

## Queen's Anniversary Prize for Dundee

**The University has won a prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education for its work in drug discovery.**

The announcement was made by the Founder and Chairman of the Royal Anniversary Trust Mr Robin Gill CVO at a ceremony at St James's Palace attended by the Principal Sir Alan Langlands, and Professor Sir Philip Cohen and Professor Peter Downes, both of the School of Life Sciences.

The award recognises the work of the Division of Signal Transduction Therapy (DSTT) - a unique consortium bringing together the research expertise of 12 research teams based in the School of Life Sciences and its associated Medical Research Council Protein Phosphorylation Unit, with six leading rivals from the pharmaceutical industry to drive the development of new drugs combating major diseases including cancer and diabetes.

University Principal Sir Alan Langlands said, "We are honoured that the work of our life scientists in this important area has been recognised with such a prestigious award. The DSTT is a unique, extraordinary and highly successful operation which is enabling the discovery of new drugs to treat major global diseases. It is a great tribute to the drive and vision of Philip Cohen, Peter Downes and other leading scientists that the DSTT has gone from strength to strength in spite of the complexities, not only of the science, but of the international business environment in which it operates."

Co-director of the DSTT, Professor Peter Downes said, "Scientists at the DSTT are no strangers to international awards but The Queen's Anniversary Prize is a particular honour and one of which we - and all our partners in the consortium - feel immensely proud.

"The Division of Signal Transduction Therapy has enhanced drug discovery programmes against diabetes, cancer and inflammatory diseases, contributing to the research and development pipelines of several of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies.

"It has stimulated biotechnology in the region by training scientists with knowledge of the needs of the commercial sector. Several of these staff helped to establish Upstate Inc., a company selling specialised reagents to the pharmaceutical industry, which was recently acquired by the Serologicals Corporation for US \$205 million.

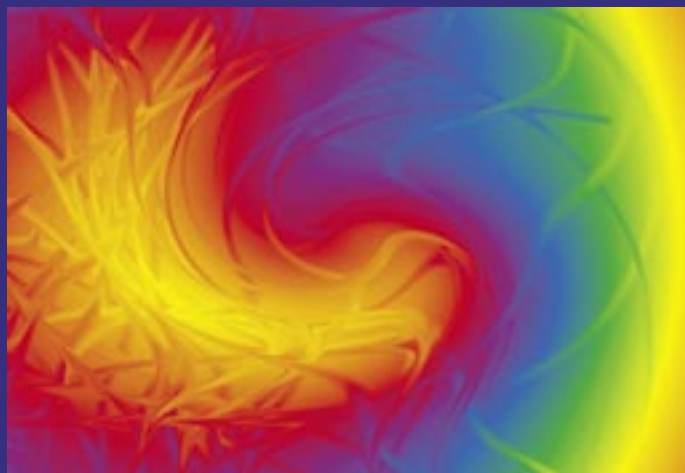
"The Queen's Anniversary Prize acknowledges Dundee's success as a global player in signal transduction research and its innovative approach to knowledge transfer. More than anything it is recognition for the efforts, dedication and commitment of all of the staff of the Division of Signal Transduction Therapy."

The Queen's Anniversary Prizes are awarded biennially to institutions of higher and further education for work of exceptional quality and of broad benefit either nationally or internationally. They form part of the honours system and constitute the highest honour in UK higher and further education. The awards will be presented by The Queen at Buckingham Palace in February 2006.

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## Principal's column

**"The objects of the University shall be to advance and diffuse knowledge, wisdom and understanding by teaching and research and by the example and influence of its corporate life."**

The essence of the University Charter is as relevant today as it was in 1967 and this sense of purpose has driven change in recent years – promoting excellence in learning and teaching, research and the development of academic and student support services. In the main these changes have been achieved without too much disruption to the academic management structure of the University although we have followed a clear strategic direction with well-defined faculty objectives.

Looking forward – even in the short term – the University will face new challenges including higher student expectations, the introduction of new technologies, the more exacting demands of professional bodies and employers, a more competitive research environment, a decline in the population of young people in our local area and across Scotland and the likelihood of much slower growth in public spending from 2008 onwards. Society (and the government) will increasingly judge universities by their contribution to economic development and solving social problems.

It is against this background that the University has to embed the successes of recent years and strike out in new directions. This requires good management and the most senior academics in the University should provide intellectual leadership, direction and motivation for new initiatives in education and research.

The detail of the changes is still being discussed with faculty boards and others in the University community but I intend to make firm recommendations for change to Court before Christmas and to have further discussions with the Senatus early in 2006. In essence, the proposals under discussion are as follows:

- to replace the existing faculty structure with up to four colleges, each college to be led by a senior academic of vice principal status
- to replace the existing faculty sub-structures with a series of schools which give clear definition and authority to the professional disciplines in the University and encourage greater collaboration in the general arts and sciences, each school to be led by an academic head or a dean
- to encourage open competition and selection of the vice principals who will lead the colleges and for the academic heads or deans of schools, albeit in close consultation and collaboration with the staff of the University
- to strengthen the professional and administrative support in the colleges and schools by devolving responsibility from the centre of the University, and
- to maintain a collegiate approach in schools, colleges and across the University as a whole, ensuring that all staff and students can participate in University policy and decision making processes.

My strong personal conviction is that the University has simply outgrown the way we currently do things. By embracing change now, we can face future challenges head on and we can continue to focus on growing and developing a University that provides an attractive, intellectually stimulating environment for staff and students, a University that benefits from strong academic leadership and the active participation of staff and students and a University that is nationally and internationally competitive in well defined areas of education and research.

**Alan Langlands** • December 2005

## Dundee voted the best place to work in Europe

**The University of Dundee has been named the best place to work in Europe for the second year running in an international poll of scientists.**

Dundee has been rated extremely highly in each of the three years the poll has been running in the highly respected magazine *The Scientist*. In 2003 Dundee was placed second best in Europe, before claiming top spot in 2004 and 2005.

This year's survey in *The Scientist* magazine rates Dundee fourth outside the United States, behind only the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, and the Universities of Toronto and Alberta in Canada.

The results of the survey were taken from the responses of more than 2600 academics around the world. They rated relationships with their peers, a sense of accomplishment in their work, and access to research resources as the ingredients that make for a great workplace.

Commenting on Dundee's pre-eminent ranking, Professor Peter Downes, Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences, said, "It is very pleasing to see Dundee's international reputation being reflected in this influential poll over three years. Currently, staff working in the Faculty represent 53 different nationalities, one reason perhaps why Dundee does so well in this survey."



## Sir Alan Langlands named Public Service Leader of the Year

**Sir Alan Langlands, University Principal and Vice-Chancellor, has won the Scottish Leadership Foundation Public Service Sector Leader of the Year Award in the Scottish Business Insider Elite Awards.**

Sir Alan was described by one nominator as "easily the most commercial and successful university principal in Scotland".

The awards are voted on by members of the Elite, who represent 400 leading figures in the private and public sectors in Scotland.

# £8.1m for tropical diseases drug design research

**Scientists at the University have embarked on an ambitious new project to help discover new drugs to treat some of the world's most neglected tropical diseases.**

The diseases, which include African sleeping sickness, Chagas' disease and leishmaniasis, affect millions of the world's poorest people and attract little or no interest from pharmaceutical companies.

No vaccines exist to prevent these debilitating and often lethal infections. Many of the current drugs have serious side effects and would not meet current standards for safety and efficacy. Others are either too expensive for widespread use or becoming less effective because of resistance.

A team of six scientists at the School of Life Sciences has been awarded £8.1 million from the Wellcome Trust to develop the programme of drug discovery. Professor Mike Ferguson, Professor Alan Fairlamb, Professor Bill Hunter, Professor Ian Gilbert, Professor Julie Frearson and Dr Daan van Aalten are hoping to translate basic research discoveries into candidate drugs ready for clinical trials.

"Sleeping sickness is endemic in sub-Saharan Africa and is fatal if not treated, but the front-line arsenical drug, melarsoprol, is so poisonous that it kills five per cent of patients receiving treatment," said Professor Fairlamb, who is leading the project with Professor Ferguson.

"Chagas' disease is a silent killer; patients are often unaware of being infected but about 15 per cent of them will die prematurely from heart failure or other complications. The existing drugs are toxic and only cure some patients in the early stages of infection.

"The leishmaniases are a set of diseases ranging from nasty skin infections - oriental sore - to grossly disfiguring infections that eat away the nose and mouth - espundia - or to fatal infections of the liver, bone marrow and spleen - kala azar. Again, the existing drugs leave much to be desired and drug resistance is a major problem."

The gap between basic research in academic laboratories and applied research in the drug industry has widened considerably in this area over the last decade. The Dundee scientists aim to bridge this gap by embarking on a programme to exploit 'drug targets' already discovered in their basic research by adding industry-style compound screening and medicinal chemistry.

The £8.1 million grant will allow them to add a team of 16 scientists to their existing 60 and to span all the disciplines needed to go from biology to drug design, synthesis and testing. The new activities will be housed in the newly completed Centre for Interdisciplinary Research.

Professor Ferguson said, "We are delighted with the enthusiasm, goodwill and financial support we have received from the University and the Wellcome Trust to get this underway. This initiative will have a major impact on those suffering from these appalling diseases."

The total project, including the construction and equipping of the new state-of-the-art laboratories, will cost about £13 million over the next five years. While the lion's share of the additional research and development activity will be met by the Wellcome Trust award, very significant investments in infrastructure and academic appointments have been made by the University, by the Scottish Higher-Education Funding Council (in the form of a strategic research development grant of £1.5 million to Dundee, Glasgow and St Andrews Universities) and by The Wolfson Foundation, who gave £2 million to help construct the new laboratories.

"We are particularly pleased to welcome on board Professor Julie Frearson, recruited from the company Cambridge BioFocus plc, who will set up and oversee our compound screening facility, Professor Ian Gilbert, recruited from Cardiff University, who will supervise the medicinal chemistry, and Dr Ruth Brenk, recruited from The University of California, San Francisco, who will bolster our computational chemistry and drug design", Professor Ferguson said.



from left:  
Alan Fairlamb and Mike Ferguson



# New nursing graduates a ray of hope for war torn Eritrea

**University Principal Sir Alan Langlands recently visited Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, for the graduation of the first cohort of nurses to earn the Bachelor of Nursing degree through study on a Distance Learning programme delivered by the University.**

Sir Alan told the University's eighteen new graduates they represented an outstanding example of how partnership between the western world and Africa can effect real change.

"Earlier this year Scotland played host to the G8 Summit when many pledges were made by well off nations, including the UK, to the future of Africa," said Sir Alan.

"Some of those pledges may take a long and tortuous journey to translate into reality. This initiative we are here to celebrate today is real. It is now. And it is happening. It is the best kind of example of what can be achieved by simply sharing vital knowledge, experience and expertise between world neighbours.

"In its small but significant way it will alleviate suffering and improve health. This year you are 18 graduates - professionals in advanced nursing studies. If each of you helps spread this expertise throughout your country then the impact for Eritrea can be tremendous."

Eritrea is a poor country, still emerging from the impact of 30 years' bloody war with neighbouring Ethiopia.

The students represented many branches of nursing and midwifery, including community and public health and also mental health. Some had been barefoot doctors in the war years.

The Distance Learning Centre in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing was contracted in June 2003 by the Ministry of Health in Eritrea with the prime objective of enabling senior Eritrean nurses to graduate in advanced nursing studies, thus bringing a greater level of much-needed expertise to the country. Despite the distance learning mode of delivery, the contract includes some face-to-face teaching, delivered in the capital city Asmara.

"All of the students were qualified nurse teachers and a secondary objective for the project has been the enhancement of nursing education overall in Eritrea, nurses being the most significant group of health care clinicians throughout a country which is predominantly rural," said Dr Elizabeth Rogerson, Head of the University's Distance Learning Centre (Nursing and Palliative Care), at the University of Dundee and Head of Education and Development for the International Virtual Nursing School (IVINURS). We are hoping now that these eighteen graduates will have the opportunity to progress to our postgraduate Master of Nursing degree."

The success with the first cohort of nurses on the degree course has already resulted in the commencement of a second cohort of 34 nurses studying on the programme.



## Christmas shoebox appeal a great success

**Domestic staff in the School of Life Sciences and the Wellcome Trust have filled more than 80 shoeboxes with items ranging from toothpaste and face cloths to toys and sweets for the Samaritan's purse charity appeal.**

The shoeboxes were wrapped in Christmas paper, filled with a range of items, and then prepared for packing and postage before being sent to children in countries in need of aid.

This year the Samaritan's purse will send more than one million Christmas shoeboxes to children in 14 countries including Azerbaijan, Indonesia and Kosovo.

Phil Welsh, appeal organiser, Wellcome Trust, said, "The boxes may not be life changing but they can make a small difference to a child's life."



