Kev Hewitt on secondment to Student Systems Project

International Office:
• Becky Stevenson is on maternity leave

Projects and Development
• Sarah Banning

Learning & Teaching Services
• Clare King on secondment to Student Systems Project

Registry
• will be saying a fond farewell to Roberta Fletcher who will retire at the end of April 2016.

UCS
• says goodbye to Alison Cox (Office Coordinator) who is going on maternity leave. We wish her well!
The International Office and the UK/EU Recruitment Team have recruited 48 international and EU student ambassadors to provide advice and support to our international and EU offer holders.

Ambassadors play a vital role, providing offer holders with the opportunity to talk to a current international or EU student, ask questions and hear first-hand their experiences of moving to the UK to study at Sheffield.

Although the International Office have undertaken a conversion campaign for the last ten years, this is the first time that EU student ambassadors are joining the team. This work is being undertaken as part of the University’s ambitious plan to double the number of EU students studying with us by 2018.

Ambassadors responsibilities include telephone calls (recording all engagements on CRM), writing a regular blog, supporting open days, delivering campus tours to international student visitors and engaging in social media activity such as our international offer holder Facebook group (which last cycle had over 3000 very active members) and online chats.

Ambassadors are fully trained also learn how to film and edit videos and have briefings on other university services such as Accommodation, International Student Support and Careers.

For further information please contact jo.thompson@sheffield.ac.uk
The University of Sheffield is celebrating the success of their exciting Social Enterprise programme, which was delivered to visiting Korean students last week.

The Sheffield Social Enterprise Accelerator, which ran between the 12th and 19th of January, was organised to enhance the current enterprise education of students from the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST).

The programme was designed to boost the businesses of the Korean entrepreneurs, and to educate them on sustainable social impact through sound economic business models.

The students attended sessions on topics such as Using Digital Tech for Social Good, Sales, Marketing and Communications for Social Enterprises, and Creating and Scaling Social Ventures and their Impact.

Training on developing the skills needed to run a successful social enterprise was also given, helping the students to learn more about preparing for investment, managing business cash flow and measuring social impact.

A number of University partners shared their knowledge and experience with the KAIST students, including the Sheffield University Management School, UnLtd, Tech North and Jamie Veitch Consultancy.

The students also had the opportunity to take a trip to London to visit successful social enterprises, and to present the ideas they are working on in Korea to local social entrepreneurs.

The programme was run by University of Sheffield Enterprise (USE), who have supported over 600 students in developing their social business ideas over the last five years through their Social Innovation Programme.

USE have been building upon the existing funding support that they offer to social entrepreneurs, and now work in collaboration with a range of actors across Sheffield, such as Union St Cooperative Coworking space for social enterprises, and the Sheffield Social Enterprise Network.

Additional information

University of Sheffield Enterprise supports students and graduates to set up their businesses through a programme of activities including business coaching, advice, seed funding and incubation space. http://enterprise.shef.ac.uk

KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology) is a public research university located in Daedeok Innopolis, Daejeon, South Korea. KAIST has approximately 10,200 full-time students and 1,140 faculty researchers. http://www.kaist.edu/html/en/index.html
Each issue we ask a team or a member of Student Services ten questions to see if we can discover what makes them tick...this time it’s the Admissions Team. From left: Chris Dunlop, James Hill and Hannah Morby

