

## Employer engagement case study

<b>Graduate:</b>	Dorcas Haslam
<b>Degree:</b>	BA (Hons) Social Science - First Class
<b>Graduated:</b>	June 2008
<b>Employed as:</b>	Researcher
<b>Start Date:</b>	January 2009
<b>Company:</b>	Globe Regeneration Limited
<b>Location:</b>	Lincoln City
<b>Business:</b>	Economic Development Consultants, specialising in working with the public sector
<b>Employees:</b>	Eight



Dorcas Haslam and Russell Wallis Globe Regeneration Limited

### Dorcas Haslam

"I had applied to several graduate schemes prior to finishing my degree and had made it to the final stage of two schemes. However, in the interim the opportunity with Globe was sent to me by one of my academics and, having investigated the company and the role, I submitted my CV. I had two interviews with the company and was delighted to be offered the job. Given the economic climate, I favoured the certainty and opportunities that Globe offered.

Since starting I have been working on several local and national projects, such as:

- East Midlands Development Agency on the economic value of rural landowners
- IDeA – Local Economic Assessment guidance for Local Authorities
- Commission for Rural Communities – a national project looking at best practice promoting well being within rural organisations
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council – feasibility study for creation of Social Enterprises.

I have also undertaken several courses and training and have become an Associate Member of the Institute of Economic Development (IED).

I really wanted a job that would offer variety, the opportunity to meet people and where I could make an impact - this role does that and I am thoroughly enjoying it."

### Russell Wallis - Director

"In 2008 Globe had reached its 'next growth stage' and as part of that growth we needed to find the right person with capability and learning potential to 'bring on' and help the company to expand.

We pursued a number of options, such as advertising and targeting other companies as well as getting in touch with the University.

We have had experience of working with the University, in fact Elizabeth Spurr who works for us as a Consultant, initially came to us a student on a placement programme and we were so impressed we offered her a job and eventually a promotion.

We therefore had no hesitation in contacting the University to help us fill our new vacancy. We contacted Sara Hobson, the Faculty Employer Engagement Manager, and within a very short time she sent CVs to us of some quality candidates. We interviewed the candidates and Dorcas was successful. It was a quick, simple process.

Dorcas has worked on some significant research work for us and has become a valued member of the team.

We would have no hesitation in contacting the University again – for both student placements and graduate recruitment." ■

## Useful contacts

**Admissions**  
**Email:** admissions@lincoln.ac.uk  
**Tel:** 01522 886097

**UCAS**  
**Email:** enquiries@ucas.ac.uk  
**Tel:** 08714680468

**Hull Contact for courses in Social Work and Social Care**  
**Maria Conyers**  
**Email:** mconyers@lincoln.ac.uk  
**Tel:** 01482 311374

**Student Advice Service**  
**Email:** advice@lincoln.ac.uk  
**Tel:** 01522 886881

**Faculty Marketing, Intelligence and Recruitment Officer**  
**Emma Jubbs**  
**Email:** ejubbs@lincoln.ac.uk  
**Tel:** 01522 886286

**Accommodation**  
**Email:** accommodation@lincoln.ac.uk  
**Tel:** 01522 886195

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# Faculty of Health, Life & Social Sciences



## Friends sign up for charity tournament in memory of Lincoln students

### Last September, Sports students at the University of Lincoln organised a charity football tournament at the beginning of term to remember two close friends.

Adam Gibbons and Daniel Sibley were both on the Sports Development and Coaching course at the University when their lives were suddenly cut short without warning and for entirely different reasons. Both were just 18-years-old.

Adam from Cherry Willingham, died of a brain haemorrhage. An all-round sportsman and keen footballer, Adam had wanted to become a sports teacher. Daniel Sibley, from Peterborough, died of meningitis. A member of Peterborough Rugby Club, he had dreamed of becoming a rugby coach.

A close friend Matt Wilson, who will be starting his third year on the University's Sport and Exercise Science course, organised a charity football tournament with teams made up of second and third year sports students as well as freshers. A similar event will be organised during Welcome Week 2009.

Adam's family have already raised thousands of pounds and set up the Adam Gibbons Sports Foundation. The money raised from last year's University event was split between the foundation and a meningitis charity in memory of Daniel.

Matt, who went to school with Adam, said: "I want to make the event a success in order to give something back to someone who gave a lot to me when he was alive and I see it as my way of keeping alive the memory of two people who loved their sport. It is an ideal opportunity not only to promote who Adam was and what he stood for, but also to raise the profile of his fund and raise more money for it."

Adam's mum Ruth added: "Adam was only at the University for one term so I'm very pleased that his friends, many of whom went from college with him to the University, are keeping his memory alive in this way. I want to thank them for doing this and especially Matt for organising the event."

This September the University will organise the second event, which we hope will become an annual occurrence during Welcome Week. ■



## Celebrating Practice in Social Work

### A Practice Assessor Networking Day was held at the University of Lincoln's Riseholme Conference Centre.

The event marked a celebration of the practice element of the BSc (Hons) Social Work where Social Work students undertake 200 days of learning in practice (placement) throughout their three year course of study. To facilitate learning in practice, the Social Work department has built a number of external relationships with social care employers. The aim of this event was to acknowledge the vital part our placement providers play in student learning.

