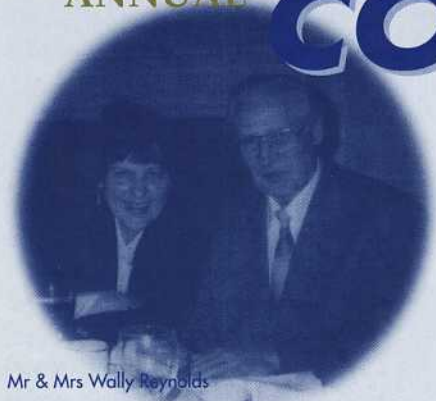


newsletter

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE BATH 1996



Mr & Mrs Wally Reynolds

The ASET ANNUAL CONFERENCE was held in the University of Bath on 15, 16 and 17 April this year. There were a number of innovations included in this year's conference which included running all the Workshop Sessions twice, to give delegates opportunity to attend more of them, and to include the ASET AGM within the conference.

There were two plenary sessions, presented by Sue Otter, Advisor to DFEE, and Bahram Bekhradnia, Director of Policy, HEFCE. Both of these were exceptionally well given and very well received - they sparked a number of discussions both informally and within the workshops.

Sue, speaking about 'coping with growth', 'changes in attitudes and expectations', described how over 50% of students are working part time and asked whether, for sandwich courses, there are cost benefits of placement, and how.

Bahram raised a range of issues that the Funding Council must consider in its contribution to the financing of Higher Education. Although the Dearing review would be an important contribution there were obvious dangers in waiting for its publication. Segmentation of course provision within different groups of universities was a possible solution.

The Workshop Sessions, as usual, addressed a variety of relevant topics. Some of these were very practical, such as Schedule 5, Video Conferencing, Software Support; some were more speculative such as External Examiners and Validation, Future Models of Work Based Learning and others contained some valuable help and guidance, such as Preparation for Quality Audit for Sandwich Placements, European Placements,

Preparation of Students and Debriefing and the LEONARDO programme. There were eighteen workshops in total.

The conference dinner was a most congenial affair, held in The Pump Room in the City of Bath. The dinner followed conducted tours of the old Roman Baths which must have been a very impressive building and facility in its hey day. The live music seemed to catch the appropriate generation of music for most of the delegates and rounded off a good evening in a very lively style.



Brian Firth & Alan Smith

The Conferences and Seminars working party of ASET has made a very clear policy decision to provide a participatory annual conference at a very competitive price.

MALCOLM BREWER

Malcolm Brewer, Secretary of the Association for Sandwich Education and Training (ASET) has been appointed Visiting Professor in Work Based Learning at the University of Ulster.

The University of Ulster has promoted integrated sandwich education for 25 years and is one of the largest providers of sandwich courses in the UK with approximately 1,200 students entering paid placements annually and many unpaid placements with health authorities and other organisations.

In making the appointment the University has acknowledged Professor Brewer's national and international reputation as an authority on the many facets of sandwich training including assessment and quality issues and the much broader theme of assessment of work based learning for the purposes of credit accumulation and transfer.

Professor Brewer has 20 years of employment in Sheffield Polytechnic, Sheffield Hallam University and as Chief Executive of Student Employment Services, during which time he has published on sandwich

education, organised conferences in the UK and further afield, negotiated with government agencies and served on numerous committees including the Executive Council of the World Association for Co-operative Education (WACE). He was the first recipient of the Donald MacLaren Award of WACE in 1983.

The University of Ulster will benefit from Professor Brewer's expertise in encouraging specific research projects and in enhancing its own work based learning activities across all disciplines.

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