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Answers</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. What is your idea of food heaven?</td>
<td>Fillet steak, cooked by somebody who knows how to singe the outside while leaving the middle gooey, with chips. BBQ Ribs! The bigger the better Aubergine Parmigiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Food hell?</td>
<td>Anything with onions in it. Whole Tomatoes... Unsure why thought!?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. What is your favourite place you have visited so far in life and why?</td>
<td>The North Yorkshire coast from Scarborough to Whitby, because it’s beautiful and close by and ours. The Tian Tan Buddha Temple in Hong Kong and Hong Kong in general. Also Room 23 on the Labour Ward of Jessops Hospital on 23rd March 2012 at 19:58. That was when my daughter was born! Lady Elliot Island in the Great Barrier Reef. It is unbelievably beautiful and peaceful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. What music do you currently have on your i-Pod?</td>
<td>I don't have one, but the CDs that have strayed least far from my player recently are the new album by Field Music and the second disc of a Bowie best-of that covers all the later stuff. The new Megadeth Album – Dystopia. Very Easy listening... Neil Young, Kacey Musgraves, The Byrds, Assorted folk pop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. What do you do to unwind or relax?</td>
<td>Have a bath. But I take logic puzzles with me to make sure it doesn't get too cosy. I'm a Geeky Gamer so it's the PS4 for my wind down time. Gamertag: McJammington if anyone is interested ;) Take long baths or go to the allotment.</td>
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<td>6. Tell us something that not many people know about you.</td>
<td>I was once described in print as “the most underrated guitarist of his generation.” I use to be the undefeated South Yorkshire Chess Champion between the ages of 8-11! (Both Adults and Childrens leagues!?) Had to retire my title after 11. I lived in New Zealand for almost 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Who would you least like to be stuck on the Arts Tower paternoster with?</td>
<td>Tony Blair. Alan Carlile in a Santa Suit. Check on youtube “Christmas Paternoster” Bruce Forsyth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. What was the last thing which made you laugh?</td>
<td>A meme that goes “Because the platypus both produces milk and lays eggs, it’s one of the few animals that can make its own custard.” My Daughter calling me “Daddy Bossy Pants” after telling her not to do something. Couldn't stop laughing for hours afterwards! My Dad's impression of the Dead parrot sketch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. What's your all time favourite film?</td>
<td>Thelma And Louise So Many... But people know for the Star Wars Saga (Seen the new one 6 times already!?) Any feature length Miss Marple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. What’s your Tipple?</td>
<td>Poncy Italian lager is my staple, but my current treat is Irish coffee. What isn’t my tipple should be the question!? Otherwise I’m a Mucky Beer kinda guy. Rosé wine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sprint is a development programme which has been researched and designed specifically to address the study and career issues for women. Run by the Careers Service, Sprint can help our female students to:

- Apply their assertiveness positively
- Use their personal power and influence
- Identify their values and attitudes
- Deal with change and stress
- Manage time effectively
- Build their image, networking skills and confidence

The Sprint Programme spans 4 days of intensive workshop sessions and interactive development activities, and also gives the students the opportunity to network with our guest speakers - women from a wide range of professional roles working in different industries.

The Careers Service runs separate courses for undergraduate and post graduate taught students in all years and degree disciplines.

We ran four courses during 2015, each with a maximum of 35 places available. Here’s what some of our past participants said about Sprint:

- “My attitude and confidence has dramatically improved because of the programme.”
- “Sprint has made me realise that the potential to be strong women is within all of us.”
- “Very enriching experience that has positively impacted my personal and professional life.”
- “Thoroughly enjoyed meeting women from a range of diverse areas.”
- “Every workshop offered me the opportunity to learn something new about myself.”

We ran the first course of 2016 in January which was for our undergraduates. The next course will be for postgraduate taught students and will take place at Easter. The last one of the year will be in June and will be for undergraduate students.

All courses are run at the 301 Student Skills and Development Centre, 301 Glossop Road. Attendance is free of charge, although students are required to pay a deposit of £25.00 in advance which is refundable on completion of the course.

Students apply for a place on the programme via the link on the Sprint webpage at: http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers/students/advice/sprint

If you know a student who you think would benefit from taking part, please refer them to the Sprint webpage where they can apply for a place if applications are open, or register their interest in attending a future course. Alternatively, they can contact Clare Wright, the Sprint Facilitator, or Gaynor Martin the Administrator for the programme, at sprint@sheffield.ac.uk

Gaynor Martin
PA to the Head of Careers and Employability/Sprint Administrator
Learning & Teaching Services (LeTS) and Projects & Development (PaD) Teams

Christmas Jumper Day on 18 December - collected £24.15 for Save the Children
Christmas Card Amnesty - collected £75 split between St Luke’s Hospice and Sheffield Children’s Hospital
Decembeard - Richard Ward and Julian Crockford raised (TOTAL TBC) to help those affected by bowel cancer
Food Bank - 75 items donated to the Christmas Food Bank collection

RS/SAS
Bake Sale and Christmas Jumper Day 18 December 2015 -raised £116.74 for Text Santa
RS/SAS/SSG Green Impact Fairtrade Breakfast - 1 March 2016 10am-12noon, Registry Services Office - please all come along to support our nominated charity - St Wilfrid’s Centres Residential Project. Keen Bakers welcome to support by baking and bringing on the day - contact Jayne Whitley in Registry Services.

301 Student Skills and Development Centre
301 ‘Guess Who’ baby photo competition & Christmas Jumper Day - December 2015 - £61.63 raised for HARC
http://harc-sheffield.org.uk/

Macmillan Coffee Morning - September 2015 - £72.00 raised by staff and students

Careers Service
Michelle Dexter-Lowe completed the Nine Edges Endurance event on Saturday 12th September 2015. Completing a 20 miles traverse from Fairholmes, over nine gritstone edges, Derwent Edge, Stanage, Burbage North, Burbage South, Froggat, Curbar, Baslow Edge, Gardems and Birchens, Michelle raised £316 for Edale Mountain Rescue.

