

# c n t a c t



The magazine of the University of Dundee • December 10



A view of the future

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## from the principal...

**The Strategic Review process has involved critical thinking about the fitness for purpose of some of our structures, and has also generated creative ideas about how we might best achieve our goals of research and teaching excellence and maximum impact.**

Two new Schools have been created in the College of Arts & Social Sciences, firstly in order to exploit opportunities presented by changing student demand and secondly to engage more effectively with emerging research agendas.

The overarching theme of the School of the Environment, an exciting initiative which combines Architecture with Geography and Planning, is sustainability – of both the natural and the built environments. The merger places the School even more firmly at the heart of the University's interdisciplinary Centre for Environmental Change & Human Resilience and will assist in positioning the University as a leading player in Scotland for addressing pressing questions relating to climate change and the global environment.

The School of Business forges a new alliance of Accounting & Finance and Economics, thereby increasing the University's presence in innovative business-related programmes at UG and PG level. Working together synergistically, staff aim to increase the quality and impact of their research in international business, the operation of financial markets, corporate social responsibility and sustainability, and health and well-being.

Some of you may have followed my comments in the media recently. In the current climate, it is especially important that the voice of universities is heard and that contributions to the debates affecting the sector are communicated widely. For this reason I have actively sought to present my own opinions, reflecting a wide range of discussions with colleagues in HE, students, politicians and industrialists, in the public domain. Some of you will share my position on these issues, and others of you will disagree; but the crucial thing is that these issues are debated fully and openly.

The outcomes of the Browne review will lead to disparity between England and Scotland in the level and source of funding for higher education, and this means that Scotland must urgently consider its future funding strategy. Alongside my Scottish counterparts, I have been active in making the case for continued, real support for HE in Scotland. In particular, I have made no secret of my advocacy for some form of graduate contribution that ensures higher education is free at the point of entry and repayable after achieving an agreed threshold income. I know that the Students' Association does not share my view, but it is only by airing these views that we can engage in a serious discussion about their relative merits.

Similarly, I have been forthright in recognising the sector's need to find ways to absorb its share of the proposed public spending cuts and in making the case for appropriate solutions to the question of research funding. As these issues unfold in Scotland, we must all engage in the debates that will ensue. Only by doing so can we be sure that all opinions will be heard and that the decisions that are finally taken will have had to take account of them. Regardless of differences in our opinions, I am sure we can all agree that Scotland's universities must be funded so as to ensure they remain competitive on the world stage.

Finally, I want to welcome Brian Cox, who attended his first meeting of Court in October, and who has now been formally installed as the University's 12th Rector. His engagement in student issues is remarkable and this, along with his affection for the University and Dundee, will undoubtedly ensure his rectorship is a successful one.

It only remains for me to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy start to 2011.

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



## V&A at Dundee design winner announced

**The Japanese architectural practice Kengo Kuma & Associates has been named the winner of the design competition for the V&A at Dundee.**

Kengo Kuma led one of six proposals shortlisted in an international competition to find a design team to develop a landmark building that will house the V&A at Dundee and form an inspiring anchor for Dundee's waterfront.

The practice was announced as the winner last month following a highly successful exhibition showcasing the shortlisted designs which attracted around 16,000 visitors.

Lesley Knox, Chair of the V&A at Dundee project and the jury panel who voted Kengo Kuma the winner, praised all the shortlisted designs.

"We were delighted by the quality of all the designs which were submitted to the competition and I think this is reflected in the huge public interest which our exhibition of models has generated," she said.

"Kengo Kuma's proposal was the unanimous choice of the jury panel and is a worthy winner; a building that will delight visitors and encourage them to revisit it again and again. It demonstrates a clear understanding of the city, offers a new experience of the river, and will be as exciting internally as it will be externally.

"This has the potential to be one of Europe's most exciting buildings," she added.

Kengo Kuma said he regarded it as a "great honour" to be named the winner.

"I am thrilled to be able to work with those at V&A at Dundee in order to give shape to their vision and to contribute meaningfully to the cultural richness of the city.

"It will be an exciting endeavour that will combine the tradition and heritage of the Victoria and Albert Museum and our new ideas. Furthermore, we are enthusiastic about the amazing site, the city and environment – it is our intention to find a balanced approach to nature and the city life of Dundee. We wish to bring our best efforts forward, with vigour and passion."

The jury panel made their unanimous decision after an extensive process of assessing the designs, interviewing the architects and their teams, and viewing some of their previous work. The public view was also factored in with thousands of questionnaires and comments drawn from those who visited the exhibition and those who viewed it online.

Sir Mark Jones, Director of the V&A, said the design offered "fantastic spaces to exhibit stunning design collections."

"I think this will become a major destination and will give us an internationally recognised building," he said. "It will reward repeat visits and attract attention from around the world."

Kengo Kuma's team for the V&A at Dundee project includes the Scottish firms cre8architecture, Optimised Environments Ltd, and CBA, and the engineering firm Arup, which has offices across Scotland, including in Dundee.

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

**V&A AT DUNDEE**  
**MAKING IT HAPPEN**



## Computing project nominated for award

**A groundbreaking computing project developed by researchers at the University to help profoundly disabled children communicate more effectively has been recognised with a nomination for a major industry award.**

The “How Was School today...” project uses software with a combination of technologies to enable children with conditions such as cerebral palsy and learning difficulties to have conversations in a faster, more interactive way.

It was nominated for the “Community Project of the Year” in the BCS UK IT Industry Awards 2010, held to celebrate best practice, innovation and excellence in computing and IT.

Although the project, which has been developed with researchers from the University of Aberdeen, didn’t win the award Rolf Black from the School of Computing said the nomination had delighted everyone involved.

“This is fantastic news for everyone involved,” he said. “In Dundee it is very important to us to have everyone on board when looking into new ideas, especially when it comes to users with special needs.

“Teachers, therapists and other school staff as well as parents and most importantly their children all worked together when we developed this new approach – a true community project!”

“There is a real shift in using computing technologies to enable non-speaking individuals to share personal stories. And this nomination recognises that Dundee and Aberdeen are right at the forefront of this development.”

The “How was school today...?” technology, the first of its kind in the world, uses sensors to track children as they move around their school – gathering data and information about their experiences. It then automatically generates an interactive narrative the pupils can edit and embellish to describe what they did at school.

Pupils can then tell these stories to their parents or carer when they return home at the end of the day, giving them the opportunity to share information in a more natural way.

The project has already won awards and been held up as an exemplar of how technology can be used to enhance the lives of disabled people.

Pupils from a special school run by the research collaborator Capability Scotland helped pilot the software. In June, the school won a Times Education Supplement (TES) Award in the ‘Outstanding ICT Learning Initiative of the Year’ category for its involvement in the project.

The project received additional funding of £285,000 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council earlier this year, to develop the devices further.

The Aberdeen and Dundee researchers are aiming to support children with a wider range of difficulties, using more compact forms of the equipment such as mobile phone technology.

## Sir Philip Cohen named one of UK’s top scientists



**Professor Sir Philip Cohen, Director of the Medical Research Council Protein Phosphorylation Unit and the Scottish Institute for Cell Signalling, has been named among the ‘100 most important people in British science’ by The Times newspaper.**

Sir Philip is placed at number 55 in the list, ahead of figures like Lord Browne, the former CEO of BP, Lord Sainsbury, the former Minister of Science and head of Sainsbury’s supermarket chain and Lord Winston, the fertility medicine pioneer and broadcaster.

The Times’ citation mentions Sir Philip’s work on protein phosphorylation which has improved understanding of cancer and other diseases. It also cites his role in transforming Dundee into a hub of medical research and for his pioneering partnerships between academia and business, including the Division of Signal Transduction Therapy at the University, the largest such collaboration in Britain.

“It is nice to have been included in this first ever list of the 100 people in Britain that matter in science,” said Sir Philip, who is based within the College of Life Sciences. “While such lists should not of course be taken too seriously, as they are based on the opinions of a small panel of judges, it is good to see that science and its importance to the UK economy and culture is now being recognised more widely by the general public.”

## Students celebrate first winter graduation

# Winter GRADUATION 2010

**More than 600 students celebrated their academic achievements last month as the University held its first Winter graduation.**

The two ceremonies in the Caird Hall on 17 November were held to enable students whose courses finish after the traditional summer graduation in June to receive their awards as soon as possible after completing their studies.

“A large number of those who will be graduating at these ceremonies will be students from postgraduate programmes which do not align with the traditional academic year as well as undergraduates who are eligible following a late summer examination board,” said Principal Professor Pete Downes.

“It is important to us that every single member of the University community feels equally valued, and holding this graduation allows everyone to enjoy the graduation experience to the full. We wanted to show how much we value these students by giving them the chance to celebrate their success in the same way as those who can graduate in June.”

At the morning ceremony which saw students from the College of Arts and Social Sciences and College of Art, Science and Engineering gain their awards, John Milligan, the long-serving Chair of the University Court who retired in June, received an honorary degree.

“This is a fitting way to recognise the work John put in as Chair of Court over six years,” added Professor Downes. “He has been a fantastic supporter of the University, and we are delighted to recognise his commitment during that time.”

In the afternoon award-winning actor Brian Cox was formally installed as Rector of the University as students from the College of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing, the College of Life Sciences and the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education graduated.

Following the ceremonies graduates and their families were treated to a Winter Wonderland themed party at Campus Green.

## Project to encourage serendipity

**A £1.87million multidisciplinary project - led by academics at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design - has been launched to help researchers innovate by finding out what they didn't know they needed to know.**

The project - entitled 'SerenA - Chance Encounters in the Space of Ideas' - aims to understand the role of serendipity to support innovation in research.

It brings together researchers from DJCAD and the Universities of Goldsmiths College, Heriot Watt, Lancaster, Nottingham and University College London. Vodafone, Media City and Dundee Contemporary Arts are also involved in the project which is funded for three years by the RCUK Digital Economy programme.