# Professor Ian H Stevenson (1937-2005)

By Former University Secretary, Robert Seaton

**Professor Ian Stevenson, Professor Emeritus of Pharmacology and a former Vice-Principal of the University of Dundee, died on 19 November at the age of 68.**

Born and educated in Dundee, at Morgan Academy and Queen's College (then part of the University of St Andrews), Ian also pursued his distinguished academic career mainly from his home city. Following his 1st class honours degree in Biochemistry and completion of his PhD in that department of biochemical aspects of drug metabolism under the supervision of Geoffrey Dutton, he spent two years in the United States, in Tennessee and Boston, before taking up a lectureship in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics in Dundee. On that bedrock were built many achievements.

While he continued to pursue most successfully his research interests in drug metabolism, pharmacokinetics and age-related pharmacology, Ian's contributions to the University community and the wider community of Dundee and beyond were equally distinctive. As a teacher, research supervisor and head of department he nursed and inspired both science and medical students in the Department who greatly respected and learned from his presentational and organisational skills.

Outside his academic subject Ian had a great interest in sport. He was a leading figure in developing a joint staff-student squash club which reached and performed creditably in the top Scottish national league for many years. He himself inflicted defeat on less skilled opponents with consideration, while accepting generously the less frequent defeats he suffered.

But most significantly, he developed a tremendous rapport with a generation of student squash players, many of whom maintained contact with him long after their graduation from Dundee. Ian himself continued playing squash right through his life, eventually at Scottish international "vintage" level.

These organisational and personal talents and sporting interests were latched onto by the University which appointed Ian convenor of its Physical Education Committee. A considerable expansion of the University's sporting facilities and activities could be credited to Ian's steady support as well as to the vision of successive Directors of Physical Education. And the stability of the students' Sports Union over this period owed much to Ian's wise counsel.

Within the University it was no surprise that he was appointed Deputy Principal (1988) and Vice-Principal (1989) and no surprise that he carried out the multifarious duties of these posts with great skill and acceptance by his academic and administrative colleagues.

Outside the University Ian was also in great demand. An early but continuing role was as cofounder in 1982 of one of the University's spin-out companies, DDS Medicines Research. He long held office in the fundraising charity Tenovus Scotland, initially in Tayside but latterly as the national chairman. Elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1987, he was active in the affairs of that body, most recently as a member of Council and as Programme Convenor. He was the first chairman of the Sensation Science Centre in Dundee and a director of the Scottish Science Trust. And he was a past-president of Dundee Rotary Club and boxmaster and deacon of the Bonnetmaker Craft of Dundee. Truly he spread his talents and his time widely.

Ian is survived by his wife of 47 years, Pat, and by his two daughters, Evelyn and Jane, and grandchildren. Pat, herself head of the University's Counselling Service for six years, shared Ian's sympathy and enthusiasm for students, many of whom enjoyed their hospitality in their west end home.



## Professor Sir Ivor Batchelor (1916-2005)

**Dr Ivor Batchelor came to Dundee in 1956 as Physician Superintendent of Dundee Royal Mental Hospital, later re-organised under his direction as Royal Dundee Liff Hospital. One of his early aims was to forge a stronger relationship with the University (then Queen's College, Dundee) and soon all medical undergraduates were required to visit and assess patients at Liff. In 1962 Batchelor was awarded the first Chair in Psychiatry at the University, a post he held until his retirement in 1982, having been awarded a knighthood the year before.**

During his time at Dundee a huge increase in psychiatric research work occurred, leading to the establishment of a new Teaching & Research Centre, and the formation of units for the study of metabolic changes in mental illness and for the drug treatment of depression. The fact that the University now has a RAE-5 rated Psychiatry department owes much to his pioneering work in the 1960s.

Prof Batchelor also had a keen interest in art, commissioning Alberto Morrocco to paint two large murals at Liff and becoming one of the most active members of the University's Fine Art committee in the 1960s and 70s, which oversaw the purchase of key works of Scottish art, including Raeburn's James Duff, 4th Earl of Fife and Peploe's Roses & Still Life. Curator of museum collections Matthew Jarron said: "His knowledge and enthusiasm were vital in securing some of the University's finest art treasures. It's largely thanks to his committee that we now have one of the finest University collections of Scottish art in existence." Sir Ivor also had an impressive art collection of his own, and in his will has generously left the University a large landscape piece by local artist James Morrison.



# Technology and older people brought together in unique computing centre

**The User Centre in the Queen Mother Building – the striking new home to the Division of Applied Computing – was officially opened by University rector Lorraine Kelly, who admitted to recognising the sort of fear of technology the Centre hopes to help people overcome.**

The User Centre is the focus of the innovative research being carried out at Applied Computing into how older people interact with new technologies.

Opening the Centre, Lorraine said, "It's not just older people who are wary of new technology. I remember when I first started using e-mail, I would send one and then immediately phone the person to see if they had received it!

"In this Centre the University is again conducting groundbreaking research which will greatly assist older people. If technology can be made easier for older people to use it will greatly enhance their lives."

The Division contains one of the largest and most influential academic groups in the world researching information technology for older and disabled people.

Division head Dr Peter Gregor said, "Most technology is created by young men working on the west coast of America. They might find the programs and technology they create easy to use, but that doesn't mean that other people do.



"This User Centre is a fantastic and unique resource where researchers and students can meet and get to know older people, establish working relationships and carry out research which meets the genuine needs of older people and clarifies the role which computing systems can play in their lives.

"For their part, older people can come in and enjoy the comfortable environment while learning about computing in their lives and taking part in cutting edge research. It's a genuine partnership."



## Computing gains first artist-in-residence

**Theatre as a research tool for new technologies will be the focus of recently appointed Department of Applied Computing artist-in-residence, creative writer and theatre director Maggie Morgan.**

Ms Morgan will help develop one of the strands of work for which the Department has become renowned - helping make new communication and information technology more easily accessible for older people.

The ten month appointment has been funded by a £12,000 grant to the University from the Leverhulme Trust.

"I have already done some work with the Department on addressing the issues that face older people as they try to adapt to new technology, and this grant gives us a wonderful opportunity to build further on that," said Ms Morgan.

Peter Gregor, Head of Applied Computing said, "The University has been a leader in researching information technology and the challenges it presents to older people and disabled people.

"We believe that the key to developing technology which is appropriate for older people is that the design process should include effective dialogue between the designers and ethnographers and experts in the characteristics of older people. Having Maggie working in the Department as artist-in-residence will help us develop that dialogue more effectively."

# Dundee welcomes Britain's first UNESCO Centre of Excellence

**The University has become home to the UK's first UNESCO Centre of Excellence, after the United Nations agency granted the much sought after status to the International Water Law Research Institute (IWLRI).**

The IWLRI now becomes the International Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science under the auspices of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at the University. It is the first UNESCO centre in the world to develop legal frameworks to help address the pressing problems related to the management of the world's water resources.

Access to water and sanitation has been identified by the UN as one of the key Millennium Development Goals and a key factor in developing international security.

The new centre has attracted £900,000 of Scottish Executive funding over the next five years to help with development.

The award of UNESCO status to the Dundee centre was welcomed by Scotland's Deputy First Minister Nicol Stephen, who said, "Clean water is fundamental - no matter what country you live in."

"Dundee University's new centre of excellence means that the city - and Scotland - now has the opportunity to help improve health and save lives in many developing countries.

"This award will also attract first class postgraduate researchers to Dundee and will promote Scotland as a good place to live, work and do business."

The University's submission had to proceed through a rigorous series of evaluations set by UNESCO's Executive Board before it received full ratification at the 33rd session of the UNESCO General Conference held in Paris. Final lobbying for the bid took place at a reception at UNESCO headquarters, hosted by the UK Ambassador to UNESCO, HE Tim Craddock and the University's Principal, Sir Alan Langlands.

Sir Alan said, "UNESCO status will enhance the opportunity for Dundee to assist states around the world in developing sound water laws and policies, contributing to regional peace and security. Robust and fair water agreements are vital for peace, and it is crucial that nations work together to tackle the world's water problems."

The University's successful bid was also welcomed by Mr Craddock.

"The new UNESCO Centre at Dundee University covers issues where the UK as a whole is at the cutting-edge of policy development," he said. "It is good that Scotland has been chosen by UNESCO to showcase this area of excellence. Too often UK science does not get the recognition domestically it deserves. Now a great badge of international recognition has come to Dundee, something which is good for the whole of the UK."

The UNESCO Centre in Dundee will fulfil a key role in ensuring there are transparent, enforceable and responsive policies to address the world's water problems, supported by legal frameworks for implementation - including water treaties, laws and regulations.

"Identifying and facilitating the transparent implementation of equitable and reasonable access to water for all - especially for the weakest - is a key objective of water law," said Dr Patricia Wouters, Director of the International Water Law Research Institute at the University.

"It levels the playing field, and provides a framework for action, the basic 'rules of the game', where competition over rapidly diminishing resources can lead to conflicts and regional insecurity.

"Responses to these complex situations require an interdisciplinary approach, with input from water lawyers, policy-makers and scientists. The Dundee UNESCO Centre will seek to get these communities working together, and we are ideally placed to do that."





# Forensic art first for Dundee

**Scotland's first unit of forensic art has been established at the University, in an interdisciplinary project which brings together the disciplines of anatomy and art.**

The new unit is headed by Dr Caroline Wilkinson, who is attached to the unit of Anatomy and Forensic Anthropology in the School of Life Sciences. She is joined by forensic artist Caroline Needham. Both have recently been recruited from the University of Manchester. The facility itself is based within Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design.

Forensic art work includes disciplines such as building facial reconstructions, recreating facial appearance from post-mortem images or illustrations of trauma for use in court. The work has widespread use, from human identification purposes, to archaeological investigations, to work for museums and media.

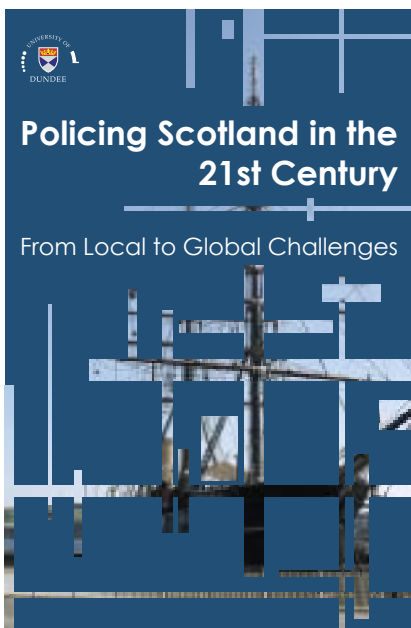
Explaining the crossover between art and science Dr Wilkinson said, "You need artistic skills to produce a lot of the work we do. For instance, something like facial reconstruction requires good sculptural skills.



"There is a lot of detailed drawing work involved as well. At the same time, you need a sound knowledge of anatomy and forensic anthropology to ensure that the detail is correct."

Within the unit, which will initially be a practical facility with hopes to broaden into teaching and research, is a ground-breaking computer facial reconstruction system which enables the user to "feel" the surface of the skull or face on the computer screen.

## University hosts policing symposium



**Police chiefs, policy makers and academics brought their expertise to a one-day symposium on policing hosted by the University at Discovery Point in October.**

The event, titled the 'Policing Scotland in the 21st Century: from local to global challenges', drew widespread media interest as it explored many of the key issues facing law enforcement agencies, from community safety and local policing to international terrorism.

Speakers at the symposium included Tayside Police Chief Constable John Vine, Professor Paul Wilkinson of the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St Andrews, and Graeme Pearson, Director of the Scottish Drug Enforcement Agency.

The event was organised by a team of three academics at the University - Dr Martin Elvins (Politics), Dr Nick Fyfe (Geography) and Dr Anja Johansen (History).

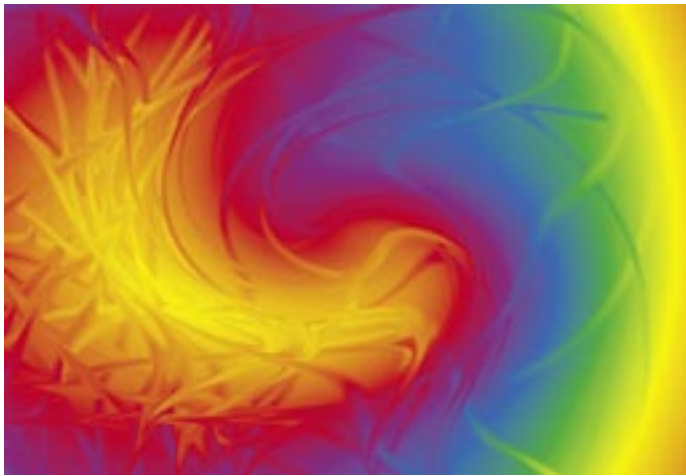
"We wanted to address the distinctiveness of policing in a Scottish context while also recognising that many local crime and policing challenges are set within wider national and international contexts," said Dr Elvins.

"One of our aims with the event was to give a cross-disciplinary perspective of policing and encourage further links across the sector, bringing together the academic community, practitioners and policymakers. There are some good links between those areas at the moment, but we'd like to build on those."



