

c n t a c t



The magazine of the University of Dundee • April 09



Natural Magic

contents

news..... 03

V&A at Dundee... 08



profile..... 14



court news..... 20

books..... 24

art..... 28



what's on..... 31

credits

Contact is published by the Press Office, External Relations. Contributions are welcome but cannot be guaranteed publication. Advertising is also welcome.

Printed by David Winter & Son Ltd.
Editor | Roddy Isles
r.isles@dundee.ac.uk
t 01382 384910 | f 01382 385515

Design | Fiona Reilly |
Design • Print • Marketing
f.z.reilly@dundee.ac.uk

Scottish charity no: SC015096

contact • april 09



from the principal...

I cannot begin my first column as Acting Principal without saying a few words about Sir Alan Langlands. Earlier in March, the University had the opportunity to pay collective tribute and say goodbye to a Principal who has done much throughout his eight years at Dundee to enhance the status of the University, placing it among the best in Scotland. More personally, I had the privilege of being able to work closely with Sir Alan on the Senior Management Team, where I saw his leadership qualities at firsthand. He leaves a University both in good shape, despite the prevailing economic conditions, and with a clear focus and direction of travel underpinned by the Strategic Framework.

The search for a new Principal is underway, but it will likely be some months before the successful candidate is able to take up her or his post. And so it is my clear task as Acting Principal to ensure the University is handed on to its sixth Principal in equally good shape.

Of course, we have also appointed a new University Secretary, Dr Jim McGeorge, who joins us from the University of Stirling. I am sure all staff will join with me in welcoming Jim to Dundee and I look forward to working closely with him as we plan for the future

One of the pleasures of my new role as Acting Principal is becoming more aware of the great work being done across the University and being able to highlight the achievements of our staff on this page. Warmest congratulations therefore go to Professors Tracy Palmer, Tom Owen-Hughes, Irene Leigh and Tomo Tanaka, who were all elected fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh earlier this month.

The RAE results saw the University consolidate performance in a number of areas of established strength as well as achieve significant improvements in others. The example of nursing, in particular, shows how young research areas can begin to realise their potential. Of course, the RAE is by definition a retrospective snapshot of research performance, whereas the development and implementation of our research strategy is a continuous process. By focussing on the strengths identified in RAE 2008 and investing selectively in new initiatives that straddle traditional disciplines, we will continue to enhance our reputation as a research intensive university.

One of the inherited initiatives that I am especially excited about is the V&A Dundee project. A conference in late February brought together stakeholders from around the city and helped to forge a common resolve to support the project, which has as its goal an iconic design centre and museum on the Dundee waterfront. This presents the University with an opportunity to play a serious role in promoting the city and the region.

Finally, can I draw your attention to the University Diabetes Research Campaign, which has raised more than £2m towards its target of £3m to create a new research team dedicated to studying Type I diabetes. The campaign is staging the second annual Race for Research at Monikie Country Park on 10 May, when you may just spot me in my running shoes bringing up the rear of the field. I hope to see many of you there, too.

Professor Peter Downes • Acting Principal and Vice-Chancellor
April 2009

RSE honour for four professors

Three leading professors from the College of Life Sciences and one from the College of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing are among the latest new Fellows to be elected to the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Professor Irene Leigh, Vice Principal and Head of the College of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing and Professor of Cellular and Molecular Medicine joins College of Life Sciences Professors Tom Owen-Hughes, Tracey Palmer and Tomoyuki Tanaka in being awarded the prestigious RSE honour.

Professor Owen-Hughes is Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow and Professor of Chromatin Structure and Function while Professor Tracy Palmer is Professor of Molecular Microbiology, Medical Research Council Senior Non-Clinical Research Fellow and Deputy Head of the Division of Molecular and Environmental Microbiology.

Professor Tomoyuki Tanaka is Cancer Research UK Senior Fellow and Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology.

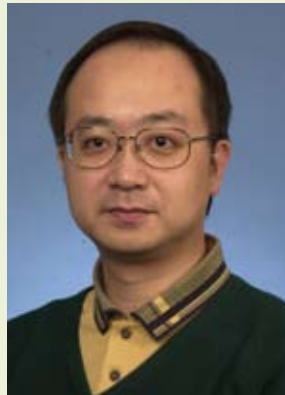
Each new Fellow of the RSE is recognised within his or her peer group as having achieved excellence within their discipline or profession.

“This is a great honour for all of those elected and adds to a distinguished list of RSE Fellows from Dundee,” said Sir Alan Langlands, Principal of the University. “For all of them the honour is thoroughly deserved and a further sign of Dundee’s reputation for excellence in science and research.”

The four from Dundee join the RSE’s almost 1500-strong Fellowship of experts in the Sciences, Arts, Humanities, the Professions, Industry and Commerce. The new Fellows were elected after a rigorous four-stage selection process culminating in a ballot of the entire Fellowship.

Once admitted to the RSE Fellows are encouraged to contribute to the aims and objectives of the Society, including the provision of expert policy advice to Government and Parliament, outreach education programmes for young people, and public engagement events including conferences and discussion forums. The central aim of the Society is the advancement of learning and useful knowledge.

In welcoming the new Fellows, the RSE President, Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, said, “I know that the new intake of Fellows will enhance the already considerable knowledge base of the RSE Fellowship. We will continue to put this expertise at the service of education and policy development in Scotland, the UK, and where appropriate internationally.”



Professor Tomoyuki Tanaka



Professor Tracy Palmer



Professor Tom Owen-Hughes



Professor Irene Leigh

RSE
FELLOWS

Acting Principal and Vice-Chancellor appointed

Professor Peter Downes has been appointed Acting Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Professor Downes has been a Vice-Principal of the University and Head of the College of Life Sciences for the past three years. He is a highly distinguished biochemist who has played a key role in developing life sciences in Dundee to its current position as an internationally-recognised centre of excellence.

Professor Downes will act as Principal and Vice-Chancellor while the University continues the recruitment process to find a successor to Sir Alan Langlands, who is moving to a new role as Chief Executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

"We are delighted that Professor Downes has agreed to step into the role of Acting Principal and Vice-Chancellor and are absolutely confident he will give the University dynamic leadership in the period while we are recruiting someone to the position full-time," said John Milligan, Chair of the University Court.

"Professor Downes has served as a Vice-Principal of the University and is well known across the whole campus, not just in Life Sciences.

"The recruitment process for the Principal and Vice-Chancellor is well underway and we look forward to interviewing candidates over the coming weeks and months."

Professor Downes will continue his own research while fulfilling his role as Acting Principal. Interim arrangements are in place for the management of the College of Life Sciences.



Professor Downes joined the University in 1989 as Professor of Biochemistry. He is among the UK's most cited scientists and his scientific contributions over the years have been recognised with various awards including the Colworth Medal of the Biochemical Society. He was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Biochemical Society 2001-04 and is a member of the Council of the Biosciences Federation. He was honoured by the Queen with an OBE in 2004.

He is co-director of the Division of Signal Transduction Therapy at Dundee, a major collaboration with five leading pharmaceutical companies which has attracted funding of over £30million over the past ten years and won the Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2005.

Major award for Bell's Palsy project

A Dundee-led research project which found that early treatment with steroids significantly improves the chances of a complete recovery from the disfiguring condition Bell's Palsy was named winner of the Research Paper of the Year Award at the inaugural BMJ Group Awards.

The research paper, originally published in the New England Journal of Medicine, followed a study led by Professor Frank Sullivan and his team in the School of Medicine.

Working with colleagues around Scotland they examined almost 500 sufferers of Bell's Palsy, a condition caused by problems with the facial nerve which can result in facial disfigurement and paralysis of one side of the face, and found that early treatment with the steroid prednisolone offered a substantial increase in complete recovery rates.

Their work was recognised at the BMJ Group Awards at the London Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square at the start of April.

Professor Sullivan, Director of the Scottish School of Primary Care at the University, picked up the award of behalf of the research team.

"This is a fantastic award for all of those who worked on this project and contributed to the research findings," said Professor Sullivan.

"This was research that has had a direct impact on the many people who suffer from Bell's Palsy. It would not have been possible without the support of GPs and consultants and the commitment of the patients who joined the study.

"Furthermore, this study shows that important research like this can be carried out in the primary care sector and deliver real results."

The study was carried out with support from other Scottish universities at Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow and from the Chief Scientist Office of NHS Scotland and GP services around the country. The Project was funded by NHS Health Technology Assessment Programme.



Picture this!

A major new photography competition aimed at capturing what Dundee means to those who live, work or visit the city has been launched by the University.

Picturing Dundee is looking for quality images which could be used to help promote the university through the website and printed publications.

Entrants will have the chance to win high quality camera equipment worth up to £800 and have their work displayed in a public exhibition. The exhibition, featuring the best entries including the winning images, will run at the Dalhousie Building between 23 June and 7 July.

The competition is free and open to anyone aged over 18 including both amateur and professional photographers. All photographic styles are welcome.

The judging panel includes Andrew O'Brien, Picture Editor for *The Scotsman* and Professor Mike Press, Chair of Design Policy within Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design.

Entries must be submitted by 15 May 2009.

For more information visit: www.dundee.ac.uk/photocompetition

Top accountancy conferences come to Dundee

Bonus payments, executive salaries and what caused the credit crunch are just some of the topics expected to be discussed at this year's British Accounting Association annual conference to be held at the University this month.