In December 2015 the Careers Service held the ‘Wear your Christmas jumper to work day’ coffee morning where we raised over £80 for 3 charities, Macmillan Cancer Support, Save the Children and Make a Wish.

Neil McCusker, Student Recruitment and Admissions
Decembeard - for Bowel Cancer UK
£151.59, alongside other colleagues from SRAIR raising a total of £331.71

Gill Hughes, Student Recruitment and Admissions
Free Cakes for Kids (Sheffield) www.freecakesforkidssheffield.com
Baking birthday cakes for vulnerable young people in Sheffield

David Broomby, Student Recruitment and Admissions, and a friend are running the Sheffield half marathon and raising money for The Children’s Hospital Charity Trust. They have a just giving page and donations would be gratefully received - http://www.justgiving.com/owner-email/pleasesponsor/David-Broomby1

Helen Price, Student Recruitment and Admissions
Weston Park Hospital Cancer Charity
Annual golf day organised by my family raised £30,468.17 in July. Final event this year on 8th July.
Always looking for donations of auction & raffle prizes or sponsors of holes, so if anyone can help let me know :) http://wphcancercharity.org.uk/event_hallamshire_golf_day.html#
Mental health is an issue which is very close to my heart. In this office we all see and end up, in one way or another, supporting students who present with a range of mental health issues. I also have very personal experience.

I have struggled with my own mental health for over 10 years. I have experienced (and still do) very dark days and truly understand how sometimes, it’s all a bit too much. I have been on the receiving end of a range of support for my mental health and have had both good and bad experiences. We all have mental health and we all deserve to have good mental health. I therefore want to try turning my experiences into something positive for others and I hope this marathon effort can contribute towards this.

So, this is it. No turning back. There’s going to be a lot of sweat (I’m not a woman who glows), a lot of tears, there is already no toe nails but hopefully, I will cross that finish line with my head held high and a lovely donation for Mind.

I have chosen to take on this challenge for Mind.

Mind is the mental health charity and they provide advice and support to empower those experiencing a mental health problem. Furthermore, Mind campaign to improve awareness and understanding of mental health in order to ensure those who do experience mental health problems have support and respect.

All in all they’re a great charity!

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If you would like to donate to the cause you can do so here  http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/kathryn-axon

I’m also keeping a blog on my progress. You might like to check it out if you are ever really bored (I make no apologies for photos of dogs which might appear!) https://knotsinmylaces.wordpress.com/

I really appreciate all your support and thank you for any donations.

Thank you,

Kathryn - Student Support & Guidance
British Council Inspection – English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC)

A formal report from the recent British Council inspection and accreditation of the English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC) has now been received. The Accreditation Scheme assesses the standards of management, resources and premises, teaching, welfare, and care of under 18s and accredits organisations which meet the overall standard in each area inspected. The report noted strengths in seven different categories (compared with five in 2011 when the last inspection took place): quality assurance, learning resources, academic staff profile, academic management, teaching, care of students and leisure opportunities. The report noted ‘strength’ in a total of 31 criteria (compared with 17 in 2011). The addition of ‘teaching’ and ‘care of students’ as areas of strength was particularly pleasing. ELTC is an important recruitment source for the University – last year saw an exceptional progression rate of 97% from its summer school to degree programmes at the University.

The Multifaith Chaplaincy would like to acknowledge the generosity of alumni, staff and friends of the University who have given support through contributions to the University’s Alumni Fund.

An Alumni Fund Departmental grant was given in 2015 to help fund a plasma screen in the chaplaincy which has been fantastic in promoting our events and services to staff and students and raising awareness of the chaplaincy.
Recently, colleagues from Student Recruitment & Admissions have attended events in Romania (pictured; Tony Flaherty, Team Europe – EU Student Recruitment Team), Spain, Greece, Cyprus, France and Germany as part of the EU Recruitment Plan. Planning for further visits to Ireland, Italy, Romania and Cyprus is underway, with events taking place in February, March and April.

The activity targets all levels of study (UG, PGT and PGR) with a view to increasing student numbers whilst also developing market intelligence to support a wider understanding of EU student mobility. A key feature of this is how the EU Recruitment Plan aligns with the University focus on 'Engagement with Europe'.

