Editorial

Welcome to the 13th edition of BUGLE and a new academic year. This edition captures just some of the activities that have been taking place under the banner of global perspectives, sustainable development and global citizenship. Staff and students have engaged locally and globally, on initiatives which not only make a difference to others, but enrich our knowledge and experience at BU.

In 2011 BU moved from 20th to 5th place in the People and Planet Green League table and gained the Eco-Campus Gold Award. These are fantastic achievements but it is important not to be complacent. There is so much more to be achieved if we work together to secure a more sustainable future. We shall be organising workshops during the year to explore sustainable development at BU, share ideas and gain participation of a wider group of champions. Please watch the portal for further information.

A number of students are enhancing their employability prospects through volunteering and overseas experience. The Global Citizen Awards scheme was launched last year to support this; congratulations to those students who were successful. The next round will be promoted this term, so do start thinking about an international experience – remember that employers favour candidates who offer a global outlook! In the meantime if you would like to discuss your own ideas, get involved, or need any help to enhance your employability prospects, then please get in touch.

Wishing you a successful and productive year!

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Waste not want not

Waste not want not is an English idiom, which some of us as children may have grown tired of hearing from our parents; the inference is that if you don’t waste then you are less likely to go without. Unfortunately while frugality, ‘make do and mend’ and a ‘use everything up’ mentality might once have been tenets that served earlier generations, it seems to be something that we have lost sight of in the western world.

In our throwaway society, we seem to have few qualms about throwing away that which we no longer fancy, or which no longer serves our purpose.

Headlines suggest that in the UK we throw away millions of tons of food annually. This seems staggering considering global food shortages (lack of sufficient food affects one sixth of all humanity) and that in parts of Africa, famine has recently been declared a humanitarian crisis. Is it morally defensible that we can waste so much while others are certainly wanting? It hardly seems sustainable.

The Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) estimates that the average household, wastes 18% of all food purchased (approx £50 a month in value). It seems nonsensical that our hard earned cash ends up in the bin, or down the drain.

Food waste (courtesy of WRAP, 2011)

And then there are the environmental costs (energy wasted and carbon emitted) of growing, processing, packaging, transporting, refrigerating and disposal of food, much of which is thrown in unopened packaging.

The moral, economic and environmental logic ought to persuade us to rethink our behaviour. Further, BU has highlighted ‘Ensuring sustainable development and improving our environment’ and ‘Acting ethically and responsibly for the greater good’ in the new Vision and Values, 2018. If we all endeavour to resurrect a bit more of the ‘waste not, want not’ mentality, then we might contribute to sustainable development and the greater good.

Ways to change

The Love Food Hate Waste website www.lovefoodhatewaste.com is a useful for tips and ideas.
www.wrap.org.uk is a useful source of information.

Workshops and events which focus on recycling and reducing waste will also be offered during the year.
Teaching in Turkey: Inspiring Izmir and the Ephesus Experience

In May, Dr Richard Shipway from the School of Tourism spent six days in Izmir, Turkey teaching at Dokuz Eylul University (DEU) on their annual ‘International Week’. The event, organised by the Faculty of Business, was part of the ERASMUS exchange programme and attracted over thirty visiting academics from thirteen countries across Europe. Richard delivered courses in tourism, events, leisure and sport.

In addition to the learning and teaching experience in Turkey, Richard organised a series of social activities and organised trips for visiting academics. These included several evening receptions at selected locations within the city of Izmir. However, by far the most memorable trip was to the ancient city of Ephesus, where there was the opportunity to explore the city runs at great length and visit the nearby House of Virgin Mary, where it is speculated she may have spent her last days. The archaeological site at Ephesus lies three kilometres southwest of the town of Selçuk, and the ruins are a favourite international and local tourist attraction, due to their close proximity to Izmir.

Since returning from Izmir Richard is exploring opportunities for closer staff and student exchanges with DEU, and has already established various research links with staff from their Department of Tourism Management. It is hoped that other BU staff will take advantage of the teaching and research opportunities that exist in Turkey and visit Izmir, where they will receive an exceptionally warm welcome from DEU staff, Izmir locals, and fellow international visiting academics alike; and enjoy some truly inspiring cultural experiences.

Dr Richard Shipway
School of Tourism

The Speaker of the House of Commons visits BU

The Centre for Global Perspectives, in partnership with the Earth Charter and Bournemouth 2026 Partnership welcomed John Bercow, The Speaker, to Bournemouth University in July. The event, Shaping the Future: locally, nationally and globally, was an exciting opportunity for participants from across the community, to listen to the Speaker, and consider various ways that individuals might participate in democratic processes.

The Speaker’s presentation was witty and engaging. He warmed the audience at the outset by making jokes about his height. He named three Speakers of the House who had actually been shorter than himself, albeit that this was after they had been beheaded! Moving on in a more serious vein, he spoke of the damage caused by the expenses scandal, the nature of his role and parliament and the need for the three ‘Rs’: review, reform and to reconnect.

