

#13A1H11 UPDATE

UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER HEALTH NEWS

Summer 2011

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University
of Worcester

Exhibition celebrates history of medicine

Extensive collections of medical equipment, documents and uniforms are to go on public display for the first time, in the building where the British Medical Association was founded, thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

A new permanent exhibition, celebrating the history of medicine, is being created in a ward of the former Worcester Royal Infirmary, to be called Museum@WRI.

The BMA was founded by Sir Charles Hastings in the boardroom of the former hospital in 1832 and the site now forms the University of Worcester's City Campus.

The University is working with the George Marshall Medical Museum in the City to develop the new exhibition.

It will include collections of artefacts from the Infirmary and across Worcestershire, as well as exhibitions celebrating the history of the site. There will be an emphasis on education and participation, with activities to get schoolchildren and members of the public involved.

Catriona Smellie, Curator at the George Marshall Medical Museum based at Worcestershire Royal Hospital, said: "This is a really exciting project that will allow us to display many of our collections for the first time. We have hundreds of rare books, going back to the 1600s, collections of medical equipment, and most interesting, in my opinion, are some of the artefacts found during the renovations of the site, such as old postcards and letters belonging to the nurses that lived and worked here."

Visitors to the exhibition, which is expected to open toward the end of this year, will be asked to share their memories and stories of the WRI and will be able to vote and give opinions on today's medical issues, such as stem cell research.

Designed by Bristol-based Simon Fenn, the exhibition will include 'talking beds' and examples of traditional Victorian wards.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION for people living with dementia

A new DVD aimed at helping healthcare staff communicate better with people living with dementia has been launched.

Stand by Me was created through collaboration between NHS Worcestershire, Herefordshire PCT, the University of Worcester Association for Dementia Studies and North East Worcestershire (NEW) College.

The launch event was compered by dementia campaigner and journalist John Suchet, whose wife has dementia.

"People don't understand dementia, it's not an easy illness to diagnose and is often put down to old age, unlike other diseases such as cancer that have real identifiable symptoms," he said. "Having watched the DVD, I was brought to tears as the story of Mick and Maggie strikes up parallels between the experiences with my wife."

The DVD consists of a series of mini-films reflecting a wide range of realistic situations, including someone being cared for in their own home, someone being cared for in a care home setting, and someone admitted to an acute hospital.



Welcome to Health Update

Welcome to a special summer 2011 edition of Health Update, specifically for prospective students aiming to start their nurse education programme in September 2011.

The 'Getting to know you' days on Saturday 23rd and 24th June were a great success. These days were really important as you had the opportunity to meet current students, lecturers and practitioners as well as meeting other students who will be starting their studies with you.

We had a really exciting day which will help to give you the best start to your education. A well as exploring our campus, you had the opportunity to participate in lectures, seminars, group activities and clinical skills.

Throughout the event, staff and students were on hand to answer any questions you had related to studying at the University of Worcester as a student nurse.

Comments received by some of those attending include:

- "I found the event to be very helpful."



• "After spending the day at University, I was reassured about my decision to apply to enter the course."

• "I'm more confident now and am looking forward to starting my studies."

For nursing students, if you were unable to attend the day please read the section below 'Get in the Moodle' and use the web address to log onto our Moodle website. You don't need a password, just carefully type the address into your internet browser. There you will find details of reading lists, examples of podcasts and clinical skills sessions by second year students. If you have any queries, please contact Jo Rouse, Admission and Induction Tutor for nursing at j.rouse@worc.ac.uk

Midwifery students will need to contact Sarah Snow, Midwifery lecturer, by emailing Sarah.Snow@worc.ac.uk to find out how to access the midwifery wiki.

Get in the Moodle!

Starting a new education programme can be quite a daunting experience, even if you are really excited and keen to get going!

That's why a virtual learning environment using Moodle has recently been set up at the University of Worcester to provide a means of communicating with prospective students starting in September.



If you attended our summer school then you will have already been introduced to this website, but those who were unable to attend can still access all of the information on Moodle at: <http://moodle.worc.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=105&username=guest>

The site contains lots of really useful information, including reading lists, examples of theory lectures and practical skills teaching. There are

also photographs and video clips of students' activities during the summer school. There is a discussion site so that students can chat to each other and with current students and lecturers.