The team aims to design technologies for digital and physical spaces and deploy and test a Serendipity Arena, called SerenA, which will proactively search information available from individuals, to identify knowledge and connections related to their research and their local environment.

Mel Woods, Principal Investigator from DJCAD said, SerenA aims to draw human and machine closer together than ever before, enhancing its users' knowledge and their ability to interact with people and ideas likely to be important to them.

"The impact of the research will not only be of benefit across disciplines, it will be relevant to everyone interested in learning and discovery, of whatever kind," she said.

"We live in an age of burgeoning information provision, and have increasingly fast access to it. The World Wide Web has allowed us to make many positive changes in our society and environment but it also creates problems and challenges.

## Writing talent unveiled in new magazine

**A new magazine showcasing the creativity and literary talents of students and staff from across the University publishes its first edition this month.**

Dundee Writes is a 24 page free magazine filled with poetry and prose written entirely by members of the University community.

Edited by Josie Jules Andrews and Annika Firmenich, both students on Kirsty Gunn's Masters course in Creative Writing, the magazine is set to be published twice a year.

"We had around 60 submissions in a very short time for this first edition and they came from a real mix of backgrounds," said Josie, a former ecologist turned writer, whose work won praise at this year's Edinburgh International Book Festival.

"We were really surprised at how many people had a go and how many people within the University are writing. There's also a chance for artists to get involved by submitting work for the cover.

"There is now so much information being spread so quickly that it is becoming impossible for individuals to be aware of enough of it, or to take full advantage of it. Because of the information overload we are having to rely more and more on search tools to find what we want.

"While with practice we can use existing search tools to reasonable effect, they are only able to give us information directly matching the keywords that we search for. This is clearly useful, but its down side is that we are less likely than before to notice peripheral or tangential things, situations, knowledge or people who are relevant to us.

"For example, a search for a specific book in the library often results in a different title being selected; here unanticipated connections can transpire to be more valuable or stimulating. It is this "happy accident", known as serendipity that led, for example, to the discovery of penicillin."

The aim is not to promote shared keywords, as existing systems do, but to use state-of-the-art technology and user experiences, to identify things that users did not know they needed to know.

SerenA will be implemented as a physical presence in spaces within Dundee Contemporary Arts and Media City, Salford, via personal technology, such as smartphones, and by public facing technology embedded in those locations.

Information about the project is available through the website [www.serenac.ac.uk](http://www.serenac.ac.uk)

"It is very exciting. The magazine will be a real showcase for the University community. We're both absolutely thrilled to be involved in it."

Annika, who gave up the chance of a funded PhD in marine biology to follow her heart into creative writing, added that the magazine will also act as a springboard for the successful annual New Writing Dundee anthology which attracts hundreds of submissions from around the globe.

"The best of the entries for Dundee Writes will be included in New Writing Dundee which is an extra bonus for writers," she said.

The next edition of Dundee Writes is planned for Spring. For more information on submission dates and formats contact [literarydundee@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:literarydundee@dundee.ac.uk) or visit [www.literarydundee.co.uk](http://www.literarydundee.co.uk)

**dundee** *writes*



## Pat McPherson Centre opened at Ninewells

**A new £3.2million cancer research centre, named in honour of one of Dundee's greatest philanthropists, was officially opened last month by University Chancellor Lord Naren Patel.**

The Pat McPherson Centre for Pharmacogenomics & Pharmacogenetics is part of the University's Biomedical Research Institute, situated at Ninewells Hospital. Leading-edge research into personalised medicine is carried out at the state-of-the-art laboratories.

Dr McPherson, who died in March 2008, worked tirelessly to help raise millions of pounds for cancer research. A highly successful businessman and long-time champion of the University he founded the Ninewells Cancer Campaign which funded the new facility.

A member of the University Court for ten years Dr McPherson received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Dundee in 1986. Shortly before he died he was further honoured with the creation of the Pat McPherson Chair of Cancer Biology in recognition of his work to raise millions of pounds for cancer research.

Professor Roland Wolf (pictured above), Director of the Biomedical Research Institute, paid tribute to Dr McPherson, who he described as an "exceptional man and one of Dundee's greatest philanthropists".

"It is fitting that a Centre such as this should be named in honour of Pat McPherson," he said. "The fact that Dundee has been established as one of the world's leading centres for cancer research is in no small part thanks to his generosity and determination in raising vast sums to enable us to establish the first-class infrastructure that allows us to attract some of the world's best cancer scientists.

"It was Pat who founded the Ninewells Cancer Campaign, which has made this development possible by providing the funding. He was also responsible for the recruitment of Dr Jacqui Wood to Dundee, and she and Pat worked side-by-side for over 17 years as the Campaign achieved great things.

"I think Pat would be delighted to see the work we will be carrying out in the Centre which bears his name. We are examining the factors that determine why certain individuals respond differently to drugs and treatments than others. An example of this is a genetic test we developed to determine the reaction of breast cancer sufferers to treatment.

"Developing individually tailored cancer treatments will lead to much improved outcomes for patients, and is at the forefront of Cancer Research UK's strategy to beat cancer."

The new Centre will house Professor Kevin Hiom, the holder of the Pat McPherson Chair, and other researchers, including Dr Gareth Inman, recently recruited from the Beatson Institute of Cancer Research in Glasgow, Professor Colin Palmer and Dr Gillian Smith, working on personalised treatments for cancer and other diseases.





## New police studies course to start in Spring

**Scotland's first postgraduate course in policing studies gets underway at the University early next year.**

The School of Education, Social Work and Community Education is hosting the Scottish Institute of Policing Research postgraduate programme in policing studies which includes courses at certificate, diploma and Masters level.

Funded by the Scottish Police Services Authority and the Scottish Funding Council, the programme, a mix of distance learning and regular workshops, has been developed in close cooperation with the Scottish Police College.

It will bring together experts from five Scottish Universities and is aimed at graduate police officers of any rank and those working within or for policing organisations.

"This programme offers a very conceptual approach and is aimed at encouraging strategic thinking which is becoming more and more important in modern policing," said programme director Lynn Kelly.

Chief Constable Patrick Shearer, President of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland shares this view.

"Policing is performed in an increasingly diverse, complex and rapidly changing world where the need for advanced level skills and knowledge has become ever more important," he said. "I warmly welcome the establishment of the postgraduate programme in policing studies."

The programme addresses a number of key topics including theories and concepts of policing, understanding and managing crime, leadership in police organisations, anxiety, threat and security in communities, and research methods.

"Each of the partner universities deliver different modules which means the students have access to the best expertise in Scotland," said Lynn.

For more information on the programme visit [www.dundee.ac.uk/eswce/news/2010/policing.htm](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/eswce/news/2010/policing.htm)

## Nursing researchers strengthen links

**The School of Nursing and Midwifery is to be the lead European partner in a two-year study on palliative care funded jointly by the European Union and the US Department of Education.**

Researchers from the school, led by Dr Bridget Johnstone, will work with colleagues in Kaunas University of Medicine in Lithuania, New York College of Technology, and Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Professor Margaret Smith, Dean of Nursing, said the project would build on the School's existing USA and Baltic partnerships.

"This is a new collaboration for the School and one we are all delighted to see especially as this research proposal is being funded by both European and US organisations," she added.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery's Baltic connections were further strengthened last month when Professor Smith and senior lecturer Dr Elizabeth Rogerson visited Kaunas Medical University.

The visit, funded by the European Union's Erasmus scheme, focussed on building teaching and research links between the two Universities and aimed to share the good practice in distance learning methods used at Dundee with teachers in Kaunas University who wish to introduce distance learning to reach nurses and doctors working in rural areas.

## Scottish Policing Awards win for SIPR



Photo: Professor Nick Fyfe (l), Iain Whyte (Convenor of Lothian & Borders Police Board), Supt Andy Tatnell (Head of Management and Leadership Division, SPC).

**The Scottish Institute for Policing Research, based at the University, has won a commendation for its innovative continuing professional development programme at this year's Scottish Policing Awards ceremony.**

The Institute, a consortium of 13 universities with its administrative headquarters in Dundee, has been working in partnership with the Scottish Police College to devise the new programme.

"Historically the CPD programme run by the Scottish Police College has used a mix of police officers and consultants but relatively few researchers," explained Professor Nick Fyfe, SIPR Director, who attended the awards ceremony last month.

"The new programme has combined the traditional approach with a series of research-based contributions, and has widened the audience, with the opportunity for SIPR to market the programme to other relevant stakeholders.

"It has harnessed expertise from Scotland's universities to provide professional development of individuals employed within and outwith the Scottish Police Service."

The University was well represented within the CPD Programme, with contributions from Lynn Kelly, Programme Director for Child Care and Protection, who ran a course with Ruth Mitchell on Inter-agency Collaboration in Child Protection, and from Dr Alistair Geddes, Lecturer in Geography, who presented with Dr Donald Houston (now at St Andrews) a course on Geographic Information Systems for Police Managers.

Hosted by Kenny Macaskill, Cabinet Secretary for Justice, the Annual Scottish Policing Awards pay tribute to individual staff and teams that have played a particular role in one of four areas: Making Communities Safer; Quality of Service; Working More Efficiently; or Making Justice Work.

The Commendation to SIPR was within the Working More Efficiently section, and the presentation was made by Councillor Iain Whyte, Chair of the Scottish Police Authorities Conveners Forum.





## Dundee research highlighted at water conference

**Research on water security carried out at the University's UNESCO Centre for Water, Law and Policy has been highlighted at a special conference convened by the Asian Development Bank last month.**

Professor Patricia Wouters, Director of the UNESCO Centre, was invited to the conference in Manila to chair a session on water governance and contribute to the ADB Partners Forum.