As part of the panel, Councillor Peter Charon commented on local engagement in decision making. And Jeffrey Newman, Earth Charter UK, spoke of the importance of the global perspective.

The Speaker and guests were joined by BU Board Members for a networking lunch at the end of the session. The Speaker commented that BU is a University which seems ‘well set for the future.’

EcoCampus Gold Award

Bournemouth University has been awarded the EcoCampus Gold Award for its environmental management systems, becoming only the sixth higher education institution in the UK to receive this award.

The recommendation for the award was made following a comprehensive external audit, which included site inspections on both campuses, interviews with staff from across a range of functions, and a thorough review of procedures and documentation.

EcoCampus is a national environmental management system development scheme and awards framework to develop, test and promote environmental systems, with a view to improving environmental performance. EcoCampus provides a systematic approach to develop and apply environmental management systems, thereby making it easier to comply with environmental legislation and regulations.

The Environment & Energy Team are now working to implement the requirements of a fourth and final stage, Platinum Award, which is equivalent to the international standard ISO 14001, and focuses on ensuring continuous improvement.
Bournemouth University Students Volunteer At Bulgarian Orphanages

On June 7th 2011, seven students and three team leaders set off for Rousse in Bulgaria. During their 10 day trip they volunteered at two orphanages. Each volunteer had to raise £1081 to enable them to go on the trip, organised by the Students’ Union at Bournemouth University, gap year and volunteering company Gap Force.

The Pink House Orphanage is home to over forty children aged between three and seven. At Hope, the volunteers painted a 20 metre long mural on the wall surrounding the playground and taught the kids nursery rhymes and dances. They also spent a morning face painting the kids, which they absolutely loved.

Hope Orphanage is home to eight severely disabled children aged between eight and twenty. Each child suffers from varying degrees of autism, slow development and various other disabilities. The volunteers spent four days renovating the garden by painting the entire surrounding fence in bright colours, repainting the gazebo and brightening up the pavement tiles. They also completely redecorated three of the children’s bedrooms, making them a warmer and more stimulating environment, as well as helping the carers look after the children.

The Pink House needed underwear, pyjamas and tracksuit bottoms and for Hope the money was spent on scooters, bikes ‘hop hop balls’ and sets of buckets and spades to take on their summer holiday trip to the seaside. A toy collection had also been held within Bournemouth University which allowed the volunteers to give out numerous toys, books and clothes to the children, who couldn’t believe they were getting presents.

The headmistress at Hope orphanage said “Thanks to you, during your visit, the children at Hope Orphanage have had happy and emotionally positive experiences. The murals that you did have created a more enjoyable environment for them.”

Charlotte Still, Sunny Fu and Rebecca Fagilde by their spring mural at Hope Orphanage

“...”

Hope Orphanage was later displayed in the school to promote fairtrade. Pupils could not imagine a life like this but quickly agreed that they had never heard of such harsh lives. The film particularly engaged the audience. After watching a film, pupils got off to a flying start when pupils were challenged to consider the Earth Charter principles, and then the possibility of their attainment.

Student Conference on Sustainability and the Earth Charter 8 July 2011

The Centre for Global Perspectives (CGP) contributed to a local schools conference held at Avonbourne School in July. The theme of the conference was Sustainability and the Earth Charter. Peng Peng Ooi and Natalie Richards facilitated two workshops on fairtrade, which got off to a flying start when pupils were challenged first to consider the Earth Charter principles, and then the possibility of their attainment.

Understanding of the Earth Charter was high however participants were somewhat doubtful that they could meet all the principles! Some of shopping were distributed and participants were asked to identify them, their countries of origin, and to suggest what they had in common. The pupils quickly appreciated that the items came from many parts of the world and that they were all fairtrade.

Pupils were interested to learn about how fairtrade works and how the premium farmers get for their products, enables investment in the local community. Discussion of chocolate and its origins particularly engaged the audience. After watching a film, pupils were shocked to discover the harsh lives of cocoa farmers. The film depicted two women from Ghana who farm an area the size of ten football pitches, on their own and without access to clean water. Pupils could not imagine a life like this but quickly agreed that they could influence change by buying fairtrade. The session closed with an opportunity to be creative: pupils made fairtrade bunting which was later displayed in the school to promote fairtrade.

Students at the fair-trade workshop at Avonbourne School (courtesy of Mrs H Guy)

BU in the EU!

BU is again participating in the EU funded Erasmus mobility programme for the 2011-12 academic year - www.britishcouncil.org/erasmus.

Erasmus supports student mobility in Europe in the form of either study exchanges or work placements. The minimum duration is 3 months and there is a monthly grant to help towards living costs. The deadline to apply is December 2011, depending on the availability of funding at this stage.