As time gets near to the start of your programme more information will be added such as your induction programme, where and when to arrive on your first day. Please take the time to have a look!

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CONTACT US

If students starting in September have any questions related to course Induction please contact **Jo Rouse**, programme lead for Pre-registration Nursing, via j.rouse@worc.ac.uk

Please direct any general admissions queries to admissions@worc.ac.uk



Nursing and Midwifery Training Given Highest Rating

Nursing and midwifery training at the University of Worcester has received the highest possible rating in a recent inspection.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) rated the University's provision as 'good', the best possible grade, in all five areas of its Annual Monitoring Review, particularly noting that the University attracts excellent applicants to train in midwifery. A 30% rise in applications in 2009/10 has been followed by another 30% rise in 2011.

Vice Chancellor of the University of Worcester, Professor David Green said: "In partnership with the hospitals, Trusts and health care providers, the University of Worcester is the only educator of midwives in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Quality is excellent, giving thousands of mothers and their babies the best possible professional help before, during and after childbirth. This year we already have 24 applicants for every place we have to offer.

The NMC inspection report particularly praised the University's close links with hospitals, health centres and other institutions.

The inspectors commented: "There is effective partnership working and all programmes are developed and delivered collaboratively with local service providers."

The inspection took place over two days in December 2010 and involved extensive visits, meetings, interviews and policy and practice scrutiny.

Jan Quallington, Associate Head of Institute (Quality and Student Experience) of Health and Society, said: "We are delighted to achieve 'good' in all aspects of the report, which includes resources, admissions and progression, practice learning, fitness for practice and quality assurance. A perfect five puts us among the best providers of midwifery education in Britain."

The report highlighted the quality of teaching and the importance of the

role of mentors. It said: "Academic staff visit students in placements and this is valued by service partners and students.

"Effective teaching and learning strategies are in place to enable students to meet the required NMC outcomes. Student evaluations demonstrate satisfaction with the high level of support provided by staff in both academic and clinical environments. Student midwives, mentors and teachers all value formative assessment and simulated learning."

University hosts regional social work conference

The University of Worcester hosted a regional conference exploring the changing role of social work in January.

The event, titled 'Sustaining Social Work Values in a Climate of Cuts and Organisational Change' was held in partnership with the British Association of Social Workers (BASW).

The University is developing a reputation for its social work courses and for the series of conferences it has hosted over the past three years concerning the future for social work.

Peter Unwin, a Registered Social Worker and Senior Lecturer at the University, said: "Any part the University can play towards encouraging healthy debate about the much maligned and misunderstood profession of social work can only be a good thing for communities, service user groups and professionals.

"All too often the complex moral and ethical issues within day to day social work are reduced into simplistic ideologies and solutions. In times of economic cuts, it is all the more critical that the social work profession gets its values and priorities right."

POLICE RESEARCH AWARD

FOR psychology student



UK's first postgraduate

Medical Communications course

The University of Worcester has launched the UK's first postgraduate certificate (PgCert) for Medical Writers.

The Medical Communications PgCert will prepare bioscience graduates to work within medical communications companies and in the pharmaceutical industry.

It has been developed by former medical writer Dr Shelley Davies, who is now a lecturer in the Institute of Science and the Environment at the University of Worcester.

Dr Davies said: "The field of medical communications is growing as a support network for the pharmaceutical industry and medical writers are in high demand.

"Medical Writers are key to the dissemination of new scientific data and findings generated from drug studies – this is essential for a drug to progress from development stages to approval for the treatment of patients. Medical writers use their scientific background to develop and manage scientific content for international congresses, medical journals and marketing/promotion."

This part-time, one-year course is the first of its kind in the UK. It offers a new vocational opportunity for graduates of the biosciences/ life sciences and for those with relevant professional experience wishing to take a new career direction.

A psychology student's research into the relationship between the police and young people has earned her a top award.

Jenny Hancox explored the levels of trust in the police by today's adolescents. Her research was conducted as part of the Shared Police & Higher Education Research & Enterprise (SPHERE), which is a partnership between the University of Worcester and West Mercia Police.

Jenny's research earned her the SPHERE Prize, an annual award given for the best piece of research carried out under the partnership. She was awarded £300 at the University's annual graduation dinner.