If you have initiatives relating to European student recruitment and want to discuss further, please contact us at: eurec@sheffield.ac.uk
**Culture Recommendations**

**Lynsey Hopkins, Student Recruitment and Admissions**
*The Flying Troutmans'* by Miriam Toews
Funny, sad and spiky Canadian novel

**Emma Hulme, Registry Services**
*Showboat* - It was excellent and I would definitely recommend the show but unfortunately it is no longer running in Sheffield.

**Gill Hughes, Student Recruitment and Admissions**
*La Famille Belier (2014)*
French film - quirky, funny and feel good

**University of Sheffield Enterprise**—*Cirque du Soleil*: if you get the opportunity to see any of their shows they are amazing! I’ve been to several - they’re generally on at the beginning of the year at the Royal Albert Hall in London and I’ve also seen them in Orlando. There are a huge range of shows all with different stories and showing in a variety of places across the world. Visit: [https://www.cirquedusoleil.com/](https://www.cirquedusoleil.com/)

**University of Sheffield Enterprise**—*The Lion King*: Lyceum Theatre, London. An amazing show - I’ve seen it twice! If you do get to watch then I would recommend sitting in the stalls - you will understand why when you see it.

**Gill Hughes, Student Recruitment and Admissions**
*La Famille Belier (2014)*
French film - quirky, funny and feel good

**Kate Smith, Student Recruitment and Admissions**
*A God in Ruins* by Kate Atkinson
 Novel set in WW2-moving and original

**Pete David, Student Support & Guidance**—
*Savages - Adore Life*
The first genuinely great album of 2016, in my humble opinion. A record about love and obsession, it's loud, raw, and intense. Jehnny Beth's vocal performances owes a debt to the passion of Patty Smith. Sounds like *Rid of Me*-era PJ Harvey via Gang of Four and Nick Cave. A particular highlight is the eerie atmosphere of 'Adore'.

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**Elizabeth Farnhill, Student Recruitment & Admissions**—
*The Big Short* The financial crash for non-finance people told with wit and insight (and how a small group of investors and bankers made money because they saw what was coming). Out now at the cinema (Vue, Cineworld etc), worth seeing on DVD if you miss it on the big screen.

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Hilary Jones, PGT/PGR Placement Coordinator in the Careers Service, recommends a book she read recently:

*How to find fulfilling work* by Roman Krznaric (part of the ‘School of Life’ Series)

The desire for fulfilling work is one of the great aspirations of our age and this inspirational book reveals how one might make it a reality. It explores the competing claims we face for money and status while doing something meaningful and in tune with our talents. Drawing on wisdom about work that is to be found in sociology, psychology, history and philosophy, Roman Krznaric sets out a practical and innovative guide to negotiating the labyrinth of choices, overcoming the fear of change, and finding a career that makes you thrive.

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Emma Hulme, Registry Services

*A Man called Ove* by Fredrik Backman

This book made me laugh and cry at the same time, it is really well written and is a very easy read.

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Pete David, Student Support & Guidance

*Slade House* by David Mitchell

I'm a huge fan of David Mitchell's sweeping, glope-spanning epics (Cloud Atlas, The Bone Clocks), but this is the first novel he's written under 300 pages, and is, with the exception of Black Swan Green, possibly his most straight-forward tale. Structurally, it is formed of 5 stories, each taking place 9 years after the last (the first is 1979; the last, 2015). Each protagonist eventually falls into the grip of the ghostly inhabitants of Slade House, Norah and Jonah, psychic twins who have found everlasting life by feeding off the souls of the 'engifted'. Like Shirley Jackson, he understands ghost stories require real and believable characters to imbue the fantastical elements with a vivid potency, which he does to great effect. For fans of Mitchell, there lots of fun in finding characters and stories of his previous novels reappear briefly. As ever, Mitchell's written an addictive and enjoyable read, with characters you can understand.

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Fiona Dukalskis, Student Recruitment and Admissions

*Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline

Absorbing novel for geeks and gamers, and there is a film adaptation in the works by Steven Spielberg.
SLOW COOKER RECIPE – FLYING JACOB

Serves 4 people

Ingredients

- Four chicken breast skinned and boned
- 3 tablespoons sweet chilli sauce
- 150 gr bacon finely chopped
- Tin of 390 ml chicken soup
- 100 ml crème fraîche
- Salt and pepper
- 200 gr mushrooms
- Vegetable oil
- 1 small onion
- 2 bananas
- 50 gr (salted) peanuts or cashew nuts

Method

Cut the chicken breast into bite-sized chunks, season and sauté in vegetable oil until golden brown.
Next add the finely chopped bacon and onion and deglaze the pan with the chicken soup.
Reduce the heat and stir in the crème fraîche. Season with chilli sauce, salt and pepper.
Cut the mushrooms into fairly thick slices and sauté in a little oil. Let any resulting liquid evaporate.
Stir into the pan with the chicken and pour into the slow cooker.
Cut the bananas into 0.5 cm pieces and spread around the dish.
Sprinkle the nuts over the dish.