Delegates enjoyed a key note speech by Senior Lecturer in Social Work, Ian Mathews. Ian talked about how students can be encouraged to link theory to the practice setting. A series of workshop sessions followed allowing delegates the opportunity to reflect on ways to support

students and to network with colleagues in the Social Work field. One of the workshops capitalised on Social Work employers of the future and asked them to consider how they could facilitate enterprise and employability in our students.

Thanks to funding from Lincolnshire County Council all delegates received a copy of Janet Walker's recent book, *Practice Education in Social Work: A Handbook for Practice Teachers, Assessors and Educators*. Janet is Principal Lecturer in Social Work at the University of Lincoln.

Feedback from this experience suggests that it was a successful first event for social work practice. Thank you to all members of the Lincolnshire Practice Learning Forum for supporting this event.

Submitted by Cathryn Jani: Senior Lecturer in Social Work / Practice Learning Coordinator. ■

## Students share their stories about Life at Lincoln

Students in the Faculty of Health, Life & Social Sciences are given all kinds of opportunities to take part in experiences that have life-changing potential. Here are their stories.

### Dr Tanefa Apekey, PhD Human Nutrition



Dr Tanefa Apekey was born in Ghana where she spent most of her life with her family and undertook her primary, secondary and university (first and second degrees) education. She came to England in 2003 to study for a PhD in Nutrition at the University of Lincoln. Tanefa successfully completed her PhD in January this year as the first person to be awarded a PhD in Nutrition by the University of Lincoln. She conducted her research on the effects of macronutrient composition of weight reducing diets on health. Part of the

work was carried out in conjunction with a consultant at the Lincoln County Hospital.

Tanefa found Lincoln very conducive for studies, made lots of friends and learned about other cultures. During her study in Lincoln, she was awarded grants by ASTRA Zeneca UK, Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust and The Leche Trust.

She has since published a paper from her thesis and less than two months after completing her doctorate, has started work as a Nutrition researcher with the University of Leeds working on a cinnamon project funded by the Food Standards agency.

Apart from her main work as a researcher on the project, she helps PhD and MSc Masters students with their research proposals and applications to ethics. Tanefa loves her new job.

### Helen Hargreaves, BSc (Hons) Human Nutrition



“I was slightly familiar with the University of Lincoln as I have a daughter, Rachel, who was starting her third year Law degree. My husband, Rachel and I came to an Open Day for her to look around, two years ago. Rachel has always seemed happy at Lincoln and when the Human Nutrition course was released on the web site, I jumped at the chance of applying. I had been looking for about six months for a course that would allow me to get a degree to be able to teach but none of the other universities were

suitable; either the course didn't fit in with what I wanted or the distance was an issue. It takes me about 35 minutes to get to campus and I have been able to carry on working, albeit part-time, in a secondary school as well as carrying on with my studies.

I was very fortunate to 'bump' into the other mature students on my course before we had even enrolled. We support each other in our work and when we get results from assignments!

I have found the University of Lincoln a very friendly place. The lecturers in our faculty have been very supportive. There are times that I have felt that the course is too hard – especially when I get back an assignment that I have worked hard on and haven't got a very high mark. Dr Anne Morris' door is always open and she is exceptionally supportive when you feel that life is getting tough. Equally, my husband and daughters have been very supportive.

This course has led to me gaining a voluntary placement at Mouchel in Lincoln, where I go once a week and I input recipes for primary and secondary schools that meet the government guidelines for the essential nutrients needed for a healthy diet. ” ■

### Sue McMahon, BA (Hons) Social Science

“I am a 51 year old student. Prior to my degree I had worked for the same company for over 25 years. I had not applied for a job or had an interview in all this time, so as you can imagine I found the application process challenging and also nerve racking. I had two interviews, one at the University of Lincoln, where three people interviewed me. The other was at North Lincolnshire Council who rang me the same day to let me know I had been successful in gaining a four week placement with the Strategy Development Team. On my first day I did feel a bit out of my depth, but colleagues were friendly and welcoming, and they treated me as part of their team from day one, including me in everything.

My studies at Lincoln helped me to understand reasons behind some of the work they were doing and some of the work they asked me to do. For example, I researched around ten of the Beacon Award Scheme, which is awarded to local councils that excel in a particular area. It also highlights these councils as Beacon, so other councils can see if the Beacon's policies will work for them, a sort of internal transfer.

I would just like to add that I really enjoyed this experience. It has been invaluable to me and I would recommend all students doing these placements if possible. ” ■

### Sean Brennan, Placement Supervisor

“I had the pleasure of line managing Sue McMahon for a month in June 2009 and found her a pleasure to work with. Sue was based in our Strategy Development Team within the Chief Executive's Executive Management Team and during her placement she undertook a variety of roles. She researched best practice around councils awarded Beacon Status for innovation, policy issue research on the ageing population; she co-authored a briefing for North Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership on how to improve them as organisations, produced a presentation for the policy team, and interviewed our Director of Children's Services for our quarterly managers briefing. She undertook a variety of different tasks and was enthusiastic throughout. We set Sue some very challenging work, as we would any local government officer, and she conducted both herself and the work she produced in a wholly professional manner. On time, well written and to the required standard typified her work produced during her time with North Lincolnshire Council.

