

# c n t a c t



The magazine of the University of Dundee • December 2012



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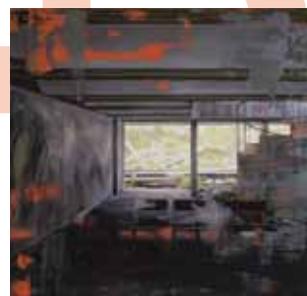


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## from the principal...

It is good to feel the sense of excitement and interest across the University in our new vision and ambitious 25-year goal to become Scotland's leading university. The University strategy is our roadmap as we begin the journey towards achieving this goal; it charts the way forward and monitors our performance against key targets during the next five years (available on My Dundee). For the first time and perhaps uniquely for a Scottish university equal emphasis has been placed on three elements of academic strategy: learning & teaching, research and wider impact. The last refers to our knowledge exchange and public engagement agenda which is being led by our new Vice-Principal & Head of the College of Art, Science and Engineering, Professor Stephen Decent.

The idea behind this is simple: universities operate on the principle that teaching and research enhance one another. It seems to me to be self-evident that wider impact both informs and is informed by teaching and research and more importantly connects the university to the world outside. It helps to accelerate the take-up of new knowledge to drive the development of innovative businesses and at the same time can ensure our students are educated in an engaged environment which contributes to their employability after graduation.

It is important to appreciate, however, that the kind of engaged university that I am talking about is not one that has simply replaced fundamental research with applied research and introduced to the curriculum a module or two on entrepreneurship. The research we do must continue to be driven by three fundamental motives: to create a legacy of new knowledge for future generations; because we are curious by nature; and because we are curious for a reason (according to Einstein). The last of these is recognition of the fact that even knowledge of the most fundamental and esoteric kind will eventually be put to good use. This understanding was recognised in a recent report from the Council for Industry and Higher Education on 'Enhancing Impact' which stated that 'university research is designed to achieve a new understanding of natural phenomena and technologies' whereas 'businesses make innovation their central goal'.

For universities, therefore, knowledge exchange is about accelerating the uptake of new knowledge into innovative organisations. Seen in this light the value of university intellectual property and its lesser known cousin, know-how, is not so much to make money, but to drive productive partnerships with innovators.

But where does learning and teaching come into all of this? The UK and especially Scotland invests relatively high levels of funding in university research, which has led to some of the most productive research anywhere in the world, but it has chronically low levels of investment in commercial research and development. This means Scotland has very little capacity to absorb and hence innovate from the knowledge generated by its world class universities.

We can tackle this by engaging more with Scottish businesses, especially those small to medium sized enterprises that make up the bulk of the Scottish economy, but there is a limit to how effectively universities can tackle this issue alone. One longer term solution comes through the education of a cohort of enterprising graduates with a mission to build innovative capacity in the Scottish economy and stimulate inward investment from overseas businesses attracted by the entrepreneurial skills of a Scottish workforce. And this is why, alongside our three-pronged academic approach, I place so much emphasis on our supporting strategy of Employability, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship.

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

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



# transformation

THE NEW VISION FOR  
OUR UNIVERSITY

## A vision for the future

**The University has launched an ambitious strategy to become Scotland's leading University in the next 25 years.**

*Transformation: The new vision for our University sets out key goals and challenges and highlights the core values upon which the vision is based. Central to the vision is a mission to transform lives.*

"We are in the midst of a rapidly changing external environment for higher education," said Professor Downes. "At this University we have undergone a period of change, with the Strategic Review. Now it is time to build on the structures we have in place and develop a vision for the future. This will fundamentally shape the University's focus and activities over the coming years.

"Amongst staff and students there is a huge amount of pride in our University and a great commitment to what we do. We want to capture that positive attitude and make sure that it is focused and channelled to help us build a stronger, better, more influential University of Dundee.

"We want to take this opportunity to transform ourselves, transform lives and transform the world in which we operate.

"We want to be Scotland's leading University celebrated internationally for the quality of our graduates and the impact of our research.

"If we are successful we will have created a generation of people who have delivered transformational change, we will be known for producing leaders and game changers and we will be working with the leading institutions in the world."

He added that three broad areas have been identified where the University can make a real difference. These are promoting the sustainable use of global resources, shaping the future through innovative design and improving social, cultural and physical well-being.

"To achieve our big vision within 25 years requires some big changes," said Professor Downes. "At every level we must focus on transforming lives – whether it's changing the lives of individuals we work with, or whether it's transforming society as a whole.

"Schools must focus on excellence. They should benchmark themselves against the rest and learn from the greatest in the world – and do what it takes to be best in Scotland. Directorates must deliver the quality and standard of service needed to support the Schools in achieving this goal.

We must appoint the highest calibre staff and we must all help to develop the skills and knowledge of everyone that works here and we must encourage our students and staff to look beyond the confines of their own disciplines, embracing ideas and knowledge from other fields of knowledge."

While acknowledging that the vision is an ambitious one Professor Downes stressed that it was grounded in realism.

"When I first came to the University 23 years ago I heard some very enthusiastic ambitions. Some may have said they were impossible but they have now been exceeded and that enthusiasm was one of the things that attracted me to Dundee,

"This year has been a record year for research funding, incredibly in these difficult times. It is an astonishing accomplishment. There is realism behind the ambition."

A series of roadshows at various locations throughout the University have been held over recent weeks. Around 2000 staff members have attended the events and heard Professor Pete Downes share the University's vision for the future.

To find out more about the new strategy visit the website:  
[www.dundee.ac.uk/transform/](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/transform/)

## Funding boost for CTIR

**The University has been awarded almost £12 million through the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF) to complete the Centre for Translational and Interdisciplinary Research project.**

To access the fund, universities must demonstrate scientific excellence, innovation and the ability to match the UKRPIF support with twice the co-investment from private companies or charities.

The co-funders of the CTIR, including The Wellcome Trust, GlaxoSmithKline, Medicines for Malaria Venture, TPP Global Development Ltd and Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed), are providing in excess of £26 million.

This UKRPIF and private/charity sector co-investment of £38 million will add to more than £12.5 million of prior investment in the CTIR by the University, The Wellcome-Wolfson Capital Award Programme, The Scottish Funding Council, Scottish Enterprise, the Biological and Biotechnology Research Council and several local charitable Trusts. The latter include, the Binks, Leng, Lethendy, Margaret Murdoch, Tay and Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trusts.

"We have an excellent track record at Dundee of attracting investment from charities and business - particularly the pharmaceutical industry - and using it to deliver innovation and opportunity," said Professor Michael Ferguson, Dean of Research in the College of Life Sciences.

"I would like to pay tribute to all my colleagues, and their research teams, who have secured the match-funding that enabled us to obtain this UKRPIF award. It will greatly enhance and accelerate our ability to improve healthcare and contribute to the local and national economies."

Principal Professor Pete Downes said, "This funding confirms the great strengths we have in Biomedicine in Dundee and Scotland. It will help create world-class capability and infrastructure for interdisciplinary work bringing together basic science, drug discovery, health informatics and mathematics.

"We have tremendous expertise across these disciplines and by harnessing them and working together we can have a transformational impact in science and health. This is also, of course, a very notable boost to economic development of the life sciences sector within Scotland."

Around 180 new research jobs in Life Sciences will be added once the CTIR is fully occupied, joining the 1000-plus scientists, research students and support staff from 62 countries already working in the College of Life Sciences in Dundee. Construction work is scheduled to finish in autumn 2013.

## New honour for Professor Black



**Professor Sue Black, Director of the University's Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification, has been made a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.**

The RCPE bestowed the honour at a ceremony in the Capital to mark Professor Black's notable contribution to the field of medicine. Fellowship is normally reserved for doctors of consultant or equivalent status but can also be given to non-medical professionals of considerable distinction.

Professor Black said she was "very honoured" to accept the award.

"The ceremony was very uplifting and all were incredibly welcoming," she said. "So although an outsider to the medical profession I feel very honoured to be recognised within the College as having contributed to the field."

Professor Black, who was made an OBE in 2001, has an international reputation in the fields of forensic anthropology, anatomy and human identification. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, founder and former President of the British Association of Human Identification and the current President of the Association for Science Education (Scotland.)

In 2008 she was awarded the Lucy Mair Medal for Applied Anthropology from the Royal Anthropological Institute. The medal is awarded to honour excellence in the application of anthropology to the relief of poverty and distress, and to the active recognition of human dignity.

Professor Black is also leading the Million for a Morgue campaign to raise £1 million to build a world leading forensic centre with a new morgue to accommodate Theil embalming at the University.

For more information on the campaign visit:  
[www.millionformorgue.com](http://www.millionformorgue.com)

## Royal Aeronautical Society Award for Prof Parkes

**Professor Steve Parkes, Director of the Space Technology Centre at the University, has been presented with a Specialist Bronze Award from the Royal Aeronautical Society for his “instrumental role in the inception, development and continuing success of the SpaceWire Standard for spacecraft on-board data handling.”**

The Society’s Specialist Bronze Awards are for work of merit which has led to advances in specialist disciplines in the aerospace industry. The award was presented by Phil Boyle, President of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Professor Parkes said, “I am honoured to receive this award in recognition of the research I have had the pleasure to lead over the past 15 years. My thanks and appreciation goes to the members of my research team within the University and STAR-Dundee, and to my colleagues across the world, who together made winning this award possible.”

Professor Parkes worked in the aerospace industry prior to joining the University in 1995, where he subsequently founded the Space Technology Centre in the School of Computing. His research focuses on spacecraft electronic systems, including computer networks for use on board spacecraft, guidance systems that use computer vision to help land spacecraft on the surface of other planets, and on-board data processing.