Stimulate the mind at

# Discovery Days 2006



**What can pine trees tell us about cancer cells? How do you mend a broken heart? What are the implications of allowing torture evidence in court?**

These are just a few of the diverse topics that experts from across all faculties of the University will discuss at the 2006 Discovery Days – a showcase of the leading edge academic work being pursued by some of the University's top minds.

"Over these two stimulating days you can expect a taste of the excitement, the innovation and the promise of a broad sweep of academic activity in research and, for the first time, teaching," said Principal Sir Alan Langlands.

"This year we feature the research work of 18 new chairs in a rich variety of disciplines from philosophy and fine art to pharmacology and photonics. Each will give us their individual perspective on what is happening at their 'knowledge frontier'."

Each expert will present for only 15 minutes, allowing for two dynamic days that provide a unique snapshot of the broad range and scope of expertise the University has to offer.

The University of Dundee is proud to buck the national trend where women account for only 10 per cent of professors; this year more than half of the 18 Discovery Day research professors are women.

Previously run over two afternoons, the 2006 Discovery Days introduce a morning session devoted to the best and most inspiring teaching at the University.

Chaired by the Vice-Principal for Educational Development, Professor James Calderhead, the 'Inspirational Learning Session' includes presentations on how to teach different health professionals to collaborate, learning in a virtual environment and how to make history more accessible and attractive to students.

The 2006 Discovery Days also welcome, for the first time, some of Scotland's leading decision makers and opinion formers. Chief Executive Officer of Scottish Enterprise Jack Perry, Political Editor of BBC Scotland Brian Taylor and Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise Tayside Shona Cormack will each chair a session.

The Discovery Days will open with 'One minute', an artwork on screen created by DJCAD artists Matthew Dalziel and Louise Scullion and award winning composer Craig Armstrong. 'One minute' will also be presented on day two.

Several exhibitions will accompany the days including a full colour poster display illustrating each of the presentations and a special on-sale selection of artwork by staff, students, alumni and Discovery Day speakers past and present, including Calum Colvin, Elaine Shemilt and Gareth Fisher.

The Discovery Days 2006 will take place on Thursday 12 and Friday 13 January at the Tower Extension Lecture Theatre.

For a full program and free tickets see

[www.dundee.ac.uk/principalsoffice/discoverydays2006.html](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/principalsoffice/discoverydays2006.html)



# Exciting times for University campus

**The University's ambitious building programme is continuing apace in a bold bid to transform the campus into the "most vibrant and dynamic" city centre campus in Scotland.**

With more than £200 million earmarked for construction projects over a five year period this phase of the University's development has been described as an "exceptional and exciting time" by David Yule, Director of Campus Services.

Projects recently completed include the £20m plus Centre For Interdisciplinary Research (CIR) building -home to some of the world's top scientists - and the striking Page and Park-designed Queen Mother building which houses the University's Department of Applied Computing.

Work is also now underway to renovate the three historic buildings at The Old Technical Institute, the Old Medical School and the Carnelley building on College Green to accommodate the Life Sciences Teaching Unit and the new offices for the Faculty of Education and Social Work.

Two more historic buildings are also undergoing a make-over. The Carnegie Building is being renovated to accommodate the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy while the Peters building – home to the UK's first UNESCO Centre of Excellence (see story page seven) – is also being upgraded. Both buildings form part of the Geddes quadrangle – the historic heart of the campus.

According to Capital Projects and Development Manager Colin McNally the integration of existing buildings with new developments is an important part of the regeneration of the campus.

"We want to maintain the historic integrity of the campus at the same time as providing top quality facilities fit for the 21st century. To do that we need to make the most of the many fine historic buildings we already have and integrate them with our new-build projects."

Part of the upgrade of University facilities is the £6m improvement of the IT infrastructure which is also underway. The Netcomms project is designed to make the University's computer systems faster and more reliable.

New build work planned for early in the new year includes the new £15m teaching block for the Faculty of Education and Social Work which will also provide state of the art teaching spaces for the University as a whole.



**A new car park with approximately 80 spaces for University permit holders has opened next to the Vision building behind Perth Road.**

Caird House car park, which is accessed by road via West Marketgait, should prove popular with staff working on the south side of the campus as it is linked to Perth Road by steps to the side of Caird House, just opposite the Tower Building.



By spring next year work should also be on site at the corner of old Hawkhill where an extension to the sports centre, designed by award winning architects firm Nicol Russell Studios is planned. As well as providing new squash courts and a new fitness suite the work is aimed at making the sports centre more accessible to all users.



Work on the £5.5m library extension is also due on site next spring. Designed by London firm Austin-Smith: Lord the extension will give the library the capability to open 24 hours a day and promote elearning with the provision of extra space for computer facilities.



Still at the planning stages is the Campus Green project described by David Yule as "one of the most exciting projects to date."

Aimed at providing a focal point for the campus as a whole and creating a more collegiate feel, the ambitious project includes plans for more flexible leisure space, multi-purpose terraced lawns and themed areas where different aspects of university life can be brought together.

"The aim is to create the best city centre campus in Scotland," said David.

"To do that will inevitably mean a certain level of disruption but we hope that staff, students and visitors will bear with us. We certainly believe it will be worth it."

Other work also planned includes a £15m purpose-built facility at Smalls Wynd to create a central hub for student services and a £3.5m sports pavilion, complete with social areas and changing facilities, at Riverside Drive. Meanwhile work is already underway at the £8.8m clinical research centre at Ninewells Hospital and Medical School.



# Enterprise Gym runs first 'Supercoach' session

**Mr John Milligan, former chairman and founder of Atlantic Power and Gas, recently energised young minds at the first 'Supercoach' session for members and partners of The Enterprise Gym, the University's new initiative to promote enterprise among its student community.**

Mr Milligan, who started his working life as an apprentice fitter with the National Coal Board before going on to form his own highly-successful business, drew on his own life story and personal business experience to focus on challenge, inspiration and motivation in business and enterprise.

"We were absolutely delighted to have John as our very first 'Supercoach'. He set an exceedingly high standard for our future speakers and will be a very difficult act to follow. John's experience gives us a rare first hand insight into what makes outstanding business people tick and this is absolutely invaluable for all our students," said Enterprise Gym Director, Ken Edward.

Professor Geoff Ward, Deputy Principal of the University, commented, "John's breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding of small and big business combined with his interest in business start-ups and the enterprise agenda in Scottish education made him an ideal person to deliver the inaugural 'Supercoach' session. We were privileged to have him come to speak to our students and partners of the Enterprise Gym."

Following a return to higher education, Mr Milligan became an engineer, and worked in a number of engineering posts until 1973, when he formed Strathclyde Process Engineering. In 1982 he formed Atlantic Power and Gas, remaining as its CEO/Chairman until 2000. Mr Milligan is also a non-executive Director of Aberdeen Development Capital, a former Chairman of Aberdeen Enterprise Trust and Chairman of Head Start Aberdeen.

Through his role as Chairman of the University of Dundee Court Mr Milligan continues to maintain his long standing interest in the education community, being formerly Chairman of the Board of Governors at Robert Gordon University, and a sponsor of an Industry / Education Partnership with Kincorth Academy.

The 'Supercoach' sessions will be a regular feature of the EGym, bringing in business figures of national standing to pass on the benefits of their business experience to students.

## EGym gathers momentum

**The Enterprise Gym, formed by the Centre for Enterprise Management, is the University's new programme for getting students involved in business and enterprise. It has been an instant hit with more than 130 people signing up to get "business-fit".**

The EGym provides a user friendly learning apparatus including online guides, mentors, workshops and coaching sessions allowing students to easily learn about starting their own business and meet other like-minded students in a fun and approachable environment.

A key part of the E-Gym is a series of weekly "training workouts" where a figure from the local business community comes along to give the students some expert coaching in a specific area.

# Professor Pounder appointed to UN post

**Professor Derrick Pounder, Head of the Department of Forensic Medicine, has been appointed a member of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.**

Professor Pounder will hold the position for a period of three years.

"I am very much looking forward to helping support the many wonderful organisations providing assistance to victims of the crime of torture," said Professor Pounder.

The Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture was established by the UN in 1981 with the purpose of receiving voluntary contributions for distribution, through established channels, of psychological, medical, social, legal and financial assistance to victims of torture and their relatives.

The objective of the fund is to provide support to organisations which assist in rehabilitation of torture victims.

Every year the fund allocates nearly US\$7 million to around 170 organisations in 60 countries. Victims of torture and their families benefit directly from the funded projects. The United Nations recently highlighted the fund's positive impact on thousands of victims of torture who are assisted by the fund annually.

The Fund is administered in accordance with the financial rules of the UN by the Secretary-General, with the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of a chairman and four members with wide experience in the field of human rights.

Professor Pounder is closely associated with Amnesty International and was a founding member of Physicians for Human Rights. He has served as an expert to the Committee for the Prevention of Torture of the Council of Europe in its visits to several European countries including Turkey and Chechnya.

# 'Sniper' technique exterminates cancer cells

**Military technology has been used to develop a new cellular "sniping" tool at the University. But this is a weapon which will do far more good than harm. Research led by Dr Paul Campbell, of the Division of Electronic Engineering and Physics, and Professor Sir Alfred Cuschieri (Surgery and Molecular Oncology) has demonstrated that cancer cells can be targeted and destroyed by a single blast of ultrasound.**

This has led to a groundbreaking technique that will hopefully end the need for traumatic surgery and extensive drug therapy for cancer patients. It is hoped that the treatment, which has worked on several different cancer lines cultured in-house, could be available to cancer patients within five years.

Previous research had shown that microscopic gas bubbles injected intravenously will naturally cluster around a tumour site. What the team from Dundee has demonstrated for the first time is that, when those bubbles are stimulated by a microsecond range burst of high intensity ultrasound energy, the bubbles respond in such a violent fashion that they can puncture the cancer cells and kill them.

In a report published in the November edition of the journal Nature-Physics, they were able to establish this process beyond doubt using an ultra-fast imaging system, photographing at a rate of a million frames per second, and previously developed by the army specifically to observe the impact of ballistic shells and bullets with armour plates.

Advanced optics involving lasers and holography to hold the gas bubbles close to the tissue cells using only the force of light itself were developed by Paul Prentice, a PhD student with Dr Campbell's group, in collaboration with Professor Kishan Dholakia at the University of St Andrews.

Commenting on the research, Dr Paul Campbell said, "Conventional cancer treatment often requires surgery to cut out the diseased tissues, which by itself introduces significant trauma, pain and discomfort to the patient, often delaying recovery for extended periods. Because this kind of ultrasound treatment holds the promise of effectively focusing energy directly to a deep seated tumour site without the need for an incision, it is hoped that the level of collateral damage to the patient can be kept to the absolute minimum".

Under favourable circumstances, it is hoped that the ultrasound treatment could eventually make systemic chemotherapy treatments unnecessary. The gas bubbles injected into the patient can be coated with anti-cancer drugs that then enter the punctured cancer cells only at the tiny focused region of the ultrasound field. The drugs are therefore targeted to flood only the cancer cells in a one shot process, rather than repeatedly flooding the patient's entire body with the chemotherapy drugs. Such coated bubbles have already been developed in the United States. This should dramatically reduce the patient's recovery time and the associated pain and suffering of surgery and chemotherapy.

"It would effectively be a sniper treatment for cancer" said Dr Campbell. "The ultrasound activated bubbles target with single cell precision, so that the technique overall is a little like sniping at specific cancer cells, whilst ensuring that healthy tissues remain untouched."

"Our research has proved that the injected gas bubbles react to the ultrasound by instantaneously inflating just like a party balloon. Then they do something quite incredible. The shell of the inflated bubble deforms to develop a fast moving spike directed back into the nearby cancerous cell. When the spike hits the cancer cell membrane it punches through it like a bullet, creating a tiny 'entrance wound' and allowing passage of molecules, which have included drugs, directly into those cells."

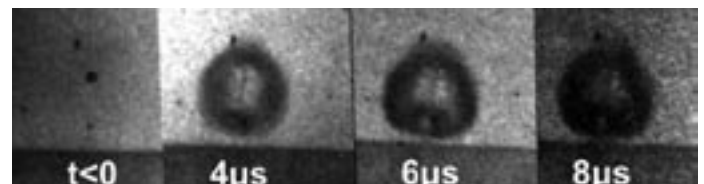
The research, which represents the culmination of a three-year project funded by an award of £630,000 from the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), has also involved direct collaboration with a world-leading molecular delivery group at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, USA.

"What we have achieved here is an important step forward in our understanding of the processes at large. In order to fully capitalise on this new knowledge however, it is critical that we achieve further funding to push the boundaries of this technology into fullscale clinical trials on humans.