She highlighted the work being done in Dundee and introduced the Knowledge Chain (KC) mission of the Global Water Partnership, which sees the University as a partner under its Water Law, Water Leaders programme.

Dundee and GWP are seeking to educate a total of 150 regional water leaders from across the globe in International Water Law over the next five years.

The "Water: Crisis and Choices – ADB and Partners Conference 2010" attracted over 600 water professionals from government, industry, think tanks and non-profit organisations from around the world to examine water challenges and the solutions needed to overcome them.

## New Library InfoZone opened by Brian Cox

**University Rector Brian Cox officially opened a new "InfoZone" for students in the Library and Learning Centre's Main Library in the autumn.**

The InfoZone, a collaborative space with comfortable seating which replaces the former issue desk, complements the new self-service system which was installed in each of the Library and Learning Centre libraries over the summer. The £440,000 project is designed to make things quicker and easier for students and staff.

The InfoZone allows students to pick up book reservations, return and issue books and use computers to search for books and journals. Library staff are also on hand at the InfoZone to assist with enquiries or refer queries on to Subject Librarians, who can work with students in the Zone.

Large touch screen monitors have been installed to make it easy for staff to demonstrate how resources are accessed online.

"Investing in self-service technologies provides an efficient system that allows us to maintain our library opening times and further sustain other key services," said Dr Richard Parsons, Director of the Library and Learning Centre.

"As students and staff learn to use the systems they will discover the benefits such as 24-hour return, reduced queuing at busy times and the ability to issue almost all library items from 8 am to midnight."

The Library & Learning Centre's EduZone, an informal learning space for all those involved in teaching in the University, also opened last month.

Situated close to the Main Library Café, the EduZone is a bright and comfortable place to meet with colleagues, hold informal meetings, find out about new technologies and engage with educational development activity.

For more information visit [www.dundee.ac.uk/library](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/library)

## Researchers join £10million heart therapy study

**A team of researchers led by Chim Lang, Professor of Cardiology within the School of Medicine, has been awarded a £700,000 grant as part of £10million Europe-wide project to develop "tailored therapy" for patients with heart failure.**

Funded by the European Commission's FP-7 programme, the work involves a wide range of specialists across hospital physicians, GPs and researchers in genetics. It is based around a ground breaking observational study programme (BIOSTAT-CHF) that will investigate how an individual's genetic make-up influences their unique response to heart failure medication.

"Despite significant advances in our understanding of how to improve the treatment of heart failure from clinical trials, patients can still often have a poor quality of life with symptoms of shortness of breath and lethargy," said Professor Lang.

"This is in part because not everyone responds to treatments in the same way. While some patients may respond very well to tablets for heart failure, others may have no benefit at all and may even experience harmful side effects. In other words, there is a need for treatment to be 'tailored' to the individual patient.

"There is increasing evidence that genes can play an important role in response to drug therapy. Understanding the 'jigsaw' of an individual's genes may help doctors to make heart failure medicine more personal to ensure that every individual gets the maximum possible benefit from their medicine while reducing the chance of unwanted side effects.

"BIOSTAT-CHF is a major step on this path towards making personalised medicine a reality in patients with heart failure."

The £700,000 being allocated to the Dundee team will directly support one clinical research fellow, two nurses and a post-doctoral scientist.

Patients across Tayside who have experienced heart failure will be invited by letter to take part in the study. Anyone who is interested in taking part in the study or would like more information can contact the study team on 01382 632573.

## University hosts conference in India

**A conference to identify areas for cooperation with Indian universities and discuss how to meet challenges such as climate change and resource depletion was held in India by the University last month.**

Management and senior academics led by Principal Professor Peter Downes, travelled to New Delhi to take part in the *Creating Sustainable Futures: The University of Dundee working in partnership with India* conference.

The conference focussed on the areas in which the University has a global reputation - such as renewable energy technologies and policies - with a view to identifying opportunities for collaboration with Indian research institutions and businesses, which would bring benefits to Scotland, India, and the rest of the world.

"We are extremely pleased to have the opportunity to hold this event in India," said Professor Downes. "It not only allows us to strengthen current relationships, but also to develop new partnerships supporting world-class research and teaching in sustainable development."

Other participants from Dundee included Merv Rose, Professor of Physical Electronics; Peter Cameron, Professor of International Energy Law and Policy; Colin Reid, Professor of Environmental Law and Dr Rod Jones, Dean of the School of Engineering, Physics and Mathematics.

The conference reflects strengthening links between Scotland and India. In October 2009, an agreement between Universities Scotland and the Association of Indian Universities agreed to share knowledge and best practice, promote student and faculty exchange, drive collaboration in research and development, encourage joint degree development and identify funding opportunities.

In the same year the Governments of India and Scotland signed an agreement supporting cooperation in renewable energy. The University's conference is contributing to the aims of both these agreements.



“At IMSaT our work is always aimed at making a real difference”



## Institute of Medical Science & Technology (IMSaT)

**For Professor Sandy Cochran, recently appointed as Professor of Biophysical Science and Engineering, his work with the Institute of Medical Science and Technology (IMSaT) is “immensely rewarding”.**

With a background in the use of ultrasound for non-destructive testing, an area of engineering often associated with defence and nuclear power, he is delighted he is now working in a field dedicated to improving medical diagnosis and therapy and potentially saving lives.

“Some applications of research in engineering and science are quite superficial, routine or with arguable benefits” he said. “In IMSaT, our work is always aimed at making a real difference.”

One of the most important topics for the Institute is to devise new ways to treat cancer.

“We’re looking particularly at focused ultrasound surgery and targeted drug delivery,” explained Professor Cochran who will be highlighting his research on the use of ultrasound in cancer diagnosis and treatment at the annual Discovery Days lectures in January.

Focussed ultrasound surgery is a non-invasive method which requires no incisions, instead using ultrasound to heat and destroy tumours, whilst ultrasound in targeted drug delivery pinpoints the release of chemotherapeutic drugs where they are needed.

Professor Andreas Melzer, Founding Director of IMSaT who brought this unique technology to Dundee, believes these techniques are “revolutionary” with “enormous potential impact”.

“These new ultrasound-based therapies could eventually be as big a step forward as the introduction of keyhole surgery,” said Professor Cochran. “They are two of the most exciting areas of research in IMSaT.”

“Focused ultrasound surgery has already been used to treat, for example, uterine fibroids. This is done entirely from outside the body so there is no incision, no need for general anaesthetic, and therefore greatly reduced recovery time. The alternative might be a hysterectomy which has a recovery time of around six weeks and means the woman cannot have children.

“Prostate cancer is another area where focused ultrasound surgery can be used and studies are under way on liver, kidney, breast and brain cancer.”

Palliative care in patients with cancers that have spread to the bones and in pancreatic cancer is another application.

“Bone metastases can be extremely painful and sometimes there is nothing more that can be done to relieve the pain,” explained Professor Cochran. “But we are exploring the use of ultrasound to target the pain. It won’t cure the cancer but it will improve the patient’s quality of life.

“Pancreatic cancer is often asymptomatic until far advanced and there’s no real effective treatment so we are looking into the use of ultrasound in a palliative way there too.

“Focused ultrasound surgery can really seem quite miraculous” he said. “We are already in talks with the NHS regarding clinical applications”.

Further advances in the future treatment of cancer are also being made in targeted drug delivery.

“At the moment when someone has chemotherapy it kills the tumour but also kills off healthy cells and this can cause terrible side effects,” explained Professor Cochran.

“Targeted drug delivery aims to bypass the healthy tissue and target the drug straight to the tumour. The drug is encapsulated to begin with, which stops it having an effect on other parts of the body. When ultrasound is applied to the tumour, heating releases the drug but it only does so locally.”

In 2009, a four year research project to develop targeted drug delivery, led by Professor Melzer in IMSaT, received €2million from the European Union. “NANOPORATION” is a collaboration with international companies InSightec Ltd and CapsuTech Ltd, aiming to integrate MRI (magnetic resonance imaging), focused ultrasound and photonics, with the delivery and activation of nano-capsules carrying anti-cancer drugs.

These areas of research highlight IMSaT’s key role as a hub of research and development linking different disciplines with the aim of producing practical benefits.

“We work with lots of different university disciplines including engineering and physics, medicine, dentistry, and life sciences,” said Professor Cochran. “Clinicians come to us and say ‘This is what we would like...’ And often we can help.”

A number of other research projects are also under way in IMSaT, including the development of laparoscopic ports, endoscopic ultrasound, the use of ultrasound to guide regional anaesthesia, and a pilot study aiming to re-establish vascular flow and respiration in Thiel embalmed bodies.

“The pilot study using Thiel cadavers came about as a result of difficulties encountered in using focused ultrasound surgery on moving organs such as liver and kidney,” said Professor Cochran.

“The liver moves every time the patient breathes so the surgeon is dealing with a moving target. They have to develop techniques to deal with this. This study is looking at simulating breathing in a human cadaver so that surgeons can test their techniques in a more realistic way.”

This project, lead by Professor Melzer, joins Professor Sir Alfred Cuschieri, pioneer of keyhole surgery and co-founder of IMSaT, Professor Sue Black, Head of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification, Professor Robert Soames, who holds the Cox Chair of Anatomy in the College of Life Sciences and Professor Graeme Houston, SINAPSE chair of Clinical Radiology at the College of Medicine and will have a big impact on Professor Cochran’s future research.

“The study is a good example of the way IMSaT works,” said Professor Cochran. “It is about acting as a hub and linking different disciplines together in a strategic way to bring about real benefits. It is about carrying out work only if it is going to make a difference.”