He is co-director of the NERC Earth Observation Data Acquisition and Analysis Service (NEODAAS), which incorporates the Dundee Satellite Receiving Station, and which provides a comprehensive satellite data service for UK environmental scientists.



**Professor Parkes (on the right) accepting the award**

He is also a successful entrepreneur leading STAR-Dundee Ltd, a spacecraft technology company, which has grown year on year since spinning out from the University in 2002. The award-winning research of the Space Technology Centre features in a number of the School of Computing undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, as part of the “research frontiers” teaching.

**“Professor Parkes has been a leading force in the development and acceptance of SpaceWire as a high speed on-board data connection.” Jim Lux of NASA**

SpaceWire is a computer network for use on board spacecraft, which connects together instruments, mass-memory, processors, the downlink telemetry, and other onboard sub-systems. SpaceWire has been a highly successful collaboration between European Space Agency (ESA), academia and industry.

The University, funded by the ESA technology research programme, led the academic research, presented the initial definition of the standard, developed crucial SpaceWire codec and router chip designs, and wrote the formal standard document, with input from engineers across Europe.

Dr. Philippe Armbruster, Head of the European Space Agency’s Data Systems Division said that “Professor Steve Parkes is well known to the European Space Agency for his numerous contributions to the work of its Technical Centre (ESTEC). He has been instrumental in the development of the SpaceWire concept, from its inception to its vast deployment within satellite on-board data handling sub-systems.”

Prof Tadayuki Takahashi of the Japan Aerospace eXploration Agency, JAXA, said “Professor Steve Parkes is the leader of the SpaceWire activity in the world. The sixth Japanese X-ray satellite, ASTRO-H, is a new generation of satellite that uses the SpaceWire architecture extensively. We appreciate his tremendous efforts to collect all requirements from the international community and to formalize as the standard.”

Jim Lux, of NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said, “Professor Parkes has been a leading force in the development and acceptance of SpaceWire as a high speed on-board data connection. I expect to see more and better science data from future missions that use SpaceWire because of his advocacy and persistence.”



## University Benefactors Celebrated

**A new exhibition celebrating the benefactors whose generosity significantly contributed to the University's development opened in the Tower Foyer Gallery Last month.**

The exhibition, entitled 'Benefiting from the Facts', features more than 25 paintings, photographs and other items related to some of the many benefactors who aided higher education and research in Dundee.

Running until January, it recognises contributions to the former Dundee Royal Infirmary, and institutions which are now part of the University, including Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design (DJCAD) and Dundee Dental Hospital & School

The exhibition tells various fascinating stories of generosity. Miss Margaret Harris (1815-1894) left a bequest of £25,000 for educational purposes, which was shared by the High School of Dundee and University College, Dundee, the precursor to the University.

This donation founded the Harris Chair of Physics in 1895 and the Harris Trust continues to support the University, helping to develop the Chaplaincy Centre and funding the Margaret Harris Lecture on Religion, which brought the Dalai Lama to Dundee earlier this year. The University's Harris Building is also named after her. A bust of Margaret Harris by John Hutchison is being shown in the gallery.

Not all donations were financial. Dr James Nicoll (1872-1958) was a former student who gave a large collection of artworks and books on art to the University in 1951. The paintings formed the basis for the University's now extensive collections of art and examples from Nicoll's bequest by famous 19th century painters John Constable and Sir David Wilkie feature as part of the exhibition.

Curator Claire Wallace, from the University's Museum Services, said, "This is a wonderful way for the University to mark the donation of the many benefactors who have contributed to its development as well as showing some magnificent and important artworks.

"Two of the exhibited oil paintings on display – portraits of Lieutenant-Colonel S J L Hardie and James Soutar of Thornbank – have recently been conserved thanks to grant funding from Museums Galleries Scotland, and are being displayed for the first time in several years. Colonel Hardie gave the land on which Belmont Hall was constructed and Soutar was an important donor to Dundee Royal Infirmary."

The exhibition will run until Saturday 12th January 2013. Opening hours are 9.30am-8.30pm on weekdays and 9.30am-4.30pm on Saturdays. The Gallery will be closed during the Christmas holiday from 23rd December to 3rd January. More information is available from [museum@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:museum@dundee.ac.uk) or 01382 384310.

Image shows *The Mountain Shepherdess* by Hugh Cameron, one of many paintings bought by the University with money from the James Lamb bequest.

# International success for computing students



**A trio of computing students at the University are celebrating success at a series of international and UK events.**

PhD students Ha Trinh (from Vietnam), Mark Zarb (from Malta) and Sebastian Stein (from Germany) have picked up some of the top student prizes at conferences held in the USA and UK.

Ha won the Best Student Paper Award for research she presented at the ACM SIGACCESS conference in Colorado. The conference is one of the major international events for researchers working on computing and information technology to help people with disabilities. Ha is developing communication devices for people who cannot speak.

She is now going to work with Microsoft's Human-Computer Interaction group in Beijing on a four month internship.

Sebastian won the Best Student Paper award at the Digital Economy conference in Aberdeen, for his research towards a system which uses activity recognition to guiding people with cognitive impairments when they are preparing food.

Mark, meanwhile, won the runner-up medal for the Student Research Competition at the ACM SPLASH conference in Tucson, Arizona. He has analysed communications between expert pair programmers, which can then be used to inform novice pairs on better practices of communication. The ACM SPLASH conference is the premier conference at the intersection of programming languages, programming, and software engineering. Mark will now go on to present his research at the ACM SRC Grand Finals.

"These are all fantastic achievements by our students and highlight Dundee's considerable strengths as an international centre for research in assistive and healthcare technologies and agile computing," said Dr Janet Hughes, Dean of the School of Computing.

The SIGACCESS and SPLASH conferences are both events organised by the Association for Computing Machinery, the world's largest educational and scientific computing society.

# DUSA voted top in Scotland

**Dundee University Students Association has continued its outstanding run of success by being judged the highest rated in Scotland in the latest National Student Survey.**

The NSS results also placed the University joint second in Scotland in terms of overall satisfaction.

Dundee's 'union' was the only Scottish representative in the UK top ten when students were asked if they agreed with the statement 'I am satisfied with the Students Union at my institution'.

"The latest results of the National Student Survey are another excellent result for DUSA," said Iain Kennedy, President of Dundee University Students Association.

"Perhaps the most visible part of DUSA is our popular night time events, but we have worked incredibly hard to make sure there is a lot more on offer. With over 80 societies, student welfare campaigns throughout the year and close links with the University's advice and support team we are able to cater for all students in all matters of life on campus.

"We benefit from an excellent representation structure which ensures that student opinion is heard across the University."



Dundee University Students Association was recently judged the best in the UK in a Which? University survey, adding to a run of accolades for both DUSA itself and student life at the University.

Dundee was named top in the UK in this year's Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey, performing highly right across the board on everything from accommodation to nightlife, and sports facilities to teaching quality.

# New research offers bowel cancer hope

**A new type of molecular switch can boost common chemotherapy drugs to destroy bowel cancer cells, according to researchers at the University's School of Medicine.**

Scientists led by senior lecturer Dr Gillian Smith examined hundreds of molecules which may help to predict whether bowel cancer patients can be successfully treated with chemotherapy.

Many bowel cancer patients are treated with a drug called 5-fluorouracil, or 5-FU, but not all patients respond well. It is difficult to predict which patients will be successfully treated.

The team revealed in laboratory experiments that blocking a molecular switch called miR-224 'tricks' bowel cancer cells containing a healthy gene called K-RAS into behaving like cells with a damaged form of the gene.

K-RAS usually controls the normal growth of healthy bowel cells. But faulty versions of K-RAS are found in one third of bowel cancers, particularly in fast-growing cancers with poor survival.

The research showed that common drugs, 5-FU and oxaliplatin, were more effective in treating bowel cancer cells with damaged forms of K-RAS, and bowel cancer cells with healthy K-RAS in which the miR-224 switch had been blocked.

Dr Smith, who is lead author of the report which was presented last month to the National Cancer Research Institute Cancer Conference in Liverpool, said:

"Our research reveals that changing the behaviour of K-RAS boosts the effect of certain drugs to kill bowel cancer cells.

"This research is at an early stage, but if we're able to prove these results in larger studies, the findings could provide new scope for bowel cancer treatments targeting the K-RAS gene.

Our findings are particularly interesting because there is already a test available in the clinic that can identify which patients have a faulty version of K-RAS."

Bowel cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in the UK with more than 41,000 people diagnosed with the disease each year.

Dr Jane Cope, director of the NCRI, said: "This is exciting research that adds to the dramatic progress made over the past thirty years in tackling bowel cancer.

# Genetic discovery in skin disease research

A new gene and the way it works has been identified as a factor in a skin disease which affects thousands of people in the UK.

An international research team led by Professor Irwin McLean at the University's School of Medicine found that the 'p34 gene' played a key role in causing the disease punctate PPK, which gives sufferers dots of hard, thickened skin which can cause pain and discomfort.

"We have not only found this gene but we have been able to figure out how it works, which is very important," said Professor McLean, who is Professor of Human Genetics in the Centre for Dermatology and Genetic Medicine.

"When the gene is disrupted or knocked out, the cells in the skin grow too fast and this results in these hard, thick, painful lesions which can be quite debilitating. When the gene is working properly then the skin forms normally.

"Knowing about this gene and what it does makes it easier for us to diagnose this form of skin disease and look towards developing new therapies. The pathway where this gene functions is a possible drug target although it will need more work to identify how we can take advantage of that."

Punctate PPK is one of a whole family of PPK skin diseases, each of which are relatively rare. Punctate PPK is estimated to affect around 1 in every 15,000 people in the UK.

The gene discovery was made possible by use of next generation sequencing technology, which allows researchers to screen large amounts of genome data in a short space of time.

"This is a notable step forward in diagnosing skin diseases and the genetic causes behind them as this is research that we simply could not have done just a few years ago. We are now able to spot faulty genes and track their behaviour far more effectively," said Professor McLean.

"The technology is making a huge difference and it will, in time, help to deliver significant results with benefits for patients with diseases like this one."

The research team involved contributors at the Farhat Hached University Hospital in Tunisia; the University of Cambridge; NHS in Scotland; Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Dublin; Trinity College Dublin; Hokkaido University, Japan; Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan; Otsu Municipal Hospital, Japan; Hiratsuka Municipal Hospital, Japan; the Institute of Medical Biology, A\*STAR, Singapore; St. Thomas' Hospital, London; King's College London; and the National University of Singapore.

The results of the research have been published in the journal Nature Genetics.

# £1.5 m MRC grant for Professor Sir Philip Cohen

**The Medical Research Council (MRC) has awarded a grant of almost £1.5million to researchers at the University to carry out research on the mechanisms that prevent inflammatory and autoimmune diseases.**

The award from the MRC's Infections and Immunity Board has been made to Professor Sir Philip Cohen. Sir Philip and his team have already made significant findings which have identified potential new targets for drugs to treat inflammatory and autoimmune diseases.

The MRC grant will allow Sir Philip to develop the research over the next five years.

Commenting on the award Sir Philip said, "About six years ago I decided to change the field of my research to try and understand how the innate immune system not only defends the human body against infection by bacteria and viruses, but also how the deregulation of this system can lead to chronic inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, such as Arthritis, Asthma, Colitis, Lupus, Psoriasis and Sepsis.

"I made this decision because I felt that the expertise and approaches that I had developed while solving how insulin regulates carbohydrate metabolism could be exploited to elucidate a very different biological control system that is also of great medical importance.

"Getting to grips with the complex field of immunology, with which I was previously unfamiliar, has been a huge learning experience, and I am still learning! However, over the past few years my decision to enter this field has started to pay off and my team are now making interesting discoveries that promise to revolutionise our understanding of this area.

## Inflammatory diseases discovery made

A fundamental mechanism controlling cells of the human immune system could be key to helping fight inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis, according to new research carried out by Dr Kris Clark at the College of Life Sciences.

His research concentrated on the activity of macrophages, which are cells of the immune system that defend the body against infection by bacteria and viruses.

Dr Clark, who is based in the Medical Research Council Protein Phosphorylation Unit (MRC-PPU), found that an enzyme called SIK is active in suppressing the production of anti-inflammatory molecules. By 'switching off' the function of SIK within the cell, he was able to greatly enhance the production of beneficial anti-inflammatory molecules.

The research suggests that drugs that switch off SIK may improve current therapies for treating inflammatory diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis.

"In particular, we have discovered key mechanisms that prevent the development of inflammatory and autoimmune diseases and which have identified attractive new targets for the development of drugs to treat these diseases."

Sir Philip is pursuing these developments with the Drug Discovery Unit in the College of Life Sciences, as well as with pharmaceutical collaborators.

He said that the MRC's long-term support had been key in allowing his research to develop, particularly into this new field after a long and extremely successful career in other areas of life sciences.

"I would like to thank the MRC for setting up the MRC Protein Phosphorylation Unit at Dundee in 1990 because it is the long term core funding uniquely provided to MRC Units that enables the scientists that work in them to tackle ambitious and challenging problems without worrying about where their next research grant will come from," said Sir Philip. "It would have been extremely difficult to change my research to a field in which I had no previous track record had I not been working within an MRC Unit."

In April this year, Sir Philip stood down as Director of the Medical Research Council Protein Phosphorylation Unit at the University to concentrate full-time on his own laboratory research.

"These are very exciting times for our research," said Dr Clark. "This discovery represents the first link between SIK and inflammation. My immediate future goal is to characterize in more detail the roles that SIK plays in the immune system and how they are affected by compounds that switch off this enzyme."

Working with the Drug Discovery Unit, Dr Clark has now started to develop molecules which could provide the basis for drugs to turn off SIK.

"My studies have greatly benefitted from working in the multi-disciplinary and collegial environment that has been built up in the MRC Unit, the Scottish Institute for Cell Signalling and the College of Life Sciences at Dundee," said Dr Clark. "My interactions with the scientists who work here and the advice they have given me has not only been invaluable for this project, but also most enjoyable."

The research has been published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA.

## 5 MILLION QUESTIONS – analysing Scotland's referendum

**The University is playing a significant role in the debate over Scotland's constitutional future with the launch of a major project aimed at examining the issues in the lead up to the 2014 referendum.**

Entitled *5 Million Questions: Understanding Scotland's Referendum*, the project aims to stimulate wider debate, apply academic rigour to examination of the issues, and engage with the public on all aspects of the major questions they are facing.

"The forthcoming referendum on whether Scotland will remain within the United Kingdom promises to be fiercely contested," said Professor Christopher Whatley, Vice-Principal and leader of the '5 Million Questions' project.

"Naturally, politicians on both sides of the debate will claim much for their competing points of view. Passions will rise and much heat will be generated. However the question of Scotland's constitutional future – and that of the United Kingdom – is one that merits calm reflection and informed discussion. It is an issue that transcends politics.

"There is space in the debate under way in civic Scotland for deeper analysis and more profound thinking about the nature of what is under consideration in the referendum.

"Polling tells us that it is questions of history, identity and emotional attachment that will play perhaps the most significant role in terms of the electorate's decision making. In addition there are a host of other issues – in relation to law, international relations, environment, energy, education and educational funding to name but a few – that demand serious consideration.

"Engaging in this critical issue for Scotland and the UK is a responsibility of the country's universities if they are to discharge their role as repositories of much of the nation's knowledge.

"At Dundee we have become acutely conscious that there is a demand amongst the Scottish public for information. As an institution we are neither on the Yes nor the No side of the argument. People – young teenagers along with the traditional electorate – want to get behind the political rhetoric, and this is where the University has an important role in terms of its engagement with the wider public. There are many unanswered questions. Hence the launch of our innovative *5 Million Questions: Understanding Scotland's Referendum* project.

"What we plan to do, starting now but with increasing intensity from early in 2013, is provide a locus for serious investigation of key issues, a forum for debates where the focus will be informed thinking and evidence-based discussion, and a platform where eminent speakers from Scotland and elsewhere can air their views. Our website will be a vehicle where interested members of the public can access a range of information related to the independence issue, as well as commentary on the referendum process as it develops."

“The question of Scotland’s constitutional future – and that of the United Kingdom – is one that merits calm reflection and informed discussion. It is an issue that transcends politics.”

David Torrance, a leading political commentator, author and journalist, who has been appointed Associate Director of the project added, “There is a lot of ‘noise’ around the independence debate but most of it is being presented from entrenched political positions. There is a clear need for more sober analysis and independent debate.

“Every aspect of Scottish life stands to be impacted upon by the result of the referendum. The questions and challenges involved are profound and fundamental, involving as they do changes in the constitutional relationship with the rest of the UK that has been in place for more than three centuries.

“The world - particularly other areas where constitutional change is very much on the agenda - is watching with keen interest to see how this plays out. 5 Million Questions will provide answers leading up to the referendum in 2014 and beyond.”

The project will engage with the public by asking them for their own question around the independence debate. A full programme of events is also being planned. For more information visit the website: [www.fivemillionquestions.org](http://www.fivemillionquestions.org)

Meanwhile Professor Alan Page at the University’s School of Law has joined forces with fellow academics from Law Schools at Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Strathclyde to create the Scottish Constitutional Futures Forum.

The Forum has been set up to address the wide range of issues bearing upon the constitutional choice facing the Scottish electorate.

Over the next two years it will host regular discussion of the key constitutional questions which arise including “Is the referendum the right way to proceed? Have the key constitutional options been correctly identified? What happens to defence, currency, social citizenship or human rights under independence or enhanced devolution? What new or amended political institutions - parliamentary, executive or judicial - would be need in a constitutionally renewed Scotland?

The forum aims to debate these and many other questions in a way which draws upon comparative expertise and experience, and in so doing involving and engaging with a wide range of Scottish groups and interests.

A website providing resources about the debate, up-to-date commentary and regular blog posts is available at [www.scottishconstitutionalfutures.org](http://www.scottishconstitutionalfutures.org) The Forum’s first blog was provided by Professor Page.



## SIPR event heralds a new era of Scottish policing

**As Scotland prepares for the biggest public sector reform in decades with the creation of a new national police force in April next year, the Scottish Institute for Policing Research, based at the University, has been playing a vital role in increasing understanding of the changes facing policing in the 21st Century.**

Last month the SIPR, led by Professor Nick Fyfe, who has more than 25 years experience in policing research, organised a major International Policing Conference in Edinburgh.

The conference provided the first opportunity for the Cabinet Secretary for Justice Kenny MacAskill MSP, the newly appointed Chair of the Scottish Police Authority Vic Emery OBE and the newly appointed Chief Constable of Scotland Stephen House QPM to set out publicly their vision of the future of policing in Scotland.

It attracted around 150 senior academics, police officers and Scottish Government and local authority officials as well as international contributors including Rob Wainwright, Director of Europol, Detlef Schroder, Deputy Director of CEPOL, Dr Jack Nolan, Assistant Commissioner for An Garda Síochána in Ireland and Drazen Maravic, Director of Strategic Planning in Serbia.

“The move to a National Police Force for Scotland is a very radical reform.”

Chaired by Paddy Tomkins the former Chief Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, the conference focussed on the theme of “connections” to examine some of the major strategic issues for police organisations in the UK and internationally, from the complexities of linking data and engaging with local communities to the need to create partnerships with the public, private and voluntary sectors.

“The move to a National Police Force for Scotland is a very radical reform,” explained Professor Fyfe. “It is the biggest change in policing in Scotland for nearly 200 years and the biggest public sector reform in decades.

“The conference provided a very important platform to present a vision of policing in Scotland by the very people who are driving the reforms forwards. It was also a great opportunity for Scotland to network with the rest of Europe, share new ideas and learn about future developments.”

For Professor Fyfe and his colleagues at the SIPR, the move from eight regional police forces to a national one, has created a wealth of new research opportunities.

“From a research point of view, police reform raises lots of important and interesting questions,” he said. “How will it impact on public perceptions of the police? How will it affect police performance in tackling crime? What differences will the officers and staff that work in the new organisation experience? It is also interesting to examine the process by which reform has come about. For twenty years there has been talk of restructuring the police service in Scotland either by creating a national force or redrawing existing boundaries but there was never the political appetite to do it.

“That changed with the financial crisis. It has been estimated that the reform could save £100 million a year by reducing duplication of activities. In addition to being more efficient it is also argued a national force can be more effective, particularly in tackling the threats posed by serious and organised crime at a transnational level.”

Professor Fyfe added that Scotland is not alone in its efforts to reform the way policing is carried out.

“Other countries in Europe are also undergoing reform or have already done so,” he said. “Denmark for example reformed its police service in 2004 and the Dutch are following a very similar path to Scotland by merging regional forces to create a national police organisation.

“Intriguingly England and Wales are also undertaking radical police reform but they are moving in a very different direction to Scotland. Drawing on ideas from the USA, they are introducing locally elected Police and Crime Commissioners who will be in charge of police budgets and appointing chief officers. Scotland is going in the opposite direction and moving closer to a north west European and Scandinavian model of national police organisations.”

Professor Fyfe’s expertise in policing research has resulted in him being asked to deliver the keynote address to the CEPOL (European Police College) research conference on the future of police science in Europe. He has also been asked to contribute to the Independent Commission on the Future of Policing in England and Wales alongside Dr Anja Johansen, an expert in police complaints from the History programme in the School of Humanities.

With colleagues from the Netherlands, Professor Fyfe is also editing a new book exploring police reform in Europe which is due to be published early in 2013 and contains contributions from eight countries.

“It is the biggest change in policing in Scotland for nearly 200 years and the biggest public sector reform in decades.”

In the meantime the SIPR, a strategic collaboration between 12 Scottish Universities and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland, continues to play an important role in the move towards a National Police Service for Scotland with a range of research initiatives.

“We have provided research evidence to the reform team and we’re setting up a series of projects to track the impact of reform,” explained Professor Fyfe.

“I have an ESRC PhD student through the Scottish Graduate School looking at how local policing is changing and another ESRC PhD student working with the National Police Reform Team at the Scottish Police College at Tulliallan on an internship sponsored by the Scottish Government. He is looking at how partnership working between police and local authorities will change after reform.

“This work contributes to the broader role of SIPR in developing evidence-based approaches to policing which will help police meet the challenges of the 21st century as well as supporting internationally excellent policing research in Scotland’s universities. I can’t think of a more interesting and exciting time to be involved in policing research.”



## Putting mothers and babies first

**A sense of frustration with the medicalisation of childbirth in the 1970s and the way new mothers and their babies were cared for provided the catalyst for Professor Mary Renfrew, recently appointed Professor of Mother and Infant Health within the School of Nursing and Midwifery, to enter the world of academic research.**

Now almost 35 years later she is considered a leading expert in the field of child and maternal health and is currently principal investigator for a global collaboration to produce a special series for the Lancet on the contribution of midwifery to maternal and infant survival, health and well-being.

Her research has been supported by external funds of over £10 million and she has co-authored or edited seven books and around 120 peer reviewed publications. She has been Chair of the UK Breastfeeding Manifesto Steering Group, Chair of the World Health Organisation Maternal and Newborn Strategic Committee, Deputy Chair of the Nursing and Midwifery RAE panel, and is a Board member for UNICEF UK.

However her motivation to “do the right thing for mothers and their babies” has remained constant throughout her career and in her new role at the University she will be establishing a multidisciplinary programme of work aimed at tackling inequalities in maternal and infant health and early years.

“Midwifery in Scotland in the 1970s was quite medicalised,” explains Professor Renfrew. “We were limited in the way we could practice and the decisions we could make and we were told to do things that, to be honest, just didn’t make sense. At that time episiotomies were routine, mothers were kept lying down in labour, babies were separated from mothers and feeds were timed.

“That all made me look at moving into research. It is very important to be able to argue on the basis of evidence and I wanted to be able to bring evidence into these decisions. It was always about doing the right thing for women and their babies and I felt I would be better able to do that by going into research.”

Professor Renfrew’s first research post was at the MRC Reproductive Biology Unit in Edinburgh with Dr Peter Howie, who later moved to Dundee where he became Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Dean of the Medical School and depute Principal of the University.

It was while working with Professor Howie, who was awarded an honorary degree by the University in the summer, that Professor Renfrew developed an interest in breastfeeding.

“Professor Howie was a very keen advocate of breastfeeding and that’s when I became interested in it,” she says. “I did my PhD on ways of helping women to breastfeed.”

It is still a topic she cares passionately about and one she believes is of profound importance in public health terms.

“It’s hard to think of a public health issue more important than breastfeeding,” she maintains. “It is a hugely important public health issue on a global scale but it is a topic that is very ill understood and needs quite a bit of interpretation.

“There are different schools of thought on the subject. One is that because there are a lot of women who are struggling with breastfeeding we shouldn’t encourage them to do it. But the last infant feeding survey showed that most mothers who stopped by six weeks stopped before they wanted to. The problem is that the UK has become an environment where it is very hard to get the support women need to breastfeed.”

Earlier this year Professor Renfrew led a UNICEF UK commissioned study which found that low breastfeeding rates in the UK were costing the NHS millions of pounds. It attracted considerable media interest and led to a fellow academic accusing her of conducting a ‘moral crusade’ during a debate on Channel 4 news.

“Infant feeding is a very contentious topic,” she argues. “We are looking at a culture where the majority of babies are formula fed, certainly by the time they are six to eight weeks old.

“The interesting thing about the Channel 4 debate is that I agreed with the other academic in terms of women having a choice. Of course women who want to bottle feed should be able to do so, but women who want to breastfeed should be able to do that too and to do that they will need support to overcome the barriers to breastfeeding in UK society – otherwise they don’t really have a choice at all.

“Almost all problems mothers face with breastfeeding can be prevented or sorted out but the right support services have to be in place. It need not be expensive particularly compared with the cost of other health interventions and we are making progress.”

Professor Renfrew acknowledges that progress has also been made in other areas of maternal and infant health but stresses that more needs to be done.

“Although a lot of these practices have improved they have not done so consistently. Before coming to Dundee I was working on a project in Yorkshire on kangaroo care in neonatal units – using skin to skin contact for parents with their pre-term and sick babies. The rates have been going up but it has not been easy. It’s not so much that staff are resistant to the ideas – it is just that they have not been taught to do it before and they don’t realise how important it is. People are out of their comfort zone and they may not have time to stop and learn how to do something new. The parents themselves – both mothers and fathers – have been hugely important in making the change happen as they understand its importance and really feel the difference it makes when they can hold their baby”

The Yorkshire project will form the basis of Professor Renfrew’s presentation at next month’s Discovery Day lectures on 11 January. It will be an opportunity to highlight her research to a Dundee audience, a prospect she is looking forward to.

“Dundee has an obvious commitment to implement change and to help transform people’s lives and that’s exactly what I want to do”

“Dundee has an obvious commitment to implement change and to help transform people’s lives and that’s exactly what I want to do,” she says. “People here are very open and keen on collaborations. It is also serious about tackling inequalities and that is one of the reasons I am here. That is what I want to focus on and of course Professor Nora Kearney is developing that area here and I’m very interested in bringing my early years work into that development...”

“What is very important is to bring the right evidence to the right people so that they can use it to make decisions. That may be breastfeeding or kangaroo care or other aspects of maternal and infant health. It is a bit like being an interpreter, it is about doing the research, then putting the evidence out there in such a way that makes sense to the people who can use it. Then they can use it to make a difference and improve people’s lives. That is why I moved into research in the first place and it is still the common theme.”



Professor Mary Renfrew

# Helping build a better life with PAMIS



**pamis**   
*In partnership with people with  
profound learning disabilities and their carers*

**PAMIS, the University-based charity devoted to supporting people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and their families, is appealing to staff and students to help mark its 20th anniversary by getting involved with the organisation.**

PAMIS fundraiser Kirsty Thomson is hoping the celebrations to mark the anniversary will help raise awareness of the organisation's work and strike a chord with staff and students looking for charities to support.

"For the past 20 years PAMIS has been working very hard to provide much-needed support to families as well as campaigning to make society more accessible to people with profound and multiple learning disabilities," she said. "That has always been the focus and will continue to be but we also need to raise awareness of what we do and encourage people, particularly here at the University, to engage with us.

"We are always looking for help and ideas for raising funds and we would like to appeal to individuals and groups to think about PAMIS if they are looking for a charity to support. We are part of the University so it would be wonderful if staff and/or students wanted to help us." Kirsty acknowledges that they are competing with a whole host of other worthwhile charities many of which have a higher profile. However, she stressed the important work that PAMIS does and the need to raise awareness.



“Over 3000 children and adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities in Scotland,” said Kirsty.

“Getting out and about in the community can present serious difficulties, and for this reason there is a lack of awareness of their existence and needs. Most people have had little opportunity to meet them and learn about both their needs and what they themselves contribute to the lives of others

“It is a self-perpetuating problem because the lack of awareness makes it harder to persuade society to become more accessible. What we want to do is encourage more people to get involved with PAMIS and help us spread the word about what we do.

“PAMIS has been doing fantastic work for the past 20 years but we need to make more people aware of that.”

PAMIS, which stands for Promoting a More Inclusive Society, is the only organisation of its kind in the UK. It was set up in 1992 by Director Loretto Lambe and Professor James Hogg who now chairs the organisation. When Professor Hogg moved to Dundee to establish the White Top Centre and White Top Research Unit, Loretto and PAMIS moved with him.

It became a unit within the University and continues to contribute to research and teaching, particularly with the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education.

Its aim has always been to ensure that people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and their families are full and equal members of their communities, that their rights are respected, and that their quality of life - both social and health - reaches the highest standard.

A new publication *A Better Life* to celebrate the 20th anniversary highlights the varied work the charity has undertaken over the past two decades including supporting families, providing information and training, promoting inclusion and working with Government to develop policy and promote best practice.

One of the most high profile projects has been the Changing Places Campaign which aims to provide fully accessible toilets and changing facilities in the community. These facilities include an adult sized, height adjustable changing bench, ceiling tracking or mobile hoist, a peninsular toilet, and adequate space for a disabled person when they are not in their wheelchair, their wheelchair and one or two carers.

There are now 77 Changing Places facilities throughout Scotland, including three on campus, with a new campaign planned to reach 100 by the summer of next year.

“These facilities make a massive difference to people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and their families,” explained Kirsty. “They provide a whole new level of freedom. The lack of suitable changing facilities in the community is one of the most restrictive practical problems preventing families from going out and about and participating in everyday activities.



“By providing something as basic as toilet and changing facilities with the right equipment so many other things become accessible and possible and being able to use a toilet when we are out and about it is something most of us take for granted.”

PAMIS has also been working to make leisure facilities more accessible. So far the list of activities that have been mastered includes adapted cycling, swimming, watersports, adaptive skiing, wheelchair ice skating, horse riding and carriage driving among many others.

As the anniversary publication *A Better Life* puts it, “With enthusiasm, commitment, some imagination and a ‘can-do’ approach, the rewards are fantastic. The sheer pleasure on the faces of the people with PMLD and their families speaks for itself!”

The charity has recently been awarded a grant of £26,790 by Creative Scotland for a new project to develop multi-sensory Scottish folk tales. “This builds on work we have been doing with Cologne University,” explains Kirsty, “where they have been taking traditional German folk tales and adapting them to make them accessible to people with PMLD by involving all the different senses and making them more interactive.”

Funding for PAMIS’ core activities is also provided by the Scottish Government. “We do receive funding from a variety of sources, including local authorities and health boards but we also have to do our own fund raising and that is where we are hoping staff and students at the University may be able to help us.”

PAMIS is holding a Burns Night on Friday 1st February 2013, Apex Hotel & Spa City Quay Dundee. Tickets are £25 each this includes drinks reception, live music and a Scottish Supper. Anyone interested in helping PAMIS can contact Kirsty at [k.s.thomson@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:k.s.thomson@dundee.ac.uk) or by phoning 01382 385154.

## Magdalena wins prestigious place on board

**Magdalena Pentcheva, a third year History & International Relations student, is to help shape the textbooks and other materials used by her peers around the world, after winning a place on the Pearson Student Advisory Board (PSAB) for 2012/13.**

Pearson, one of the world's leading educational publishers, started PSAB in 2009 to create a structured link between its UK higher education business and the student community. Board members have the opportunity to shape the learning and teaching experience of future students and educators.

Magdalena is one of eight successful board members who were chosen from 100 other applicants from across the UK and Ireland after undergoing a rigorous selection process. She is the first Scottish student to have won a place on the PSAB.

Successful students contribute to a wide range of projects in order to provide feedback on Pearson products and services.

This year, they are helping to launch the Pearson Student Panel, a new online community where students can get involved in regular research activities with the company.

Magdalena, a keen video maker who works with DUSA TV, said she was overjoyed to be part of PSAB as her course relies heavily on textbooks and other educational materials.

"I cannot wait to work with the rest of the members of the board," she said. "My course relies heavily on textbooks and various other educational materials. I know there is nothing better than finding a good book that not only helps with your assignment but is also very enjoyable and hard to put down.

"This is why I am delighted to have the opportunity to have a real impact upon the educational material of students. I know how vital a good education is in today's society and job market."

## Gold medal success for final year students

**A University team has struck gold at an international student competition challenging entrants to build biological systems to operate in living cells.**

The Dundee side, featuring seven final year undergraduates - four from the College of Life Sciences, two from the School of Engineering, Physics and Mathematics, and one from the School of Computing - were awarded a gold medal at the 2012 iGEM European Jamboree in Amsterdam.

Competing against 53 teams from across Europe, the Dundee team received the award as recognition of it performing to the highest standard. The International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition is the premiere undergraduate Synthetic Biology competition.

At the start of the iGEM competition, student teams are given a kit of biological parts. They then spent 10 weeks over the summer designing and building new biological "machines". The Dundee project 'Six, Lyse and Obliterate - a synthetic silver bullet against healthcare acquired infection' took an interdisciplinary approach to this very topical problem.

"We are delighted with this latest success," said Professor Frank Sargent of the College of Life Sciences, who led the team. "They have gained just reward for their hard work, enthusiasm and skill."

The University team received £2500 from the Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee to fund their participation in the iGEM competition.

Team Instructor Dr Fordyce Davidson, from the Division of Mathematics, added, "We were very honoured to receive such strong support from the Nine Trades. We hope that we were able to fly the flag for Dundee in Amsterdam and show that it is a city where inspiring things happen."

The bacterium *C. Difficile* lives harmlessly in most people, but when other treatments disturb the natural balance of the gut, *C. diff* dominates and can cause serious illnesses and even death. The team took up the challenge of designing a new possible treatment - a way of introducing another, modified bacterium that is completely harmless to humans but lethal to *C. diff*.

A central part of the project and of the iGEM ethos as a whole, is involving the general public in debate about synthetic biology. The University team worked with youngsters at the Shore Drop-In Centre in Dundee, wrote and produced a song, created a comic strip that was distributed to schools and libraries across the country and even put on their own show at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

A celebration was held at the University in the team's honour last month. The successful team members are Rachael Evans, Nicola Morris, Kimberly Page, Avril Smart (all Life Sciences), Jill McGowan and Johnny Weightman (Mathematics) and Chris Walker (Computing).

More information about iGEM is available at [www.igem.org](http://www.igem.org)

# Fashion collection launch for DJCAD graduate

Scottish Young Designer of the Year and Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design graduate Hayley Scanlan, launched the first collection from her new diffusion line 'HS' last month at The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum.

Her "Velvet Venom" collection was unveiled against a backdrop of some of the world's greatest fashion images, currently on display at The McManus as part of the "Selling Dreams: 100 Years of Fashion Photography" exhibition which runs until 6 January 2013.

Hayley was named Young Designer of the Year at the Scottish Fashion Awards in June. It was the latest step in a career that launched in dramatic fashion when supermodel Erin O'Connor asked to buy one of her jackets at the Degree Show at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design.

The past year has seen interest in her work rise to a new level and the HS diffusion line has been created to help meet demand.

The launch event was supported by V&A at Dundee.

Director of V&A at Dundee, Philip Long, said, "Hayley is a shining example of what can be achieved with talent, determination and drive. We are delighted to be able to help promote her work and bring it to a wider audience. Nurturing and promoting Scotland's new generation of design talent is vital to V&A at Dundee and we hope this collaboration with an upcoming designer will be the first of many."

Selling Dreams: One Hundred Years of Fashion Photography is organised by the Victoria & Albert Museum, London as one of a series of partnership projects forming the pre-opening programme for V&A at Dundee.



BY HAYLEY SCANLAN



# court news

## Court News

The Court met in September for the annual Court Retreat and again at the end of October for the first full meeting of the new academic year which was hosted by the Dundee University Students Association. The University Strategy to 2017, Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Funding Council, and annual review of Court were key topics of debate for the Court.

## Vision Presentations

Following on from the presentation of the University Vision by the Principal in June, the Court has subsequently seen a series of presentations from senior officers across the University outlining their 5-year vision. The Court has greatly enjoyed learning more about plans and aspirations of the College of Life Sciences, DUSA and SASS, and will hear from the remaining Colleges throughout the academic year.

## University Strategy to 2017

The Development of the University Strategy to 2012 and supporting Performance Management Framework has been a significant item on agenda for recent meetings of Court. October saw Court approve the final version of the Strategy to 2017, the Key Performance Indicators and targets. These are available on MyDundee under the heading of Transformation – Operating Plans 2013-2016.

## Outcome Agreements with the Scottish Funding Council

From 2012 onwards, annual Outcome Agreements will be agreed between the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and Universities to define the expectations of learners, businesses, communities and the SFC. At the Retreat in September the Court discussed and approved the agreement for 2012/13 for the University. Work on the Outcome Agreement for 2013/14 has already begun and Court expects further debate throughout the coming year.

## Governance

After discussing leadership for the Learning & Teaching strategy Court approved the appointment of a Vice-Principal for Learning & Teaching. An advertisement appeared in the Times Higher Education Supplement on 1 November, and Court will be closely involved in the appointment.

The Court also discussed its own membership and, noting that three lay members would complete their maximum terms of office within the next 2 years, Court approved an advertisement for the resulting vacancies. The advertisement appeared in the Scotsman, Herald and Courier on 4 November 2012, and further information on the positions can be found at [www.dundee.ac.uk/ad/lacourt](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/ad/lacourt).

A recurring theme over the last twelve months has been discussions on the Review of Scottish Higher Education Governance, following publication of its report earlier in the year. As a result of the report, the Committee of Scottish University Chairs of Courts has established a steering group to develop a Scottish Code of University Governance and Court heard that our own Chair of Court had been asked to join the steering group, and that consultation would begin shortly.

## Ninewells Cancer Campaign

The Court received an annual update from the Ninewells Cancer Campaign (NCC) and was delighted to hear of its success in raising funds for the 'Jacqui Wood Centre'. At the time of the October meeting of Court the Campaign had raised around £1m, and Court looked forward to hearing more from the NCC when it visits Ninewells in February 2013.



## Centre for Translational and Interdisciplinary Research

The Court was also delighted to hear of the success of the bid to the HEFCE/BIS initiative for major capital projects. The award of £12m would enable the completion of the £38m project, and Court expressed its congratulations to Professor Mike Ferguson and his team in raising this amount.

## Contact

The next edition of Contact will be published in February 2013. The copy deadline for that edition is Monday 14 January 2013. Submissions should be sent to [h.mcnally@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:h.mcnally@dundee.ac.uk) by that date.

## International students welcomed to Dundee



Students from around the world were officially welcomed to the University with a special event designed to allow them to learn more about the city and Scottish culture.

A pipe band led the students from Campus Green to the International Students Welcome event at the Dalhousie Building where Professor Chris Whatley, Vice Principal and Head of the College of Arts and Social Sciences welcomed the students to Dundee and gave them a short introduction to Scotland and its history.

Organised by CASS, the event included local food and drink tasting, live music and a Scottish quiz. Students were also able to find out about local attractions in the area and find out more about the facilities and opportunities available to them.

Image shows students sampling some Scottish fare.

## Celebrating in style at Winter Graduation

More than 500 students celebrated their academic achievements with friends and family last month at the University's Winter Graduation at the Caird Hall.

Joining in the celebrations were Sir Nicholas Wright, an esteemed academic who has greatly furthered the knowledge of stem cell biology and Jamie Byng, publisher and managing director of Canongate Books who both received Honorary Degrees.

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

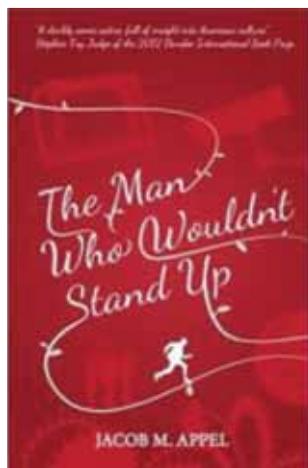
"Winter Graduation has established a distinct feel that combines the best of tradition with the joy of the occasion," he said.

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

Following the two graduation ceremonies at the Caird Hall students and their guests were invited to take part in the Winter Graduation Celebration at DUSA where a programme of entertainment including live music was provided.

The winter celebrations are held to allow students whose courses finish after the traditional summer graduation in late June to receive their awards as soon as possible after successfully completing their studies.

# US author wins Dundee Book Prize



**A satirical novel showing how exercising your freedom in the Land of the Free can make you public enemy number one has been named as the winner of the 2012 Dundee International Book Prize.**

New York author Jacob M Appel won the £10,000 cash prize and a publishing deal with Glasgow-based publishing house Cargo for his debut book, *The Man Who Wouldn't Stand Up*.

A total of 475 entries were read before the prestigious

judging panel of much-loved TV star Stephen Fry, acclaimed authors Philip Pullman and Alan Bissett and top literary agent Jenny Brown decided upon the winner.

*The Man Who Wouldn't Stand Up* is a sharply observed post- 9/11 satire about patriotism, politics and the media. The absurdist comedy sees a mild-mannered man accidentally spark a major incident in the United States by refusing to stand for the national anthem at a baseball game.

An esteemed and outspoken bioethicist, Mr Appel, who also practices psychiatry at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, frequently provides commentary on a wide range of issues for several media outlets, including the Huffington Post.

He said he was thrilled to have won the prize and see his book published.

"Shortly after the attacks of September 11, 2001 in the United States, I knew I wanted to write a book against the backlash against those events," he said. "It took me three years to complete *The Man Who Wouldn't Stand Up*."

"At the time, I did not think that it would take me another eight years to find a publisher. I came close many times, but American publishers appeared to fear the political content of the work – and several of them admitted this candidly or even asked me to "sanitize" the novel.

"So I am deeply grateful to Dundee and Cargo for bringing out the work in the way that I had intended.

"One of the great benefits of the Dundee Prize is that it draws an international pool of writers. We live in a far too insulated literary world here in the US, so it is exciting to be part of the international literary community."

Although this is his first foray into long-form fiction, he has won several prizes, including the Faulkner-Wisdom Award and The Boston Prize, for his short stories and plays.

The Dundee International Book Prize, now in its eighth year, attracted a record number of entries. Runners-up Pippa Goldschmitt and Matt Hill have both secured deals for their novels with leading independent publishers Freight and Sandstone respectively.

The £10,000 prize is the largest offered in the UK to unpublished authors. The Dundee International Book Prize is a joint venture between Dundee – One City, Many Discoveries and the University.



## University poet leads masterclass

**The University's new resident poet Professor Bashabi Fraser met up with staff and students in November to lead a masterclass in poetry writing.**

The award-winning Bengali-Scottish poet, children's writer, translator and editor, is the newly appointed Royal Literary Fellow.

She has had several volumes of her own poetry published in addition to commissioned projects, and has worked in Bangladesh, India, and Mauritius as well as for the BBC.

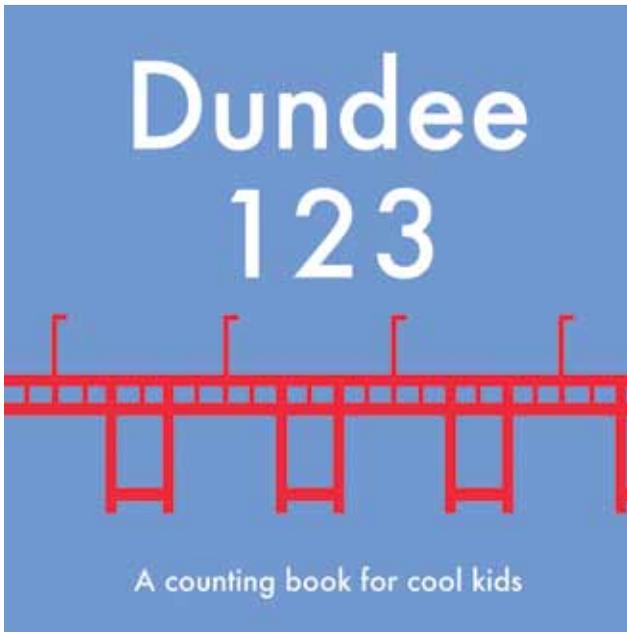
Professor Fraser has taught creative writing and held several residencies and the awards she has won includes the AIO Award for Literary Services in Scotland (2009).

Dr Gail Low, a Senior Lecturer in the University's English programme, welcomed Professor Fraser to Dundee.

"It's brilliant to have a poet such as Bashabi Fraser, who is able to draw on diverse literary traditions and to speak how about how we move between, translate and mediate different cultures in a modern Scotland," she said.

"We are delighted with her appointment, and I am sure she will prove an asset to the University in both academic and creative terms."

# Counting on success with Dundee 123



Anna Day, publishing Manager of Dundee University Press and Director of Dundee Literary Festival, spends much of her time promoting authors, finding new talent and celebrating literary success.

But now she is looking forward to enjoying some literary success of her own with the publication of Dundee 123, a counting book for cool kids.

Illustrated by Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design Graduate Lauren Gentry, the book uses well-known Dundee landmarks to help young children learn to count up to 10.

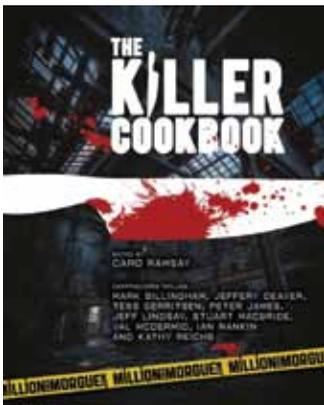
The Law, Discovery, Sensation, the McManus and some famous Dundee cakes are all included in this new board book which is published by Playroom Press.

“We love the idea of celebrating the City of Dundee with this book,” said Anna. “It’s fun for kids and looks great for adults too.”

The book is the first in a series that will see Edinburgh 123 published next year, followed by editions for Glasgow and Newcastle.

Dundee 123 is £5.99 but is available to readers of Contact for £5 by emailing [playroompress@gmail.com](mailto:playroompress@gmail.com).

# Looking for a “dead good” gift for Christmas?



The grisliest approach to dinner since Hannibal Lecter cooked up brains for Clarice Starling, *The Killer Cookbook* is a gory, gritty collection of recipes from 38 of the world’s finest crime writers including Val McDermid, Stuart MacBride, Mark Billingham, Peter James, Jeffery Deaver, Peter James, Caro Ramsay and Ian Rankin.

Highlights include Jeffery Deaver’s Bone Collector recipes, Zoe Sharp’s Lamb to the Slaughter, Alex Gray’s Monkey Gland Steak and Craig Robertson’s favourite Blood Pudding recipe.

The idea for the book, which is priced at £15.99, was cooked up by the best-selling tartan noir author, Caro Ramsay and Professor Sue Black at Crimefest 2012 as a means of supporting the Million for a Morgue fundraising campaign.

All of the money raised will go to the campaign, which is building the first morgue in the country to use the Thiel method of embalming, bringing significant boosts to medical research and training in the UK.

“We are 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, Director of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification.

The CAHID team have developed groundbreaking techniques in areas such as hand identification, which has directly led to the successful prosecution of a number of paedophiles identified from images of their hands found in obscene photographs and films.

The Centre also runs a major training programme in Disaster Victim Identification, which has trained police officers in practical techniques in human identification, enabling them to be deployed to help identify victims of mass fatalities anywhere in the world.

*The Killer Cookbook* is published by Discovery Press and is available from Amazon, Waterstones and good independent retailers throughout the UK. It is also available directly from [www.millionformorgue.com](http://www.millionformorgue.com) where 100% of the cover price will go to the campaign.

# Google designs win gold

**Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design (DJCAD) student Holly Gallacher has won a Gold Award in an international graphic design competition.**

Holly, a Level 4 student on the Graphic Design programme, won the Student Promotional Packaging prize in the Creativity International Awards for a hypothetical product range designed for internet giant Google.

The Creativity International Awards is one of the longest running, independent advertising and graphic design competitions. Open to professionals and students, Creativity was initially established as a travelling exhibit in 1970. The Awards are judged by a rotating panel of advertising and design professionals.

Holly (22), originally from Edzell, created a series of boxes for product packaging which represented Google's ethos, business model and range of services.

She received a certificate, promotion in an international publication, clothing, accessories and various self-promotion kits as her prize. Her entry will also appear in a travelling exhibit that appears at prominent design conferences and events around the world.

She said she was delighted to have won the prize, which will provide her with significant opportunities to raise awareness of her work to potential employers and industry figures.

"It was a terrific surprise to receive the news as I had almost forgotten I entered in the first place!" she said. "The project itself was really enjoyable to work on and I'm thrilled with how it turned out. It's always fascinating to look back at the process taken in order to turn an idea into a tangible piece of design that others can appreciate."

More information about Holly's work is available at <http://hollygallacher.com/>

# Jenny wins first KCA Alumni Award

**Final year animation student Jenny Pattison became the first recipient of a £3000 art prize in October when she won the KCA Alumni Award.**

Established by X. Kevin Li, a Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design alumnus and now Creative Director of KEASS Creative Association in China, the competition is open to full-time undergraduate students at DJCAD.

Kevin, who graduated with a degree in Time Based Art & Digital Film in 2004, was keen to give something back to the college and set up the competition to encourage outstanding creativity in current students.

"I was very excited to review the works of the five competitors from DJCAD," he said.

"They had brilliantly expressed and presented their creative ideas through their artworks. I enjoyed their works very much and their potential and qualities as a designer are what the KEASS Creative Awards are looking for.

"Jenny has very good drawing skills, and she had a strong ability to control the overall design process. I could clearly understand what she was trying to express in her work, and she developed the ideas very well."

Jenny (30), who is originally from Glasgow, describes her portfolio as a mixture of animation, life drawing, game art and personal work geared to improve the skills she requires to enter the games industry in a creative role.

# Return trip for award-winning artist

**Turner Prize nominee and Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design (DJCAD) alumnus Luke Fowler returned to his Alma Mater in October to discuss his career and introduce his latest work.**

Luke, who graduated with a Fine Art degree from DJCAD in 2000, will find out this month whether he has won what is widely regarded as the most prestigious, and often controversial, award for contemporary art.

The Glasgow-based artist is best known for his film portraits of counter culture figures who have become marginalised or maligned. His Turner Prize nomination came in recognition of 'All Divided Selves', a film exploring the life and work of Scottish psychiatrist, R. D. Laing.

He returned to the University in October for a special screening of his latest work "Poor Stockinger."

"We were delighted to welcome Luke back to Dundee," said Gair Dunlop, director of the Time Based Art & Digital Film programme at DJCAD. "It is inspirational for the current crop of students to see a DJCAD graduate achieve the recognition he has."

The winner of the 2012 Turner Prize will be announced this month. Luke has already won a number of awards, including the Donald Dewar Prize (2004), Derek Jarman Award (2008), Contemporary Art Society Annual Award (2010) and Paul Hamlyn Award (2010).

In 2010 the Turner Prize was won by Susan Philipsz, another DJCAD graduate.



## DJCAD graduate in final of new art prize

**Ross Brown, a graduate of Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design (DJCAD), can claim to be one of the top young artists in the country after making it to the final of a new art prize dedicated to supporting emerging talent.**

Ross (26), who obtained both a First Class undergraduate degree and Master of Fine Art with distinction from DJCAD, was one of 10 artists shortlisted for the Griffin Art Prize 2012.

More than 200 entries were received, and the shortlist was chosen by the judging panel, which includes internationally renowned painter Ian Davenport, director of London's CHARLIE SMITH gallery, Zavier Ellis, Art Foundation chair Jenny Lindén Urnes, and award-winning journalist Deborah Orr.

Materials brands Winsor & Newton, Liquitex and Conté à Paris launched the Griffin Art Prize as part of their long-term commitment to sustaining and nurturing new talent in painting and drawing.

Although he didn't win the new award Ross, who says his work investigates the fragments of Modernity that remain within our present-day built landscape, through a parallel examination of the medium of painting itself, was given the opportunity to showcase his entry at an exhibition of work by the ten shortlisted artists in the Griffin Gallery in London.

For further details on the Griffin Art Prize 2012 and the shortlisted artists, please visit [www.griffingallery.co.uk](http://www.griffingallery.co.uk)



# DISCOVERY Day 2013

**Selection procedures for medical students, the UK's first zero energy house and the benefits of kangaroo care for babies will all be explored in the New Year as the tenth annual Discovery Day celebrations take place at the University.**

Eight newly appointed professors and four of the University's award-winning teachers will team up to present a series of short, sharp talks designed to entertain, educate and inform on Friday 11 January 2013.

The annual showcase of academic talent will begin with a talk by University Vice-Principal Professor Stephen Decent demonstrating the experiments that have been inspired by maths. The first session will continue with a presentation from Dr Jon Dowell and Adrian Husbands, winners of the Honorary Graduates' Award for Academic Practice, on the art of selecting medical students and a look at good practice in neonatal care with Professor Mary Renfrew.

Professor Annalu Waller will be exploring how computers can empower people to communicate while Professor David Finkelstein will be bringing to life the story of a global 19th century knowledge exchange and skills transfer system using archival records from Scottish print trade unions.

Award winning teachers Lynn Boyle and Christine Kingsley, winners of the Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching, will be celebrating the joy of teaching in their presentation highlighting the importance of supporting students by helping them to visualise their learning.

Later in the day Professor Graeme Martin will be exposing some myths of management and asking why "smart people sometimes do dumb things?" while Professor Gunnar Hornig will explain how to untangle a magnetic field.

An award-winning project to educate a future generation of energy responsible designers will also be explored by winners of the Honorary Graduates' Award for Innovative Teaching Neil Burford and Joseph Thurrott, from the School of Architecture. They will be highlighting the UK's first Zero-Energy House which will start to take shape at the University's Botanic Garden's when construction begins in January.

The final session of the day will see Professor Andrea Ross discuss how law and legal tools can be used to accelerate progress towards sustainability while Professor Geoffrey Gooch will describe water governance and show how to improve communication and cooperation around water.

Discovery Day 2013 will close with the presentation of the second Stephen Fry Public Engagement Award.

All presentations will take place in the main lecture theatre at the Dalhousie Building from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Each session will last approximately one hour. Visitors are invited to attend as many sessions as they choose.

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

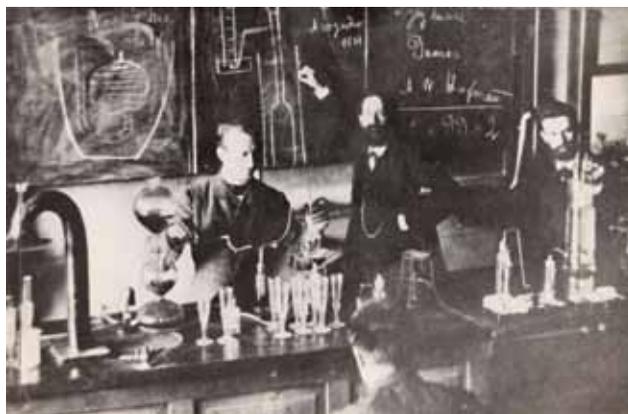
For more information or to see the full day's programme visit [www.dundee.ac.uk/discoverydays](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/discoverydays)

# Celebrating Science

Archive Services took part in this year's Dundee Science Festival which provided an opportunity to celebrate some of the University's pioneering scientists. Dundee has a strong reputation in this field and this expertise has been evident since its founding. The Deed of Endowment which provided the funding for University College in 1881 stated that the College was to be established 'for promoting the education of persons of both sexes and the study of science and literature and the fine arts'. Notable scientists were amongst its first professors including the thirty year old chemist Thomas Carnelley, the Dundonian physicist and engineer James Alfred Ewing who would go on to discover hysteresis and J E. A. Steggall, the first Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, who spent over fifty years at the University. They were soon followed by the famed D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson and Patrick Geddes who are still widely known today.