Hosted by the School of Accounting & Finance in the Dalhousie Building the conference will run from 21 to 23 April. More than 300 delegates from across the UK and overseas are expected to attend the event, which the Dean of the School of Accounting & Finance Professor Christine Helliar believes will boost the profile of the University.

"Hosting such a major conference will raise awareness of the school and the university in general within the UK and overseas," said Professor Helliar, who takes over as chair of the BAA from next year. She is currently its vice-chair.

"We have delegates coming from a number of different countries including Australia and Italy. Having the Dalhousie Building on campus gave us a massive incentive to think of hosting the conference here. The renovation of the campus was also a factor as there is such a sense of pride and we wanted to show the university off to other members of the association."

Dundee will also be host to another international accounting conference later on in the year when the 7th international conference of the European Network for Research in Organisational & Accounting Change (ENROAC) is held at the West Park Conference Centre between 23 and 25 June.

The conference has already attracted delegates from all over the world, including most of Europe, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

Guest speakers at the conference include Brendan Dick, Director of BT Scotland, Eoin Cox, co-founder of Woodschool Ltd as well as several leading and international academics from the field of accounting and organisational change.

ENROAC was formed in 1999 by Professor John Burns, Professor of Management and Accountancy at the School of Accounting & Finance.

£1million boost for innovative medical research

Research into innovative medical technology which could change the way gene therapies are designed and delivered has been boosted by grants of over £1million to scientists at the University.

Two research groups at the University have each been granted more than £500,000 through the Medical Research Council's prestigious Milstein Fund Award.

The Milstein awards are given to UK-based researchers with a strong research history who have demonstrated highly innovative ideas and approaches to contemporary challenges in medical research.

Professor Angus Lamond, in the College of Life Sciences received his grant for research into the development of new technologies, which it is anticipated, will have far-reaching implications for the design of new drugs and cures for genetic disorders.

A joint project between Professor Irwin McLean, who heads the newly-formed Division of Molecular Medicine at the College of Life Sciences, and Dr Paul Campbell, Reader in Physics within the College of Art, Science & Engineering, received their award to develop a revolutionary new medical device to deliver new experimental gene therapies into the skin.

"I am delighted to have received the Milstein Award, which is specially designed to support new research that, if successful, will help to greatly advance the field," said Professor Lamond.

"We will use this funding to help us develop a new technology we have invented for controlling the expression of human genes. Our aim is to improve methods for testing the suitability of new drugs for clinical use and we hope our technology may also open up applications for gene therapy to cure genetic disease in humans."

Inherited skin disorders such as epidermolysis bullosa simplex (EBS) and pachyonychia congenita (PC), cause highly painful and debilitating skin blistering for hundreds of people in Scotland and hundreds of thousands globally. The McLean-Campbell multidisciplinary research team may hold the key to treating these rare incurable conditions and, if successful, the new therapy system they are developing could be applied to more common skin diseases such as eczema, psoriasis and skin cancer, affecting many millions worldwide.

"We are very grateful to the MRC for this prestigious award which allows us the opportunity to carry out a high-risk research project that would not normally be able to attract grant funding," said Professor McLean. "These supposedly high-risk projects very often lead to the most exciting results that can have the biggest impact on society. In particular, this award allows us to work with our colleagues in Physics for the first time to develop a new medical device that hopefully will help us treat incurable genetic skin disorders."

Dr Campbell said the award was a real boost to efforts to encourage multi-disciplinary research.

"I am thrilled that our team has managed to get a Milstein Award from the MRC, coming within only the first year of us throwing our lots in together with the newly formed Division of Molecular Medicine," said Dr Campbell. "This sends a clear message about the real and tangible value of developing strategic multi-disciplinary teams of physicists and life scientists."

"Personally, I am savouring the prospect of addressing the critical scientific questions that we outlined within the grant proposal, and which on the one hand will provide significant new understanding of microscopic processes underpinning mechanism, and on the other, will guide the way towards overcoming the technological challenges associated with delivering therapeutic molecules into the skin. We have outlined several concepts from very different approaches to drug delivery, and the hope is that achieving an effective marriage of their individual virtues will allow us to produce a practical and efficacious prototype that can really make an impact on patients' quality of life."

The Milstein Fund was developed by the MRC in 2006, specifically to support original research ideas with potential for high impact. Named after César Milstein, who was honoured with a Nobel Prize in 1984 for his pioneering work on the production of monoclonal antibodies, the Fund supports, in particular, research involving a diverse range of disciplines which is deemed too novel, or at too early a stage to meet the usual review and assessment criteria of other mainstream grants.

Run for diabetes at Monikie 10K



Runners of all abilities from experienced athletes to fun-runners are being urged to don their trainers and head to Monikie Country Park in Angus next month to help support the University's Diabetes Research Campaign at the second annual Monikie 10k race.

This is the second year the campaign, which aims to raise £3 million towards state of the art research and patient care facilities in Tayside, will benefit from the race.

Last year's inaugural Monikie 10k, organised by Eventfull Management Limited, attracted hundreds of runners and raised thousands of pounds for the campaign which has already made more than £2million towards its target.

Raising the remaining money will enable the University to create a Type 1 diabetes research team of the same standards as the internationally recognised expertise Dundee has in Type 2 diabetes.

This year's race will return to the scenic surroundings of Monikie Country Park on Sunday 10 May at 11am.

For Nicholas Kydd, event race organiser for Eventfull, supporting the Diabetes Research Campaign is more than just recognition of a worthwhile cause. Having been diagnosed with diabetes himself just over six years ago he admits there is a personal element to his support of the campaign.

"We are delighted to continue to support the University's efforts to tackle diabetes through world-class research," said Nicholas. "We got a great response from runners last year and we look forward to seeing many of them again this time around."

Andrew Morris, Professor of Diabetic Medicine at the University, said the campaign was not just about raising money but increasing awareness of the dangers diabetes poses.

"We are delighted and extremely grateful to the organisers of the race for choosing to benefit the diabetes research campaign again," said Professor Morris.

"A race like this is a great way not just to raise funds but also to raise awareness of diabetes and what can be done to prevent it. Regular exercise, for instance, has a very positive effect in reducing the risk of diabetes.

"We have had great backing from the public already throughout this campaign, which will bring real benefits to people all around Tayside, and we look forward to seeing many of them at the Monikie 10k."

Places in the race around idyllic Monikie Country Park are expected to fill fast with the event being advertised to runners around the UK, and those who are interested are urged to apply as soon as possible.

For more specific event information and how to enter the race as well as support the campaign, visit www.eventfull.biz where there is also a downloadable sponsorship form, or contact 0845 204 2009. There is an entry fee of £11, which includes a donation to the charity campaign. Organisers are also hopeful that runners will raise further funds through sponsorship.

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

It is estimated that the NHS is spending £1m an hour, 10% of its yearly budget, treating diabetes and its complications.

In Tayside there has been a 100% increase in the incidence of diabetes in the last 10 years and the need to develop clinical research facilities across Tayside is urgent. The Diabetes Research Campaign aims to provide the facilities and technology to enable scientists and doctors to work together to develop better and more effective treatments and to devise preventative strategies for the disease.

For more information on the campaign see: www.dundee.ac.uk/externalrelations/funds/drc/about/

V&A AT DUNDEE MAKING IT HAPPEN

contact • april 09

V&A conference success

Almost 200 delegates including politicians, civic and business leaders, students, artists, academics and the media attended a two-day conference at the University in February aimed at highlighting ambitious plans to make the V&A at Dundee project a reality.

The conference was opened by a keynote lecture from Godfrey Worsdale, Director of the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead and former Director of the Middlesborough Institute for Modern Art (MIMA) and included contributions from Mark Jones, Director of the V&A and experts from Bilbao, home to the Guggenheim museum.

It also featured a presentation on a completed feasibility study exploring the creation of an iconic building on Dundee's waterfront to house collections from the V&A museum and attract major touring exhibitions.

Dundee MSP and Minister for Public Health and Sport Shona Robison described the project as a golden opportunity for Scotland to raise its profile particularly at a time of economic uncertainty.

"Recession is not the time to say what we can't do," she said. "It is a time for bold ideas and more than anything I have seen this is a transformational project."

Juan Alaya, Director of Planning for Bilbao Ria 2000, the main development company for Bilbao, said Dundee was in a strong position to make the project happen.

"With institutions such as Dundee Contemporary Arts well established there's already a strong precedent," he said. "It will be easier to make a successful enterprise because it builds on an enormous education and design background."





“Dundee is an attractive prospect for partnership for the V&A; we have an aspiration to do things jointly in the run up to the development of a new building – why wait?”

MARK JONES • DIRECTOR • V&A

Awards for medical educators

Winners of this year's Faculty of Medical Educators Awards were presented with their prizes by Professor Martin Pippard, Dean of Dundee Medical School, at a special ceremony in Ninewells Hospital.

Now in their second year the awards aim to encourage teaching excellence and innovation and improve the quality of educational experience for students at the Medical School.

Nominations for the awards, which are funded by NHS Education for Scotland and the Medical School, were made by staff and students and judged by a panel made up of both.

Each award is worth £800 and can be spent in a variety of ways including funding medical education courses, attendance at educational conferences and equipment to enhance teaching.

