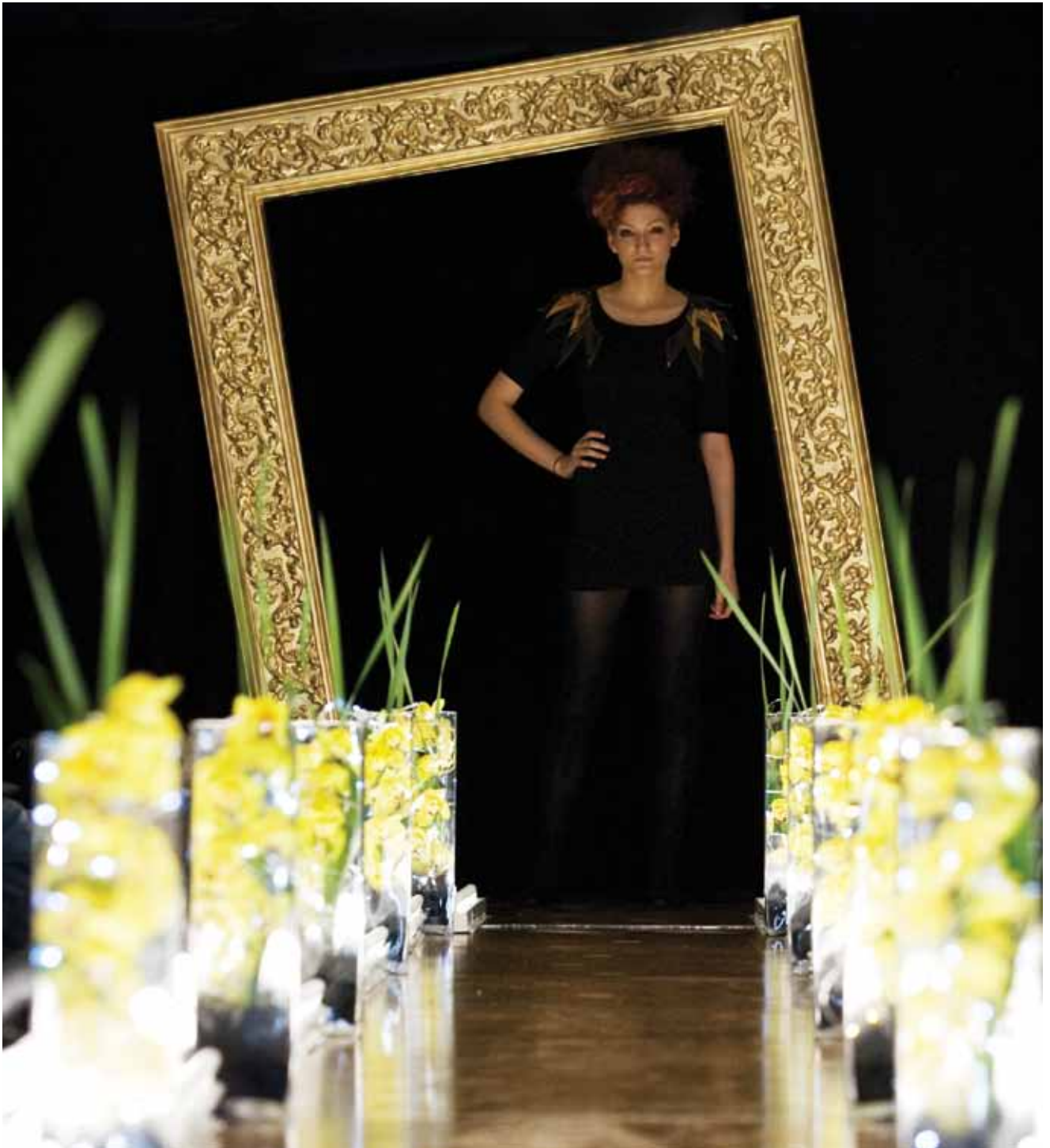


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from the principal...

My last column appeared during the general election campaign, when the country's focus was on the leaders' debates and opinion polls, and when the outcome of the election was by no means certain. Ten days or so after the poll, uncertainty remains: the mechanics of a coalition Government have yet to settle down, and the public will take time to get used to something that at least in the UK context has not been seen since the Second World War. There's a sense in Scotland perhaps that Westminster should stop fussing and get on with the business of governing and that politicians, and more especially the media, should stop worrying about the niceties of coalition politics. But even so, how the anticipated £6bn of cuts in public spending to be announced through Chancellor Osborne's emergency budget will affect Scotland via the Scottish budget, as I have said before on other occasions, just adds another layer of uncertainty.

You might be forgiven for asking what this specifically has to do with the University of Dundee. It is perhaps in just such times as this that universities have to seize the initiative to convince those in power of the importance for the economy of higher education and sustained research activity. Universities are the engine room of recovery: we provide the graduate workforce for tomorrow and our research outputs feed the knowledge-led economy, stimulating industry and encouraging growth. Indeed, the Scottish Government has designated higher education as the 'seventh key industry sector'.

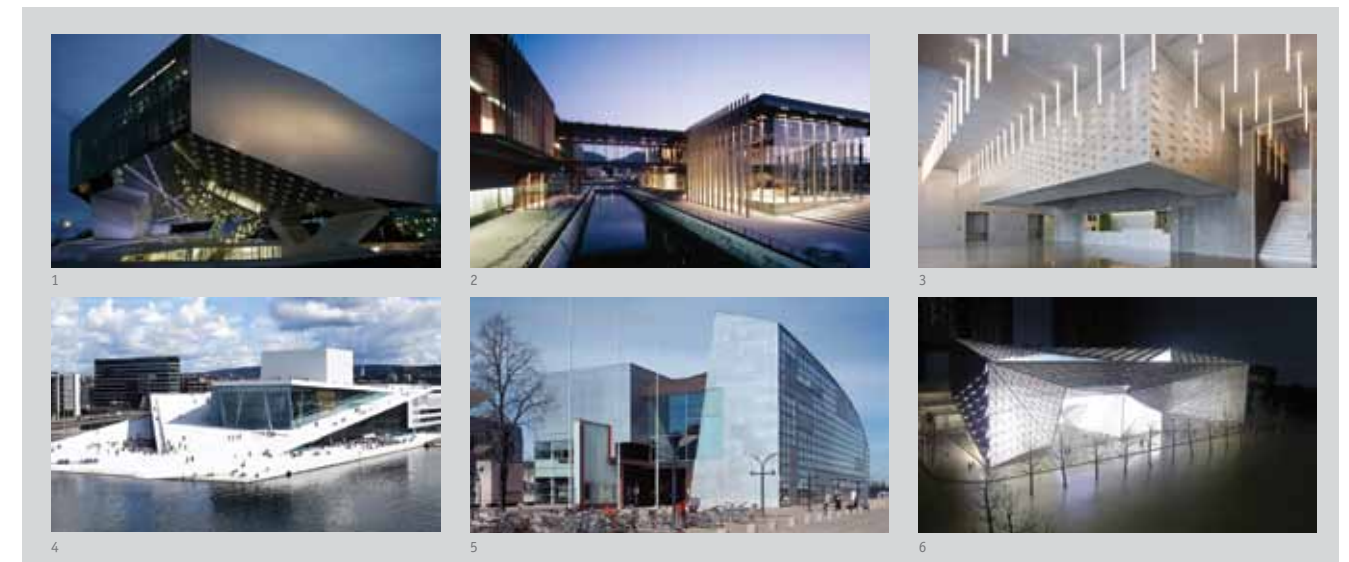
Over the last months I have been taking the advocacy role of the position of Principal particularly seriously. I have met with politicians from the leading local parties to explain to them what drives the University of Dundee, what our plans for the future are and why this matters for the local, regional and national economies. I have also been elected by fellow Principals to serve as the convener of Universities Scotland's Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee – a role which provides the opportunity to lobby the Scottish Government directly on strategic research issues on behalf of all Scottish universities.

In straitened times it is all too easy for governments to view higher education as a soft target; the resilience of universities during past recessions ironically aids this view. It is therefore crucially important that universities are clear about their contributions to society, to the regeneration of the economy and to the development of new technologies, policies and ideas. These contributions take time and investment to build, but are all too easily lost sight of. The University of Dundee bristles with examples of impact and significance, from drug discovery to water policy, from cultural outreach to industrial collaboration, and one of our most important tasks is to get this message across effectively and consistently.

In eleven months' time, Scots will be going to the polls to elect a new parliament and government; it is therefore incumbent on us all to ensure that politicians and voters alike understand the role higher education plays as the bedrock of the economy and the cultural life of Scotland.

Professor Peter Downes • Principal and Vice-Chancellor

Design shortlist announced for V&A at Dundee



Some of the most exciting names in world architecture and design are included in the shortlist of companies competing for the V&A at Dundee project.

Over 120 architect and design teams from around the world made submissions to the design competition for the project, which aims to develop a new centre of 21st century design for Scotland at the heart of Dundee's waterfront.

The six companies shortlisted are:
(examples of their work are pictured above)

- Delugan Meissl Associated Architects, Vienna (image 1).
- Kengo Kuma & Associates, Tokyo (image 2).
- REX, New York (image 3).
- Snøhetta, Oslo (image 4).
- Steven Holl Architects, New York (image 5).
- Sutherland Hussey Architects, Edinburgh (image 6).

Designers were invited to make proposals for a building that reflects the V&A at Dundee project partnership's desire to stimulate commerce as well as local and visitor interest.

The shortlisted companies will each be asked to produce design concepts and models, which will go on public view in Dundee. The winner of the design competition will then be announced in late summer.

Sir Mark Jones, Director of the V&A, said, "We are delighted with the results of the international architectural competition which attracted so many entries from practices all over the world. This is a particularly strong shortlist which promises to produce an outstanding building that reflects the V&A's unique partnership with Dundee."

Lesley Knox, Chair of Design Dundee Ltd, the company which has been established to drive the V&A at Dundee project forward, added, "The high quality and wide variety of the shortlist will enable the partners to create a building which will not only be part of the transformation of Dundee's waterfront but also be a landmark for visitors from Scotland and all over the world."

Mike Galloway, Director of City Development for Dundee City Council, said the jury panel was excited by the range of submissions, not least from Scotland and the UK.

"The six shortlisted teams include a broad spectrum of experienced consultants from across the world," said Mr Galloway.

"One aspect that is particularly satisfying is that of the wider range of consultants included in those teams, over half of the successful firms are from the UK and almost a third are based in Scotland itself. This is a very healthy and balanced mix of expertise which should ensure that the eventual design for the V&A is truly world class."

The V&A at Dundee is being delivered by Design Dundee Ltd, a ground-breaking partnership between the Victoria and Albert Museum - the world's greatest museum of art and design - and the University of Dundee, the University of Abertay Dundee, Dundee City Council and Scottish Enterprise.

The V&A at Dundee is looking to create a landmark building, which will be sited at Craig Harbour right on the banks of the River Tay. The site is being made available through the Dundee Central Waterfront Partnership, the joint venture between Dundee City Council and Scottish Enterprise which is revitalising the prime area of land linking the city centre with the River Tay.

It is planned that the V&A at Dundee will open in 2014.

Medical Sciences honour for Principal



Principal Professor Pete Downes has been elected to the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

He is among 40 of the United Kingdom's leading medical researchers to be recognised for outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical science, for innovative application of scientific knowledge or for their conspicuous service to healthcare.

As a distinguished biochemist Professor Downes has made an important contribution over many years, including identifying the mechanism of action of the drug Lithium used to treat manic depression and the discovery of cell signalling mechanisms that are defective in many human tumours.