Jenny quizzed almost 100 young people to find out how they felt about the police. She said: "I asked the young people such questions as how much contact they had with the police, how much contact their family had with the police, did they trust the police and how could the relationship be improved.

"I found that a lot of young people did in fact trust the police, which was quite a surprise.

"It was a really interesting piece of research to carry out. I hope that it might be useful to the police in their future work and I'm delighted that I was awarded the prize for the best research."

Jenny is now hoping to pursue a career in educational psychology.

Water births on the increase

Women in labour are not being encouraged to give birth in water because midwives lack confidence and workloads are too high, according to research being carried out by a Worcester lecturer.

Kim Russell, a registered midwife and senior lecturer at the University of Worcester, said: "Water births are relatively new and many midwives just don't have the skills or knowledge to feel confident in facilitating childbirth in water."

"There are many benefits to water births," she added. "A woman is far more likely to achieve a normal birth, with no intervention, in water. The water provides excellent pain relief and comfort."

Mrs Russell said women in labour looked to their midwife for guidance and midwives should be offering the choice of a water birth, or at least the use of a pool for pain relief, upon admission to the labour ward.

Mrs Russell has been working with Worcestershire Acute NHS Hospitals Trust on her research, and in the past 18 months water births within the Trust have doubled.

Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedic mentors celebrated

Nurses, midwives and paramedics who mentor students from the University of Worcester have been celebrated during an awards ceremony.

The University's Mentor Awards evening saw 17 awards handed out to recognise the outstanding contribution to the student practice learning experience by those professionals acting as mentors.

Robert Dudley, Head of Pre-Registration Nursing at the University, said: "Mentors are the key to successful practice learning for many students, particularly if the placement is their first taste of clinical practice."

"The awards event helps to recognise and celebrate the hard work of the nurses, midwives and paramedic personnel, who make an outstanding contribution to the student practice learning experience by building successful mentoring relationships with students from the University of Worcester."

This is the second year that the University has held the Mentor Awards, in collaboration with its NHS practice partners. More than 175 guests attended the glittering ceremony, including mentors, NHS trust managers, and representatives from the University.



Paramedic course scores perfect report

The University's FdSc Pre Hospital, Unscheduled and Emergency Care course, run in collaboration with West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) NHS Trust, has scored 100% in a report from the Department of Health's Education Commissioning for Quality.

The report cited three areas of notable practice at Worcester: a robust recruitment procedure, placement opportunities, and support.

The degree course is one of only a handful in the UK and has the fastest growing application rate within the University of Worcester.

The news comes as all of the University's latest trainees have either started work or are currently undertaking the selection process. The majority have gained employment with WMAS. Others have moved onto Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust or South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust.



Course leader Sharon Hardwick said: "We are delighted to have another cohort of graduates from the new Pre-Hospital, Unscheduled & Emergency Care foundation degree course. It is good to know that our students are being accepted into ambulance services throughout the country."

She added: "Paramedics are an essential front line service dealing with a vast range of emergency medical illness and traumatic injury. This course is challenging but very rewarding."

Undergraduates carry out a range of practical work-based training and in-depth theoretical study, including advanced anatomy and physiology. They also complete more than 1,500 hours of practical service during the two-year course, which is run in partnership with WMAS.

The University of Worcester also offers a technician to paramedic course, which is designed to provide progression and career opportunities for existing technicians who work within ambulance services.

Students on the programme are seconded by their ambulance trust over a 32 week period.

Innovative scheme sees nursing students mentor peers



Nursing students at the University of Worcester are being mentored by their peers as part of a new scheme.

Second year students are assisting first years with their clinical skills and academic work, in a bid to give them more confidence and help them to learn.

The idea was initiated by second year nursing student Emily Hastings.

"The scheme assists first year students in not only clinical skills but to provide guidance and support for both academic work and clinical placements, allowing them the opportunity to discuss apprehensions and worries with us," she said.

"I felt that this would be a benefit to the students in their ongoing learning and receiving support from other students who have recently been in their position."

Emily said she felt she would have benefited from having a student mentor in the early days of the course and so suggested the idea to staff.

Tracey Valler-Jones, Academic Lead for Skills and Simulation in the University's Institute of Health and Society, said: "The second years come in to assist the lecturers during skills sessions and mentor the first years, helping them to learn and providing advice and guidance.

