### HOT OFF THE PRESS!!!

Just a few of the opportunities currently available:

- **Wolverhampton Social Services**
  - Contact Supervisor: assist in providing supervision for contact meetings for looked after children.
  - Young Person and Parent Career Supporter: assist young people who require support to remain at home and assist their carer.
  - Young People and Foster Career Supporter: supporting young people and their foster carers during their time together.

- **Front Door**
  - Front Door offer advice and assistance to vulnerable people with complex needs who are homeless or facing homelessness.
  - Front Door are looking for administration and advice workers.

- **British Red Cross – International Tracing and Front Door**

To see all our opportunities, visit: [www.wlv.ac.uk/activevol](http://www.wlv.ac.uk/activevol)

### HLSS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sociology student Hannah Uffland has scooped the Honor Pringle Memorial prize for HLSS Volunteer of the Year. Hannah has been dedicated to volunteering at Mencap Gateway clubs throughout her studies and has now seen the fruits of her hard work since securing a full-time paid graduate post with the organisation. She started off working with Mencap as part of an accredited module and delivered workshops and activities for people with severe learning difficulties in the Wolverhampton area. She trained as a support worker and went on to encourage other students to get involved with the clubs, with the help of the Active Volunteers office.

Ellie Horton, from Mencap, said: “During her time at Mencap, Hannah contributed greatly to the Leisure Development project, and showed commitment and understanding to people with learning disabilities. She very much deserves this award.”

The award is given to a final year student who has been an outstanding volunteer throughout their studies.

Note to all you HLSS students – who knows, you could be next!

### STUDENTS TRAIN AS CAB ADVISORS

The new Citizen’s Advice Bureau module has got off to a flying start. So far, 13 students have completed the course module which enables them to train as CAB advisors. If they carry on into Year Two and Year Three, they can pick up 30 credits at each level. In addition, depending on each individual case, their experience may even grant a student up to six months deduction from their training contract if they decide to practice law.

The module is open to all law students, and applicants are selected according to CAB recruitment standards. If you are interested, get in touch with Emma Nicholls, Placement Officer in the School of Legal Studies. Tel: 01902 321569 or e-mail: e.c.nicholls@wlv.ac.uk

### STUDENTS OFFER LITERACY HELP TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Students have been getting stuck in with a new literacy project which is helping vulnerable young children in Wolverhampton. The students volunteered to train as literacy mentors, allowing them to spend an hour-a-week with a looked after child(ren) in their home.

Devised by the City’s Looked After Children Education (LACE) Team and the University of Wolverhampton’s Active Volunteers, it is being supported by a number of organisations in the city.

The scheme promotes literacy to junior school children in public care, who are treated to fun reading and communication-based activities with their volunteer mentor at home each week, using books and resources loaned by the Central Library.

The project was launched at the Central Library in Wolverhampton on 25 May, with an evening of art and craft and story-telling by local raconteur John Edgar. The event celebrated the efforts of all involved, including volunteers, trainers, foster carers and the children themselves.

Ruth Coates, Project Co-ordinator from the LACE Team, said: “Wolverhampton City Council, the Children’s Information Service, Grand Theatre, the Art Gallery, First Class Leisures and the University of Wolverhampton are working together to enrich the lives of these vulnerable young people.”

“The readiness of all the organisations and individuals to contribute to this project is a marvellous reflection of the generosity of spirit which is in the city,” she added. “We thank them all for the difference their efforts will make to many children’s lives.”

The event, which comes just a few days ahead of Volunteers Week (1-7 June) is also “a timely way to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of all volunteers in 2005, officially The Year Of The Volunteer,” said Ruth. “This project is just one of many supported by Active Volunteers from the University of Wolverhampton.”

The project forms part of a wider range of activities continuing throughout the year. If you are interested in giving a child a helping hand, then contact the Active Volunteers office on 01902 323413, or e-mail: p.green@wlv.ac.uk

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Looked-after children's literacy project launch
- Swinging night boosts Tsunami appeal
- Pupils get tips on safe internet surfing
- Volunteers
  - Celebration 7 June
- Career taster proves to be an eye opener
- Module students move ahead
- Hot off the press
- HLSS Volunteer of the Year award
- Students train as CAB advisors
Joining KIC was great! Not only did we get the chance to meet lots of new people, but we had the chance to become Millennium Volunteers, improving our CVs whilst having fun at the same time!

Margaret Nolan and Siobhan Benton, now employed by KIC FM community radio.

SWINGIN’ NIGHT BOOSTS TSUNAMI APPEAL

Frank Sinatra classics provided the basis for a swing-themed fundraising event at Walsall Campus in April.

