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The magazine of the University of Dundee • June 09



**BONKERS AND BRILLIANT!**

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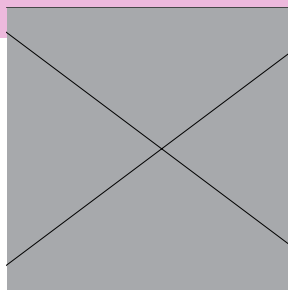
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## from the principal...

The University has said goodbye to one of its longest-serving lay Court members. Bruce Johnston joined the University Court in 2001 and a year later took over the convenership of what became the Finance & Policy Committee. Bruce has been a great friend and supporter of the University, and his wise contributions will be sorely missed. To mark his departure, current members of the Committee joined me at a lunch in his honour.

It was at this event, that a fellow diner jokingly asked whether I was now eating for the University on a regular basis, and what effect this was having on my waistline! I am glad to say that the past three months have coincided with training for the Monikie 10k earlier in May, so that as yet I can happily state there have been no adverse side-effects. That said, the graduation season is fast approaching with its array of receptions and garden parties for our new graduates, along with luncheons and dinners in honour of our special guests and honorary graduates, so I think perhaps a summer fitness programme will inevitably be on the cards.

Joking aside, this is an incredibly important time of the year. Graduation is a time when we can join with our students and their families in celebrating and congratulating them on their individual achievements after many years of hard work and dedication. The prospect of addressing and inspiring an audience of two and a half thousand six times in a week is a daunting one, but I have to say that I am really looking forward to playing a small part in the graduations of students from across the breadth of the University. It is the combination of tradition with a sense of joyous celebration that makes the Dundee ceremonies so special. Students and staff alike will also be inspired by the achievements of our honorary graduands, who this year include eminent scientists, an Olympic cycling silver-medallist and a renowned writer and former bishop.

The University contributes to the cultural life of the city in manifold ways, and as Acting Principal I am experiencing some of this at first hand. Events range from individual talks and workshops to the sell-out events such as the Saturday Evening Lecture Series, which in its 85th year seems to be going from strength to strength. Still to come this year, of course, is the Dundee Literary Festival, which kicks off on 25 June with a talk by renowned illustrator and cartoonist, Gerald Scarfe, and which runs to 28 June.

I was also lucky enough to attend the launch of this year's art & design degree show, for the first time housed in the Vision building on Seabraes, which was attended by supermodel Erin O'Connor. This year visitor numbers to the show have exceeded expectations with over 7000 people attending within the first 24 hours of opening to see the work of over 260 graduating students.

Erin O'Connor is a trustee of the Victoria & Albert Museum and her enthusiastic participation on the opening night of the degree show is a boost to the campaign to establish a presence for the museum in the City of Discovery. Working in partnership with the V&A and the City of Dundee, the University is spearheading the campaign which aims to site a new art and design museum in Dundee that will house contemporary work and host many of the V&A's – and other international – blockbuster exhibitions. This is a project that unites all four Colleges of the University and will transform the cultural life and external perception of the city.

I hope I will see you at some or all of these events, and wish you all a relaxing summer.

**Professor Peter Downes • Acting Principal and Vice-Chancellor**



## First Minister hails Scotland's 'world-class' research

**First Minister Alex Salmond hailed Scotland's 'world-class reputation in medical and scientific research' when he visited the University in April to officially open the core research laboratory of the Translational Medicine Research Collaboration.**

The building at Ninewells provides a central research facility for the TMRC, a £58million venture involving four of Scotland's leading universities (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow), their corresponding health boards, Scottish Enterprise and global pharmaceutical company Wyeth. The partnership aims to raise the commercial profile of Scotland's translational research in five main therapeutic areas: cardiovascular, women's health, neurology, oncology and inflammation.

"The presence of the TMRC in Scotland is a growing testament to Scotland's world-class reputation in medical and scientific research," said the First Minister. "This new research laboratory will be a valuable resource in its ongoing efforts to lead the way in translational medicine.

"This is great news for Scottish healthcare and our growing portfolio of intellectual property. At a time of global economic uncertainty these are vital assets and every step in their progress during the current downturn could protect a job or support a breakthrough.

"The Scottish Government is determined to help stimulate innovation and job creation. That's why I'm delighted to open this new facility, which will help to deliver the advances that will put Scotland at the forefront of the next generation of treatments and medicines.

"The TMRC is an exciting and unique partnership that pulls together NHS research experience, the world-class achievements of Scotland's universities, and the expertise of a prominent business. These elements, combined with state-of-the art facilities, are certain to give Scotland the advantage of a world-leading clinical research platform."

The TMRC has already created more than 100 high value jobs across the universities, NHS and at the core laboratory. The purpose built laboratory at Ninewells has the capacity to accommodate up to 120 staff, as opposed to 35 in its previous location.

Professor Peter Downes, Acting Principal of the University of Dundee, said, "The TMRC's new Core Research Laboratory will provide a vital central research facility for its clinical and scientific research groups throughout Scotland. It will provide a world-class facility for the development and validation of biomarkers of disease which can be used to accelerate the discovery of experimental medicines by bridging a critical gap between preclinical and clinical studies."

Menelas Pangalos, Ph.D, Executive Vice President, Discovery Research, Wyeth Research, added, "As one of the world's leading research-driven pharmaceutical companies, Wyeth is delighted to be a core participant in the TMRC. We hope this collaborative initiative will play a vital role in delivering healthcare advances that really meet the needs of patients and the healthcare providers who care for them."

The TMRC was founded in April 2006 and is a £58 million deal funded by Scottish Enterprise, the four participating universities, NHS Grampian, NHS Lothian, NHS Edinburgh, NHS Glasgow and Wyeth.

Translational medicine is a revolutionary approach to developing new drugs and treatments which focuses research on new tests for diagnosing and monitoring disease. These new tests – called biomarkers – measure proteins and other markers in blood samples or on x-rays to follow patients' response to treatment.

The TMRC has so far resulted in 67 ongoing translational medicine research projects worth over £23 million. These are delivered across the partner institutions and the core TMRC laboratory in Dundee.

## Leading dental role for John Drummond



**Dr John Drummond, a Senior Lecturer and Consultant in Restorative Dentistry in the School of Dentistry, has been named the 123rd President of the British Dental Association (BDA). Dr Drummond was presented with his chain of office and made his first speech in his new role at a ceremony in Glasgow on the first day of the 2009 British Dental Conference and Exhibition in June. His role will see him act as an ambassador for the BDA both in the UK and overseas.**

Dr Drummond was born in Falkirk in 1957 and educated at Grangemouth High School. He was awarded his Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree - with commendation - by the University of Dundee in 1981. Seven years later he was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree by the same institution. He was made a Fellow in Dental Surgery by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 2000.

His teaching and research activities are in the fields of removable prosthodontics, workforce planning and dental careers and age identification from radiographs. Dr Drummond also has a longstanding interest in forensic dentistry and was twice deployed by the UK Government to Thailand to assist the international effort in identifying the bodies of the thousands of victims of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. He has written numerous refereed papers and has contributed to many publications as editor or author.

Dr Drummond has formerly held positions as President of the North of Scotland Branch of the British Dental Association, member of the Executive Board and Representative Body. He is a current member of the BDA's Central Committee for Dental Academic Staff and the BDA representative at Dundee Dental School.

Married to Christine, an oral surgeon, he has one son and one daughter. Outside dentistry his interests include fishing, photography and reading political biographies.

## Prestigious Fellowships awarded

**Three University of Dundee professors have recently been elected as Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences.**

Colin Watts, Professor of Immunobiology in the Division of Cell Biology and Immunology, Professor Irwin Maclean, Head of Division of Molecular Medicine, and Andrew Morris, Professor of Diabetic Medicine and Director of the Biomedical Research Institute will join 37 other new Fellows at an Admission Ceremony set to take place at the Academy of Medical Sciences in London on 24 June.

As Fellows, they will be expected to contribute to the aims of the Academy, an independent body which promotes advances in medical science and campaigns to ensure these are converted into healthcare benefits for society.

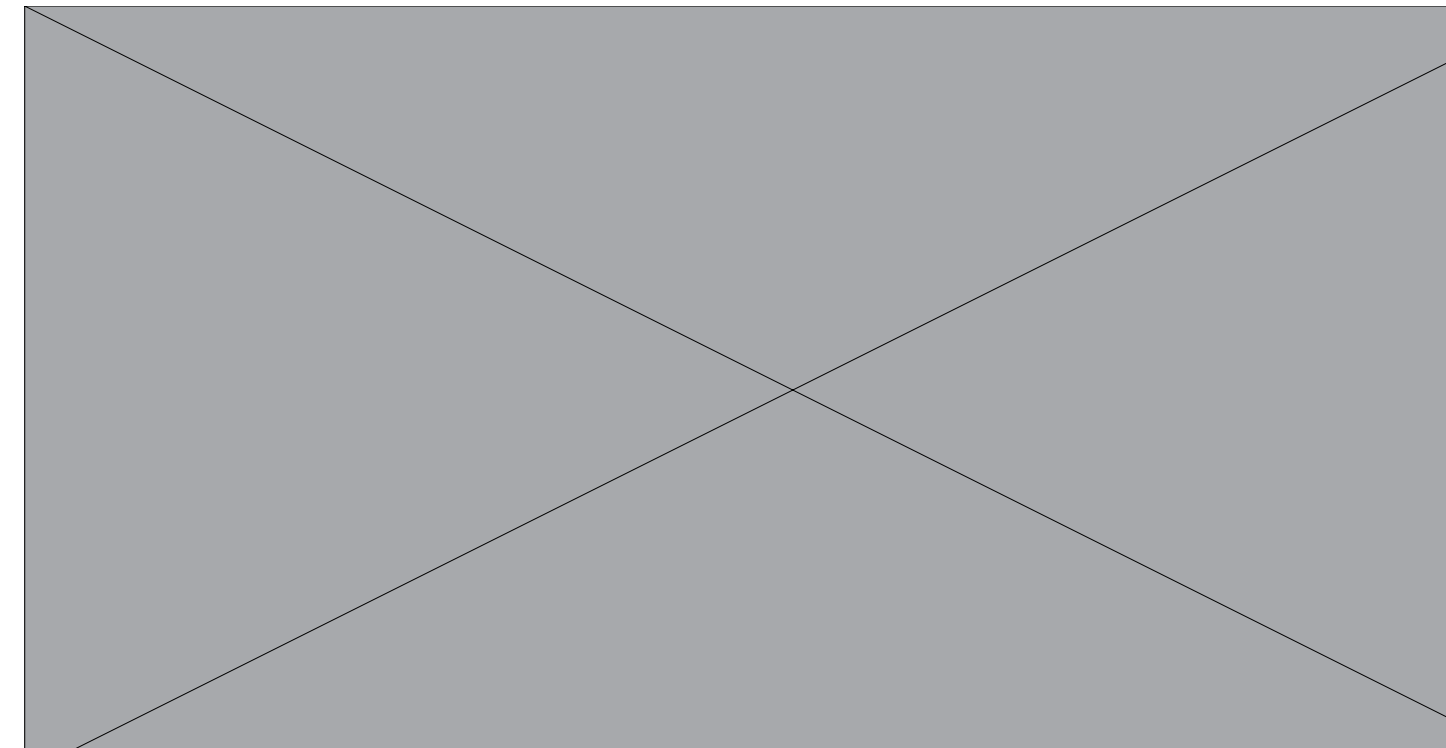
This year's Fellows were chosen from 369 candidates. Each nominee was backed by three existing Fellows, and seven Sectional Committees met in March to whittle the list of potential Fellows for 2009 down to just 40.