Erasmus also supports staff mobility in the form of either teaching or training visits to partner universities in Europe. Staff will be invited to bid for Erasmus funding during the autumn term.

Previous Erasmus students and staff are positive about the benefits to their personal and professional development:

“The exchange has given me a lot more confidence and independence in my practice and it has allowed me to adapt to new situations, inside and outside of work. I have made a lot of friends from around the world.”

Hanna, Midwifery student exchange with Karolinska Institute, Sweden 2011

“It was a very good time that helped me to improve my teaching skills and discuss some good research ideas in the fields of social networking systems.”

Katarzyna Musial, School of Design, Engineering & Computing, teaching visit to Wroclaw University of Technology in Poland 2011

Students and staff who are interested in participating in Erasmus for 2011-12 can find out more:

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www.bournemouth.ac.uk/studentexperience - Student information
www.bournemouth.ac.uk/study&workabroad - Staff information
www.bournemouth.ac.uk/globalperspectives - Staff information
Congratulations to our Global Citizen Award Winners!

The Global Citizen Competitive Awards scheme for 2010-11 received a number of applications from high achieving students looking to carry out a worthwhile international experience as part of their degree. In total, 18 students gained Awards of up to £500!

Previous award winners provided positive feedback on their international experiences:

*“It was of great benefit to me to learn how the vocational rehabilitation system worked in Australia in comparison with those in other countries. It was also nice to see that people from different cultures can work together for the better of the village. I have already started to make plans to return when I have finished at BU with the hope of doing some volunteering within a primate sanctuary.”*(Catherine, Forensic Anthropology & CSI, volunteering with Camps International in Tanzania, 2010)

Eight award winners will carry out work placements overseas in locations such as Australia, Africa, Vietnam, Jamaica and the Kingdom of Tonga. Four students will be taking part in volunteering projects. Undergraduate and postgraduate students were invited to apply for funding during the spring term. The winners received special certificates of achievement as well as funding in support of their visits.

Previous award winners provided positive feedback on their international experiences:

*“A physically demanding, hot, exhausting, fascinating and beautifully rewarding Mexican experience! I gained an insight into the remarkable work put into nature conservation in a particularly poor country.”*(Victoria, Mac Biodiversity Conservation research in Mexico, 2010)

The Awards were divided into special categories to support international work placements, summer schools, research and volunteering projects. Undergraduate and postgraduate students were invited to apply for funding during the spring term. The winners received special certificates of achievement as well as funding in support of their visits.

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Strengthening health research in Nepal

Bournemouth University is collaborating in a project to support and enhance health research in Nepal, in partnership with Tribhuvan University, three UK universities (Bournemouth, Sheffield and Aberdeen), and a charitable organisation in Nepal called the Development Resource Centre. The British Council and DFID (UK) have funded the Partnership on improving Access to Research Literature for Higher Education Institutions in Nepal (PARI). PARI aims to build research capacity over a three-year period.

Nepal has limited capacity in health research, which restricts the ability to implement evidence-based health care. PARI aims to move university lecturers away from textbook teaching and make them more critically aware of the academic literature available on the Internet. PARI is sensitising staff in identifying health resource information and changing attitudes towards the importance of research-based or evidence-based practice. At a time when many students are leaving to study abroad, PARI is strengthening research capacity in Nepal which in the long-run may encourage talented people to remain or return, to help develop a country which is one of the poorest in the world.

PARI workshops delivered to Nepal universities in 2011 introduce the foundations of evidence-based practice and outline key electronic databases of health care and health service literature available to Nepalese academics. The importance of assessing and amalgamating the literature to establish best practice is also highlighted. Workshop delivery was supported by a colleague, Dr. Julie Bruce, from the University of Warwick (see photo).

The workshops were informed by (1) a curriculum review of all health-related courses at the major universities in Nepal; and (2) a needs assessment with lecturers, librarians and students of the major universities. These two studies conducted earlier this year, helped to identify gaps in knowledge and skills around gathering existing research information. The third and final year of the project will focus on the wider dissemination of the PARI findings.

Prof. Edwin van Teijlingen from BU’s School of Health & Social Care, and also Visiting Professor at Mannmohan Memorial Institute of Health Sciences (MMIHS) affiliated with Purbanchal University observed “We need to move away from textbook teaching in health care and teach our students about finding the most appropriate evidence-based treatment for each patient.” Prof. Dr. Ram Sharan Pathak from Tribhuvan University’s Central Department of Population Studies leading the project said: “PARI will help to refocus curricula in Nepal with greater emphasis on research information.”

PARI has attracted considerable media coverage in Nepal. Dr. Padam Simkhada from University of Sheffield. “There is a varying degree of experience among college teachers and university staff when it comes to accessing the internal literature online, PARI will encourage high calibre research and teaching in this country.”