Professor Cochran’s Discovery Days talk will take place on Thursday 13 January between 11.45am and 12.45pm. For more information on Discovery Days visit:

[www.dundee.ac.uk/revealingresearch/dd11.htm](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/revealingresearch/dd11.htm)

For more information on IMSaT visit [www.imsat.org/](http://www.imsat.org/)



# New partnership with Dundee Science Centre

**The University has entered into an innovative partnership with Dundee Science Centre to form the Dundee Science Centre Science Learning Institute.**

Through the new Institute the University and Dundee College are working with Dundee Science Centre to support the new Curriculum for Excellence through teacher professional development; promote public engagement with science through science communication training for research scientists; share the science centre ethos with science communicators and museum educators and support core skills training in further education.

The partnership has resulted in staff from the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education contributing to the science centre's teacher CPD programmes, and the science centre's Science Learning Team contributing to BEd and PGDE teacher training courses.

Hannah Crookes, Director of Science Learning and Public Engagement at Dundee Science Centre said,

"Learning is a collaborative process, and collaboration between the university and science centre is vital to creating rich diverse learning experiences for lifelong learners across our region; we are very excited to work with the University of Dundee in this innovative project."

The science centre's CEO Louise Smith added, "Principal Professor Pete Downes is an innovative leader and supporter of public engagement with science, and we are delighted to be working with other forward-looking colleagues including Professor Yolande Muschamp and Professor Brian Hudson of the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education. This exciting partnership promises to be a big step forward in partnership working in education."

The range of courses available to teachers, museum educators, students and research scientists can be found on [www.DSCScienceLearningInstitute.org.uk](http://www.DSCScienceLearningInstitute.org.uk).



## Festival celebration for 'City of Science'

**Researchers from across the University played a leading role in this year's Dundee Science Festival which celebrated the city's reputation as a place of "science and innovation."**

The two week scientific spectacular was opened by festival patron Professor Sir Philip Cohen, Director of the Medical Research Council Protein Phosphorylation Unit and the Scottish Institute for Cell Signalling, both based within the College of Life Sciences

Professor Cohen's British Science Association talk on the city's role in beating some of the world's worst diseases marked the beginning of a packed programme of events in this year's greatly expanded science festival.

From a one day family fun day last year the event blossomed this year into a fortnight-long feast of scientific endeavour and fun aimed at informing and entertaining people of all ages and backgrounds.

The festival which ran from 1 to 14 November at locations across the city featured a range of different activities including a forensic science roadshow, stand-up comedy, a schools programme, two family fun days, talks, open days and a photography exhibition.

University staff taking part in the events included members of Archives Services offering guided tours, academics at the School of Computing who ran workshops for schools and staff at the Wellcome Trust building who were on hand to discuss their work with visitors during a "drop-in and meet a scientist" day.

Professor Marion McMurdo, Head of Ageing and Health at the Medical School, discussed her research and offered some advice on diet and exercise in later life in a public lecture entitled "Three things you need to know to live to 100," while Dr Josephine Ross, a lecturer in the School of Psychology focussed on the "terrible twos" in her Café Science Extra talk on the onset and consequences of self-awareness in early childhood.

Dr Graham Lowe, honorary medical curator at the Tayside Medical History Museum at Ninewells gave a talk on the life and work of Dundee medic Dr James Riley who helped to revolutionise our understanding of allergic reactions with his work on mast cells while staff at the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification highlighted their work in a series of drop-in interactive forensic science sessions.

Meanwhile Emma Burnett, Karen Lee, Kristi Herd, Joyce Troon, Thilo Kroll and Lee Bracher, from the School of Nursing and Midwifery's Infection Prevention and Control team teamed up with NHS Tayside colleague, Margaret Kennedy and David Smith and Margaret Dunn from the Tayside Public and Patient Group to highlight the importance of hand hygiene with a public session at the Wellgate Library.

Visitors had the opportunity to try out interactive hand hygiene stations as well as finding out more about the research and teaching activities going on in the School.

Hannah Crookes, Director of Science Learning and Public Engagement at Dundee Science Centre, and coordinator of Dundee Science Festival 2010, said, "As a science centre, it is our mission to bring people together, and we were amazed and delighted with the enthusiasm and commitment of the University of Dundee to

help create a memorable festival for the city. Being a city of science isn't just about research and discovery, but also about building a culture of public engagement with science, and the university has shown a great commitment to this. We are now looking forward to working together on Dundee Science Festival 2011".



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## Thiel embalming marks UK first for CAHID

**The University is set to become the first in the UK to exclusively adopt an alternative method of embalming bodies which could change the face of scientific, medical and dental research and training.**

Professor Sue Black and her colleagues at the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification (CAHID) have been testing the Thiel method of embalming since last year.

Unlike traditional embalming which uses formalin, the Thiel method effectively but gently “pickles” the body in a solution of salts resulting in a more “life-like” effect with the body retaining flexibility and colour. As a result surgeons, dentists and medical researchers have a more realistic method of testing techniques, practising procedures and developing new equipment and approaches.

“The problem with formalin embalmed cadavers is that they are very stiff which makes the environment unrealistic for clinicians who might be trying to practice surgical techniques or develop new approaches or technologies,” explained Professor Black, Head of CAHID.

“There has also been a debate in Europe in recent years about the use of formalin because of its carcinogen rating so we decided to explore some viable alternatives.

“There is what has become known as the “fresh frozen” route where body parts are frozen and then defrosted prior to dissection but we felt that this was a quite wasteful approach to a very valuable resource in that once a body part has been used it cannot be made available for any other purpose. There are also some health and safety issues with this method and we found that Thiel might overcome all of the issues that are causing a bottleneck to significant progress.”

Professor Black explained that the method is not new and has been in use in other parts of the world for several years but has not been introduced into the UK largely because formalin was perceived as being fit for current purposes. However, due to changes in legislation, this is no longer the case.

Prior to the Human Tissue Act (Scotland) 2006 surgeons were not permitted to practice any procedure on a cadaver. The amendment to the Anatomy Act (Scotland) permitted this to happen for the very first time.

“We sent Dr Roos Eisma over to Graz in Austria where Thiel embalming was developed and has been in use since the 1970s. On her return we set about devising a pilot project to see if we could replicate their results,” she explained

“We invited surgeons and clinicians to come and test their own approaches on a Thiel cadaver to find out not only what they could do but also what they could not do.”

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Professor Sir Alfred Cushieri, pioneer of keyhole surgery and co-founder of the University’s Institute of Medical Science and Technology (IMSaT), was the first to try it out and he quickly gave it his full and unreserved backing.

“He was very supportive,” said Professor Black. “and indeed everyone who has tried it has been. We have yet to find anyone who has said it doesn’t improve upon the current situation. It is of huge benefit in terms of education and training at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and the research opportunities are almost limitless.

“Already we have established an early track record for research in this area. Professor Andreas Meltzer, Director of IMSaT, has secured £350k funding from the MRC Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme for a pilot project involving vascular research in Thiel cadavers and there is a further successful £250k project awarded for ultrasound-guided regional anaesthesia with Professor Sandy Cochran who is the Deputy Director of IMSaT.

“It will have a big impact in so many different areas. It will open up the field and make so many things possible. Companies are already making contact to design and test new equipment.”

To maximise the use of Thiel embalming, staff at CAHID are now looking forward to work beginning on a new state-of-the-art mortuary dedicated to the process which requires special embalming tanks.

The new £2M facility, designed by local architect firm Wellwood Leslie, will contain two embalming tables, storage for chemicals, tanks for 48 cadavers and shelving space for longer term storage of bodies. There will also be a number of smaller rooms dedicated to procedures associated with embalming.

Further phases are also planned to add on teaching and training space and turn the facility into a fully integrated centre to service the future of anatomy and human identification.

“This is a significant development for the University,” said Professor Black. “We will be the first University in the UK to exclusively use Thiel embalming and we need the new mortuary to be able to do that properly and effectively.

“Our previous inspector of anatomy identified that our existing facilities needed extensive upgrading and because of our change in direction it was essential that we develop a bespoke facility that will serve Dundee well for the next 50 years.”

Although £1.5M has been earmarked for the project by the University, Professor Black has been tasked with making up the shortfall.

“In this present financial climate finding £500,000 is rather a daunting challenge but we have very exciting plans for a fundraising campaign involving some of the world’s top crime writers. I can’t say much more at the moment but it will be launched in the New Year so watch this space because it is right out of left field!”