The successful candidates join less than a thousand distinguished medical scientists from UK hospitals, academia, industry and public service granted the honour of Fellowship, all of whom are judged to have made an outstanding contribution to medical science.

Professor Pete Downes, Acting Principal of the University of Dundee, said: 'All three new Fellows have dedicated their careers to understanding the causes of major diseases and this most recent recognition of their achievements is richly deserved.'

Supporting Homecoming Scotland 2009  
4 - 6 September 2009  
Camperdown Country Park  
**Dundee Flower & Food Festival**  
£2 off each ticket when you book before 3 Sept  
This year's celebrity line-up includes TV chef Nick Nairn and gardening broadcaster Frieda Morrison  
Tickets available on-line or from Dundee City Box Office Tel 01382 434940  
[www.dundeeflowerandfoodfestival.com](http://www.dundeeflowerandfoodfestival.com)  
Dundee City Council, EventScotland, Famous Grouse, Dundee City Council, Forestry Commission Scotland

## Developers of the Orange brand to work with Dundee design students



**A Dundee graduate based in New York is making an impact on the studies of today's Dundee design students.**

A new project will take third year graphic design students from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design on a 12-week course in creating and launching a brand from scratch.

The project came about as a result of the association between the University and Malcolm Buick, former student and now Design Director with the New York branch of Wolff Olins, one of the world's leading brand consultancies, responsible for the Orange brand among many others.

"This is a great opportunity for students to see what really happens in the industry," said Buick. "It will help them to understand what it will be like when they begin their own careers in design. We're looking forward to seeing the results."

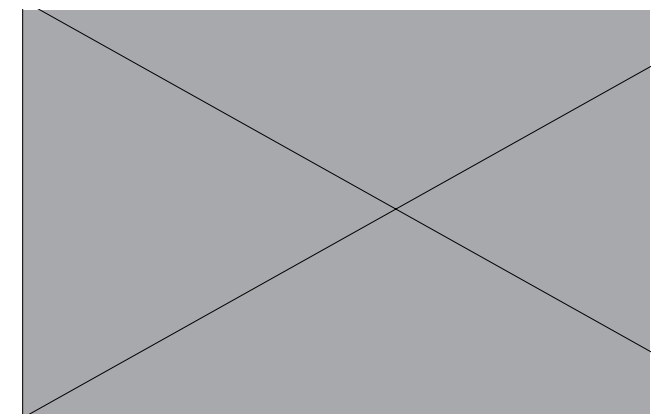
Phillip Vaughan, graphic design tutor at Duncan of Jordanstone, who will judge the results along side Buick, was also delighted. "Malcolm recognises the excellent grounding in Graphic Design we provide at DJCAD and we are hoping to make the project a regular fixture in Level 3 of the course."

Known for challenging the boundaries of design, Wolff Olins is a world-renowned brand consultancy with offices in London, New York and Dubai.

**"This is a great opportunity for students to see what really happens in the industry. We're looking forward to seeing the results."**

Many of the students involved in the project visited the company's studios during a study trip to New York in January.

Winners of the project will see their work showcased on the Wolff Olins website, and the project has the potential to lead to placements or jobs within the company.



# The Shed pots prizes for Architecture Dean

**Graeme Hutton, Dean of the School of Architecture, has become a double award winner after a landmark Perthshire home he designed received two prestigious industry prizes.**

Drummond House near Meigle, popularly known as ‘The Shed’, won a Royal Institute of British Architects (Riba) award and was named winner in the Residential category of the Scottish Design Awards.

The house was designed by Graeme and his late colleague David Jamieson, of LJRH Architects, who also taught at the University. Drummond House is inspired by the agricultural buildings in the area and Graeme’s experiences of playing in such buildings as a child growing up near Carnoustie.

House owner Peter Drummond used the energy-efficient plans for the property, which was designed to fit in with the surrounding landscape. The house is linked to the adjoining garage yet each has a separate roof form, and the interior is simple, open and full of light. The materials palette for the building is a careful response to its setting.

Graeme expressed his delight at the recognition, saying, “I’m very happy for the University and the School of Architecture to be recognised with such prestigious national awards. Hopefully the building will go onto get some international publicity and recognition.

“People seem fascinated by the fact the house so embedded in a fantastic Scottish landscape and I thin people find that appealing. We wanted to make something that’s completely harmonious and actually intensified the landscape rather than competed with it.”

Graeme also paid tribute to his late colleague, who he described as “terrifically gifted and very brave man.”

“Whilst it’s sad that he isn’t around to see the accolades Drummond House has received, it’s a nice legacy for his family to see that he created something so successful.”

Graeme joined the University as a lecturer in 2000, and became Dean six years later. In that time, he has seen many changes in the School of Architecture, both in terms of research output, which is reflected in the design of Drummond House, and the standard of student’s work.

“We are working in several areas of research, and Drummond House is one such project,” he continued. “If a School of Architecture is going to have a research output then buildings themselves are one such output.

“This building is a shift of perception in the way we build in relation to the landscape and we’ve started to receive attention from builders looking to develop the periphery of villages and rural landscapes in a meaningful way. Sense of belonging to a place is critical and something developers are beginning to pay more attention to.

“Other areas of research at the University include the likes of zero-carbon housing.

“One of our very distinguished external examiners said the School had transformed itself over the past few years and that’s due to the quality of the staff, and the research that takes place, here.

“The evolution of architecture at the University is reflected in this year’s Degree Show exhibits, which display a poetry, lyricism and inventiveness. We allow students to find and develop their individual specialisms and this is something that gives them an advantage when they enter the jobs market, even in these challenging times.”

# Lucky Heather weaves her way to NYC

**Stepping foot inside the shopping mecca that is Saks on New York’s Fifth Avenue is the stuff of dreams for any ‘Sex In The City’-inspired fashion follower, but Heather Darling, a 4th year textile design student at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design went one better last month when she got the chance to show off her creations at the prestigious store.**

Heather (21), from Melrose, was one of only four students picked from around Scotland to attend a special networking event to promote the Scottish fashion industry in America.

The event was held as part of this year’s Scotland Week celebrations in April and was attended by Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, who sported a specially-created dress by Graeme Armour, winner of Young Designer of the Year at the Scottish Fashion Awards.

“I was absolutely thrilled to get to go,” said Heather. “As far as I’m aware I was put forward by my course leaders here, so it was a massive confidence boost for me as I was in the stages of preparing my final work for my degree.

“It was a great chance to show off my work to people who I might never have been able to reach otherwise. There were a lot of other established designers there and business people based in the States, so just to get my name out there was a real bonus.”

The event included work from established names in Scotland’s fashion scene such as Mackintosh, Hillary Rohde, Sandra Murray and Lochcarron.

Heather’s own work involves the design of woven textiles, directed towards contemporary fashion. She hand weaves all her own fabric using traditional techniques but then uses these to produce something startlingly new.

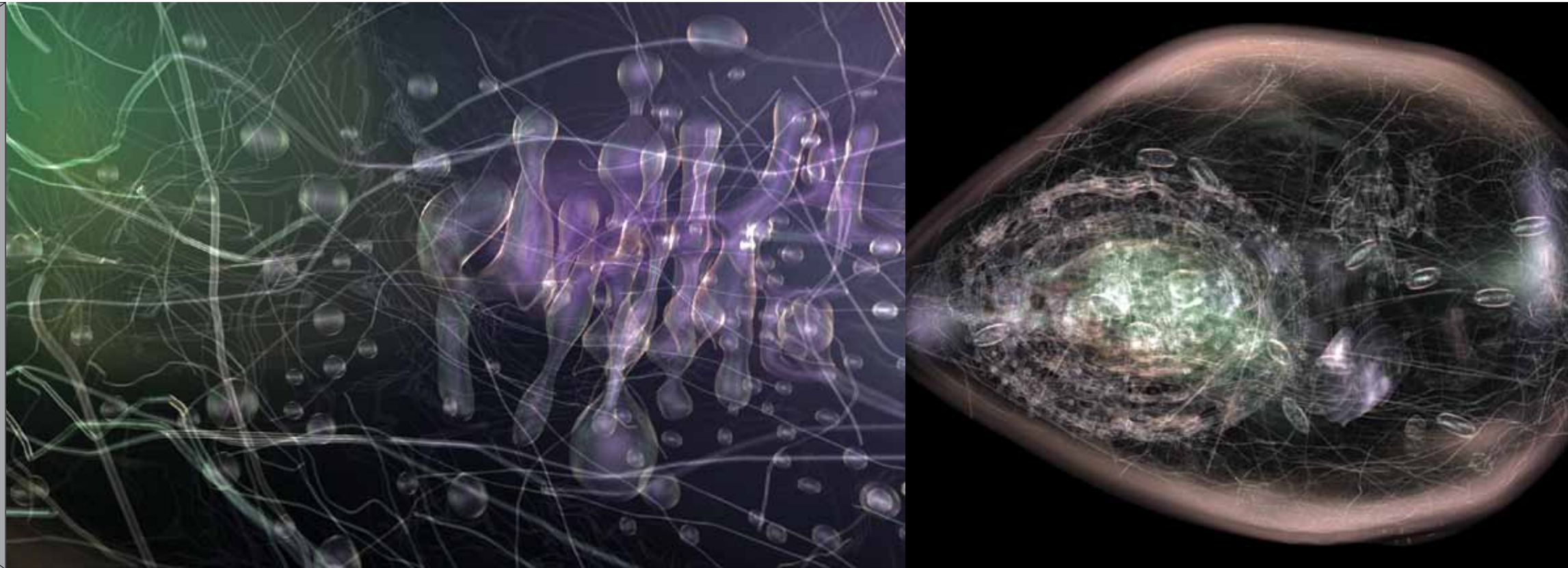


Heather (far right) in New York with the other students and Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon (centre)

“I enjoy working with different and contrasting yarn types in my woven fabrics to create highly tactile surfaces and textures,” said Heather. “My work mainly explores the double cloth structure, mixing wool with finer yarns such as polyester and Japanese silk - these bubble up on the surface of the wool which shrinks when washed.

“I like to use quite irregular patterns and, being very inspired by aged surfaces and layering, love to work with blending and colour gradients. My fabric is directed towards fashion, primarily womenswear and I feel it would work most successfully used within simple, draped and loosely gathered constructions where the intricacy of the fabric itself can be displayed to its full potential.”

# Honours for University's Top Teachers



**The inaugural winners of the Chancellor's Award for Lifetime Contribution to Teaching have been named as part of this year's Learning and Teaching Awards made by the University.**

The University makes awards for innovation and excellence in teaching every year, including the Honorary Graduates' Award for Innovative Teaching and the Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching and this year, for the first time, the Lifetime Contribution Award.

The winners of the Lifetime Contribution Award were named as **Professor Margery Davis**, of the Centre for Medical Education; **Dr Allan Jones**, School of Life Sciences (Learning & Teaching); and **Robin White**, School of Law all received this year's Chancellor's Award for Lifetime Contribution to Teaching.

