

Bowland College

Activities Report 2015-16



Bowland College

Introduction

With over 500 students joining the college in welcome week, the total number of undergraduates increased and Bowland became the third largest of the undergraduate colleges. Being centrally located and popular with off-campus students, Bowland also has a range of accommodation catering to all budgets. The recent refurbishments of the Tower and Ash House have increased the popularity of the accommodation and the number of rooms available to students.

Engagement

New engagement activities were explored throughout the year, with postcards and e-newsletters used to reach students and staff, and events delivered to aid transition such as lunches for international students and new senior members, coffee hours for off-campus students and induction activities for newly elected JCR exec members.

Welfare and Wellbeing

A key area for college activity, welfare drop-ins continued during Michaelmas term with support from Val Bramhall, Jo Dickinson, Kara Cooper, Pam Forster and Bob Blake. 27 Senior Members signed up to be College Advisors and act as a point of contact for Bowland Students. Additionally, the College Wellbeing Officer role helped raise the profile of the College as a key location for accessing welfare support.

Welfare initiatives delivered during the year included a 'Keep Calm and Colour-In' session and exam and revision breakfasts. With many colleges moving to a 'CAT' system, Bowland took the opportunity to review its welfare system and consider improvements. A new welfare framework will be taken forward for 2016/17.

Governance

A new college constitution and college management committee was presented to and accepted by Syndicate in November 2015. An awarding committee was established for the Bevington Award and a Bowland Trust group established. Finally, a Bowland Strategy Statement was approved by Syndicate in April 2016.

Graduation

For the first time ever, Bowland had two graduation ceremonies as presenting student numbers were around 300. Though it rained slightly, everyone enjoyed the ceremonies, afternoon tea and jazz band.

JCR Activities

Social Events

The JCR delivered a full programme of events, including international food events, comedy and cake, a free trip to see Morecambe FC, a night out in Manchester, Blind Date, Family Fortunes and chill out events such as swing ball and craft sessions. The quiz continued to be popular and prizes were donated from businesses across campus.

Christmas Ball

The Bowland Christmas Ball took place on Friday 4th December and was attended by over 200 students and staff, the event was held at the Blackpool Imperial hotel.

Founders

The annual Founders competition between Bowland and Lonsdale took place in June. This celebrates the history of the two founding colleges with sporting and social events. A newly introduced debating competition was won by Bowland, though Lonsdale were successful in the competition overall.

Carter Shield

Bowland were victorious in claiming the Carter Shield, which provides fun and alternative sporting events open to all colleges.

Extrav

The summer extravaganza 'The Lost Jungle of Bowland' proved to be the most popular with online tickets selling out in just three minutes. The spectacular event included demonstrations by Pole Fitness, Magic and Circus, music from local acts and lots of leopard skin...!



Walks, Talks and Trips

Bowland Walks

A programme of walks was scheduled within the Forest Of Bowland. Simon Corless, a keen walker, agreed to lead the walks; the first two had to be cancelled due to bad weather, but it was third time lucky in May when a group of students and staff eventually got to climb Clougha Pike.

Coast to Coast Challenge

Kate Deeming the College Wellbeing Officer, raised £740 in June by completing a 192 mile walk from St Bees to Robin Hood's Bay in aid of Student Minds and Papyrus.

'Last Thursday' Series

A series of lunchtime talks was introduced, providing an opportunity for academic and professional staff to contribute to contemporary news items, such as Storm Desmond and Brexit, as well as research on issues such as Sleep. *See appendix 1 for full topic list.*

Start-up Stories

Three Bowland Alumni returned to campus to talk to students about their experiences of setting up a business. 'Start-up Stories' run in conjunction with the Enterprise Team, featured Ian Nelson (Adlib) and Jon Price (Complete Care Ltd) who both graduated in 1993 and Alex Philips (APPS) who graduated in 1991.

City Trips

Day trips to Manchester Christmas Markets and Liverpool city centre were well attended, and popular with international students who made up 65% of all attendees.



Inter-Collegiate Competitions

A bid by the Nine Colleges to run inter-college competitions was approved by the Friends Programme, enabling two competitions to run during the year; a Sustainability competition, delivered in conjunction with Green Lancaster and an inter-collegiate Quiz Challenge.

Both competitions culminated in Lent term with Bowland taking first place in the Sustainability competition with an idea for a smart meter system that rewarded energy efficiency. The inter-collegiate Quiz Challenge was eventually won by Grad College, with Bowland reaching the semi-final stage, beating Lonsdale and Furness.



Sustainability team: Vlad Carare, Cecilia Correale, Jess Glasser, Claire Page, Alexia Petricu and Rogiros Theophanous, with Vice-Chancellor Professor Mark E. Smith



Inter-collegiate Quiz Challenge team; Fay Hodgson, Patrick Richardson, Connor Early-Pickersgill and Andrew Monair

Awards and Prizes

Chancellors Medals

In July we celebrated the graduation of 300 Bowland students, among them were winners of the Chancellors Medal which is awarded to the student in each Faculty with the highest marks. Bowland achieved two medals, awarded to Angelika Kronen, International Business Management, and Graham Kennish, Economics and Mathematics.