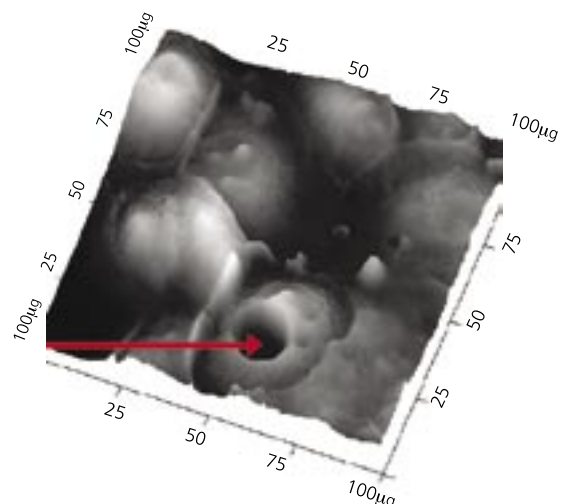
"The possible benefits to patients are clear: no incisions, no scars, less trauma and a much reduced chance of infection from anti-biotic resistant species. This approach could represent a tremendous future adjunct to conventional surgery, and we certainly have the drive and indeed expertise to see this through given the opportunity."

Dr Campbell believes this is a win win situation for everyone concerned: "Not only could this benefit the patient but the NHS as a whole by reducing the cost in the long term of treating cancer patients. It is hoped that hospitals would be able to perform the treatment by undertaking minor modifications to their existing ultrasound equipment and we are already moving on discussions with the instrument manufacturers to accelerate this process at source."

Sequence from the ultrahigh speed camera. An optically trapped microbubble is shown (leftmost frame) before the ultrasound pulse is applied. In subsequent frames it is clear that the bubble reacts to ultrasound by rapidly inflating, with the spontaneous formation of a central spike directed at the substrate below.



At later stages, the spike punctures a cell, leading to a clear 'entrance wound' that can be easily discerned by probe microscopy (as shown by the arrow).



# Dundee youngsters urged to 'Go for It'

**The University recently hosted a special event to encourage young people from across Dundee to find out more about what their home city has to offer.**

Launched by Dundee United footballing stars Garry Kenneth and Greg Cameron, 'Go Young People Dundee' was a day filled with fun, music, sport, culture and health that gave city youngsters the chance to sample a range of activities, find out about careers and health issues and catch a glimpse of life on a university campus.

The event was organised under the auspices of the Dundee Partnership and involved the University, Dundee City Council, Careers Scotland, Abertay University, Dundee College, Dundee Rep, NHS Tayside and a wide variety of voluntary sector partners.

Based in and around the city's Cultural Quarter - with a focus on Dundee University Students' Association building - the programme of events included street dance, fashion and DJ workshops, exhibitions, live bands, video games, films, cookery demonstrations, sports taster sessions and a disco.

Free entry to Dundee Contemporary Arts and Sensation was also on offer to those who attended the event.

Deputy Principal Geoff Ward said he hoped the day would encourage young people to think about the range of opportunities open to them.

"The aim of this event was to bring young people from all over Dundee to the University campus and the Cultural Quarter and make the links between the city and the University." he said. "It is about saying to youngsters - this area is part of your city and it is here for you to explore and enjoy.

"It is about building confidence and self-esteem and giving young people the ability to make the most of their city. It is also about giving young people a clearer picture of the education opportunities that exist here.

"We particularly wanted to reach those who might think that university is not for people like them. By hosting some of the events in DUSA we hope to help make imagining life as a student a more real possibility."

Stewart Murdoch, Dundee City Council Director of Leisure and Communities, who chaired the planning group, added that the event was aimed at encouraging youngsters in the city to 'go for it.'

"We want to promote that attitude and we're hoping that the workshops and different events helped do that."

Lord Provost John Letford said: "The 'Go Young People Dundee' event is an exciting way to inspire and educate our youngsters at the same time."

## University and City Schools Join in Groundbreaking Collaboration

**A groundbreaking collaboration between the University of Dundee, the City Council's Education Department and the headteachers from four Dundee secondary schools recently saw headteachers and senior staff from the four schools attend a leadership conference on pupils' learning and performance.**

More than 700 S1 pupils from Craigie High, Menzieshill High, Harris Academy and Morgan Academy schools took part in a pilot research project asking them about their views of school and school work. The pupils' views will provide unique benchmarking data which will be used to improve principal teacher leadership and boost pupil performance in our schools.

By understanding pupils' attitudes and attainment, principal teachers can develop more effective leadership strategies that focus on learning and learners.

This collaborative approach to improving educational achievement in City schools is the first of its kind in Dundee. Professor Elizabeth Leo, of the University of Dundee, is leading the research dimension of the project.

"Our schools have talented headteachers and principal teachers with the vision, energy and passion to create a sustainable future for their pupils and their communities. They are backed by the Director of Education and her senior colleagues in their efforts to provide and sustain the highest quality of leadership at all levels in our schools. This project is informed by international research on human motivation and learning," said Professor Leo.

Ambitious goals for a new economic vision for Dundee place education at the heart of the City's future. Schools are critical in developing young men and women who will contribute to active citizenship, community renewal and economic regeneration.

Dundee City Council education convener Councillor Kevin Keenan said, "This conference placed the leadership role of Principal Teachers within the national setting of 'Ambitious Excellent Schools' and 'A Curriculum for Excellence'.

"We are keen to investigate the factors that motivate our pupils - and to use this information to build our programmes of work to suit the ways our young people learn."

The pilot project is currently due to end next month, but there are hopes to extend it for a further year and eventually to increase the number of pupils involved to include all pupils in Dundee schools.



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# Opening a 'Window to the West'

**The University and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic College in the Isle of Skye, are embarking on a major five-year project which will unite experts in contemporary art, Gaelic language and culture, and art history.**

The 'Window To The West' project - a title which refers to Sorley MacLean's poem *Hallaig* - will explore the inter-relations of visual art and Gaelic language and culture, creating new opportunities for the understanding of Gaelic culture as a key to understanding Scotland.

This unique collaboration is funded by a grant of almost £550,000 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, one of the largest awards they have ever made to the visual arts. It has been awarded to Professor Murdo Macdonald of the University's Visual Research Centre and Professor Norman Gillies of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

To date the culture of the Highlands and Islands has usually been approached from the perspective of history or language. However in the last two decades there has been a shift toward serious visual arts engagement with these linguistic and historical issues. This new project aims to take this trend further.

Professor Macdonald said, "This is a wonderful opportunity to rethink imagery of the Highlands and Islands. It is high time we moved on from Landseer-type stereotypes."

Professor Gillies said, "I am delighted that this project has won through and I look forward to building on our ongoing relationship with colleagues at the University of Dundee. This award for research funding comes at an opportune time as we go about bringing plans for a visual arts facility to fruition in developing our new Creative and Cultural Industries building, Fàs. The building will be opened in 2007 to chime with and celebrate Scotland's Highland Year of Culture."



An advisor to the project is the artist Professor Will Maclean, whose work has drawn consistent attention to the importance of Gaelic culture. The project will generate an array of new art complemented and informed by linguistic insights into the expression of the visual in Gaelic. A further dimension will be a written companion to imagery of the Highlands and Islands.

*Hallaig* by Sorley Maclean, from which the title of the project is drawn:

*'Tha bùird is tàirnean air an uinneig  
troimh 'm faca mi an Aird an Iar'*

(The window is nailed and boarded / through which I saw the West').

Images by Will MacLean

# The festive season...

## What's on?

### Christmas gifts

The Mobile Shop Unit has for sale unique art work by students, staff and graduates of DJCAD. It is located on the Lower Foyer gallery of the DJCAD Crawford Building and will be open from 9:30am-5:00pm until 16 December.

### Christmas cheer

The 'Super Funky Christmas Ceilidh Experience' will take place on Friday 9 December from 7:00-9:00pm. Tickets can be purchased from the Exhibitions Department Office at a cost £3. A night of dancing and frivolity is promised with ceilidh band Sporrán Again providing the entertainment. Homemade Christmas decorations, crafted by DJCAD students and staff, will also be on sale.

## CAPERS AT THE CEILIDH



### New Year party

Art students, local artists and the public are invited to produce collage together in a party atmosphere at Paul Butler's Collage Party, which takes place in the Cooper Gallery from noon-8:30pm, Tuesday 24 – Friday 27 January. Paul Butler is a Canadian artists and this is the first time his 'Collage Party' has come to Scotland. All are welcome to drop in for any length of time over the workshop period.

### Overcome the Winter Blues

The Lamb Gallery will host S.A.D., an exhibition that aims to overcome the Winter blues, from 28 January – 25 February (preview: Friday 27 January, 5-7pm). Highlighting beauty in everyday things and creating happiness through visual delight, DJCAD graduate Valerie Norris and Edinburgh artist Juliana Capes, use art to evoke optimism.

top left: *Capers at the Ceilidh* by Colin Martin

above: *S.A.D.* image by Valerie Norris

## Carols by Candlelight

**The University's annual Carols by Candlelight service takes place on Sunday 11 December at 5pm in St Paul's Cathedral, High Street, Dundee.**

The service takes the form of the traditional nine Lessons and Carols and the singing will be led by the University Choir. This is one of the few occasions in the year when members of the University and their families come together.



# University Christmas card 2005

The image on this year's official University Christmas card was produced by Will Maclean, a research professor at DJCAD.

The image was commissioned by Proiseact Nan Ealan, The Gaelic Arts Project, for *An Leabhar Mòr*, The Great Book of Gaelic.

Will Maclean produced the image from the poems of Nuala Ní Dhomnaill, entitled *Pharaoh's Daughter*. The image calligraphy is by Frances Breen. The poem on the inside entitled The Language Issue was translated by Paul Muldoon. The painting is a pen and ink and acrylic on paper. Images within the painting are drawn from various sources that include medieval illuminated manuscripts such as the book of Kells and the Lindisfarne Gospels.

The Christmas card is available from the External Relations Department. Cards are the same price as last year, 40p each, with the price discounted the more you purchase. Please contact Mrs Ali Constable by email [a.j.constable@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.constable@dundee.ac.uk) or telephone 01382 345564 if you wish to purchase any of these cards.

Some stock of last year's Seamus Heaney *Room to Rhyme* Christmas card is still available at half price.



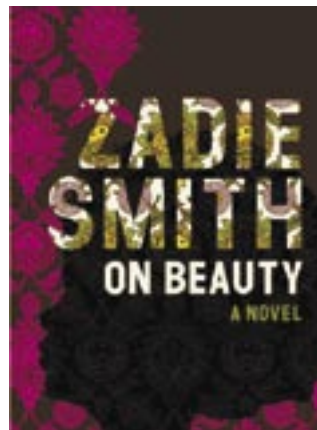
## New Year Health

With thoughts turning to Christmas festivities and the accompanying excesses, there might also be some creeping anxieties over the New Year "fitness" resolutions which inevitably follow.

The Healthy Living Assessment, newly introduced by the Institute of Sport and Exercise, enables an accurate assessment of clients' health and lifestyle, which can provide tailored advice and information leading to a much more effective - and enjoyable - physical activity routine. This might be an ideal starting point before jumping in at the exercise deep end!

Having fun through physical activity is very much the Institute's New Year message. With **Belly Dancing** (Wednesdays 7.15 – 8.15pm) and **Ceilidh Dancing** (Tuesdays, 12.30 – 1.20pm) on the menu, along with the lunchtime **Urban Ramblers Health Walks** (Tuesdays, 12.30 – & Thursdays, 1.10pm), you can increase your physical activity level without feeling miserable about it! Pick up a copy of the Exercise Timetable from the Institute for a full and extensive range of classes.

## Christmas reading



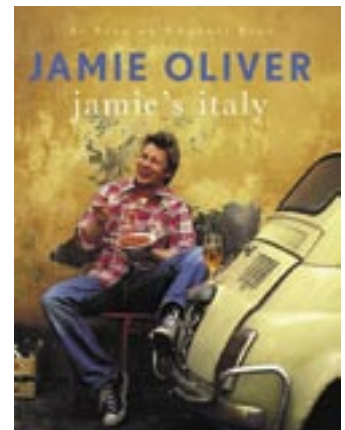
*On Beauty*  
Zadie Smith  
RRP £16.99. Our price £10

What are the truly beautiful things in life - and how far would you go to get them? *On Beauty* comes from the author of *White Teeth* and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2005.



*How Cool Stuff Works*  
RRP £19.99.  
Our price £10

You use all kinds of incredible technology every day. But how does it really work? Discover what makes your mobile work, what's inside an iPod and what the future holds for a bionic body.



*Jamie's Italy*  
Jamie Oliver  
RRP £20. Our price £10

This book accompanies the fantastic current Jamie Oliver series on Channel 4. More than 120 new recipes inspired by Jamie's travels throughout Italy, with everything from risotto to roasts to spaghetti to stews.



## BOOKS

*The Guildry of Dundee*

Dr Annette M Smith

Abertay Historical Society

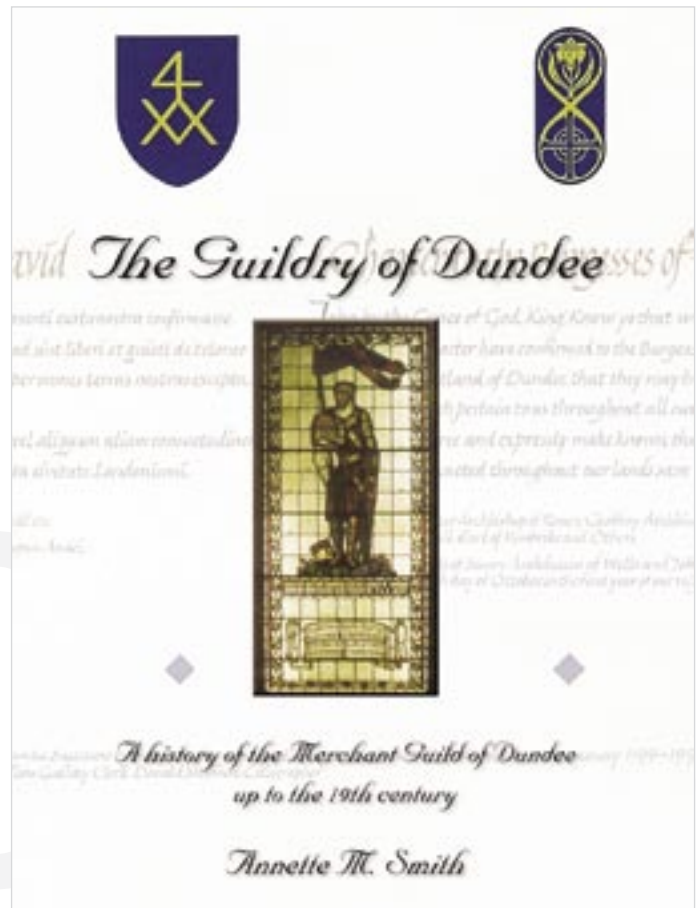
ISBN 0 900019 42 5

**For many centuries only the Royal Burghs of Scotland could participate in the country's import/export trade and within these burghs the only legitimate dealers in this trade were the merchants. This privilege was greatly envied by those who could not partake in what could be a lucrative business and it was a constant struggle to prevent or punish breaches of the monopoly.**

Merchants everywhere realised at an early date that by acting together they would be more able to ward off competition and in many towns they formed their own association, the Guildry.

This study has used the fascinating records of the Guildry in Dundee to follow the efforts of the local merchants to defend their privileges until in 1846 changing views on free trade and democracy resulted in the abolition by Parliament of the special position of the Royal Burghs and all the monopolistic institutions within their bounds. The vital part the Guildry played in the economy of the burgh led also to its involvement in the administration and eventually to support for political reform.

Dr Annette M Smith studied Modern & Medieval History at the University of St Andrews. Family life interrupted her PhD studies and she eventually graduated in 1975, the same year as her older daughter. For many years a lecturer at the History department in the University of Dundee, Annette is also the author of the Abertay Historical Society's 1995 publication *The Nine Trades of Dundee*.



## book of the month

RRP £10.99 • Our price 25% off

*The Highest Tide* • Jim Lynch

As a young boy comes of age in a summer never to be forgotten, this gripping story of obsession, beauty and the wonders of the sea intoxicates the reader with its humour and tragedy.



## Wordsmiths wanted for new magazine

**A new literary magazine aimed at providing a stage for writing talent within the University has been launched by students and staff in the Department of English.**

Dr Tim Morris, teaching fellow in American Literature, came up with the idea for the creative writing publication shortly after taking up his new post in September.

"I thought I could try to generate a bit of interest in creative writing and drum up some support from students and so far we have had a great response," he said.

"We have enough material for the first edition and some already for the next."

Dr Morris, who came to Dundee from Cambridge University, added that although the first issue was likely to showcase the work of students he hoped to attract submissions from outwith the University in the future.

"The hope is that we can open it up to the wider community. It would be a good opportunity to create another town and gown link."

The first edition of the as yet unnamed publication will be available at the start of next semester. For more information on the magazine, how to obtain a copy and how to submit work contact Dr Morris on [t.j.morris@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:t.j.morris@dundee.ac.uk) or magazine committee member Katie Vickers on [k.z.vickers@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:k.z.vickers@dundee.ac.uk)

# Brian Callison Appointed Writing Fellow

**Internationally renowned best-selling author Brian Callison has been appointed a Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow at the University.**

Mr Callison is best known for his bestselling sea stories and thrillers. He won widespread critical and popular acclaim with his first published novel, 'A Flock Of Ships', in 1970. He has followed it with nineteen further bestsellers, which have been translated into twelve languages including Japanese, Finnish and Icelandic.

Mr Callison will work with the University's Learning Enhancement Unit on their 'Write Right' programme, helping undergraduates develop their academic or creative writing skills. Students can get free consultation from Brian on appointment.

"I am delighted to be working with Dundee University," said Brian Callison. "The principal aim of an RLF Fellow's work is to foster good academic writing practice among students across all disciplines and media.

"I'll be available to help demystify and, hopefully, ease the process of writing: usually consulting on a 1-1 basis but also by way of seminars and workshops."

Mr Callison is the University's second RLF Writing Fellow, joining Dr Bill Kirton, who has been successfully working with postgraduate students on writing style.

"Students in all areas of studies, even areas such as mathematics and engineering, must be able to get their ideas across and having good, clear writing skills is a key element in that," said Kathleen McMillan, Academic Skills Advisor at the Learning Enhancement Unit.

"It is wonderful that we are able to have skilled, successful writers such as Brian and Bill working with the students and passing on the benefits of their vast experience."



## Glover Trade Scholarships

**The Glover Trade, one of the Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee recently awarded a number of scholarships to Dundee students.**

£3000 was awarded to Ms Eva Peng who has just commenced studies for a PhD at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design.

DJCAD Master of Design students Nicki Brander, Andrea Sheedy and Nina Stahlberg were awarded scholarships worth £1000 each to support their research in the textile field.

## Dundee kids in worldwide storytelling session

**Classroom chatter ricocheted from St Peter and Paul's Primary School in Dundee to schools in Canada, Chile and Colombia recently as children from around the world were linked in an exciting project at the University.**

Computer and education experts from each of the countries have joined forces to establish the International Storytelling Forum research project, which will have multiple benefits for the children in each country.

Four children from the Dundee school attended the Satellite Receiving Station at the University, where they became the eyes and ears of children at four schools in Canada, one in Bogota, Colombia, and one in Rio Bueno in Chile.

And the topic of conversation? One of the first things all our daily chatter tends to revolve around - the weather!

"Children from each of the different schools had measured the weather in their own countries and each gave a short presentation direct to their contemporaries around the world," said Dr Nick Hine, of the Applied Computing Division at the University of Dundee.

The children also asked questions of receiving station staff member Neil Lonie on behalf of the kids in the other countries.

The forum has been built on the work of the Remote Accessible Field Trip (RAFT) project that will be completed at the end of the year, and seeks to examine a number of open questions that affect the uptake of educational technology in schools. It will explore how children accept different media, give them a deeper understanding of global culture and how their local culture relates to it, give them greater internet awareness and a sense of safe internet behaviour, and allow researchers greater insight into specific areas of educational technology.

"Underlying the project is the practice of social interaction between the children alongside the formal learning activity," said Dr Hine.

"We are trying to explore how young people, the 'MTV Generation', handle all this information they now receive in short, sharp bursts and across all these different media and how they can reflect on and think about the messages being carried by these media."

This initial field trip has been followed by one exploring local music and dance being performed live between a distributed group of students learning Spanish "at a distance" across New Brunswick, Canada and a classroom in Bogota. Other events planned for the near future include connecting to a visit to an Ice Hockey arena in New Brunswick and the St Andrews golf museum.



**The Court's meeting on 24 October was the first business meeting of the reconstituted Court (i.e. with fewer members in total, but with an increased number of co-opted lay members). By contrast with recent meetings, the main focus for once was not on the capital programme, but on organisational restructuring.**

#### **Principal's Report**

The Court welcomed positive news about the University's successes in the Principal's regular report. These included the recent launch in Paris of the UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science based in the University (one of only 12 such centres in the world and the only one in the UK); the award by Cancer Research UK of £11m for research projects in the University, with over £8m going to the CRUK Molecular Pharmacology Unit at Ninewells directed by Professor Roland Wolf; and a further £8m awarded by the Wellcome Trust to scientists in the new Centre for Interdisciplinary Research, led by Professors Mike Ferguson and Alan Fairlamb, to support a drug discovery programme for the treatment of serious but neglected tropical diseases.

#### **Framework Agreement**

The Court received a progress report on discussions with the recognised unions regarding a new pay and grading structure. A joint agreement between the University and DAUT had now been drawn up, which had been accepted in principle by AUT's National Committee. DAUT was to consult its membership about the agreement in the near future. The total estimated cost of introducing the new structure was considered affordable within the University's current financial strategy, provided that - as determined by the Finance & Policy Committee in May - no more than 10% of posts were regraded upwards following job evaluation and that there were no other increases in staff costs. The Court approved the proposals presented as the basis for a new pay and grading structure for the University and for further work to be undertaken, including agreement with the other recognised unions, towards its implementation by August 2006.

#### **Funding Council**

The Court received formal intimation that the unified Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council had come into being on 3 October 2005. It was noted that the membership of the new Council included Court member Dr Janet Lowe.

The Court agreed to accept the terms of a revised Financial Memorandum with the Council, which had been the subject of extensive consultation between institutions and the former SHEFC. The new Memorandum was significantly different from the current version, which had been in force since 1998 and which was much longer and more prescriptive. The Court was pleased to note that the new Council was continuing the recent approach of its predecessor in pursuing a constructive dialogue with the sector on a variety of issues.

It was agreed that the single greatest concern arising from the establishment of the new Funding Council was that global funding for further and higher education might become undifferentiated between the two sectors: there was, however, no sign of that happening at the moment.

#### **Academic Management Structure**

The Court received detailed proposals from the Principal, flowing from earlier discussions at the Court Retreat in September, for changing the academic management structure of the University.

The plan was to regroup the academic disciplines of the University into four Colleges and a Postgraduate School of Management and Policy. Each College would be headed by a Vice-Principal, who would be appointed on a permanent basis following a selection process involving external advertisement. The current Faculty arrangements would disappear, each College (except Life Sciences, which would retain its unitary structure) containing a number of Schools, which would in particular reinforce the identities of the professional disciplines in the University. Each School would have a head with the status and title of Dean. The changes envisaged would also involve devolution of some administrative support from the centre of the University to the new Colleges.

The proposals had already been considered by the Senate, whose comments were transmitted in detail to the Court by way of its usual report. Court members who had been present at the Senate meeting confirmed that, while specific concerns had been raised, the general response to the proposals had been positive. The Principal indicated that he intended to discuss the proposals further with the wider University community (Faculty Boards, Academic Council, Graduates' Council and recognised unions) before making formal recommendations to the December meeting of Court. The Court approved the proposals in principle as a work in progress.

#### **Old Technical Institute, Old Medical School and Carnelley Building**

The Court received a capital authorisation proposal for the conversion and upgrading of this trio of listed buildings around College Green. The proposed works would provide improved accommodation for the Life Sciences Teaching Unit, as well as space for staff offices, research and other purposes for the Faculty of Education & Social Work (complementing the provision of dedicated teaching space for the Faculty in the new teaching block, to be built on the Heathfield site). The total estimated cost of the project was £3.8m, plus £284k for equipment, which would be met from general University funds. The Court decided to give full authorisation for the project to proceed.

#### **Chancellor**

The Court noted, with regret, that the Chancellor had intimated his wish to demit office in the first half of 2006. It was agreed that his departure would be a great loss to the University. The necessary appointing committee was being formed to identify a successor, comprising the Chairman of Court (Convener), the Principal, the President of the Students' Association and four additional members each from the Court and the Senate. The latter had already nominated Professors Brigid Daniel, Georgina Follett, Marion McMurdo and Chris Whatley. The Court appointed as its representatives Dr Janet Lowe, Professor Alan Newell, Mr Eric Sanderson and Dr Martyn Ward.

#### **Principal & Vice-Chancellor**

At the end of the meeting, following the withdrawal of the Principal, the Chairman reported on his consultation with individual members of Court regarding Sir Alan's contractual position (a review being required after five years in post). The Principal's appointment had a further two years to run and it would be anomalous, in view of current legislation, to renew his contract thereafter on a fixed-term basis. The feedback the Chairman had received from members was nevertheless very much in favour of renewal. The Court therefore decided unanimously that the Principal should now be offered an open-ended contract (otherwise retaining current terms and conditions).



# New appointments

## **Professor Ron Hay** **Chair of Molecular Biology**

Professor Hay joined the School of Life Sciences in October from the University of St Andrews where he was Professor of Molecular Biology and deputy director of the Centre for Biomolecular Sciences.

Born in Dundee and educated at the city's Harris Academy he studied biochemistry at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh before heading west to complete a PhD at the MRC Virology Unit in Glasgow in 1979.

Professor Hay then moved to the USA to take up a post-doctoral position at Harvard. In 1982 he returned to Scotland and the MRC's virology unit, where he remained for three years until he was recruited as a "New Blood" lecturer at St Andrews University.

Posts as reader, professor, head of division and deputy director of the new centre for biomolecular sciences followed before he returned "across the water" to Dundee and the newly opened Centre for Interdisciplinary Research at the School of Life Sciences.



His current research interests include the mechanisms that control gene expression and recent collaborations include research with laboratories in Dundee, St Andrews and the USA.

He has published papers in a number of scientific journals including Cell, Molecular Cell, Nature Structural and Molecular Biology and the EMBO Journal.

Outside of the lab Professor Hay enjoys mountain biking and wine drinking although he does stress he tries not to do both at the same time!

## **Professor Jennifer Harris** **Chair of Social Science**

Professor Harris joins the Faculty of Education and Social Work from the Social Policy Research Unit at the University of York.

A graduate of the University of Lancaster where she obtained a BA Honours in Social Work and a PhD in Social Policy and Administration, Professor Harris has researched and written widely on the subject of disability and social exclusion.

Her recent work includes a major study for the Department of Health on Outcomes for Disabled Service Users while recent publications have highlighted housing issues for disabled people and services for disabled asylum seekers.

She is the author of "The Cultural Meaning of Deafness" and "Deafness and the Hearing" and is a qualified user of British Sign Language.

Professor Harris is also on the editorial board of several journals including Disability and Society, Health and Social Care in the Community, International Journal of Qualitative Methodology and Social Work and Social Services Review.



She is currently developing a research programme on disability studies involving a series of linked multi-disciplinary projects with colleagues at Dundee and other universities in the UK, the Nordic countries and the USA.

Themes include the interface between disabled people and new technologies which is being developed with the Social Dimensions of Health Institute and Applied Computing and research concerning disabled people in homeless populations which is being developed with the department of Nursing and partners from St Andrews and the USA.



## **Professor Jeremy Wyatt** **Professor of Health Informatics**

Professor Wyatt was appointed Professor of Health Informatics in October having previously been associate director for research at the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in London.

He was also visiting Professor of Health Informatics at Oxford, City, Amsterdam and Porto Universities and reader in health information policy at UCL's School of Public Policy.

Professor Wyatt trained in hospital medicine in London and Glasgow before studying how to improve the quality of medical knowledge.

A Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and the American College of Medical Informatics he has written textbooks on evaluation methods, clinical knowledge management and health informatics.

In his new post he will be working closely with the Health Informatics Centre, a joint University-NHS resource supporting research on pseudonymised patient data. He is planning to investigate how to improve the ordering of tests and use of their results by clinicians and to validate clinical prediction rules as part of a broad eHealth research programme.

This will build on the Health Informatics Centre infrastructure and operating procedures, which allow access to tens of thousands of anonymised patient records charting the clinical practice of hundreds of Tayside clinicians.

When he is not working Professor Wyatt makes jewellery and commemorative sculptures from titanium and other materials and is a member of the Surrey Guild of Craftsmen.



# Research Grants

Total research income this month: £22,748,618

Details provided below may vary as a number of awards are subject to confidentiality restrictions imposed by the awarding body.

## Applied Computing

*Dr N Alm:* £66,594 from Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for doctoral training grant.

*Dr GPH Gregor & Prof AF Newell:* £12,000 from The Leverhulme Trust for appointment of artist-in-residence (Ms M Morgan).

*Miss L Gibson & Dr GPH Gregor:* £3,000.

*Mr I Martin & Dr SM Parkes:* £6,807.

*Dr SM Parkes:* £56,309.

## Biomedical Research Centre

*Dr SM Keyse:* £15,422 from Cancer Research UK for study of physiological functions for dual-specificity MAP kinase phosphatases (MKPs) in regulating the Ras/MAPK signalling pathway (PhD studentship).

*Dr B McStay:* £390,692 from Medical Research Council for a model system for studying genome organisation and function.

*Dr G Smith & Prof CR Wolf:* £12,500.

## Centre for Clinical Innovations

*Dr C Longbottom & Prof NB Pitts:* £9,391.

## Civil Engineering

*Prof PA Davies:* £53,377 from Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for doctoral training grant.

## Community Education

*Mr I Fairweather:* £20,000.

## Community Health Sciences Division

*Dr F Ansair, Prof P Davey, Ms A Johnston & Mrs L Scahill (NHS Tayside):* £16,562 from EU Public Health Programme for European surveillance of antimicrobial consumption project.

*Dr F Crawford, Prof T Fahey & Dr GP Leese (Medicine and Therapeutics):* £50,797 from East of Scotland Primary Care Research Network (EASTREN) for study on prediction diabetic foot ulceration in primary care (EastRen collaborative project 561-05).

*Prof IK Crombie, Prof P Davey, Dr PT Donnan, Dr JS Dowell, Dr GPH Gregor (Applied Computing), Dr MC Jones (Nursing & Midwifery), Mr TE Love, Prof IW Ricketts (Applied Computing), Prof FM Sullivan & Dr B Williams:* £95,476 from Scottish Higher Education Funding Council for Scottish Clinical Interactions Project (SCIP) (joint with St Andrews University) (Strategic Research Development Grant – SRDG).

*Prof T Fahey, Prof TM MacDonald (Medicine & Therapeutics) & Dr L Wei (Medicine & Therapeutics):* £135,492 from Medical Research Council for study into the epidemiology of drug compliance, safety monitoring and outcome of cardiovascular drugs prescribed in primary care (Special Training Fellowship in HSR).  
*Dr PT Donnan & Prof AD Morris:* £20,700.

## Dental Health Services Research Unit

*Dr DL Bonetti, Dr J Clarkson, Dr C Jackson (Community Health Sciences Division) & Mrs MC Pitkethly (Community Health Sciences Division):* £14,812 from East of Scotland Primary Care research Network (EASTREN) for use of psychological theory to further and understanding of GP and GDP participation in primary care research.

*Prof NB Pitts & Dr GVA Topping (Dental School):* £3,755.80

## Dental School

*Dr CH Lloyd:* £3,218 from Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for doctoral training grant.

*Dr S Manton & Mr S Turner (Community Health Sciences Division):* £14,746 from East of Scotland Primary Care Research Network (EASTREN) for a survey of current policy and practice in assessment of oral health needs and risks in patients with learning disabilities.

## Education

*Ms W Barrow, Mrs E Hannah, Dr DJ Jindal-Snape (Community Education), Mrs C Kerr & Mrs E Smith:* £25,000.

## Electronic Engineering and Physics

*Prof AG Fitzgerald:* £703.24.  
*Prof AG Fitzgerald:* £522.50.

## English

*Dr JA George:* £1,700 from Carnegie Trust for Bahram Beyza'i's *The Marionettes: a critical edition.*  
*Prof GC Ward:* £21,276.

## Fine Art

*Mr MN Dalziel & Ms L Scullion:* £16,000.

## Geography

*Dr NR Fyfe & Dr AD Reeves:* £1,780 from Carnegie Trust for study on policing the environment; examining different styles and strategies of environment enforcement in Scotland.



## Maternal and Child Health Sciences

*Prof R Hume & Dr FLR Williams (Community Health Sciences Division):* £65,350 from Cerebra for a pilot study to inform a randomised controlled trial of iodine supplementation in preterm infants (joint with Erasmus Univeristy, University College Dublin and University of Madrid).  
*Prof RE Olver:* £78,351 from The George John Livanos Charitable Trust for study of respiratory syncytial virus and pulmonary NA+ transport.  
*Prof JS Forsyth and Dr P Willatts (Psychology):* £24,056.

## Mechanical Engineering

*Prof EW Abel:* £36,910 from Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for doctoral training grant.

## Medicine and Therapeutics

*Prof AS Anderson, Prof JIF Belch, Prof JS Forsyth (Maternal and Child Health Sciences) & Dr P Willatts:* £94,032 from Scottish Higher Education Funding Council for feasibility study on Integrated Scottish Research Initiative on Seafood (joint with Universities of Stirling and St Andrews) (Strategic Research Development Grant – SRDG).  
*Prof AS Anderson & Prof RJC Steele (Surgery and ncology):* £2,200 from Scottish Cancer Foundation for a review of lifestyle interventions used in successful disease prevention programmes (joint with University of Stirling).  
*Prof AS Anderson & Prof RJC Steele (Surgery and Oncology):* £13,897 from Cancer Research UK for the development and evaluation of a family based intervention aimed at changing diet and physical activity in people at moderate to high risk of colorectal cancer (Studentship: Mr S Caswell).  
*Dr JI Davies, Prof AD Morris, Prof AD Struthers & Dr MD Witham:* £34,463 from Diabetes UK for study into whether vitamin D improves markers of vascular health in type 2 diabetes.  
*Dr RS Dawe, Prof J Ferguson & Dr RMR Hearn:* £12,803 from Chief Scientist Office for study to determine the skin cancer risk of narrow-band TL-01 UVB phototherapy.



This month's images were created by Jill Slater, a final year Jewellery and Metal Design student at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design

*Dr E Hendry:* £74,950 from Ninewells Cancer Campaign for purchase of linear echoendoscope.  
*Prof MET McMurdo:* £194,029 from Chief Scientist Office for double blind placebo controlled study of supplementation to reduce disability of undernourished older people after hospital discharge (joint with University of Glasgow and St George's Medical School, NSW, Australia).  
*Dr WL Wrieden:* £18,810 (joint with Aberdeen and Glasgow Caledonian Universities).  
*Prof AS Anderson:* £16,000.  
*Prof JIF Belch & Prof PA Stonebridge:* £55,525.  
*Prof TM MacDonald:* £50,700.  
*Dr RC Roberts:* £9,255.  
*Dr RC Roberts:* £6,475.

## Pathology and Neuroscience

*Prof MLJ Ashford:* £69,825 from Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and Industrial Partner for investigation into the role of leptin, insulin and diet induced obesity on amyloidosis (CASE Studentship: Paul Meakin).  
*Dr A Baldacchino:* £22,000 from European Commission for evaluation of information collected in FP5 project 'Drugs and Psychosis' (with St George's Hospital Medical School Division of Mental Health).

*Prof DJK Balfour:* £105,000 from Alzheimer's Research Trust for Dundee Alzheimer's Research Network (extension).  
*Prof DJK Balfour, Prof K Matthews:* £357,168 from Wellcome Trust for study of exacerbation of nicotine dependence by unavoidable stress: a putative model for the role of depression in nicotine addiction (joint with University of St Andrews).  
*Prof DJK Balfour & Dr CA Stewart:* £66,963 from Alzheimer's Research Trust for study of the role of stress in the biochemistry of Alzheimer's Disease (Studentship).  
*Dr CN Connolly:* £71,625 from Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and Industrial Partner for study of the role of neuregulin on NMDA and GAGA(A) receptor trafficking which has implications to schizophrenia and epilepsy (CASE Studentship: MS SM Mizielinska).  
*Prof JH Cummings, Dr S Macfarlane, Prof GT Macfarlane & Dr N Reynolds (Medicine & Therapeutics):* £228,151 from Chief Scientist Office for study of symbiotic treatment in Crohn's Disease patients.

*Dr BG Frenguelli & Dr AJ Irving:* £11,350 from International Brain Research Organisation to fund a research fellowship (Dr Farid Youssef).  
*Dr GA McLeod & Prof DJ Murphy (Maternal and Child Health Sciences):* £12,097 from Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association for a randomised controlled trial of oxytocin 5iu versus oxytocin 5iu and 30io infusion for the control of blood loss at elective caesarean section (pilot study).  
*Dr D Bellelli & Prof JJ Lambert:* £66,292.

## Psychology

*Dr LG Duncan:* £859.13 from British Council for conference travel.  
*Dr F Sani:* £166,281.04 from Economic and Social Research Council for study on perceiving collective continuity: social psychological implications (Fellowship).  
*Dr B Tatler:* £10,665 from The Royal Society for study of object memory in a dynamic real world setting.



*Dr RPG Van Gompel:* £161,314.75 from Economic and Social Research Council for study of the effects of recent linguistic exposure for sentence priming in comprehension.

#### **Registry**

*Dr N Laker:* £7,827 from Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for doctoral training grant.

#### **School of Life Sciences**

*Prof DR Alessi:* £64,893 from Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and Industrial Partner for study of the role and regulation of the LKB1 and AMPK signalling pathway (CASE Studentship: Mr BW Gregory).

*Prof JJ Blow:* £9,854 from Cancer Research UK for study of Mcm-associated proteins in normal and checkpointed cell division cycles (PhD studentship).

*Prof JJ Blow:* £27,457 from Cancer Research UK for molecular analysis of a potential 'licensing checkpoint' in human cells (PhD Studentship: Ms X Ge).

*Prof JJ Blow & Prof CR Wolf (Biomedical Research Centre):* £160,170 from Cancer Research UK for annual equipment allocation 05/06.

*Prof Sir P Cohen:* £36,605 from The Royal Society for a Royal Society Research Professorship.  
*Dr GN Elliott:* £740 from Royal Society of Edinburgh for travel to Taiwan to visit collaborator's laboratory at National Kaohsiung Institute of Marine Technology.

*Prof AH Fairlamb, Prof MAJ Ferguson, Prof JA Frearson, Prof IH Gilbert, Prof WN Hunter & Dr D Van Aalten:* £8,100,000 from Wellcome Trust for drug discovery of tropical diseases study.

*Prof MAJ Ferguson & Dr AW Nikolev:* £136,436 from Wellcome Trust for study of the preparation of substrate analogues/potential inhibitors for GPI pathway –D-mannosyl transferase III in *Trypanosoma brucei* (joint with Russian Academy of Medical Sciences)

*Dr AJ Flavell:* £239,440 from EU Food Quality and Safety for BIOEXPLOIT.

*Prof IH Gilbert:* £118,564 from Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative for design and synthesis of potential agents for the treatment of African trypanosomiasis (joint with University of Glasgow and University of Parma).

*Prof WN Hunter:* £51,710 from Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and Industrial Partner for chemogenomics analysis of enzyme active sites in pathogenic organisms (CASE studentship: Mrs N Ramsden).

*Prof EB Lane:* £319,533 from Cancer Research UK for study of expression and function of the intermediate filament cytoskeleton in epithelial differentiation (Programme Grant).

*Dr R Marquez:* £54,825 from Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council for design of PDK1 inhibitors as molecular probes (Strategic research studentship: Mr SJ Hobson).

*Dr IS Nathke:* £61,884 from Cancer Research UK for PgC equipment pool 2005.

*Dr IS Nathke:* £268,725 from Cancer Research UK for study of cytoskeletal regulation by the Adenomatous Polyposis coli protein in colon cancer (Senior Cancer Research Fellowship).

*Dr M Maroto:* £596,459 from Medical Research Council for analysis of the molecular mechanism of cyclic notch signalling implicated in the machinery of the segmentation clock (Career Development Fellowship).

*Dr GG Simpson:* £262,352.66 from Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council for study of native RNA targets of a plant-specific RNA binding protein that controls *Arabidopsis* development.

*Dr JR Swedlow:* £398,636.61 from Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council for open image informatics software for biological microscopy.

*Dr JR Swedlow:* £59,545 from Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council for implementation of LSIDs in the open microscopy environment.

*Prof C Tickle:* £51,536 from Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland for study of the molecular code for digital anatomy (Studentship: Ms Laura McDonald).

*Prof C Tickle:* £54,376 from The Royal Society for study of pattern formation of invertebrate embryos with special reference to limbs (Foulerton Research Professorship).

*School of Life Sciences:* £648,500 from Wellcome Trust for five studentships in the Molecular and Cellular Biology PhD programme.

*Prof CP Downes & Dr A Gray:* £45,000.

*Dr AJ Flavell:* £6,612.

*Dr C Halpin:* £25,000.

*Dr AR Prescott & Dr MA Spruce (Surgery & Oncology):* £12,500.

#### **Surgery and Oncology**

*Prof Sir DP Lane:* £569,481 from Cancer Research UK for study on exploiting tumour suppressor gene pathways for therapy (year 6 renewal).

*Prof AJ Munro:* £52,135 from Ninewells Cancer Campaign for preliminary explorations of novel techniques for intraoperative brachytherapy.

*Prof RJC Steele:* £45,686 from Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for doctoral training grant.

*Dr S Brown & Ms FJ Carter:* £15,255.25.

*Dr BA Spruce:* £30,000.

*Prof RJC Steele & Prof AM Thompson:* £100,000.

#### **Television and Imaging**

*Mr N Johnson & Dr SJ McKenna (Applied Computing):* £20,000.



# Gold medal for cell signal research

**Professor Dario Alessi of the MRC (Medical Research Council) Protein Phosphorylation Unit at the School of Life Sciences has been named the 2005 winner of the prestigious EMBO Gold Medal.**

The EMBO Gold Medal is presented annually to a young European researcher for outstanding contributions to life sciences research. Recipients are also honoured as role models for other young scientists in Europe.

Dario received the award in recognition of his landmark work in cell signalling. His pioneering research on enzymes called 'kinases' and their role in inherited disease has provided exciting new insights into conditions such as diabetes, cancer and hypertension.

Professor Alessi, who completed his PhD only 14 years ago, is the first researcher in Scotland to win the award.

EMBO Executive Director, Frank Gannon, described Professor Alessi as an "exemplary role model" for other young researchers.

"His work has had a tremendous international impact and this is all the more remarkable when you consider his publication approach, which steers away from high impact journals. To do this and still achieve such an impact on biomedical research is the mark of a truly exceptional scientist."



The true extent of this impact was demonstrated recently in data published by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). The ISI Essential Science Indicators placed Alessi as the world's 13th most cited scientist in the fields of biology and biochemistry from January 1995 to August 2005 - a remarkable achievement for such a young researcher.

## Tropical disease expert wins top honour

**Professor Alan Fairlamb, head of the Division of Biological Chemistry & Molecular Microbiology in the School of Life Sciences, has been awarded the prestigious Kitasato Microbial Chemistry Medal for his Outstanding Contribution to Biology.**

The award, which was instituted in 1988 for "advanced research on bioactive compounds", was made to Professor Fairlamb by Professor Satoshi Omura, Director of the Kitasato Institute, Tokyo, Japan.

A world authority on tropical diseases, Professor Fairlamb first discovered the vital antioxidant "trypanothione" in parasitic trypanosomes in 1985, and has since identified it as one of the targets for several drugs currently used to treat sleeping sickness and Chagas' disease.

In 2004 he discovered that antimonial drugs used to treat Leishmaniasis also attack the antioxidant functions of trypanothione. From this Alan hopes that research on the parasite molecule "trypanothione", and enzymes that use trypanothione, will lead to a better and safer drug that will cure sleeping sickness, Chagas' disease and Leishmaniasis.

Commenting on the award, Professor Fairlamb said, "I am deeply honoured to receive this award and hope this will allow me to establish new international collaborations to find improved treatments for diseases such as African Sleeping Sickness."

Professor Fairlamb is also Chair of the World Health Organization / Tropical Disease Research Chemotherapy Portfolio Review Committee, responsible for drug discovery and development for AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, leishmaniasis, sleeping sickness, Chagas' disease, schistosomiasis, onchocerciasis and filariasis.

## University tie available to purchase

**An exclusive University of Dundee tie has been designed by Duncan of Jordanstone College tutor and textile designer Jane Keith as part of a planned collection.**

The ties – each one a unique variation on the University theme – draw their inspiration from detail of the University's crest and logo and are handprinted on Indian Douppion silk.

Jane is well known for her contemporary handprinted ties often worn on air by Channel 4 newscaster Jon Snow.

The first of a limited edition batch – all exclusive one-offs – are now available at a special price of £40 (exVAT) via [www.dundee.ac.uk/principalsoffice/gifts.html](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/principalsoffice/gifts.html)



## Dundee welcomes Asian leaders for water talks

**One of the most pressing issues facing Central Asian Nationals – the sharing of water resources – was the subject of an international discussion recently hosted by the University of Dundee.**

Ministers and senior government officials from eight Central Asian states gathered at the University to discuss the role of water law in managing their international and national water resources.

Demands for water in the area have been rising at the same time as the main body of water - the Aral Sea - has been diminished.

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were represented at the meeting, which was convened under the auspices of the Global Water Partnership.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Patricia Wouters, Director of the International Water Law Research Institute at the University of Dundee, and Dr Vadim Sokolov, Central Asian Director of the Global Water Partnership.



## Texan Researchers Visit School of Life Sciences

**A major delegation of Texan researchers, together with leading scientists from across the UK, recently visited the School of Life Sciences for a three-day biosciences workshop in the field of Cell Signalling.**

The workshop was staged as part of the Department of Trade and Industry Texas Bioscience Collaboration, and involved leading researchers from ten universities in Texas and their counterparts from universities throughout the UK.

The workshop hosted by the University is the eleventh in the series hosted by leading institutions in both UK and Texas since the workshop programme began in February 2003.

Professor Sir Philip Cohen, Director of the MRC Protein Phosphorylation Unit said, "We were really delighted that so many of the key Research Institutions from Texas wanted to visit Dundee and attend the Cell Signalling meeting. There are many leading researchers in this field in Texas and I hope that this conference will lead to fruitful collaborations in the future."

## Hong Kong Commissioner Visits Uni campus

**Mr Anthony Wong, Commissioner for Innovation and Technology of the Hong Kong SAR Government, recently visited the University of Dundee as part of a UK tour to develop global partners for research and development.**

Mr Wong was shown the University's Visual Research Centre, a unique facility dedicated to practice-led research based within Dundee Contemporary Arts and home to research staff and students from the Schools of Architecture, Design, Fine Art and Television & Imaging.

This was followed by a tour of the main campus which incorporated the newly completed Queen Mother Building, home to the Division of Applied Computing.

## University Welcomes European Delegation

**Members of the European Parliament industry, research and energy committee visited the University in October to view some of the University's world-class research facilities at their special request.**

The committee was welcomed into the new £21 million Centre for Interdisciplinary Research at the Faculty of Life Sciences by Professor Pete Downes, Dean of the Faculty where they met some of the 10 most recently recruited principal investigators - six of whom have come to Dundee from the USA.

The committee was also given a presentation by Professor Eric Wright, Research Dean from the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing, and a guided tour of the CIR and Wellcome Trust Biocentre.

The committee visited a number of leading Scottish research institutions including the Universities of Dundee and St Andrews, Scottish Crop Research Institute, the Roslin Institute and a renewable energy project in Islay.



# Support for International Students in Scotland

**The University's Student Advisory Service, along with colleagues at the University of Abertay and Dundee College, has been successful in its bid to the Challenge Fund which is part of the Scottish Executive's Fresh Talent Initiative.**

The three institutions have received £48,500 to help support international students during their studies in Scotland and help them make decisions about whether to stay on in the country at the end of their courses. The award represents the highest of 12 awards from the Fund which is supported by £300,000 of Executive funding.

Irene Donaldson, Head of the Student Advisory Service, said, "This additional funding will help us build on the excellent support already offered to our international community during their education in Dundee. The funds will provide some practical help to ensure that international students are offered the opportunity to get to know Scotland better.

"We welcome this opportunity to collaborate with our colleagues at the University of Abertay and Dundee College and we look forward to organising a range of activities that will help international students to become more involved with local employers, community groups, etcetera"



The programme of events and activities being organised over the next year will help to bring international students together with domestic students and others in their local communities and provide opportunities to learn about Scotland and Scottish life.

The Student Advisory Service will take the lead in organising a two day main event 'Scotland Alive' which will be held in the Caird Hall on 17 and 18 February 2006. This event will provide opportunities for students to learn more about potential employment opportunities plus work shadowing schemes, as well as support available for those intending to establish themselves in business. The programme will also include a ceilidh, multi cultural entertainment by students and members of the community, and a variety of stalls and displays from multi-cultural craftworkers and caterers. Irene also hopes to arrange talks and presentations from graduates who have settled in Scotland and are now working in the community.

If you are interested in helping to organise this event or feel you can contribute in any other way, please contact Irene Donaldson via email: [i.donaldson@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:i.donaldson@dundee.ac.uk)

## University welcomes international students

**New international arrivals to the University recently attended an evening reception hosted by the Student Advisory Service to learn about Dundee and meet new people.**

In response to the Scottish Executive's scheme designed to encourage students from overseas to stay and work in Scotland once their studies are completed, the University is keen to introduce their new international students to the local community as early as possible.

Irene Donaldson, Head of the Student Advisory Service, said she was pleased so many interested parties attended the event to promote the various types of support and services that are available to international students during their time in Dundee.

"We have students coming to the University from all over the world and we try to do everything we can to make them feel at home here in Dundee," she said.

"The fact that we receive such excellent support from the local community is a real boost."

## Credits

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**Elaine Mulcahy has taken over from Katherine Beattie as the new editor of Contact. Please contact Elaine ([e.mulcahy@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:e.mulcahy@dundee.ac.uk)) with any story ideas or contributions.**

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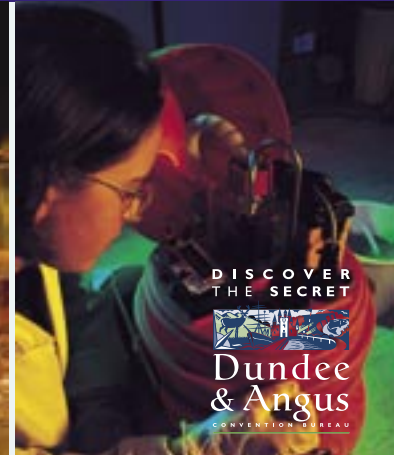
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Dundee & Angus is home to many leading experts in fields of bio-technology, medicine, science and technology, law and education. As experts we know you want to gain recognition for the ground breaking work undertaken by your organisation/association and an ideal opportunity to raise awareness is to host a conference/meeting on 'home turf'.

'Working with you for you' we aim to provide you with free support in conference organising in return for the opportunity to work with you and put forward a bid to host the next conference/meeting within your specialist field in Dundee & Angus.

Visit our website at [www.conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk](http://www.conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk) to find out more about the service and resource we provide through our Ambassador Programme, to include:

#### **Event Organisation**

Venue Finding, Site Inspections/Visits, Delegate Accommodation Booking Service, Field trips, Tours and Social Programmes and Free Tendering Service is all available to you as an added resource when organising your event.

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Provision of delegate information packs and pre-event promotional assistance all aimed at increasing the profile of your event and ultimately increasing delegate numbers.

#### **Financial Support**

The City of Dundee and Angus Area place an enormous importance on attracting conferences/meetings and events to the area and therefore financial support will be tailored and offered, subject to the needs of your organisation and strict criteria.

Business Tourism is an important sector for Dundee & Angus, generating around £8 million pounds to the local economy. Your contribution, whether it be a small or large event is extremely important in this competitive market.

For further information or to discuss the support we can provide for an upcoming event, please contact us on 01382 527531/541 or e-mail: [karen.tocher@visitscotland.com](mailto:karen.tocher@visitscotland.com)  
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# Scottish Institute Launches 'The Learning Exchange'

**The Learning Exchange, the world's first interactive library of digital learning resources for social work education was recently launched by the Scottish Institute for Excellence in Social Work Education.**

Led by the University of Dundee and involving collaboration between nine Scottish universities, The Learning Exchange will be available to all social work educators in Scotland, placing at their fingertips a rich online library - or digital repository - where they can instantly access a wide array of innovative learning resources.

Bryan Williams, Director of the Institute, said, "This is a ground-breaking development in professional higher and further education and those studying to become 21st century social services workers and the users of those services deserve nothing less.

"The beauty of the Learning Exchange is the way that it enables educators to take small chunks of learning and incorporate them into their teaching according to their own needs and teaching styles.

"Educators can also upload their own materials into the Learning Exchange so that they can be shared with others. The Universities and their partners will be the first to get access and we will then roll out the service to Scotland's colleges and to social services providers, making it a truly sector-wide resource."

University Principal and Vice Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands said, "The Learning Exchange is the culmination of two years of collaborative work by the nine university members of the Institute.

"They are to be congratulated on their success in working together to develop such a useful educational service for the social work profession."

Work on developing the Learning Exchange was led by the University of Strathclyde at a cost of £800,000, funded jointly by the Scottish Executive and the Scottish Funding Council.

Learning objects have been commissioned initially in the priority curricular areas of child development and protection, risk management, law, inter-professional work, service user involvement and preparation for practice.

## Prize winning dental ceramic work



**Final year dental students Roddy Little and David Reid were recently awarded the Dall Medal for their efforts at creating upper central incisors using biocompatible dental alloy and vita dental ceramic porcelain.**

Roddy and David were among a group of dental students who entered the competition, which was organised by Dental Instructor Bill Sharp. Bill said, "Each student put a great deal of time and effort into the fabrication of their metal ceramic crown and the overall standard was very high."

The Dall Medal award is funded by a legacy bequeathed on William Dall's death in 1963 by his wife. William Dall was an early innovator in British dentistry who specialised in the development of dental ceramic porcelains. A jeweller in Fife, Dall went on to train as a dentist in Edinburgh, Dundee and Glasgow. Alban was presented with the medal by Professor Bill Saunders, Dean of Dentistry and Head of Department in the Dental School.

## Dental school launches Postgraduate Research Group

**The Dental School recently launched an initiative to encourage and strengthen the research culture at Dundee Dental Hospital and School.**

The Postgraduate Research Group gives pre-doctorate level researchers the opportunity to network with other research students at the Dental School in an informal atmosphere where discussion of challenges encountered by investigators in the processes of research project development, writing and dissemination can take place.

Clinical lecturer in Child Dental Health Nicola Innes said, "The research group will help enable completion of high quality research within realistic timeframes by pre-empting commonly encountered pitfalls through discussion with peers and practical informative talks by the invited speakers."

Internal and external speakers have been invited to give talks on subjects relevant to the broader research culture and environment as well as on specific areas of research. At the inaugural meeting in September University Writer in Residence Bill Kirton spoke to the Group about scientific writing with Julian Davis leading the next hands-on session using EndNote for referencing.

The group are looking forward to moving into the newly completed Frankland Building in the springtime.



# CEPMLP energy courses gain Energy Institute approval

**The Energy Institute (EI), the leading professional body for the energy industries, has given its seal of approval to the suite of post-graduate energy courses offered by the University's Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy.**

The courses have been approved for EI membership after a visit to the Centre by members of the Institute.

Dr Doug Harris, chair of the EI's visiting panel, noted that, "All courses have been found to be excellent and delivered at a high standard. The EI team has been impressed by the facilities, the international reputation of the CEPMLP centre and the quality of lecturers, speakers and administrative staff. Links with industry and industrialists were also found to be a great strength."

Dr Philip Andrews-Speed, Director of the CEPMLP, welcomed the decision by the EI. "Recognition by the Energy Institute underpins the Centre's international reputation and provides a tangible benefit to our graduates in the field of energy," said Dr Andrews-Speed

Included in the suite of approved course is the CEPMLP's new MBA in Energy Industry Management. This course is designed for individuals working in national and international energy companies, energy trading companies and related consultancies, combining the development of strategic business acumen with specialist energy knowledge.

## Breast cancer research success leads to more funding

**Research that could one day lead to a new way of predicting how a patient's breast cancer will develop and would allow clinicians to tailor their treatments has been awarded funding of £153,601 by the Breast Cancer Campaign (BCC).**

With the help of previous BCC funding, grant recipients Dr Ana Schor and Professor Seth Schor and their research team have already found that a breast cancer patient's prognosis could be predicted by the amount of a protein – called MSF – their tumours produce.

MSF is a protein produced in high quantities by breast tumours which helps the tumour develop its own blood supply so that it can grow and spread around the body.

The Schor team found that the higher the amount of MSF, the worse the prognosis. They have also discovered that there are two different types of MSF.

One form is "active" and is found in 90 percent of breast cancer patients, while the other form is "inactive" and found in the majority of people who do not have cancer. Dr Schor will look at both forms of MSF to see what makes them different.

Dr Ana Schor said, "We hope to develop tests which will allow us to quickly assess how much and which type of MSF a breast cancer patient has. This information may allow clinicians to predict the course of the disease and therefore which treatment would be the most effective for the patient."

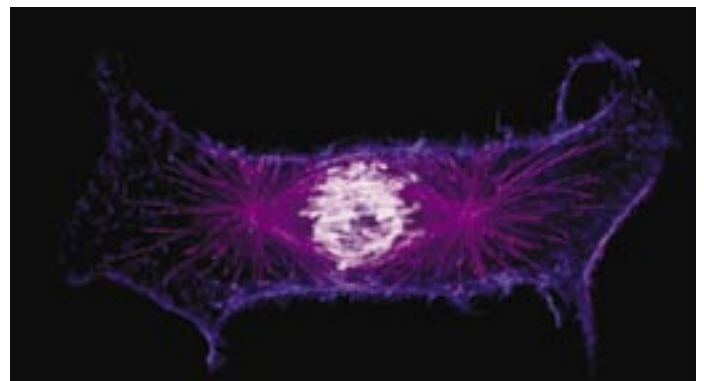
Pamela Goldberg, Chief Executive, Breast Cancer Campaign, said, "This pioneering research will play a major part in the future treatment of breast cancer which will be in drug regimes tailored to the individual patient."

## Microscopy magic wins top prize

**Dr Paul Andrews, of the School of Life Sciences, has scooped another prize for his remarkable work in photographing cancer cells. Paul was awarded a top prize in the international Nikon 2005 Small World Photomicrography Competition, a competition in which he has enjoyed previous success.**

Paul, a researcher in the Division of Gene Regulation and Expression, was one of only two winning entries from the UK, for his submission of an image of cell division.

His prize-winning image shows a cancer cell caught in the act of dividing its chromosomes (shown in white) into two new cells. It does this using the mechanics of the cytoskeleton, which is made up of the microtubule spindle (this part attaches to chromosomes and is shown in purple) and the actin filament network which helps the cell divide into two (shown in blue). Knowing the detailed way in which cells accurately achieve this segregation event is critical for an in depth understanding of cancer.



The international microscopy competition is open to all disciplines of science and received over 1700 entrants. The first twenty prize-winning images are exhibited at numerous museums and science centres throughout the United States.

# Exhibition of First World War Poet's work launched to mark Armistice Day

The University marked Armistice Day with the opening of an exhibition of the work of First World War poet Joseph Lee.

Ranked alongside Owen, Brooke and Sassoon, Joseph Lee was once regarded as one of Scotland's finest First World War poets. Volumes of his poetry and war memoirs illustrated by his own sketches remain powerfully evocative and - 'composed amid the smoke and din of ... warfare' - are undeniably authentic.

Lee was born in Dundee and worked on the Dundee Advertiser and People's Journal as well as producing and illustrating his own newspapers and magazines such as the City Echo. He served in the Black Watch in the trenches in France and Belgium and had his first volume of poetry published in 1916. He was taken prisoner in 1917 and his journals, with photographs and sketches, vividly record his own experiences. After the war Lee worked as a journalist in London and studied at the Slade School of Fine Art before returning to Dundee where he died in 1949.

The exhibition of items from the University's Archive and Museum collections is being held on two floors of the University: in the Tower Foyer and the Lamb Gallery. It includes papers and illustrations from Lee's journalistic days in Dundee, original poems and diaries from the First World War, and drawings from his time at the Slade School.

The exhibition was opened by Mrs Nancy Blackwood, a great niece of Joseph Lee, and Professor James Calderhead, Vice-Principal of the University.

The exhibition is open Monday-Friday 9:30am-8:00pm and Saturday 9:30am-4:30pm until Thursday 22 December.



*“Every bullet has its billet;  
Many bullets more than one:  
God! Perhaps I killed a mother  
When I killed a mother's son.”*

*The Bullet*, Joseph Lee, 1916.



above: Watercolour sketch, *No Man's Land* by Joseph Lee  
left: *Karsruhe Prisoner of War Camp*, 1918 by Joseph Lee  
(both courtesy of University of Dundee Museum Services)

## Dundee student selected for Scotland Squad

First year Applied Computing student Ross Clark has been selected to swim for Scotland at the Commonwealth Games in Australia next year. A member of the University's Excel sports scholarship team, 18-year-old Ross will compete in the 50m breast stroke event at the 2006 Games.

Ross, a former pupil at Dundee's Harris Academy, already has experience of competing at international level having been a member of the Great Britain team at this summer's European Junior Championships in Hungary.

Ross will be able to combine his tough training schedule with his studies thanks to the University's scholarship programme.

“The scholarship has allowed me to study part-time so that I can take time off to train and compete,” said the talented teenager. “I also have a lap-top so that I can work when I'm away from home.”

Kirsteen Cruickshanks, sports scholarship coordinator with the University's Institute of Sport and Exercise said, “The University is proud of Ross's achievement and will work to enable him to combine his academic studies with his swimming.”

# Hospitals at War

**A fascinating new exhibition exploring the life of Tayside's hospitals and medical services during the Second World War is currently running at Ninewells Hospital and Medical School.**

Funded by a £9000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund's Home Front Recall programme, the Hospitals at War exhibition features a wide range of photographs, official documents and rare personal memorabilia, much of which has never before been displayed in public.

Some of the items are part of the collections of the Tayside Medical History Museum (jointly run by the University of Dundee Museum Services and NHS Tayside), while many others have been lent by a variety of individuals and organisations. They include WW2 uniforms, medical equipment and a photograph of an operation being carried out in the bridal suite at Gleneagles Hotel.



"The hotel was requisitioned as an emergency hospital during the war," explained Matthew Jarron, Curator of Museum Services.

"Among the patients treated there were film stars David Niven and Stewart Granger.

"We also have an early phial of penicillin which was like gold dust during the war so it is amazing that someone held on to it."

The exhibition, which will run until March 3 next year, is being staged in the main concourse area of Ninewells Hospital.

Kathleen Hunter qualified as a nurse at Perth Royal Infirmary in 1942, then joined the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service and served in Palestine for two years. After the war she worked at Blairgowrie Cottage Hospital (as Sister Kench). The nurse's cape she is wearing in the photograph (top) is included in the exhibition.



## Saturday Evening Lectures

**Another exciting programme of speakers has been lined up for the 2006 Saturday Evening Lecture Series. The series commences early in the New Year with the full programme to be published in December.**

Acclaimed scientific author, journalist and television producer **Simon Singh** will present 'The Big Bang: History of the World in 60 minutes' and, one year on from the devastating natural disaster in Asia, **Dr David Tappin** from the British Geological Society will discuss 'Tsunamis'.

**Professor Andrew Morris** from the University's own School of Medicine will be speaking on the increasing international threat of diabetes.

The series will also feature a contribution from one of Britain's most prominent journalistic voices, **David Aaronovitch**, a lecture by **Dr Kumi Naidoo**, Secretary General and Chief Executive Officer of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Civic Participation, who will present 'Commission on Africa One Year On'.

All lectures are free and open to the public and take place in the Tower Extension Lecture Theatre. For more information visit [www.dundee.ac.uk/externalrelations/events/sels.html](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/externalrelations/events/sels.html) or to request a brochure for the series e-mail [events@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:events@dundee.ac.uk)