This year's winners are:

- Dundee University Orthopaedics Club
- Medicine in Malawi Placements (MIMP) 2008
- Mrs Dorothy Cuthbert, Centre for Academic Clinical Practice
- Dr Matthew Lambert, registrar, PRI
- Prof Peter Davey, lead clinician for clinical quality improvement
- Dr Eleanor Cavanagh – GP
- Mr John Dent, Stracathro orthopaedics
- Mr Roddy McLeod, Clinical skills educator
- Dr Shona Ogilvie and Dermatology dept
- Cuschieri Surgical Skills Centre

For further details or to be considered for next year's awards contact Mrs Sally Bradley via sally.bradley2@nhs.net

Dundee best UK spot for post-docs

The University is the best place in the UK for post-doctoral researchers to work according to a poll in The Scientist magazine.

The poll placed Dundee fourth in the top ten institutions outside the USA. Only two other UK institutions – the University of York and the John Innes Centre in Norwich, made it into the top ten and both ranked below Dundee, in fifth and sixth places respectively.

Professor Pete Downes, Acting Principal of the University and Head of the College of Life Sciences welcomed the results of The Scientists survey.

"This is another excellent result for the University and it is a sign of Dundee's reputation internationally that we continue to figure very highly in these polls.

"We welcome post-doctoral researchers to Dundee from all around the world and we work very hard to make them feel at home and to help them develop their talents as young scientists.

"Among the factors which contribute to our good rankings are state-of-the-art facilities, comparable with anywhere in the world; a commitment to sharing facilities and expertise; a culture of interdisciplinary working; pride in being part of a world-leading institution and its role in the region; a wide range of nationalities; and the high quality of life available in Dundee."

The survey is not the first to rank the University highly in terms of best places to work. It has also been voted top in Europe and the UK in polls of the best places to work in academia.



Revealing the face of a princess

The face of the sister of Cleopatra, the last Egyptian Pharaoh, has been brought back to life by experts within the University's Unit for Forensic and Medical Art.

The forensic art team - who last year reconstructed the face of the German composer Bach - were commissioned to recreate the face of Cleopatra's sister Arsinoe for a BBC television documentary 'Cleopatra - Portrait of a Killer.'

The remains of what is believed to be Arsinoe were found in Ephesus, in Turkey.

There was plenty of sibling rivalry between Princess Arsinoe and her powerful sister Cleopatra. It is widely believed the queen ordered Mark Antony to murder her sister, a theory explored in the documentary which has been made by Brave New Media for BBC 1 and aired last month.

In this case the evidence from the skull and skeleton of Arsinoe has proved very revealing, as it has shown she may have shown both European and ancient Egyptian characteristics.

The Unit for Forensic and Medical Art, led by Dr Caroline Wilkinson, uses state-of-the-art facial reconstruction and forensic techniques to generate images and models from human remains.

In this case the forensic artists started off using pictures of the skull from the skeleton believed to be Arsinoe's. From those Dr Chris Rynn was able to build a 3-D computer model of the head, to which was then added skin, hair and facial features.

"The skull that was found is not complete but from examining the bone structure and shape we are able to add the lower part of the jaw and then render the skull as a full 3-D model," said Caroline Wilkinson.

"Digital artist Janice Aitken then adds skin colour, hair and eye colour. To do that we combine aspects of the forensic evidence with the historical data to gain a picture of how the person would look."

In this instance, Janice was able to use a reference from close to home as she assessed the likely skin colour of Arsinoe.

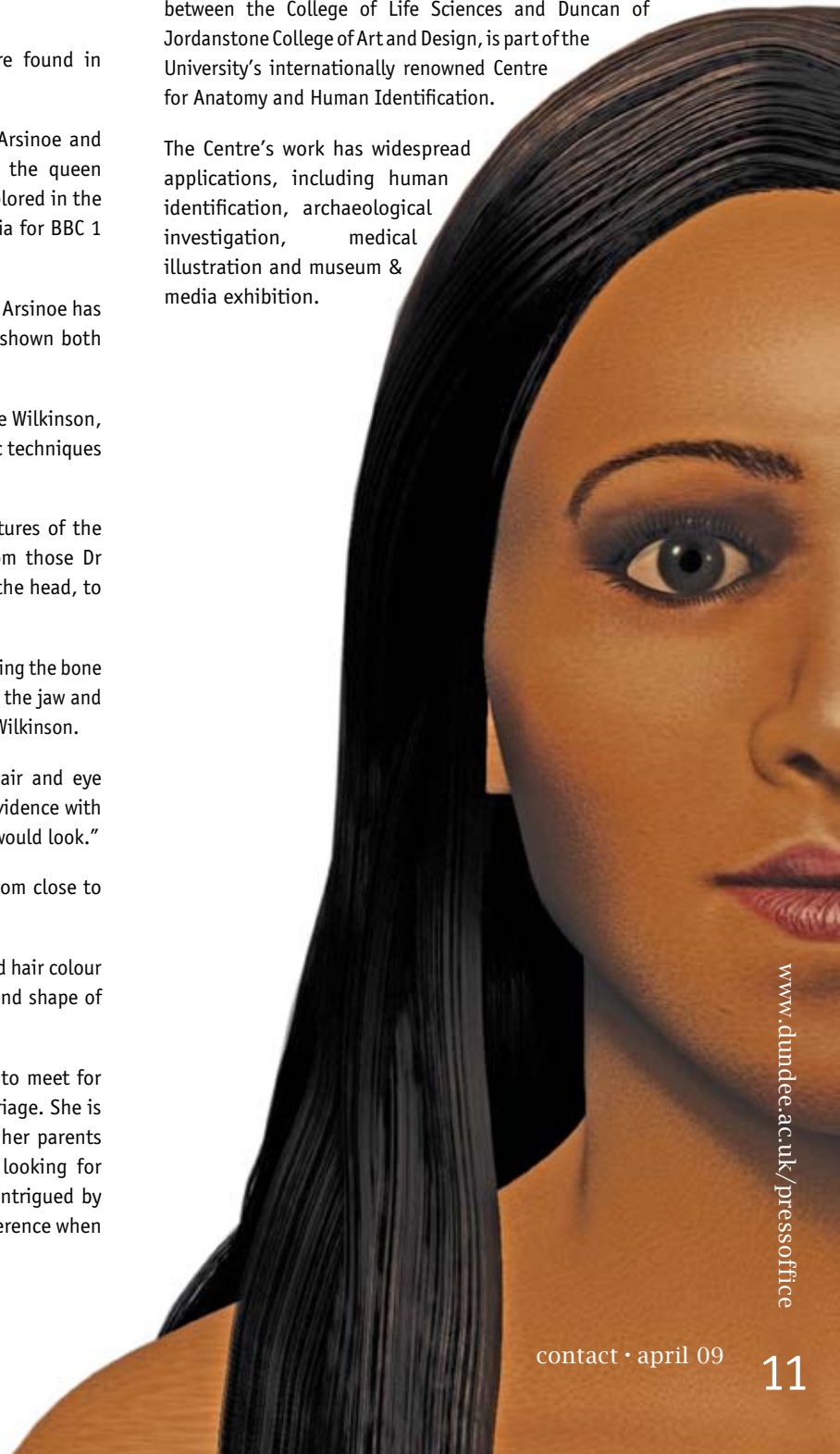
"Although it is not possible to tell the exact skin, eye and hair colour from the skull, the historical background information and shape of the skull suggested a mixed ancestry," said Janice.

"Last year, through the internet, I was lucky enough to meet for the first time my half sister from my Dad's second marriage. She is an attractive young woman in her early twenties and her parents are from different ethnic backgrounds. When I was looking for references for the colouring of Arsinoe's face, I was intrigued by the similarities. Subsequently, I used my sister as a reference when I estimated the skin colour and eyes.

"Although the relationship between Arsinoe and Cleopatra, who were half sisters, parallels that of my sister Isla and myself, I am pleased to say that there is no sibling rivalry between us and I have never tried to have her murdered! In fact, I'm sure that Isla was pleased to have been compared to an Egyptian Princess."

The Unit for Forensic and Medical Art, a dynamic collaboration between the College of Life Sciences and Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, is part of the University's internationally renowned Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification.

The Centre's work has widespread applications, including human identification, archaeological investigation, medical illustration and museum & media exhibition.



Setting the agenda for policing research

The success of the Scottish Institute of Policing Research's 'unique collaboration' between the country's Universities and senior police chiefs is attracting the interest of academic and policing communities throughout the world, according to SIPR Director Professor Nick Fyfe.

Professor Fyfe, who is based within the School of Social and Environmental Sciences, said the Institute was now viewed internationally as a model of good practice and is increasingly shaping approaches taken by other collaborative research bodies by UK.

"The key to the success of the Institute during its first two years has been this unique collaboration between Scotland's Chief Constables and the Universities," he said. "It has led to real engagement between academics and police professionals who have been increasingly interested in understanding what research evidence has to tell them about how they do their job better.

““The key to the success... has been this unique collaboration between Scotland's Chief Constables and the Universities...””

"One of the most visible successes has been the range of topics discussed under the general banner of knowledge transfer, and this is now attracting the interest of the international academic and policing communities."

The Institute is due to meet colleagues in the Dutch Police Academy, the Centre for Police Studies in Belgium, the Norwegian Police University College and others to discuss a programme of comparative research which will allow Scotland to learn from and contribute to discussions about policing in other parts of Europe.

In his second Annual Report Professor Fyfe also highlights the growth in research capacity which has been created by the Institute and key areas of research activity now being explored by academics in conjunction with Scotland's eight police forces.