They will each receive a certificate of recognition, the title of Chancellor's Award Fellow, an invitation to an award dinner hosted by the Principal and/or other senior members of the University, and the opportunity to accept the award during the University's Graduation ceremonies.

The University's Vice-Principal of Educational Development, Professor James Calderhead said, "The University aims to excel in both teaching and research and recognises and rewards innovation, excellence and outstanding achievement in contributions to teaching through the Teaching Awards structure.

"The high standards of teaching at the University have been reflected in this year's submissions made for the Honorary Graduates' Award and the Senate Award, and further endorsed by student nominations for the Senate Award.

"We are also delighted to be able to announce the winners of this year's inaugural Chancellor's Award for Lifetime Contribution to Teaching which sees three colleagues recognised for their contributions."

The winners of the Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching 2008-09, who each receive a certificate of recognition, a personal prize of £3,000 and the title of Senate Award Fellow, are:

- **Professor Mono Chatterji**, School of Social & Environmental Sciences.
- **Dr Fraser Smith**, School of Engineering, Physics & Mathematics.

**Dr James Stewart** of the School of Humanities, College of Art and Social Sciences was highly commended for his work.

The Honorary Graduates' Award for Innovative Teaching has been presented annually since 1994, providing the opportunity to recognise and reward innovation in any aspect of teaching within the University. Winning submissions receive £1,000.

The 2008/09 winners, who now have the opportunity to present to colleagues at Learning & Teaching Lunches in the autumn, are:

- **Dr Nicholas Brewer**, School of Life Sciences (Learning and Teaching) and **Ms Margaret Adamson**, Library & Learning Centre.
- **Mr Andy Milligan**, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design.
- **Dr Mhairi Towler**, College of Life Sciences and **Ms Janice Aitken**, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design.

Submissions from the following members of staff were highly commended by the judging panel:

- **Dr Janet Hughes** and **Professor Peter Gregor**, School of Computing.
- **Ms Fiona Muir**, **Ms Sally Bradley**, **Ms Isabella McLafferty**, **Ms Irene McTaggart**, School of Nursing and Midwifery.
- **Ms Phyllis Winters**, **Ms Iona Duckett**, **Ms Clare Winter**, School of Nursing and Midwifery & Montrose Maternity Unit.

Images show work created by Janice Aitken and Mhairi Towler's 'Cell Learning Tool'

“The high standards of teaching at the University have been reflected in this year's submissions made for the Honorary Graduates' Award and the Senate Award, and further endorsed by student nominations for the Senate Award.”

# Prestigious 'Young Scientist' Award goes to Dundee Professor

Professor Frank Sargent, of the Division of Molecular Microbiology at the College of Life Sciences, has become the first UK winner of the prestigious Young Scientist Award presented by the journal of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies.

"I am delighted to be the first ever winner of this international award to come from the UK," said Professor Sargent. "It is further evidence for the growing reputation of molecular microbiology at the University of Dundee. Winning this came as a complete surprise, but this sort of international recognition is brilliant for us and testament to all the great people I have in my team here.

"Science is a very competitive business,' added Professor Sargent, 'and it's important to publish the first paper, rather than wait a year to publish the best paper."

Professor Sargent will be highlighted in a special issue of the journal, and will be formally presented with the Award and give a presentation of his work to over 1000 delegates at a major congress in Prague in July. He also receives a prize of £10,000.

The FEBS Young Scientist Award is given to the author of the best paper published in the scientific journal FEBS Letters, one of the world's leading journals in biochemistry. The journal is renowned for its speed of publication – they published Professor Sargent's discovery in two weeks.

Professor Sargent with some of his team



The winner of the FEBS Letters prize is selected by an international committee. Professor Sargent is the seventh winner of the award, with previous winners having come from Japan, Germany, South Korea and the United States.

Professor Sargent's research focuses on how bacteria such as *E. coli* and *Salmonella* live and grow. He and his team have made several important discoveries in this field and have published their findings widely.

The paper for FEBS Letters – titled 'Features of a twin-arginine signal peptide required for recognition by a Tat proofreading chaperone' – concentrated on a process of "protein targeting" which make some bacteria infectious and provided new insight in how this works at the molecular level. Bacteria could potentially be manipulated to inhibit this process and render them harmless.

Despite the large number of researchers around the world who are now working on this area, Professor Sargent is confident his team will continue to be at the cutting-edge of research. "We are the best placed laboratory world-wide to design a test to interfere with this process in bacteria," he said.

The work which led to the paper published in FEBS Letters was funded by a grant from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, which focuses research funds on studying the healthy rather than unhealthy organism. 'This paper is a direct result of that funding,' said Professor Sargent, adding that this year only 16% of projects have been given grant money, making funding for these sorts of projects in the future a lottery.

And what will he do with all that money? "This was a team effort', said Sargent, "and the money will go to the team. We can spend it on travel to conferences, or speculative experiments – the kind that it is difficult to justify spending precious grant money on.

"We'll use the money to do some more good science – but not before we spend some of it on a big party!"

## Saturday Evening Lecture Series 2009

The 2009 series of Saturday Evening Lectures drew to a close in April with a packed hall captivated by distinguished political commentator and journalist Charlie Cook and his analysis of Barack Obama's first 100 days in office.

Almost 4000 people attended this year's series, proving it remains extremely popular as it moves into its 86th year. Joan Concannon, Director of External Relations, said the feedback from the audiences who attended in such great numbers throughout this year's series was hugely encouraging.

"We had people attending our lectures from all over Scotland and the ages ranged from 8 to over 80, and the response across the board was immensely enthusiastic," said Joan.

"We are incredibly grateful for the continuing support we see from the public for the lecture series. The success of the series has enabled us to develop further public engagement activities, not least the Dundee Literary Festival, the Literary Salons and the Christmas Lecture. We are also grateful to our supporting partners, Apex Hotels and Borders for their continuing support of the lecture series.

"The series remains at the heart of the University's belief in public engagement with our community."

The 2009 series welcomed some truly remarkable speakers beginning with Deyan Sudjic, the inspirational director of the Design Museum.



Deyan Sudjic pictured with work by students from the University's Product Design course.

Using nothing more than a series of photographs and a random collection of words on a postcard, Deyan held the audience of nearly 500 people spellbound as he set forth his views on the importance of design as a central element of every day life.

The University's own Professor Anne Anderson gave a hugely insightful speech on the way in which digital developments daily encroach upon all our lives and an analysis on the impact of these issues on privacy, while Hugh Aldersey-Williams examined the way in which media scare stories get built up so rapidly and then just as rapidly get discarded, in The Mad Science of Media Scare Stories.

The series then took a familial turn as Christopher Somerville, the acclaimed travel writer and broadcaster consented to a fascinating interview conducted by his sister, the equally renowned broadcaster, Julia Somerville. The talk encompassed everything from their childhood memories of becoming interested in the natural world to Christopher describing his ideal location – an island off the coast of Scotland – which in fact was revealed to be located entirely and only in his lively imagination.

Continuing the family remembrance theme, Yasmin Alibhai-Brown presented a wonderful, warm and funny lecture based on her best-selling family memoir, The Settler's Cookbook which looks at the way in which immigrants adapt to new situations and places through their culinary traditions.

The series concluded with Charlie Cook's up to the minute political analysis of President Obama's first 100 days in office. Once again the audience was captivated by a speaker who spoke eloquently and with a deep understanding of the American political psyche of the Obama phenomenon and the challenges which lie ahead. This last lecture was jointly hosted by the University's Graduates Council Discovery Lecture and the Lord Provost hosted a civic reception.

# Bridging the Digital Divide

**We are living in an age of blindingly fast advances in digital technology where today's must-have product is tomorrow's forgotten fad, and where everyone 'must' be switched on to the digital world. The switch-off of the UK's analogue television signal is just one sign of the relentless march of digital.**

But what about those who have been left behind, either by choice or being pushed to the margins? There is increasing recognition that the digital revolution has either passed by large sections of society or simply excluded them. Poor health, disability, family breakdown, poverty and unemployment are just some of the reasons why people of all ages may become marginalised from society – and may lack the skills, confidence or opportunities to access and benefit from digital technologies.

Researchers at the University are at the forefront of efforts to find out how these communities can become more engaged with the 'digital economy'. Professor Vicki Hanson in the School of Computing is leading the Dundee end of a £12million collaboration with Newcastle, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, which will address four fields where digital technologies and the building of a truly inclusive digital economy could deliver major social benefits: Connected Home & Community; Accessibility; Inclusive Transport Services; and Creative Industries.

"There are a lot of people out there who have never connected at all, either because they can't get connected for some reason or they just haven't bothered," said Vicki. "As strange as it may seem to some, having a broadband connection or e-mail isn't a necessity for modern living and some people have simply preferred not to get involved with it, while others have found they are effectively prevented from getting access to it.

"There is an assumption that we have got all we need, and that it is your fault if you haven't taken advantage of all these wonderful things. But for some people these things just don't seem interesting or useful."

Dr Jon Rogers, who leads the Product Design course at Dundee, is heavily involved in another EPSRC project 'Bespoke' looking at a socially responsible way of connecting people in a deprived community in Preston to the growing digital economy – something that at present they are largely not included in.

"The challenge for us is how do we design new tools or applications that make people want to use these new technologies?" said Jon.

"We are trying to harness community skills and bring the community together to let them have a say in what they would like to see and to have a hand in developing the kind of tools they might use and that they might find helpful.

"What is clear is that it can't just be about chucking everything online and leaving people to get on with it. People still have to interact socially, and we do find that many people simply don't want to do their banking online or get their messages online – they want to go to the bank or the supermarket and see people they know.

"We have to get people involved if we are to find out what it is they want. There is almost a technological line which has been drawn that says 'we've got what we need now'. But it isn't enough and if people haven't engaged with what is there already then we have to look at what else we can offer. There are still so many gaps that need to be filled.

"There is no doubt that these people can benefit from much that the digital world can offer, but we have to give them a way into it."

This is a theme which Vicki firmly echoes. "What works for 20- or 30-somethings often doesn't work for the older generation. Too often things have been very tech-dominated. It has always been about building something that is faster or smaller or has more memory. To the 20-something guys developing this, that's great, but they are effectively building things for themselves. For the people who aren't engaged with technology these things are effectively meaningless. And nobody is bothering to develop for the older community, who actually have most of the money and power, so you would think it would be an audience people would want to reach.

"The traditional way of developing has been, 'We've had this great idea, let's design the thing and then we'll go and market it and tell people it's great and they need it.' The problem with that is that at no point has anyone stopped to ask people if they would want to use it.

"The sort of projects we are involved with are about getting people involved in that process much earlier, so we can give them something they actually want."

The University has been a leader in engaging with people in the community to see how they can better interact with new technologies, particularly older people and those with disabilities. Regular user groups held in the Queen Mother Building see healthy numbers of older people attending to learn more about using computers.

"The people that join in with our user groups tend to come because they have found there is something they need to do or want to do," said Vicki. "Their grandchildren or children have done something on the computer that they have found interesting, or they have friends who have started putting pictures online, that sort of thing. We have quite a few who got involved after their families turned them on to the phone service Skype, which is a great tool for people with families living far apart.