Sue was challenged throughout her placement and was open about her areas for improvement. I believe the placement with us should stand her in good stead for the labour market and I would have no hesitation in providing a reference for Sue - she certainly deserves it. I was impressed by Sue's willingness to try something new, as she has spent a significant period (over 20 years) working for a credit company. It is a testament to Sue that she navigated this change well. ” By Sean Brennan, Strategy Development Service.

## Employability and opportunities at university and beyond



The Faculty has a new, dedicated Employer Engagement Manager, Sara Hobson. Part of Sara's role is to help improve student employability skills.

Liaising with employers and academics, Sara is working towards making sure that every student within the Faculty of Health, Life and Social Sciences graduates with all the skills and experience needed to gain employment.

Sara's activity includes organising:

- Employer presentations
- Employability workshops
- Student visits
- Employer Focus Group Meetings
- Searching for employment and placement opportunities.

Here are just a few examples of what Sara has accomplished for our students:

### Benefit Fraud Agency Placements

Fourteen of our second year Criminology students were placed with the Benefit Fraud Agency for the summer. Not only are the students gaining invaluable experience, including surveillance activity and attending court, they are also getting paid. One of our students commented:

“Just to let you know that my placement is fantastic and I am really enjoying it. I have a great team and the working atmosphere is brilliant. I just want to take this opportunity to say “thank you” for all your hard work in obtaining this.

As soon as I have finished my training I will be acting AO and will even have the opportunity to go on surveillance and have already been asked to accompany my Line Manager to sit in at court!”

### Working with Job Centre Plus

We gained 130 paid opportunities for our students to work during the summer in Job Centres across the West and South Yorkshire areas.

### Volunteering Opportunities

Over 60 opportunities for students to gain valuable relevant work experience were obtained in public sector organisations, charities and other local businesses.

### Jobs/Opportunities Notice Board

Located in the Faculty Office (Bridge House) and filled with jobs, opportunities and information on careers support.

### Blackboard

Sara now has a dedicated 'Blackboard' site - which will be used to advertise all relevant jobs and opportunities as they come in and links into the Opportunities@Lincoln website.

### C-SAP: Subject Network for Sociology, Anthropology and Politics

The School of Social Sciences has been successful obtaining funding from C-SAP to research how Criminologists can adapt the subject benchmarks to their own individual curriculum to meet employer needs, ensuring that our graduates are ready to enter graduate level employment.

### Enterprise@Lincoln

Opening in October is the brand new Enterprise@Lincoln building where you will find the Opportunities team, the University's dedicated careers service in a purpose built environment.

Here you will have the chance to meet employers associated with your degree programme and find out about the wealth of graduate careers.

You can even explore the possibility of starting your own business and enter a range of business competitions whilst at university.

It is never too early to start preparing for your career. In fact employers are increasingly telling us that a degree is not enough. They want something extra. They are looking for graduates that have made the most of their time at university, who have had a job, undertaken work placements and developed the 'soft skills' that are increasingly valued in today's climate such as communication, teamwork and organisational skills.

By attending university your career has already started and any decision that you make whilst studying could have an impact upon your career development.

You will find a friendly and relaxed, but informative, welcome from our Opportunities team so why not pop along and have a coffee during our weekly drop in service - Monday - Thursday 10am-4pm and Friday 10am-1pm.

### The Job Shop

The Student Job Shop, based in the Students' Union SOAP Centre is the place to go if you are looking for any type of employment whilst studying. We advertise all job opportunities, provide advice relevant to part-time and vacation employment and point you in the direction for careers advice and information.

Working with the Opportunities team from Enterprise@Lincoln we can help you to make the most of all your employment experience without compromising your studies. Our aim is to ensure you develop and maximise your employability skills to place you in the best possible position to secure your chosen career on graduation.

If you would like help compiling a CV, completing an application form or preparing for an interview then we are here to help.

So if you are looking for a quick cash fix or the chance to develop employment skills relevant to your study, then pay us a visit.

Welcome Week begins 21 September. We look forward to welcoming you on campus and wish you every success with your studies at the University of Lincoln! ■

## Congratulations to...



Jonathan Elvidge (holding Wesley's Award), Gina Hardesty, Maria Conyers, and Wesley.)

Gina Hardesty was awarded a Business Commendation by The Humber Education & Business Partnership for linking education and business for providing the best and most beneficial work

experience placement for a young person in Hull and East Riding.

This was the first time she has done anything like this and, as such, it is an extra achievement not only as a new comer, but alongside the likes of BP, NHS, University of Hull and ABP who have been doing this for years.

Gina has worked hard to achieve service user involvement in terms of widening participation, community involvement and involving young people on our social work programmes. Gina was nominated by the Endeavour School, who were spurred on by the feedback given about her involvement and encouragement of the student who also picked up an award for gaining the most from his work experience in Hull and East Riding.