Money laundering, e-fraud, policing the night time economy, and radicalisation are areas of research which may inform more complex policing activity in the future, but it is also recognised that more has yet to be understood about the investigation of rape, the sharing of intelligence between the police and community partners, and interviewing people with learning disabilities.

The visibility of the SIPR as a critical mass of expertise has attracted further success through an additional £900K in external funding. It is also developing organisational relationships with the international academic community, developing a Graduate Programme in Policing in conjunction with the Scottish Police College, and exploring ways in which the reputation of, and the intellectual property within, Scottish Policing might be developed and shared with others.

Royal role researched by Dundee professor



Professor Janet McLean, Chair of Law and Governance in the University's Law School, is to co-lead a major three year study looking at the constitutional role of the Queen in New Zealand.

Professor McLean will lead the New Zealand Law Foundation-funded research with Wellington-based barrister Alison Quentin-Baxter (ONZ).

The project will analyse the constitutional roles of the Queen and her Governor General and will include the writing and publication of a book on the subject.

It is hoped the book will become an essential reference work for parliamentarians, officials, lawyers, historians and political scientists as well as being accessible to the wider public.

News of the research has already resulted in media discussions in New Zealand on the constitutional future of the country and whether it should become a republic or remain a monarchy.

Professor McLean said that "the project aimed to inform current practice as well as the wider public debate."

Professor McLean, a former associate professor at Auckland University who has published widely in the area of public and administrative law.

Students strengthen child protection expertise

The first group of students to take part in the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education's new Postgraduate Certificate in Childcare and Protection will complete their studies next month (May).

A total of 38 students from a variety of backgrounds including health, education, early years, policing and the voluntary sector have spent the past year developing their professional skills to improve their frontline effectiveness in child protection.

"We recognised the need for all our child protection education to be delivered at postgraduate level last year and so we decided to focus solely on this level of provision," explained programme director Lynn Kelly.

"This need has been reinforced by Lord Laming's recent report into the protection of children in England and Wales. He recognised the need for good quality post-qualifying training and called, as a first step, for mandatory post-graduate education for all front-line staff.

"Child protection workers are working in an environment of unprecedented challenges. Their role is demanding at both the professional and personal level requiring skills and knowledge of legislation, social policy, child development, the impact of abuse and trauma an, of course, the ability to predict risk and effect change.

"Our postgraduate framework demands that our students develop a critical understanding of their specialism and are able to apply a range of techniques and practices to make informed decisions in relation to often very complex issues."

Lynn added that the standard of work produced by the students has been extremely high and that demand for places on the certificate had been so great a second intake of students had taken place in March.

"We've had very good feedback from students and the standard of work they have produced has demonstrated clearly that the programme has been effective at both a practical and a conceptual level.

"We are confident that we, with our partners in the community, will continue to be at the forefront of child protection provision with programmes that focus on the practice skills and knowledge that workers in this complex, demanding but ultimately rewarding area, really need."

““Child protection workers are working in an environment of unprecedented challenges.””



Professor Julie Taylor – Putting children first



Recent heartbreaking cases of child abuse and neglect locally and elsewhere in the UK have filled newspaper columns and news broadcasts and focussed public attention on the difficult and frequently controversial issue of child protection.

For Professor Julie Taylor, Head of Division of Research and Postgraduate Studies in the School of Nursing, the issue is a daily reality and the driving force behind her research work.

“I worked as a charge nurse in a neurological unit where we saw little kids who had been very badly shaken or abused and had head injuries,” she said. “That sparked my interest in the area.”

Since that early nursing experience at the sharp end of dealing with the often tragic consequences of abuse, Professor Taylor has devoted her career to research aimed at making the world a safer place for children.

“I did an MSc in social research and looked at the impact of poverty and stress on families,” she explained. “And then in 1997 I came to Dundee to the Centre for Child Care and Protection and did a PhD while working here.”

“We are making a difference but for each impact you make you know there are so many children who are still suffering.”

Since then she has completed numerous research studies and projects including looking at the role of nurses in child protection, helping professionals recognise child neglect, the role of fathers, the impact of domestic abuse and health consequences for adult survivors of child sexual abuse.

Professor Taylor acknowledges the subject matter can be difficult to deal with but points out that it is nothing compared to the suffering endured by the victims and survivors of child abuse and neglect.

“As a research area it can be very bleak,” she said. “We have access to some horrendous case files but if you can make life better for one child then it has to be worthwhile. It’s about always believing that it is worth it. Children are remarkably resilient and they still manage to smile even when they are suffering abuse and neglect. If they can do that after what they’ve been through we have to be able to keep working on their behalf.

“We also have to make sure that the research will make a difference. As a nurse and as someone committed to helping children who are being abused and neglected I feel there is no point to carrying out research if it’s not going to make a real difference. It may take many years for things to change and the changes do tend to be incremental but we have to keep trying.”

Professor Taylor, who has been invited to be the Royal College of Nursing representative on a Scottish Government review of child protection guidelines and serves a similar role with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, cites her work with adult survivors of child sex abuse as an example of research leading directly to practical change.

“That study was done for the Government and it has been the driver for a national strategy,” she said. “Getting it Right For Every Child, the Scottish Government’s programme for work with children and young people, was also directly informed by research.

“So we are making a difference but for each impact you make you know there are so many children who are still suffering.”

One of the areas Professor Taylor believes needs more work is child neglect.

“I’ve taken part in a Department of Health review looking at how people recognise and respond to neglect and what we found was that we actually know very little in this area and a lot more work needs to be done.

“Children who are being abused tend to try to get help by, for example, phoning Childline but what we found is that this is not the case with children who are being neglected. They wait to be noticed. The emotional abuse that goes along with neglect can make the child think that nobody cares about them so why tell anyone else because noone else will care either.

“We might have to review the way we think about neglect. It has been seen as an act of omission, a failure to do something whereas abuse is seen as a deliberate act of commission. Maybe neglect is an act of commission too. We often conflate abuse and neglect and maybe that needs to change. What is important is the effect it has on the child and that is always harmful.”

Professor Taylor admits she does at times feel frustrated at the difficulties she and her colleagues can face securing funding for their research.

“We tend to fall between two camps,” she explained. “The Medical Research Council for example can tend to see nursing research as too social science based whereas the Economic and Social Research Council can see it as too medical.”

“It is not seen in the same way as some of the medical research but it has an immediate applicability.”

She acknowledges though that the profile of nursing research has risen considerably in recent years. And she is justifiably proud of the development of research within the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

“In 2001 we had no postgraduate students whereas now we have 300 Masters students and 36 matriculated for PhDs,” she said.

“Those postgraduate students include nurses, social workers and allied health professionals. They are the leaders in the NHS and we want to give them access to real world research to take back into the NHS.”

“We did very well in the last RAE rankings too. I’m Research Dean within the School so I was leading the submissions and we submitted 16 members of staff this time and came out very well. We were ranked in the top third in the UK and 85% of our research was ranked as of international quality.”

“I’m really pleased with the way nursing has portrayed itself and we are taking the lead on interdisciplinary work. There is still, of course, more work to do but I certainly believe that nursing has won its place in higher education.”

www.dundee.ac.uk/nursingmidwifery



Sharing a passion for science

Dr Jon Urch admits he always wanted to be a scientist. And until last year he was realising his ambition as a post-doctoral researcher within the College of Life Sciences and working towards the day he might run his own lab.

But an invitation to share his passion for science with the public last year proved the catalyst for a major career change.

Now rather than devoting his energies to the intricacies of structural biology Jon's focus is on convincing the wider world of how important, fascinating and fun science can be and helping other researchers connect with the public.

As Public Engagement and Outreach Coordinator for both the University and Sensation, Dundee Science Centre, he is now involved in organising the Café Science programme, and runs a range of public events including Café Science Extra and Sharing Science - an initiative aimed at giving the public a chance to find out how science affects every day life and the one which sparked his new role.

"If you'd asked me 18 months ago I would not have even considered that I might be doing this job," said Jon. "Sharing Science at Sensation last year was my first experience of outreach. It was always my dream to run my own research lab so it was a really big decision to take this path.

"But I really enjoyed Sharing Science. I loved the interaction and I found that it made me even more enthusiastic about my research and science in general. It put everything in context.

"Outreach really excited me. I have two young daughters and I took them along to Sharing Science and I saw how much they enjoyed talking to the other scientists."

Jon, who has a PhD in biochemistry and worked for four years as a post-doctoral researcher looking at the structure of proteins, believes his new post now offers him an ideal mix of science and public involvement.



"I feel I have the best of both worlds now," he said. "I love meeting people and I like the sense of achievement from putting on a project that works. I also have tangible end points to projects which is very different to working in research. I'm still involved in science though and I have the opportunity to speak to lots of researchers in completely different fields which is fascinating."

Jon's post is funded initially for a year by a Science Engagement Grant from the Scottish Government. So far he has been involved in running courses, in association with the University's generic skills unit, aimed at helping researchers communicate their work and organising a range of science centre events designed to increase public awareness of the science going on locally.

"I am involved in organising Café Science with established researchers and Café Science Extra with early career scientists," said Jon. "The researchers give talks in a very informal setting and members of the audience have the chance to ask questions. We've had a good range of different subjects from windfarms to vaccines and they have gone very well.

"I also coordinated this year's Sharing Science event at Sensation. It is all about trying to encourage scientists to talk about their research. The aim is to increase public understanding of science and highlight the research going on here.