Students from the University’s Jazz Orchestra teamed up with local singers Nick Driscoll, who by day runs his kitchen fitting business, IT businessman Peter Jordan, and Joe Green, who works for Land Rover. Together they all volunteered their time to perform a special concert on 22 April at the main theatre at Walsall Campus, raising £600 for the Action Aid Tsunami Fund.

Pat Green, Active Volunteers Co-ordinator put the budding singers in touch with Senior Lecturer Nigel Beer, who is musical director of the University’s Jazz Orchestra. He was delighted to help stage the concert and said: “I thought it was a really good idea.”

Singer Joe Green went on to say: “The support the University gave us in helping to put on the concert was invaluable. It simply wouldn’t have happened without Nigel and the Orchestra.”

PUPILS GET TIPS ON SAFE SURFING

You may know Louise Jenkins as the Welfare Officer in the Students’ Union, but she has also been busy co-ordinating a volunteer project in conjunction with West Midlands Police. The project has been designed to assist school children aged 13-14 to be savvy when using the internet.

After a trip to Poland to view how they deal with the concerns of internet safety there, it was clear that using student volunteers to deliver sessions was the best form of practice.

Poland uses university students rather than local or police officers in the belief that the children will respond better to people who are closer to their age and not in a position of authority. Louise, plus two other sabbatical and three students, got involved in the pilot which consisted of demonstrating and delivering a software game developed in Canada, that instills the importance of internet safety.

The volunteers delivered sessions to two Wolverhampton schools with support from the Police and school staff.

At an awareness evening held at Colton Hills School in Wolverhampton, the student volunteers received the Assistant Chief Constable’s commendation for their groundbreaking work.

The project has been so well received by the schools and children that took part in the project, that the Police are now considering rolling the project out across the West Midlands, and the UK more generally.

We hope that other students will want to be involved. Look out for more information.

VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATION 7 JUNE

As part of National Volunteers Week celebrations, Active Volunteers, staff and voluntary groups got together on 7 June to celebrate the achievements of this year’s University volunteers.

Project leaders spoke of their particular volunteer schemes and two outstanding student volunteers received Student Volunteer England Gold Awards for their contribution to the community. They were William Cooper, an 18-year-old Sociology student who has been a BSFA (Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Family Association) volunteer throughout his studies, and Lee Palmer, who has been enormously committed to the Looked After Children’s literacy project. Lee spent much of his own time pursuing sponsorship for the project to great success.

We were especially pleased to welcome Rob Cook of Student Volunteering England, who presented the awards. A volunteer fayre followed with staff from Victim Support, children’s organisations, Mentors and volunteers and many more chatting to students and staff about their opportunities.

CAREER TASTER PROVES TO BE AN EYE-OPENER

First year Media and Cultural Studies student Andrew Eldrich demonstrates that volunteering is an opportunity for learning, especially when it comes to career choices!

When Andrew saw a volunteer opportunity at the city’s Art Gallery, he thought it sounded like a perfect way to gain experience for a research career. However, once he began work, he soon realised that working with artefacts wasn’t sparking his imagination. After talking with staff at length, he decided to withdraw from the placement.

At around the same time, Andrew undertook a short-term post within the City’s Social Services department. For three weeks he interviewed staff to gather information that would later inform the division’s management restructuring programme. Andrew had the opportunity to use his problem-solving skills when faced with a frontline worker suffering from verbal abuse. This experience prompted a career rethink and Andrew realised that rather than general research, his passion lay in research into community issues which requires problem solving, analytical skills and the submission of recommendations. As a result of his time at the Council, he has discovered that local authorities run a graduate research programme that would allow for research projects across the range of divisions. Andrew now plans to engage in further volunteer work that relates more closely to his career goals such as investigative journalism and work shadowing with a researcher.

Andrew advises his fellow students to do some volunteer work early on in their studies:

“You don’t know for sure until you try. Volunteering can offer a career taster in a low pressure environment and it will save you time in the long run, enabling you to focus on your chosen field.”

When recruiting graduates for Marks and Spencer, we look for the skills to help them and our company to be successful. Volunteering can be a great way of developing these skills

Helen Feltham, Director, UK Retail HR, Student Volunteering UK.

Insider’s view has profound impact

Psychology student Kiran Dheer found her feet when she started mentoring as part of the second year module, Volunteering in Action: Making a Difference for learning, especially when it comes to career choices!

When Law student Shamaila Asghar started her degree, her ambition was to become a solicitor. However, once studying on the Volunteering in Action module, she has had a bit of a rethink about her career plans.