# BAND HERO

## project eases High School Move

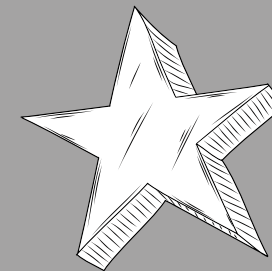
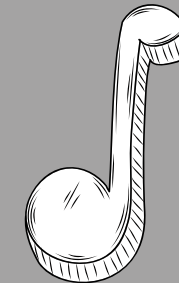
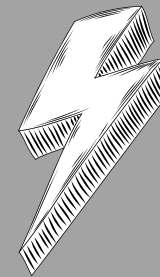
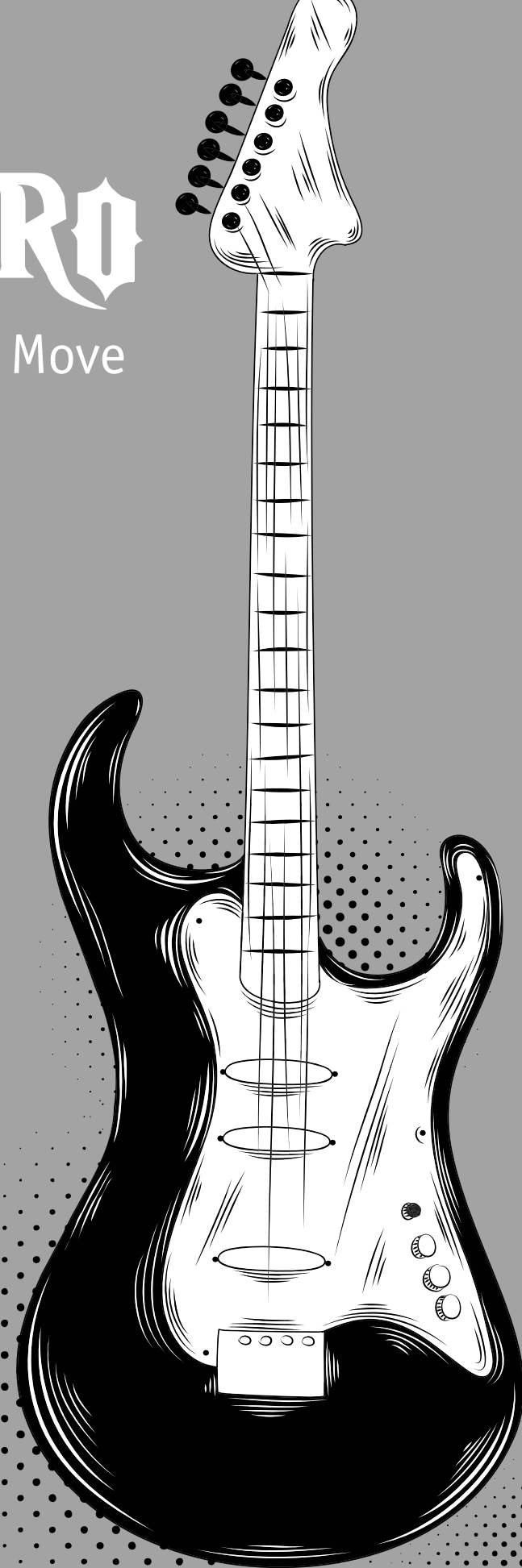
**An innovative project based on the popular computer game Band Hero is proving to be a big hit in helping children make the move from primary to secondary school, a researcher in the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education has found.**

Dr Divya Jindal-Snape, an expert on educational transitions, has been assessing the effectiveness of the project, which was piloted in three Perth and Kinross secondary schools and their fourteen feeder primaries, for Learning and Teaching Scotland. The project was also implemented in four primary schools in Falkirk. A total of 139 pupils

Although data is still being collected for Stage 2, Stage 1 results have suggested the initiative has been a success.

"From what we have seen so far the project has definitely been effective," said Dr Jindal-Snape. "It brought children together, encouraged creativity, team work, cooperative learning and tapped into the energy they had. One of the teachers said that the children didn't seem to be worrying about moving to secondary because they were so focussed on the project."

The initiative involved bringing primary seven children from different primary schools together to form a band using the computer game Band Hero. They then had to compete against other bands in an X-factor style situation. The project continued into first year of two secondary schools. In one of the secondary schools, the students have already demonstrated their work to the new primary sevens.



As well as helping children make the transition from primary to secondary the project also aimed to provide cross-curriculum learning as part of the new Curriculum for Excellence.

"The work they were doing was embedded in the curriculum and covered art and design, literacy, numeracy, -social studies, sciences, computing and so on," said Dr Jindal-Snape.

"Children had to choose playlists, design logos and merchandise, promote the band, think about marketing etc. It was far more than playing a computer game."

"Band Hero is a tool. It encourages many of the aspects that research tells us are important in transitions ie curriculum continuity, active participation and control over the situation, informal getting to know each other opportunities and sharing a common purpose.

"It enabled the children to start something they could carry on and so there was progression of something already familiar to them. Initial results have shown that pupils and teachers both saw positive outcomes in terms of making friends and in boosting confidence.

"Of the 139 pupils, around 71 per cent said they thought the initiative had been helpful in preparing them for the move to secondary school and 78 per cent said it will help them make new friends. Again, 97 per cent enjoyed participating, and 88 per cent said that they felt it helped them work as part of a small team."

Such was the level of positive feedback from the participants in the study that Dr Jindal-Snape is now busy devising a game of her own to ease transition between different educational stages.

"If Band Hero works and it isn't even designed for this purpose what could be achieved with a computer game specifically designed to ease transition. That's what I'm working on at the moment. It is based on the Theatre of the Oppressed idea where different scenarios are acted out and members of the audience can join in and suggest different reactions.

"The game deals with scenarios based on children's concerns about moving to secondary such as losing and making friends, how to react in new situations, coping with change etc. It will give them a chance to try out real life situations in a safe and secure environment.

"The prototype is being developed with support from Abertay University. Once it is ready I'm hoping to find funding to develop the full version and ideally it would be able to be used on any platform including mobile phones as it will make it more accessible."

Dr Jindal-Snape is the author/editor of *Educational Transitions: Moving Stories from around the World* which was published earlier this year.

She has recently returned from an international conference on student mobility and ICT in the Hague where she was the keynote speaker.





# DD11

## DISCOVERY DAYS

13-14 January 2011  
Main Lecture Theatre  
Dalhousie Building

The University's most recently appointed professors will be joining forces with its award winning teachers in January to share their passion for their subject in the eighth annual Discovery Days lectures.

Fourteen new professors from a wide variety of disciplines will be taking part in the annual showcase of academic talent and cutting edge research alongside three of the winners of this year's teaching awards.

Each presenter will have just 15 minutes to captivate, inform and entertain their audience.

Discovery Days 2011 will begin on Thursday 13 January with a talk on the use of technology to improve cancer care by Professor Nora Kearney from the School of Nursing and Midwifery. The first session, which begins at 3pm with a welcome from Principal Professor Pete Downes, will continue with a lecture on Antarctica, digital diabetes and plant genomics.

Day two will bring a further feast of academic excellence covering a diverse range of subjects including education research, molecular physiology, psychology, medicine, photonics and nanoscience, biophysical science & engineering and modern literature.

It will also showcase outstanding teaching practice as winners of this year's teaching awards discuss their work. Speakers include Dr Angela Gilbert, a senior lecturer in the School of Dentistry and Jonathan Baldwin, lecturer at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, both winners of the Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching and Sharon Tonner, a lecturer in the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education and winner of the Honorary Graduates Award for Innovative Teaching.

The short Discovery Day lectures - now in their eighth year at Dundee - have a reputation for providing an entertaining and accessible glimpse into a range of challenging and often complex subjects. Their format has become a model for the sector, imitated by a number of other universities in the UK.

The Discovery Day 2011 lectures will take place at the Dalhousie Building on Thursday 13 January and Friday 14 January.

Admission is free and all are welcome to attend. To book your free tickets visit the University online store at [www.dundee.ac.uk/tickets](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/tickets)

For more information on the lectures visit: [www.dundee.ac.uk/revealingresearch/dd11.htm](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/revealingresearch/dd11.htm)

## PROGRAMME

### Thursday 13 January 2011

**2.30 - 4.30PM • SESSION 1** • Chair: **Prof. Pete Downes**, Principal and Vice Chancellor



**Nora Kearney**  
Chair of Nursing & Cancer Care  
*Virtual Healthcare: Using Technology to Improve Cancer Care*



**Tony Martin**  
Chair of Animal Conservation  
*Of rats, ice and helicopters: science and nature combine to restore an Antarctic paradise*



**Stephen Greene**  
Personal Chair of Child Health & Adolescent Health  
*Digital Diabetes: Technology and Changing Diabetes in the Young*



**Andy Flavell**  
Personal Chair of Plant Genomics  
*Feeding the planet with wild genes*

### Friday 14 January 2011

**10.15 - 11.15AM**  
**SESSION 2** Prof. Doreen Cantrell



**Charlotte Rees**  
Chair in Education Research  
*The invisible patient*



**Hari Hundal**  
Personal Chair of Molecular Physiology  
*Chewin' the fat - it's a question of saturation!*



**Martin Fischer**  
Personal Chair in Psychology  
*The secret life of numbers*

**11.45 - 12.45PM**  
**SESSION 3** Chair: **Prof. James Calderhead**



**Graeme Houston**  
Chair in Clinical Imaging  
*Looking at the Heart of the Problem*



**Sharon Tonner**  
Honorary Graduates' Award for Innovative Teaching winner  
*Don't Lecture Me: I'm a 21st Century learner*



**Sandy Cochran**  
Personal Chair of Biophysical Science & Engineering  
*Ultrasound: Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment*

**1.45 - 3PM**  
**SESSION 4** Chair: Prof. Chris Whatley



**Angela Gilbert**  
Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching  
*Oh - By Gum!*



**Edik Rafailov**  
Personal Chair of Photonics & Nanoscience  
*Applications of New Generation of Lasers*



**Luc Bidaut**  
Chair of Translational Imaging  
*What is advanced biomedical imaging and what is it for?*



**Andrew Roberts**  
Personal Chair of Modern Literature  
*Is Digital Poetry really Poetry?*

**3.30 - 4.30PM**  
**SESSION 5** Chair: **Prof. Irene Leigh**



**Jonathan Baldwin (DOJ)**  
Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching  
*Everything I learned about life, I learned from Doctor Who*



**Janet Clarkson**  
Personal Chair of Clinical Effectiveness  
*How often should you go to the dentist?*



**Simon Herrington**  
Chair of Cancer Pathology  
*Shedding Light on Cancer*

**4.30 - 4.45PM**  
Closing Remarks: The Principal



# Forensic role for design students

**Researchers from the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification (CAHID) have teamed up with design students from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design to devise a system for classifying jewellery found on the remains of those who are victims of mass disasters.**

Four Master of Design students will assist forensic researchers as part of CAHID's involvement in the FAST and efficient international disaster victim Identification (FASTID) project, an EU-funded, three-year collaboration of six partners including INTERPOL.

The project will provide INTERPOL, and its 188 member countries, with a more effective means of recording and matching victims of mass fatality events.

Descriptions of jewellery found in disasters can help to identify victims whose remains are difficult to identify by more conventional means. This type of analysis is already used but identification attempts are often hampered by a lack of specialist knowledge.