"People do feel pressurised by all this technology and internet stuff they see. The most potent example is that of television programmes and adverts which advertise additional content at www.whatever, and that can lead to people starting to feel excluded. And for many people they do see real hurdles to getting involved with it.

"There is a fundamental difference in the way older people tend to approach computers. If you sit kids in front of a computer they will just start clicking away and figuring how to do things. Older people have more of a fear of clicking something and causing a problem and they question everything. Before clicking they will ask 'what does that do?' and 'but what if I do this and then that happens?' Younger people don't tend to show the same apprehension of what might go wrong, which immediately makes it easier for them to get involved and start using the machine.

"So we have to find ways of making people more comfortable with how they can access the sort of benefits and services this technology can offer. The user groups are key in this – our volunteers help determine the direction of our research from the outset, and are able to work with them to test potential solutions, including different ways of equipping people with the digital skills they need and providing them with information necessary to access services."

Part of the problem is undoubtedly that many people find computers themselves daunting, with the lack of a simple 'switch-on-and-go' option an immediate hurdle to be overcome. But there is hope that may be overcome by more specialised design offerings.

"From the product design point of view there is an increasing move away from the computer," said Jon. "You see that with something like Skype, who are now making their own phone to make the service more accessible. The PC is a great prototyping platform where you can try these things out, but once they have been shown to work they can be moved into more accessible areas and that may help people engage with these things more readily."



“What is clear is that it can't just be about chucking everything online and leaving people to get on with it. People still have to interact socially – they want to go to the bank or the supermarket and see people they know.”

The benefits of getting to grips with technology are clearly shown by Dundee couple John and Joyce Gibson, both 74, who are keen members of the existing user group at the School of Computing.

John helps lead an older person computer group at the University. He came to computers late in life, during his early 60's, but quickly saw the benefits and opportunities that they could offer him. John spent some time learning by himself, but he was lucky that the village he was living in at the time got a new computer centre set up as an outreach programme from a local college. Inside the centre were plenty of learning materials. With no staff support at the centre, John quickly found himself teaching others at the same time as learning himself.

As his skills and confidence grew, he was keen to encourage and entice others to try it out. The least convinced was Joyce, who took a decade of convincing before she really gave computers a chance. Joyce is still very clear that she is not a 'computer person' but she appreciates that computers do have their uses. She likes using email to keep in contact with an old school friend who now lives in Australia. She is also happy to use the Internet to find out information such as planning holidays, as long as someone is with her to help. She is so sold on the possibilities of the Internet that she often uses 'google' as a verb synonymous with looking up information.

John has such a passion about what computers can do for older people that he rarely misses a session at the computer group. His experience has shown that most older people have a trigger that prompts them to want to learn to use new technology. People come to learn how to keep in touch with loved ones over email/webcams, how to access online 'no more bag carrying' shopping, or to find out how to use gadgets like MP3 players and digital cameras (gadgets often given to them as presents by tech-savvy grandchildren).

"John and Joyce's experience shows that people will often find something useful if you can get them involved," said Vicki. "We just need to work harder and be more imaginative about how we do that. That is where the kind of research projects being done here will take us."

Door Printer by Product Design graduate Robert DJaelani



# BRILLIANT AND BONKERS!

It started with a dazzling catwalk show and a supermodel becoming the first customer of a student designer, proceeded to welcome 7000 people within a day of opening, and ended being roundly acclaimed as a brilliant show.

In fashion icon Erin O'Connor's words, Dundee Degree Show 2009 – the annual showcase for graduates from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design – was 'bonkers and brilliant!'. Erin was so impressed that she immediately bought a jacket by textile design student Hayley Scanlan.

*The Scotsman* meanwhile said Dundee's Degree Show had 'set the bar so high that the others will be running to catch up.'

This year's show took place in the Vision building at Seabraes, which was made available to the College by James Keiller Services, on behalf of Horizon Capital. Over 260 graduating students displayed their degree projects across the disciplines of fine art, design, textiles, jewellery, animation and digital imaging.

Degree Show capped a very successful year for the College, which was rated one of the UK's top colleges for research in art and design in the Research Assessment Exercise 2008.



ABOVE • ERIN O'CONNOR WITH TEXTILE DESIGNER HAYLEY SCANLAN  
 ABOVE RIGHT • STACEY GALFSKIY, ILLUSTRATION  
 BELOW LEFT • JESSICA RAM, TIME BASED ART  
 BELOW • JESSICA BUCHANAN, JEWELLERY & METAL DESIGN  
 BELOW RIGHT • AILSA LAWSON, TIME-BASED ART & DIGITAL FILM

RIGHT •  
 PREVIEW NIGHT /  
 'DESIGNS ON...  
 THE FUTURE'  
 VIP CATWALK EVENT





Image courtesy of Alan Dimmick

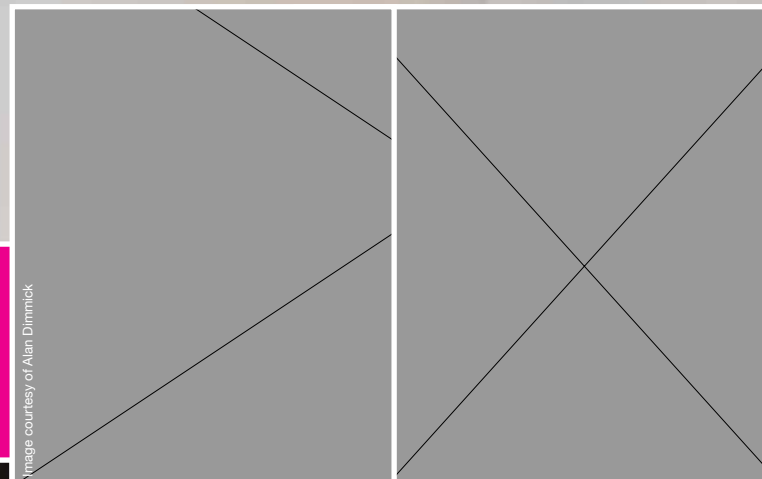
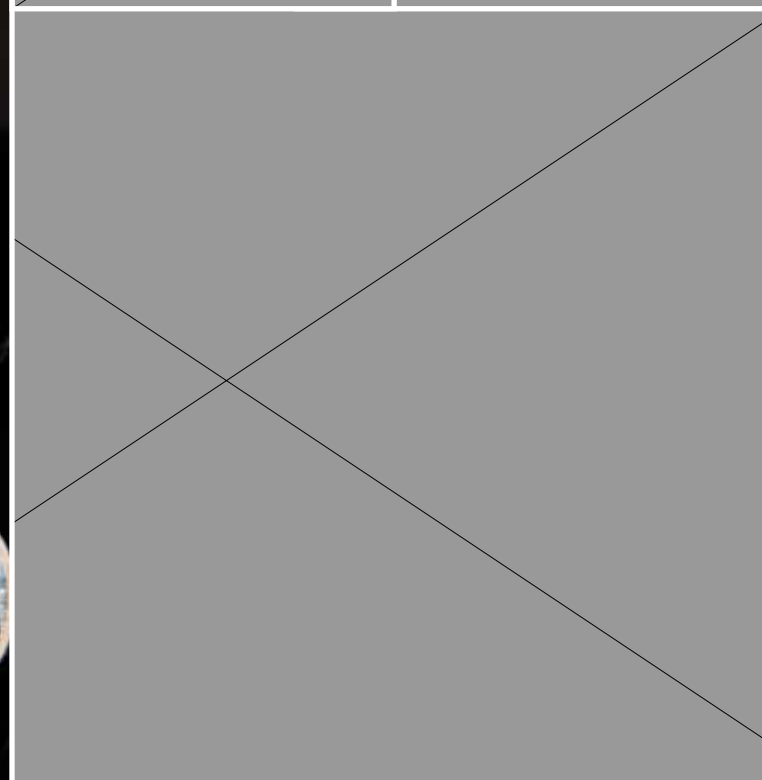


Image courtesy of Alan Dimmick

ABOVE • ERIN O'CONNOR WITH FINE ARTIST RYAN GORDON  
RIGHT • OMAR BHATIA, ART, PHILOSOPHY, CONTEMPORARY PRACTICES  
FAR RIGHT • LYNSEY COKE, TEXTILE DESIGN  
BELOW LEFT • KATE TWEDDLE, JEWELLERY & METAL DESIGN  
BELOW RIGHT • SEONAI BURNIE, TEXTILE DESIGN



Graduation 09 marks the culmination of the University year, a time to celebrate academic success and emerging talent and showcase the University and its achievements to the many thousands of visitors who flock to the campus and the city.

This year more than 2500 students will graduate in six ceremonies at the Caird Hall, held over three days. This is one of the most colourful events of the year and a time to say a hearty 'well done!' to all of those crossing the stage to receive their degrees.

The University strives for excellence in teaching and research and to provide students with an experience they will remember for life. Similarly, we also aim to recognise excellence in the wider world and to that end six new honorary graduates, leading figures in fields ranging from sport to science, will take part in Graduation this year.

On each day of Graduation, crowds will flock to the Garden Parties held on the Campus Green, a beautiful green space in the heart of the campus.

They may also take time to sample the **Dundee Literary Festival**, taking place on campus from **June 25th to 28th**. This is the biggest festival yet and with authors such as **David Peace**, **Hardeep Singh-Kolhi** and **John Gray** taking part – as well as the announcement of the winner of the **2009 Dundee International Book Prize**.

## graduation timetable

### wednesday, 24th june 2009

10am • Graduation Ceremony, Caird Hall  
Schools of:

- Humanities
- Psychology
- Social & Environmental Sciences

2.30pm • Graduation Ceremony, Caird Hall  
Schools of:

- Accounting & Finance
- Law
- Education, Social Work and Community Education

Honorary degree bestowed on **Richard Holloway**

4pm • Garden Party, Campus Green

### thursday, 25th june 2009

10am • Graduation Ceremony, Caird Hall  
• Postgraduate School of Management & Policy  
• School of Architecture  
• College of Life Sciences

Honorary degrees bestowed on  
**Professor Matthias Mann** and **Professor Frank Walsh**

2.30pm • Graduation Ceremony, Caird Hall  
• Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design  
• School of Computing  
• School of Engineering, Physics and Mathematics

4pm • Garden Party, Campus Green

### friday, 26th june 2009

10am Graduation Ceremony, Caird Hall  
\* School of Nursing & Midwifery

2.30pm Graduation Ceremony, Caird Hall  
• School of Medicine  
• School of Dentistry

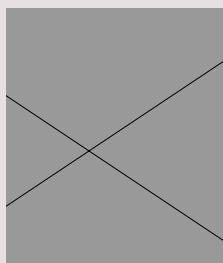
Honorary degrees bestowed on **Wendy Houvenaghel**,  
**Sir David Weatherall** and **Sir Paul Nurse**

4pm • Garden Party, Campus Green

# Honorary Graduates 2009

graduation  
2009

**Richard Holloway** is a writer and broadcaster on moral, ethical and religious issues. He has written over 25 books, including *Godless Morality: Keeping Religion out of Ethics*, published in 1998 when he was Anglican Bishop and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, and most recently *Between the Monster and the Saint*.