The Bevington Award, academic excellence in Part I

- Fugui Huang, BSC Hons Accounting and Management Studies
- Luhtu Murphy, MPhys Hons

The Saunders Award, outstanding contribution to college activities

- Connor Early-Pickersgill
- Daniel Pegden
- Molly Sander

Best Travel Report

- Nathalie Farrugia

The Lancaster Award

- Congratulations to the 31 Bowland Students who successfully completed the Lancaster Award



Refurbishments

External Areas

Additional signage along the Spine, in the Junior Common Room and in the college foyer was added to increase visibility, making the spaces more identifiable as college areas. New seating in Bowland quad made the area a more sociable space for students and staff, while the replanting of the green space to the front of the main entrance improved the look and overall feel of the college.

Junior Common Room

Partial repainting of the JCR in red, added warmth, identity and colour, while the addition of framed vintage posters provided by a Bowland alumnus, created a sense of charm and continuity. Additional items include new dartboards, pool cues and accessories, and swing ball sets.

Office Spaces

Additional office space was obtained to support the work of college officers, mainly deanery meetings, welfare drop-ins and a space for the new Engagement officer. Signage was procured for all the administrative spaces and porters lodge.

Off Campus Areas

New items were obtained for the kitchen area; microwaves, toaster, a kettle as well as additional crockery and cutlery. The layout of the study room was revisited to create a more spacious and welcoming environment.



Bowland JCR with newly painted red walls and framed posters donated by Elizabeth Kearns, Bowland Graduate, 1967

Staff News

Bowland Porter Retired

Chris Holmes retired as Bowland Porter after 10 years; he was employed by the university for 37 years. Chris supported many students and worked closely with Brian, Rob and Suzanne. Chris was replaced by Joe Mills who joined the college in summer 2015.



Dean stepped down after 15 years

Simon Corless ended his term of office as Bowland College Dean on 31st December 2015. Simon had been an integral part of the college for many years and was also Vice-Principal. He remains a key part of the college through the Bowland Walks and as a College Advisor. Val Bramhall, Systems Support, was appointed as Dean in January 2016.



End of term for Senior Advisor

On 31st July 2016, Dr Robert Blake ended his term as Bowland Senior Advisor, a role held for six years. Prior to this Bob was Deputy Senior Advisor, dedicating a total of eight years to the welfare system. Linda Wardle, Procurement Manager, was appointed as the new Senior Advisor from 1 August 2016.



New College Wellbeing Officer

Kate Deeming joined Bowland as a College Wellbeing Officer in October 2015. A new Student Based Services role, Kate provides individual support to Bowland students and works closely with the College on a range of health and wellbeing promotions.



New Engagement Officer

Dr Amy Gibbons, Faculty Impact Manager for FST was appointed as the new Director of Engagement. The role, initially for one year, focussed on organising events that bring together students, staff and alumni.



Assistant Deans

James Balfour, Chris Green and Patrick Somervell ended their Assistant Dean appointments in July 2016. New Assistant Deans were appointed to provide support to the college with effect from Michaelmas 2016; Michael Barrow, Nina Kingham and Jessica Wareing.



Appendix 1 - Bowland 'Last Thursday' Series (2015 – 2016)

Date	Speaker One	Topic	Speaker Two	Topic
12th November 2015	Sally Bushell, Head of English and Creative Writing	Wordsworth and a new MOOC	Stuart Franklin, Director of Marketing and Communications	Why students come to Lancaster (and why they don't come)
26th November 2015	Jo Hardman, Head of Commercial Services	How much for a cup of tea? A short anecdotal history of LU Food, drink, bars and Socialising	Mary Smyth, Principal Bowland College	Discussion on Senior Members Activities
28th January 2016	Simon Corless, Electrical Engineer	The Impact of Storm Desmond; The Power Outage	Professor Phil Haygarth, LEC	"Welcome to the Future? The impact of Storm Desmond on flooding and nutrient flows in the Eden Catchment".
25th February 2016	Julie Fergusson, Emergency Planning and Risk Manager	Planning for the unknown	Professor Peter Fielden, Head of Chemistry	What's your reaction? Research themes and a new department
28th April 2016	Dr Ian Lyne, the new Director for Research and Innovation	Potential impact of a so-called 'BREXIT' on research intensive universities	Professor Roger Jones, Head of Physics	Experiences working on the CERN Large Hadron Collider
26th May 2016	Padraic Monaghan	Problem solving in your sleep (followed by a tour of facilities in Psychology)	N/A	N/A
30th June 2016	Marion McClintock	Why Lancaster has Colleges	N/A	N/A