The students, Lisa Murphy, Marie MacLennan, Ruth Watson and Lynsey McIntosh, will be using their design experience to compile a framework for Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) teams to record information more efficiently and effectively in the aftermath of a mass fatality event.

They will analyse a vast array of images and types of jewellery and develop a common language and terminology which makes the search more effective.

Professor Sue Black, Director of CAHID, explained that the purpose of this type of forensic analysis is to match up two pieces of evidence.

"The victim may be difficult to identify through the more traditional means e.g. DNA or fingerprints, and this is where we start looking at alternative means of analysing additional evidence, including personal effects," she explained.

"Obviously, jewellery is something that can easily be removed or swapped or indeed stolen, so we have to be careful about what conclusions can be drawn from the items found on the bodies of victims. Unique or distinctive pieces can help us to confirm identity by providing a lead that will allow us to utilise primary evidence to establish identity.

"This method of identification will not replace primary evidence, such as fingerprints and DNA, or secondary evidence which includes for example tattoos or evidence of clinical conditions or surgical intervention but comes under the heading of tertiary evidence which we consider to be corroborative of identity."

Hazel White, Master of Design programme Director at DJCAD, said the students would benefit from their involvement in the project.

"The students are bringing their specialist design skills in jewellery and communication design to the project and translating their knowledge for a non-specialist audience. It also demonstrates how their specialisms have unexpected practical applications in the real world.

More information on the project can be found at [www.interpol.int/fastid.asp](http://www.interpol.int/fastid.asp)



## Artist takes up residence at Botanics

**Visual artist Sarah Gittins has taken up a year-long residency at Dundee Botanic Garden that will continue until September 2011.**

Sarah was awarded a Master of Fine Art degree from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design earlier this year. She works across a variety of media, with a particular focus on drawing, printmaking and painting.

During her time at the Garden, she will be making work that explores the story of plants as food, with particular reference to contemporary and future challenges relating to food sovereignty and food security.

The residency represents a collaboration between the Botanic Garden and Dundee Artists in Residence (D-AiR), an organisation that profiles the work of Dundee-based artists, celebrates Dundee as a city of culture and creativity, and fosters links between artists and the wider community.

"I am delighted to be working with D-AiR," said Sarah. "The residency is a wonderful opportunity for me to look into the issues surrounding the food we eat, where it comes from, how it is grown, transported, processed and sold.

"The Dundee Botanic Garden is a perfect setting for this residency as so many of the plants that grow here play important roles in the story of food. It is great to be able to think and work whilst grounded by their company!"

Sarah's residency is part of D-AiR's year-long programme of arts activities and events taking place throughout the city. She will be making work within the Gardens and will have an 'open studio' on the first Thursday of every month, from 12-3.30pm. Visitors are invited to come along to these sessions for conversation and to see work in progress.

Alasdair Hood, Curator at the Botanic Garden, said, "We have strived for many years for an artist in residence and at last we have one. Sarah is looking at issues associated with food and food crops and sustainability. If she can get visitors to think where their food comes from then I will feel we have achieved something from her time in the Garden."

More information about Dundee Artists in Residence can be found at [www.d-air.org](http://www.d-air.org)





## Diabetes agreement strengthens links with Kuwait

**Links between Kuwait and Tayside's world renowned network of diabetes research and care have been strengthened with the signing of an agreement to develop new collaborations.**

The University, NHS Tayside and Aridhia Informatics signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Dasman Diabetes Institute and the Ministry of Health in Kuwait in the autumn.

The MoU allows all partners to explore opportunities to jointly develop education, clinical networks and informatics proposals linked to improving health care in Kuwait, with an initial focus on diabetes.

Diabetes is a significant problem in Kuwait, where it has been estimated that up to 1 in 4 of the adult population suffers from the disease. This equates to almost 700,000 Kuwaitis.

"We are delighted to sign this Memorandum of Understanding with our Kuwaiti partners," said Professor John Connell, Dean of the School of Medicine. "We have substantial experience and expertise across Tayside in diabetes research, care and management and we think we have a lot to offer the people of Kuwait in terms of developing this innovative partnership to tackle the disease."

Director of the Dasman Diabetes Institute in Kuwait, Dr Kazem Behbehani, a former Assistant Director General of the World Health Organisation said, "The Dasman Diabetes Institute and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health have led productive discussions with our Scottish partners throughout this year which has led us to signing this agreement."

"We are excited about the development of this partnership, and are convinced it will deliver real benefits to Kuwait and Scotland."

Professor Tony Wells, Chief Executive of NHS Tayside added, "Tayside is now internationally recognised as having arguably the best information and knowledge of a diabetes population anywhere in the world - the clinical network model that we have developed is consistently demonstrating improved outcomes for people with diabetes, and is rightly attracting international interest as a model for tackling long term conditions."

Work has already begun on a pilot project to build an informatics base using existing data. This will be used to establish, as a first step, a comprehensive register of diabetic patients. Such a system of electronic record linkage makes it possible to identify patients already diagnosed as diabetic and also, by using data from laboratory and prescribing systems, identify people who may have undiagnosed diabetes.

"This is the sort of system that has been developed to very good effect in Tayside, where we have pioneered a lot of the activity in this area," said Professor Andrew Morris. "Now we can deliver the same kind of effective system in Kuwait by building this relationship with the Dasman Diabetes Institute and the Ministry of Health."

## Dundee to lead type 1 diabetes project

**An ambitious £675,000 Type 1 diabetes research project which could lay the foundations for future diabetes studies worldwide is being led from Dundee.**

Helen Colhoun, Professor of Public Health within the School of Medicine is coordinating the "Scottish Diabetes Research Network (SDRN) Type 1 Diabetes Bioresource" project which is funded by leading charity Diabetes UK and the Scottish Government's Chief Scientist Office.

A key aim of the Bioresource project is to develop methods for preventing Type 1 diabetes and its associated complications.

"The spirit of collaboration between diabetes researchers across Scotland and the two funders has been fantastic," said Professor Colhoun. "Most importantly, people living with diabetes are hugely supportive of our work."

"This ambitious project will help us to identify and monitor new biomarkers, i.e. biological characteristics, which will be used to follow the progress and response to the treatment of patients with Type 1 diabetes and to further our understanding of the causes of the condition."

"All personal information will be recorded anonymously to ensure patient confidentiality."

Patients will be invited to take part during their usual clinic visits. A network of diabetes specialists across Scotland will ask patients aged 16 years and over with Type 1 diabetes to donate a sample of blood and urine.

By combining samples with information on the patient's diabetes history, the bioresource will enable future research into the causes and consequences of Type 1 diabetes, which could lead to new avenues of research into prevention and improved treatments.

The study will initially take place at clinics in Aberdeen, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Kirkcaldy and Livingston, and aims to include up to 10,000 patients, with other centres anticipated to join as the study progresses.

The project is being co-funded by the charity Diabetes UK and the Chief Scientist Office (CSO) of the Scottish Government, who are providing £451,000 and £225,000 respectively over the three-year funding period.

It will also be supported by dedicated Diabetes Research Nurses provided by the Scottish Diabetes Research Network [www.sdrn.org.uk](http://www.sdrn.org.uk), which is also funded by the Chief Scientist Office.

## University boosts funds of local charity

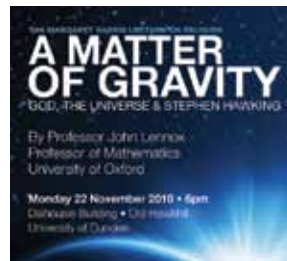


**Staff and students raised a total of £740 for Radio Tay's 'Cash For Kids' during the charity's Bring a Pound To Work Day earlier this year.**

The money was presented to the station's Stuart Webster by Graham Nicholson, Director of the Careers Service, and Natalie Coupar, Vice-President Communications of the Dundee University Students Association (DUSA).

Radio Tay has been raising money for local youngsters for more than two decades. Last year Cash for Kids raised more than £200,000 in Tayside and Fife.

## Has Hawking buried God? asks lecture



**God, the Universe and Stephen Hawking provided the subject matter for this year's Margaret Harris lecture on religion at the Dalhousie Building last month.**

John Lennox, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford explored the effect Stephen

Hawking's recent bestseller "The Grand Design," has had on ramping up the debate about God and Science.

Professor Lennox examined the debate and asked "Has Hawking really finally buried God?"



**Students at the Medical School's Department of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery were welcomed to Dundee by the city's Lord Provost John Letford last month at a civic reception held in their honour.**

A total of 23 PhD, MSc, MD and Master of Orthopaedic Surgery (MCh Orth) students attended the event along with a number of staff members from the University including Professor Rami Abboud, Head of Department and founder and current Director of the Institute of Motion Analysis and Research (IMAR).

Since its inception in 1974 the Department of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery has enjoyed an international reputation as one of the leading UK departments in teaching and research in its field.

This was reflected in the range of nationalities attending the reception. Students this year have come from India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Lebanon and the UK.

They will join the growing list of students from across the globe who have chosen to study at the department over the years.

More than 350 MCh Orth students have graduated from the course since it first began in 1994, while more than 50 students have completed research degrees. More than 300 have also completed distance learning courses since 1990 when the Distance Learning Section was established.

At the moment there are more than 150 students from all over the world enrolled on distant learning courses.

## court news

**The focus of the October Court meeting was on the Strategic Review as well as on the higher education funding landscape in general.**

### Strategic Review

The Court received a report which provided an update on the projects being developed in the Colleges and SASS as part of the Review. In considering the report, the Court endorsed the formation of two new Schools in the College of Arts & Social Sciences: the School of the Environment and the School of Business. The report also contained an indication of the anticipated staffing reductions as part of the review process, which it was hoped would be achieved through natural turnover, retirements and voluntary severance. These indicative savings amounted to 193 posts, equating to 10.5% of core staff, across the University. The Deputy President of the Students' Association voiced the concerns of the student body that such a large reduction in staff would inevitably impact on the student experience, although the Principal made clear that the success of the review would see improved teaching and research across the institution. The Court noted the progress being made with the projects and looked forward to updates at future meetings.

