

# Sellafield News

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## New nuclear degree programme

Students at Sellafield are celebrating being the first to achieve their BTEC National Award in Applied Science (Physics) as part of a new technical specialist training programme.

On Thursday 10 April, nine students were presented with their certificates by Sellafield Ltd's Managing Director, Barry Snelson, at a ceremony at the Westlakes Research Institute. The event was attended by representatives from Sellafield Ltd, GEN II and the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan).

The group are the first GEN II students to achieve this qualification and completed the award with six distinctions and three merits in only 16 weeks, despite the qualification being the equivalent of one and half A-levels!

Tom O'Neill, MOX Technical trainee graduate, said: "I looked at going to university and doing an apprenticeship but this course is a mixture of both, it's vocational, academic and you get paid! Before doing the foundation degree I did A-levels in maths, further maths and AS physics. In the future I would like to do the full degree and hopefully end up in a management role."

After successful completion of the BTEC qualification the students have now embarked on a three year part time foundation degree specifically developed for the nuclear industry. The students spend a day each week studying with GEN II and the remaining four days with industrial mentors on the Sellafield site.

The event was a double celebration as GEN II and UCLan also signed the official Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations to deliver the new degree. Dr Graham Baldwin, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Nuclear Industries) UCLan said: "We are delighted to be signing this agreement that will enable Cumbria's nuclear workforce to stand apart with high level training and development.



Above: the students with (from left) Graham Baldwin, Barry Snelson and Mike Smith

"The development of the programmes has provided the opportunity for local 6th form leavers to study for a degree locally, whilst also developing workplace experience. The foundation degrees have proved to provide an ideal academic base for the Technical Specialist training programme."

UCLan act as the validating and awarding body. Two further foundation degrees in System & Control and Commissioning & Maintenance are due for validation in May 2008.

Following the success of this programme, GEN II and Sellafield Ltd are hoping to recruit for the next intake of technical specialists shortly. For more information on the qualification, contact the Curriculum and Development team on 01946 514150.

# Sellafield apprentice exchange trip

Two second year control systems apprentices from Sellafield are taking part in an exchange visit to the Bromangymnasiet education and training facility in Sweden.

Part of an apprentice exchange programme involving Sellafield Ltd, Iggesund and GEN II, Amy Ireland and Matthew Messenger travelled to Sweden on 30 March.

The pair will be staying with local Swedish families while they undergo a five week training programme at the facility.

The programme includes training on Siemens Programmable Logic Controllers, as well as CISCO networking, which will build on existing control system technologies training they are currently receiving on the Control Systems Training Scheme at Sellafield.



Speaking about their progress, mentor and member of Sellafield's Control Systems Engineering Department, John Dickinson said: "We've heard from Amy and Matthew a couple of times now and they seem to be really enjoying themselves. Their tutor has also spoken of how pleasant they have been and they seem to be learning a lot of new skills which they will be able to bring back and share with the rest of the Control Systems Department.

"We look forward to welcoming them back at the beginning of May."

This visit forms part of reciprocal exchange which earlier saw two students from Bromangymnasiet come to the UK. While here, they underwent a similar period of training with GEN II at Westlakes and at Sellafield's Training and Development Centre, thanks to the sponsorship of Iggesund.

- **Look out for full details of the exchange trip in upcoming issues of the Sellafield News to find out how Amy and Matthew got on in Sweden.**

## Changes to the Sellafield site siren

From 1 May 2008 a change is being made to arrangements for the sounding of the Sellafield site siren.

For many years the arrangements have been that the Sellafield site siren would only be sounded when a Sellafield Emergency has occurred.

From 1 May 2008, the siren will also be sounded at Site Incident. The aim of the change is to provide better protection for the workforce by enabling them to be required to take shelter earlier in the process i.e. when a Site Incident has been declared.

A Site Incident is declared if there is or may be a hazardous condition external to the incident building but confined to the site. A Sellafield Emergency is declared if there is a hazardous condition on the site that is or could impact on members of the public off site.

The workforce on site on hearing the site siren sounding should seek shelter in the nearest Site Emergency Assembly Point.

For those living near the site a householder leaflet is provided to all members of the public living within a radius of 6 km detailing what actions they should take in the event of an emergency on site.

This leaflet has been revised to reflect the changes to the emergency arrangements and this will be distributed in the next couple of weeks.

A Level 1 Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, NII exercise is being held on Thursday 8 May 2008 where the new arrangements will be tested.

# Charity football tournament raises £900 for local hospice

A team of over 40 players from Sellafield's Waste Operating Unit have raised nearly £900 for a local hospice after holding a charity football tournament.

The event which was held on Sunday 30 March, took place at the Whitehaven Sports Centre. The tournament involved workers from Sellafield's Waste Monitoring and Compaction Plant (WAMAC), PCM Stores, the Waste Treatment Complex (WTC) and a team from Health Physics and Safety.

Ryan Park, an operator in WTC decided to hold the tournament as a way of raising valuable funds for a local good cause. He said: "I spoke to some of the other workers in the team and we decided it would be a good idea to have a 'get together' game for a bit of fun, while offering us the opportunity to raise some money for a local cause.

"We asked all the players to come up with a charity they wanted to nominate and the Hospice at Home West Cumbria got the most votes."

The tournament involved teams being split into two groups, with the top two teams in each group then going on to play each other in the semi-finals. The winning team 'Waste Ham UTD' were from WAMAC.



Above: Ryan hands over the cheque to Dawn Ouseby from the Hospice

"I want to thank everyone for their support, including Sellafield Ltd who provided the trophies and water for the teams" said Ryan.

"The event was a bigger success than we anticipated. Thanks to the involvement of the whole Waste Operating Unit team and those who sponsored the tournament, we have managed to raise a fantastic sum of money for this very worthwhile cause.

"Hopefully next year will be just as successful!"

Dawn Ouseby, from the Hospice spoke of her gratitude for the efforts of the team: "This money is very much appreciated and will go a long way in helping the Hospice provide the care and support the patients and their families need."

## Incident report

An investigation is being carried out into how an employee was injured whilst working in the Thorp Receipt & Storage facility. The employee became trapped between a fuel transport flask and a handrail, a Board of Inquiry has been convened.

Sellafield emergency services were immediately called and transferred the individual to the site surgery, from where he was taken to the West Cumberland Hospital. The worker has remained in hospital for more than 24 hours as a result of the injuries received, making the accident notifiable as a major injury under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations.)

This accident has been classified as Out of Scale on the International Nuclear Events Scale, which reflects the fact that it was a conventional accident rather than a radiological incident.

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**Got a story? Let us know. Please call X85838**

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## VIP visits to Sellafield 9 April – 16 April 2008 included:

10/04/08 – 11/04/08 – HE David Reddaway, UK Ambassador to Dublin

11/04/08 – Cumbria Fire and Rescue Control Centre

15/04/08 – Panamanian visit

15/04/08 – Ministry of Defence

17/04/08 – Cumbria Best Practice Club