Cooking time: 6 – 8 hours on low (check your slow cooker recommendation).

Serve with brown rice, noodles or potatoes.
Excellence award for Careers Service

Congratulations to our Careers Service who have been awarded an Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) Excellence Award for their Careers Diagnostic tool.

The innovative system for supporting students was honoured in the Academic Engagement category of the AGCAS awards in Warwick last September. AGCAS Awards for Excellence encourage, reward and share good practice amongst higher education careers and employability practitioners.

Annette Baxter (Careers Adviser), Gavin Smillie (Senior Information Assistant) and Mark Neale (Information Systems Officer), pictured right to left, from the Careers Service developed the online questionnaire which is aimed at intermediate and final year students. The responses allow the Careers Service to identify the students’ interest in placement or their post-University career intentions, and also give an insight into students’ confidence with key career management skills such as application methods and interview techniques.

Gathering this information means the Careers Service can work with academic departments to provide more appropriate and targeted career support, resources and activities. Careers Service Advisers can also use the information to proactively approach students with personalised emails directing them to relevant resources and support, rather than waiting for students themselves to book in for advice appointments.

Academic departments using the tool during the development stage were able to identify and prioritise students who most needed careers advice, and to target support with the aim of improving graduate destination results and student satisfaction scores.

As part of the tool, the Careers Service created several resources for departments, including an advice video enabling them to confidently address the issues raised, and refer their students as appropriate. The tool has also equipped academic tutors to have meaningful conversations about career options with their students, and to signpost them to the most relevant careers advice.

This academic year, 27 departments have used the questionnaire with either their intermediate or final year cohorts. The School of English, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Aerospace Engineering have also used the tool as part of the academic tutorial process during Career Days, one-to-one meetings, or in tutor groups.

The team are now looking at ways of developing the system further, and working with staff to integrate the Career Diagnostic system into more departments.

Annette Baxter, Careers Adviser
Global Opps were required to submit a report to the British Council on how the Erasmus+ scheme had been managed during 2014-15 academic year. The British Council has rated the University’s Erasmus+ mobility scheme as ‘very good’.

Dörte Stevenson, Student Recruitment and Admissions

“You have been so cooperative and understanding throughout. ‘ - a thank you to Lyn Duffield, Global Opps from the International Affairs Manager at Sciences Po, Paris, for having worked on a complicated bilateral agreement with this partner university.

Student Support & Guidance’s Financial Support Team have recently been contacted by Keele University & the University of Chester for guidance relating to the bursary we provide for students with caring responsibilities. We received a nice response from Katy @ Keele – ”Thanks for getting back to me, this will be really helpful with putting a proposal forward for how we can support our student carers here at Keele.”

Tim Cooper received a positive response from a Global Campus participant—"Many thanks for the efforts made by you and your colleagues, which have helped me a lot to adjust to the life here. Glad to be part of Global Campus." Bin Fang, MA Language & Education

Ellen Marshall, Maths and Statistics Help (MASH) tutor at 301, has been recognised for her commitment to excellent teaching and making a significant impact on the learning experience of students. Ellen received the prize for Outstanding Contribution by the SIGMA Network for Excellence in Mathematics and Statistics Support last year for developing training resources to help ease students’ maths anxiety and develop their confidence. She was also awarded the medal for Innovation in Academic Skills Development at the Sheffield Students’ Union Academic Awards in May last year.
In this section we dip into the Student Services Newsletter archive to see what was being reported on back in the olden days.

This issue we go back to July 2006:

All in the Taught Programmes Office would like to extend a fond farewell to Andrew who departed as Section Head at the end of May and to offer congratulations and best wishes for his new post as Director of Student Services.

Charity Abseil
The abseil was held on 1 April 2006 (April Fools Day of all days, most participants were secretly hoping that they would arrive in the morning for the safety briefing and get told it was an April Fools day joke).

32 people took part in the abseil from various departments within the University and 4 Staff from Bovis Lend Lease (BLL) contractors for the Student Residences Project who will be in charge of the demolition of the Hall. The abseil was in Aid of Teenage Cancer Trust.
The Connection Student services newsletter is created by Student Services staff volunteers. Let your section contact know if you have any articles, reviews or new ideas for the newsletter.

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