"It is really important for people to have the chance to learn about science both in terms of being able to understand and have an opinion about various policies but also because it is very important that research carried out in Dundee is supported by the local community.

"It also raises the profile of the University and it could have other benefits too including helping recruitment at undergraduate level and improving funding streams."

The courses Jon organises for academics are also aimed at raising awareness by building on the scientists' communication skills and helping them present their work to a lay audience, with the support of science communication experts from the science centre.

"There's so much good work going on here," Jon said. "We need to encourage researchers to let people know what they are working on."

Hannah Crookes, Director of Science Learning and Public Engagement at Sensation, Dundee Science Centre, added, "Sensation and the University both have a mission to share cutting-edge research with the community of Tayside.

"As a science centre, we exist to offer engaging lifelong learning opportunities, which will interest non-scientists, promote science literacy, inspire tomorrow's scientists, and ultimately support Scotland's knowledge economy.

"Working together in partnership with the University in this innovative project has enabled us to share each organisation's strengths to deliver some very exciting opportunities for both the public and research communities."

For more information on the courses and events organised by Jon visit the Revealing Research website at:

www.dundee.ac.uk/genericskills/outreach
www.sensation.org.uk



Jon with budding young scientists

Reflecting on opposites with Natural Magic



Professor Calum Colvin, Professor of Fine Art Photography at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, has been exploring the art and science of photography viewed through the history of the mirror stereoscope at a prestigious solo exhibition at the Royal Scottish Academy of Art in Edinburgh.

The exhibition, "Natural Magic," featured portraits of Sir Charles Wheatstone, who designed the first mirror stereoscope, Sir David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope and lenticular stereoscope, and poets Robert Burns and Lord Byron.

Other works investigating themes from art history, philosophy, perspective and visual science completed the exhibition which used a contemporary version of Wheatstones' mirror stereoscope to produce a 3D effect.

"The idea for the project came from looking at the work of Sir David Brewster," explained Professor Colvin. "Brewster was very influential in the development of photography and also the first lenticular stereoscope was made in Dundee so there is a local connection here.

"There was a huge debate over stereoscopic vision between Brewster and Wheatstone and others and it was the time of natural philosophers who were very different from the scientists of today.

"I wanted to make a series of work based on the art and science of the history of photography. I've used the language of stereoscopic vision and played around with it."



Professor Colvin, a sculptor and photographer who was awarded an OBE in 2001, added that the exhibition explored areas of commonality and debate.

"The portraits are of Brewster and Wheatstone and Burns and Byron. Two scientists and two poets," he said.

"One scientist is Scottish, the other English. One of the poets is Scottish and the other could be said to be quintessentially English although he did have Scottish roots so I'm also looking at disputed nationality and the debate over whether photography is an art or a science.

“I’ve used the language of stereoscopic vision and played around with it.”

"I think it is both but it is interesting to explore the whole issue of opposites and disputes.

"The works are an open-ended exploration of a time of great change in science, religion, nationality and our understanding of the visual world and looking at parallels between the invention and development of the stereoscopic viewer and the development of the digital camera and printed digital image towards the end of the 20th century."

Professor Colvin, whose work has been widely exhibited and is housed in numerous collections throughout the world, is hoping to bring Natural Magic to Dundee.

“The subject matter has strong links to Dundee. Edinburgh and St Andrews so I would love to bring it here. The show is a bit of a departure for me. I’ve always shown my photographic work on a wall but this is different as it uses mirror stereoscopes. “Stereoscopic works profoundly disrupt our sense of the concrete image. The recurring shift within the visual cortex between the flat plane and the mentally perceived stereoscopic image is related to my interest in visualised and interpreted space.”

Professor Colvin is also taking part in a major exhibition of the life and works of Robert Burns at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow.

Running until September, the Inspired exhibition, part of the Year of Homecoming 2009 celebrations, features around 50 contemporary works of art and several Burns relics.

Other artists taking part include Tracy Emin, Peter Howson, Douglas Gordon, Mikhail Magaril and Professor Colvin’s colleague at Duncan of Jordanstone, senior lecturer Graham Fagen.



At its February meeting the Court spent time debating the results of the RAE 2008 as well as considering how the economic downturn might impact on the University.

Finance

The Court learnt that the University was broadly on track with budget and was currently forecast to achieve an operating surplus of £0.4m at 31 July 2009. Looking forward to 2009/10, the position was less certain, predominantly because at the time of the meeting the University had not received the Scottish Funding Council's (SFC) Main Grant Letter, which would set out the Council's funding intentions. Amongst other things, this would provide information on the approach to funding through the SFC's two new streams: the General Fund, including the main teaching grant and the research excellence grant, and the Horizon Fund for new initiatives. The University had also yet to learn of any implications for its level of SFC Main Quality Research Grant arising from the publication of the Research Assessment Exercise outcomes in December 2008.

In response to requests from both the Audit Committee and the Court, the Director of Finance explained what steps the University was taking to prepare for and mitigate the potential risks emanating from the current economic downturn. The Court was reassured that the University had taken time to consider fully the possible future scenarios suggested by the difficult financial landscape. The University would be well prepared, although there was little doubt that higher education would be entering challenging times, as would the public sector in general.

At the Finance & Policy Committee there had been discussion of proposals from the Students' Association that the University should divest its shares in BAe Systems and revise its ethical investment policy, in light of which the Director of Finance had reviewed existing policies within the sector. The Committee decided that it would revise the University's responsible investment policy and that as an interim measure, it would ask the University's investment managers to sell any material stocks in the defence industry.

Research Assessment Exercise

In his last meeting, Professor Boxer provided Court with a brief analysis of the outcomes of the RAE 2008, which had been published in December shortly after the last meeting of the Court. He explained the difference in methodology between the previous RAE and RAE 2008, one of the effects of which was that pockets of excellence had been recognised in institutions where departments had previously received a poor overall grade under the old system. Conversely, in departments rated highly under the previous methodology, the exercise had revealed areas of relative weakness. For the University of Dundee, the RAE had shown continued strength in some areas (Laboratory subjects, Biological Sciences, Civil Engineering, Art & Design, Law and History) and emerging strength in others (Computing, Geography, Philosophy and Nursing).

Ninewells Cancer Campaign

The Court approved proposals to adopt the Campaign as a University committee. The campaign was a hugely successful local fundraising body, and following the sad death of Dr Pat McPherson, the remaining members of the group had suggested a more formal arrangement, which would include contributions from scientific advisers to add further rigour in the allocation of funds from the campaign.

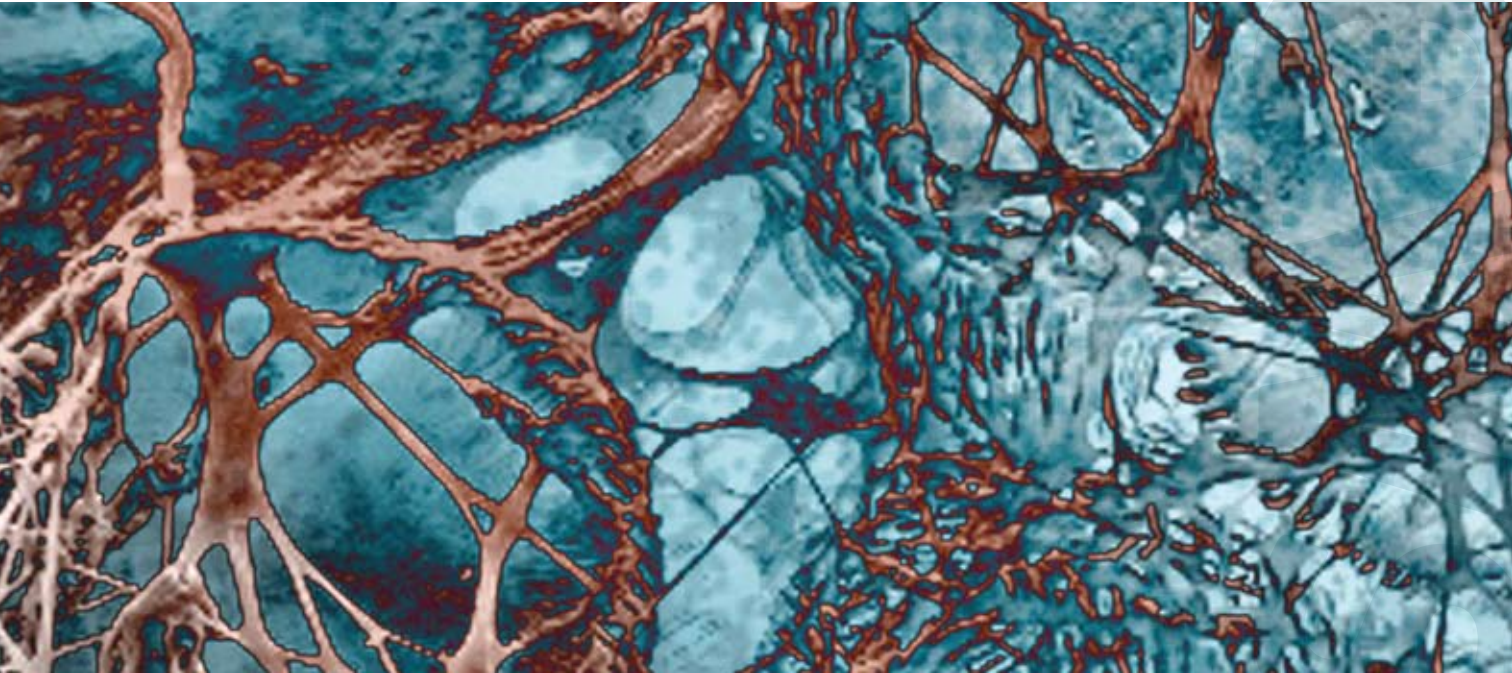
Other news

The Court was delighted that the University had been placed highly in the Times Higher Education student experience survey (12th in the UK). Dates had been confirmed for October and November 2009 for the Quality Assurance Agency's Enhancement-Led Institutional Review of the University.