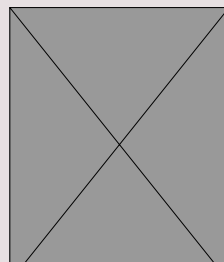


A controversial figure in the Church, Richard Holloway had a reputation for not being afraid of challenging the perceptions of what Christianity is or should be. Since leaving the Church, his thoughtful prose on complex ethical issues has found a broad audience in Scotland and beyond.

He received his theological training in Edinburgh and New York City, and from 1959 ministered in England, Scotland and the United States until his resignation from the Church in 2000.

He has been a member of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and held the position of chair of the BMA Steering Group on Ethics and Genetics. He has written for many newspapers and is a regular presenter on radio and television, including hosting several BBC television series, including *The Sword and the Cross* and the BBC Radio Scotland book review programme, *Cover Stories*.

He became Chairman of the Scottish Arts Council in 2005. He is Chair of the Arts Council funded *Sistema Scotland*, a charity based on the model of the National Network of Youth and Children's Orchestras of Venezuela, helping to introduce music within a symphony orchestra to deprived young people in Scotland.



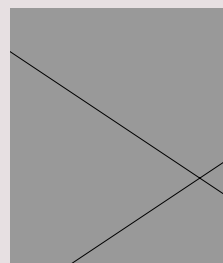
**Wendy Houvenaghel** is a Dundee alumna and an Olympic silver medallist—she won an individual silver medal in the Women's 3000m pursuit at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Wendy is also a reigning World Champion, being part of the British trio who won the World Championship Team Pursuit for women in Poland this March, repeating the team's success of 2008.

She also won silver at the same competition in the Women's individual pursuit, narrowly missing out on gold.

Wendy studied Dentistry at the University of Dundee, and after graduating in 1998 began a career as a dentist within the Royal Air Force, ultimately being promoted to squadron leader in 2003. In 2006 she gave up dentistry to become a full-time track cyclist, and represented England at the Commonwealth Games that year.

Having been a keen cross-country runner at school and during university, Wendy took up cycling 'for a change' to relax and recover after completing the London marathon in April 2002 – having not been on a bike for ten years.

She took part in her first road race in September that year, and was quickly spotted and selected for Team GB in 2003, first competing on the world stage in 2005, when aged 31. Wendy now lives in Cornwall with her husband Ian, whom she met while a student in Dundee. She is in training for Olympics 2012.



**Professor Matthias Mann** is one of the world's most prominent scientists, and a pioneer in the field of mass spectrometry and proteomics, analysing the elemental composition of a molecule or protein.

He is the recipient of numerous international prizes and medals, and was the second most cited scientist in the ten years up to 2007, having published 330 articles with 42,000 citations.

After studying mathematics and physics at the University of Goettingen, he received his PhD in 1988 from Yale University, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense. He then became group leader at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, returning to Odense as a Professor for Bioinformatics.

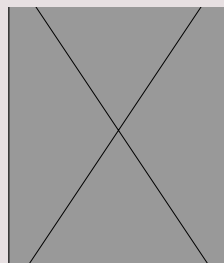
Since 2005 he has been Professor and Director at the Max-Planck-Institut for Biochemistry in Berlin, where he has developed ground-breaking methods and technologies which have become essential in proteomics laboratories.

Using these new technologies, Professor Mann has collaborated with Professor Angus Lamond, Head of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Gene Regulation & Expression at the College of Life Sciences here at Dundee, to study in unprecedented detail how proteins move inside human cancer cells.

Professor Mann has contributed significantly to the understanding of the human genome and its protein products, which will ultimately lead to a far greater understanding of the future molecular mechanisms of human disease.

**Sir Paul Nurse** is a leading British biochemist who was jointly awarded the 2001 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discoveries regarding cell cycle regulation by cyclin and cyclin dependent kinases.

Born into a fairly humble background, he only recently discovered that he was raised by his grandparents, his 'sister' being his real mother. His family encouraged his academic interests, though initially he was barred from going to University because he lacked a foreign language qualification. After working as a technician in a microbiological laboratory, he was eventually accepted at the University of Birmingham to study biology, followed by a PhD from the University of East Anglia.



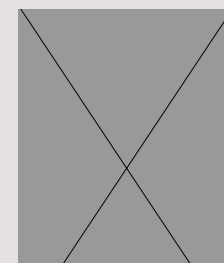
He then moved to Edinburgh, where his research began in earnest. He quickly identified an important gene in yeast, leading to the discovery of the gene which controls cell division. This has since contributed to important new treatments and medicines for cancer.

In 1984, he joined the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (now Cancer Research UK), moving to the University of Oxford in 1988 to become Chair at the Department of Microbiology. Later he returned to the ICRF as Director of Research and then Director General.

Dubbed 'the David Beckham of science' by *The Sun*, Sir Paul is famed not only for his scientific reputation but for his leadership qualities, his outspoken views and his unequivocal support for some controversial topics, such as cloning human embryos for stem cell research.

Sir Paul is a winner of the Royal Medal, the Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research, the French Legion d'Honneur and the Copley Medal, and has been elected a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In 2003, he became both University President and Professor at the Laboratory of Yeast Genetics and Cell Biology at the Rockefeller University in New York City. He continues to work there on the cell cycle of fission yeast.



**Sir David Weatherall** is Regius Professor of Medicine Emeritus and retired Honorary Director of the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine at the University of Oxford.

He is a leading world expert in haematology, specifically the molecular genetics of common inherited anaemias, and has particular interest in working with developing countries in the management and prevention of these diseases, with collaborators in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, Canada, Vietnam and Kenya.

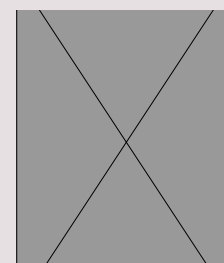
Sir David gained his degree in Medicine from the University of Liverpool in 1956, and then spent two years in National Service in Singapore, where his interest in haematology was sparked. Working out his medical training there, the critically ill child of a Gurka soldier appeared on his ward, and Sir David was able to diagnose an inherited anaemic disease – the first time it had been identified in that region.

Publication in the *British Medical Journal* followed, and he has worked in the field ever since. National Service was followed by a Fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. He returned to Liverpool, eventually becoming Professor of Haematology, before being appointed as the Nuffield Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Oxford, and in 1992 became Regius Professor of Medicine.

Sir David retired from Oxford in 2000, and the institute which he had helped to found in 1989 was renamed in his honour. In 2002 at the age of 69 he became Chancellor of Keele University, and was instrumental in establishing its new School of Medicine.

In 2005-6 he chaired The Weatherall committee, commissioned to conduct an independent review into the use of primates in animal research. Sir David was knighted in 1987 and was winner of the Royal Medal for Medicine in 1989. He has sat for the National Portrait Gallery and is a Distinguished Supporter of the British Humanist Association.

**Frank Walsh** is Professor of Neuroscience at Kings College London and interim Research Director of Kings Health Partners.



Born in Wishaw, Professor Walsh started his scientific career with an undergraduate degree in biochemistry from the University of Strathclyde and a subsequent Ph.D. in biochemistry from University College London. His post-doctoral training was conducted under the tutelage of the Nobel Prize winner Marshall Nirenberg at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland, USA.

From 1979-1986 he served as Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Neurochemistry at the Institute of Neurology before being appointed the Wellcome Trust Senior Lecturer at the Institute in 1986. In 1989, he moved to the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals (UMDS), London, becoming the Sir William Dunn Professor of Experimental Pathology, and later served as the UMDS's Research Dean.

In 1997, Frank moved to SmithKline Beecham (SB) Pharmaceuticals to become Vice President and Director of Neuroscience Research, subsequently becoming Senior Vice President and Head of the Neurology-Centre of Excellence for Drug Discovery following the merger of the company with Glaxo Wellcome.

From 2002 to 2009 he was Senior Vice President and Head of Discovery Research at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in Philadelphia. In this role he was responsible for overseeing the transition of more than 80 novel drug candidates into clinical development for a number of devastating diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Stroke, Schizophrenia, Cancer, Diabetes, Osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid Arthritis and COPD.

He has been a passionate advocate for academic science departments working closely with their industrial counterparts to aid drug discovery, and was closely involved with the development of the Translational Medicine Research Collaboration between Scotland's leading medical science universities and Wyeth.



# Comic book-ends to Literary Festival

From Thursday 25 to Sunday 28 June the third Dundee Literary Festival will host numerous events, workshops and book launches as well as leading authors in all genres – from children’s to cartoons to comics to crime.

Opening the Festival will be cartoonist and illustrator Gerald Scarfe, who is considered one of the world’s greatest living caricaturists, when he will discuss his career with the audience in Dundee.

Scarfe, who received an Honorary degree from the University in 2007, established himself as a satirical cartoonist with publications such as *Punch* and *Private Eye* in the early 1960s. His diverse career has included designing sets and costumes for plays, operas and musicals, providing the illustrations for the opening sequences of both *Yes, Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister* television shows, plus the animation for Pink Floyd’s *The Wall* and Walt Disney’s *Hercules*, which he also directed.

He still regularly writes for a number of newspapers and magazines, and has published several books. His latest, *Monsters: How George Bush Saved The World & Other Tall Stories*, was published last November.

‘We’re delighted that Gerald Scarfe is opening the third Dundee Literary Festival,’ said Anna Day, Festival Director. ‘We have a fantastic and varied programme, there really is something for everyone.’

Other top authors visiting include David Peace, renowned author of *The Damned United* and the *Red-Riding Quartet* and *Straw Dogs* writer John Gray, plus children’s authors Joan Lingard and Anne Fine.

The festival will end on Sunday 28th June with a one-day Comics Programme, which will include a workshop on writing for graphic novels, plus sessions on British science fiction comics.

The Gerald Scarfe lecture takes place at the Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill, and admission costs £3 for adults and £2 for concessions. Tickets are available by calling 01382 384413 or by emailing [literarydundee@gmail.com](mailto:literarydundee@gmail.com).

The full programme for the Dundee Literary Festival is available online at [www.dundeeliteraryfest.org](http://www.dundeeliteraryfest.org)

## Dundee International Book Prize

The winner of the £10,000 Dundee International Book Prize will be announced on 26 June at a special dinner, hosted at the Apex, major sponsors of the Book Prize.

The 160 international entries have been whittled down to a short list of three, and the winner will be decided by a judging panel chaired by award-winning author Kirsty Gunn, Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Dundee, and including journalist, author and broadcaster Magnus Linklater, a former chairman of the Scottish Arts Council.

Jointly run by the City of Discovery Campaign, the University of Dundee and Birlinn Ltd, the Dundee International Book Prize is now coveted as the UK’s top prize for an unpublished novel. Its £10,000 cash award together with publication by Birlinn, make the prize highly valued by upcoming writers seeking to break into the publishing world.



## court news

At its April meeting, the Court focussed most attention on the contents of the funding letters from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). The Court also received an introductory presentation from the Deputy Principal & Dean of Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, Professor Georgina Follett, on refurbishment proposals for the Crawford and Matthew Buildings.

### Funding Arrangements

The Court received a paper from the Director of Finance which summarised the contents of the funding letters from the SFC. This year, following the reorganisation of funding into two streams, the university had received two separate funding letters, one for each stream. The Horizon Fund comprised 11% of the overall funding for universities and for 2009/10 this was being distributed according to pre-existing funding levels. In future this stream would be more closely aligned to the delivery of national strategic objectives as defined by the Scottish Government.