The next few years brought further talented scientists. The somewhat eccentric Edward Waymouth Reid arrived in Dundee in 1889 to take up the new physiology chair and remained for the next 46 years. Along with the Dutch physicist Johannes Petrus Kuenen he performed early experiments with X-rays which was often a dangerous business. In 1897 he submitted himself to exposures of between 20 and 90 minutes over four days, resulting in severe dermatitis and loss of hair.

In 1907 Kuenen was succeeded by William Peddie, an expert in torsion, molecular magnetism and colour vision and who wrote one of the most popular physics textbooks of the early twentieth century. Peddie was in turn succeeded by G. D. Preston who was co-discoverer of Guinier-Preston zones in alloys. The distinguished tradition in physics continued with Professors Walter Spear and Peter Le Comber whose research paved the way for solar panels and flat screen technology.



David R. Dow and Margaret Fairlie would have both encountered Waymouth Reid when they studied medicine at Dundee and would later work with him. Dow was a distinguished anatomist who went on to become Master of Queens' College, Dundee as well as holding the chair of anatomy. Fairlie, who was a pioneer in the medical use of radiation and an expert in obstetrics and gynaecology, had a long teaching and medical career in Dundee, and made history in 1940 when she became Scotland's first female professor. Robert P. Cook, who joined the Department of Physiology in 1940, played a key role in developing biochemistry at the University, and carried out ground breaking research into cholesterol.

Archive Services holds a wide range of records relating to these and several other distinguished scientists who have worked at the University. Our collections include R. P Cook's scientific papers, J. E. A. Steggall's lecture notes and a notebook sent by Andre Guinier to G. D. Preston relating to their work on Guinier-Preston zones. Other scientific collections in the archives include the records of the Tayside and Fife Branch of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the papers of the explosives expert Sir Robert Robertson and records relating to the nineteenth century polymath James Bowman Lindsay. For more information contact [archives@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:archives@dundee.ac.uk) or visit [www.dundee.ac.uk/archives](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/archives)



## DUSA in the pink at charity Zumba party



More than 100 fund-raising dancers turned superhero in October as ISE held its annual "Wear it pink Zumba party" in aid of the Breast Cancer Campaign.

Over £700 was raised for charity at the two-hour-long Zumba marathon in DUSA's flagship nightclub Mono. The event, which had a pink/superhero theme, was a collaboration between ISE, DUSA and the Sports Union.

Nik Long, Gym manager at ISE, said she was delighted the Zumba party had raised so much money for charity.

"I thoroughly enjoyed organising and leading the wear it pink zumba party," she said. "Everyone that got involved should be very proud of themselves, especially the Rugby Boys who came along."



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# BRIGHT CLUB



## Where science and stand-up collide

**Research might not be the most obvious source of mirth, but a group of academics from the Universities of Dundee and St Andrews are proving that the laughter of the lab translates to the stage.**

The researchers' experiments with stand-up comedy are hosted by the Bright Club, a movement which began in London and has now spread across the UK with regular comedy nights starring academics.

Following on from a successful debut during the Dundee Science Festival last year, the city is now hosting monthly comedy evenings at Braes in the Perth Road.

The gigs set out to dispel the stereotype of the stuffy academic with two hours of fresh and inventive stand-up.

Chris Martin, an applied computing researcher, who took part in the first event of the new series in October said he was used to speaking in front of an audience of students.

"You try to make lectures enjoyable but, at the end of the day, if your students don't roar with laughter it's not the end of the world," he said. "There's something about everyone's job that they want to share with others, that they think they'll find funny. The trick is getting it across in a situation we're unfamiliar with.

"It's also important to remember that people are starting with zero knowledge of what you do. There might be something about a recursive acronym that me and my colleagues find hilarious, but it won't count for anything if the laymen are sitting around looking puzzled.

"What I've done is to think about the things my non-computing friends will find funny and consider how to get that across to a room full of people looking to me to make them laugh."

The next Bright Club event will take place on Tuesday 18th December at 8.30pm in Braes.

Doors open at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £5 and can be purchased by calling 01382 386660, emailing [tickets@brightclubdundee.org](mailto:tickets@brightclubdundee.org) or visiting [www.brightclubdundee.org](http://www.brightclubdundee.org)

# Everybody matters at Christmas lecture

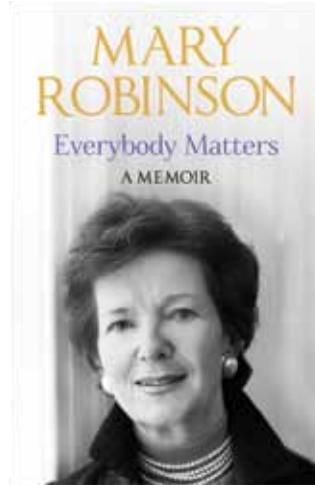
**Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, will deliver this year's Christmas lecture at the University on Saturday 8 December.**

One of the world's most admired human rights campaigners Ms Robinson will be at the Dalhousie Building to give a free talk on her recently published memoir "Everybody Matters," an inspiring account of a life which has taken her from barrister and Irish Senator to first female President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Now heading her own charity, Climate Justice, she has found the independence and freedom to work on behalf of the millions or unrepresented poor around the world.

A civic reception and book signing will follow the lecture. Overflow theatres may be in use. The Main Lecture Theatre is filled on a first come, first seated basis.

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



Tickets for this year's event are available by phoning 01382 485564 or by emailing [events@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:events@dundee.ac.uk) or by visiting the online store at [www.dundee.ac.uk/tickets](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/tickets)



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## what's on...

### Carols by Candlelight



The University's annual service of Carols by Candlelight will take place on **Sunday 9th 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 time when members of the local community, the University and their families can come together."

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

#### 16 December

##### Dundee afternoon lecture Series

2.15pm, Room T9, Tower Building | £2

Jim Cook will be looking at the history of local natural history. His talk will tell the stories of the early naturalists, the plant hunters and birders, the fungus enthusiasts and insect hunters.

The Dundee Afternoon Lectures are organised by six local societies - the Royal Scottish Geographical Society Dundee Centre, The Friends of Dundee City Archives, Dundee Naturalists' Society, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Friends of the University of Dundee Botanic Gardens; and Abertay Historical Society.

All lectures take place on Wednesdays at 2.15pm. Admission is open to all, and costs £2. More information is available by calling Mrs J Ingram on 01382 668193.

#### 18 December

##### Bright Club

8.30pm, Braes, Perth Road | £5

The third event in a new series of Bright Club will see researchers turning their attention from work to wit in a stand-up session with a communication theme.

For more information visit the website at [www.brightclubdundee.org/](http://www.brightclubdundee.org/), email [brightclubdundee@gmail.com](mailto:brightclubdundee@gmail.com) or call 01382 386660.

#### 9 January 2013

##### How Fear of Fat Can make us unhealthy

6pm, CafeScience Extra, Dundee Science Centre | Free

Based on interviews with girls aged between 11 and 14 local researcher Morgan Windram-Geddes will be discussing how beliefs about health are putting more and more girls off doing sport or exercise and leading other girls to engage in "unhealthy" practices in their eating and exercise habits.

For more information contact Jon Urch on 01382 386669 or visit the Café Science Extra website at: [www.cafesciencedundee.co.uk](http://www.cafesciencedundee.co.uk)

#### 11 January 2013

##### Discovery Day

Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill

For more information see page 26.

#### 28 January 2013

##### Eczema and Skin Disease - Fixing Faulty Genes

Café Science Dundee

7pm, Chambers Coffee House, 34 South Tay Street | Free

Irwin McLean, Professor of Human Genetics and Head of the Division of Molecular Medicine at the University will discuss his research on eczema and skin disease at this Café Science talk.

For more information contact Jon Urch on 386669 or visit [www.cafesciencedundee.co.uk](http://www.cafesciencedundee.co.uk)

#### 1 February 2013

##### PAMIS fund-raising Burns Night

Apex Hotel & Spa, City Quay

PAMIS is holding a Burns Night on Friday 1st February 2013 at Apex Hotel & Spa City Quay in Dundee. Tickets are £25 each. This includes drinks reception, live music and a Scottish Supper.

#### From February 2013

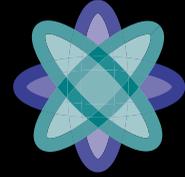
##### Saturday Evening Lecture Series

The 89th anniversary of the University's Saturday Evening lecture Series gets underway in the Spring with an exciting line-up of speakers.

These include Simon Baron-Cohen, Professor of Developmental Psychopathology at the University of Cambridge and Director of the Autism Research Centre (ARC) in Cambridge, author and land-rights campaigner Andy Wightman, writer Fiona McLaren and child protection expert Alyson Leslie from the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education.

Topics under discussion will include autism, land reform, the British response to child abuse tragedies and Da Vinci's Last Commission.

For more information contact [events@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:events@dundee.ac.uk)



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