"I am delighted to have been honoured by the Academy of Medical Sciences and wish to take this opportunity to thank the many staff and collaborators in both industry and the academic sector with whom I have worked over the years," said Professor Downes.

The new Fellows will be formally admitted to the Academy at a ceremony on Tuesday 22 June 2010.

Double honour for Life Sciences



Professor Ron Hay



Professor Angus Lamond

Two Professors in the College of Life Sciences have been elected Fellows of the Royal Society, the world's oldest scientific academy in continuous existence.

Professors Ron Hay and Angus Lamond have been elected in recognition of their contribution to the understanding of cellular structures and functions. Theirs is a rare double honour for the University and means the College of Life Sciences at Dundee is now home to nine Fellows of the Royal Society, one of the strongest concentrations of Fellows in the UK.

Professor Lamond, who is Director of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Gene Regulation and Expression and Professor of Biochemistry, was elected in recognition of his seminal work on the structure and functional organisation of the nucleus of mammalian cells. His research explores the expression and function of human genes at a system-wide level.

He was also recognized for this work by the award of the Novartis Prize and Medal of the Biochemical Society earlier this year.

Professor Hay also works in the Wellcome Trust Centre for Gene Expression and Regulation and is also an honorary member of the Protein Ubiquitination Unit of the Scottish Institute for Cell Signalling (SCILLS).

He has been recognised for his research into how cellular components are selected and destroyed in a controlled fashion and the regulation of basic cellular processes that, when disrupted, can result in diseases such as cancer, inflammation and neurodegeneration.

Professor Mike Ferguson, Dean of Research at the College of Life Sciences, said, "This is a tremendous tribute to Life Sciences in Dundee. Having two senior scientists elected to the Royal Society in the same year is a first for us but well deserved for Angus and Ron, who have been elected by some of the most eminent scientists of the day.

Reacting to the news of his Fellowship, Professor Lamond said, "I was very surprised to be elected and am grateful to the colleagues who nominated me, among whom Philip Cohen has been particularly active in promoting life sciences research in Dundee, and the work of Ron and I in particular to the Royal Society.

"It is certainly good to have one's work recognised by one's peers and these two Fellowships reflect very positively on the achievements of the College of Life Sciences, and the Wellcome Trust Centre for Gene Regulation and Expression, to which Ron and I are both affiliated.

Professor Hay said, "I consider it a great honour to follow in the footsteps of so many distinguished scientists and be elected to the Royal Society. Having our work recognised in this fashion is extremely gratifying and is a direct result of the talent and dedication shown by the colleagues who make up my research group.

"Dundee provides a wonderful environment in which to carry out science and I would also like to extend my thanks to Philip Cohen for his support."

Both Professors Lamond and Hay are members of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO), and fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Professor Hay is also a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Minister opens £1.7m scanner at CRC



A £1.7 million state-of-the-art PET/CT scanner at the Clinical Research Centre at Ninewells Hospital was officially opened this month by Minister for Public Health & Sport Shona Robison.

The PET/CT scanner was installed as a result of funding from the Scottish Government as announced by Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing Nicola Sturgeon at the official opening of the Clinical Research Centre in July 2008.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is a non-invasive nuclear medicine imaging procedure that uses a form of radioactive glucose to identify abnormalities within the body. The 128-slice Computerised Tomography (CT) scanner incorporated into the system will allow any abnormalities identified to be accurately located in the body's organs.

Several hundred patients a year are expected to benefit from the installation of the new Tayside scanner. Previously, Tayside patients suspected of having certain forms of cancer had to travel to other cities such as Aberdeen for imaging.

The scanner will function 50% of the time as an NHS service, with the remaining 50% of the time carrying out clinical research led by the University of Dundee. In addition to cancer, it can be used in research for patients with cardiovascular disease and diseases affecting the brain.

Minister for Public Health & Sport Shona Robison said she was delighted to formally open the facility.

"The scanner means that patients suspected of having certain forms of cancer in Tayside can receive imaging locally rather than having to travel to other areas," she said.

Research activity is being focused around the facilities based within the purpose-built Clinical Research Centre at Ninewells Hospital, as part of the Tayside Academic Health Sciences Centre (TAHSC) Clinical Imaging Centre. This is a joint initiative by NHS Tayside and the University of Dundee to draw together the clinical research imaging capability across Tayside.

Professor John Connell, Dean of the School of Medicine and Director of TAHSC, said, "This joint development between the University of Dundee and NHS Tayside is an excellent example of the benefit to clinical care and research that come from our close co-operation.

"PET/CT imaging is a vital tool that will support our clinical research efforts and complements our other state-of-the-art facilities.

"The new scanner forms a very important part of the research imaging capability of the Tayside Academic Health Sciences Centre; it places researchers in Dundee in a strong position to compete internationally, and adds significantly to the Scottish capacity to carry out high quality research using this type of methodology.

"I am sure that the introduction of this new facility will prove of major value in the direct care of patients and will help lead to new discoveries that will advance their treatment in the future."

Hat-trick of new courses for psychology



A new programme of Masters courses covering a range of specialist psychology topics will welcome its first students in the autumn.

The MSc courses in Eye Movements and Cognition, Developmental Psychology and Language and Communication build on the existing research strengths within the School of Psychology.

They are aimed at offering students, with a Psychology or related discipline degree, the opportunity to boost their understanding of research methods as well as further specialisation in the measure and study of human behaviour.

“Our experience is that this kind of training provides a distinct advantage in competition for higher degree places and improves employability,” said Dr Douglas Potter, senior lecturer at the School of Psychology.

“We have experienced a significant increase in applications and acceptances of home and overseas students this year but we are still interested in receiving application from recent graduates.

“Specialist topics currently include developmental, language and visual cognition. We are planning further courses that utilise our expertise in more applied areas such as lifespan psychology and cross cultural studies for 2011.”

The Masters courses each last one year of full-time study. The MSc in Eye Movements and Cognition is linked to the recently established centre of excellence for eye movement research within the School of Psychology.

For more information on the courses visit:
www.dundee.ac.uk/psychology/study/masters/index.htm

Scottish Minister meets student planners

John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary of the Scottish Government, visited students and staff in Town and Regional Planning in May as part of a series of visits to planning schools around Scotland.

Speaking to students, Mr Swinney, who is the Minister with overall responsibility for Scotland’s planning system, stressed the importance which the Government attaches to securing effective planning for sustainable economic development.

A range of student project work was on display and the students responsible for the various projects discussed their work with the Minister.

Mr. Swinney said he had greatly enjoyed his visit and complimented the quality of work and the enthusiasm of the students and staff.



Taking lead on biomarker project

University researchers are taking a lead role in a €12million research project aimed at finding early indicators of certain types of cancer and increasing the effectiveness of the development of new drugs.

The MARCAR project, funded by the European Union Innovative Medicines Initiative, may also help reduce the need for the use of animal testing in some areas of bioscience research.

“The development of new drugs is a very costly process, partly because of the large number of drugs which never make it to market due to the discovery of cancerous effects during drug development,” said Professor Roland Wolf, Director of the Biomedical Research Institute at the University of Dundee and Scientific Co-ordinator of the MARCAR project.

“Predictions regarding safety of drug compounds can be imprecise and sometimes incorrect. If we could make better predictions at an early stage of drug development it would save a lot of time and money and make the whole process more efficient.

“To achieve that we need to identify early biological indicators, known as ‘biomarkers’, that can be used to predict the effects of drugs and reliably and robustly predict later cancer development. This would be immensely valuable in preclinical development of new drug compounds.

“It would also be of benefit to pharmaceutical companies through improved internal selection of potential drugs, fewer delays and adverse effects during late-phase drug development, and improved pre-clinical carcinogenicity safety assessment prior to clinical trials. Translation of early cancer biomarkers into the clinic would also improve safety for patients participating in clinical trials.”

The project will focus on a group of drugs known as non-genotoxic carcinogens (NGCs). These are drugs which when tested are shown to promote biochemical processes which lead to cancer.

At present such potential cancer causing compounds only tend to be identified following prolonged biological trials. If successful, the MARCAR will reduce the requirement for long-term biological testing.

One of the drivers behind finding better strategies for conducting biological studies is the ‘3 R’ issue - the reduction, refinement and replacement of experimental animal use.

The MARCAR project aims to tackle this issue by not only developing a method for conducting reliable short-term studies which will reduce the need for long-term biological testing but by exploring another strategy which involves non-invasive imaging techniques including PET and MRI scanning.

As both techniques are non-invasive, long term studies can be carried out on the same animal over weeks or months. They also have the potential to detect precancerous lesions and tumours at a much earlier time point without the need to sacrifice the animals for analysis. This means much smaller numbers of animals can be used as multiple analyses can be carried out using the same animals.

“This would potentially markedly reduce the numbers of animals needed for this kind of research and provide a much more reliable prediction of the rates of toxicity of drugs in development in man,” said Professor Wolf.

MARCAR, which is being managed by the University, is a collaboration of 12 partners from across Europe involving academia and the pharmaceutical industry including Dundee-based biotech firm CXR Biosciences.

New Water Resources Management & Law MSc

A new Masters course in Water Resources Management and Law will be available from next year thanks to a partnership between the University’s UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science and the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health.

The new MSc offers a route to studying both water resources and water law for law students and those of other disciplines.

It will be available in flexible learning mode with some modules offered online and others on-campus including the Centre’s executive-style ‘Water Law Water Leaders’ summer programme.

The new programme has been developed through a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) and consolidates links with other parts of the UN ‘water family’.

It is expected that the first cohort will be able to start in January 2011.

For further details contact the Programme Director, Dr Sarah Hendry s.m.hendry@dundee.ac.uk



Star backing for race for diabetes research

The third annual Monikie 10k Race for Diabetes Research in May received A-List endorsement this year when Hollywood star Brian Cox voiced his support for the charity event.

On a visit to the University the new rector, who was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes in 1998, said he was delighted to be able to support the Monikie race and praised the work being carried out at Dundee.

“I owe my life to the world-class research work being carried out into diabetes here at Dundee and want to thank every single sponsor and donor for continuing to support this campaign,” he said.

“There is an urgent need to raise awareness of the reasons why so many people develop Type 2 diabetes and not just to focus on creating drugs to treat people once they have already become diabetic.

“That’s why the Monikie race is such a positive event. Not only is it helping to raise money for research, but it also very clearly gets across the message that a healthy lifestyle is the most powerful weapon we possess in the battle to help prevent the spread of the diabetes pandemic.”

It is estimated that more than 300 million people worldwide will suffer from the disease by 2020 and the disease has been recognised by the United Nations as the greatest threat to world health.

In Tayside there has been a 90% increase in the incidence of diabetes in the last 10 years and the need to develop clinical research facilities across Tayside is urgent.

The Dundee Diabetes Campaign has already enabled the University to create a Type 1 diabetes research team led by Dr Rory McCrimmon, recruited from Yale, USA.

The Campaign is close to raising the £3million required to create state of the art research and patient care facilities across Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross, adding to the world-class diabetes research programmes which are already well-established through the University and NHS Tayside.

This year around 300 runners boosted the campaign funds still further when they took part in the event at Monikie Country Park on the outskirts of Dundee.

First across the line was Roger Van Gompel in an impressive 35 minutes 33 seconds. Dr Gompel is a senior lecturer in the School of Psychology. A keen runner he is a member of the famous Dundee Hawkhill Harriers.

Winner of the ladies’ race was Morgan Windram-Geddes, a PhD student in the School of Social and Environmental Sciences. Morgan crossed the line in a fantastic time of 39 minutes 43 seconds.