"First years have commented that their confidence with skills has increased as a result of the support they receive.

"This not only helps the first years, but also helps those second year students, who are acting as skills ambassadors, to gain more confidence in what they do."

NEW PROJECT TRAINS STAFF WORKING WITH TERMINALLY ILL CHILDREN

Hospital staff who care for terminally ill children will benefit from additional training, thanks to a new project from the University of Worcester and Birmingham's Children's Hospital.

The £140,000 project is being funded by a grant from the Department of Health and will involve taking a mobile skills unit out to hospitals in order to train staff on site.

The University of Worcester's mobile unit will be transformed into a specialist laboratory with a variety of up-to-date clinical equipment, including remote-controlled child and baby manikins to simulate scenarios faced by staff.

University of Worcester senior researcher Dr Sonya Wallbank, who is leading the project, said: "The aim is to up-skill health professionals across the West Midlands with the knowledge, skills and competencies necessary to deliver quality paediatric and end of life care – taking the classroom to the staff. The mobile unit will give staff a safe learning environment to develop their skills, knowledge and confidence, which in turn will improve patient care and safety."

The facility will mean staff will not have to travel to attend training sessions, and training can be delivered to whole teams without taking them off site. Training will be delivered by paediatric specialists from the University with expertise from Birmingham Children's Hospital and from Coventry University.

UNIVERSITY MARKS WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

The University of Worcester marked World Mental Health Day with a special exhibition to help raise awareness of mental health issues.

University Registrar John Ryan welcomed artists, students, organisers and dignitaries on behalf of the University.

This year the University combined World Mental Health Day with National Poetry Day on the theme of 'home', recognising the fact many students will be living away from home for the first time.

There was an exhibition of original artwork created by local artists and readings by student nurses, drama students and poet and University staff member Jenny Hope.

The University's Mental Health Adviser and members of the Counselling Team provided information for students and staff and there was a large selection of information leaflets, and other promotional materials including blue ribbons to wear to show support.

There was also a poetry wall in main reception, where both students and staff could write their own thoughts and comments.

"One in four people will experience mental distress during their lifetime, so this day can really help to focus and raise awareness of mental health issues," said University of Worcester Mental Health Advisor Dot Tippin.

"Many people may have an emotional disorder such as anxiety or depression and may not even realise it. This event is all about raising awareness and informing and encouraging the public to come forward and find support should they need it."

Steve Cram opens new Health and Wellbeing Centre

Olympian Steve Cram led the way as the University of Worcester unveiled its impressive new health and wellbeing centre in June.

Guests joined the former 1,500m world record holder at the official opening of the McClelland Centre at the University's recently opened City Campus.

Cram was at the launch in his capacity as an ambassador for Clydesdale and Yorkshire Banks and was invited to the opening ceremony by Mandeep Rajput, Business Development Partner at Clydesdale Bank's Financial Solutions Centre on The Tything, Worcester.

The new centre is based on the ground floor of the newly refurbished Charles Hasting Building, which was the principal building of the Worcester Royal Infirmary from 1771 and where the British Medical Association was founded in 1832.

The centre specialises in nutritional advice, counselling, fitness and sports therapy. It has been named after Mary Jane McClelland who was appointed matron at Worcester Royal Infirmary in 1888 and played a pioneering role in nurse education including establishing a medical library for the use of nursing students.

Cram said: "My role as an ambassador for Clydesdale Bank allows me to get a feel for fantastic projects going on in the community and it was a great honour to be invited to open the McClelland Centre.

"This project is about giving students a facility and a resource which they can use both academically and in their spare time, but also at the same open the door up to the local community.

"Turning an old derelict building into a facility like this is fantastic and I hope it is well used by the students and the local community

because when projects like this work well they are a real bonus for any city like this."

Among the impressive facilities at the new centre is the McClelland Exercise Suite equipped with top of the range gym equipment, along with nutritional advice, massage, counselling, sports therapy and injury rehabilitation clinics, and a multi-purpose seminar room.

University of Worcester Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, Professor David Green said the Charles Hasting Building had been carefully restored and converted for modern educational use and students would play a key role in the operation of the centre.

He said: "The new centre will contribute to promoting the health and wellbeing of people who live in Worcester and the surrounding area and we are proud of this facility."