### Browne and the CSR

The Court received a paper which set out the main features of the Browne Review of Higher Education Funding and also of the likely impact of the UK Government's Comprehensive Spending Review. The Court engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of the emerging higher education context in the face of both documents, although for the Scottish context, it was difficult to draw any firm conclusions of what the impact would be. The Chairman shared feedback on these issues from a meeting of the Committee of University Chairs which he had recently attended in London. The Court looked forward with anticipation to the Scottish Cabinet Secretary's Green Paper on higher education and to the publication of the SNP Government's budget proposals.

### Governance

The Court confirmed its approval of Ordinance 58, regulating the election of a student member on Court in addition to the President; although having done so it noted the recent resignation of the President of the Students' Association, which would thereby reduce the level of student representation on the Court. The University Secretary and Clerk to Court agreed to devise a means whereby appropriate representation at a level reflecting the spirit of the recent changes to student representation on Court could be maintained within the current Statutes. In view of this, the Court approved the proposal to appoint the Deputy President as a member of the Finance & Policy Committee. The Court also approved a process for the appointment of Heads of College as well as changes to the schedule of delegation and decision-making in relation to the sponsorship of clinical trials.

### Other Business

The Court received a report from the Senatus Academicus, noting in particular the lively debate surrounding the introduction of a central timetabling system. It also received a routine report on the performance of the University in meeting the targets set out in the Strategic Framework to 2012 in the areas of research, collaboration and knowledge transfer.

The Court received a report on the V&A at Dundee project, noting that members had had the opportunity earlier in the day to visit the exhibition of shortlisted architectural designs. The report explained the establishment of Design Dundee Ltd to take the project forward. The Court noted the in-kind resources being provided by the University in support of the project.

The Court received copies of the documentation distributed to members and eligible members of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) as part of the consultation process on proposed changes to the scheme.

The Court welcomed Brian Cox to his first meeting of the Court, and many members joined him later in the evening at DUSA where the students had organised an event to celebrate his election as their new Rector.

## appointments



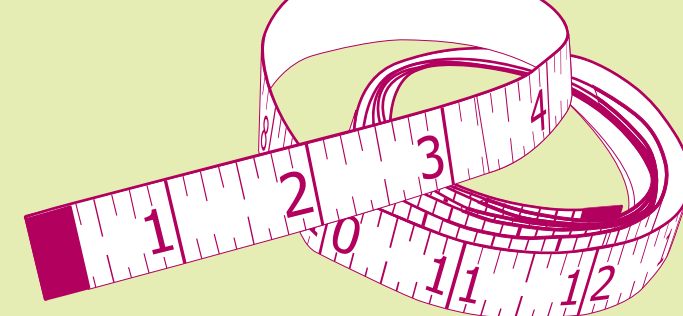
**Professor Andrew Roberts**  
Chair of Modern Literature

**Andrew Roberts has been appointed to a Chair of Modern Literature within the School of Humanities. Professor Roberts arrived in Dundee in 1993 having been Quain Student at University College London, where he completed his PhD and later worked as lecturer in English.**

He is currently Principal Investigator for the AHRC-funded project, 'Poetry Beyond Text: Vision, Text and Cognition' (2009-2011), leading a team of researchers in Literature, Psychology and Fine Art from the Universities of Dundee and Kent.

His research interests are in the areas of modernist literature, contemporary British poetry, digital poetry, literature and science, and literature and visual culture.

His books include *Conrad and Masculinity* (Palgrave, 2000) and *Geoffrey Hill* (Northcote House, 2004). A book entitled *Poetry & Ethics* is forthcoming with Liverpool University Press, and he is currently writing a book on Digital Poetry.



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contact **nik long** - gym manager on **01382 386763** • or email **n.long@dundee.ac.uk**  
**ise** reception (bookings and enquiries) • **01382 384122**

## GIVE A GIFT *of* HEALTH THIS CHRISTMAS

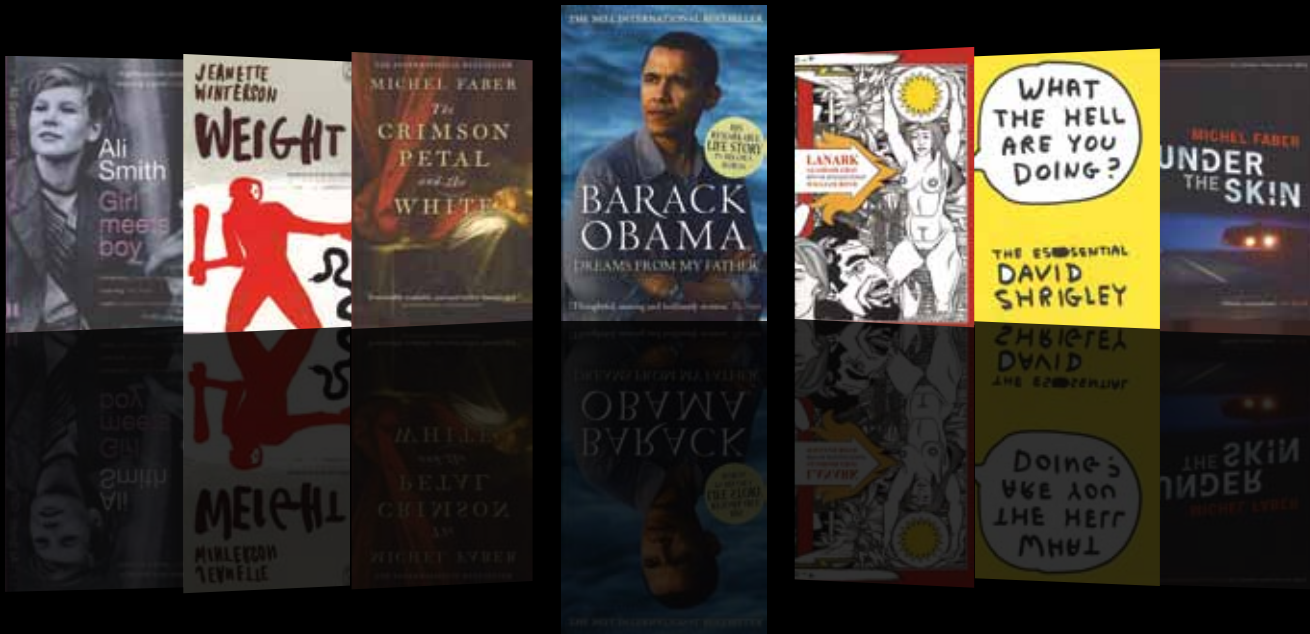


- Scottish Heather Honey
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# The Canongate Publishing Archive comes to Dundee

By Patricia Whatley, University Archivist & Head of Archive, Records Management and Museum Services

The University Archives are delighted to have become custodians of the Canongate Publishers archival collection. The archive dates from the establishment of the company in 1973 by Stephanie and Angus Wolfe Murray, and its subsequent development under Jamie Byng’s dynamic management, which has maintained its high profile publications and the close relationships which are developed with its authors.

This collection will include not only all the publications produced, draft manuscripts, artwork and marketing material, but the University archive is also working with Canongate to ensure that the significant electronic records, including emails and texts, are included in the archive on an ongoing basis, which will provide a full record of the company and its ongoing development within the digital age.

Jamie Byng, Publisher and Managing Director, Canongate Books said ‘...as the world becomes increasingly digital there are ever more ways in which language is experienced and communicated and stored. Having the expertise and knowledge of Dundee University’s Archive Department to help us record and document our past, present and future at this turbulent juncture in time is a generous gift and a wonderful opportunity.’

We are delighted that we will be able to conduct interviews with many of the people who have been important in the history and development of Canongate. The oral histories of Stephanie Woolf, Jamie Byng and authors such as Nick Cave and Michael Faber will be a valuable addition to the written records, providing personal testimonies. The memories and opinions of the individuals involved will represent a different history to that in the official formal records, in the same way that the texts and emails will do. The minutes, reports and books produced by Canongate over the years do not tell the whole story of the company, the stories of the authors, managers and owners will build up a more comprehensive profile of the company than is possible with only the written word. Oral histories provide a more informal and revealing form of record.

Canongate’s high profile authors and themes within the collection have already attracted the attention of an international audience, as well as our own academics. Potential research subjects include creative writing, gender and representation, book design and illustration, history of fiction, twentieth century publishing history, bibliographic studies, changes in publishing arising from computing technology, postcolonial studies, textual studies and many more. The archive will also be used as an inspiration for teaching.

This is a major research resource and we look forward to promoting the use of the Canongate archive and furthering the strategic aims of the University.



*Breastfeeding: Contemporary issues in practice and policy*  
**Janet Dalzell, Elizabeth Rogerson and Linda Martindale**  
Radcliffe Publishing

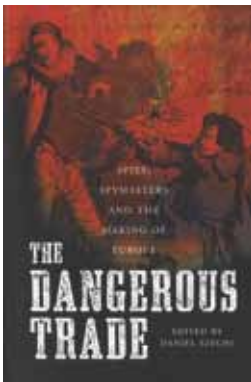
Healthcare professionals and organisations around the world have formed a wide, evidence based consensus that breastfeeding is usually the best option for mother and baby.

However, women and professionals alike often face a sea of shifting attitudes and values, and complex social, cultural and economic factors that may influence women’s feeding decisions.

This book examines the global evidence and the factors that affect women’s decisions around initiating breastfeeding and maintaining it through the first year of their children’s lives.

It also looks at the powerful social, political and economic factors associated with breastfeeding and formula feeding companies as well as providing practical suggestions for managing a change in practice and policy in healthcare to support, sustain and promote better breastfeeding.

