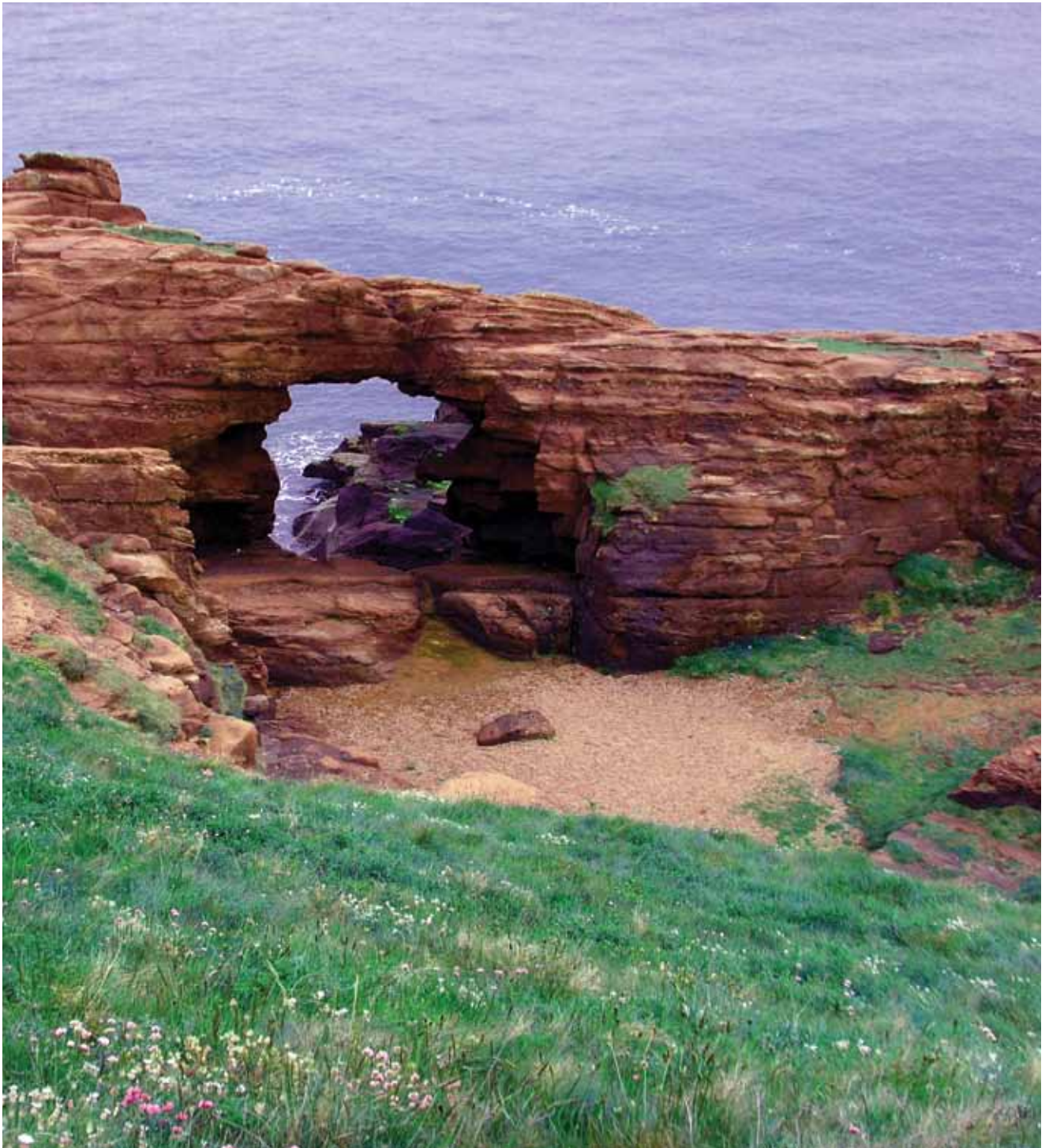


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from the principal...

One of the most gratifying pieces of news to have been published over the past two months involving the University of Dundee was the Times Higher Education Survey of Student Experience which came out in mid-February. According to the opinions of our students, we are ranked the fifth best institution in the UK and the top University in Scotland in terms of the quality of our student experience; a measure which includes an assessment of the teaching quality, the structure of provision, welfare support as well as social factors such as the Students' Association and sports facilities. Whilst one should always be cautious about the weight one gives to opinion polls and league tables of this kind, Dundee has nevertheless performed consistently well in this type of survey over recent years. It is my view that this underscores the value we place on making sure our students are at the heart of our institution, but more importantly shows that our students think so, too.

As we move through difficult times we should take not a little comfort from this performance; it proves to some extent that we are getting things right: our teaching staff are engaged and enthusiastic; our facilities are modern and accessible; and our students are thriving. These are all things that we must not lose sight of as higher education institutions navigate an uncertain course over the short to medium term.

I believe the survey reminds us once again that there is much to be proud of in our University. Glancing through the recent news items from our press office provides us with all the evidence we need of the impact we are having and of the excellence of our achievements.

In January we learnt that colleagues in the School of the Environment were at the forefront of the Global Environmental Sustainability Project (GESp), a collaboration between universities in the UK, Poland, Australia, Denmark and Austria, which is set to lead to the first joint degrees between Europe and Australia, funded to the tune of £500k from the EU.

In early February, we were able to announce a major award from the AHRC to research staff in Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design to continue the REWIND project to document the evolution of electronic media arts and to aid in the preservation of important video artefacts.

And later in February, there were a number of important health research announcements: the discovery by researchers in the School of Medicine of the gene behind a rare form of skin cancer; the identification by a team of researchers involving Dundee scientists of a potential new means to treat tuberculosis; and Dr John Rouse was awarded the 2011 Tenovus-Scotland medal in recognition of his work investigating how cells recognise and repair cell damage.

These provide just a brief snapshot of the kind of work that goes on in the University, and which very often doesn't perhaps get the recognition it deserves.

On other matters, the Scottish political parties seem to be getting into gear on the issue of higher education funding in preparation for the Scottish election in May. As they put the finishing touches to their manifestos, an expert group, commissioned following the publication of Education Minister Mike Russell's higher education Green Paper, has recently reported that the gap in funding between Scottish and English universities will reach £200m per annum by 2014-15. I am calling for all parties to agree on the scale of the problem and to make a commitment to ensuring the funding of Scottish universities remains competitive with England at the very least. If, as many are suggesting in the press, this is to come entirely from the public purse, then the public has a right to know from where.

Professor Peter Downes • Principal and Vice-Chancellor



Dundee best student experience in Scotland

The University has been ranked top in Scotland and fifth in the UK in the recently published Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey.

The survey ranks 113 UK universities across all aspects of student life, from academic quality to sports and social facilities.

"It is an absolute priority for us to deliver the best possible student experience in Dundee, so it is very satisfying to see this kind of response to the Times Higher Education survey," said Vice-Principal Professor James Calderhead.

"We are delighted with our University's performance in the Times Higher Education student experience survey," said Chris Browne, Deputy President of Dundee University Students Association.

"The past few years have seen improvements in areas such as the library and learning centre, halls of residence, employability and the amount of activities offered to students on campus.

"DUSA play an important role in the student experience, providing a central hub on campus with excellent social activities and valuable advice and support services.

"The University have placed an emphasis on the student experience and the appointment of a Director of Student Operations has led to a more co-ordinated approach to service provision across the institution. Students welcome the changes the University have implemented and we, at DUSA, are particularly excited about the innovations still to come."

Dundee has performed consistently well in student experience and student satisfaction surveys. In the Times Higher survey it rises to 5th in the UK after being placed 8th last year.

New video to entice students to Dundee

A new promotional video aimed at encouraging more students to come to Dundee has been made by the University.

The new student recruitment video uses time-lapse photography to highlight the range of facilities, amenities and strengths that the University can boast.

E-Recruitment Manager Dr Ramanee Peiris said the video was a way of demonstrating to people around the world why they should consider studying at Dundee.

"Taking a campus tour is a great introduction to the University, but that's not always practical, here's the next best thing – a three minute whistlestop tour," she said. "The time-lapse was shot at several locations across campus over a varied period to capture the campus life at different times of the day and night."

The new video has been given a vote of approval by Chris Browne, Deputy President of Dundee University Students Association.

"This time-lapse video gives you a really good idea of the exciting life on campus at the University," he said. "The only drawback is that, even with all the footage that was collated, it is never going to be enough to showcase all the great things going on here at Dundee.

"This video gives you a quick glance at campus and the great facilities we have, but the only way to really experience it is to come here."

The video can be accessed at www.dundee.ac.uk/admissions/video, and is also available on the University's YouTube channel - www.youtube.com/DundeeUniv

Gene identified as a cause of peanut allergy

An international collaboration led by researchers at the University has made a significant breakthrough in understanding the causes of peanut allergy.

The number of people affected by peanut allergy has increased dramatically over the past 20-30 years, but the causes of the disease are unknown.

Now researchers working with colleagues in Canada, Ireland, England, and the Netherlands have identified a gene defect that can triple the risk of a child developing peanut allergy. The gene responsible – Filaggrin – has previously been shown by the Dundee team to be a significant factor in causing eczema and asthma.

“It was a logical next step to investigate whether Filaggrin may also be a cause of peanut allergy, since a child may develop all three of these diseases together,” said Dr Sara Brown, Wellcome Trust Intermediate Clinical Fellow in the Division of Molecular Medicine.

“Allergic conditions often run in families, which tells us that inherited genetic factors are important. In addition to that, changes in the environment and our exposure to peanuts are thought to have been responsible for the recent increase in peanut allergy seen in the western world in particular.

“Now, for the first time, we have a genetic change that can be firmly linked to peanut allergy.”

The Filaggrin gene codes for a protein that helps to make the skin a good barrier against irritants and allergens. Changes in the gene decrease the effectiveness of this ‘barrier’, allowing substances to enter the body and leading to a range of allergic conditions.

The study, which is published in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, has found that one in five of all peanut allergy sufferers have a Filaggrin defect. Those with the defect can be three times more likely to suffer peanut allergy than people with normal Filaggrin.