The General Fund contained the bulk of teaching and research funding. In terms of teaching, the University’s share had risen by 1.8%, but for the main research grant there had been a reduction of 2.5%, representing a drop of £0.5m over the previous year’s research allocation. The reduction in research funding needed to be set in context: in contrast to the funding allocation based on the previous RAE results, this allocation had rewarded all graded research, with the consequence that a much greater volume of research had become fundable (a 27% average increase against a Dundee increase of 20%), although the actual funding available had only increased by 3%.

This had inevitably led to a squeeze in available money as newer universities were now entitled to a share of research money to reflect the pockets of research excellence which were previously unfunded.

In discussion, the Court noted that institutions had made their submission to the RAE without any information on how the outcomes would be used by the SFC in determining research funding. This made planning the RAE submission to attempt to maximise potential income extremely difficult.

### Duncan of Jordanstone

Professor Follett and the Director of Campus Services gave a presentation outlining the requirement for refurbished accommodation for Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design (DJCAD).

Changes in the academic activity of DJCAD since the Matthew and Crawford buildings had been built, along with deterioration in the condition of the buildings themselves over time, meant that they were no longer appropriate for a modern college of art and design.

The Director of Campus Services noted that a number of possible options had been considered over the past year, including: new build, partial new build, and refurbishment of both buildings. An allocation of £15m was currently contained in the capital plan for the refurbishment of DJCAD.

The Court affirmed the importance of DJCAD as a vital, and academically distinctive, part of the University, but also recognised that any capital investment needed to be properly aligned to a robust business plan. A formal capital authorisation proposal would be put to Court in due course.

### Appointment of the New Principal

The Director of Human Resources updated Court on the work of the Appointing Committee for a new Principal. The Committee had met to discuss potential candidates at the end of March and as a result had asked the executive search agency, Odgers & Berndtson, to carry out follow-up, investigatory interviews with some of the applicants. First interviews with the Committee were planned for the middle of May, with final interviews currently planned for 19 June 2009.

### Other News

The Court approved the establishment of a Botanic Garden Advisory Group to give strategic guidance to the curator and the University’s Senior Management Team, and at the same time reaffirmed its commitment to the garden.

The Court approved the establishment and composition of a working group to carry out a review of Court’s effectiveness and noted the intention to conduct a similar review of Senate.

The Court received the sad news of the death of Sir Clement Freud, former Rector of the University, and asked officers to consult on an appropriate way of recognising his contribution to the life of the University.

The Court paid tribute to the dedication and commitment of Mr Bruce Johnston, lay member and convener of the Finance & Policy Committee, who was attending his final Court meeting after serving for eight years. In the words of the Chairman, no one had served the University better than Mr Johnston and his wise words would be sorely missed.

# Forensic expertise leads to multiple convictions

The long arm of the law now extends to hands, thanks to pioneering work carried out by the forensic anthropology team at the University's Centre for Anatomy & Human Identification (CAHID).

Two prominent High Court cases – one of them involving what has been described as Scotland's worst child sex abuse trial – have recently resulted in the conviction of several paedophiles, largely thanks to the forensic anthropology team and their work on hand identification.

Researchers at CAHID have built the world's first large database for hand identification, with thousands of images which they can reference to show features which are highly unusual. Fingerprints of course have long been a tool for establishing identity in criminal cases, but the rest of our hands are now revealed as being potentially just as significant.

Professor Sue Black, Head of CAHID, said, "Our hands tell us much more about the way we live and who we are than we imagine – a brick layer's hands are different to those of a surgeon; the way we manicure our nails, scars, the creases on our knuckles – all of these are distinctive. As anatomists and forensic anthropologists, we are trained to look at people in just a slightly different way and to analyse differences and similarities."

The work of the CAHID team led to convictions in the case of a paedophile ring centred in the Lothian area. Eight men were found guilty of child pornography and sex abuse charges for a series of crimes which shocked the nation.

Key to the successful prosecution was the identification of one of the offender's thumbs in an indecent image. Professor Black was called by Lothian and Borders Police to the trial at the High Court in Edinburgh to use her expertise to prove that the thumb in the picture, which showed an unusually shaped lunule (the white crescent at the base of the thumbnail), matched the thumb of one of the accused.

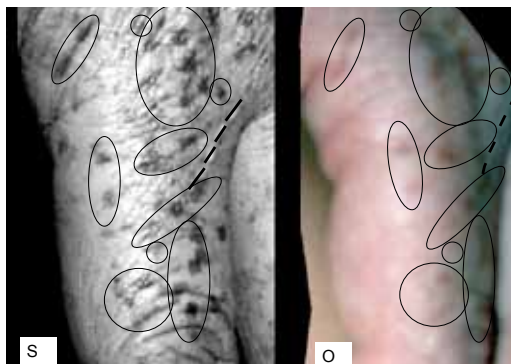


Figure 1 • Position of areas of pigmentation in relation to scar on index finger of right hand.

O=offender, S=suspect

The convictions came just one month after Professor Black's team were involved in the very first case in which a paedophile was identified solely from a picture of his hand.

In this case the perpetrator took illegal photographs of under-aged children whilst on a business trip to Thailand, and was careful to ensure that his face was not caught on the camera – however he didn't think about his hands.

Professor Black and Dr Xanthé Mallett, also of CAHID, were able to identify him by a comparison of hand characteristics, after his freckled hand was matched to one seen in indecent images.

When confronted with the evidence produced by the Dundee team, he confessed and was charged with indecent assault of children under the age of 14 years and a string of other child abuse related charges.

This ground-breaking forensic case was revealed to the media by the Metropolitan Police Service. The paedophile was convicted and jailed for 6 years, banned from visiting several countries and from working with children. He will remain on the sex offenders register for life.

Dr Mallett remarked that, "Hands are incredibly identifiable. Nobody knew this better than the great artists who would place a lot of store by the detail represented in their depictions of the hands."

A very faint scar was identified on the forefinger of the suspect and then the areas of pigment discolouration (freckles) were mapped to this constant point.

Professor Black and Dr Mallett showed that it was unlikely that the hand in the photographs could have belonged to anyone else; that even when comparing the suspect's right and left hands, there was greater variation between them than between the left hand in the indecent photograph and the left hand of the suspect (Figure 1).

The Dundee database grew out of work originally begun by a Masters degree student, Rachel Berry, who was examining hand shapes and characteristics.

"As luck would have it, we were then starting the Disaster Victim Identification programme for police forces from all over the UK, so I had 450 police officers coming through the doors who were very happy to have their hands photographed," said Professor Black.

"That immediately gave us a sizeable database to work from in terms of examining the sort of features and characteristics that are highly individual – birthmarks, scars from accidents, freckle patterns and so on. And if you can match all of these then you have a very strong case for saying that hand belongs to a particular person."

Our hands tell us much more about the way we live and who we are than we imagine – a brick layer's hands are different to those of a surgeon; the way we manicure our nails, scars, the creases on our knuckles – all of these are distinctive.

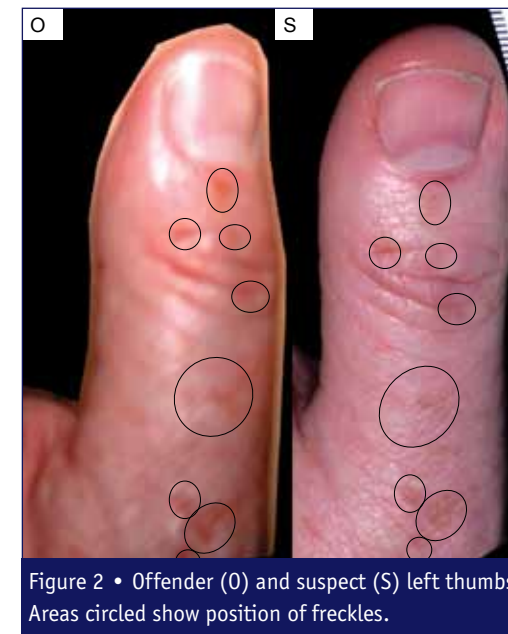


Figure 2 • Offender (O) and suspect (S) left thumbs. Areas circled show position of freckles.

"If you look at your own right hand and left hand, you will see significant differences in everything from the knuckle creases to markings on the nails. So a forensic examination of hands can prove very effective in identifying an individual."

After these successful prosecutions already recorded it is clear that this line of research will prove to be of great value to the police and the courts. For Professor Black it adds one more tool to the arsenal available to forensic anthropologists when they are trying to establish cases of identity.

"We need as wide a range of effective tools and techniques as possible if we are going to do the best job," she said. "It would be very foolish to concentrate all our efforts on the latest technological advances. There was a perception that DNA was going to be the ultimate crime-solving tool, but there are unquestionably cases where DNA simply doesn't help, for a number of reasons."

"Similarly you can't always rely on getting an image of a face – even if you do then there are factors like identical twins to consider, who similarly would have identical DNA. But their fingerprints would be different, and the freckle pattern of the backs of their hands would be different. If you have these different options available to you, then the better chance you have of establishing the identity of the person."

"The kind of work we have done on hand identification is a growing area and one we are leading in. Clearly there are significant applications for this, and we will continue to develop and research the techniques involved."

A third case has now been presented to the team.

## Real CSI Scientists welcomed to Dundee!

The British Association for Human Identification has elected to hold its annual conference in Dundee this June, hosted by the University's internationally renowned Centre for Anatomy & Human Identification (CAHID).

The Centre, with the current President and of BAHID Professor Sue Black at its helm, has brought the Association home to Scotland, where the organisation was born seven years ago. BAHID now has over 400 members from 17 different disciplines in the UK, Europe, the USA and Australia, with members from academic, law enforcement, private business, institutional, and legal backgrounds.

Professor Black said: 'In our modern world where the issue of identity is so crucial to global security, criminal investigations, disaster management and human rights, the need for an organisation with the breadth and depth of experience offered by BAHID's members has never been more relevant, or indeed more important.'

Experts in human identification are spread both geographically and across disciplines, making informal interaction difficult to achieve. BAHID's aim is to encourage exchanges between disciplines, while ensuring delegates have a positive academic and social experience.

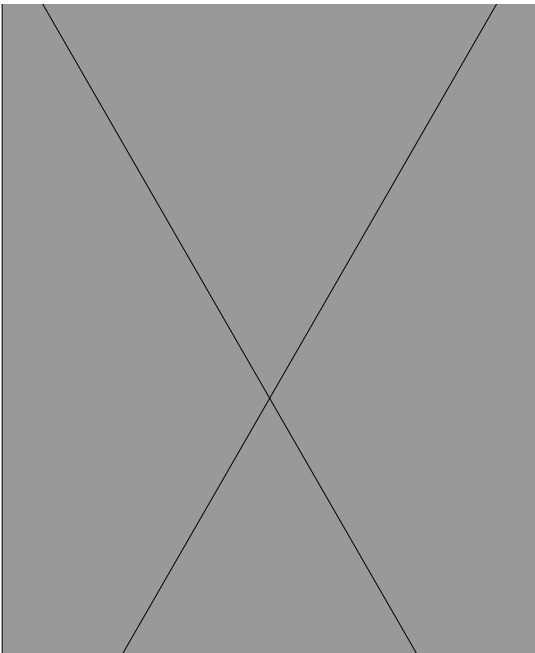
For the first time the conference was opened with a public debate, entitled 'Your identity: what is it, who owns it and how safe is it?' Chaired by Alan Cochrane, Scottish Editor of the Daily Telegraph, there were questions from the public and an expert panel, including Professor Black, plus Donald Findlay QC, John Vine, Chief Inspector for the UK Border Agency (former Chief Constable of Tayside) and Baron Paul Leckie, industrialist and philanthropist. The debate addressed many aspects of our identity – cultural, historical, political, legal, religious and biological.