*Dr Elizabeth Rogerson is a senior lecturer in the School of Nursing and Midwifery. Linda Martingdale is a lecturer in the School and is also currently completing her PhD. Janet Dalzell is Health Improvement Principal for Breastfeeding for Tayside Health Board.*



*The Dangerous Trade*  
**Edited by Daniel Szechi**  
DUP

This latest offering from Dundee University Press reveals the secret history of Europe. Drawing on the latest research by experts in the field it opens up the hidden world of spying and secret operations that made and broke European Nations between 1500 and 1800.

Espionage, blackmail and bribery were the Dangerous Trade’s regular tools with assassination, provoking civil war and black propaganda used for “special” occasions.

An academic but accessible study of espionage and its impact this is the first in a series of studies in early European history edited by leading historians.

The book includes a chapter by Dr Christopher Storrs, a history lecturer in the School of Humanities.

*Daniel Szechi is Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Manchester.*



**BMA award for Medical Education Book**  
An “outstanding” book by two academics within the School of Medicine has been highly commended in this year’s BMA Medical Book Awards.

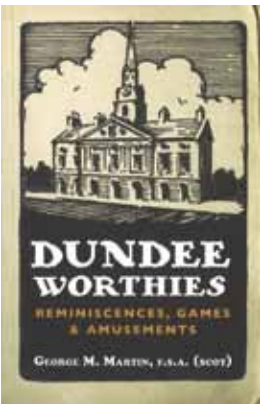
The third edition of “A Practical Guide for Medical Teachers”, is edited by John Dent, Reader in Orthopaedic Surgery and Medical Education and honorary consultant in upper limb orthopaedic surgery and Professor Ronald Harden OBE, former Professor of Medical Education.

The BMA citation described the book as a “clearly presented, well-organised text that provides medical teaching with a concise and thorough reference book which will help in the planning and delivery of medical education.”

“It deals with both well-established constructs and methods in education as well as discussing current and emerging topics that will shape medical education in the UK and around the world,” it added.

The 53 chapter publication has also been described as making “an outstanding contribution to the medical education literature” by Professor James Hallock, former President and Chief Executive of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates in the USA. “It should have significant global appeal,” he added.

“A Practical Guide for Medical Teachers,” which is published by Elsevier Ltd, has recently been translated into Cantonese, Korean and Japanese with Vietnamese and Russian translations currently under way.



*Dundee Worthies: Reminiscences, Games & Amusements*  
**George M. Martin**  
Dundee University Press

This collection of tales of colourful Dundonians was first published by George M Martin in 1934.

It has now been re-issued by Dundee University Press as part of a wider project which includes plans to produce a collection of modern-day “worthies.”

The original characters in this volume boast titles such as Tea Pot Tam, Pie Jock and Blind Hughie and tales of their lives sit alongside reminiscences of the city, old-time games, poems and period advertisements.

The book is available from [www.dundee.ac.uk/dup](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/dup) or from WH Smiths, Waterstones or Amazon



## Carols by Candlelight

The University's annual Carols by Candlelight service will take place on Sunday 12th December at 5pm in St Paul's Cathedral, High Street, Dundee.

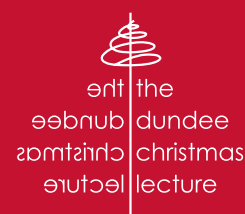
Staff and students and their families and friends are invited to attend the service which takes the form of the traditional nine Lessons and Carols.

Singing will be led by the University Choirs and there will be arrangements of carols from other countries.

University Chaplain Rev Dr Fiona Douglas described the event as "one of the highlights of the academic year."

"It's a unique opportunity to bring staff, students, families, friends and the local community together to celebrate Christmas," she said.

For more information contact the Chaplaincy Centre on 01382 384157 or at chaplaincy@dundee.ac.uk



## Behind The Books Alexander McCall Smith

## Christmas lecture delves behind the books

One of Scotland's most prolific and charming novelists will be at the University this month to deliver the annual Christmas lecture.

Alexander McCall Smith, author of the best-selling No 1 Ladies Detective Agency series, will be talking about his many books and discussing the work of a writer with local novelist Jamie Jauncey.

The lecture entitled Behind the Books will take place in the Dalhousie Building on Friday 3 November.

It will include a discussion about McCall Smith's favourite fictional characters and a look at latest titles including The Importance of Being Seven in the 44 Scotland Street series and The Charming Quirks of Others in the Isobel Dalhousie series.

Following the lecture the former law professor will sign copies of his book.

Tickets for the event, which begins at 6pm, are free and are available from the University's online store. Overflow theatres may be in use.

The Christmas lecture is held in conjunction with Dundee City Council and was inaugurated in 2007 to commemorate the University's 40th anniversary and its close relationship with the city of Dundee and its people.

## what's on...

3 December

**Lunchtime Concert – TSO Wind and George Donald (piano)**  
Chaplaincy Centre, Cross Row

This concert takes place between 1.20 and 1.50pm. Entry is free and open to all. Snack lunches are available.

4 & 5th December

**Christmas Market**

Botanic Garden

A selection of handmade gifts and jewellery will be on sale at this festive market in the Botanic Gardens. There will also be henna body art and face painting for children. The market will run from 11am to 3pm. Entry to the Garden for the Market weekend is £1. For more information visit [www.dundee.ac.uk/botanic/events](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/botanic/events)

4, 5, 11, 12, 18 & 19 December

**Santa in the Garden**

Botanic Garden

Father Christmas will be arriving at the Botanic Garden on Saturday 4 December and he'll be in his cabin to greet visitors and discuss wish lists every weekend until Christmas between 11am and 3pm. Price is £5 which includes entry to the Garden. For more information visit [www.dundee.ac.uk/botanic/events](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/botanic/events)

9 December

**In the Bleak Midwinter**

Botanic Garden

DBS Productions present "The Christmas Present" a chilling tale for Christmas that may well prove it is better to give than receive. The evening of theatre, music and festive cheer outdoors in the Garden includes mince pies and mulled wine.

Tickets costs £12 and booking is essential.

For more information call 01382 381190.

Until 11 December

**Prints of Darkness**

Matthew Gallery, DJCAD

This touring exhibition, which originated at Edinburgh Printmakers, celebrates the vinyl record as an abiding audio-visual artifact and recalls the golden age of the record cover in the thick of the post-psychedelic, goth-surrealistic, Art Nouveau, apocalyptic landscape explosion, now being revived in a current resurgence of collectable limited edition records with original artwork.

The exhibition is free and open between 9.30 and 5pm Monday to Friday and between 10.30am and 4.30pm on Saturdays. More information from Exhibitions on 01382 385330.

## DDII DISCOVERY DAYS

13 & 14 January 2011

**Discovery Days 2011**

Main Lecture Theatre

Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill

University of Dundee

Short showcase presentations by the University's most recently appointed professors plus winners of this year's teaching awards.

## SATURDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES 11

5 February 2011

**SELS 2011 lecture with Bang Wong**

Dalhousie Building

6pm

Bang Wong, Creative Director of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and adjunct assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, will kick off the 2011 Saturday Evening Lecture Series with a talk entitled "Showing the Unseen." He'll show how art, design and the traditional approach of illustration enables scientific discovery.

Tickets are free and can be obtained online at [www.dundee.ac.uk/tickets](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/tickets) or from Dalhousie and Tower Building Receptions. For more info call 01382 385564 or email [events@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:events@dundee.ac.uk)

19 February 2011

**SELS lecture with Graham Bowley**

Dalhousie Building

6pm

Graham Bowley, a writer with the New York Times, will be discussing his first book "No Way Down" in this second SELS lecture of 2011. The book tells the stories of 30 climbers who conquered K2, the world's second highest mountain, including 11 who never returned from the summit.

Tickets are free and can be obtained online at [www.dundee.ac.uk/tickets](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/tickets) or from Dalhousie and Tower Building Receptions. For more info call 01382 385564 or email [events@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:events@dundee.ac.uk)





# DESTINATION DUNDEE AND ANGUS

**As an ambassador you can play a part  
in the economic growth and prosperity of the area!**

Since its launch in 2000, the Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau Ambassador Programme has helped to secure 125 conferences and meetings, generating over £19 million to the local economy. Providing support and assistance to individuals and organisations that are specialists within their field, the Ambassador Programme has helped establish Dundee and Angus as a centre of excellence within the fields of biotechnology, life sciences, digital media, medicine, law and education.

As an ambassador you have the opportunity to help attract major conferences to the region and contribute to the economic development of the area. Generating over £48 million for the local economy, attracting business tourism to the area provides the opportunity to forge links with academic and industry peers around the world, open up potential new collaborations, partnerships and markets all of which are of great benefit to your organisation and the region as a whole.

Here is what some of our ambassadors have to say:

***'Dundee is one of the leading centres in the global field of motion analysis ... hosting a conference in the area had very positive outcomes and the delegates were very impressed by the research and work being done in the institute in Dundee.'*** Professor Rami Abboud of the Institute of Motion Analysis and Research (IMAR)

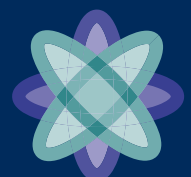
***'Holding the RCN Research Society conference in the city provided a platform to disseminate the School's research to the widest international audience. Our conference set the standard for attendance numbers, for range of international delegates and for the conference dinner entertainment.'***

Dr Martyn Jones, Research Dean in School of Nursing and Midwifery,  
University of Dundee and Associate Director of Social Dimensions of Health Institute

If you would like to play a part in helping us secure and host more conferences and generate opportunities and benefits for your organisation and the destination - find out how you can become an ambassador by contacting:  
Karen Tocher, Manager of Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau  
on 01382 434318 or email [karen.tocher@conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk](mailto:karen.tocher@conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk)

**[www.conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk/ambassadors](http://www.conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk/ambassadors)**

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