“We knew that people with a Filaggrin defect were likely to suffer from eczema, and that many of those people also had peanut allergy,” said Professor Irwin McLean, one of the world’s leading authorities on Filaggrin.

“What we have now shown is that the Filaggrin defect is there for people who have peanut allergy but who don’t have eczema, which shows a clear link between Filaggrin and peanut allergy.

“The Filaggrin defect is not THE cause of peanut allergy but we have established it as a factor in many cases. We don’t yet know enough about the causes of peanut allergy but this is an important step forward.”

Professor McLean said the Filaggrin findings suggest that peanut allergy may be caused by substances entering the body through the skin, though it could also have an effect in the gastro-intestinal area.

He also stressed that as Filaggrin defects were found in only 20% of the peanut allergy cases there is still a lot of work needed to fully understand the genetic risk factors for this complex disease.

The collaboration looked at four different population groups, in Canada, England, Ireland and the Netherlands. This is the first time that any genetic association with peanut allergy has been demonstrated in more than one population, making it more likely to be a genuine risk factor.



Scots family study attracts thousands of volunteers

One of the largest health studies ever launched in Scotland has now recruited more than 23,000 volunteers, all of them contributing to a project which could have a major impact on people’s health for generations to come.

The Scottish Family Health Study (SFHS), which is led by Professor Andrew Morris, Director of the University’s Biomedical Research Institute, was launched in 2006.

It aims to track the health of thousands of Scottish families over many years, giving researchers a better understanding of how and why common diseases run in families. This in turn may lead to better forms of prevention and treatment being developed.

“This study gives us a huge resource and the great feature of it is that these people are in family groups, so as the years go on we will gain great insights into how their health relates to one another,” said Professor Morris.

“Genetically inherited factors influence our risk of being affected by a number of common causes of ill health, including cancer, diabetes, heart disease, mental illness, obesity and stroke. We hope this study will help to unlock the secrets of Scots’ health and bring real health benefits to those living with disease and to the next generation.”

The study is expected to run on for the next twenty years, tracking anonymised data from all of the volunteers’ health records.

“We have had a fantastic response from people right across Scotland, more than 23,000 people will be involved in the study,” said Professor Morris. “Recruitment to the study will be ending soon, but really that is only the end of the beginning.

“This study is going to generate a huge amount of really important data which will be of great value to researchers in this country and around the world for many years to come. It will help this generation, but it may be of even greater benefit to generations to come.”

Already more than 50 scientific studies are using data gathered through the SFHS. These include collaborations with researchers around the world.

The study is funded by the Scottish Executive and is part of the wider Generation Scotland project, a unique venture which involves all five of Scotland’s University medical schools and the NHS in Scotland. Around 30,000 people nationwide are enrolled in Generation Scotland projects.

The picture (above) shows Professor Andrew Morris with Christine Reid and her daughter Rachael, both from Dundee, and Ruth Durrant, research co-ordinator for the study, who is seen administering a blood pressure check.

Christine, a nurse at Perth Royal Infirmary, said eighteen members of her extended family had signed up to the study.

“My daughter Rachael was the one who was first aware of the study, and from that we all decided to join it,” she said. “I think the study is the sort of thing which can have a lot of value for research and the fact that so many people have joined is fantastic.”



Professor wins new outreach award

A new award aimed at recognising the work of outstanding science communicators in the College of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing has been won by Professor Marion McMurdo, Head of Ageing and Health at the Centre for Cardiovascular & Lung Biology.

Professor McMurdo, co-founder of the Dorothy Dobson network of over-60s exercise classes, won the inaugural Ian Stevenson Award for Excellence in Public Engagement “for her outstanding contribution to engaging older adults within her research projects and dissemination of results on an international scale.”

The award was created by the College of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing and Revealing Research in honour of Professor Ian Stevenson, former University Vice Principal and holder of the first Chair of Pharmacology, who died in 2005.

The award is aimed at recognising outstanding science communicators and improving understanding of the research of the College and University to a wider audience.

Professor Stevenson’s widow Pat presented the award at the College’s annual research symposium.

Professor McMurdo’s public engagement work received high acclaim from the award judges, who praised her studies with large cohorts of local older people as an outstanding example of the benefits of two-way dialogue between study participants and researchers.

They were particularly impressed with the way she recruits and maintains strong relationships with elderly people, seeking their opinion in forming her research methods, during the study and in the evaluation of each project.

With Miss Dorothy Dobson, she is also a co-founder and Director of D D Developments Limited, a University Limited Company which has established a network of over-60s exercise classes throughout the UK and Australia.

Her popular appeal was also apparent during the Dundee Science Festival when she filled the 300 seat West Park Conference Centre with a lecture entitled *Three things you need to know to live to 100*.

On winning her award Professor McMurdo said, “I am delighted to receive the award because Ian himself was such a gifted, enthusiastic and effective communicator. This award reinforces my view that better public engagement results in better research, and ultimately, better health for older people.”

The Ian Stevenson Award for Excellence in Public Engagement is open to all staff and students in the College of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing. It honours Professor Stevenson’s contribution to the work of the University and also his commitment to promoting science to a wider audience.

He was Director of the Scottish Science Trust and was instrumental in the development of the Sensation Science Centre in Dundee where he served as chairman of its board from 1999 to 2005.

Image above shows Professor McMurdo (centre) with her award.

Prestigious Award for Cancer Expert

The 2011 Tenovus-Scotland Medal has been awarded to cancer expert Dr John Rouse from the College of Life Sciences.

Dr John Rouse is a Programme Leader at the Medical Research Council (MRC) Protein Phosphorylation Unit and has recently made several discoveries in how cells recognize and repair DNA damage to prevent mutations which can lead to cancer.

The award will be presented in June at the Scottish Chromatin Group Meeting during which Dr Rouse will deliver the 2011 Tenovus-Scotland Medal Lecture, entitled “Forks and molecular knives at the cutting edge of DNA repair.”

“I am delighted to be awarded the Tenovus Medal, which is a reflection of the talents and efforts of the people who have worked in my lab and the outstanding research environment and facilities that we have here in the MRC Protein Phosphorylation Unit and College of Life Sciences at Dundee,” said Dr Rouse.

The Tenovus Medal Lecture has been presented annually by the University of Glasgow since 1992 and is awarded each year to a scientist with a Scottish link whose work has had a major impact on molecular medicine.

Professor Sheila Graham, a reader at the MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research and Co-Chair of the Tenovus Committee, said, “Dr Rouse is a deserving winner of the 2011 Tenovus Medal. His recent research promises to uncover new avenues for developing cancer treatments.”

Dr Rouse is the third researcher from the College of Life Sciences to be awarded the Tenovus Medal. Previous recipients were Tom Owen-Hughes and Neil Perkins for their work in the Wellcome Trust Centre for Gene Regulation and Expression at Dundee.

RSE honour for trio



Professor Jill Belch Professor Frank Sargent Professor Frank Sullivan

Three academics from the University have been elected as new Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Professor Jill Belch (School of Medicine), Professor Frank Sargent (College of Life Sciences) and Professor Frank Sullivan (School of Medicine) join the RSE’s 1500 strong Fellowship of experts in the Sciences, Arts, Humanities, the professions, industry and commerce.

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

University Principal, Professor Pete Downes, congratulated the new Fellows.

“It is a pleasure to see three more of our distinguished staff being recognised as new Fellows of Scotland’s national academy of science and letters. It is a credit to their individual professional achievements and a source of pride for the whole University.”

Professor Belch was appointed Professor of Vascular Medicine at the University in 1995. She is currently Head of the Institute of Cardiovascular Research, based at the Medical School at Ninewells Hospital.

Frank Sargent is Professor of Bacterial Physiology in the College of Life Sciences, where he carries out prize-winning research in the fields of microbiology and biotechnology. His research focuses on how bacteria can live and grow in the absence of air.

Professor Frank Sullivan is Director of the Scottish School of Primary Care, based at Ninewells Hospital, and is also a working GP.

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

The RSE was founded in 1783 by Royal Charter and is Scotland’s National Academy of Science and Letters. Former and current Fellows of the RSE include Sir Walter Scott, Sir Charles Darwin, John Logie Baird, William Wordsworth, James Clerk Maxwell, John Scott Russell, Francis Crick, Sir James Black, Sir Philip Cohen, Sir David Lane, Sir Paul Nurse, and Fred Sanger.

Professor wins top toxicology award



Professor Roland Wolf, Director of the Biomedical Research Institute, has been selected for a prestigious award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field of toxicology.

Professor Wolf has received the 2011 John Barnes Prize Lectureship, which is awarded biennially to a scientist who has made a major international contribution to the area of drug metabolism and drug and chemical safety.

As winner, he had the honour of delivering the Lecture at the British Toxicology Society Annual Congress in Durham last month. Awardees are encouraged to present a summary of their work and to submit a manuscript summarising the lecture for publication in a special edition of the journal *Toxicology*.

The award recognises Professor Wolf's seminal contribution to research into the genes which determine cellular and individual sensitivity to drugs and environmental agents.

"It is a great honour to receive this award," said Professor Wolf. "It is the result of the work of many researchers in my laboratory and in collaboration with scientists throughout the world.

"There are now great opportunities to improve the way we develop and use drugs. We hope that our work, as recognised by this award, has contributed to this important area of research."

John Barnes was a pioneering toxicologist who carried out groundbreaking work and enhanced the study of the discipline in the UK. The first prize lectureship in his honour was presented in 1979 and Professor Wolf is the 17th recipient of the award.

Dental researchers win top awards



Professor Nigel Pitts



Dr Nicola Innes

Two dental researchers at the University's College of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing have won prestigious awards at a major international conference.

Professor Nigel Pitts, Director of the Dental Health Services and Research Unit and Dr Nicola Innes, clinical lecturer in paediatric dentistry were recognised at the International Association for Dental Research Awards in California last month (March).

Professor Pitts won the IADR Distinguished Scientist Research in Dental Caries Award for his research into the detection, assessment and preventive treatment of caries and the implementation of findings on a truly international basis.