'This is an exceptional panel of experts from an incredibly diverse background. It was an interesting debate – and with the characters involved, it was both heated and fun,' said Professor Black.

The end of the conference was also heated and fun – BAHID entertained delegates with a ceilidh.



# Student consultation kiosk an immediate hit



A new student consultation system to garner instant feedback on University life has been developed by the Library and Learning Centre at the University with Dundee University Students' Association (DUSA).

The innovative new technology allows students to log their views on aspects of campus life using a touch-screen kiosk. Almost 1000 responses were gathered in the first few days of the kiosk being available in the DUSA building. The kiosk's location on campus will change throughout the academic year, as will the questions posed, to reflect the current issues affecting students through the academic year. The feedback provided by students is available to view real time by those posing the question, providing an instant consultation process.

David McLeod, DUSA President, said: "The use of this technology provides students with an easy opportunity to tell us how they feel about a particular issue, and provides us with an easy way to make sense of the data."

The kiosk system integrates with the University of Dundee's Blackboard virtual learning environment, allowing the results to be available instantaneously within Blackboard for staff and student representatives to view.

"This new system allows us to be responsive to student opinion", says Hannah Whaley, who coordinated the project within the LLC. "It is opening up the consultation process to all students, and providing staff with quick and effective ways to make the most of their valuable feedback."



get fit for golf!

why?

- Research shows that fitness has a strong relationship with a lower handicap, reduces fatigue, improves recovery and helps you to stay well focused throughout the game.
- A well-conditioned body can produce powerful and co-ordinated swinging actions that result in longer and better placed drives and will help avoid or limit injury.

who are we?

Here at **ise**, staff provide fitness support at local, regional and national levels as well as supporting professional and amateur golfers. Happily we can now offer our services to a wider range of individual golfers - of all abilities.

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**Get in touch and see how we can bring out the Tiger in you!**

For enquiries and bookings contact:  
**Helen Weavers** on **01382 385674** or  
**[h.m.weavers@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:h.m.weavers@dundee.ac.uk)**



[www.dundee.ac.uk/ise/science/performance/golfperformance.php](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/ise/science/performance/golfperformance.php)

# ISE helps golfers get in the swing



Golfers are being urged to increase their fitness for the good of their game and their bodies with a range of specialised services from the Institute of Sport and Exercise (ise) at the University of Dundee.

The game of golf has clearly evolved in recent years, as can be seen from the success of motivated, talented players who undertake fitness training - the top players are leaner, more flexible and more muscular than the generations of golfers before them.

"Research has shown that a good level of fitness has a strong relationship with a lower handicap and therefore can have a big impact on performance," said Helen Weavers, sports and exercise physiologist at ise.

"Being physically fit allows you to walk 18 holes of golf without feeling fatigued and to stay well focused throughout the game. Perhaps more importantly, a well-conditioned body can produce more powerful and co-ordinated swinging actions that result in longer and better placed drives.

"Higher fitness levels also reduce your recovery time, allowing you to recover quickly between holes while also letting you play at the same high level during frequent rounds of golf. Finally, by its nature, the repetitive nature of the golf swing predisposes both professional and amateur golfers to injury and a good conditioning programme will help avoid or limit injury and prolong your career in golf.

"Whatever your level of golfing ability, an appropriate fitness programme is essential in preparing for a healthy lifestyle, for performance and for injury prevention."

ise has identified golf as one of its priority sports for sports science support and performance development.

Over the last 8 years, ise has built a substantial reputation for the delivery of support across the range of amateur and professional golf performance, with staff providing sports science support at local (eg St Andrew's Links Junior Golf Association), regional (eg Lothian golf) and National (SGU, Scottish Institute of Sport & SLGA) levels as well as supporting numerous individual, professional and amateur golfers.

"With the development of our Golf Performance Centre, we are pleased to now be able to offer our services to a wider range of individual golfers of every level," said Helen.

Anyone interested in more information should contact Helen Weavers at ise on 01382 385674 or email [h.m.weavers@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:h.m.weavers@dundee.ac.uk)



# Retirement Without Fears

**Some fear retirement, others seize it with gusto. For Emeritus Professors Peter and Janet Sprent, retirement has seen their careers continue and flourish.**

Since retiring from the University of Dundee mathematics department in 1985 Peter has published six books, including the 3rd and 4th editions of the highly successful *Applied Nonparametric Statistical Methods*, co-authored with Nigel Smeeton of King's College, London. His latest, *Mathematics Without Fears*, is an overview of the subject for final year secondary school pupils and first year undergraduates and their teachers. He describes it as 'a book to be read at leisure with pleasure'.

Janet's book has a very different market, being the definitive text in the study of nitrogen fixation in root nodules, bringing together a wealth of material for the first time. *Legume Nodulation – A Global Perspective* is based on five decades' research in the field, working with researchers in China, Brazil, South Africa, Cameroon, Australia and India, as well as Scotland and Scandinavia.

An Emeritus Professor of Plant Biology and a former Depute Principal, Janet's research has particular relevance in developing countries, as the proteins produced by these native plants not only feed humans and animals, but their residues improve soil fertility without the need to buy expensive nitrogen fertilisers.

"This book will be relevant to researchers in ecology, agriculture and microbiology," said Janet, "it has global relevance and has been a true collaboration – many of my friends in these places have generously provided photos, as well as encouragement."

Not only do the books target different audiences, they also reflect different approaches to publishing. *Legume Nodulation* is published conventionally by Wiley-Blackwell, while Peter has opted for print-on-demand technology. He has typeset, designed, and is marketing the book himself, which is printed and distributed by the publishing firm Lulu, with sales mainly via Amazon and other online outlets.

"This enables the book to be offered at about half the usual price," Peter explained, "Print-on-demand eliminates storage costs and concentrating on online sales has no serious disadvantage for books meant for a clearly defined niche market."

*Mathematics Without Fears* is published by Lulu at £14.50, 463pp, paperback, ISBN 9781409256700, March 2009.

*Legume Nodulation – A Global Perspective* is published by Wiley-Blackwell. Price £99.50, 200pp, colour illustrations, hardcover, ISBN 9781405181754, June 2009. More information about either book is available on the Sprent's web site at [www.sprentland.com](http://www.sprentland.com)

# Rain falls in Saudi Arabia

**The internationally renowned artists Matthew Dalziel and Louise Scullion have been commissioned to produce a major artwork in a new University being built in Saudi Arabia.**

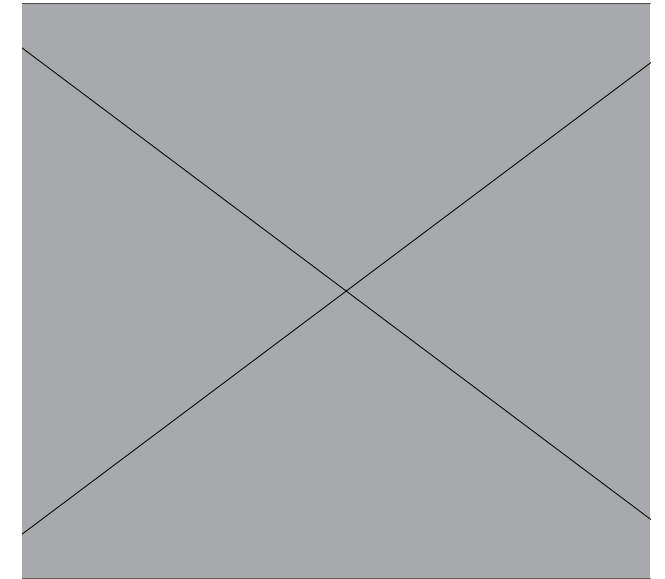
The Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design lecturers latest international commission is entitled 'Rain' and will be a prominent feature of the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), on the shores of the Red Sea.

'Rain' is a permanent pavilion clad in green ceramic tiles, featuring the sounds of 20 days of rain, recorded across Scotland this spring. Users will be able to sit within the artwork, and listen to the sound of rain apparently bouncing off the roof, while looking out at the blue Saudi Arabian sky through a round aperture above.

"Each of the 20 recordings tells a story", said Matthew Dalziel, "As you enter the building it will sound like it is raining outside – ranging from the sound of gentle rain on trees, to thunderstorms in the middle of a city."

In designing the structure Dalziel + Scullion have collaborated with Graham Hutton, Dean of Architecture, who helped to develop the pavilion's organic appearance using carved foam, sprayed with concrete and then finished with small green penny tiles.

"In Scotland we have an abundance of rain", said Matthew. "Every day, somewhere in Scotland, there is rainfall. In Saudi Arabia, they are lucky to get one or two days of rainfall a year. The project draws attention to climate, the weather and the differences in resources – what some are rich in, others have less."



For the sound recordings, they called in sound artist Cat Lee Marr from the University of Dundee, and Mark Vernon. "The sound will come from hidden speakers in the ceiling, immersing the listener in the sound of rain", added Matthew.

The idea for the shape came from the Iron Age brochs of Scotland, and ancient Islamic water vessels. Rain has a curved base, creating a vessel-like form amplifying the idea of it being a container of water. The artists were offered the opportunity to use desalinated seawater in the installation, but wanted to create the rain conceptually, in line with their interest around ideas of sustainability.

'Rain' is now being built in situ and will be ready for KAUST's official opening in September this year. It is one of five permanent 'art pavilions' which have been commissioned from international artists for the site, the four other artists being Carsten Holler, Wim Delvoe, Subodh Kerkar and Richard Deacon.

The works will be spread across the new KAUST site, which along with university buildings will include a harbour area, business district, student accommodation, extensive staff housing, golf courses, a mosque, schools and nurseries.

"KAUST is effectively being built upon a desert and its builders have had to draw on tremendous engineering skills to realise such a project," said Matthew. "In this context, we hope the artwork will provide a unique opportunity to contemplate this most elemental of materials."

# News from the archives

The University Archive Services holds a wealth of information relating to Dundee and beyond. With manuscripts, maps, plans and photographs, some dating back hundreds of years, the archives reveal much about changing attitudes in society and the lives of ordinary people as these stories show. For more information, contact [archives@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:archives@dundee.ac.uk), or visit [www.dundee.ac.uk/archives](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/archives).

## The Champ and the Lodge: The Curious Case of Jack Johnson

Most people will be forgiven for thinking that the only connection between Dundee and black American heavyweight champions is Angelo Dundee’s surname.

The University Archives holds documents, deposited by Thorntons legal firm, that show that this is not the case.

Back in 1911 the first black American to become heavyweight champion was at the centre of a major row involving the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Dundee-based Provincial Lodge of Forfarshire – a row that led to the suspension of the local lodge and resulted in an internecine court battle.

### How did such an unusual scenario arise?

Born in Texas to former slaves, Jack Johnson won the world heavyweight title in 1908 and held on to it until 1915. In 1911 he fought in a number of exhibition matches in England, and while in Newcastle he met an old acquaintance who happened to be a Scottish freemason. Johnson asked if he could also join his friend’s Lodge – the Forfarshire Lodge, based in Dundee. After a hurriedly convened meeting the Lodge agreed and Johnson was whisked into Dundee by train to be accepted as an apprentice before rushing just hours later straight back to England.

During the closing part of the initiation ceremony a telegram was dispatched to Dundee from the Grand Lodge of Scotland demanding that the proceedings cease immediately before Johnson had been fully initiated.

However, the local Master decided that it was too late and continued with the ceremony regardless. The Grand Lodge subsequently suspended the Forfarshire Lodge and this led to the legal battle recorded in the documents held by Archive Services.

The Grand Lodge maintained that for reasons relating to masonic protocol the Forfarshire Lodge had acted improperly and irregularly in admitting Johnson, but the real problem was that some members of the Lodge in Dundee had objected to Johnson’s initiation on the grounds of his colour. Upon seeing that he was to be admitted anyway, they telegraphed their fellow freemasons in America – and white American feelings ran high about the man who in the boxing ring had defeated several ‘Great White Hopes’.



Most Grand Lodges in the USA threatened to withdraw their Scottish Grand Lodge representation and this was why the Grand Lodge had somewhat frantically attempted to halt Johnson’s initiation ceremony.

The position of the Grand Lodge ultimately prevailed – some members of the local Lodge were suspended and Johnson had his fees returned. Any mention of his acceptance as an Entered Apprentice was removed from the records. However a record of this somewhat shameful episode in Scottish history does survive in the University Archives. Anyone interested in the items is welcome to see them in the Archives search room.

Jack Johnson, one of America’s greatest heavyweight boxers and who in every aspect of his life flouted the current conventions on how a Black American should behave, was in the news again in April this year.

Senator John McCain, a boxing fan, has asked US President Barack Obama for a posthumous pardon for the boxing star. Johnson, who was married three times to white women, was sentenced to jail in 1913 for the crime of transporting a white woman across state lines. He fled the US, returning seven years later to serve his term. Johnson died in 1948 in a car crash, driving in a rage because he had been refused service at a diner due to his colour.

# Diary of a Dundee Grocer



The Archives has recently transcribed two diaries written by Thomas Handiside Baxter, a grocer and dry goods merchant in Dundee in the early 1800s. The diaries cover the years 1810-1811 and 1820-1830 and the transcriptions are available in the archives search room. Sections are also available on the Archives website. Thomas gives us a fascinating insight into Scottish life during the early 19th century, and the life of a Dundee businessman at the time.

His diaries record a multitude of details, from daily weather reports, the best pub for gambling and drinking to who was shopping for what in Dundee. For news and political discussion Mr Handiside Baxter was very much in favour of the local coffee shop. It sounds as if Thomas would feel at home in modern Dundee!

There is much entertainment to be had from the various mishaps that affected Thomas. For example on the 23rd of January 1830 a gas cut plunged Dundee into darkness, including his shop.

Thomas reports that: ‘I was writing at the times & ran to the Door with my Spectacles in my hand - trying soon to light the Gass again I laid my glasses down carelessly on the outside of the counter...’

With the return of light he became aware that his glasses were missing: ‘...I immediately Suspected an Irish Scavengers wife who was in the Shop - had carried them off and I went west got a police office or two & sent them after her - for we knew her - after some difficulty in finding the house they were no time in Causing her produce them & brought her & them along to the Police office together.’

To read about other similar incidents or just to find out more about late Georgian Dundee, visit the archives or read the extracts at [www.dundee.ac.uk/archives](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/archives)

# Appointments

**Professor David Muir Wood**  
Chair in Geotechnical Engineering  
School of Engineering, Physics & Mathematics



David Muir Wood read Mechanical Sciences at Cambridge University, graduating in 1970. He received his PhD there in 1974 for research on the true triaxial behaviour of clays, followed by a lectureship from 1975-1987, moving to Glasgow University where he was the Cormack Chair of Civil Engineering.

In 1995 he was elected Chair of Civil Engineering at Bristol University, becoming Dean of the Faculty of Engineering in 2003. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1998.

Muir Wood’s current research explores themes concerned with the particle-continuum duality of soils. He is developing constitutive models for soils with breakable particles, for soils whose finer particles are being transported away by internal flow of water, and for soils whose mechanical response is improved by the addition of short flexible fibres.

The ongoing challenge for each of these is to obtain appropriate experimental data to support the modelling hypotheses.

He has written three books: *Soil behaviour and critical state soil mechanics* (1990), *Geotechnical modelling* (2004), *Soil mechanics: a one-dimensional introduction* (2009). He joins the University of Dundee on 1 October 2009.



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# The Bard Reinvented

An exciting new collaboration celebrating the work of Robert Burns will be launched this Autumn.

For A' That will be a celebration of Burns' poetry with a difference – top international writers and local authors have been commissioned to write a tribute to Scotland's best known poet.

The prestigious poetry anthology will include entirely new works from the 2003 Booker Prize winner DPC Pierre; Janice Galloway, author of The Trick is to Keep Breathing and recent memoir This is Not About Me; Bill Manhire, one of the finest New Zealand poets of his generation and multiple winner of the New Zealand Book Awards; and Kirsty Gunn, Professor of Creative Writing at Dundee and author of six internationally acclaimed novels.

Also included will be Scottish literary names Professor Chris Whatley, Vice Principal of the University and author of Scotland the Union, Dr Jim Stewart and Stewart Crossley, as well as contributions from University of Dundee's talented creative writing students.

The collaboration does not end with literary contributions; original artwork has been produced for the book by artist Brigid Collins, and the book is designed by Tim Bremner.

Published by Dundee University Press (DUP), a joint collaboration between the University of Dundee and Birlinn Ltd, For A' That will be launched on 29 September at a Gala Event costing £5 at the Dundee Rep, with readings, songs, and a chance to hear Robert Burns as we have never heard him before.

At only £5, the book will be tremendous value for money, even if you suffer from 'honest Poverty'. For A' That will be available at Borders, Waterstone's and also from Amazon or DUP, where you can pre-order a copy by e-mailing dup@dundee.ac.uk.

# Monikie 10K

The second annual Monikie 10K Race for Research took place in May, helping to raise thousands of pounds for the University's Diabetes Research Campaign.

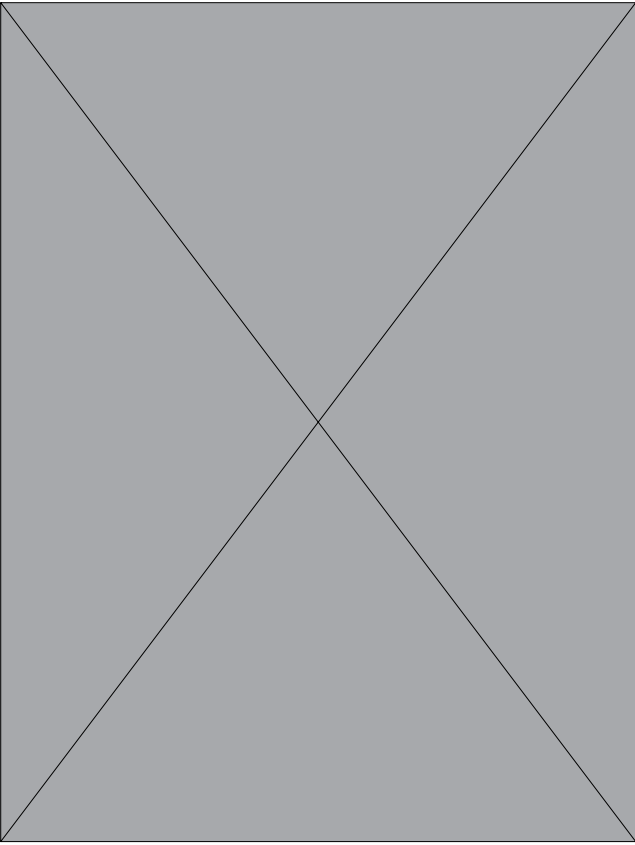
Around 300 runners took part in the race, with demand such that all available places were taken in advance of the event. "Fifty more people took part this year than in the first race, which shows that this is a cause that people are really taking to heart," said Nicholas Kydd, event race organiser for Eventfull Management Limited.


Among the runners was Acting Principal Professor Pete Downes, who had agreed to personally match the first £100 of sponsorship money donated, as well as pledging to meet every penny he raised if he failed to complete the race in his target time of 55 minutes.

Those who bet against him and eagerly looked forward to the Acting Principal have to stump up extra cash were disappointed when he comfortably cruised home with minutes to spare.

A big thank you from the University to all who took part and helped raise vital funds, and also to the sponsors who supported the event, including Radio Tay, Angus Council, Institute of Sport and Exercise (University of Dundee), Apex Hotels, Dronley Produce, The Playwright, The Sweat Shop, The Apple Tree and Dundee University Students Association.

The DRC has already raised more than £2million but there is still work to do to reach the ultimate target of more than £3million, which will enable the University to create a Type 1 diabetes research team of the same standards as the internationally recognised expertise Dundee has in Type 2 diabetes.





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**25 to 28 June Dundee Literary Festival**  
University of Dundee, Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill  
Come celebrate our third, increasingly successful Dundee Literary Festival, with more than 30 events – workshops, talks, film, theatre, book signings, music and parties. The Festival will bring together some of the most talked about names from the world of literature, journalism, philosophy and politics, including David Peace, Gerald Scarfe, John Gray, Pauline McLynn, Angus Konstam, New Crime Wave, Beatrice Colin, Natalie Russell, Anne Fine, Adam Mars-Jones, New Writing Dundee, Fest 'n' Furious, Nethergate Writers, Publishing Panel and many more.  
This year the winner of the Dundee International Book Prize will be announced on 26 June at the Apex Hotel, Dundee and we'll host an event with the winner, on 27 June.  
Tickets are available from 01382 384413 or online at [www.literarydundee.co.uk](http://www.literarydundee.co.uk)

**18 June to 4 July Gillian McLaren exhibition**  
Visitor Centre, Botanic Garden  
A student of the University of Dundee, Gillian exhibits a section of her work presenting photographs taken in the Garden, possibly some waterless lithography prints and the inclusion of a Victorian bed outside in the Garden.  
Opening hours: 10am - 4.30pm  
Entry free.

**13 July Danny Wallace: Friends Like These Talk**  
University of Dundee, Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill  
Cost - Entry to talk is free  
Time - 7pm  
Dundee-born TV presenter, producer and author Danny Wallace is returning to the city to discuss his adventures in trying to track down friends from his childhood. He will talk about, and sign copies of, his book *Friends Like These*, which was inspired by the discovery of an old address book containing the names of his closest friends from boyhood. Wondering where – and indeed who – they are now, Danny went about tracking down his old gang, a mission that saw him travel from Berlin to Tokyo and Sydney to LA, meeting Fijian chiefs, German rappers, ninjas and a carvery manager who claims to know the secrets of time travel along the way.

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