Shamaila took a volunteer role with NACRO (National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders), where she organised group sessions for young people aged 14-16 to encourage personal development. This experience in first aid, communication skills, healthy living and literacy for young people excluded from school, some of whom were facing criminal charges. The challenge for Shamaila came in laying the foundations for her role:

“It is essential to build a relationship with the young learners, to be a role model to them and to understand their particular situation, before you try to help them.”

Although Shamaila had studied issues of discrimination, it was only after witnessing prejudice first hand on an outing that she came to fully appreciate the destruction it can cause for young people. Shamaila experienced a real sense of achievement in knowing she had made a difference, and the positive response she received from the young learners. This prompted Shamaila to question whether she wanted to practice law or pursue a more therapeutic role.

For more details about accredited modules such as the one Shamaila studied, visit: 
www.wlv.ac.uk/activevol or contact the Active Volunteers office on tel: 01902 323413

Kiran gets the volunteer bug

Psychology student Kiran Dheer found her feet when she started mentoring as part of the second year module, Volunteering in Action: Making a Difference for learning, especially when it comes to career choices!

Kiran admitted: “Like many young students, I was used to being spoon-fed throughout my education, so the opportunity to depart from that, go out into an unknown territory where it is necessary to take responsibility, make a commitment to an organisation and a young person, and use my initiative, gave me a sense of independence and confidence.

The experience has given young Kiran a new perspective on an area she previously had little knowledge of, and she is now considering pursuing a career with young people rather than adults. To other students who may doubt whether they are ready to do some volunteering, Kiran advises: “It’s not about what you already know, it’s about what you can offer.”

First year Media and Cultural Studies student Andrew Eldrich demonstrates that volunteering is an opportunity for learning, especially when it comes to career choices!

When Andrew saw a volunteer opportunity at the city’s Art Gallery, he thought it sounded like a perfect way to gain experience for a research career. However, once he began work, he soon realised that working with artefacts wasn’t sparking his imagination. After talking with staff at length, he decided to withdraw from the placement.

At around the same time, Andrew undertook a short-term post within the City’s Social Services department. For three weeks he interviewed staff to gather information that would later inform the division’s management restructuring programme. Andrew had the opportunity to use his problem-solving skills when faced with a frontline worker suffering from verbal abuse. This experience prompted a career rethink and Andrew realised that rather than general research, his passion lay in research into community issues which requires problem solving, analytical skills and the submission of recommendations. As a result of his time at the Council, he has discovered that local authorities run a graduate research programme that would allow for research projects across the range of divisions. Andrew now plans to engage in further volunteer work that relates more closely to his career goals such as investigative journalism and work shadowing with a researcher.

Andrew advises his fellow students to do some volunteer work early on in their studies:

“You don’t know for sure until you try. Volunteering can offer a career taster in a low pressure environment and it will save you time in the long run, enabling you to focus on your chosen field.”

Kiran got the volunteer bug

Psychology student Kiran Dheer found her feet when she started mentoring as part of the second year module, Volunteering in Action: Making a Difference for learning, especially when it comes to career choices!

Kiran admitted: “Like many young students, I was used to being spoon-fed throughout my education, so the opportunity to depart from that, go out into an unknown territory where it is necessary to take responsibility, make a commitment to an organisation and a young person, and use my initiative, gave me a sense of independence and confidence.

The experience has given young Kiran a new perspective on an area she previously had little knowledge of, and she is now considering pursuing a career with young people rather than adults. To other students who may doubt whether they are ready to do some volunteering, Kiran advises: “It’s not about what you already know, it’s about what you can offer.”

First year Media and Cultural Studies student Andrew Eldrich demonstrates that volunteering is an opportunity for learning, especially when it comes to career choices!

When Andrew saw a volunteer opportunity at the city’s Art Gallery, he thought it sounded like a perfect way to gain experience for a research career. However, once he began work, he soon realised that working with artefacts wasn’t sparking his imagination. After talking with staff at length, he decided to withdraw from the placement.

At around the same time, Andrew undertook a short-term post within the City’s Social Services department. For three weeks he interviewed staff to gather information that would later inform the division’s management restructuring programme. Andrew had the opportunity to use his problem-solving skills when faced with a frontline worker suffering from verbal abuse. This experience prompted a career rethink and Andrew realised that rather than general research, his passion lay in research into community issues which requires problem solving, analytical skills and the submission of recommendations. As a result of his time at the Council, he has discovered that local authorities run a graduate research programme that would allow for research projects across the range of divisions. Andrew now plans to engage in further volunteer work that relates more closely to his career goals such as investigative journalism and work shadowing with a researcher.

Andrew advises his fellow students to do some volunteer work early on in their studies:

“You don’t know for sure until you try. Volunteering can offer a career taster in a low pressure environment and it will save you time in the long run, enabling you to focus on your chosen field.”