The award is designed to stimulate and recognise outstanding and innovative achievements which have contributed to the basic understanding of caries aetiology and/or to the prevention of dental caries. This success makes Professor Pitts one of the very few researchers in the world to hold two IADR Distinguished Scientist Awards, following an earlier prize in the field of dental epidemiology and public health.

Dr Innes won the IADR/Unilever Hatton Competition Senior Clinical Research Prize for her paper "Sealing Caries in Primary Molars: Hall Technique RCT 5-year Results." This was a clinical trial carried out by Dr Innes with Dr Dafydd Evans involving general dental practitioners in Tayside.

This important award follows on from her winning the British Society for Oral and Dental Research Senior Clinical Research Prize in Barcelona in 2010.

Professor Pitts said, "It is very gratifying to have this international recognition of the impact, over an extended period, of the caries research undertaken by the team in Dundee."

RIAS honour for Professor Horner

Professor Malcolm Horner, a former Deputy Principal of the University, has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland for services to the construction industry.

Professor Horner originally qualified in civil engineering and worked with Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd before, in 1977, joining the Department of Civil Engineering as a lecturer.

He went on to become Deputy Principal by 2002 and subsequently an emeritus Professor of Engineering Management.

Professor Horner's research interests include construction project management, data analysis, economic project modelling, whole life costing, sustainability assessment tools and urban regeneration. His work has brought in grants of over £5 million to the University and he has personally been responsible for over 100 publications.

Alongside numerous academic appointments, he has served as a Governor of Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, Director at Dundee Rep, and Chair of Scottish Enterprise Tayside.

He is a former Director of the Scottish Construction Centre, which has a base at the University and a recent past chair of the Management Board of the Institution of Civil Engineers Scotland and the ICE Scotland Regional Committee.

He is currently the Chairman of Whole Life Consultants Ltd (a University spin-out company), a Director of CXR Biosciences Ltd, a member of the RIAS President's Select Committee on Procurement and, with the support of the Incorporation and other partner organisations, is embarking upon the development of an alternative sustainability tool for Scotland.

The Fellowship is the highest accolade which Scotland's national architecture body bestows on non-architects and on architects outwith Scotland. It is awarded to figures in the arts, business and politics in Scotland who have made an outstanding contribution to Scottish life.

Dentists invited to join child tooth decay study



Researchers at the University's Dental School are leading a major trial aimed at assessing the benefits of three different methods of managing tooth decay in children.

The FICTION trial, a joint venture with the University of Leeds and including researchers at the Universities of Cardiff, Glasgow, London, Newcastle and Sheffield, will look at the sole use of preventative methods, the use of conventional fillings plus preventative methods and the use of biological treatment alongside preventative methods.

"Dental decay is one of the most common diseases of childhood, with a large health and economic impact," said Dr Nicola Innes, one of the lead researchers.

"Conventional clinical opinion is that baby teeth showing decay should be filled, yet the majority of cavities in young children are left unrestored. There is, as yet, no conclusive evidence for the most effective approach to managing decay in baby teeth. With this trial we are looking to provide that evidence."

Hundreds of dental practices across the UK are being invited to participate in the trial which has been commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment (NIHR HTA).

A pilot study has already been running in Tayside, Sheffield and Newcastle and is in the closing stages of recruitment of 200 child patients.

The main trial is expected to begin early in 2012 and will involve around 200 dentists across the UK. The study also aims to examine what the children, aged between 3 and 7, think of the different types of treatment.

For more information on the FICTION trial see: www.fictiontrial.info

Dundee to host first breast cancer tissue bank

The University has been named as one of the key locations of the world's first national breast cancer tissue bank.

Breast Cancer Campaign's multi-million pound initiative will see Dundee join forces with the University of Nottingham, the University of Leeds and the Barts Cancer Institute at the Queen Mary University of London to create a national resource.

The Tayside Tissue Banking facility will be headed by Philip Quinlan, Dr Lee Jordan and Dr Colin Purdie along with a dedicated team.

The coalition of centres will store breast tissue samples, donated by patients throughout the country. Currently there is no such large resource of breast tissues available to scientists and doctors anywhere in the world.

Historically, access to suitable materials for research has been completely dependent on a scientist's location and contacts, said Breast Cancer Campaign. The result is a major barrier to translating research into potential new treatments and, in the long term, saving lives.

From tissue samples, researchers will be able to glean vital, but anonymous, information about the patient, the characteristics of their cancer, family history, treatments, and over time, their effectiveness, and whether the disease progresses or recurs.

Professor Alastair Thompson, Chair of the Tissue Bank Management Board and Professor of Surgical Oncology within the School of Medicine said, "The importance of the Breast Cancer Campaign Tissue Bank to both scientists and people with breast cancer cannot be underestimated.

"We really appreciate the support of the women and men of Tayside and NE Fife who have long been supporters of tissue banking. This revolutionary, national approach to tissue banking will ensure that research is fast tracked from laboratory advances into clinical practice. In the coming years we will see the benefits for people with breast cancer, as research using tissues from the Bank will lead to better prevention, earlier diagnosis and improved treatments which have the potential to save the lives of many thousands of people."

Self-healing skin cancer cause discovered

Cancer Research UK Scientists based at the University have discovered the gene behind a rare skin cancer which grows rapidly for a few weeks before healing spontaneously.

The researchers, part of an international collaboration reaching from Singapore to California, examined the DNA of more than 60 people with multiple self-healing squamous epithelioma (MSSE) and 110 of their unaffected relatives. They discovered that the disease was caused by faults in a gene called TGFBR1.

The TGFBR1 gene makes a receptor protein through which healthy cells receive messages from their neighbours, instructing them to carry out jobs essential to growth and development.

But cells from a range of cancer types interpret the 'instructions' transmitted by TGFBR1 in two completely different ways, depending on the maturity of the tumour.

TGFBR1 initially acts as a 'brake' preventing the growth of early tumours of various types. But when cancers become more advanced and aggressive, their cells undergo a 'signalling switch'. Cancer cells interpret the same messages from TGFBR1 differently. In more advanced cancers, TGFBR1 promotes tumour growth and spread instead.

The reverse happens in the self-healing tumours which have an inherited fault in the TGFBR1 gene. Patients with faulty TGFBR1 develop lots of small tumours - but at some point there is a 'switch' in behaviour and the tumours lacking TGFBR1 heal themselves. Scientists do not yet understand how this happens.

Dr David Goudie, Cancer Research UK scientist in the College of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing said, "The unusual behaviour of this tumour has baffled scientists for about 40 years so we're excited to have discovered the genetic faults that cause the disease.

"The gene we've identified controls part of a cell signalling pathway which is faulty in many cancers. We hope that by shedding light on how one rare cancer manages to heal itself we'll understand more about what goes wrong in other types of tumours.

"There's also a lot of interest in drugs that target these signals. Understanding how tumours that lack TGFBR1 behave will help us to predict the clinical effects of these drugs."

The research has been published in Nature Genetics.

Tackling tuberculosis with new antibody treatments

Researchers at the School of Medicine have helped identify potential new ways to treat tuberculosis (TB) which claims around two million lives globally each year.

Working with colleagues at King's College London and St Georges, University of London the researchers developed an antibody which was found to protect against TB infection.

Dr Jenny Woof, Reader in Immunology at the School of Medicine, explained that there was a need to develop new treatments and vaccines for TB.

"The number of cases of TB remains very high, and so this is clearly a major problem," she said. "Across the world, there are millions of people falling victim to infectious diseases such as TB, so the implications of this research could be considerable."

The study, which was published in the Journal of Immunology, produced a type IgA human monoclonal antibody which can specifically recognise Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

IgA antibodies are proteins normally used by the immune system to identify and neutralise bacteria and viruses within the lungs and intestinal tract.

Although antibodies have been used against some types of cancer and inflammatory conditions, this is the first time their potential applicability to TB has been demonstrated.

When combined with interferon, which modulates the immune system, the antibody offers protection against TB infection in experimental models.

The study, funded in part by the Wellcome Trust and the Dunhill Medical Trust, was the result of a productive collaboration with each team bringing a different sphere of expertise. Professor Juraj Ivanyi at King's is an international expert in tuberculosis research, while Dr Woof's team in Dundee brought experience in human IgA antibodies. Dr Rajko Reljic at St George's has expertise and special facilities for experimental models of TB infection.

New gene identified as a cause of male infertility

A gene responsible for one of the causes of male infertility has been identified by an international research collaboration including researchers at the School of Medicine.

The gene discovery relates to a condition known as round headed sperm, or globozoospermia, which affects a small percentage of men suffering from infertility problems.

Until now the main cause of the condition was unknown but new research involving the University of Strasbourg, Farah Hospital Amman in Jordan, and the School of Medicine in Dundee has established that a genetic defect has a sterilising effect on the men's sperm.

"What we have established is a clear cause for this form of male infertility," said Professor Christopher Barratt, of the University's Reproductive and Developmental Biology Group.

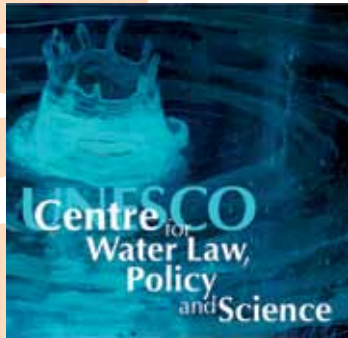
"It is not a particularly common condition - around one in 12 men suffer from infertility problems and round headed sperm accounts for only a small percentage of that number. But it is important that we find causes and treatments for all forms of male infertility.

"With this condition, now that we have identified the genetic defect and shown that it is the common cause of round headed sperm, we are able to offer successful treatments and there have been positive results in using assisted conception for families."

The research was sparked by the identification of a family of five brothers in Jordan who all had globozoospermia and four of whom had the genetic defect. Additionally, other men with the disorder from France and North Africa have been shown to have the defective gene.

The study is published in the American Journal of Human Genetics. It can be viewed at: www.sciencedirect.com

International water law scholarships launched



The UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science has joined with the Global Water Partnership in offering 30 International Water Law Scholarships for each of the next 5 years. The Scholarships, which are available to applicants from any of the 2300 partner organisations which comprise the Global Water Partnership, will allow participants to undertake a module in International Water Law, one of the core components of the UNESCO Centre's Water Law Water Leaders Programme.

The module is aimed at professionals working in water resources, who wish to acquire specialist knowledge of international water law, especially as it relates to transboundary water challenges in the GWP regions, and it is hoped that the initiative will enhance the capacity of 150 water experts in the field of international water law over the next 5 years.

Launching the Scholarship programme at a joint workshop organised by the Global Water Partnership and the International Water Management Institute in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the Chair of GWP's Technical Committee, Mr Mohamed Ait Kadi, commented,

"The GWP Dundee International Water Law scholarship programme is very exciting and an important opportunity for our GWP network to experience the Knowledge Chain first hand through enhanced capacity in international water law, which will help them with the challenges they face on the ground in the management of their transboundary waters."

Ian Ball, Dean of the Graduate School of Natural Resources Law, Policy and Management said, "I am delighted that the Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science has joined up with the Global Water Partnership to offer this capacity-building support to a world-wide network of countries to implement the equitable and sustainable management of their water resources. This initiative is central to both organisations' missions."

The Director of the Centre, Professor Patricia Wouters added, "This is a fantastic opportunity for Dundee and for our Global Water Partnership local water leaders right around the world. We are delighted to be able to host such an important international delegation of water resource experts in Dundee and look forward to building this special network of colleagues."

"I thank the GWP for their vision in undertaking this initiative – the management of the world's transboundary waters is one of the biggest challenges facing us all today".

Diabetes UK leaders visit Dundee



Senior figures from the UK's leading diabetes charity visited the School of Medicine and the College of Life Sciences to see first-hand the range of cutting-edge research and clinical care being carried out in Tayside.

The Diabetes UK delegation visiting the University included Barbara Young, Chief Executive, Professor Sir George Alberti, Chairman of Trustees, and Dr Iain Frame, Director of Research.

The University is internationally recognised as a major centre of research into diabetes and hosts over 25 research teams investigating the condition. A close partnership with NHS Tayside has helped develop first-class projects such as the Clinical Network for Diabetes.

Much of the work carried out at Dundee is funded by Diabetes UK.

"We are delighted to welcome Diabetes UK to Dundee and show them the wide range of excellent research and clinical care that we have here in Tayside," said Professor Andrew Morris, Director of the Biomedical Research Institute and one of Scotland's leading clinicians in diabetes.

Barbara Young, Chief Executive at Diabetes UK, said, "We invest heavily in Dundee and consider it a centre of excellence for diabetes research. Diabetes UK committed over £930,000 in research funding at the University in 2010 alone, bringing our total investment to over £1.9 million in the last few years."



New Scottish school curriculum sparks controversy

The title of a recent talk by Professor Yolande Muschamp, Dean of the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education, gives an indication of the level of controversy surrounding the new Curriculum for Excellence which is being phased in to Scottish schools.

"Curriculum for Excellence: A Freedom to Teach or a Scotch Mist," given at a Café Science session earlier this year, neatly demonstrated the diversity of opinion on the new curriculum which has been four years in the making.

"It has been described as a Scotch mist, not by me, but reported by the BBC," explained Professor Muschamp. "Another critic described it as "neo-hippy guff" so it is fair to say it has caused quite a bit of controversy."

For the former primary school teacher whose expert knowledge of curricular development has led to roles reviewing and evaluating primary education for government departments, the controversy is nothing new.

"In the Café Science talk I told the story of the sabre tooth tiger curriculum which was an ironic essay. It tells how a school was set up to teach children how to fight sabre tooth tigers. It was so successful that soon there were no sabre toothed tigers left so there was a suggestion to change what was being taught.

"The modernisers wanted to change to something new but the traditionalists argued the lessons should remain as they were part of their heritage.

"The story is a way of highlighting the problem of curriculum design and the issues surrounding it without alienating and antagonising people."

While acknowledging that education has to evolve Professor Muschamp understands the reasons for the strong feelings provoked by the introduction of the new curriculum.

"It has had a very mixed response from teachers with some being very angry about it and others thinking that it isn't very different from what they are already doing," she said.

"The biggest change in the Curriculum for Excellence is the move away from subjects towards interdisciplinary teaching. It replaces subjects with experiences and outcomes and there are now eight curriculum areas.

"It gives greater autonomy and responsibility to teachers. Some will welcome this as more freedom to teach. However there is very little guidance on curriculum design. The content is left up to the teachers to decide upon and that for some may be fairly overwhelming.

"I think the biggest impact for teachers will be in planning and in agreeing levels of achievement."

Professor Muschamp, who acted as a consultant on the Cambridge Review of Primary Education and worked with the Curriculum and Assessment Authority in England, added that Scotland is not unique in its response to curricular change.

A symposium she organised last year at the European Conference for Educational Research in Helsinki found that research projects into curriculum reform in Italy and Denmark as well as Scotland had all revealed the changing demands on teachers as a result of taking on greater responsibility for curriculum design.

Her next research project will be to look at the role of parents within the new curriculum. Together with Theresa Moran, Associate Dean, Initial Teacher Education, Professor Muschamp is analysing the extent to which this curriculum and the guidance to schools present a coherent view of the role of parents in their children's education. The study will help them to follow up the concerns raised by some of the parents who attended the Café Science talk.

"It is vital that parents are on board if the new curriculum is to be successful and that what I am looking at next," she said.

New book highlights folly of fighting nature

The devastation caused by the Japanese earthquake and tsunami in March has focussed world attention on the vulnerability of coastal locations with thousands of lives lost and whole towns destroyed.

But it is not just massive environmental events that pose a threat to coastal communities. In Britain day to day erosion and the effects of climate change are endangering some areas and raising questions about the effectiveness of sea defences.

Professor Rob Duck, Dean of the School of the Environment, believes it is time for a rethink on how Britain's coastline is managed. In a new book due to be published on 7 May he argues that adapting to climate change is a far more effective long term option than continuing to fight the forces of nature.

Using historical records of coastal erosion and floods, *This Shrinking Land: Climate Change and Britain's Coast* looks at what the future holds for the British coast.

"The British coast is very varied," said Professor Duck, a geologist with particular expertise in coastal and estuarine processes. "It ranges from hard durable rock to much softer unstable materials so there are areas of vulnerability and other areas where there isn't a serious problem."

"Coastal erosion is a natural process. It is nothing new. And the climate is changing. That is a fact. Whether that is due to human induced factors or not is almost immaterial. It is changing and we have to deal with it. We have to learn to adapt to climate change rather than continue with a 'defend at all costs' attitude.

"We've always had the view that the sea is the enemy and so we build higher and bigger and stronger defences but that only transfers the problem somewhere else.

"There is a chapter in the book entitled 'Was King Canute right? Can we hold back the sea?' because the story of King Canute is often misunderstood. He knew he couldn't hold back the sea and the reason he tried was to show his courtiers that even he was not as powerful as they believed."

Professor Duck, who will be giving a Saturday Evening lecture on the topic on the same day as his book is published, said the tragic events in Japan have highlighted the devastating power of nature.

"Japan is one of the most economically advanced nations in the world with sophisticated sea defences and yet the devastation the tsunami has caused is incredible. I would imagine that when reconstruction gets underway there will be a major shift away from the coastal areas."

A similar move albeit on a much smaller scale should also be considered for some parts of Britain, he believes.

"There is a village in Norfolk called Happisburgh where houses are at risk of falling into the sea. There is the potential for people living there to lose everything. We have to think about relocating people to safer places inland. This is nothing new either. It has had to be done in Britain in the past."

He acknowledges, however, that relocation is a highly emotive and indeed controversial proposal but argues that it will become an economic and life-saving necessity.

"It is very contentious because we are talking about people's homes, lives, memories and emotions and the coast is very seductive. But it is a harsh reality and yes there will be winners and losers.

"We are living in straightened economic times with diminishing resources and it is very important how we decide to allocate funds. We will have to prioritise and it is just not economically sensible to defend everywhere."

Professor Duck added that while Britain is geologically less risky than places like Japan, natural disasters have happened in the past and can't be ruled out in the future.

"Britain has been hit by storm surges and tsunamis in the past. In Eastern England there was a major storm surge in 1953 and tsunamis have devastated Shetland, Orkney and eastern parts of the mainland thousands of years ago. There is no reason to think they will not happen again. In fact there have been predictions of a tsunami hitting south-western England if the western flank of a large volcano in La Palma in the Canaries was to break off. Some believe that the enormous surge that overwhelmed the lowlands around the Bristol Channel in 1607 was due to a tsunami triggered by an underwater earthquake.



"It is difficult to predict when events like that might happen but we have a good idea, from historical records and geological information, of where the most vulnerable places are. We just have to learn to adapt to our changing environment rather than to carry on fighting it."

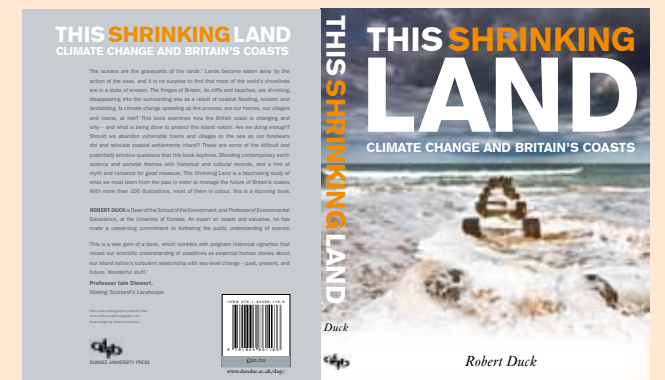
Professor Duck's lecture will take place in the Dalhousie Building on Saturday 7 May at 6pm. The event is free but tickets should be booked in advance via the Events Office on 01382 384413 or from the University's Online Store.

Copies of his book *This Shrinking Land: Climate Change and Britain's Coasts* will be available at the talk and from all leading book retailers.

Book wins vote of approval from TV star

This Shrinking Land: Climate Change and Britain's Coasts has been described as a "wee gem of a book" by Iain Stewart, presenter of BBC One's popular TV series *Making Scotland's Landscapes* and Professor of Geosciences Communication at the University of Plymouth.

"It twinkles with poignant historical vignettes that recast our scientific understanding of coastlines as essential human stories about our island nation's turbulent relationship with sea-level change – past, present and future," he said. "It is wonderful stuff."



CAHID research sparks novel idea



A technique developed by the University's Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification to help police identify paedophiles could soon be highlighted on the pages of a crime novel.

Best selling author Val McDermid was so impressed by the centre's research on hand analysis that she is considering working it into her next book.

The popular writer revealed her interest in the crime-breaking method on a recent edition of More Four's TV Book Club Programme where she interviewed CAHID Director Professor Sue Black.

Professor Black discussed recent successes where hand anatomy has played an important part in convicting paedophiles.

"We have been very successful in identifying perpetrators of child abuse from hand anatomy," she said. "We have already had a number of convictions and helped bring convictions against the biggest paedophile ring in Scotland."

The interview also revealed the role Professor Black and her team have played in previous novels as Val McDermid recalled seeking advice for her book *Wire in the Blood* where a character's arm was crushed in a vice and also in *The Grave Tattoo* where she wanted to find out what a body buried in a peat bog for 200 years would look like.

Dundee professor leads South Georgia project



The world's largest rat eradication programme, led by a professor at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, is underway on the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia.

Professor Tony Martin, an eminent biologist based on the remote island 8000 miles away from his colleagues at the art

college, is project director for the South Georgia Heritage Trust.

He is leading the Trust's Habitat Restoration Project which aims to eradicate non-native rats and mice from South Georgia to help protect seabirds on the island.

The island in the southern Atlantic Ocean is a haven for a vast number of seabirds and marine mammals. Millions of birds, representing 31 different species, including the endangered black-browed albatross, vulnerable grey-headed albatross and vulnerable white-chinned petrel, breed on the island.

However, invasive brown rats and mice, inadvertently brought to the island by sealers and whalers from the late 1700's onwards, have had a devastating effect on the island's native ecosystem. In particular, huge numbers of ground-nesting birds, including endemic species such as the South Georgia Pipit and South Georgia Pintail, are eaten alive by rats each year.

Professor Martin, one of the world's foremost experts in the field of marine mammals, described the project as a "globally important operation."

"We have a unique opportunity to roll back two centuries of human-induced damage to this stunning island and its wildlife. The scale of the challenge is daunting, but the conservation rewards cannot be over-stated; literally millions of seabirds will reclaim South Georgia from the rats."

The Habitat Restoration Project is being led, organised and financed by the South Georgia Heritage Trust which is based in Dundee and has been supported by the University, the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) and the British Antarctic Survey.

Professor Martin joined the staff of DJCAD last year and is seconded to the South Georgia Heritage Trust.

£216,000 grant to take REWIND forward

A Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design project that started in 2004 investigating the history of video art in the UK, has now received further funding from the AHRC to expand its studies to Italy.

REWIND seeks to address the gap in historical knowledge of video art. It investigates the first two decades of artists' works, documenting the evolution of media art and preserving important video artefacts and provides resources for international scholarship and duration.

The new £216,000 grant from the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC), will enable the team to embark upon REWINDItalia. This 28-month project will explore the important history and narratives of video art activity in Italy between 1968 and 1994.

Steve Partridge, Professor of Media Art, Dean of Research at DJCAD and Principal Investigator on the project paid tribute to the contribution made by the pioneers of video in Italy.

"Thanks to them I have realised how their visionary efforts made Italy such an important centre for videoart in the early years," he said. "These far-sighted and amazing people were responsible for the early success of video work. They have all supported our proposal to re-discover this overlooked activity."

Professor Partridge is supported on the project by the Co-investigator Anna Notaro, also of DJCAD, and Adam Lockhart, the DJCAD Archivist.

For more information visit the REWIND website at www.rewind.ac.uk



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Capturing the spirit of Atom Town

An artist and lecturer at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design has been granted unprecedented access to the Dounreay Experimental Reactor site near Thurso as part of a major film project.

Gair Dunlop has been filming and photographing inside the nuclear reactor site, which was first established in 1955 and operated until the final reactor shut down in 1994. He has also filmed former and existing staff and researched archive footage of the plant as part of the Atom Town project funded by a £20,000 Creative Scotland Artists Film and Video Award.

He's now working on the final touches of a multiscreen installation piece linking the site's past and present and exploring the UK's relationship with nuclear power. It has been made all the more poignant following the tragic consequences of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami.

Damage to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant caused by the tsunami and fears over radiation levels have once again highlighted the debate over the safety of nuclear power.

"The unfolding Japanese nuclear accident at Fukushima has focussed world attention on the potential for radiological disaster and contamination," said Gair.

"Caithness is obviously geologically calmer and the reactors there are entering their decommissioning twilight but Dounreay was also controversial. It was a mainstay of the local economy and still is but it was also a symbol of the UK's nuclear power policy.

"Dounreay embodies many of the contradictions and lost possibilities of the Atomic Age," explained Gair. "It was part of the British technocratic ideal and the sheer scale of it is amazing. A lab would open and then shut and then another one would be built. It just kept on growing.

"Dounreay was a national prestige project and the quality of the early archive film of the establishment is fantastic. It is really high quality and beautifully shot. It is of a very high standard."

Gair has used the archive footage and worked it into his own installation alongside present day images. The iconic dome which became a symbol for nuclear power is shown as it was in the 1950s when it was first built and as it is now, still intact but in the process of decommissioning.

Archive footage of interviews with staff and Thurso residents during the site's early days is shown alongside film of them today looking back at their working lives while other sequences from the installation show control panels, a view of the Prototype Fast Reactor head area and the strangeness of everyday objects inside the highly radioactive environment of process bays known as "hotboxes."

The overall result is a fascinating and at times haunting documentary of one of the UK's most ambitious but also controversial projects. The use of nuclear power has, Gair acknowledges, always been contentious.

For the artist however there is no attempt at proselytising.

"This isn't a propaganda piece," he said. "I want people to see this and draw their own conclusions about the place. I hope they will experience the sense of how spectacular and strange it is as well as seeing beyond that. People make technologies, and then those technologies shape us and our sense of the future.

"How can a look at this cycle of meaning help us think about the next one?"

"Dounreay was an important and central part of many people's lives and it still is. There are still about 2000 people working there. I was lucky to be able to speak to some of them.

"I negotiated access to current and former members of staff at all levels including senior scientists, to the site itself and to the nuclear visual archive at Harwell. The level of access I was given was unprecedented. I think they wanted to see what an outsider would make of it."

For Gair the project is the latest in a series of studies exploring entropic modernism, art and the environment. An earlier collaboration with other artists involved looking at the slow closure of RAF Coltishall, an iconic airfield and strategic World War Two and Cold War interceptor station while a project with artist Dan Norton focused on Cumbernauld and the vision and reality of the New Town experiment. Another collaboration with Dan, "The Tomorrows Project" was nominated for a BAFTA award in 2005.

"I'm interested in how ideas take form in the real world, and so archive material, film footage and what is out there in the environment are my materials just as paint and stone are to other artists," he explained.

The launch of Atom Town will take place on 28 May in the InSpace Gallery at the University of Edinburgh. There will also be a launch of the film at Caithness Horizons in Thurso on Friday 3rd June.

Further info: <http://entropicmodern.blogspot.com/>



“Dounreay was part of the British technocratic ideal and the sheer scale of it is amazing”





META team hope for success at award ceremony

A film by a Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design student has been nominated for one of the premier awards for emerging filmmaking talent in Scotland.

Matt Cameron (26), who is currently studying for an MSc in Animation & Visualisation at DJCAD, has been nominated in the Technical Achievement category of the BAFTA Scotland New Talent Awards 2011 for his film 'META'.

Matt completed his undergraduate Time Based Art & Digital Film degree in 2010. META formed the centrepiece of Matt's Degree Show work and was one of the most talked-about student films of last year's exhibition. The film is a gritty science fiction tragedy filmed in locations around Dundee. It explores addiction through the prism of sci-fi, using genre conventions to tackle grim social issues in a fresh way.

The 17-minute short was produced by fellow DJCAD graduate John Fairfield, who has been nominated in the Producer: Short Form category.

Matt built up a team of talented classmates to produce a series of films, including META, which used visual effects to reinforce their story. As well as directing the film, Matt was heavily involved in the whole process from the story development to the post-production.

"I'm really chuffed with the recognition the film has received," he said. "The whole film was shot in Dundee, mainly by students and graduates of Duncan of Jordanstone.

"I was lucky to have so many talented colleagues who could help out and add their expertise and I would like to thank everyone who contributed."

Producer John Fairfield (32) also paid tribute to the team effort involved in making the film.

"To be nominated is an amazing piece of recognition," he said. "The cast and crew worked long and hard to complete the film, and this is a testament to the support we had from them."

More information is available at www.bafta.org/scotland/news/new-talent-awards-2011,1679,BA.html.

DJCAD student features in international anthology

Paintings by a third year Fine Art student at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design are to feature in a major new anthology exploring the male figure in art.

Tim Sandys' work will be on show in the new book *100 Artists of the Male Figure: A Contemporary Anthology of Painting, Drawing and Sculpture* by US based artist, author and gallery owner Eric Gibbons.

The author contacted Tim several months ago to ask if he could use the paintings in the new volume which showcases depictions of the male figure in a variety of styles by artists from around the world.

"It's fair to say I was surprised to hear from him," said Tim. "He got in touch after seeing my website. He as good as plucked me from the ether and asked if my work could be included in this compilation. It seems odd to be included in any book at this stage in my career but I'm not complaining.

"Eric Gibbons has written a series of these books, and was looking for representations of the male figure in contemporary art.

"Traditional images, particularly the nude, tend to favour the female form so I suspect this book is intended as a modern take for those out there who include the male form in their work. I find myself working across platforms but it was specifically my paintings he was interested in.

"The paintings were completed in 2006, before I came to college and before I had the advantage of the structure and facilities of art school.

"As I was working by myself at the time, it's my body that features in these works. They are not self-portraits, as such, but rather I was using my body as a starting point to depict a human form. I had no model to work from other than myself."

100 Artists of the Male Figure is published by Sciffer Publishing.

Further details can be found at www.100artistsbook.com/Home_Page.php.

More information about Tim's work can be found at www.timsandys.com

court news

The February Court meeting focused on discussion of the Strategic Review as well as on the proposed capital plan.

A 'Scottish' Solution

The Court was brought up to date on funding issues affecting the higher education sector as a whole, and in particular on the Scottish Education Secretary's Green Paper 'Building a Smarter Future', which invited comments on a range of high level funding options. The Court learnt that a shortlife technical working group had been convened to consider the proposed options as well as to assess the size and shape of any funding gap likely to emerge between England and Scotland. This group finally reported at the beginning of March 2011, suggesting that the gap might be as big as £200m.

Strategic Review

With the deadline for applications to the Voluntary Severance Scheme about to end by the time of February's meeting, the Court considered a paper from the Senior Management Team (SMT), which set out the progress being made in implementing the review. It was decided not to extend the scheme, except on a targeted basis in specific areas where it was identified that additional savings were required. The Court noted the SMT's view that before any meaningful discussions about the future shape and composition of the University could be had in a wider forum, the University needed to do all that it could to ensure the Strategic Review savings targets were achieved. Only by doing so would the University be on track to a firm financial footing. At that point the University could engage in a wider discussion about its future strategy without being distracted by financial concerns.

Capital Plan

The Court considered and approved a revised capital plan. At its December meeting, Court had approved recourse to borrowing to support the plan and had also asked the SMT to revise the plan taking into account this extra resource. The Court engaged in robust debate about the proposals contained in it. The Court acknowledged that the plan represented a compromise. All projects contained in the plan had had to accommodate change, but the Court was concerned in particular that Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design appeared to have suffered more than others. Court therefore encouraged the SMT to make DJCAD the University's priority for future investment from 2013 onwards and for additional support in the meantime if further funding became available.

Other Financial Issues

The Court approved the terms of a new credit facility, which would allow the University to invest £10m into the capital plan over the period to 2012/13. Court also endorsed procedures for formally approving bids to external funding bodies where a commitment to University funding was included. Court also noted that a consultation exercise was about to begin with members of the University of Dundee Superannuation Scheme on proposed changes to the scheme.

Statutes & Ordinances

The Court approved the repeal of Statute 17. This Statute provided for the regulation of a standard retirement date, but in view of changes to legislation, this would become obsolete from October 2011. There was also some preliminary discussion on the proposed changes to Statute 16 (Academic Staff), which would come to Court formally at meetings in April and June 2011. Statute 16 was widely recognised to be non-compliant with current employment legislation, and the proposals would see the introduction of an enabling Statute which would continue to protect academic freedom and which would set the guiding principles by which all human resources procedures would be determined.

The Court also approved minor changes to Ordinance 40 (Student Discipline). Invoking the urgency proviso in the Charter, the Court exceptionally approved these changes in one sitting. Details are available from: www.somis.dundee.ac.uk/court/notice/

Other Issues

The SMT announced that it had decided to recognise the public holiday in honour of the wedding of HRH The Prince William to Miss Catherine Middleton.

Autumn Contact

The next edition of Contact will be published in the Autumn. The University's annual magazine The Bridge will be published in June. The copy deadline for The Bridge is Tuesday 3 May. Submissions should be sent to h.mcnally@dundee.ac.uk by that date.

The copy deadline for the Autumn edition of Contact is Monday 23 August.

appointments



Professor Fabio Sani Personal Chair of Social Psychology

Fabio Sani has been appointed to a personal Chair in Social Psychology. Professor Sani has been a member of staff at the University since 1996.

He gained his PhD from the University of Exeter in 1995 and spent a year carrying out research at the University of Surrey before moving to Dundee.

Over the last decade he has held visiting positions at the Australian National University in Canberra, at the University of Bari in Italy and at the University of Pittsburgh in the USA.

Professor Sani's research is broadly concerned with the social psychological dimensions of group life. At present he is investigating the impact of group identification on well-being and health.



Professor Timothy Newman Chair of Biophysics

Timothy Newman has been appointed to the Chair of Biophysics within the College of Life Sciences. He is also SULSA Research Professor of Research Biology.

Professor Newman graduated from the University of Oxford with a degree in physics in 1988 and completed a PhD in Theoretical Physics at the University of Manchester in 1991.

His doctoral and post-doctoral training focused on the quantitative understanding of non-equilibrium processes in physical systems (such as fluids, magnets, and superconductors).

In 2000, while at the University of Virginia, Professor Newman began studying biological systems, focusing initially on population dynamics. He joined the physics faculty of Arizona State University in 2002, and around that time his interests shifted more to multicellular, cellular, and intracellular dynamics.

In 2008 Prof Newman became Director of the Arizona State University Center for Biological Physics.

When he moved to Dundee this year he took over as new Editor-in-Chief of the UK biophysics journal, Physical Biology.

The main emphasis of his work is understanding and quantifying the effect of fluctuations due to the discreteness of components in complex biological systems. He is currently working on three main problems: multicellular dynamics in embryo development, rare event statistics of metastasis formation, and spatio-temporal fluctuations in intracellular transport.



Martyn Jones Professor of Health Care Research

Martyn Jones has been appointed as Professor of Healthcare Research. Professor Jones first came to the School of Nursing and Midwifery in 1990 and since then has developed his research profile and leadership in the School, the Alliance for Self Care Research and

as Associate Director of Social Dimensions of Health Institute.

Professor Jones's research examines how changes in healthcare organisation and work environment affect healthcare staff well-being and the care they provide. He has an international reputation in the area of workforce research, examining the effects of healthcare organisation on care provision in a range of settings, e.g. NHS across England, in NHS 24 across Scotland and in senior charge nurses in NHS Tayside.

This applied research makes use of recent technological innovations to gather real-time accounts of day-to-day healthcare organisation issues that affect staff and patients in a range of care settings.

"This appointment provides an opportunity to lead and further develop a research programme that will influence healthcare practice in Scotland and further afield," he said.



Professor Robin Roslender Chair in Accounting & Finance

Robin Roslender has joined the University to take up the Chair in Accounting & Finance.

With qualifications in both sociology and accounting, Professor Roslender is a specialist in interdisciplinary accounting research. He was appointed

Professor in Accountancy at the University of Heriot-Watt in 2005 and prior to that worked as a Senior Lecturer in Accounting at the University of Stirling.

His current interests are principally in the intellectual capital field, although he is also writing a paper on the fate of interpretive sociology in accounting research.

Professor Roslender is planning to research the development of human capital reporting, including on health and wellbeing, and is currently acting as a senior academic adviser for a feasibility study commissioned by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills.



Letters of A Victorian Pioneer



Archive Services will soon have completed cataloguing thousands of letters relating to one of Dundee's most prominent Victorian figures.

Peter Carmichael (1809-1891) was one of the major figures of the textile industry in Dundee during its nineteenth century zenith. Educated at Dundee Grammar School he was apprenticed at Monifieth Foundry and worked as an engineer in London and Leeds until 1833. He then returned to Dundee and became

mill manager for Baxter Brothers, becoming a partner in that firm in 1852, and senior partner twenty years later. During this time Baxter Brothers was one of the most successful linen manufacturers in the world, in no small part thanks to the engineering and management skills of Carmichael. Away from work he was an active citizen who took an interest in a wide range of matters affecting Dundee and was a generous benefactor.

Carmichael's correspondence features comments on events as diverse as the American Civil War and the founding of the Albert Institute (now the McManus), the design of which Carmichael disliked.

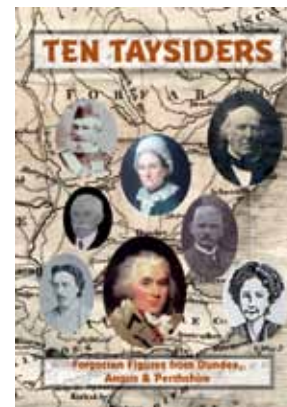


Among those writing to Carmichael were such local luminaries as the publisher John Leng, Sir John Ogilvy MP and the mill owner and philanthropist Sir David Baxter.

Other correspondence includes discussions of engineering matters with prominent thinkers such as W. J. Macquorn Rankine, one of the fathers of the science of thermodynamics, and the great naval engineer James R. Napier. There are also letters from workers whom Carmichael had helped and charitable and religious causes seeking his support.

Of note are letters from Carmichael's family, including regular correspondence from his brother James who was in the textile industry in France. In one letter James Carmichael gives a first hand account of the French Revolution of 1848. In 1865 Carmichael sent his son Drummond, whose health was poor, to stay with James to allow the famous French surgeon Auguste Nélaton to examine him. Writing to his father, Drummond Carmichael gives an interesting account of a visit to Paris and his meeting with the man he described as 'the first surgeon in the world at present'. Other fascinating letters come from a nephew describing his life in Calcutta.

Carmichael's papers have been held by Archives Services for many years. The collection, which has been much used by historians, includes a wealth of resources that shed light on nineteenth century Dundee. Particular highlights include Carmichael's memoirs and an invaluable collection of photographs of the city taken before and after the rebuilding of central Dundee in the 1880s. Carmichael's letters were subsequently deposited by his family in the University Archives and now the cataloguing is nearing completion, they will be a valuable addition to this fascinating resource.



Ten Taysiders: Forgotten Figures from Dundee, Angus and Perthshire

The Abertay Historical Society

This collection of biographical essays tells the extraordinary stories of ten local men and women whose lives and achievements deserve to be better remembered. Of particular interest to the University community will be the chapter on Mary Ann Baxter, the founder

of University College, Dundee, one of two chapters written by Dr Kenneth Baxter (Archive Services).

Other subjects include the trade unionist James Thompson Bain by Dr Billy Kenefick (School of Humanities) and the medical pioneer William Sharpey by Dr Graham Lowe, Prof John McEwen and the late David Shepherd from the School of Medicine.

The book's principal editor is Matthew Jarron (Museum Services) who is the secretary of the Society. The Abertay Historical Society was founded in 1947 and has a long association with the University.



Oil and Gas Law: Current Practice and Emerging Trends

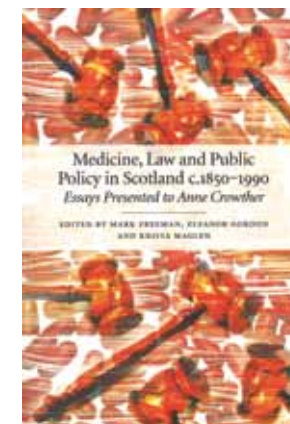
Greg Gordon & John Paterson
DUP

The first edition of this highly successful book brought together academic and practising lawyers to consider the key regulatory and contractual dimensions of the mature hydrocarbon province.

Now in its second edition the text has been fully updated and there

are new chapters on Energy Security, Law and Technology in the Oil Field and Acquisitions and Disposals.

Greg Gordon is a lecturer in Law and John Paterson is a reader in Law at the University of Aberdeen.



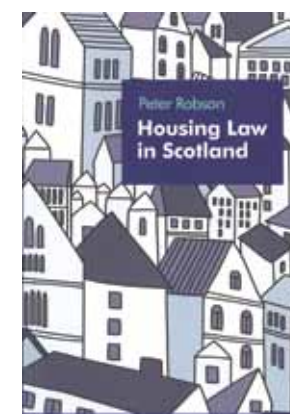
Medicine, Law and Public Policy in Scotland c.1850-1990

Edited by Mark Freeman, Eleanor Gordon and Krista Maglen
DUP

This book marks the contribution of Professor Anne Crowther to scholarship in British history. Focusing on Scotland, it draws together the three main strands of Professor Crowther's academic research - welfare, medicine and legal history - and reflects the

range of her historical scholarship. Based on original research, the essays in this book examine important developments in key Scottish institutions, question enduring myths about the nature of Scottish legal and medical practice and explore the intersections between medicine, the law and public policy.

Mark Freeman is senior lecturer in Economic and Social History at the University of Glasgow. Eleanor Gordon is Professor of Gender and Social History at the University of Glasgow. Kirsta Maglen is an Assistant Professor at Indiana University. All three authors completed their PhDs under the supervision of Professor Anne Crowther.



Housing Law in Scotland

Peter Robson
DUP

Housing Law in Scotland provides a comprehensive and critical account of housing rights. Scots law on housing has altered in many ways during the 20th and 21st centuries.

The rights of individuals to buy and rent housing have changed radically. In addition to the constraints of the Rent Acts and the Housing Acts, there is now

legislation to protect citizens from some forms of discrimination and abuse of recognised human rights.

This book explains the extent and nature of these changes and sets out current law relating to housing in Scotland.

Peter Robson is Professor of Social Welfare Law at the University of Strathclyde.

Poetry Beyond Text work on show

A major symposium and exhibition to mark the conclusion of a research project linking poetry, psychology and fine art was hosted by the University last month.

Poetry Beyond Text: Vision, Text and Cognition led by Professor Andrew Michael Roberts of the School of Humanities and funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, began in 2009.

The project resulted in a variety of visual-poetic art works, including concrete poetry, sculptural poetic artefacts, artists' books, poetic prints, poem-photography, text film and digital poetry which were included in the exhibition at the University's Visual Research Centre at Dundee Contemporary Arts.

To coincide with the opening of the exhibition a symposium was held featuring international scholars and a range of papers and talks on interdisciplinary research, poetics and science.

The 'Poetry Beyond Text' project forms part of the wider AHRC programme, 'Beyond Text: Performances, Sounds, Images, Objects' (2007-12), which involves over 40 individual projects and aims to 'create a collaborative, multi-disciplinary research community'.

The exhibition will move to Edinburgh later in the year, being hosted by The Scottish Poetry Library in Summer and the Royal Scottish Academy in Winter.

Science Learning Institute launched

The University's partnership with Dundee Science Centre and Dundee College to promote science education was celebrated last month (March) with the official opening of the Science Learning Institute.

Launching the initiative at Dundee Science Centre, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning Mike Russell described it as an "excellent example of Scotland's science centres moving beyond their traditional visitor focus to promote science learning."

The SLI aims to support the new Curriculum for Excellence through teacher professional development, promote public engagement with science through science communication training for research scientists and support core skills training in further education. It has already provided training programmes for 300 teachers, scientists and museum educators throughout Scotland.

For further information on the Science Learning Institute, visit www.dscsciencelearninginstitute.org.uk

KTP win for Economic Studies



Above picture Left to right: Mr. Alistair Lauchlan (Managing Director, John M Henderson & Co Limited), Ms Oana Olaru, Angela Constance MSP (Scottish Government Minister for Skills and Lifelong Learning), Dr Sushil Mohan (Economic Studies).

Oana Olaru, Associate for the Knowledge Transfer Partnership between Economic Studies at the University and John M Henderson & Co Limited, won the "Best KTP Associate Presentation 2010" award at the KTP Scotland Awards Ceremony recently.

Oana's presentation highlighted the work of a £127,000 project to research and develop a global marketing information system for the Arbroath-based engineering company. Oana was provided knowledge base guidance and supervision by Dr Sushil Mohan and Prof. Catia Montagna from Economic Studies in the School of Business.

Forensic Investigations in Nepal

Professor Helena Ranta, Leader of the Finnish Forensic Expert Team, visited the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification to talk about her work carrying out forensic investigations in Nepal.

Professor Ranta is an eminent Forensic Odontologist who has participated in many high profile forensic investigations including the Estonia ferry disaster.

Her work also includes the repatriation of Finnish soldiers killed in action during WW2, assessing mass graves for the Peruvian Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq.

She was the Finnish DVI Odontologist post-tsunami in Thailand in 2004 and is presently the forensic expert for the National Human Rights Commission in Nepal.

Sinusitis study vindicates dual treatment

A combination of oral and nasal steroids can significantly improve the treatment of chronic rhinosinusitis - a common and often debilitating form of sinusitis - and help avoid surgery, according to new research carried out at the University.

The study, led by Professor Brian Lipworth from Dundee's Asthma and Allergy Research Group, worked with 60 adults who were referred for evaluation and treatment of CRN, a condition in which inflammation of the lining of the nose and sinuses causes nasal congestion, pressure, pain in the face, and loss of smell.

In some patients, repeated episodes of inflammation cause the lining of the sinuses to swell up into bags of fluid called polyps, which protrude into the nasal passages and make the condition worse.

Nasal steroid sprays are commonly used to treat CRN, but are ineffective if medium to large polyps are present. Many patients eventually undergo keyhole-type surgery to remove the polyps and improve sinus drainage.

The study participants were randomly assigned to receive either steroid or placebo pills by mouth for an initial two week period. Both groups were then given steroid drops for two months and then steroid spray for a further of 26 weeks.

The resulting paper, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* journal, shows that participants who started out receiving the steroid pills had greater shrinkage of nasal polyps than those who received placebo pills, with these effects being sustained at the end of 28 weeks.

Professor Lipworth said that the findings vindicated a regimen followed in the Rhinology Mega-clinic at Ninewells Hospital in recent years, which had successfully treated CRN patients with polyps, and which had reduced the instances of surgery.

"The principal problem with nasal polyps is that the plumbing of the sinuses is jammed," he explained. "Merely taking nasal steroid sprays will not unblock this if you have medium to large polyps. An initial short course of oral steroids under supervision may help the nasal sprays to better penetrate into the sinus openings - and this is what we have now proved in our study.

"Being the principal research centre for rhinosinusitis and asthma in Scotland we routinely conduct community based workshops with primary care physicians and the culture of initial oral steroid treatment for patients with medium to large size polyps is catching on as they observe the significant improvement compared to merely giving nasal steroids.

"Ours is the first study to show not only that it is effective but also that it is safe, especially as almost half of our patients were also taking inhaled steroids for asthma. The oral and nasal steroids did not cause any side effects or lasting detectable adverse effects in the body. Surgery is non-curative and a temporary treatment to open sinus drainage. This can easily be achieved in most people with oral steroids."

T Cell findings boost virus & transplant research

Researchers at the College of Life Sciences have developed new insights into the operation of white blood cells which play a vital role in fighting viral infections and dealing with organ transplants.

Cytotoxic T cells are a subpopulation of white blood cells that have an essential role in fighting viral infections. They work by killing the cells in our bodies that are infected with viruses. They also play a key role in how the human body rejects organ transplants.

Now researchers in the Wellcome Trust-funded laboratory of Professor Doreen Cantrell have provided novel insights about the control mechanisms that allow these cells to execute their role. These provide important information towards developing possible new treatments for autoimmune diseases and treatments to prevent organ rejection following transplantation.

"This work identifies potential new ways to develop treatments to treat autoimmune disease, new treatments to allow organ transplants and new ways to make vaccination more effective," said Professor Cantrell.

The research team have published two papers on their latest findings, one in the journal *Nature Immunology* and another in the journal *Immunity*. The *Nature* paper reveals the complexity of protein modifications in cytotoxic T cells for the first time.

In a second publication in *Immunity*, the Cantrell group turned its focus to the role of Protein Kinase B (PKB), which in many cell types controls cell metabolism and energy production.

The Cantrell group has shown that this is not the role for PKB in T cells. Instead PKB has an essential role in directing the migration of T cells away from lymphoid organs and towards sites of infection in the tissues.

The research received additional support from the Medical Research Council.

Volleyball club nets another win



Dundee University Volleyball Club has added yet another title to its impressive collection after being named Club of the Year at the Dundee Sports Awards 2010.

Last year saw the men's team complete a first-ever League and Cup double, winning the Scottish Universities

1st Division and Scottish Universities Cup without losing a match. The team then progressed to the British Universities Championship Finals where they finished a very creditable eighth.

The women's team meanwhile won the British Universities Trophy in Sheffield, to claim Gold at that level for the first time.

The quality of Dundee players was recognised with six of the men's team and three of the women's team being selected for the Scottish Universities Select team to play the Senior Scottish National Team.

Coach Paul McPate, who is also assistant director of the University's Institute of Sports and Exercise congratulated everyone involved in the club.

"2010 saw DUVVC expand on its outstanding success of the previous season," he said. "This was entirely down to the hard work and dedication of the student organising committee and the willingness of members to support all club activities

"The club is not just about what happens on the court, however. Membership of DUVVC rose to 92 last year, meaning it's now the largest volleyball club in Scotland.

As well as the top men's and women's team, DUVVC fields another four teams in the local leagues. This helps to keep all members engaged, as do social nights and fundraising events.

"A club tour saw 22 members travel to Munich to play, and we've worked hard to form lifelong connections with our members. An Alumni event organised last year brought back former club members, some from over 25 years ago, to meet current club members and celebrate the club's progress and success."

The club is a major supporter of local volleyball activity and, in 2009/10, DUVVC raised over £1000 through various fundraising initiatives to support its extensive volunteer development programme. This has enabled the club to qualify seven members as Grade 4 referees. These individuals often assist other local clubs in this important role.

Additionally, DUVVC has committed to supporting local junior development through its development plan, and has now assisted five members in gaining their UKCC coaching qualification. These members deliver weekly volleyball coaching sessions to local schoolchildren, and a recent primary school festival managed by these coaches involved more than 80 youngsters.

More information about the club is available by contacting secretary Elena Velten on e.velten@dundee.ac.uk.

Red Nose Day round up



Campus capers for Comic Relief

Silly clothes, sponsored kissing and a mass Zumba party were just some of the comic capers going on across the Campus last month to mark Red Nose Day and raise cash for Comic Relief.

Staff and students rose to the challenge made by the University's Advice Team to see who could become top fundraisers and as a result a grand total of £1654.06 was raised for the charity.

More than £1000 alone was raised by ise thanks to a gruelling Superstars challenge and mass-participation Zumba Cardio party. The two hour Zumba marathon saw Mono in DUSA echoing to the sound of 160 people shimmying, shaking and mamboing.

The Superstars Challenge in ise may have attracted fewer participants but involved just as much sweat and effort as contenders were put through a punishing series of tests including squats, press ups, cycling and rowing.

John Cannaghan, an ise regular and member of staff at the School of Nursing and Midwifery was crowned men's champion while fourth year medical student Jill Roche took the women's title.

Top student fundraiser was Katie Reid from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design who raised £125 by selling pom pom jewellery and cakes. Her creative efforts won her a voucher for Ketchup in South Tay Street.

Elsewhere on campus the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy held a fun fayre at the Carnegie Building, the Careers Team held a book sale while staff from the Finance team donned silly outfits or paid a penalty for staying sensible.

Estates and Buildings sold cakes and kisses and children from the nursery entered into the spirit of the day by having fun at a circus themed party.

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- beginners through to intermediate
- intensive courses

for more info contact
Stuart Kidd · Its co-ordinator
email: s.z.kidd@dundee.ac.uk
tel: 01382 384123/384122

www.dundee.ac.uk/ise

COMIC RELIEF



what's on...

25 April

Cafe Science

Chambers Coffee House, 7pm

Professor David Balfour will discuss why people find it so hard to quit nicotine in a talk entitled "Why can't people stop smoking?"

This is a FREE Event and everyone is welcome.

Until 29 April

General Foundation Self Portrait Exhibition

Bradshaw Art, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design
Mon - Fri: 9.30am-5pm, Sat: 10.30am - 4.30pm

This exhibition offers a diverse range of self portraits by General Foundation students using a wide variety of techniques.

For more information visit www.cafescience.co.uk

Until 30 April

And So To Embroider: the Needlework Development Scheme 1934-1961

Lamb Gallery, Tower Building

This exhibition, featuring material from the collections of Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, the Glasgow School of Art and Gray's School of Art, marks 50 years since the end of the Needlework Development Scheme.

The NDS travelled the world for three decades collecting examples of historic and contemporary embroidery designs as a national educational resource organised by Scotland's four art colleges.

www.dundee.ac.uk/museum/exhibitions/

3 May

Dundee Arts Café

McManus Cafe, McManus Galleries, Albert Square, 6pm

Professor Catia Montagna will explore how globalisation affects everyone in this Dundee Arts Café talk.

Free event, all welcome.

For more information visit www.dundeeartscafe.co.uk

7 May

SELS: This Shrinking Land

Dalhousie Building, 6pm

Professor Rob Duck, Dean of the School of the Environment, looks at the effects of climate change and rising sea levels on Britain's coastline in a talk entitled *This Shrinking Land: Climate Change and Britain's Coast*. The talk coincides with the publication of Professor Duck's book of the same name.

Tickets are free and available from the Events Office, tel: 01382 384413 or from the University's Online Store

SATURDAY
EVENING
LECTURE
SERIES 11

11 May

Café Science Extra

Dundee Science Centre, Greenmarket, 6pm

Dr Bharty Rajput gives a talk entitled Foot Care and Diabetes – Is it time to cut your losses? in the latest Café Science Extra session. Entry is free. Doors open at 5.30pm.

For more information contact Helen-Louise Murphy at h.murphy@dundee.ac.uk or telephone 01382 386660.

21 to 29 May

Dundee Degree Show 2011

Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design

Free Admission

Students exhibiting work include animation; art, philosophy, contemporary practices; digital interaction design; fine art; graphic design; illustration; interior environmental design; jewellery & metal design; product design; textile design and time based art & digital film.

www.dundee.ac.uk/degreshow

26 May

6th Mackenzie Lecture: "Connecting Patients, Providers, and Payers"

Lecture Theatre 4, Dalhousie Building, 12.30pm

Dr John D Halamka from Harvard Medical School will give this year's Mackenzie Lecture on how \$27 Billion will be spent to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of Healthcare in the USA through strategic implementation of information technology.

The Lecture will be chaired by Derek Feeley, Acting Director-General Health and Social Care and Chief Executive of NHS in Scotland.

The Mackenzie Lectures are held annually in honour of Sir James Mackenzie, a pioneer in research in general practice and the safe use of medicines.

For more information visit www.dundee.ac.uk/hic/mackenzie2011/

30 May

Café Science Dundee: Facing up to Beauty– Is it really skin deep?

Chambers Coffee House, South Tay Street, 7pm

Dr Fhionna Moore continues the popular Café Science series with a talk looking at the science of beauty.

For more information visit www.cafesciencedundee.co.uk

V&A AT DUNDEE
MAKING IT HAPPEN

KENGO KUMA The Answer is Architecture

Saturday 21 May 2011 | 6pm

University of Dundee
Dalhousie Building | Old Hawkhill | Dundee | DD1 4HN

Kengo Kuma, the lead architect on the V&A at Dundee project, will present his first public lecture in Scotland at the University in May.

Kengo Kuma & Associates won the design competition for the V&A at Dundee building, which is set to transform Dundee and reconnect the city to the water.

A Professor at the Graduate School of Architecture at the University of Tokyo, Mr Kuma also holds the prestigious Architectural Institute of Japan Award (1997).

He will present his public lecture - 'The Answer is Architecture' - at the Dalhousie Building on Saturday May 21st, from 6pm. The event will be open to all and admission is free.

In this exclusive lecture, Mr Kuma will explore the role that architecture has in connecting people to their environment. He will discuss how a well-designed building acts as an operating system for society and can mark a defining moment of civilisation.

The title of the lecture answers the question of whether a building can enhance our relationship with the environment rather than detracting from it.

"We are delighted that Kengo Kuma is going to give this public lecture in Dundee," said David Dorward, Chief Executive of Dundee City Council and Board member of Design Dundee Ltd, the partnership delivering the V&A at Dundee.

"We continue to receive enormous public interest in the V&A at Dundee and this will be a chance for people to hear directly from the lead architect on the project."

Please register your interest in this event at: events@dundee.ac.uk

Meanwhile, Kengo Kuma's design proposal for the V&A at Dundee building, together with those from the five other finalists in the design competition, is on display at the V&A in London.

The Architectural Designs for the V&A at Dundee exhibition has already been seen by thousands of people in Scotland. Around 15,000 people visited the exhibition when it was unveiled at the University of Abertay Dundee in autumn last year and it has since been shown at the Scottish Parliament building in Edinburgh and the Lighthouse in Glasgow.

The exhibition showcases the six shortlisted designs from the international architectural competition for the V&A at Dundee, which attracted over 120 entries from around the world.

The exhibition will run until May 15th at the V&A and will be sited in rooms 17a and 18a, adjacent to the Buddhist Sculpture (Robert H.N.Ho Family Foundation) Gallery.

For more on the V&A at Dundee see www.VandAatDundee.com

The V&A at Dundee is being delivered by Design Dundee Ltd, a partnership between the V&A and Dundee City Council, the Universities of Dundee and Abertay Dundee, and Scottish Enterprise.

FREE ADMISSION

Don't miss out – for your FREE online ticket, go to:

www.VandAatDundee.com/your-future/whats-on/



DESTINATION DUNDEE AND ANGUS

Ready to host your next meeting!

A vast and diverse range of conference venues are available in Dundee and Angus, from the modern and technologically advanced to the historic and majestic - there is something to suit every event.

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Those looking to provide something more unusual, delegates have the chance to experience the grandeur of the Queen Mother's childhood home, Glamis Castle, steady their sea legs on board the RRS Discovery or step back in time to the Industrial age at Verdant Works, an award winning jute museum. Dundee and Angus is also a hotspot for research and discovery, which makes it ideal for hosting academic conferences.

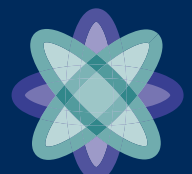
If you would like to play a part in helping us secure and host more conferences in Dundee and Angus, and generate benefits for both your organisation and the destination, contact Karen Tocher at Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau on 01382 434 318 or email karen.tocher@conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk and find out how we can help!

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