For the first time the race featured a University team challenge giving staff members the chance to prove which department could claim to be the fastest.

Seven teams signed up for the challenge including a team led by Principal Professor Pete Downes and teams from the Biomedical Research Institute, Maternal and Child Health Science, the Centre of Oncology and Molecular Medicine and the Diabetes Research Centre.

The Principal’s team, which included University secretary Jim McGeorge and Jon Urch saw off a challenge from the ISE team of David Allen, Hazel Ednie and Stacey Fraser to take second spot but were no match for the team from Estates and Buildings. Team members Colin McNally, George Gorman and Les Morrison picked up the team challenge trophy with their combined team time of 130 minutes 39 seconds.

For full results of the race visit:
www.eventfull.biz/Monikie10km2010Results.htm

For more information on the Diabetes Research Campaign visit:
www.dundee.ac.uk/externalrelations/funds/drc/help



Monikie 10K Winners • Images Courtesy of Shahbaz Majeed

Global research role for Dundee expert

A senior lecturer in the University’s School of Law has been selected as a member of the research committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s Academy of Environmental Law.

Elizabeth Kirk will join legal experts from around the world on the committee which works to promote international cooperation on environmental law research.

“I feel very privileged to have been selected,” said Elizabeth, whose research contributes to understandings of the role of law in international and environmental governance.

“Membership provides me with an unparalleled opportunity to work with established and new researchers in environmental law, from developed and developing States, as part of a Committee whose

role it is to develop and foster research projects aimed, not just at furthering understanding of environmental governance, but at improving its practice across the globe.”

Elizabeth added that membership of the IUCN Academy is open only to institutions with a substantial number of staff researching and teaching environmental law.

“We easily qualify for this at Dundee with a number of staff in the Law School and in CEPMLP and the UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science researching and teaching in relevant areas.”

The IUCN Academy of Environmental Law was established in 2006 and since then has seen its membership grow to around 140 member institutions from around the world.

Top teachers recognised with University awards

Some of the University’s most innovative and effective teachers have been recognised in this year’s teaching awards.

Each year a number of awards are made to reflect institutional aspirations for, and reward and recognition for staff achievement in, excellence in learning and teaching.

These include the Honorary Graduates’ Award for Innovative Teaching, presented annually since 1994, the Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching which was first presented in 2008 and the Lifetime Contribution Award, introduced for the first time last year.

The University’s Vice-Principal of Educational Development Professor James Calderhead praised the “outstanding achievements” of the winners.

“The annual teaching awards offer an exciting opportunity to find out more about the innovation and good practice that is occurring throughout the University,” he said.

“The nominations, which come from students and staff, are of a very high quality and it is often difficult for the panel to choose the ultimate winners. There is no doubt that the awards are highly deserved and the winners represent outstanding achievements in teaching in higher education.”

Winners of this year’s Honorary Graduates’ Award for Innovative Teaching are:

- **Sharon Tonner**, Education, Social Work and Community Education (ESWCE), within the College of Arts and Social Sciences for a submission entitled “Embedding 21st Century Technologies into Primary Education”

- **Carol Tricker, Gary Roberts & Valentine Scarlett**, ESWCE, College of Arts & Social Sciences for a submission entitled “Working Together to Achieve Social Justice- The Developing Professional.”

Catherine Kellet, from the School of Medicine within the College of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing was highly commended for her submission entitled “Development of a Theatre Etiquette Course for Medical Students.”

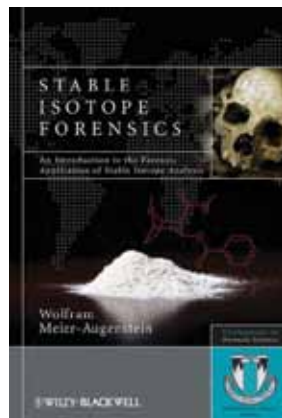
Winning submissions receive £1000 and the opportunity to present to colleagues at Learning & Teaching lunches in the autumn.

The winners of the Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching, who each receive a certificate of recognition, a personal prize of £3000 and the title of Senate Award Fellow are:

- **Jonathan Baldwin**, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design within the College of Art, Science & Engineering
- **Stuart Cross**, the School of Law within the College of Arts & Social Sciences
- **Angela Gilbert**, the School of Dentistry within the College of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing and
- **Frank Sargent**, the Division of Molecular Microbiology within the College of Life Sciences.

This year’s Lifetime Contribution Award had still to be announced at time of going to press.

CAHId scientist shows “you are what you eat.”



A senior lecturer at the University's Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification has demonstrated that people really are what they eat in a new book on forensic analysis.

Dr Wolfram Meier-Augenstein, one of the members of the forensic team featured in the recent BBC Two series History Cold Case, has written the world's first book on stable isotope analysis, a new forensic tool used in a range of applications from human identification to counter-terrorism.

The book *Stable Isotope Forensics: An introduction to the Forensic Application of Stable Isotope Analysis* gives the first comprehensive overview of the new technique which can also be used in food quality control and efforts to combat pollution, illicit drug production and people trafficking.

“As the old cliché says, you are what you eat,” explained Dr Meier-Augenstein, who is also a Principal Scientist at SCRI and one of the world's leading authorities on forensic isotope analysis.

“We can look at the isotope signature of a person and tell where the food they have been eating is from. We can tell where cows are from because the grass they eat and the water they drink have identifiable signatures. There is also a signature step change to the people who eat the beef from these cows, which we can exploit.

“It can also tell us a lot about their lifestyle - a vegan will have a very different nitrogen signature from someone who has a Platinum membership for their local steakhouse.

“We can recognise changes in lifestyle, which might show when someone might have become less well-nourished. Detectives might then speculate on why that might be. It all helps to build up a composite picture and can play a major part in identification.”

Dr Meier-Augenstein said this was particularly useful in human identification cases when even DNA samples fail to determine the identity of a body because no matching DNA fingerprint can be found.

“Our findings can massively narrow the field of possibilities and thus can help bring focus to an investigation. We can say where they had been living and what kind of lifestyle they had. If you are looking at the world as a huge haystack then we can tell you in which part you should be searching for the needle.

“In a recent case, a body was found and by looking at the isotope signature of the victim's hair, we could tell that he had been in

the Ukraine for three months before spending seven months in Germany and eventually winding up in the Gloucestershire/South Wales area.”

Dr Meier-Augenstein added that, as the use of isotope analysis in forensics was relatively new, the book explains exactly what is currently possible by applying these techniques to a wide range of uses.

“Isotope analysis helps identify source and origin and is used to test the authenticity of food and drink,” he said. “Companies make a lot of claims about what is in their products and isotope analysis helps to ensure that those which do not contain what they claim on the label are identified.

“In the aftermath of a terrorist bombing it can be very difficult to identify the deceased in a multi-ethnic setting but stable isotope analysis can help considerably by grouping remains according to geographic origin.

“Forensic isotope analysis can also be used in counter-terrorism as well as human identification. The shoe-bomber case is probably the best known example. Richard Reid and his co-accused said they had never met but by looking at the isotope signatures of explosives, however, it was possible to show such links existed.

“Illegal drugs can be tested to prove that they were made in the same lab and we can help to identify where the victims of people trafficking who unfortunately meet a tragic end came from. The application can also be used to identify the source of pollution and ultimately point towards the polluters who commit environmental crimes.”

“The book describes actual case examples as well as the results of systematic studies that will serve to underpin the forensic application of stable isotope signatures,” he said. “This is the first book exclusively dealing with forensic isotope analysis and pulls together all existing research in this emerging field.”

Dr Meier-Augenstein's expertise in the field was highlighted in the BBC's fascinating History Cold Case series which was broadcast in May. As part of the forensics team from the University he was involved in the analysis of skeletons of everyday people from across the ages in Britain.

“If you are looking at the world as a huge haystack then we can tell you in which part you should be searching for the needle.”

TV success for CAHId crew



A fascinating four part TV series highlighting the work of Professor Sue Black and her team at the Centre For Anatomy And Human Identification attracted millions of viewers from across the UK last month.

BBC Two's History Cold Case series revealed the human stories behind historical remains found in various parts of the country dating from Roman times to the early 20th century.

Each programme focussed on a different case and showed the team using the full arsenal of forensic anthropology to discover who each individual was, why they died and what new information their life story revealed.

The skeletons examined included an African man buried in a 14th Century English monastery, a mummified child, a mysterious body unearthed in forgotten rooms at Stirling Castle and a heavily scarred Georgian woman discovered in a mass burial pit in London.

The programmes, broadcast on BBC 2 each Thursday evening between May 6 and 27, attracted millions of viewers and considerable media attention with Professor Black and her colleagues in great demand for interviews from journalists across the country.

£4 million research boost for Life Sciences

Four scientists at the College of Life Sciences have been awarded research fellowships from the Wellcome Trust totalling almost £4 million.

Dr Mikael Bjorklund and Dr Eric Griffis both received Wellcome Trust Research Career Development Fellowships worth £700,000 each while Dr Anton Gartner and Dr Jonathan Chubb were awarded Wellcome Trust Senior Fellowships worth £1.43million and £1.1million respectively.

The Fellowships provide funding for salaries, equipment and consumables over five years. A further four postdoctoral members of staff, two technicians and one graduate research assistant will also be recruited.

Professor Mike Ferguson, Dean of Research at the College of Life Sciences, said the Fellowships reflected the very high quality of research being carried out at Dundee.

“These are extremely competitive fellowships from The Wellcome Trust and the awards speak volumes about the excellence of the four individuals and the importance of their research,” he said.

“It also reflects the care with which we recruit to the College of Life Sciences, where we appoint the very best to maintain our high standards.”

Dr Bjorklund's funding will enable him to explore the regulation of cell size in multicellular organisms. Cell size control has a major impact on human health as cell growth has been shown to work abnormally in diseases such as cancers and diabetes.

Dr Griffis' award will enable him to move to Dundee from the University of California, San Francisco to continue his studies on the regulation of the localisation and dynamics of non-muscle myosin II during cell division and cell migration.

Dr Chubb will spend the next five years examining the control of noise in gene expression while Dr Gartner will research DNA damage and repair - fundamental processes in biology with implications for understanding both health and disease.



CECHR: Tackling the world's "wicked" problems

The eruption of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull in April will be remembered for bringing air travel in Europe to a standstill and costing the airlines millions in lost revenue.

But the clouds of volcanic ash may yet prove to have at least a glimmer of a silver lining by demonstrating the enormous impact the natural environment can have on modern societies and focusing minds on how best to adapt to environmental change.

"The volcanic eruptions in Iceland are a perfect example of a natural hazard having a massive social and economic impact," said Dr John Rowan, director of the Centre for Environmental Change and Human Resilience, a new research collaboration between the University and the SCRI, Scotland's leading centre for crop research.

"They have shown that modern societies are very complex but they are also very vulnerable to shock."

CECHR, which launched in May with a lecture on sustainability, links the University's broad range of environmental research spanning geography, law, engineering, life sciences and health with the SCRI's expertise in plant sciences and ecosystems.

For Dr Rowan the multi-disciplinary nature of the new venture is key to finding solutions to the "wicked" problems facing modern society and helping make it more resilient to change.

"The issue of how we react to the effects of environmental change is a huge one and it needs to be addressed through a wide variety of expertise," he said.

"The kind of modern problems we face are so complicated we need not only multi-disciplinary working but interdisciplinary thinking as it is often the spaces between the disciplines where the answers lie.

"Food security is a prime example of the complexity of these problems as it integrates political, economic, energy, agronomic and resource availability issues along with climate change uncertainties.

"We are aiming to build a critical mass of research at the centre that allows us to bring different disciplines together to tackle these wicked problems. It means for example we can have natural scientists working at the cutting edge of crop production talking to people with expertise in water resources and water disputes to produce a new generation of sustainably developed crops.

"We have a tremendous range and level of expertise across the University and SCRI and what we are trying to do with CECHR is bring all these sites of excellence together, to promote that research capacity and ultimately inform policy and make a real difference."

Dr Rowan, a Reader in geography in the School of Social and Environmental Sciences, added that the new Centre is based around four research themes of Food, Water, Energy and Health Futures.

These four themes encompass work already being done at SCRI and across the University including in specialised centres such as the UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science, The Centre for Applied Population Research, The Geddes Institute for Urban Research, The Social Dimensions of Health Institute, The Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy, the Dundee University Centre for Renewable Energy and The Centre for Remote Environments.

Bringing disciplines together is also at the heart of CECHR's PhD programme which began with three students last year and will continue with four more fully-funded Scholarships this year.

"Our PhD students are the connective tissue in all of this," said Dr Rowan. "Their projects have to be interdisciplinary and their supervisors have to be from different areas.

"At the moment we have Professor Allan Findlay from Geography and Professor Peter Gregory, the Director of SCRI, supervising a student who is researching climate change linked to drought and food security in Malawi.

"Prof Dong-Sheng Jeng from civil engineering and Dr Pete Iannetta from SCRI are supervising a student who is looking at modelling biomedical properties of plants while staff from physics, law and CEPMLP are working with a student researching renewable energy policy, technology and climate change in Scotland."

The Centre is also involved with the launch of a new Masters programme on Marine Spatial Planning which will address issues of planning policy for the seas. The course will have its first intake of students in September.

Also due to start in the autumn are Masters courses in Climate Change Economics and Policy, a one year course based within the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy and Crops for the Future, a one-year course delivered through a partnership between the College of Life Sciences and SCRI and funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

“ The volcanic eruptions in Iceland have shown that modern societies are very complex but they are also very vulnerable to shock. ”

"CECHR is a very broad constituency taking in the excellent work being done across the university and in SCRI," said Dr Rowan. "We want to join up the excellence and find ways of addressing how societies can become more resilient and more sustainable."

The first annual CECHR symposium will take place in Dundee in November. For more information on the Centre and forthcoming events visit the website at: www.dundee.ac.uk/centres/cechr/index.htm

Balloon camera more than just hot air



Graduating students may one day be able to enjoy a birds-eye view of their big day, thanks to an innovative camera designed by a member of the University's class of 2010.

Matthew Clark, who graduates this summer with a degree in Product Design from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, created the "Aerial Capture" camera to take unique photographs from heights of up to 20 metres.

Matthew, originally from Arbroath, explained that the Aerial Capture works thanks to a 3-foot balloon built into the retro-styled camera, which is tethered to the user.

The balloon is filled with helium and released into the air, taking the camera with it as it moves skywards. A hand-held device similar to a kite reel means the photographer can keep hold of the camera.

The 20-year-old said he was inspired to create a product that little bit different after research gave him an insight into how continuous technological advancements in digital cameras are making everyday photography easy and homogenous.

"The reasoning behind the concept is that my research showed digital photography is becoming dull and boring, and is slowly taking the fun and magic away," he said.

"Everyone's photos are beginning to look the same due to various technological advancements. I have challenged this and have tried to reintroduce the fun element to photography while also capturing unique images in a completely unusual way.

"My project has been based on photography since the start of my final year and this is what led me to design and make the camera. It is capable of taking aerial photographs at a maximum height of 20 metres and the 3-foot balloon can carry a camera up to 408 grams in weight.

"When testing the product with users, what I found was how amazed everyone was about the size of the balloon, this seems to draw people into the project immediately. They also said how easy and satisfying it was to use.

"The product has been designed for one off events, special family occasions, festivals and ceremonies where the camera could be used. The users could see the potential of using it for other events like weddings, parties etc and were amazed by the unique results that they had produced."

After the Degree Show, Matthew will be showing the robust, vividly coloured aerial camera at the prestigious New Designers exhibition in London later this year. After that, he hopes to make the transition from academia to industry and find a job with a company in London.



GRADUATION 2010

Graduation is the highpoint of any academic year when years of endeavour are rewarded, success celebrated and the University community welcomes thousands of visitors to the city to share in the festivities.

This year will be no different as nearly 3000 students graduate in six ceremonies over four days. Taking place in the Caird Hall in the heart of Dundee's city centre the graduation ceremonies are a colourful and vibrant example of the close links between town and gown.

The University's links nationally and internationally will also be apparent as seven new honorary graduates, leading figures in fields ranging from science to literature, join in the celebrations.

Following the ceremonies, students and their friends and families will be able to relax and toast their success at the Garden Parties on the Campus Green, a beautiful green space at the heart of the University campus.

Visitors can also enjoy this year's Dundee Literary Festival from 23 to 27 June at the Dalhousie Building. Star names include Nick Cave and Rosamunde Pilcher, both of whom will be receiving honorary degrees.

Graduation timetable

Tuesday 22nd June 2010
2.30pm - Graduation Ceremony at Caird Hall
College of Arts & Social Sciences:
• School of Humanities
• Graduate School of NRLPM
• School of Law
Honorary degree bestowed on Rosamunde Pilcher OBE and Professor Roberto Linton
4pm – Garden Party, Campus Green

Wednesday 23rd June 2010
10am - Graduation Ceremony at Caird Hall
College of Arts & Social Sciences and College of Art, Science and Engineering:
• School of Accounting & Finance
• School of Architecture
• School of Social & Environmental Sciences
Honorary degree bestowed on Bruce Johnston
2.30pm – Graduation Ceremony at Caird Hall
College of Arts & Social Sciences:
• School of Education, Social Work & Community Education
• School of Psychology
Honorary degree bestowed on Bahia Hariri
4pm – Garden Party, Campus Green

Thursday 24th June 2010
10am – Graduation Ceremony at Caird Hall
Colleges of Art, Science & Engineering and College of Life Sciences:
• School of Engineering, Mathematics & Physics
• College of Life Sciences Teaching & Research
Honorary degree to be bestowed on Professor Gosta Walin
2.30pm – Graduation Ceremony at Caird Hall
College of Art, Science & Engineering:
• School of Computing
• Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design
Honorary degree to be bestowed on Nick Cave
4pm – Garden Party, Campus Green

Friday 25th June 2010
10am – Graduation Ceremony at Caird Hall
College of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing:
• School of Dentistry and Medicine
Honorary degree to be bestowed on Sir Alan Langlands
2.30pm – Graduation Ceremony at Caird Hall
College of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing:
• Schools of Nursing & Midwifery
4pm – Garden Party, Campus Green

Graduation 2010 will see honorary degrees bestowed on seven outstanding figures from the worlds of literature, the arts, science, politics and public service.

The seven recipients are

- Sir Alan Langlands
- Nick Cave
- Rosamunde Pilcher OBE
- Gosta Walin
- Bahia Hariri
- Bruce Johnston
- Professor Roberto Lenton

Sir Alan Langlands spent eight years as Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of Dundee before taking up a position as Chief Executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England in April 2009.

He graduated with a degree in biological science from the University of Glasgow in 1974 and took up a graduate trainee position with the NHS. He worked his way up the organisation and, in 1994, became Chief Executive of the NHS in England, where he was the Secretary of State's principal policy adviser for the NHS.

In 1998 he received a Knighthood for his services to the NHS. As Chief Executive he oversaw the setting up of bodies to drive improvement and consistency across the NHS and managed the organisation through rapid change.

Sir Alan presided over a period of enormous progress for the University and his legacy includes a strong pipeline of funded research, new programmes of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, a strong professoriate, a well motivated community of students, and excellent new facilities and research platforms.

As Chief Executive of HEFCE, Sir Alan plays a key role in the strategic development of higher education across England and is responsible for £7.5 billion used to support excellence in education, research and knowledge transfer in universities and colleges which provide higher education programmes.



Nick Cave is an internationally acclaimed musician, writer, poet, actor and sometime philosopher. Throughout his career, Mr Cave has established himself as a lyricist and musician equally at home experimenting with a number of styles, including jazz, blues, pop and rock.

His 30-year career has seen him win a number of prestigious awards and he famously formed an unlikely duet with Kylie Minogue in 1996. As a writer, he has penned two novels and had two volumes of poetry published.

Mr Cave's acting career has seen him star in a number of films including The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford, Jonas at the Ocean, Rhinoceros Hunting in Budapest, Johnny Suede and Ghosts - of the Civil Dead, which he also credited with writing.

He is currently working on an upcoming film adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's The Road. In addition to both acting on and writing for films, he has collaborated on many movies as a composer and musician.

Throughout his genre-spanning career, Nick Cave's work has exhibited seriousness, intensity and a highly developed artistic sensibility.

Rosamunde Pilcher OBE

is one of the most prolific and successful writers in the world, having sold 30 million books during a long and distinguished career. She began writing at the tender age of seven with first short story being published 11 years later.



She has lived in the Longforgan area for over 60 years and is a long standing supporter of the University of Dundee, having donated to the campaign to raise funds for the building of the Sir James Black Centre and backing the Dundee Literary Festival.

Rosamunde's first novel was published in 1949, and she went on to write dozens more books over the next 50 years. Her 1987 novel, The Shell Seekers, sold more than five million copies globally and, from then until her retirement in 2000, she was consistently one of the world's most successful contemporary female authors.

In total, Rosamunde Pilcher has published 30 novels and hundreds of short stories, with two of her books topping the New York Times bestseller list. Her remarkable storytelling skills are evident in her rich, romantic and satisfying stories. She was awarded an OBE in 2002.



Gosta Walin, Emeritus Professor at Gothenburg University's Institute of Oceanography has made outstanding scientific achievements during his distinguished career.

Professor Walin pioneered new approaches to our understanding of fluid motion, making remarkable

breakthroughs in this field as he did so. In addition to enhancing the understanding of fluid dynamics, he has used his expertise to develop technology to deal with marine pollution, and oil spills in particular.

At the same time, he has displayed imaginative and courageous leadership in the field of environmental science policy and research. Professor Walin has also undertaken entrepreneurial and literary activities that have promoted the role of science in social and community decision making.

He continues to participate tirelessly in debates on political issues that require a rigorous understanding of underlying scientific principles and has written two books on the scientific basis of energy politics.

Bahia Hariri is a long standing educational and cultural activist in Lebanon, rising to the position of Secretary of State for Education within the country. Born into a working class family with a strong desire to help others, Bahia pursued a career in teaching before establishing the Hariri Foundation (HF) in 1979 along with her late brother Rafiq, the former Prime Minister of Lebanon.

Since its inception, HF has provided an educational platform for more than 20,000 students at colleges and universities in Lebanon as well as a further 4700 students across the world.

Her commitment to promoting social and human development projects led her to enter politics and she has held on to her parliamentary seat since 1992. She is also heavily involved in projects to empower women in the Gulf, has been Head of the Arab Interparliamentary Union's Women's Committee since 1992, and has subsequently been appointed UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Arab women and girls.

Bahia Hariri is a Trustee of numerous universities and other organisations across the Gulf and Middle East region, and has received several honours and awards in recognition of her work.



Bruce Johnston was a member of the University Court for eight years until his second term as a lay member came to an end in July 2009. Throughout that time, he was a constant supporter and champion of the University, and made a vital contribution to the good governance of the institution through his diligence, integrity and objectivity.

Now retired, Mr Johnston formerly served as a partner with Chartered Accountancy firm Arthur Young (now Ernst & Young) and later as Executive Chairman of City Centre Restaurants. He was Chairman of The Alliance Trust and Second Alliance Trust until his retirement in 2004.

Appointed a lay member of Court in 2001, he took up chairmanship of what is now the Finance & Policy Committee the following autumn. He held this role for the remainder of his time on Court and was also a Trustee of the University of Dundee Superannuation Scheme for many years.

Mr Johnston was recognised by senior management as being a loyal friend of the University, but also a firm and respected critic who helped the institution to reform its financial management processes and whose contribution went far and above what is normally expected of a Court member.

Professor Roberto Lenton, from Argentina, is one of the world's foremost water experts and has spearheaded several global organisations and initiatives seeking to ensure a clean and regular supply of water for all.

He has served as chair of the Global Water Partnership (2003-2009), chair of the Water Supply and Sanitation Committee (2005-), and co-chair of the UN Task Force on Water and Sanitation (2002-2005). The last of these roles saw him work directly with the Secretary General of the UN and he has also collaborated extensively with colleagues at the World Bank.

In addition, Professor Lenton has taught, lectured and published papers around the world, providing intellectual leadership and advice in the area of water policy.

He already enjoys strong Scottish connections. His grandfather, James McCulloch was born in Blackford and his mother insisted that Professor Lenton be educated at St Andrews Scots School in Buenos Aires.



International interest in Water law symposium



Lawyers, academics, civil servants and policy makers from across the globe are expected to take part in a four day symposium in Dundee this month hosted by the University's UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science.

The International Law and Transboundary Freshwaters Symposium and Workshop 2010 will look at the functions of international water law and how it promotes regional peace and security and how it reconciles competing claims over transboundary freshwaters.

Other key questions explored will include how international legal frameworks support national decision making and what diplomatic strategies nation states can employ to secure the best legal outcomes possible in light of their transboundary water interests.

The symposium will be chaired by Professor Patricia Wouters, Director of the Dundee UNESCO Centre, Dr Alistair Rieu-Clarke, senior lecturer at the centre and Dr Homayoun Motiee, Director of the UNESCO Regional Centre on Urban Water Management in Tehran, joint organisers of the event.

As well as providing training on international water law the symposium is also part of longer term capacity development support to UNESCO Centres in Iran and Brazil. Delegates from both countries will be attending the symposium as will members of the government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Government delegates from Germany and across the Middle East and students from across the world are also expected to attend.

The symposium will also be attended by former University Principal Sir Alan Langlands, who will be in Dundee to receive an honorary degree. Sir Alan will be presenting the Sir Alan Langlands Water Leaders Prize to an outstanding alumnus of the Dundee UNESCO Centre.

1000 older adults needed for research pool

The University's Social inclusion through the Digital Economy (SiDE) project is looking to recruit 1000 volunteers to help them research the extent to which older adults are excluded from, or linked into, the rapidly changing world of technology.

The research pool of men and women aged 55 and over will help the SiDE team, based at the School of Computing, carry out various research exercises.

The team are looking for people who have no interest in using new technology as well as those who regularly engage with new technological developments such as computers, mobile phones and digital radios and televisions.

Marianne Dee, the SiDE project Research Assistant, explained that the research is concerned with finding out how technologies can be made useful and usable for older adults, something that will become increasingly vital in coming years.

"Many people do not realise the potential the Internet and digital technologies offer in terms of saving money, for example, by booking travel, phoning abroad or renewing their car tax online," she said. "The possibilities for keeping in contact with friends and family living far away and the sharing of photographs and videos can be a lifeline for some people.

"Within a few years it will be difficult to access government services, banks, arrange transport, or even be entertained without using some form of personal computer, information kiosk, digital interactive television, or intelligent mobile device.

"This obviously has huge implications for older people. Our research is concerned with the design of applications and devices so that they will be created in such a way that nearly everyone can use them with the goal being for everyone to have full access to information and services.

"This is why we are creating the research pool of participants who are willing to take part in research studies. They will help us consider products at the idea stage and give us feedback on how accessible and user friendly they are. We are also studying what people find difficult and confusing when they use new products or services.

"The findings will identify what needs to be done in the future to make new technologies that will address the needs of a wide range of users especially older adults Those who volunteer to join the research pool will be helping themselves and other users in the 55+ age bracket."

Around 300 volunteers have already signed up for the research pool and are actively participating in projects being carried out at the School of Computing, which contains one of the largest and most influential academic groups in the world researching information technology and assistive technology for older and disabled people.

Older adults who are willing to take part in studies can sign up for the research pool by visiting, www.side-dundee.org.uk/, emailing researchpool@computing.dundee.ac.uk or contacting Marianne Dee on 01382 388237.

Hot new tool for research

A powerful computational tool developed within the College of Life Sciences, is helping drive a modern era of highly complex medical and biological research.

The Jalview software makes possible the analysis of vast quantities of data generated by studies of DNA and protein molecules. These are key in fields as varied as crop research, microbial studies, human health and disease studies.

"Medical and biological research is producing enormous quantities of data about the DNA and protein molecules that make up all living organisms and are central to understanding function and disease," said Professor Geoff Barton, Professor of Bioinformatics in the College of Life Sciences.

"While generating data is getting easier and cheaper, the sheer volume of data arising out of these studies presents big problems for scientists in terms of visualising and analysing what it all means."

These next ones can go at the end.

"The paper describes the latest version of the software and some of the significant updates we have made, including more sophisticated functions and visualisation methods," said Professor Barton.

"We will be continuing to develop the software to reflect advances made in medical and biological research. Sequences of DNA, RNA, and proteins are the fundamental currency of modern research and things are becoming more advanced all the time."

The work of Professor Barton and his colleagues at Dundee to develop Jalview has been funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

"The Jalview software we have developed makes it easier to carry out common analyses on biological sequences, but most importantly makes possible analyses that would otherwise be too difficult or impossible to do.

"It is effectively a specialised word processor, web-browser and desktop publishing package rolled into one."

The Jalview software is installed on over 20,000 computers worldwide and is also available as an applet that is installed on over 100,000 web pages including those run by major international databases.

The latest updates to the Jalview system have been documented in a research paper by Professor Barton and colleagues which has been described on the influential sciencewatch.com website as the 'Hot New Paper' in the field of computer science.

Dental alumni raise funds for new student prize



Professor William Saunders, Dean of the School of Dentistry, pictured receiving the cheque from Professor Sir David Mason.

A new student prize is to be established in the School of Dentistry thanks to the generosity of an alumni group.

The St Andrews Dental Alumni consists of those dentists who graduated from the School either before 1967 - when what is now the University of Dundee was Queen's College, Dundee, part of the University of St Andrews - or in the few years after when students were free to choose to graduate from either Dundee or St Andrews.

Following a number of reunions in recent years, many of them to celebrate 40, 50 and even 60 year graduation anniversaries, it was decided to raise a fund for a student prize.

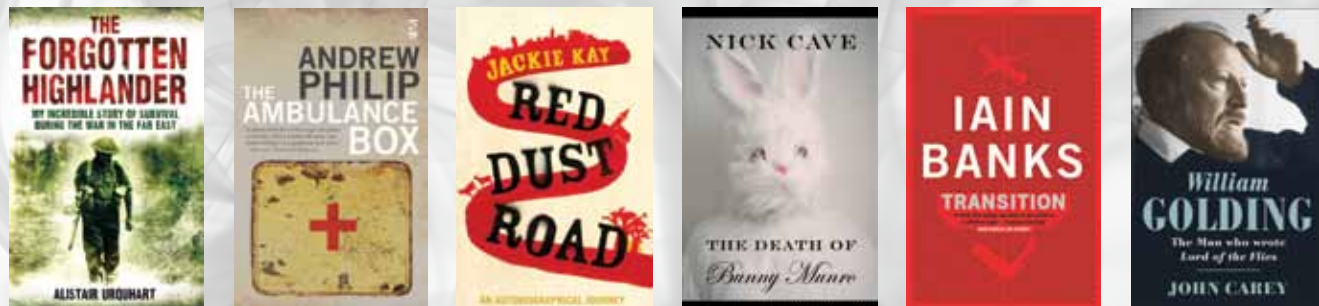
"We wanted to do something to mark our appreciation of the training and help we received in our time at what was then Queen's College, Dundee, and also to honour the heritage of the St Andrews dental graduates," said Professor Sir David Mason, one of the alumni group.

"As the students of the past, we were very keen to give some help to the students of the future.

"There are around 150 alumni we have been in contact with and the response has been very good. We have collected over £17,000 now which we will be donating to the University to fund a student prize."

The details of what the prize will consist of and how it will be awarded are still being discussed in the School of Dentistry but it is anticipated it may fund student research projects.

Star-studded line up for Literary Festival



The fourth annual Dundee Literary Festival gets under way at the end of the month with its “best-ever line-up” of authors, poets and literary stars.

Headlining the five-day celebration of writing will be musician, writer and actor Nick Cave, novelist Iain Banks and best-selling author Rosamunde Pilcher.

Also included in the “wondrous mixture” of authors, workshops, music, debates and discussion this year are appearances by Allan Warner, nominated by Granta magazine as one of the best young British novelists, biographer and academic John Carey and poet Christopher Reid, winner of the Costa Book Award 2009.

The festival, which runs from 23 to 27 June, will also host its first residential writing school at the historic Hospitalfield House in Arbroath. There budding writers will be able to hone their literary talents in a series of masterclasses with award-winning authors.

Writers who have already dipped their pen into the world of publishing will be at the New Writing Dundee party held on 23 June to launch the publication of the fifth edition of the popular anthology. The event, which will feature readings from a number of contributors to the book, also marks the official launch of the festival.

“We’ve got a fantastic line up this year and it should be a really exciting few days,” said festival director Anna Day.

“We’ve tried to ensure that there is something for everyone to enjoy at this year’s Festival regardless of their age or taste. We are passionate about spreading the word and encouraging a growing number of people to engage with the wonderful and diverse world of literature. The message is that you’re never too young or too old to enjoy books.

“We have a series of events focussing on children’s books with illustrator and writer Alison Murray visiting schools in the area to read from her book Apple Pie ABC. And as the Open Golf Championship is at St Andrews this year we’re also having a golf event where Kenny Reid will talk about his book A Major Obsession. We’re really trying to reach out and appeal to as many people as possible.”

Other programme highlights this year include readings from students of the University’s Creative Writing course and a chance to hear Broughty Ferry based writer Alastair Urquhart read from The Forgotten Highlander, his best-selling memoir of his time as a Japanese prisoner of war during World War Two.

The 90-year-old author helped launch the Dundee Literary Festival back in April with the help of children from the University nursery. His book, a Sunday Times Bestseller, is an amazing tale of survival, suffering and bravery.

The winner of the Dundee International Book Prize will also be revealed during the festival at a special dinner on Friday 25 June. The following day the successful recipient of the £10,000 first prize will read from their novel and discuss what winning the competition means to them.

Bringing the festival to a close on Sunday 27 June will be the fourth Comic Conference featuring star names from the world of animation including Dez Skinn, Rian Hughes and Pat Mills.

Festival events will take place at the Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill, Dundee. Tickets are available from Literary Dundee on the fifth floor of the Tower Building or by phoning 01382 384413.

The full festival programme can be seen at www.literarydundee.co.uk

dundee literary festival

Talent on show in New Writing Dundee



The fifth volume of New Writing Dundee, an anthology of poetry, prose and journalism from Dundee and across the globe, will be officially launched at the Dundee Literary Festival this month.

This year’s book boasts new work from Costa Book of the Year prize winner Christopher Reid and a contribution from the 2009 Saltire Society Literary Award winner Robert Crawford as well as pieces from new and previously unpublished authors.

New Writing Dundee began life as a magazine exclusively written and edited by students but in 2007 took on a wider remit. With support from the University’s Creative Writing programme, the publication has grown from a small magazine to an internationally recognised anthology showcasing Dundee’s publishing potential.

A New Writing Dundee launch party will be held on Wednesday 23 June at 6pm in the Dalhousie Building. Entry is free, no tickets are required and there will be the chance to buy the book and meet several authors who contributed to the publication.

The book, which costs £5, can also be purchased from Waterstone’s store in Commercial Street, Dundee, or by contacting Anna Day, Director of Literary Dundee, on 01382 384413 or on a.c.day@dundee.ac.uk



Jak Interpretovat Text
Kenneth M. Newton
Periplum

This book is a translation into Czech, by Milan Orálek, of Interpreting the Text, first published in 1990 by Harvester Wheatsheaf.

It discusses the origins of interpretive criticism, especially its emergence as the dominant form of literary criticism in Anglo-American New Criticism. It goes

on to consider the relation between literary interpretation and hermeneutics, and the attacks on interpretation as a critical method by traditional, formalist, structuralist and post-structuralist critics.

Particular attention is paid to the way in which the role of interpretation has changed in contemporary criticism through discussions of deconstruction, reader-response criticism, feminist criticism, Marxist and Marxist-influenced criticism such as ‘New Historicism’ and Cultural Materialism’.

For the Czech translation an afterword has been added that discusses some of the developments in criticism and theory between 1990 and the present.

Professor Ken Newton is Emeritus Professor of English in the School of Humanities.



The Rise and Fall of the Scottish Cotton Industry, 1778-1914
– ‘The Secret Spring’

Anthony Cooke
Manchester University Press

This is the first full-length history of the cotton industry in Scotland from its beginnings in the late eighteenth century to its premature decline in the years leading up to the First World War.

Illustrated by maps, photographs and tables the book explores the

origins, development and decline of the industry.

It discusses a range of issues including the heavy reliance on child and female labour and migrant workers from the Highlands and Ireland, trade unions, workplace control, technological improvements, markets and consumer tastes, employers, paternalism and foreign competition.

The book is available from bookshops, from www.nbninternational.com and from Amazon.com

Anthony Cooke was a senior lecturer in Continuing Education at the University until his retiral in 2003.

STARS TURN OUT FOR DEGREE SHOW

Television presenter Lorraine Kelly and former Turner Prize-winning artist Martin Creed joined thousands of visitors at this year's Dundee Degree Show.

Lorraine, a former rector of the University, officially opened the degree show's Industry Night held at Dundee University Students Association while the following night artist and musician Martin, winner of the 2001 Turner Prize, helped students, their families and friends celebrate Preview Night with a live performance in DUSA.

This year's show featured work by more than 250 students from 11 undergraduate programmes at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design on Perth Road with every spare space throughout the art college's two buildings and fourteen floors exhibiting art and design.

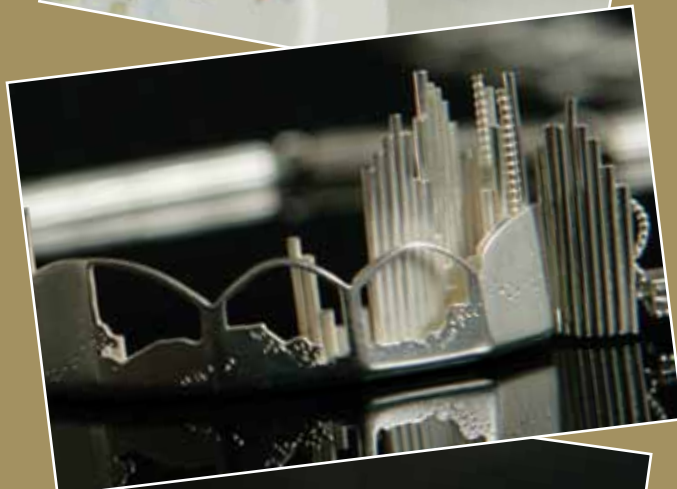
"The annual degree show at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design showcases the remarkable talent and creativity of our students from a wide range of disciplines," said Acting Dean of DJCAD, Professor Tracy Mackenna.

"What we see, year after year, is that our students continue to push the boundaries of art and design and to challenge convention."

The degree show, which ran from 22 to 30 May, is one of the highlights in Dundee's cultural calendar and is seen as a springboard for some of Scotland's most exciting emerging artists.

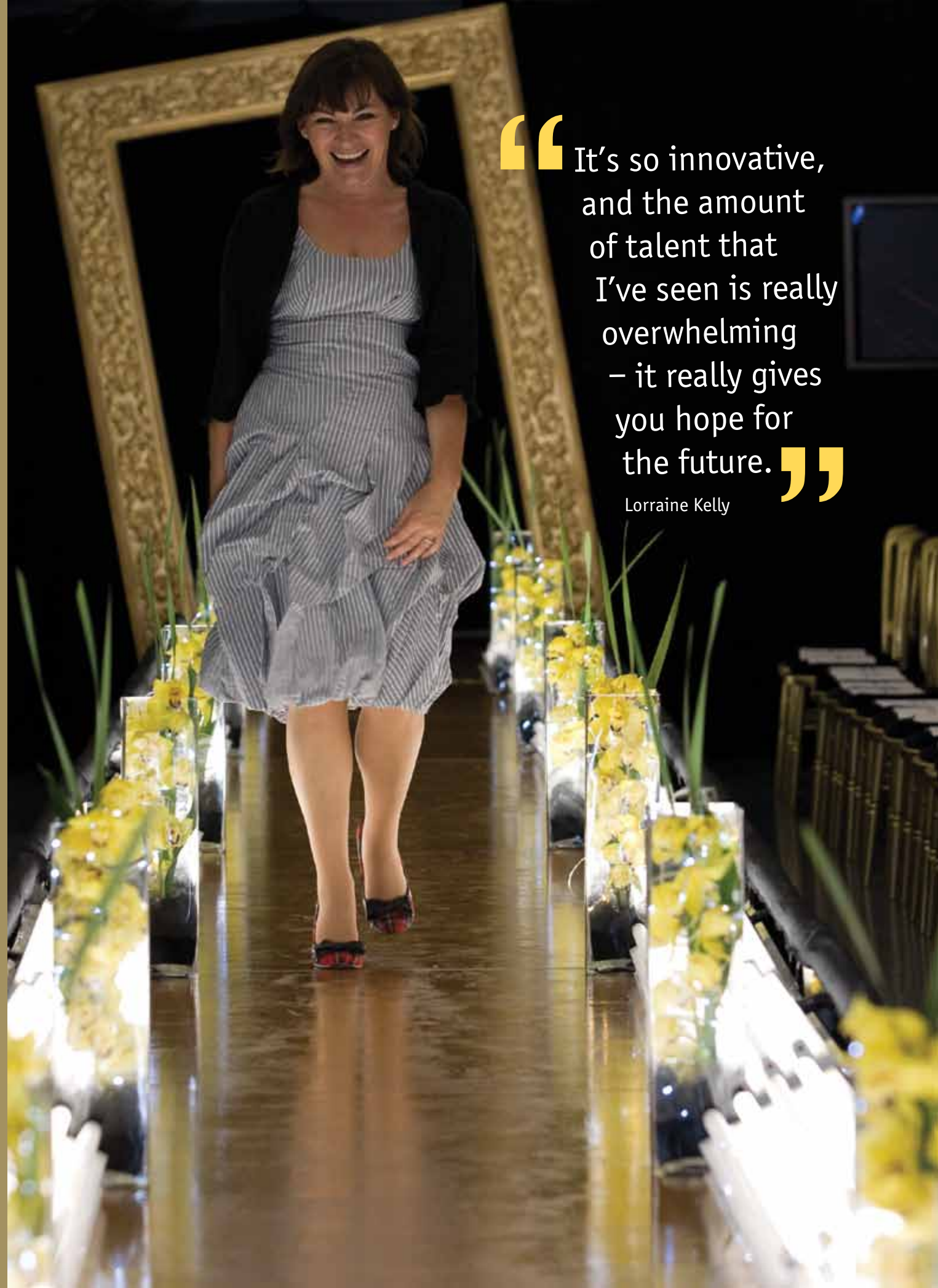
Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design has been rated as the top art school in Scotland and in the top four in the UK according to the latest Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

“What we see, year after year, is that our students continue to push the boundaries of art and design and to challenge convention.”



“It's so innovative, and the amount of talent that I've seen is really overwhelming – it really gives you hope for the future.”

Lorraine Kelly



Artists in the frame for new royal portrait

Two artists with strong links to Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design are in the running to create a new photographic portrait of the Queen.

Carolyn Scott, currently a Master of Fine Art student at DJCAD, and Chris Park, who graduated with a Fine Art degree in 2006, are among the five photographers to be shortlisted in the competition, which was commissioned by the Scottish Parliament.

DJCAD, responded to the Parliament's invitation for all art schools in Scotland to propose a maximum of two Masters students or recent graduates for the competition. All candidates were asked to submit evidence of their work and the outline of their proposal for the photographic portrait.

Carolyn (62), who is originally from Edinburgh and now lives in Cupar, says she is "absolutely thrilled" to have got to this stage

"It's great for Duncan of Jordanstone to have the two of us in the final shortlist," she said. "It's quite a daunting prospect having to go through and deliver such an extensive presentation, but I'm sure it will be a great experience.

"I was recommended by staff at the College to enter the competition and had to submit six images, along with a basic proposal. The fact I am now on the final shortlist is quite amazing as I hadn't studied art before coming here as a mature student in 2005.

"It was something I'd always wanted to do and I'm now completing my Masters and may even end up being commissioned to create a portrait of The Queen!"

Carolyn also recently received the Hope Scott Trust Postgraduate Award at the RSA New Contemporaries exhibition, which showcases the best works from Degree Shows at all Scottish art schools last year.

Chris (27), originally from Lisburn, now lives and works in Edinburgh. He explained that he was put forward by staff at DJCAD who remembered his work and felt he stood a good chance of success in the competition.

"It was a total surprise when I received a call to tell me I had been recommended for the competition," he said. "When you are working hard and that work leads to the next logical stage it's one thing, but when something like this comes out of the blue it's exciting to say the least.

"Duncan of Jordanstone is one of the very best art schools around and it is an honour just to be selected as one of only two candidates from an institution that has clearly nurtured many talented individuals.

"All I can say is that I have a one-in-five chance at this stage and am looking forward to the presentation. The central theme in my presentation is one of unity, and I am happy with my concept so we'll just have to see what happens."

The pair responded to a brief challenging them to "create an engaging and innovative photographic portrait of Her Majesty The Queen that reflects on her relationship with the Scottish Parliament and her links with Scotland". The portrait will be displayed in the Scottish Parliament and will form part of the permanent Scottish Parliament Art Collections.

A location for the portrait sitting within the Palace of Holyroodhouse will be agreed by the commissioned photographer, the commissioning panel and the Royal Household. Site visits will be arranged ahead of the portrait sitting.

The selection of the final portrait from the photo shoot will be carried out by the commissioning panel, the commissioned photographer and the Royal Household.



Gem of a prize for Filipa

A third year jewellery student at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design (DJCAD) has won an illustrious first prize in a national competition run by the Scottish Gemmological Association.

Filipa Oliveira's success in the SGA's Gem Set 2010 competition won her £300 worth of gems to be used in future creations.

The competition is an annual challenge specifically intended to promote the use of gem materials in the work of jewellery students at art colleges and further education colleges across Scotland. Students have to design and manufacture an item of wearable gem-set jewellery and 24-year-old Filipa's design was judged the best in the country.

"I am very pleased to have won the award because it is an important recognition of my work," she said.

"I studied jewellery in Portugal but I realised I needed to learn much more which is why I came to the UK. Winning this award shows me that I am improving and that my efforts have been worth it.

"Most of my work involves gems, although I like to work with other materials as well. My pieces always contain symbolism and tell a story which I research before beginning the work. I like to search things from the past, change them and incorporate them into my pieces."

Filipa's winning design was inspired by the similarities between the Giant's Causeway and honeycombs.

Entries were judged by a panel of jewellery professionals who examined aesthetic design and originality, the quality of construction and finish, and the professional application of stone setting techniques.

DJCAD graduate makes Turner prize shortlist

Susan Philipsz, a graduate of Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, is one of four artists shortlisted for this year's Turner Prize.

Susan studied Fine Art at Dundee from 1989 to 1993, specialising in sculpture. Her association with the city continued when Dundee Contemporary Arts exhibited one of her pieces 'Atlantis' in 1995. It is now part of the University's museum collections.

"I am absolutely delighted to see Susan nominated for the Turner Prize," said Gareth Fisher, Professor of Fine Art at DJCAD. "I actually tutored Susan in her Honours year and she is still a good friend to Dundee."

Susan, who comes from Glasgow, is best known for creating 'sculptures using sound' and often uses popular music and film themes as the basis of her art.

Crafting the future

The first national festival celebrating craft in Scotland opened in May with a programme of events to celebrate and champion the influence of craft in modern day life.

Craft Festival Scotland showcases the results of a five year research project into craft carried out at the University.

Led by Professor Georgina Follett and Dr Louise Valentine of Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, Past, Present and Future Craft Practice explored new directions, practices and perspectives in contemporary craft.

Craft Festival Scotland began in May and featured more than 60 events. One of the highlights was the Prototype Symposium on 10 and 11 June.

Co-convened by DJCAD and the Victoria and Albert Museum the symposium brought leading figures from the world of art, business, design, media, music and science to Dundee to explore the innovative ways they are using prototypes.

For more information on the craft festival visit: www.dundee.ac.uk/craftfest

New sports rehabilitation course for physios

With the London Olympics only two years away and the Commonwealth Games heading to Glasgow in 2014 the demand for physiotherapists with sport specific experience has never been higher.

From September the University's School of Nursing and Midwifery will be offering physiotherapists the opportunity to increase their academic knowledge of sports related physiotherapy with a new postgraduate module in sports rehabilitation.

The online module aims to give qualified physiotherapists an increased understanding of the theory and practice of sports science and injury within all levels of sporting activity from beginner to elite athlete.

"The Olympics in London and the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow are looking for physiotherapists with experience of working with sports people particularly at elite level," said module leader Jenny Ross.

"This new module will provide an academic underpinning to physiotherapy practice in sports rehabilitation. It will look at the physical and psychological aspects of sport, the biomechanics of various sports, general principles of rehabilitation and injury management as well as injury prevention plus ethical issues related to patient management.

"It will also include individual profiling and multidisciplinary working and will cover all levels of sport."

The teaching team for the module includes four physiotherapists, a psychologist, a strength and conditioning coach and a sports medicine doctor, all of whom work with elite athletes.

"We all have experience of working with sports people at all levels including professional football teams and Olympic and Commonwealth athletes and para-Olympic athletes," said Jenny, who is a teaching fellow within the School of Nursing and Midwifery as well as owning and working in her physiotherapy private practice and spinal injury clinic in Aberdeen.

The module, which will take one semester to complete, forms part of the portfolio of courses for the MSc in Advanced Practice in Physiotherapy. Other courses include neurological rehabilitation, clinical decision making for the musculoskeletal physiotherapist and mechanical diagnosis and therapy.

For more information on these courses visit www.dundee.ac.uk/nursingmidwifery/postgraduate/modules



Making Contact 12 decades of staff & student magazines

Norwegian honour for Professor Davies



Peter Davies, Professor of Fluid Dynamics within the School of Engineering, Physics and Maths, has been elected as a Foreign Member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (DNVA).

The Academy, which was founded in 1857, has 219 ordinary seats for Norwegian members and an additional 183 seats for foreign members.

Professor Davies, who is also a Fellow of The Royal Society of Edinburgh, was one of five international academics to be elected this year and was formally admitted to the Academy at a special ceremony in Oslo in May.

The election recognises Professor Davies' work in the fields of physical, environmental and geophysical fluid dynamics and the particular advances made by him and his research group in Civil Engineering over the past 30 years.

"I am extremely honoured to join the company of eminent international scientists that comprise the present membership," said Professor Davies.

"I also have to acknowledge the excellent contributions made to the reputation of our research group here in Dundee by my doctoral students and outstanding, dedicated postdoctoral scientists such as Yakun Guo, Alan Cuthbertson, Magda Carr, Rick Munro and Andrew Folkard, who now hold Lectureships/Senior Lectureships at the Universities of Aberdeen, Heriot Watt, St Andrews, Nottingham and Lancaster respectively."

University Principal Professor Pete Downes added, "I have known Peter Davies for most of my 20 years at Dundee and have always recognised him as one of our world class scientists.

"Whilst this latest award comes as no surprise it is an honour that gives great credit to Peter, his research staff and Scotland's leading centre of Civil Engineering."

The photograph on the cover of the February edition of Contact bore an uncanny resemblance to the back page of the very first Contact that was published back in 1975. On that occasion the photograph of the British Isles was to mark the establishment of the only Weather Satellite High Resolution Centre in the United Kingdom. This echo from the past reminds us that magazines for both staff and students have long played an important roll in the life of the University and of its predecessor Colleges.

Appropriately for Dundee, student journalism has flourished since the early days of University College, Dundee. The first student publication was known as The College and between 1888 and 1952 it combined factual information, intelligent articles and humorous material. Since the 1930s the University has had a number of other student publications, including The Glad Mag, Venture, Aien, Annasach, MacDOUGALL, The Student Times and The Magdalen.

The most famous student newspaper was undoubtedly Annasach which was launched when the University became independent in 1967 and survived until the mid 1990s. Along the way it featured notable contributions from the likes of George Robertson and Brian Wilson and provided an open forum for students of all shades of opinion to share their views. Perhaps its most interesting era was the period in the mid 1980s when David Shayler was its star investigative reporter and sometime editor.

This period saw Annasach gain recognition at the Glasgow Herald Student Press Awards, but Shayler's sensationalist reporting style was somewhat controversial. No doubt Shayler's work on the newspaper helped him to find employment with The Sunday Times after he left Dundee.

The first staff magazine was the University of Dundee Gazette which ran from 1969 to 1975. The Gazette, however, was little more than a list of staff changes, grants and the occasional scrap of news. Contact, launched in 1975, aimed from the outset to be more than a glorified newsletter. According to the statement on the cover of the first issue Contact's remit was to be 'a channel of information and expression, available to ALL members of staff.'

Over the years it has become a focal point for staff and a vital part of the development of the University's sense of community – which is so important given the institution's amazing growth over the past four decades.

All the publications mentioned above are available for consultation in the University Archives in the basement of the Tower Building. For more information see www.dundee.ac.uk/archives.



Big ise 10 event highlights fitness for life

A cardiac rehabilitation programme which began at the University's Institute of Sport and Exercise ten years ago, celebrated its success in changing lives and boosting activity levels with a fundraising fitness challenge earlier this month.

On June 9 members of the Phase IV Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme put their fitness to the test in the Big 10 Event aimed at raising funds for British Heart Foundation research being carried out at the University and to support Phase IV training developments at ISE.

Joining them in the charity challenge were members of ISE's Type 2 Diabetes classes and seniors members.

Each participant chose a cardiovascular challenge from a Big 10 Menu which included walking 10,000 steps around campus, completing 10k or 10 miles on a bike, treadmill, rowing machine or cross trainer in the gym, swimming 100 lengths, walking or exercising for 100 minutes or dancing and walking 10,000 steps.

Hazel Ednie, Specialist Populations Programme Coordinator at ISE and a qualified Phase IV instructor, said that as well as raising funds the event was also about raising awareness of the programme and highlighting the achievements of its members.

"The aim of the programme is to help people in their recovery from heart disease including heart attacks, bypass surgery, angina, heart transplants and valve replacements," she said.

“ The Institute of Sport and Exercise are playing a vital role in raising the much needed funds to help save lives in Dundee and well beyond. ”

"People are often worried about how much they can do but they are also frequently surprised by just what they are capable of and the level of support that exists to help them.

"We want to motivate them to stay active and convince them it is possible and fun. The idea is that they become independent exercisers and improve their fitness and maintain heart health.

David & Iain highlight Phase IV success

The Phase IV programme at ISE has many success stories but two of the most remarkable are David Winch from Wormit and Iain Garthley from Dundee.

David (70) began attending the classes at ISE after having heart bypass surgery nearly ten years ago. Having spent years working long hours and taking no exercise he is now a formidable rower and charity fundraiser who has twice completed marathon rows from Perth to Broughty Ferry. Last year's row raised more than £4000 for Marie Curie and RNLI.

"The operation changed my life but what the Phase IV classes have done is allow me to maintain that and keep it going," said David, a retired mechanical engineer, who completed a 10k row for the Big 10 event.

"The classes have made an enormous difference and I'm able to do so much more now. I've also noticed there are more older people going to the gym now which is great."

Iain Garthley (45) joined the Phase IV programme after suffering a heart attack in 2008. He is now training for the London triathlon in August to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation.

"I was totally unfit before the heart attack," he said. "I started the Phase IV classes a few months later and they were brilliant. The support from Hazel and the team at ISE has been fantastic.

"I don't go to the rehab classes any more but I train five days a week, going to other classes, running and swimming. I feel so much younger now. It has totally changed my life."

To support Iain's triathlon charity effort visit his fundraising page at: <http://original.justgiving.com/iaingarhley>

"The programme has helped many people over the years improve their whole quality of life and also increase their fitness levels. It also reduces the risk of suffering further cardiac illness."

In the ten years since the Phase IV programme first began around 450 patients have been referred to ISE by the cardiac rehabilitation team at Ninewells Hospital.

The phases refer to the different stages of care a patient receives following their illness. Phase I is hospitalisation, Phase II is following hospital discharge when the patient is still under the care of a GP and cardiac nurse and Phase III is when patients receive education and exercise under the supervision of a cardiac physiotherapist.

Phase IV is community-based exercise to support and maintain a patient's heart health and includes weekly classes, monthly education workshops and activity taster sessions.

Prior to the establishment of the Dundee class the nearest similar rehab programme was in Glasgow.

Some of the money raised through the Big 10 Event will be going to the British Heart Foundation's Heart of Discovery Appeal to fund research carried out by Professor Allan Struthers into 'silent' heart disease.

The research is aiming to develop a simple blood test that could potentially save the lives of millions of people across the world.

BHF Scotland's Fundraising Volunteer Manager, Ffyonna Scott said, "The Heart of Discovery Appeal has only a few months left to raise £40,000. The Institute of Sport and Exercise are playing a vital role in raising the much needed funds to help save lives in Dundee and well beyond. We need more fantastic people like those taking part in the ISE Phase IV Cardiac Rehab fundraising day to help us reach our target."

To donate to the appeal contact Ffyonna at scottf@bhf.org.uk or visit www.bhf.org.uk/dundeep appeal

To sponsor any of the Big 10 Event participants contact Hazel at h.c.ednie@dundee.ac.uk



court news

At its April meeting, the Court received the news of the sad death of the University's former Chancellor, Sir James Black, and, as a mark of respect, observed a moment of reflection in his honour. Thereafter, the main substance of the meeting was provided by the initial report of the Strategic Review.

Strategic Review

In introducing the review, the Principal explained its development by the Senior Management Team in conjunction with College executive teams, Deans and Directors of support services. The publication of the report marked the beginning of an extensive and comprehensive period of consultation with staff, students and stakeholders. He emphasised the fact that the review document represented not a single proposal but a series of proposals all aimed at enhancing the University's reputation, focus and impact through support for excellence in all its forms.

The debate that followed was lively and fully engaged, and a number of important points of concern were raised that were noted by officers and Vice-Principals. Amongst these was the widely held concern that the document failed to place sufficient weight on the value of learning and teaching. The Principal reassured members that this was certainly not the intention, and that the promotion of excellence in learning, teaching and the student experience was at least as important as research.

Another concern was the perceived speed of the consultation process, which for some put into question the University's commitment to full consultation. It was accepted that presenting a revised paper at the June Court meeting did not leave a lot of time, but the consultation process would continue beyond June and the revised paper to be presented at the June meeting was to be seen as a staging post on a journey whereby proposals were modified and finalised through consultation to become projects for implementation. Some of the proposals would take longer to implement than others, and some were less controversial than others, but if the University was to re-orient itself in accordance with the new vision of excellence, focus and impact, then it was important to get to work to provide momentum. At the same time, the more complex proposals could be debated and discussed fully over a longer period.

The focus of press attention so far had been on possible job cuts, and members cautioned that this might have a detrimental effect on staff morale. The Principal responded that as long as the consultation process was full and fair and all views were considered equally, then the final proposals should minimise this effect and in fact should engender the support of staff for the proposals across the University.

By 11 votes to 7, the Court decided to endorse the proposals in principle in their current form for extensive consultation.

Other News

The Court approved the recommendation from the Governance & Nominations Committee that the newly appointed Court member, Keith Swinley, should be invited to become a trustee of the University of Dundee Superannuation Scheme. It also approved changes to three Ordinances (18, 20 and 45), subject to ratification at the June meeting (visit www.somis.dundee.ac.uk/court/ for details), the academic calendar for 2010-11 and a set of overarching Financial Regulations for the University.

Chairperson of Court

The Court received official notification of the outcome of the election for a new Chair of Court, to succeed Mr John Milligan, whose term finishes at the end of July. The election was an extraordinarily close run fight, with Mr Eric Sanderson winning by one vote against former member of staff, Professor Ann Burchell. The Court congratulated the winner and paid tribute to Professor Burchell and the well-fought campaign.



appointments



Professor Hari Hundal Chair in Molecular Physiology College of Life Sciences

Professor Hari Hundal has been appointed to a Chair in Molecular Physiology.

He obtained a BSc in Biochemistry in 1984 and a PhD in Physiology in 1988, both from the University of Dundee. He subsequently carried out post doctoral research at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto before returning to the University of Dundee in 1993 to take up a lectureship supported by a Wellcome Trust University Award.

Hari was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1998, Reader in 2001 and recently to the Chair of Molecular Physiology within the College of Life Sciences. He has always possessed a strong bilateral focus on research and teaching.

Hari's current and future research programme is directed at defining the intracellular signalling processes that regulate uptake, storage and metabolism of nutrients (e.g. glucose, fatty acids and amino acids) with particular focus on how cells sense nutrient availability and how nutrient over-load can induce metabolic disorders such as insulin resistance and diabetes.

He has published over 100 articles in this area and has been supported by funding from research councils (MRC and BBSRC), medical charities (Diabetes UK) and pharmaceutical sources (AstraZeneca).

Hari is also passionate about his role in supporting undergraduate teaching and through his role as Degree Convenor has been a strong advocate for the Physiology and Sports Biomedicine degree programmes in Dundee.

He currently serves on the editorial board of the American Journal of Physiology, is member of a number of learned societies, including the Biochemical and Physiological Societies, and is external examiner for the Molecular Cell Biology Program at the University of Bath.



Professor Andy Flavell Chair of Plant Genomics College of Life Sciences

Professor Andy Flavell has been appointed to a personal Chair of Plant Genomics within the College of Life Sciences.

Professor Flavell received his PhD in chemistry at Sheffield University in 1975. This was followed by postdocs in London and Boston (USA) in molecular virology and Drosophila molecular genetics.

In 1983 he was appointed lecturer by the University of Dundee, becoming senior lecturer in 1993 and reader in 2002.

His main research interest in the 1990s was the transposons ('jumping genes') of plants and their role in genetic biodiversity of plants. This led to an interest in the biodiversity of crop plant genomes, for which he developed marker technologies and computer databases.

Recently he has used DNA markers and "Next Generation Sequencing" to identify useful genes for crop breeding.

His plans for future research include focussing on newly emerging genetic tools to improve crop efficiency and sustainability, which will be crucial to combat the effects of climate change and population increase.

Dundee students take lead on patient safety



Students at the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Computing are proving to be among the world leaders in introducing patient safety elements into healthcare education.

Their efforts have helped place Dundee second out of 210 chapters in the world with their involvement in the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Open School for health professions.

The US-based IHI Open School is an inter-professional educational community that gives students the skills to become champions for health care improvement, particularly in areas like quality improvement, patient safety, teamwork, leadership, and patient-centred care.

"Issues like patient safety and quality improvement are very much at the heart of healthcare, yet they haven't really been core in the curriculum of healthcare-related education," said Professor Peter Davey, of the Division of Clinical and Population Sciences and Education.

"The IHI Open School is helping students play a key role in boosting these areas of education, and I am absolutely delighted that our students in Dundee have taken this up so strongly and completed so many of the Open School courses, the second-most of anywhere in the world. By developing these skills, and then taking them into the professional environment, it will have a real impact on many areas of front-line healthcare."

Heather Marr, Head of the Division of Quality Assurance and Academic Governance in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Dundee, said, "This is a hugely positive development and the students deserve great credit for adopting this so enthusiastically."

Two of the students who have helped drive the IHI programme in Dundee - Liam Shields (final year Nursing) and Tommy Johnston (final year Medicine) - have been invited to speak at major conferences and seminars around the world.

Their aim is to promote a nationwide strategy which will ensure all healthcare students in Scotland are educated in this vitally important subject area.

"This is something that has grown from a small group of students to national and international attention," said Liam. "We are now speaking to a lot of healthcare professionals about how this can be developed and incorporated further both in education and the professional sector.

Tommy said the project was a great example of how initiatives can be led from the 'bottom up'.

"By making students patient safety 'champions' we are introducing a standard of non-technical skills and communication that can be applied across the health care sector," said Tommy. "It might be a bit daunting for a student to challenge a surgeon or senior consultant on things like pre-operation checklists and so on but this programme is giving us the skills to do this in an effective and non-judgemental manner.

"If we really want to improve healthcare and make it safer for our patients it is vitally important all healthcare students are educated in quality and safety as part of the core undergraduate curriculum. The Dundee chapter is already making great progress towards achieving this but we still have a lot more work to do."

Their work is now being championed by those at the top of the healthcare system.

NHS Tayside Chief Operating Officer Mr Gerry Marr said, "We are particularly pleased that this initiative is to focus on students at the start of their careers. This embeds patient safety in their work right from the start.

"The individual students are exemplary in this work and provide excellent role models for others."

Water expertise in demand

University expertise may soon be helping to ensure that some of the world's most impoverished people have access to a clean, life-saving, supply of water.

A senior delegation from Malawi visited the University's UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science in May to receive specialist training in water regulation and hydrological issues, which will help inform future policies to improve the health of economic wellbeing of 15 million Malawians.

The delegation from the Privatisation Commission of Malawi completed a week-long training programme delivered by the UNESCO Centre with support from the Centre for Energy Petroleum and Mineral Law Policy (CEPMLP).

Professor Patricia Wouters, Director of the UNESCO Centre, said the training was specifically tailored with the Malawian situation in mind and builds on the framework provided by core teaching at the Centre.

"We are immensely pleased to be working with the Privatisation Commission of Malawi to provide expertise to enable them to improve the provision of clean water to everyone in their country," she said.

"Our role is to help Public Private Partnerships in the water sector to operate at an optimum level in Malawi.

"This will be done through water sector regulation and improvements to water service delivery in Malawi. In particular, the work that the Commission hopes to carry out focuses on the provision of sufficient water supply for Blantyre and Lilongwe, the two largest - and rapidly growing - urban centres in Malawi."

Malawi is among the world's least developed and most densely populated countries, with low life expectancy and high infant mortality rates. Improving the supply and quality of water is essential to efforts to enhance the nation's health and prosperity.

Dundee's world-renowned expertise in water management leads many foreign governments and international agencies to seek out their assistance. Earlier this year, the Republic of Tajikistan's ambassador to the UK visited to find out how changing policies could be helped to aid the development of the landlocked Central Asian country and its neighbours.

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what's on...

23 June

War on Tea launches Dundee Arts Café

5pm, Dalhousie Building

A new series of events designed to highlight the latest developments in arts and humanities research launches this month. Dundee Arts café aims to provide an informal arena to discuss new research in a range of disciplines from economics and design to history and philosophy.



The series will be launched by Peter Kitson, Professor of English at the University who will be discussing how tea, the Bible and opium featured in the fascinating history between these two great World Empires and the long-lasting effects these encounters have on us to this day.

The event is free and begins at 5pm. To find out more visit www.dundeeartscafe.co.uk

25 June

Friday Fry Up

12 noon to 1pm, College Hall

Staff from across the University are invited to College Hall on the fourth Friday of every month to join in a "learning lunch" aimed at sharing ideas and forging professional friendships.

The "Fry-up club" was established to help members of staff from different parts of the University get together in an informal setting, make new contacts and share good practice.

"There are no presentations," explained Lynn Boyle, a lecturer in the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education and one of the founders of the club. "It really is just a chance to meet colleagues and have an informal chat.

"The lunches have been very successful so far. We've had people from all over the University coming along."

The Fry-up club meets between 12 and 1pm in College Hall. Tea, coffee and pastries are provided but those attending are asked to bring their own lunch.

For more information email Lynn on l.y.boyle@dundee.ac.uk or visit: www.dundee.ac.uk/library/teaching/apd/fryup.htm

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23 to 27 June

Dundee Literary Festival

Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill

This year's celebration of all things literary boasts a star-studded line up including Nick Cave, Iain Banks, Rosamunde Pilcher and John Carey as well as a host of other writers in a series of workshops, talks, book signings and readings.

Tickets are available from Literary Dundee, 5th floor, Tower Building (tel: 01382 384413) or online at www.literarydundee.co.uk

28 June

Café Science Dundee

Chambers Coffee House

Dr Peter Willatts, a senior lecturer in the School of Psychology, will be exploring the role of Omega-3 fats and discussing whether they really can make children smarter!

Doors open at 6.30pm. Entry is free.

For more information visit www.cafesciencedundee.co.uk

sense of achievement

Pioneer: Professor Sue Black

Professor Sue Black pioneers forensic anthropology at the University of Dundee. In 1999 she was the lead forensic anthropologist to the British Forensic Team in Kosovo, and was awarded an OBE for her services.



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