

# c n t a c t



The magazine of the University of Dundee • December 11



Realising the creative campus

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## from the principal...

Since writing my last column, there have been a series of communications from the Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council. Of these, perhaps the most high profile for Dundee was the 'invitation' to begin discussions on potential merger with our sister organisation in the City, the University of Abertay. I don't intend to rehearse here the arguments that have been played out in the press, and indeed I think our position was made clear in the press statements we made at the time. The strength of feeling in Dundee against such a proposal was palpable, and Government ministers were quick to revise their position. Personally, I am thankful that the distraction it caused has to a large extent dissipated, so that we can concentrate on developing our future strategy, and forging ahead with the excellence agenda in both teaching and research.

Around the same time the Government also released its spending review and budget plans for the period to 2014. Remarkably, the proposed funding levels for higher education announced in the budget were much more positive than the sector had expected: 14% cash terms increase to 2014-15, equating to around a 6% real terms increase. We should perhaps spare a thought for colleagues in the further education sector who were not so lucky, seeing their funding reduce by over 13% in cash terms (equating to more than 20% in real terms). Of course precise details of the effects for the University will not be known for some time but, taken together with our efforts to recruit students from the rest of the UK, this increase has the real potential to help towards restoring the funding reductions of recent years as well as to bridging the funding gap with institutions in England. On the negative side, however, is the proposed capital funding levels, which see a reduction for the higher and further education sectors combined of £30m, down to just £60.7m. This reinforces the need for the University to manage its finances carefully to create sufficient headroom to maintain investment in the capital infrastructure.

The Government also published a pre-legislative paper on post-16 education: Putting Learners at the Centre (<http://scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/09/15103949/0>). The Government is consulting widely on this document, and there will almost certainly be consequences for the University if the proposals find their way into legislation, as is widely expected. The paper covers a range of issues: the flexible learner journey and widening access, the skills agenda and its links with employability, maintaining Scotland's research excellence, student support arrangements, efficiency and sustainability, funding, governance and accountability.

One of the proposals in the paper is the establishment of a single, centralised knowledge exchange office for Scotland. Knowledge exchange is a central part of any institution's innovation strategy, and relies heavily on the one-to-one relationships that build up between individual academics and industry. To be effective, business development activity of this kind has to have a clear understanding of the institution's research capability and capacity, and it must be able to assess the value and potential of the knowledge creation process. Potential partners in innovation must have close links to the researchers to enable institutions to act on opportunities as they present themselves. There is a synergy here in the relationship which feeds the innovative flow of creative ideas, and which risks being lost if these relationships are 'managed' by a separate and independent centre, at one remove from the universities. There are also concerns here for the treatment of intellectual property. This includes an institution's ability to profit from the discoveries and innovations of their own research but more importantly the role of IP in driving productive partnerships with users of research.

With the SNP's paper there are clear signals that the post-16 education landscape will change. Whilst some aspects are to be welcomed, others will require careful consideration over the coming months.

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

For more news from the Principal read his blog at <http://blog.dundee.ac.uk/principal/>

# Winter GRADUATION CELEBRATION 2011



**More than 700 students celebrated their academic achievements last month at two Winter Graduation ceremonies held by the University.**

The two ceremonies at the Caird Hall in Dundee city centre allowed students whose courses finished after the traditional summer graduation to receive their awards as soon as possible after completing their studies.

Professor Pete Downes, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, congratulated all graduating students on their achievements.

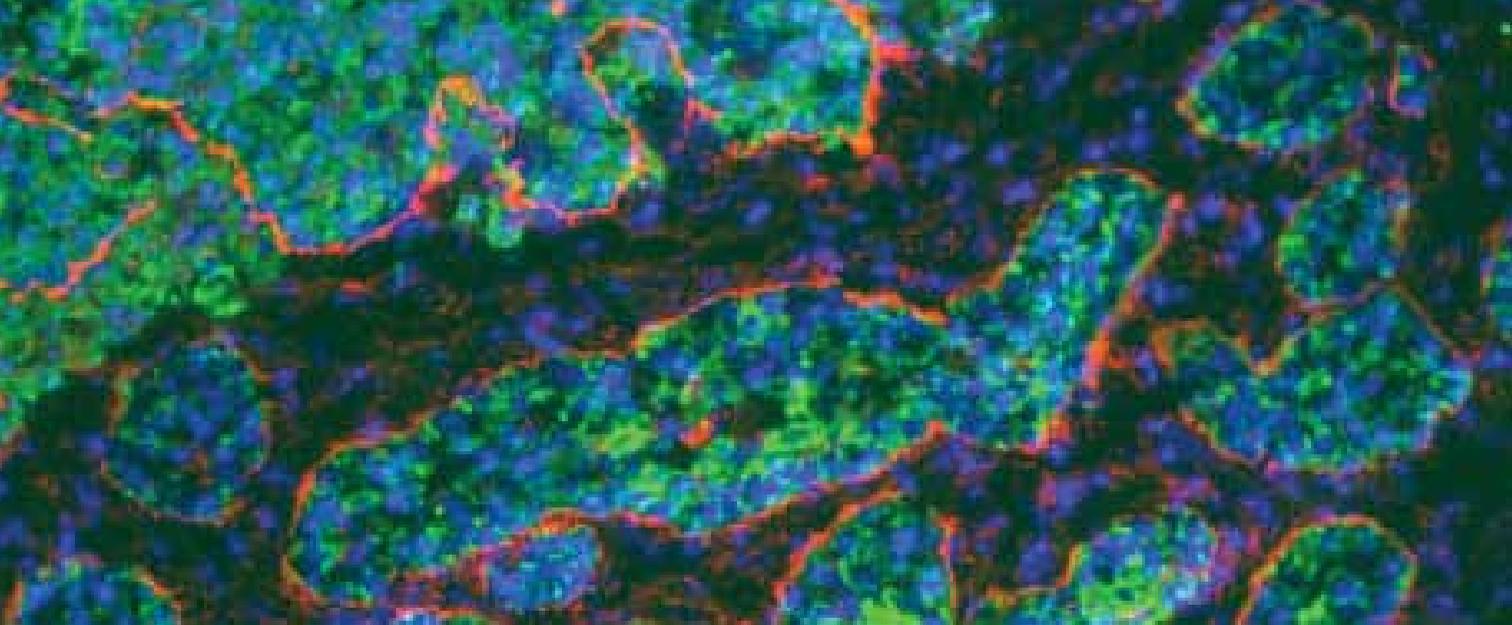
"The University's first Winter Graduation was held last year and it proved to be a great success with students enjoying the opportunity to mark this special occasion with their families shortly after the confirmation of their award," he said.

"It is always a source of pride and delight to welcome students and their families here for graduation. This is a major milestone in anyone's life."

The morning ceremony saw students from the College of Arts and Social Sciences and College of Art, Science and Engineering receive their awards while in the afternoon it was the turn of students from the College of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing, the College of Life Sciences and psychology and education students from the College of Arts and Social Sciences.

During the afternoon ceremony an honorary degree was bestowed on Professor Sir John Bell, a Canadian immunologist and geneticist who is President of the Academy of Medical Sciences and who holds the Regius Chair of Medicine at the University of Oxford.

Following the ceremonies graduates and their families were able to continue the celebrations at a host of special Winter Graduation events at Dundee University Students Association (DUSA).



## Skin cancer genes identified

**The genes which contribute to the most frequently occurring life threatening form of skin cancer have been identified for the first time by a research collaboration between the Medical School and scientists at Harvard and University of California, San Francisco.**

Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC) is the most frequently occurring life threatening skin cancer. Unlike other common skin cancers, such as Melanoma and Basal Cell Carcinoma, the genes which are frequently mutated in cSCC have, until now, been unknown.

Now the researchers at Dundee, Harvard and UCSF have identified two highly related genes which are mutated in three quarters of all cSCC cases. The gene mutations are also active in a significant proportion of SCC cases in the lungs.

The identified genes are known as 'NOTCH' and the mutations are thought to inhibit normal barrier development, important processes in both the skin and lung.

Details of the research have been published in the journal PNAS USA (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences).

"These gene mutations are a common factor in a form of skin cancer which is both common and life threatening," said Professor Irene Leigh, who led the Dundee end of the collaboration.

"By identifying these mutations, our group at Dundee, working with international partners, hopes to exploit the process of skin development to which these genes contribute to develop new cancer therapies capable of targeting skin and similar cancers such as lung SCC."

The research was carried out with Dr Andrew South and Dr Charlotte Proby in Professor Leigh's laboratory at Dundee, together with colleagues at Harvard and UCSF.

The research at Dundee has been supported by Cancer Research UK and the European Research Commission.

## Top child health honour for Professor Greene

**Professor Stephen Greene, Academic Lead on Child Health in the School of Medicine, has been elected President of the International Society of Paediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD), one of the world's leading bodies on child health.**

He will serve at ISPAD President from 2012 to 2015, during which time he will oversee their 2014 annual conference in Toronto, the city where insulin was discovered.

"I am deeply honoured to be elected President of such a prestigious organisation," said Professor Greene. "I very much see this achievement as a reflection of the work carried out by all of the Children's Diabetes research group here in Tayside and the international reputation that has been grown over the past 15 years.

"The University is already internationally renowned as a centre of excellence in diabetes research and this can only add to that."

Professor Greene qualified from University College Hospital, London, and subsequently pursued a career in Child Health with positions in Oxford, Great Ormond Street, London, the Kinderspital Hospital in Zurich, and Guy's Hospital, London. He was appointed as NHS Consultant Paediatric Endocrinologist for Tayside in 1987 and then moved to the University in 1998 as Senior Lecturer and then Reader in Child and Adolescent Health. He was appointed Academic Lead for Child Health in 2009.

His specific research interests lie in diabetes in the young, growth disorders and paediatric endocrinology. He is Chair of the International Board of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and has personal commitments to projects in Kenya and Kurdistan.

# Cancer sciences honour for Professor Kearney



Professor Nora Kearney, Professor of Nursing and Cancer Care at the School of Nursing and Midwifery has been elected Fellow of the European Academy of Cancer Sciences.

The Academy, which was launched in 2009, brings together representatives with outstanding scientific and academic backgrounds

from all cancer disciplines to provide unbiased advice on policy and priority matters at a national, European and global level.

Professor Kearney now joins more than 160 top oncology experts who are currently Fellows of the Academy.

She already has an international reputation as a leader in cancer care research and she leads and collaborates on a number of multi-centre research projects in the areas of patient experience, symptom improvement in cancer care - including the use of technology - and cancer and the elderly.

Prior to her arrival at the University last year Professor Kearney was Director of the Cancer Care Research Centre at the University of Stirling. She has also had a long clinical career in cancer nursing and has held academic positions at the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh.

She is currently visiting Professor of Cancer Care at the Centre for Postgraduate Nursing Studies at the University of Otago.

# University name Centre in honour of Jacqui Wood

**A new University centre focusing on cancer research is to be named in honour of Jacqui Wood, the inspirational leader of the Ninewells Cancer Campaign who sadly died earlier this year.**

The Jacqui Wood Centre will bring to fruition a long-held vision of Jacqui's to locate the Medical School's clinical and laboratory research work on cancer in a single location.

A new fundraising campaign is being launched by the Ninewells Cancer Campaign to support the new Centre. The campaign is looking to raise £2million.

Jacqui Wood led the Ninewells Cancer Campaign for 20 years, during which time the campaign raised more than £17million to support cancer research and treatment in Dundee.

Professor John Connell, Dean of the School of Medicine, said, "I am particularly pleased that we can honour the memory of Jacqui in this way, as she did so much to support cancer research in Dundee. She would, I am sure, have been delighted that we now have a physical location for our very best cancer research.

"This is an outstanding opportunity for the Medical School to build its research that bridges the gap between bedside and laboratory bench."

The Jacqui Wood Centre will be housed in what was the TMRC building at the Ninewells site, next to the University's Clinical Research Centre. The five-floor building will be kitted out with state of the art facilities and house more than 100 clinicians and scientists.

Professor Roland Wolf, Director of the Medical Research Institute at the University, said bringing all of the cancer researchers into close proximity would bring a new urgency and focus to the studies being carried out at Dundee.

"This Centre will provide a major platform that will allow us to create a step change in our cancer research capability; the co-location of more than 100 clinicians and scientists generates real energy and increases our critical mass in this key area of research," said Professor Wolf. "I am very optimistic that this will allow us to recruit even more world class research scientists to Dundee."

Lady Fiona Fraser, Chair of the Ninewells Cancer Campaign, said "The Special Appeal to complete and name such a prestigious building after Jacqui will be a very fitting and lasting tribute to her memory and all she has done for cancer research at Ninewells. It will give the Ninewells Cancer Campaign a focus for fundraising in the future and continue Jacqui's wish to keep Dundee and Ninewells on the international stage for the benefit of patients."

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Appeal in memory of Jacqui should make it payable to "Ninewells Cancer Campaign" and send to Ninewells Cancer Campaign, 1 Cross Row, University of Dundee, Dundee DD1 4HN (Tel: 01382 385102).



## Cutting carbon with green week

**Two new initiatives aimed at reducing the University's carbon footprint by more than 200 tonnes of carbon each year were unveiled during Green Week last month.**

Staff from Campus Services took delivery of two carbon neutral electric vans at an event during the annual celebrations while plans for the installation of a thermal heat store facility were also announced.

The new vehicles are charged using renewable sources and will be used by the University's security and campus catering service, who clocked up 17,000 miles between them in diesel vans last year. Switching to electric represents a saving of almost five tonnes of carbon per year.

The thermal heat store project is scheduled for completion this month and, when fully operational, will recover energy from existing power-generating installations on campus. This will be released into the district heating network when demand exceeds supply. The design indicates that the carbon saving will be around 200 tonnes per year.

Colin McNally, Director of Campus Services, said purchasing the vans and installing the thermal heat store represented a real investment in the University's sustainable future.

"We are very excited about both these developments, and the range of other measures aimed at sustainability taking place across the University estate," he said. "We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and these initiatives are steps in the right direction which demonstrate our commitment to making the University as environmentally friendly as it possibly can be."

Green Week, which aims to encourage staff and students to become more ecologically aware in all aspects of their life by embracing the idea of sustainability, began with the University's Enterprise Gym annual Dundee Student Sustainability Showcase and Conference.

Other Green Week 2011 events included a series of workshops and awareness-raising sessions on the themes of transport, energy, waste and shopping. It finished with a Green Christmas Fair offering eco-conscious shoppers the chance to pick up some festive bargains.

"Green Week is an initiative that helps to encourage members of the University community to consider their environmental footprint," said Trudy Cunningham, Environment & Sustainability Officer. "We encourage everyone to consider their use of resources, whether it is energy, water or transport because we can all make a difference."

# RSA honour for Professor Robb

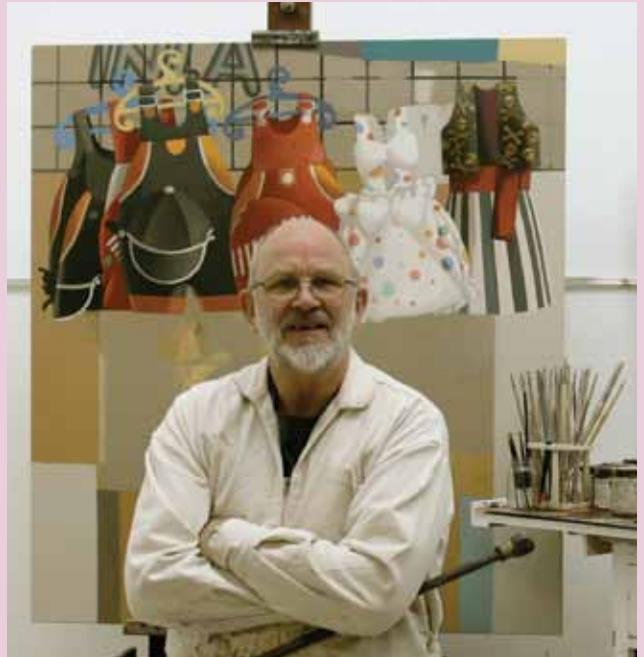
**Alan Robb, Emeritus Professor of Fine Art at the University and a former Head of the School of Fine Art at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, has been elected a member of the Royal Scottish Academy.**

A graduate of Grays School of Art and the Royal College of Art, Alan taught at the Crawford School of Art, Cork, before returning to Scotland in 1982 to head up the newly formed School of Fine Art at DJCAD. His appointment followed the retirement of Alberto Morrocco.

Under his leadership over the next 20 years, the school gained a reputation for excellence in teaching and research, placing Fine Art in Dundee at the very top of national league tables along with the Slade, University of London, and The Ruskin, Oxford University.

"I am absolutely delighted to be elected to the Academy and hope that I can make a contribution to further the development of Scottish Contemporary Art through the RSA's projects and exhibitions," said Professor Robb.

Alan is a well-known painter who has exhibited his work internationally. He is to be honoured by Dundee early in the New Year with an exhibition at The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum.



# Top rank win for Professor Cummings



**Professor John Cummings, Emeritus Professor of Experimental Gastroenterology at the School of Medicine, has been named winner of the 2012 Rank Prize for his research identifying the role of the colon in human health and nutrition.**

The Rank Prize, one of the most prestigious prizes in the field of nutrition research, carries an award of £80,000. It was established in 1972 following a bequest from the late industrialist and film producer Lord Rank.

Two prizes are awarded biannually - one for nutrition and one for optoelectronics - and are only given to those considered to be eminent leaders in their respective fields.

Professor Cummings described the win as a tremendous honour.

"It is really great, not just for myself, but for all the people who I work with in Dundee and who I have worked with in the past," he said.

"This Prize is recognition for nutrition as a whole. Previous winners have come from all over the world - from the US, India and the Far East so it is good that it should come to Scotland and this University.

"As far as nutrition prizes go, there aren't many that can top this in terms of both prestige and money so I'm very pleased to have won."

Although the large bowel was known to play a major role in regulating the digestive health of animals such as horses and elephants, it was not conventionally regarded as being of major significance for human health.

Whilst researching the role of dietary fibre, Professor Cummings and his team showed that the large bowel, or hind-gut, was indeed vital to human digestion. They identified that fermentation in the colon contributes to energy metabolism and protection against large bowel cancer.

In recognition of his pioneering research, Professor Cummings was appointed OBE in 2008 and in the same year won the British Nutrition Foundation Annual Award for making an outstanding contribution to nutrition.

He will be presented with the Rank Prize in February next year during a ceremony at the Royal College of Physicians, London.



## Global role for UNESCO centre

**The University UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science has been taking part in high-level discussions aimed at restarting stalled talks on the Nile basin treaty and preventing water wars in the region.**

Professor Patricia Wouters, Director of the Centre, travelled to Kigali in Rwanda in October to give the keynote address to the 3rd Nile Basin Development Forum, a conference aimed at promoting co-operation between the 10 countries that the world's longest river passes through, as leaders seek to mitigate the impact of climate change.

Her talk on "Coping by Co-operation" promoted the benefits of building confidence and trust among countries of the Nile Basin.

Professor Wouters said that millions of people's lives were affected by hydro-politics in the region, and that it was vital that peaceful resolutions can be found to the challenges facing the countries that rely on the Nile's resources.

Meanwhile the centre has also joined a consortium of international institutions working to promote water diplomacy.

The Dundee centre was the only UK institution invited to join the new Research Coordination Network in Water Diplomacy, an evolving team of professionals, practitioners and academics undertaking top-level research and field-based experience in hydro-politics as part of an effort to prevent water conflicts around the world.

The Network will address complex water problems where natural, societal and political elements cross multiple boundaries. It will seek to create water knowledge by exploring and demonstrating the effectiveness of cooperative approaches to decision-making in water conflicts.

The Network has been funded the US's National Science Foundation for five years, and will be led by Professor Shafiqul Islam of Tufts University, and Professor Lawrence Susskind from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and will create a global network of water professionals

Professor Wouters said that, as the project develops, their contribution will be to help identify both emerging research needs and knowledge gaps.

"This is a first-class honour for Dundee - to be included in the core group of this initiative, working with leading research and higher education institutions from around the world on addressing global water issues places us at the heart of the action in this field."

Dundee's expertise in this area is world-leading. Earlier this year, representatives of the Dundee Centre were invited to address a Global Water Security conference of the International Action Council and just last month Professor Wouters was appointed Professor of International Water law at Xiamen law School in China.

She will undertake this role in addition to her post at Dundee, and will help to educate the next generation of water leaders in the country under the Chinese Government's 'One-Thousand Talents' scheme.

## CEPMLP Patron visits campus



Sir Robert Wilson, Chairman of BG Group and Patron of the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law & Policy at the University, visited the Centre in November to speak to staff and students.

The purpose of Sir Robert's visit was to discuss CEPMLP strategy in the increasingly competitive global market for education in oil, gas and mining. In particular, he joined in discussions about collaboration with universities in developing countries that seek to offer similar courses, and the ways in which synergies between the University and the international energy industry could be enhanced.

He is pictured here with Professor Pete Downes and Professor Peter Cameron, Director of CEPMLP.

## Study highlights benefit of recycled drug



**A research team from the School of Medicine has enjoyed a hat-trick of successes with a paper looking at a new use for an old drug.**

Allopurinol is a drug that has been used for decades in the treatment of gout. However Professor Allan Struthers and his team at Ninewells decided to study its effects on heart disease in patients with kidney dysfunction.

The resulting paper, which showed that the drug had beneficial effects and resulted in reduced thickening of the left ventricle of the heart and improved vascular function, was published in the *Journal of American Society of Nephrology*, the world's leading kidney research journal.

That led on to an interview with research team member Dr Michelle Kao, in another leading journal, this time *Nature Reviews Nephrology* and an invitation to present at the Hotline Session of the European Renal Association meeting in the summer, marking it out as one of the top five papers in kidney research in Europe this year.

The successes were of particular significance for Dr Kao, a registrar in kidney disease with NHS Tayside, as it formed the basis for her MD thesis. Dr Kao graduated from the University this summer.

Professor Struthers, who is Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, explained that the study was carried out to search for new ways of treating the heart problems faced by kidney disease patients.

"Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in patients with kidney dysfunction," he said. "Each 10% loss of kidney function is associated with a 7% increase in cardiovascular disease.

"The two main problems are coronary artery disease and left ventricular hypertrophy where the left ventricle of the heart thickens.

"We know that there is a lot of oxidative stress in kidney patients and that that seems to produce thickening of the left ventricle. We also know that Allopurinol inhibits an enzyme that causes oxidative stress."

To test the effect of the drug Professor Struthers and the team randomly allocated 53 patients with mild kidney disease to receive either allopurinol or a placebo over a nine month period.

They then assessed left ventricular mass using cardiac MRI scans and vascular function by measuring blood vessels in the arm.

Patients who had been receiving allopurinol showed regression of the thickness of the left ventricle and improved vascular function.

"The results were what I had hoped for," said Professor Struthers. "It was a proof of concept study and it proved that allopurinol does work."

While the drug is safe, causes few side effects and is relatively cheap to produce it is unlikely to be recommended for use without further much larger scale studies.

“Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in patients with kidney dysfunction”

"Our study was a small scale one so the next step would be to study thousands of patients but that would take much more funding," he explained. "We also chose people with relatively mild kidney disease so another next step could be to carry out a study on patients on dialysis or to look at whether use of the drug would slow the progression of renal disease if it was used over a longer period of time."

Professor Struthers is no stranger to research success. Earlier this year he was elected to the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Academy Fellows are elected for outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical science, for innovative application of scientific knowledge or for their conspicuous service to healthcare.



## Two in a row for Peer Connections

**Peer Connections, the University's welcoming, buddying and mentoring scheme, has retained its title as Education Project of the Year.**

The scheme was once again awarded Education Project of the Year by the Scottish Mentoring Network at their National Conference and Awards in Glasgow last month.

Peer Connections Co-ordinator Joan Muszynski said "Last year Peer Connections was chosen as Education Project of the Year 2010 so I am delighted that we have retained our title. This is testament to the hardwork of our student volunteer mentors who contribute to the scheme and make it an outstanding continuing success".

Peer Connections, which has been running at the University since 2004, also has Approved Provider Status at best practice level by the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation.

Using trained student volunteers it offers support and mentoring to new entrant and continuing students and helps them to settle in, find their way around, meet, mix and share information and experience with other students.

For more information visit:  
[www.dundee.ac.uk/student-services/pconnect/](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/student-services/pconnect/)

Image shows award winners with Joan Muszynski centre back row.

## Town planning visit for Minister

**Minister for Local Government and Planning Aileen Campbell MSP visited the University in October to meet with Town & Regional Planning staff and students.**

Ms Campbell discussed current issues in planning and saw the results of studio and field work carried out by final year students and postgraduates from the MSc Spatial Planning programme.

David Kirk, Head of Town & Regional Planning, said the students discussed the place of planning in Scotland and internationally and how they can enhance their employability after graduation.

"We were delighted the Minister took the time to come and visit us, and to see the work we are doing to educate the next generation of planners," he said. "It is very encouraging that Ms Campbell is taking such an active interest in planning education and she will see the range carried out here.

"It was a good opportunity for our students to talk to the Minister about how they feel about their future careers in planning, find out how they can make themselves more employable, and learn about opportunities in areas such as renewables, urban design, regeneration, and economic growth and development."

Ms Campbell said she was "delighted to meet with some of the next generation of planners and see that Scotland's planning future is in safe hands.

"The knowledge and skills of planning graduates will contribute to the delivery of a modernised planning system, which has an important role in supporting the Government's central purpose of sustainable economic growth."

# Charity walker visits Dundee Cancer Centre

**A charity fundraiser who left his job, home and family to walk from one end of the UK to the other to promote the work taking place at Cancer Research UK centres of excellence visited the Dundee Cancer Centre in October.**

Matt Wallace was welcomed to the Centre, a partnership between Cancer Research UK, the University and NHS Tayside, by researchers who explained the work they are doing to develop new ways to treat, diagnose, and prevent cancer – particularly bowel, breast and skin cancers.

During his visit he filmed interviews with scientists and nurses as part of a series of videos he is making to showcase the cutting edge research that takes place there.

He also hopes to raise as much money as possible for Cancer Research UK as part of his Where's Wallace? project, which started in John O'Groats and will take him on a 1500 mile journey around the charity's 16 research centres.

Matt was inspired to raise money for the charity when a very close family friend died from cancer in 2008.

For more information about the Dundee Cancer Centre and its activities visit: [www.cancerresearchuk.org/dundee](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/dundee)



# Trauma experts gather in Dundee



L-R Ian Barron (seminar series leader), Stephanie Vander Lugt (Eighteen and Under), Mike Naulty (Associate Dean) and Sandi Richman (presenter).

**Leading experts in trauma have visited the University over the past semester as part of the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education's seminar series on the subject.**

This month (December) Alastair Hull, Consultant Psychiatrist to the worldwide Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Programme and Honorary Senior Lecturer at Dundee provided an introduction to the theoretical and empirical underpinnings of post-traumatic reactions. He identified key clinical issues needed for assessment and planning treatment.

Earlier in the series, which was led by the School's Dr Ian Barron and Associate Dean Mike Naulty, Sandi Richman, a Consultant Clinical Psychologist, discussed the challenges of working with complex trauma compared to incident trauma.

Case material was used to illustrate diagnostic issues in identifying traumatic experiences rooted in childhood and differentiating these from traumas experienced by otherwise healthy adults.

Professionals from a wide range of agencies and voluntary organisations attended the event which was sponsored by Eighteen and Under, a survivor of abuse organisation based locally in Dundee.

# Young thinker of the year award for law lecturer



**Law lecturer Kirsteen Shields' ideas on "how to rethink the recession" have won her the title of Scotland and Northern Ireland Young Thinker of the Year for 2011.**

Kirsteen (28), was awarded the title by the Young Scotland and Northern Ireland Programme, an organisation founded by the journalist Kenneth Roy.

Kirsteen's presentation focused on how a four-day working week could distribute

the hardships of the recession and create a fairer society. The judges praised her for 'an intellectually impressive paper, distinguished by its authority and good writing.'

"I am always glad to discuss my ideas and it is great to have been given an award for doing just that." said Kirsteen, who has been a lecturer in the School of Law at Dundee since September 2010.

"I firmly believe that in order to weather the recession and come out the other side as a humane society we must apply creative problem-solving to manage the consequences of the recession.

My proposal presented the recession as an opportunity to redress inequality and to restructure society for the better.

"The thinking behind this is that unless we do something to distribute the hardships of the recession then inequality will continue to grow and we will likely see more social unrest.

"A four-day working week is something that could lead us to greater equality and that is its key strength. If we choose to listen to them, the 'happiness' researchers have been telling us that we want a fairer society, not a richer one. Even the highest earners within society cannot buy lower crime rates or healthier communities."

Kirsteen also headed the group which won the prize for 'Best discussion group'. She was also one amongst three participants to receive special praise for their 'On The Spot' presentation.

The Young UK and Ireland Programme exists to develop the communication skills of people in the early stages of their working lives or who are performing voluntary work in the community. It does so through an annual series of residential courses and competitions of between two and four days' duration.

It is now in its ninth year and is open to anyone in the formative years of his or her career irrespective of age.

## 'Portrait' of people with dementia wins researcher award

**A computing researcher, who graduated with a PhD from the University in November has been awarded £10,000 to promote software she developed to help improve the care of people with dementia.**

Dr Gemma Webster (25) was one of three winners of the Research Councils UK (RCUK) 'Telling Tales of Engagement' competition with her "Portrait" project which acts as a communications bridge between carers and people with dementia

The software Dr Webster developed consists of interactive multimedia presentations containing brief biographical and personal information relevant to an individual with dementia. The information is immediately accessible to staff through a touchscreen terminal.

Dr Webster said that it can be very difficult for staff to get to know people with dementia because they often experience communication difficulties.

"Yet, without exception all of these individuals have had lives full of incident and relationships, jobs, hobbies, awards, and interesting experiences," she said. "Establishing some form of communication between carers and people with dementia can have vital implications for their health and well-being.

"Learning about a person's past may help the care giver by providing interesting and important information from which to stimulate discussion and communication. This information can be difficult to obtain through patient records or discussions with family especially when the health or medical situation often takes priority, and that's where Portrait comes in."

Dr Webster, who has recently taken up a postdoctoral position at Lancaster University, said the funding would hopefully lead to more care and nursing homes using Portrait.

# AICR grant for cancer researcher

**Dr Gareth Inman, Reader and Group Leader at the University's Biomedical Research Institute, has been awarded £202,807 by a Fife charity to investigate what makes our bodies' natural cancer fighting cells turn dangerous.**

Dr Inman will use his three-year grant from the St Andrews-based Association for International Cancer Research (AICR) to study a protein called TGF-beta which he has previously shown to have anti-tumour properties and restricts cell growth and division.

"Healthy cells grow and multiply in a tightly controlled manner," he said. "Cancer occurs when the cells become able to proliferate in an uncontrolled manner, leading to the development of tumours.

"However, during the growth of some tumours, they are able to switch TGF-beta from being anti-cancer to pro-cancer but how, when and where this occurs is still unclear.

"Thanks to my AICR funding, my team and I are now investigating this important switch further, in an effort to understand the mechanisms behind it.

"In the UK funding to drive these efforts comes largely from the voluntary sector so support of visionary cancer charities such as the AICR is crucial to help us to win the battle to defeat cancer."

Dr Lara Bennett, AICR's Science Communications Manager said: "Understanding the basic biology of how cancer begins is absolutely critical in the quest to develop and deliver more effective and individually-tailored cancer therapies for the patient. That is why AICR is committed to funding cutting-edge basic and bench to bedside cancer research. We fund the best cancer research proposals we receive, regardless of where in the world the research takes place."

# Helping vulnerable in natural disasters



**The impacts of natural disasters on the most vulnerable in society and the need to build resilience came under the spotlight at a one-day event organised by the University in September.**

Organised by the Centre for Environmental Change and Human Resilience and the Social Dimensions of Health Institute, the event looked at identifying the people in Scotland most vulnerable in the event of natural disasters and how best to support them.

Representatives from national and local government, the emergency services, NHS and social care, and disability and older people's charities, were amongst those who attended the event alongside academic staff from geography, social work, environmental science and nursing from the universities of Dundee, St. Andrews, Durham and Heriot Watt.

Keynote addresses from Professor Mark Priestly from the University of Leeds and Dr John Twigg from University College London highlighted the often difficult and stressful experiences of disabled people and older people in natural hazard events.

Dr Ed Hall, one of the event organisers, said, "Floods, storms and severe cold have serious impacts on the lives of older and disabled people. Policy makers, practitioners and academics must work together to tackle these significant and complex challenges."

L-R Dr Thilo Kroll (SDHI), Dr John Twigg, Prof Mark Priestley, Dr Sue Dawson (Environmental Science), Prof Huw Davies (St Andrews University) Dr Hall (Geography).

# Dream becomes a reality as creative campus launched by University and Dundee Rep

**A dream ten years in the making has taken a step closer to being fulfilled with the formation of a new creative partnership between the University and Dundee Rep Theatre.**

Although both institutions have worked closely together over many years the new partnership, described as “brave and original in its vision” by University rector and Hollywood actor Brian Cox, represents a new level of collaboration.

It has already resulted in the launch of a new masters programme in Theatre Studies drawing on the academic expertise of the School of Humanities and Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design and the professional experience of Dundee Rep.

For Professor Chris Whatley, University Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Arts and Social Sciences, the new partnership is the realisation of a long-held dream.

“Over the past decade or so I’ve often dreamed of what magic might unfold if I could effect a working relationship for staff and students in the arts and humanities with Dundee Rep,” he said.

“That dream is starting to come true with this new creative partnership which represents another building block in the transformation of Dundee building for instance on what we do here already in Creative Writing, which Gavin Wallace of Creative Scotland has called ‘one of the nation’s blazing and radiant literary hotspots.’”

“This is a project guided by strong principles, that the arts sit at the heart of civil society and that individuals, institutions and communities are strengthened by the exchange of ideas and practice.

“The partnership between the University and the Rep should be based on our individual and collective commitment to excellence. Together we will be stronger and our impact in Dundee and Tayside and around Scotland and beyond will be greater.

“It creates an environment in which students, writers, directors and other theatre professionals can learn from each other and share expertise and experience. We anticipate that this fusion of talents will lead to higher levels of academic and artistic achievement.”



“...like nothing else available in the UK.”

*Brian Cox, Actor*

The new MLitt in Theatre Studies which launched last month with the help of Brian Cox, provides opportunities to study theatre design, writing for the stage and screen, directing, theatre criticism and a range of other modules. It combines theoretical study with highly practical engagement within a live theatre environment.

“This programme is unique in Scotland,” said Professor Whatley. “This uniqueness is the combination of the academic excellence of the University in creative writing and the theory and history of drama, and the practical experience of directing and marketing staff as well as actors from the internationally-acclaimed Dundee Rep. No other higher educational provider in Scotland can claim to have a full-time theatre company literally on its doorstep.”

Speaking at the launch of the programme Brian Cox described the partnership between the University and the Rep as the “organic coming together of two major institutions.”

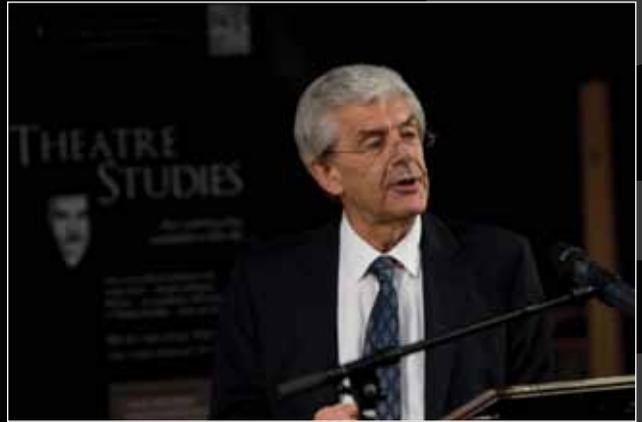
“It is both brave and original in its vision. The concept of a ‘creative campus’ establishes a vital link between a working theatre and the university community and opens up the possibilities of a new and vital way of creating a syllabus of practical, aesthetic and academic theatre courses wrapped in the principal of excellence. It also supports the whole idea of the craft of ‘theatre in the community’.

“In an ideal world it would be exciting to see this idea catch fire between other established universities and theatres throughout Scotland and beyond.”

James Brining, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the Rep, said, “We are constantly seeking to develop the artists who are at the heart of our work as well as looking for new ways to enable people outside the organisation to experience rich creative learning experiences.

“The MLitt is a logical development of our interest in applied creative learning and we look forward to expanding this in future years.”

The creative partnership is also looking to strengthen connections between the arts and all the individual institutions in the city. Other areas of activity planned for the Creative Campus include work-based training, continuing professional development opportunities for teachers and freelance theatre practitioners, residencies for emerging and established artists and theatre companies and cross-disciplinary events and projects run alongside other cultural and educational partners.



# Bestselling crime-writers pledge morgue support



Jeffrey Deaver



Lee Child



Mark Billingham



Kathy Reichs



Stuart MacBride

**Ten of the world's top crime writers are vying for the honour of having a new morgue and research facility at the University named after them.**

Tess Gerritsen, Kathy Reichs, Lee Child, Harlan Coben, Mark Billingham, Jeffrey Deaver, Jeff Lindsay, Stuart MacBride, Peter James and Val McDermid have all pledged their support to the 'Million For A Morgue' campaign which aims to raise funds for the new facility at the world-renowned Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification.

The University has already committed £1m to the project but another £1m is needed. The new morgue will allow Professor Sue Black and her colleagues to adopt the revolutionary Thiel method of embalming.

“This is an amazing group of people, who are among the most popular novelists in the world”

Crime-writing fans are now being urged to play their part in naming the new facility by voting for their favourite author in an online poll with each vote contributing £1 to the appeal. The author with the most votes will have the new morgue facility at the University named after them.

The link-up between the morgue project and the crime writers has come about through the long friendship between Val McDermid and Professor Black.

“I've known Sue for years and she has helped me tremendously with a lot of the sort of grisly technical detail that goes into my books,” said Val. “This is a very worthy cause and will give Sue and her team a fantastic new facility from which to continue their world-leading research work.

“I am delighted that my fellow authors have pitched in to give something back to the forensic community through this appeal. I hope that lovers of crime fiction will support the appeal and get voting.”

The new morgue will allow Professor Black and her team to adopt Thiel embalming, the first University in the UK to do so. It gives surgeons, dentists, students and medical researchers a more realistic method of testing techniques, practising procedures and developing new equipment and approaches.

“We will be the first University in the UK to exclusively use Thiel embalming and it is an area where, working together with other colleagues in the University, we can make real breakthroughs and change the face of scientific, medical and dental research and training,” said Professor Black.

Professor Black said she was delighted to have the crime writers on board for her fundraising project.

“This is an amazing group of people, who are among the most popular novelists in the world,” said Professor Black. “The work I have done with Val has always been very interesting and I am always happy to have been able to help. To receive such enthusiastic support from Val and her fellow writers is tremendously gratifying and I cannot thank them enough for lending their support to this project.”

Voting has now opened in the poll and readers can register their choice of favourite author by visiting [www.millionforamorgue.com](http://www.millionforamorgue.com) where a leaderboard of voting results can also be viewed.

# MILLION FOR A MORGUE.COM



Jeff Lindsay



Tess Geristen



Harlan Coben



Peter James



Val McDermid



press office

# A portrait for the future with Calum Colvin

Internationally renowned artist and photographer Professor Calum Colvin hosted the first in a series of V&A at Dundee masterclasses last month with a three day workshop at the McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum.

Professor Colvin, who is Director of the Art, Philosophy and Contemporary Practices programme at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, shared his innovative approach to photography with participants in the "Portraits for the Future" masterclass as part of the V&A at Dundee pre-opening programme.

The workshops, aimed at professionals in the Creative Industries, also formed part of the events taking place around the exhibition "Queen Elizabeth II by Cecil Beaton: A Diamond Jubilee Celebration" currently showing at the McManus.

The exhibition, which runs until 8 January, provided a platform for debate and inspiration at the masterclasses which examined how portraiture has been captured and developed since the original photographs were taken.

As an introduction to his work and the masterclass Professor Colvin also gave a public lecture at the Dalhousie Building where he discussed his approach to portraiture and the way he builds portraits using objects and perspective to give an image that embraces the individual's unique personality.

Taking the audience on an autobiographical journey he shared his early influences, including Royal photographer Cecil Beaton, and described the narratives and thought processes in his work which has consistently referred to Scotland and its heritage.

He also joined forces with V&A exhibition curator Susanna Brown to give a gallery talk at The McManus, where they discussed the development of photographic portraiture over the past century, from Beaton's royal portraits to experimental contemporary images.

"The aim of the masterclass was to give a flavour of the working methods and thought processes that I engage in when making a portrait work," said Professor Colvin. "At the lecture I explained the context of my work in relationship to the practice of portraiture in both photography and painting, and discussed some of the influences on my work as I developed my practice from my early days as a student in Dundee.

"This discussion carried on throughout the masterclass, exploring contemporary digital imaging, methods of construction, collage and a form of storytelling through a portrait of Dundee singer/songwriter Michael Marra."





# V&A AT DUNDEE MAKING IT HAPPEN

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# Leverhulme prizes for researchers

**Two researchers in the School of Engineering, Physics and Mathematics have been named among the winners of this year's Philip Leverhulme Prizes, awarded by the Leverhulme Trust.**

**Dr David Pontin**, Lecturer in Mathematics, and **Dr Maria Ana Cataluna**, Royal Academy of Engineering/EPSRC Research Fellow & Lecturer, each receive £70,000 to fund activity around their research.

The Prizes are awarded to outstanding scholars who have made a substantial and recognised contribution to their particular field of study, recognised at an international level, and where the expectation is that their greatest achievement is yet to come.

The Prizes commemorate the contribution to the work of the Trust made by Philip Leverhulme, the Third Viscount Leverhulme and grandson of the Founder.



Dr Pontin's research examines the behaviour of magnetic fields, which play a crucial role in the dynamics of plasma on all scales, from galaxies to the Sun, the Earth's magnetosphere and laboratory nuclear fusion devices.

"My work is based around modelling the behaviour of these magnetic fields, which typically have a highly complex three-dimensional structure," said Dr Pontin.

"One particular focus is on understanding 'magnetic reconnection' - the process which allows a magnetic field to change its structure, often accompanied by an explosive release of energy. Studying this underlying physical mechanism of energy release can help us understand a wide variety of phenomena, such as solar flares, the formation of stars, magnetospheric substorms in the Earth's upper atmosphere, and disruptions that halt the production of energy in nuclear fusion machines.

"One research topic that this award will help me pursue is the evolution of the magnetic field in the Sun's atmosphere (or 'corona'). One of the greatest puzzles in solar physics is how the corona is heated to temperatures of millions of degrees, while the solar surface temperature is only a few thousand degrees. One key aim of my research will be to understand under what conditions explosive energy release can occur, and the details of how this may heat the coronal plasma."



Dr Cataluna is engaged in the research and development of a new generation of miniature and versatile ultrafast lasers.

"Instead of emitting light in a continuous manner, an ultrafast laser generates incredibly short bursts of light," she explained. "Ultrafast lasers have important applications in medicine, micromachining, optical communications, spectroscopy, and other applications which require

extremely high optical peak powers or extremely short time scales.

"For example, ultrafast lasers have shown a tremendous potential for non invasive imaging techniques which can probe into live cells or tissues, without disrupting their biological activity. However, most of the currently available ultrafast lasers are bulky, costly and complex, which inhibits the widespread uptake of these non-invasive diagnostics.

"This award will be really helpful in accelerating the development of these miniature lasers and maximise their far-reaching impact in a number of imaging and sensing applications, particularly in the biomedical sciences."

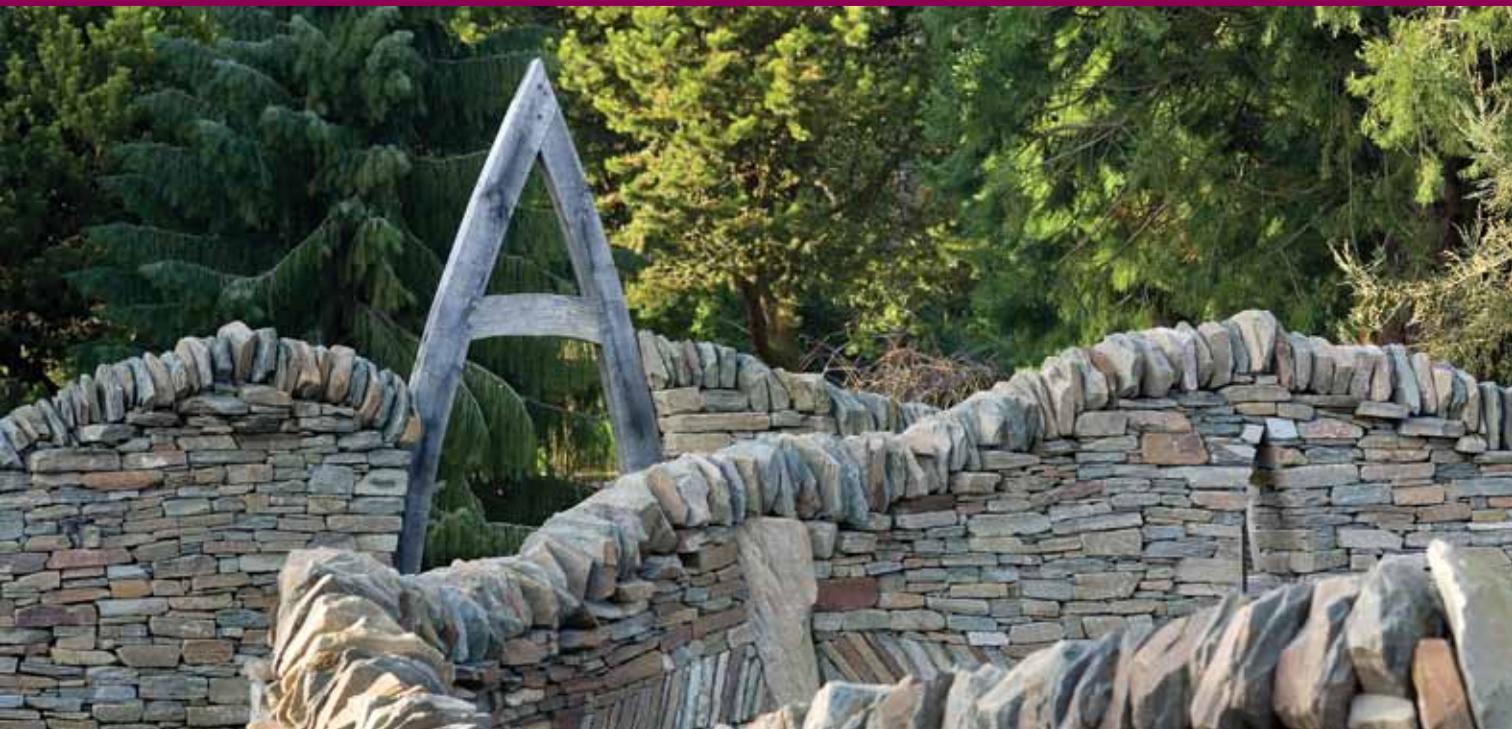
## Staff victory in University Challenge

**University staff made it a hat-trick of victories over students in October with a resounding win in this year's University Challenge charity event.**

Although the students won the original challenge in 2008, staff have triumphed every year since then. This year the staff team led by University Secretary Dr Jim McGeorge and including David Coates, Deputy Principal of Learning & Teaching, Medical Librarian Andy Jackson and Director of Strategic Development Graham McKee, notched up 410 points to the students' 225.

The students were captained by DUSA President Iain Kennedy, while Connor Bowen, Daniel Williams and Laura Gorman made up the quartet. Rector Brian Cox took the role of quizmaster for the event which raised money for Radio Tay's Cash for Kids appeal.

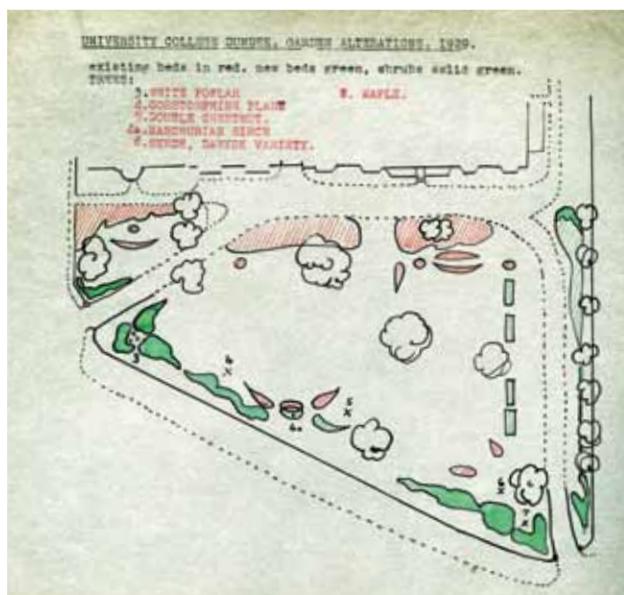
# from the Archives... Botanic Garden at 40



The Botanic Garden celebrates its 40th anniversary this year but the idea of a botanic teaching garden dates back much further. The concept was advocated by Patrick Geddes, Professor of Botany at University College, Dundee from 1889 to 1920. The garden, in what is now known as the Geddes Quadrangle, was laid out according to an elaborate plan by Geddes to serve an educational function. Geddes designed the garden so that the specimens planted in each bed were from the same scientific group and that the beds demonstrated the evolution of that group. He also took a keen interest in the layout of the rest of the college grounds.

In 1906 it was reported that Geddes had proposed a scheme to create a large botanic garden running from the Perth Road to the edge of the Caledonian Railway at Magadalen Green, covering the site of Clarendon Park Nursery and extending eastwards. Following the failure of a similar venture by the late Bailie Mathers to erect a winter garden at Baxter Park, Geddes had been in touch with the Town Council about whether they would now consider his scheme as the basis for either a winter garden or a botanic garden. He also requested that the College Council consider the matter, which much to his regret, they refused to do.

Geddes did not teach at the University after 1914, but his legacy lived on. As the document (right) from 1929 shows the garden at the front of the College was carefully planned and maintained and showcased a number of species of tree. Proposals for a permanent botanic garden reemerged in the 1960s and with the encouragement of Principal James Drever the current gardens were established in 1971.



The **Botanic Garden** is open to visitors throughout the year except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and the first two days of January.

Opening times are:

**Mar - Oct** • Mon - Sun 10.00am - 4.30pm

**Nov - Feb** • Mon - Sun 10.00am - 3.30pm

For more information regarding the Garden including what's on and entry prices visit the website at: [www.dundee.ac.uk/botanic/](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/botanic/)

# Fundraising in memory of Abbie

**The family of a former member of staff who helped raise thousands of pounds for scientific research presented an additional £750 in his memory last month.**

Albert Clark, popularly known as Abbie, worked for the University for 11 years, including 8 as a technician at the College of Life Sciences (CLS), before retiring in the summer of 2010. Sadly, Abbie passed away in July of this year.

During his time at the University, Abbie was a major supporter of research in the MRC Protein Phosphorylation Unit (MRC-PPU). Through Camperdown Lodge, he raised thousands of pounds to fund summer placements at CLS for research students from around the world.

In recognition of his fundraising passion, Abbie's family decided to hold a collection for this cause at his funeral. His wife Charlotte, son Kevin, and daughter Caroline presented the proceeds of this collection totalling £500 plus £250 from a further collection, to Professor Dario Alessi, from the MRC-PPU.

"Abbie was a very popular member of staff at the College of Life Sciences, and he helped to raise a lot of money for the MRC-PPU, which we are very grateful for," said Professor Alessi.

"I would also like to thank Charlotte, Kevin and Caroline for carrying on Abbie's fundraising work. Everyone here is humbled by this gesture and we will ensure it goes to good use. As Abbie's previous fundraising was used to support the cost of bringing research students to the UK, this money will be used for the same purpose.

"His work enabled three students to come to Dundee and get their first flavour of research and also gain expertise and knowledge in diabetes research. Importantly, the majority of these students have since gone on to complete successful PhDs and are still working in science.

"Without the funds that Abbie and the Camperdown Lodge raised these students may not have had an opportunity to undertake a scientific research project and potentially might not be where they are now. The money that his family and friends raised will enable us to offer this opportunity to another student."

# Fundraising success for alumni fund

**More than £72,500 has been pledged for the Alumni Annual Fund this year thanks to the fund-raising efforts of a 21-strong team of students.**

Throughout October the students spent evenings and weekends phoning more than 1000 graduates of the University to keep them up to date with developments at the University and to ask them to donate to the fund.

"Despite extremely challenging economic times our callers managed to obtain an impressive pledge total," said Christine Grover, Alumni and Development Manager at the University.

"The students greatly enjoyed learning about the history of the University as well as gaining a huge amount of "life experience" that our alumni have to offer."

The telephone campaign has been running over the past seven years raising money for the Annual Alumni Fund which has given more than £250,000 to help alleviate student hardship and more than £130,000 to improve the quality of facilities in the library and across the campus and to support a variety of clubs and societies.



As well as the ongoing commitment to student hardship funding, this year's projects include the Medical School refurbishment, access student bursaries, transmitting lectures via the Internet, Scottish Internship Graduate Certificates and a healthy eating café planned for use.

To donate to the fund or to find out more about the projects visit:  
**[www.dundee-reunited.com/annualfund](http://www.dundee-reunited.com/annualfund)**



# In the pink with ise charity zumbathon

Around 100 Zumba fans turned Dundee University Students Association into a vision in pink at the end of October when they joined in ise's charity Zumbathon party.

The cerise celebrations, led by ise staff Nik Long, Osla Allen, Hazel Ednie, Libby Findlay and Christine Fyda, raised a total of £622.49 for Breast Cancer Campaign.

"The energy from everyone who took part in our zumbathon was phenomenal," said ise gym programme manager Nik Long.

"We asked that everyone wear pink and they did. Everyone made a huge effort with their costumes this year."

Prize for the best-dressed zumbathoner was awarded to Karen Brough from Estates and Buildings whose multi coloured mohican wig and grass skirt won her a bottle of bubbly.



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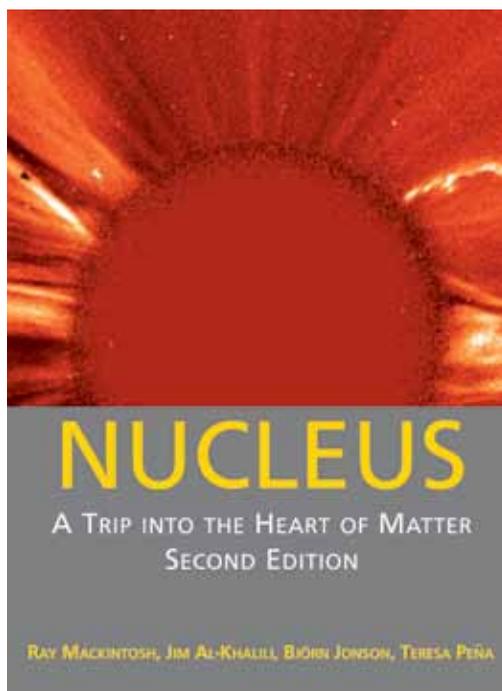
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### **Nucleus: a Trip into the Heart of Matter**

Dr Ray MacKintosh, Dr Jim Al-Khalili, Professor Bjorn Jonson and Professor Teresa Pena

#### **DUP**

**In this book a team of distinguished scientists who work at the forefront of current developments in nuclear science use everyday language and exploit a wealth of informative pictures to explain their field and its practical applications to a broad public.**

Since the first edition of *Nucleus: a Trip into the Heart of Matter* was published in 2001, there has been real progress in understanding atomic nuclei, the processes involving them and the applications of these processes, not the least of which are medical applications.

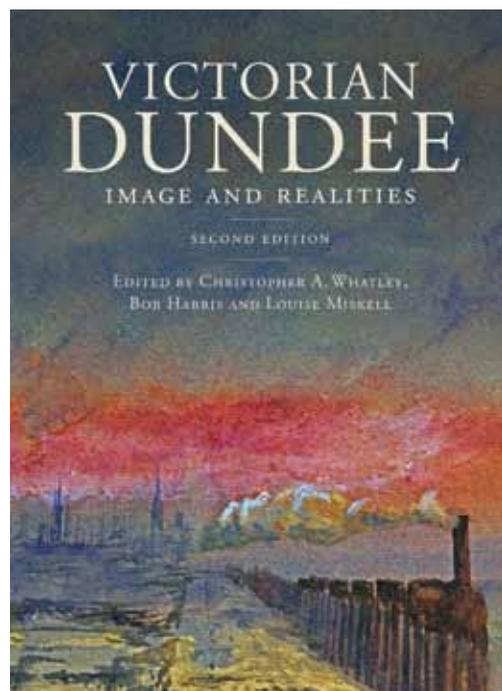
The new edition contains new material to reflect the advances that have been made.

*Dr Ray MacKintosh is a member of the Physics department at the Open University.*

*Dr Jim Al-Khalili is a nuclear physicist at the University of Surrey.*

*Professor Bjorn Jonson is based in the Faculty at Chalmers University of Technology and Goteborg University in Goteborg in Sweden.*

*Professor Teresa Pena works at the Instituto Superior Tecnico in Lisbon, Portugal.*



### **Victorian Dundee: Image and realities - 2nd edition**

Edited by Christopher A Whatley, Bob Harris and Louise Miskell

#### **DUP**

**The first edition of the book, published in 2000, was the first significant output from the history of Dundee project, inaugurated by the University in 1997. This new edition contains over forty new images and two completely new chapters dealing with Dundee's ancient waterfronts and local heroes. In addition, the original chapters have been revised and updated.**

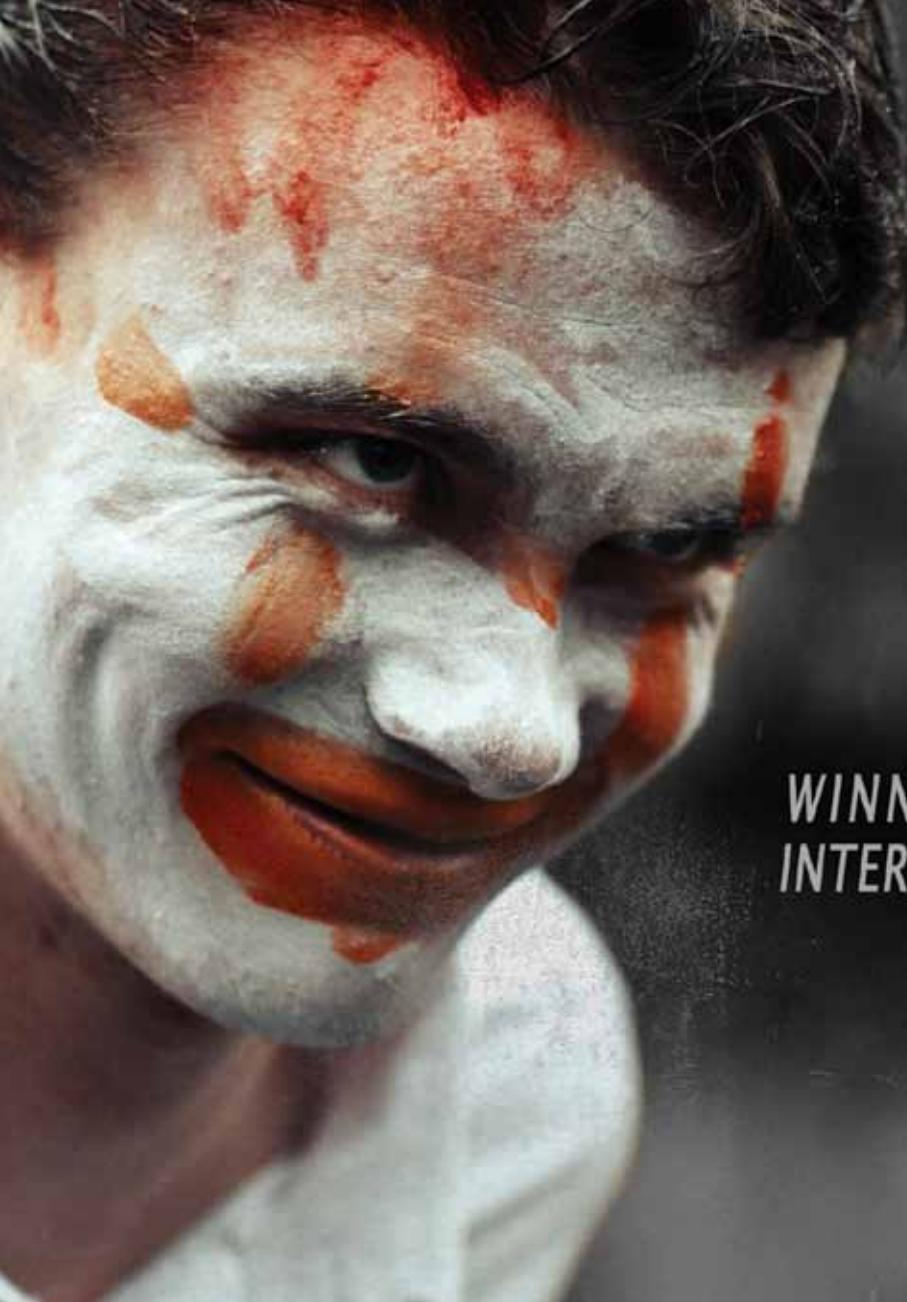
*Victorian Dundee* challenges the traditional myth-history of Dundee as merely a town characterised by its jute industry. It highlights the diverse civic dynamics, architectural triumphs, and burgeoning art communities that flourished as the backdrop to the later jute industry that would come to define Victorian Dundee.

The revised edition means there is now a complete series of three books providing a thorough history of Dundee. The other two books are *Dundee: Renaissance to Enlightenment* and *Jute No More: Transforming Dundee*.

*Christopher Whatley is Professor of Scottish History and Head of the College of Arts and Social Sciences. He is also Vice Principal of the University.*

*Dr Bob Harris is a Fellow of Worcester College, University of Oxford.*

*Louise Miskell is Head of History and Classics at Swansea University.*



## WINNER OF THE DUNDEE INTERNATIONAL BOOK PRIZE

# Nothing Human Left wins Book Prize

**This year's Dundee International Book Prize has been won by Dublin-born author Simon Ashe-Browne.**

Simon (26) won the prize for his novel 'Nothing Human Left' a psychological thriller set in a Dublin public school as a schoolboy's criminal desires reach a frightening conclusion.

As winner he receives a £10,000 prize and his novel will be published by Glasgow-based publishing house Cargo.

"Winning the Dundee International Book Prize and having my novel published by Cargo is a major game changer for me" said Simon. "It is the realisation of a dream I've had since I was eight years old and a validation of all those hours spent scratching away at the page."

Simon was presented with his prize at a gala dinner staged as part of the Dundee Literary Festival, featuring leading authors and the actor Brian Cox.

The Dundee International Book Prize is a collaboration between the University of Dundee, Cargo Publishing and Dundee City Council's 'One City, Many Discoveries' campaign. The £10,000 prize is the largest offered in the UK to unpublished authors.

It has been sponsored this year by the Apex City Quay Hotel & Spa.

The winner was picked by a panel of judges made up of Anna Day, Director of Literary Dundee; Mark Buckland, Head of Cargo Publishing; and Emily Dewhurst of Kitchen Press.

Anna said, "We have a very deserving winner in Simon. This is a tremendous book and we hope to see it go on to sell many copies. We received well over 100 high quality entries from around the world but Simon's book stood out."

## court news

**The dominant items for discussion at Court's most recent meetings have been fees for students from the rest of the UK, the Scottish Government's spending review and the invitation from the Scottish Funding Council to meet to consider proposals to merge with the University of Abertay. On this last issue, Court convened a special meeting in early October to allow members the opportunity for a full and open discussion.**

### **The Court Retreat**

The annual retreat in early September considered a range of important issues. It commented on a draft response to the Scottish Government's Review of Higher Education Governance, being led by the Principal of the Robert Gordon University. This debate benefited from the insights of the University's Rector, Brian Cox. Quite how the review will develop and what governance changes the Government might seek to legislate for is, however, still unclear. There was also a presentation and workshop on risk management led by the University's internal auditors. This had followed recommendations to revise the University's approach to risk management to concentrate on major strategic risks. Court members found this session particularly useful, and at its routine meeting on 24 October 2011, the Court approved a revised risk register.

### **Rest of UK Fees**

At the retreat, the Court also heard a series of presentations about the proposed approach to setting fees for students from the rest of the UK, and members gave their support to the direction of travel being suggested. In particular members were positive in their reactions to the proposed development of three-year degree options, both in terms of its impact on education in Scotland and in terms of its attractiveness to students coming from parts of the UK where three-year degrees were the norm. After a special Senate meeting and approval by Court members, the University published its plans in late September.

### **Discussions with the Scottish Funding Council**

As everyone in Dundee will by now know, the University received in September a letter from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) inviting the University to participate in discussions with the University of Abertay on the possibility of merger. In response to the letter, the Court swiftly convened a special meeting at the beginning of October devoted solely to this issue. At that meeting the Principal and others gave their views on the manner in which the letter had been released and Court was able to engage in a wide-ranging discussion on the concerns raised by the letter. The Court revisited the issue at its routine meeting on 24 October 2011, by which time the Principal had met with officials at the SFC when it was becoming clear that the strength of feeling locally had contributed to a softening in the SFC's stance. The universities were now being asked to participate in a more general review of post-16 provision in the region.

### **Scottish Budget**

The Court received a paper at its routine October meeting presenting the favourable settlement for higher education sector as proposed in the Scottish Government's Spending Review. Universities could expect a cash increase of around 15%, whereas Colleges would see a cash reduction of over 13%. In capital terms, however, the combined higher and further education sector would see a reduction to £60.7m in 2012-13 from £91m in 2011-12. Court noted that it was not yet clear how these top-line figures would translate into institutional allocations by the SFC and that there were continuing concerns about reductions in funded student numbers in controlled subjects (medicine, dentistry, nursing and teaching), with a cut of 16% recently announced for medical students.

### **Other business**

The Court was invited to provide comments on the Scottish Government's pre-legislative paper: Putting Learners at the Centre, and also endorsed the University's annual submission to the SFC on internal subject review.

A proposal to rename the TMRC laboratory building for former Ninewells Cancer Campaign Chair, Mrs Jacqui Wood, was unanimously approved, along with the establishment of a fundraising campaign in her honour. Mrs Wood had died earlier in the year following a long battle with cancer.

Court was humbled by the generosity displayed by the late Dr Bruce Johnston, former Court member, who, Court learnt, had bequeathed a substantial sum, potentially as high as £1m, to the University to support undergraduate students and access students suffering financial hardship. The Court invited officers to consider how best to commemorate Dr Johnston's contribution to the University more permanently.

## New credit union savings scheme for staff

**University staff members are being offered easy access to safe saving and borrowing facilities thanks to a new partnership with the local Discovery Credit Union.**

Under the terms of the partnership, the University will offer employees a simple payment deduction facility which will see a portion of their salary decided by them transferred to their Credit Union account.

University staff can sign up for the scheme by contacting the Payroll Department.

More information is available by visiting the credit unions website [www.discoverycu.co.uk](http://www.discoverycu.co.uk)

# appointments



**Colin McNally**  
**Director of Campus Services**

Colin McNally gained degrees in architecture at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design.

He worked as an architect in private practice in Ireland, Edinburgh and Perth before joining the University as a project manager in 2001. He was promoted to Capital Projects and Development Manager in 2005 with responsibility for all capital projects on campus over £25,000 including the construction of the award winning Queen Mother Building and Dalhousie Building.

Other projects included the construction of the Sir James Black Centre, the refurbishment of DUSA, the Institute of Sport and Exercise and the Medical Sciences Institute as well as a number of projects at Ninewells including the TMRC and the Clinical Research Centre.

Colin has served on the Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges strategy group as the representative from the Scottish Association of University Director of Estates.



**Andrew Hewett**  
**Director of Finance**

Andrew Hewett is a Chartered Accountant with over 25 years experience in both the private and charity sectors.

A graduate of the University of Birmingham he qualified with Ernst & Young in 1982. He has spent much of his career in the retail sector mainly within the Kingfisher Group where he held a number of senior financial roles.

He was also Kingfisher's Director of Global Sourcing, responsible for opening offices in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Delhi and Warsaw to support the globalisation of Kingfisher's supply chain while also actively managing its social, ethical and environmental standards.

Following on from this work he became a non-executive director of The Forest Trust, an organisation which helps companies and communities to achieve sustainable forestry standards.

More recently he has been the Director for Finance for the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust based in London.



**Professor Mark Whitehorn**  
**Part-time Personal Chair of Analytics**

Professor Mark Whitehorn has worked at the University since 1986. He specializes in the areas of databases, data analysis, data modelling, data warehousing and business intelligence (BI).

He runs his own consultancy business and is the author of ten books on database and BI technology. He has also acted as an expert witness for the police in cases of computer fraud.

Professor Whitehorn is based within the School of Computing and runs a Masters course in Business Intelligence. He also works with Professor Angus Lamond in the College of Life Sciences applying BI to proteomics.

While working as a research associate at the University of Cambridge he was involved in an international research project analysing previously unknown data that was available to Darwin before he wrote *The Origin of the Species*. This group has used BI techniques to rewrite our understanding of how Darwin came to develop the theory of evolution.

# Reaching out for a busy new year

**2012 is set to be a bumper year of talks, discussions and research showcases as Café Science, Café Science Extra and Dundee Arts Café continue their new seasons into the New Year.**

Hot topics to beat the winter chill include designing cities for post-riot Britain, the value of humanities, climate change, the story of alcohol and the origins of life.

Café Science Extra (with its emphasis on up and coming scientists) kicks off the New Year programme with a talk by Geoff Wood on Renewable Energy and Climate Change on 11 January at Dundee Science Centre while a talk by Dr Clare Cunningham on Being Sneaky, Being Social and Being Human at Chambers Coffee Shop in South Tay Street on 30th January marks the resumption of the Café Science sessions.

February features the first Dundee Arts Café talk of the year with Gregor White from Abertay University who will be at The McManus on the 7th to discuss how online audiences influence design. Café Science Extra continues the following day with a talk by Dr Timothy George on feeding the world.

Later in the month (27 February) Professor David Lilley from the College of Life Sciences will be exploring the origins of life for Café Science.

In March Professor Mike Press will be looking at city design in post-riot Britain at Dundee Arts Café on the 6th while Sarah Fletcher will be discussing how to inspire physics teaching on the 14th at Café Science Extra and Professor Graeme Walker will be telling the story of alcohol on the 26th at Café Science.

Highlights later on in the programme include a Café Science talk in April by Professor Nora Kearney from the School of Nursing and Midwifery on the link between cancer and poverty and in May a Dundee Arts Café talk by Professor Nicholas Davey on whether humanities should be taught at universities.

To see the full Dundee Arts Café programme visit:

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

The full programmes for Café Science and Face Science Extra can be seen at **[www.CafeScienceDundee.co.uk](http://www.CafeScienceDundee.co.uk)**



Dundee Science Centre (Sensation) is the venue for Cafe Science Extra



Chambers Coffee House in South Tay Street hosts Cafe Science Dundee on the last Monday of each month



Mike Galloway at a Dundee Arts Cafe talk describing the development of Dundee's waterfront and the V&A at Dundee project





# 2012 SATURDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES



**Dr Anna Campbell**  
**Stuart MacBride**  
**Prof Kirsty Gunn**  
**Prof Sue Black**  
**Prof Calum Colvin**  
**Phoebe Caldwell**  
**Dr David Wilson**  
**Heather Cougar**  
**Nigel Henbest**

**Epic tales of human exploration, the benefits of staying active after a cancer diagnosis and a new book celebrating those who donate their bodies to medical science all form the basis of talks in next year's Saturday Evening Lecture Series which begins in January.**

Dr Anna Campbell, a lecturer in clinical exercise science at the University, will launch the new series, now in its 88th year, on 21 January when she discusses her research on the role of exercise in cancer survivorship.

Dr Campbell Anna is a key member of Macmillan's Physical Activity Expert Advisory Group for Cancer Survivorship and works with a number of other cancer charities in an advisory capacity. As part of her work she established the first city-wide cancer rehabilitation programmes in Glasgow and Dundee for women with cancer.

On 4 February Stuart MacBride, one of the ten crime authors taking part in the University's Million For A Morgue campaign, will read from his new book Birthdays for the Dead and discuss, with Professor Sue Black, his path to being a writer and how he's getting people to vote for him in the Million For a Morgue contest to name the University's new mortuary.

The series continues on 18 February with a talk by Professor Kirsty Gunn, Professor Sue Black and Professor Calum Colvin about In Memoriam, a new book celebrating the lives of some of the people who have donated their bodies to science.

In the talk Professor Black will explain why these "silent teachers" are helping to train the next generation of doctors, scientists, dentists and surgeons.

Engaging with people with autism provides the subject matter for the fourth Saturday Evening Lecture of the new season on 3 March. Phoebe Caldwell, a leading UK expert on the use of intensive interaction will discuss the technique to engage with people with autism using their own body language.

The following week on 10 March Dr David Wilson will re-evaluate Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole and its impact on 20th Century science and culture. Dr Wilson, a respected Antarctic historian, is the great-nephew of Dr Edward Wilson, Scott's Chief of Scientific Staff who died with him on their fateful journey back from Antarctica. This lecture is this year's Graduates Council Annual Discovery lecture, and also takes place in conjunction with Dundee Heritage Trust.

On 21 April Heather Coupar and Nigel Henbest will present the last lecture of the series when they look at the story of astronomy, how it has driven culture and shaped religion, philosophy and beliefs. They will concentrate on the people and personalities who have, over the millennia, asked the big questions.

All lectures in the series are held in the Dalhousie Building and start at 6pm. Drinks receptions will follow each lecture, and where appropriate, book-signings will be held.

Tickets are available from the **University's Online Store**, by emailing [events@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:events@dundee.ac.uk), or from the events office on **01382 385564**.



[www.dundee.ac.uk/pressoffice](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/pressoffice)



# DD12

## DISCOVERY DAYS

The University's most recently appointed professors will join forces with its award winning teachers in January 2012 to share their passion for their subject in the ninth annual Discovery Days lectures.

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

Some of the hot topics this year will be transnational law, nurse well-being, chronic pain, craniofacial reconstruction, cancer research and the importance of saliva.

Each presenter will have just 15 minutes to captivate, inform and entertain their audience at the talks which will be held in the Dalhousie Building on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th January.

Tickets for the Discovery Days talks are free and are available from the University's online store and from the Dalhousie Building and Tower Building receptions.

what's on...

## Carols by Candlelight

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

The service takes the form of the traditional nine Lessons and Carols and the singing will be led by the University Choirs.

"This is one of the highlights of the academic year," said the University Chaplain, the Rev Dr Fiona Douglas. "It is a night when members of the local community, the University and their families come together."

Mince pies and mulled wine will be served after the service.

All are welcome.



**Until 8 January 2012**

### Queen Elizabeth by Cecil Beaton: A Diamond Jubilee Celebration

The McManus, Albert Square, Dundee

This exhibition is drawn exclusively from the V&A's large collection of royal portraits by photographer Cecil Beaton (1904-1980) and depicts the Queen and Royal Family in both highly staged state occasions and intimate family moments.

It is the first in a series of partnership projects between The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London as part of the pre-opening programme for the V&A at Dundee.

**11 January 2012**

### Café Science Extra

Dundee Science Centre, Greenmarket

Geoff Wood will be leading a discussion on renewable energy in the first Café Science Extra session of the New Year. The talk starts at 6pm.

**12 and 13 January 2012**

### Discovery Days

Dalhousie Building

The University's newest professors and some of its award winning teachers will join forces to highlight their expertise in a series of short, fast-paced lectures designed to educate, enlighten and entertain.

**30 January 2012**

### Café Science

Chambers Coffee House, South Tay Street

Dr Clare Cunningham will look at the social nature of humans and other primates in a talk entitled "Being social, being sneaky and being human: how to win friends and influence people."

**8 February 2012**

### Café Science Extra

Dundee Science Centre, Greenmarket

Dr Tim George from the James Hutton Institute will look at how technological interventions, can be used to improve the use, and reduce the abuse, of our natural resources in a talk entitled "Feeding the world: Appliance of Science or Reliance of Nature."

**Until 31 May 2012**

### Mending the broken Heart: the evolution of cardiology in Tayside

Tayside Medical History Museum, Ninewells Hospital

The development of cardiology in Britain has its roots in Tayside, where Sir James Mackenzie was born. After a humble childhood in Perthshire he achieved worldwide fame as a general practitioner and pioneering cardiologist. In Dundee, the Department of Cardiology has grown from modest beginnings in the 1920s to become an international centre of excellence. This exhibition highlights some of these achievements. For more information contact Matthew Jarron on [museum@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:museum@dundee.ac.uk)



*picture this...*

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From planning site visits to sponsorship packages and delegate entertainment, ambassadors can access a range of **FREE** advice and support to help make those all important decisions.

A well run conference requires careful planning and getting the essential elements, such as the venue, the speakers and the conference programme in place early will allow you to focus on attracting as many delegates as possible.

Manuel Trucco, part of the local organising committee of BMVC 2011, The 22nd British Machine Vision Conference says, 'The support we received from Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau was wonderful. The team provided prompt and effective input on several practical aspects of conference organization, from organising transport to pointing us in the right direction for suitable venues for the social programme.

'We would definitely contact the Bureau again for future conferences, and recommend their range of free services to colleagues planning events in Dundee.'

#### Get in touch and find out how we can help you:

Karen Tocher, Business Tourism Manager, Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau on 01382 434318 or email: [karen.tocher@conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk](mailto:karen.tocher@conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk)

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



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