Goodbyes

The Court paid tribute to both Professor David Boxer (leaving the University after over 30 years' service to take up the post of Director of the BBSRC-sponsored Institute of Food Research in Norwich) and to Sir Alan Langlands (leaving to take up the role of Chief Executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England). Both had made significant and lasting contributions to the University and would be sorely missed.

Medals for Dundee Microbiologists



Two microbiologists from the College of Life Sciences have received prestigious awards from the Society for General Microbiology.

Professor Geoff Gadd and Dr Nicola Stanley-Wall, both of the Division of Molecular and Environmental Microbiology have been awarded the Colworth Prize and the Fleming Medal respectively, two of the Society's top awards.

The Colworth Prize is awarded biennially by the Society for an 'outstanding contribution in an area of applied microbiology' and is sponsored by the Colworth Laboratory of Unilever Research. Professor Gadd, who has been honoured for his leading work in applied and environmental microbiology, delivered the Colworth Prize Lecture at the SGM Spring meeting in Harrogate in March.

The Fleming Medal is awarded annually by the Society for outstanding work in any branch of microbiology by a microbiologist in the relatively early stages of his or her career, and was named after Alexander Fleming, who was the first president of the Society (1945-1947) and received a Nobel Prize for his discovery of penicillin.

Dr. Nicola Stanley-Wall was awarded the 2009 Fleming Prize in recognition of her outstanding research on the molecular basis of biofilm formation.

"I am very pleased and honoured to receive this award from the SGM," she said. "Understanding how bacteria form biofilms is a large and expanding field and I am extremely gratified that my own research contributions have received this accolade at this stage of my career."

Dr. Stanley-Wall was invited to deliver the 2009 Fleming Lecture at the SGM Spring Meeting.

Professor Gadd, who is Head of the Division of Molecular and Environmental Microbiology, said the award of both medals to Dundee was great recognition of the work carried out in the new Division and a major boost to our national and international profile.

"This is a great honour not just for Nicola and myself but also for all the members of our research groups who have contributed to the research carried out in Dundee," he said. "The key roles of microorganisms in shaping the planet and in the treatment of pollution are important topics for all of us and I am pleased that this is being recognised more and more."

These awards are further indications of the development and progress of the Division of Molecular and Environmental Microbiology which, although little over a year old, has grown significantly since moving into its new state-of-the-art labs in the College of Life Sciences. These two awards are evidence that the Division is making a current substantive impact in microbiology, and raising the profile of microbiological research carried out at Dundee.

Both Professor Gadd and Dr Stanley-Wall will have their lectures published in the SGM journal *Microbiology*.

Image

"*Moolooite Sonata*" 2008 - a screenprint collaboration between Paul Liam Harrison and Professor Geoff Gadd for the Designs for Life Project.

Star names lead Literary Festival 09



The third Dundee Literary Festival takes place from 25th to 28th June this summer with another exciting mix of adult and children's authors.

Headlining on the first night (Thursday 25 June) will be David Peace, author of *The Damned United* and the *Red Riding* trilogy which has recently been shown on Channel 4. Difficult and unswervingly harsh, his work is exciting and fresh. Dundee will be his only festival in 2009.

Other first day highlights include world famous philosopher, John Gray, author of *Straw Dogs*, who will be reading from his new collection and author and journalist Adam Mars-Jones, who will be discussing his work. It will also see the official launch of Dundee's most exciting collection of writing talent, *New Writing Dundee*, with readings from authors and music from *Fest 'n Furious*.

On Friday 26 June dark crime writers Russell D Mclean and GJ Moffat will be discussing their writing and new books while on Saturday 27 June Angus Konstam will be discussing his unflinchingly dark non-fiction book telling the story of the Scottish soldier.

Also on Saturday 27 Sheila Stewart and Jess Smith will be talking about their history and discussing how the way of life of the travelling people has changed.

This year's festival offers more children's events than ever with every age catered for and the fun starts from day one on Thursday when Anne Fine, who was Children's Laureate until 2003, talks about her new book *Eating Things on Sticks*. Anne is the author of a number of wonderful books including *Google Eyes*, which became a BBC series, *Alias Mrs Doubtfire*, which was turned into the Robin Williams film and *The Tulip Touch*.

Also on the opening day Alan Durant will be reading from his successful children's books and hosting a workshop. His characters include the lovable day dreamer Spider McDrew, Arnold James Kean (alias Stat Man), as well as the *Bad Boyz* and *Leggs United* football teams.

Dundee-born author and illustrator Natalie Russell, best known for her beautiful books starring Hamish the Highland cow and Donkey, will be at the Festival on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 June.

Joan Lingard will also be making a much anticipated appearance at this year's festival. One of the best loved authors in the world with an award-winning career spanning four decades she can be seen on Tuesday 23 June.

Joan, whose books are widely read in schools across the UK, will be talking about *The Eleventh Orphan*, a mystery set at the turn of the last century in Victorian London, *The File on Fraulein Berg*, a dramatic story set in Belfast during World War 2 and *Natasha's Will*, a detective story which takes place in Scotland and Russia..

Last year's popular *Poem and a Piece* sessions return again this year offering audiences the chance to hear some fine words while enjoying a sandwich. Kenneth Steven will be the first of this year's offerings on Thursday 25 June.

For aspiring writers there is a helping hand at this year's festival in the form of workshops and advice panels.

On Friday 26 June the *People's Friend* will be teaching visitors how to write fiction for their magazine and later in the day the popular *How To Get Published* panel, with some of the biggest names in publishing, will be back with some wise words and advice on how to get a book into print. The next day there will also be a creative writing workshop with more top tips on how to develop as a writer.

More events will be added to the Festival programme in the coming weeks. To stay up to date with what's on and for a full listing visit the website at: www.literarydundee.co.uk/

dundee literary festival 

New talent on show in New Writing Dundee

NEW WRITING DUNDEE 2009

Up-and-coming local writers and established prize-winning authors will be sharing a creative platform in the latest edition of *New Writing Dundee*, published this Spring.

The annual publication attracted more than 500 submissions from across the globe this year. Star names featured in the new edition include poet Douglas Dunn, Amy Krouse Rosenthal, Cynthia Rogerson and Tom Bryan.

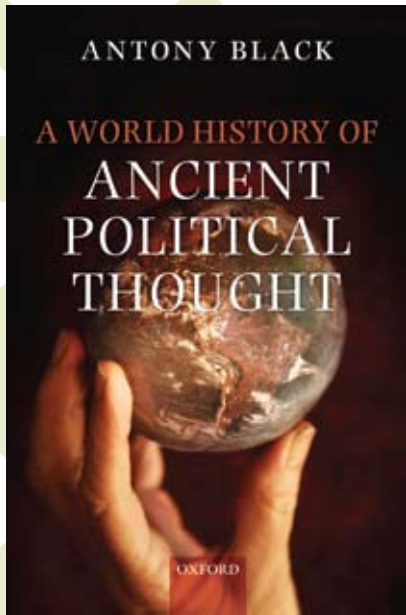
There is also an interview with Short Day Dying author Peter Hobbes and a foreword by author Kirsty Gunn, Professor of Creative Writing at the University.

"There is a terrific versatility of range and voice and subject matter," said Professor Gunn. "There are poems and fragments and stories from student writers involved in our creative writing programme here at the University, and by friends we've met at our Literary Salons and Festivals, as well as a range of writing by as yet unknown names – people who've heard about our magazine and sent in work for consideration but are now part of our activities and plans.

"That brand new work by first-timers and up-and-coming writers sits happily alongside stories and non fiction from established and major prize-winning authors and poets. Altogether it gives us a content that is varied, imaginative and richly mixed – creating a context where the generosity of the experienced lends buff and shine to newcomers' first fruits."

Edited by postgraduate students Rachel Marsh and Sam Duffy, *New Writing Dundee* is available to buy at Borders in Dundee and Waterstones as well as online at www.dup.dundee.ac.uk/order.html It is also available through Amazon.

An official launch of the book will take place at the Dundee Literary Festival on Thursday 25 June.



A World History of Ancient Political Thought
Professor Antony Black
Oxford University Press

This book is about the political thought of ancient China, Greece, Israel, Rome, India, Iran, Egypt, Mesopotamia, and also early Christianity, from prehistory to c. 200 CE.

It discusses political philosophy, religious ideology, constitutional theory, social ethics, official and popular political culture.

Justice, the rule of law and meritocracy were seen as essential in all cultures. In most civilization, sacred monarchy was the norm, but this ranged from absolute to conditional authority.

In Greece and Rome, democracy and liberty were born, while in Israel the polity was based on covenant and the law.

Political philosophy was begun in China and Greece, the theory of statecraft in China and India, and empirical political science in Greece and India. Plato and Aristotle, meanwhile, followed by Polybius and Cicero, initiated 'western' political philosophy.

Professor Black retired from the Department of Politics in 2002. He has written numerous books and papers on political theory.

Bestselling success for pathology book

A Dundee University Press book exploring the world of pathology through the eyes of members of the profession is proving a major hit with readers.

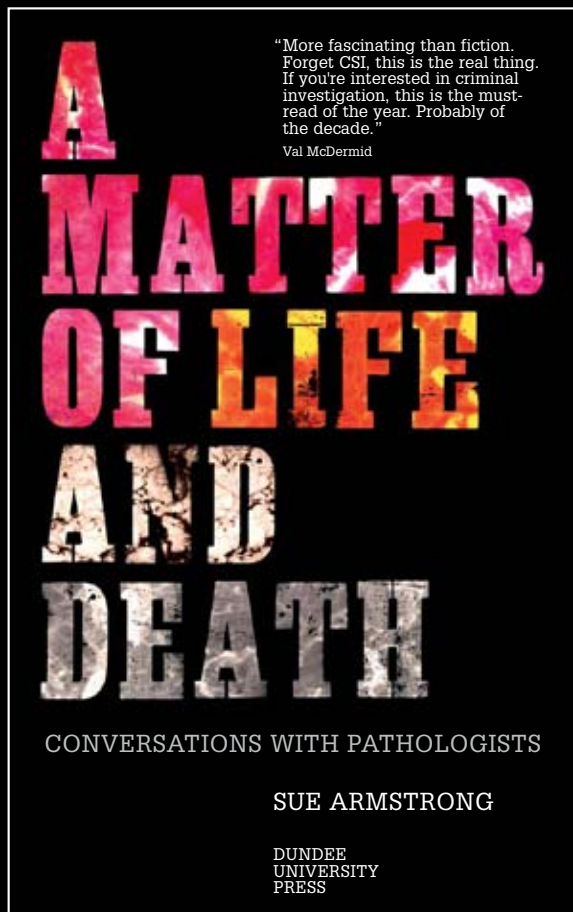
Described by author Val McDermid as "more fascinating than fiction," *A Matter of Life and Death* by acclaimed science writer and broadcaster Sue Armstrong, has been disappearing from the shelves of local bookshops.

Borders bookshop in Dundee has already sold out of the book three times since it was published late last year.

"It is certainly a hit," said Borders Sales Manager Neil Cooney. "It's a great example of the high quality publishing that Dundee University Press has to offer."

A Matter of Life and Death features interviews with 14 pathologists about their experiences both personal and professional.

Professor Derrick Pounder, Director of the Centre for Forensic and Legal Medicine, Professor David Levison, Professor of Pathology in the Division of Pathology and Neuroscience at Ninewells Medical School and Professor Sue Black, Professor of Anatomy and Forensic Anthropology and Head of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification are all featured in the book.



New discount card launched

Dundee-Reunited.com, the University's online community, which is open to all staff, students and alumni, has launched a new discount card offering members significant savings on a variety of products and services.

The Membership Plus card is available to all members of Dundee-Reunited.com at a cost of £20 for one year, £18 per year for a two year subscription or £10 for a student subscription.

More than 200 companies, both national and local, have signed up to the new scheme including hotels, restaurants, visitor attractions, hairdressers, bookshops and fitness centres. Savings range from 20-25% off the food bill at a range of restaurants to 2-for-1 tickets at the DCA to up to 44% off Sharp Slimline LCD TVs.

Membership Plus card holders will be able to access all the offers and find out about updated services through a new dedicated website. Subscriptions can be purchased through the University's online store www.buyat.dundee.ac.uk

Everyone signing up for a card before the end of Easter Monday (13 April) will also be entered in a prize draw to win a £50 voucher for Borders bookshops.

Full details of the scheme, including sample savings and a list of the companies involved, can be found on the Dundee-Reunited website at www.dundee-reunited.com

Dundee-Reunited.com was launched in autumn 2006 and since then membership has climbed steadily to almost 6,000 members in more than 190 countries.



Dundee students retain sports trophy



Student sports stars from the University of Dundee lifted the Tay Games Varsity Challenge trophy for the second year running in early April.

Representatives from the University went head to head with their Abertay rivals at venues in and around the city, with Dundee emerging triumphant after winning in every contest, apart from the ladies and men's basketball and golf challenges, where the teams tied.

Around 150 students competed in five different sports - football, basketball, netball, hockey and golf. This was the second year running that teams from the two universities have competed for the trophy, and bragging rights, whilst raising money for charity at the same time.

Each student taking part in the event donated a pound to sports charity Right To Play, and spectators were also encouraged to make a donation.

The organisation is a UK-wide student movement that works with more than 700,000 children in 23 of the world's most impoverished countries to teach them skills such as leadership, teamwork conflict resolution and respect through sport and play.

Sports Union President Paul Blake said the success in the Varsity competition reflected Dundee's growing sporting excellence.

Student sports stars Excel with ise scholarships



A sports scholarship programme offered by the Institute of Sport and Exercise is helping six of Scotland's most promising young athletes combine their studies with dreams of sporting stardom.

The athletes, who have already achieved significant success in their chosen fields including national and international titles, championships and even an Olympic youth gold medal, are all part of the Ise's Excel Sports Scholarship programme.

The six athletes are middle distance runners Morag MacLarty and Eilish McColgan, sprinters Jamie Coull and Chris Lavery, curler Scott MacLeod and hockey player Becky Ward. Each athlete is offered a package of support and advice including access to a range of sports facilities, nutritional, psychological and dietary advice, physiological testing and financial help for sports medicine, kit and competition expenses.

They are also offered lifestyle support to enable them to combine their academic studies with the demands of training at an elite level.

Becky Ward (20), a third year Sports Biomedicine student from Dundee, has just returned from the Youth Olympic Games in Sydney where she was a member of the Great Britain team that scooped hockey gold.

'It was an amazing experience,' said Becky who revealed that the scholarship programme was instrumental in making her inclusion in the GB squad possible.

'The selection camp was at the same time as my exams but the Excel team at the University were great in helping me get the exams moved so that I could do both. This is the first year I've had a scholarship and I have found it really helpful.'

The other athletes are equally enthusiastic about the programme and the benefits it offers.

'We have access to all the facilities here at the Institute of Sport and Exercise including the new gym which is great,' said Morag MacLarty (23), a first year dentistry student from Auchterarder and a former under-20 European 1500m champion.

'The facilities here are very good,' agreed Jamie Coull (23), a first year graphic design student from Dundee and currently Scottish 200m indoor and 100m closed champion and Scott MacLeod (20), a third year town and regional planning student from Blair Atholl who won the Scottish junior curling championship last year.

For Eilish McColgan (18), a first year maths and accounting student from Carnoustie and a national record holder for 1500m and 200m steeplechase and Chris Lavery (19), a zoology student from Dundee and Scottish under 20 100m and 200m silver medallist, the programme has also helped them through periods of injury.

'I'm just getting back from injury at the moment,' said Eilish, daughter of former world 10000m champion Liz, 'and the programme has really helped me with physiotherapy treatment.'

'I've been able to use the scholarship to pay for physio costs as well,' said Chris, 'and that has been a big help. It is also great being able to use the gym here. There is a gym at the track where I train but it is good having a gym on the campus so close to lectures. I would certainly encourage other athletes to apply for a scholarship.'

Helen Weavers, coordinator of the sports scholarship programme, said all the Excel athletes were already demonstrating considerable potential.

'The standard of applications we had this year has been higher than we have ever had,' she said. 'It is fantastic for us to have athletes of this calibre. They are already competing at national and international level and they are all expected to compete in the Commonwealth and Olympic Games. It is great that we can help them develop that potential.'

Ise has provided the Excel programme for the past eight years with funding in excess of £50,000.

Former Excel athletes who are competing on the international stage include Alastair Dickinson (Scotland Rugby Team) and Laura Steven and Sarah Gill (both in the Scotland Women's Rugby Team). All three are currently competing in the Six Nations Rugby competition.

Sports team celebrate a season of success

Sports teams from across the University have been enjoying a run of success in recent months including a best-ever series of results in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Championships in Sheffield.

The medal haul included gold for the women's squash team and the men's fencing team, silver for Thomas Rainey in the men's open karate competition and silver for the women's volleyball team and bronze for Maria Thomas in the women's 400m.

There was also individual success for volleyball team member Catherine Smy who was voted Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

The BUCS silver was just the latest in a string of successes for the women's volleyball team this season. They have also won the Scottish Universities League and Cup double and have had five players selected for the Scottish Universities Women's Squad and two players for the Scottish Senior national Women's Squad.

The University's Boat Club has also been celebrating sporting victory after clinching the University Winter League title. The team has set a new record for points accumulated during a season in the process.



ise

want to stop your afternoons dragging?

ise has the answer!

we're your very own sport and exercise mecca...
and we're right here on campus!

just step away from your desk and hotfoot it over to us...
you can meet up with your pals and catch up on the goss.
the fact that we'll get you fit at the same time is almost by the by!

we're a very friendly bunch and we've got something for everyone
from frisbee to flamenco, plus everything in between.
how good is that?!

so, what are you waiting for?
pop in and see us, have a chat and a wander round -
we're always happy to see you!

ise • old hawkhill • university of dundee • 384122

www.dundee.ac.uk/ise

Magnificent Seven scoop RSA awards

Graduates from a range of disciplines at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design have made a major impact at the annual Royal Scottish Academy of Art New Contemporaries Exhibition.

A total of seven graduates have won awards at the annual showcase of new talent selected from the degree shows from the main colleges of art and architecture across Scotland.

This year's successful DJCAD graduates include Stuart Lorimer, winner of the £5000 Stevenson Award for Painting and Ashley Nieuwenhuizen, who won the RSA Sir William Gillies Bequest Award worth £2000.

Other winners include Camilla Symons who picked up the Friends of the Royal Scottish Academy Award, Ai Kato, winner of the RSA Chalmers Bursary, Scott Gordon, winner of the Peacock Visual Arts Award for Moving Image, Stuart McAdam, winner of the RSA Chalmers-Jervise Prize and Euan Taylor, winner of The Skinny Award.

All the artists had the opportunity to exhibit their work at the RSA's New Contemporaries Scotland Exhibition earlier in the year.

Professor Tracy Mackenna, Associate Dean of Art at Duncan of Jordanstone said, "The opportunity for emerging artists to exhibit a substantial body of work at the prestigious RSA venue in the centre of Edinburgh provides them with an unrivaled platform.

"Duncan of Jordanstone is delighted to be able to work with the RSA on this significant new development, building on the RSA's outstanding record in supporting all aspects of emerging artists' careers."



Platinum success at jewellery Oscars


Laura Christie, a final-year student at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, has won a major prize at an awards ceremony described as 'the Oscars of the jewellery and metalwork world'.

Laura (21), from Dalgety Bay in Fife, was presented with a Silver Award for Platinum Design at the Goldsmiths Craftmanship and Design Awards 2009 in London. The Awards are open to anyone in the UK involved in silversmithing, jewellery and the allied crafts.

Dr Sandra Wilson who has recently taken on the management of the Jewellery & Metalwork programme at Duncan of Jordanstone said, "We are delighted to see Laura winning such a prestigious prize.

"Laura is a good example of the new breed of jewellery student who combines both traditional hand skills with new technologies such as rapid prototyping to great effect."

Laura was congratulated at the awards by celebrity jeweller Stephen Webster, who was one of the judges on the competition and is well known for his celebrity clients including Madonna.



art

New vision for Dundee Degree Show

This year's Dundee Degree Show, showcasing the talent of students graduating from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, is moving to a new venue.

For the first time the show will be held within the Vision Building in Greenmarket. The renovated former paper mill boasts impressive exhibition suites extending to over 90,000 square feet, connected by a glass-roofed central atrium.

It will house work by students from all art college disciplines including Fine Art,

Art, Philosophy, Contemporary Practices, Textile Design, Time Based Art & Digital Film, Jewellery and Metal Design, Animation, Graphic Design, Illustration, Interior and Environmental Design, Product Design, Interactive Media Design.

The Dundee Degree Show, which attracts thousands of visitors every year, will run from 23 May to 6 June with the highly popular preview evening held on Friday 22 May.

Elaine Shemilt, Dean of External Relations at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design said the move to the Vision Building was inspired by "a belief and pride in the emerging talent of students at the college."

Exhibition open

Saturdays 23 & 30 May • 9.30am-4.30pm

Sundays 24 May & 31 • May 9.30am-4.30pm

Monday-Friday • 9.30am-8.30pm

Saturday 6 June • 9.30am-2pm

Enquiries 01382 385330

V&A jewellery success for students

Jewellery designed by a University of Dundee student will go on sale internationally after she won a competition to create jewellery for a collection inspired by the world-renowned Victoria and Albert Museum.

Sarah Spalding was the overall winner in the Costume Jewellery category of this year's Ancestors/V&A Student Jewellery Design Competition.

The final-year Jewellery and Metalwork Design student's lattice necklace and earring set was inspired influenced by the South Asian collections and colours in the V&A's Nehru Gallery.

Her winning design will form part of the Ancestors' INSPIRED! collection, which will be sold via department stores, mail order outlets and shopping channels across the world.

There was further success in the competition for other students from the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, with third-year students Elizabeth Humble and Nicola Wylie highly commended for their designs, and Laura Christie, a final-year student who recently won a major prize at the prestigious Goldsmiths Craftmanship and Design Awards, shortlisted for her Trellis Collection.



Sarah Spalding • Lattice necklace and earring set

Jewellery and Metalwork Design Programme Director Sandra Wilson said, 'This success confirms our place as one of the top rated institutions for studying Jewellery & Metal design in the UK.'

'Hopefully the campaign to bring the V&A to Dundee will prove successful and we will have the opportunity to work ever closer with them.'

Ancestors, a company working in the heritage industry, and the V&A devised the student competition as a way of providing the next generation of designers with genuine commercial experience.

University launches equality and diversity training programme

The University has become one of the first in the UK to launch a full online training programme on equality and diversity for all staff.

The main aim of the programme is to allow staff to increase their awareness and understanding of the many complex issues involved in this area and to comply with legislative requirements.

The University Court, which has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the institution complies with the statutory requirements of various equality laws, recently supported and approved a mandatory training programme.

One of the priorities has been to build upon the work that has already been developed and delivered in the area of equality and diversity by providing practical support in the form of a programme of training modules.

The University has taken a lead in the UK higher education sector through the launch of this comprehensive training programme under the leadership of Pamela Milne, Human Resources Director.

The programme has the full backing of all of the recognised University unions who have been actively involved in piloting it and has received the full approval of the relevant University committees. A similar training programme for students will be introduced in academic session 2009/10.

The training programme will be delivered through online training modules covering various aspects relating to equality and diversity developed by a company with a proven track record in this field, Marshall ACM Ltd.

All staff will be required to complete the following modules - Diversity in the Workplace; Disability; Stress in the Workplace; A Manager's Guide to Stress.

Staff involved with Learning and Teaching will also be required to complete a further module in Diversity in Learning & Teaching. Staff involved in recruitment and selection will also be required to complete a module in Recruitment and Selection.

Further information on the programme and how to access the modules is available at: www.dundee.ac.uk/hr/equality/training/

25 April
Family Fun Day

Botanic Garden.

10am to 4pm

This annual event offers a range of activities including face painting, natural art, a games arena, pot-a-plant, performances by DBS Productions theatre group, badge making, BG bush trials and a BBQ at the Coffee Shop. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.



25 April
SELS 2009 Lecture

Charlie Cook - 'The New US Presidency - 100 Days after Inauguration'
6pm, Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill, University of Dundee

(In association with the Graduates' Council, Discovery Lecture)

Political heavy weight, Charlie Cook has written for almost every publication of note in America and now has a blog, is a political analyst for NBC News and is widely regarded as one of the nation's leading authorities on U.S. elections and political trends. In this lecture he will be assessing the US Presidential election campaign, the first 100 days in office of the new Presidency and what this means for America and the rest of the world.

Tickets for Charlie Cook are now available at the University online store.

For more information visit

www.dundee.ac.uk/externalrelations/events/sels/2009/sels2009.html



10 May

Monikie 10km race

11am, Monikie Country Park

The University of Dundee's Diabetes Research Campaign is to benefit again from the support of hundreds of runners set to take part in the second annual Monikie 10km Race.

For more information visit:

www.dundee.ac.uk/externalrelations/funds/drc/.

22 to 29 May

School of Architecture Degree show

Matthew Building

Students from the School of Architecture will be demonstrating their design talents at their degree show in the University's Matthew Building.

Students from years one to four will be exhibiting on level five of the building and year five students will be on level 6. The Exhibition will open with a preview evening on Friday 22 May.

22 May to 6 June

Dundee Degree Show

Vision Building, Seabraes

The annual showcase for graduating students from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design moves to a new venue this year.

Over 260 students will be displaying their degree projects, across the disciplines of fine art, design, textiles, jewellery, animation and digital imaging.

The exhibition opens with a preview evening on Friday 22 May.

Until 13 June

'As it is when it was' - new exhibition

Lamb Gallery

This latest exhibition celebrates Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design graduates, many of whom have gone on to achieve considerable success in their artistic endeavours.

It coincides with Dundee Contemporary Arts' 10th anniversary exhibition The Associates which shows the contemporary work of 17 Duncan of Jordanstone graduates.

"As it is when it was runs" in the Lamb Gallery, Tower Building, University of Dundee from 21 March - 13 June 2009, Monday-Friday 09.30-20.30, Saturday 09.30-16.30. There is no admission charge.

For further information please contact the exhibition curator Julie Brown on 0784 686 1635 or curator of Museum Services Matthew Jarron on 01382 384310 or email museum@dundee.ac.uk.

sense of pride?

Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau are proud to offer you a unique conference destination!

We offer a location which you can be proud of. Dundee and Angus allows you to demonstrate your strengths by offering a variety of venues which are unique and inspirational. Where else can you climb magnificent mountains, dine in the surroundings of exclusive castles and allow your delegates to sample nature and technology working together to provide a memorable experience.

We are committed to working with you to bid for, secure and host a national or international meeting.

To make us your choice contact

Lorna Reid on 01382 434173 or email lorna.reid@conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk

www.conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk

Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau



Ambassadors Professor David Collison & Professor Christine Helliard of The School of Accounting & Finance who were successful in securing the British Accounting Association Annual Conference to be held in Dundee 21st - 23rd April 2009.

WORKING WITH YOU FOR YOU

www.conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk