

# c n t a c t



The magazine of the University of Dundee • February 2012



Celebrating the silent teachers

## contents

news.....03



in memoriam.....14



south georgia.....20

court news.....28



from the archives.....32

what's on.....35

## credits

Contact is published by the Press Office, External Relations. Contributions are welcome but cannot be guaranteed publication. Advertising is also welcome. Printed by David Winter & Son Ltd. Editor | Hilary McNally [h.mcnally@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:h.mcnally@dundee.ac.uk) t 01382 388878 | f 01382 385515 Design | Andrea Mason Design • Print • Marketing [a.mason@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:a.mason@dundee.ac.uk) Scottish charity no: SC015096



## from the principal...

It's probably a bit late in the year by the time you read this to wish you all a Happy New Year, but let me do so all the same. As those of you who read my blog will know, I've set myself three resolutions for 2012: to complete and implement a new strategy and vision for the University; to improve internal communication; and to agree criteria on which to base rewards for teaching excellence. The first is, of course, well underway, and there has been a lot of very useful feedback which we are putting to good use in making revisions to our approach for the new strategy. The last will be one for Senate and its committees to debate through the course of the year, but I am determined to see it through and ensure we have a meaningful framework for recognising and rewarding excellence in learning and teaching.

Before Christmas, the University received its indicative grant letter from the Scottish Funding Council. We don't usually get confirmation of the funding for the next year until March, but in the past two years, given funding uncertainties, changes to funding mechanisms and the direction of the Scottish Government, the SFC has given us early indication of the level of funding we can expect for the following year. For 2012/13 the outcome looks better than the sector had anticipated, and the teaching funding reductions that we are experiencing this year are to be in effect reversed, particularly when one takes into account the potential additional funding that could be gained through the introduction of fees for students from the rest of the UK. This small amount of headroom should allow us to make the kinds of strategic investment that will underpin our emerging vision, particularly in the proven areas of excellence, focus and impact across the University, and it will also allow us to ensure we are well prepared for the Research Excellence Framework, which will be upon us sooner than we imagine.

Early in January, the University held its annual Discovery Day lectures. As in previous years - although perhaps this year even more so - it was a fascinating and captivating programme of talks from across the University, setting out research breakthroughs and teaching innovations of which we can rightly be proud. We learnt about facial reconstruction, space technology, the importance of serendipity in learning, fighting cancer, simulation in teaching, the love of concrete, the importance of saliva, and a host of other subjects, all proving that Dundee really is a place of discovery, innovation and academic excellence. During the event we also presented the inaugural Stephen Fry Award for Excellence in Public Engagement with Research. This award and the College awards that accompany it represent a further stage of the research journey that I believe universities such as ours should be fully committed to: making sure the wider society is inspired by our achievements and can apply the fruits of our labours. As Stephen Fry noted in his pre-recorded award introduction: 'It's never easy to enable the public to understand the direct connection between what can often seem almost comically obscure research and the lives and futures of society and our world'. But this is precisely what we have to do if the public is to support the competitive funding of our universities into the future.

As many of you will know by now the winner of the award was the team from the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification (CAHId), led by Professor Sue Black. In making the award the judges recognised the gamut of public engagement work being carried out in CAHId, not least its work with schools and its two BBC2 History Cold Case series. The judges also made a lifetime Achievement award to Professor Charles McKean in recognition of his long and distinguished career promoting and supporting the architectural and environmental heritage of Dundee. Congratulations to all.

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

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



## Graduation week visit for Dalia Lama

**His Holiness the Dalai Lama will deliver this year's Margaret Harris Lecture on Religion during a historic visit to Dundee in June.**

The Dalai Lama will visit the city as part of a tour of the UK on Friday, June 22nd as guest of the University and Dundee City Council. He will give his talk, entitled 'Education of The Heart: a new world order of compassion', at Dundee's Caird Hall that afternoon.

He will also visit Edinburgh and Inverness during his visit to Scotland between Thursday 21st and Sunday 24th June.

The visit is the result of six years of work by Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association and the University Chaplain, Rev Dr Fiona Douglas to bring The Dalai Lama to Scotland, and who are co-ordinating the visit.

"I was speaking with the Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association six years ago when I mentioned how wonderful it would be to bring His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Dundee to deliver the Margaret Harris lecture on religion. We sent an invitation and it grew from there.

"It nearly happened a few years ago but he wasn't well and so the visit didn't take place. Then nine months ago Victor Spence from the Inter-Faith Association came back to me and said the Dalai Lama wanted to honour the original invitation to come to Scotland and to Dundee. His wish was to go further north than just the central belt.

"It is such an honour for the city and the University. Opportunities to hear from this much loved and respected leader in person are very rare. He will bring a message of love and compassion that resonates with people of all faiths, and none,

Professor Pete Downes, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, said, "It will be an honour to welcoming His Holiness The Dalai Lama to Dundee and truly a privilege to have him deliver next year's Margaret Harris Lecture on Religion.

"His visit will enhance understanding of all faiths and cultures, and help promote relations between these different groups. Cultivating love and compassion is central to the Dalai Lama's teaching, and his talk presents a rare opportunity for people in the city to hear from one of the world's most influential spiritual leaders."

Dundee Lord Provost John Letford added, "It is a privilege for Dundee to be visited by His Holiness The Dalai Lama. His spiritual leadership and unstinting promotion of human values will be well received in the city of discovery."

Tickets for the Caird Hall lecture sold out within hours of going on sale earlier this month.



## Tattoos, piercings and superidentity

**The Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification has made an international appeal for people to send them images of their tattoos, piercings and other body modifications.**

The appeal is to help establish an image database of body modifications as part of an INTERPOL project which may aid in the identification of missing persons and unidentified bodies.

Researchers at the Centre led by Professor Sue Black, say such a database could offer a vital new tool to forensics experts.

“What we are trying to do is create a classification system of body modifications which may aid in describing in the wide variety of modifications seen,” said Professor Black.

“This will help us to establish how common certain body mods – tattoo designs, piercings etc – are in different populations. Perhaps national or regional ‘signature’ tattoos may be found, e.g. a frequently seen design specific to Scots or even Dundee, for example. If we can do that then identifying such body mods can become a key part in important work such as Disaster Victim Identification.

“If you look at major incidents such as the Asian tsunami where there are thousands of bodies needing to be identified, investigators are working to narrow down the parameters which can lead to successful identification. This includes race, distinctive marks on the body, what clothing and jewellery may be on the body, and so on.

“If we can add body modifications to that list of parameters that allow us to successfully complete this hugely important process of identification then we will have added another major tool to the investigative process.

“Tattoos and piercings are common all over the world so we want as many people as possible to send us images of their own body modifications.”

A website has been set up at [www.bodymodresearch.com](http://www.bodymodresearch.com) where people can find out more information about the project and send in images of their own tattoos, piercings and other bodymods.

The research is part of CAHID’s wider participation in INTERPOL’S FAST and efficient international disaster victim IDentification (FASTID) project.

Meanwhile CAHID researchers are contributing to a unique international project to look at the complex nature of identity, both in the real world and online.

The three-year research study, which will investigate ‘Super-Identity’, aims to tackle the issues associated with unreliable and counterfeit identification and provide a faster and more efficient way of combatting the problem. The study is being led by the University of Southampton.

Professor Sue Black and her colleagues will focus on the computer-based evaluation of biometric indicators of identity particularly concentrating on areas such as anatomy of the hand and legal admissibility.

“The Super-Identity project will be a significant challenge as we try to align the worlds of physical and cyber identity,” said Professor Black.

“The fluidity of our modern identity and our reliance on the internet as a powerful means through which we increasingly live our lives, challenges us to find previously unknown connections between the two worlds.”

Recent findings from the National Fraud Authority (Oct 2010), which is part of the Home Office, estimate that the risks of identity fraud, and its knock-on effects, cost the UK more than £2.7 billion a year. Researchers hope the Super-Identity project will provide an enterprising and unique solution to this crime.

The assumption underlying the Super-Identity project is that whilst there may be many dimensions to an individual’s identity - some more reliable than others -, all should ultimately reference back to a single core identity or a ‘Super-Identity’.

By collating information about real-world and online identities, (such as measures of the face, walk, voice, or online browsing behaviour), the project seeks to find out how to recognise this core identity more effectively.

The £1.85 million project is funded by EPSRC under the Global Uncertainties Programme, and is supported by the United States Department of Homeland Security’s Science and Technology Directorate, under its Visualization and Data Analytics Program.

## First Stephen Fry Award at Discovery Days



**The University’s inaugural Stephen Fry Award for Public Engagement in Research has been won by Professor Sue Black and her team in the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification.**

Professor Black accepted the award at this year’s Discovery Days sessions. An honorary award was also made to Professor Charles McKean for his work in bringing Scottish architectural history to the fore, including his extremely popular history walks around Dundee which have attracted around 5000 people over the past decade.

The Stephen Fry award, which celebrates the sharing of world-class research carried out at the University with the wider public, was awarded for the first time as part of this year’s Discovery Days lectures. It will be awarded each year to the researchers who have made the greatest contribution to public engagement in the past year.

Stephen Fry was Rector of the University from 1992 to 1998 and still retains good links with the institution. In a specially recorded video message for the award ceremony he said he was “deeply humbled and honoured to have this fantastic award given in my name.

“This is an extraordinary honour,” he said. “I am simply delighted to have such an encouraging and useful award in my name. I hold my time as Rector at Dundee very fondly and am extremely happy to maintain my links to the University in this way.

“I continue to watch with a proud and fatherly eye Dundee’s reputation continue to grow at home and abroad.”

The work of Professor Black and her colleagues at CAHID was shown to millions of people through the BBC series ‘History Cold Case.’ They are also extremely active in public engagement with schools and community groups.

A total of 17 new professors appointed to the University in the past year took part in Discovery Days 2012, offering an insight into their particular area of expertise in presentations limited to 15 minutes.

Designed as a showcase of research and ideas the two day event also highlighted the work of the University’s award-winning teaching staff.



Image shows TQ(FE) team, winners of the 2010/11 Honorary Graduates Award for Innovative Teaching

## Eritrean graduation for nursing students



**The University has held a graduation ceremony for its latest successful students in nursing and healthcare management – in Eritrea.**

This year's Eritrea graduation saw 52 students being awarded their degrees. This brings the total number of Dundee alumni in Eritrea to 152, with all of them in positions where they are able to make sustainable change to healthcare.

"Eritrea faces many challenges but it has made significant improvements in healthcare and is now one of the few countries to be on target to meet the Millennium Development Goals," said Professor Margaret Smith, Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

"The Schools of Nursing and Midwifery and of Education have had a unique opportunity to be part of this transformation since 2004.

"It is wonderful to see the direct impact our graduates are having in Eritrea."

An honorary degree was awarded to Dr Andom Ogbamarian, the Director General of Research and Human Development in Eritrea's Ministry of Health. He has been instrumental in the transformation of health services in the country, developing national strategies for communicable diseases and now in the education and development of the health professional workforce.

In 2010, the first group of medical undergraduates completed their education in Eritrea. Dr Andom comes from a public health background but he also has significant experience of healthcare delivery across a range of settings.

The graduation celebrations in Asmara were attended by Professor Smith, and Mr Mike Naulty, Associate Dean in the School of Education.

(Image shows from left: Prof Margaret Smith, Dr Andom Ogbamarian, Mr Mike Naulty, Mr Menghestab Gaim)

## Groundbreaking cancer trials centre launched in Dundee

**The launch of a new centre to run clinical trials of the newest cancer treatments will put Dundee at the forefront of cancer research and bring benefits to patients in the area.**

The newly-created joint Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre (ECMC), is the latest addition to the ECMC network of 18 UK centres, which are jointly funded by Cancer Research UK and the Departments of Health in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

The patients taking part in these early trials cannot usually be helped by existing treatments, such as conventional surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. As such they have few treatment options and may even have months and sometimes only weeks to live. The ECMC network provides treatment options for these patients, and underpins the development of treatments which may help many patients in the future.

The Dundee centre will twin with the existing ECMC at Edinburgh. This joint centre will receive a grant based on its scientific and clinical excellence.

Professor Alastair Thompson, director of the ECMC at Dundee, said, "We are delighted that the Dundee Cancer Centre is linking with Edinburgh to build on their significant achievements to date.

This important new centre will bring together cancer doctors, research nurses and laboratory scientists to make clinical trials of new cancer treatments quicker and easier in Dundee and the rest of the UK.

"Dundee is home to world-leading scientists and doctors who have made great progress in developing new cancer treatments. This support will boost our vital work, enabling us to move towards our goal to increase cancer survival."

The joint ECMC will have a particular focus on trials to treat breast cancer, bowel cancer, skin cancer and ovarian cancer as well as studies to improve imaging techniques to detect cancer.

Professor David Harrison, director of the ECMC at the University of Edinburgh, said: "Through this partnership we'll be able to broaden the scope of our research into the basic biology of how and why cancers are caused, driving the development of promising and innovative new treatments and supporting more clinical trials.

"This collaboration will also make it easier to develop new tests identifying which patients will benefit most from a given treatment - in effect, tailoring treatment according to the biological characteristics of patients' tumours - saving lives and helping to make best use of NHS resources."



## University role in new UK tissue bank

**The University is playing a major role in providing breast cancer researchers across the UK and Ireland to access precious breast cancer tissue.**

Dundee is one of four centres collaborating in the UK's first national tissue bank which officially opened its vaults nationally to researchers in January.

Funded by research charity Breast Cancer Campaign, the bank stores donor's breast tissue samples, blood samples, derivative cell lines and clinical information.

From these samples, researchers can gather vital information about the cancer and its characteristics, and the patient's family history, treatments, and over time, their effectiveness, and whether the disease progresses or recurs.

Although a tissue bank has been in operation in Dundee since 1997 the new Breast Cancer Campaign Tissue Bank is the first such UK wide resource. Now pathology, informatics and clinical experts from the University and NHS Tayside will work with colleagues in London, Leeds and Nottingham to run the bank and improve access for researchers across the UK and Ireland.

Professor Alastair Thompson, Chair of the Tissue Bank Management Board and Professor of Surgical Oncology at the School of Medicine highlighted the importance of the new tissue bank.

"We hope that in the next decade the Breast Cancer Campaign Tissue Bank will have the same impact as the use of drugs such as tamoxifen, radiotherapy, good quality surgery and chemotherapy in reducing mortality in breast cancer.

"Around 48,000 women and 300 men in the UK are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. We hope that the day will come when everyone diagnosed with the disease is given the opportunity to donate this precious commodity to our Tissue Bank. It is vital to research and vital to a cure.

"I am particularly grateful to Colin Purdie (Honorary Reader) and Lee Jordan (Honorary Senior Lecturer) in NHS pathology and to Philip Quinlan (IT lead) from Dundee who have been instrumental in establishing this valuable national resource."

Baroness Delyth Morgan, Chief Executive of Breast Cancer Campaign agreed. "Breast cancer researchers in the UK and Ireland have been crying out for this resource for many years," she said. "The Tissue Bank will provide a source of precious human breast tissue and puts an end to the serious access problems of the past.

"We are so grateful to all the women and men who have donated their tissue to the Bank and the support from founding partners Asda's Tickled Pink and the charity Walk the Walk which have both donated £2 million to make this project happen. With their help this unique new initiative will revolutionise breast cancer research and ultimately save lives."

Scientists can apply for tissue samples using an online portal (<http://breastcancertissuebank.org>) with an advanced bioinformatics facility, whatever their funding stream or location in the UK or Ireland.



UK: Event Awards 2011

## Degree Show named Best Educational Event

**The Dundee Degree Show 2011 has received a major events industry prize in recognition of the exhibition's success.**

The Degree Show, Dundee's largest annual art exhibition which attracts around 10,000 visitors each year, was named Best Educational Event at the UK Event Awards.

Around 300 final-year students at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design exhibited at the Degree Show, which also featured a special Associates Night attended by gallery owners, private collectors and other industry professionals.

Susan Philipsz, winner of the 2010 Turner Prize and a DJCAD graduate, and Pixar founder Alvy Ray Smith were among the VIP guests at this year's Degree Show, which was hailed as a 'vintage year' by Professor Tom Inns, Dean of DJCAD.

Professor Inns paid tribute to all students and staff who helped make the exhibition a success, saying, "I am delighted that DJCAD has won this award. To do this, the quality of the Degree Show had to be outstanding, so this is great recognition for the work of everyone involved."

"The quality of the work exhibited by students stands against any display by graduating students in the UK, while the hard work of so many academic and support staff helped give them the perfect showcase for their talents. Well done to all who helped make this possible."

The Dundee Degree Show takes place throughout the two buildings and fourteen floors that comprise DJCAD, with every spare space exhibiting art and design.

It beat off competition from Aberdeen Asset Management Universities Boat Race, RCGP Annual Primary Care Conference, and York Conferences to win the Best Educational Event award.

This year's Degree Show was also nominated for a Best Marketing Strategy prize in the Scottish Event Awards. DJCAD's innovative marketing strategy utilised social media to allow final year students to help design the promotional material for their own Degree Show. The artwork was created by illustrator Johanna Basford, herself a DJCAD graduate, using 'crowd sourced' images.

## DJCAD to host major international conference

**Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design has won the right to host a prestigious international conference next year.**

The 8th biennial International Multidisciplinary Printmaking Conference (IMPACT 8) will take place at DJCAD in 2013. The event is being organised by Professor Elaine Shemilt and Dr Paul Harrison, who earlier this year represented DJCAD at IMPACT 7 at Monash University in Melbourne.

The event drew in some 450 artists, academics, curators, conservators, collaborative studios, students and other practitioners from 35 countries.

Professor Shemilt said the choice of Dundee as host for IMPACT 8 would bring a significant cultural and financial boost to the city.

"This is the first time that this conference is to be held in Scotland, and we are very honoured that it should be coming to Dundee," she said. "It is a very prestigious honour for us, and we are looking forward to welcoming these world class practitioners from the field of printmaking here."

"It will be hosted at the University and DCA & print workshop but we want to involve as much of the city as possible so will be working with other arts organisations before and during the event."

"The fact hundreds of delegates from around the world will be coming to Dundee will also obviously bring financial benefits to the city and help boost its profile."

"It will cover commercial and digital printing, historical aspects of printmaking, research taking us right up to the contemporary with new technology. We will then explore what comes next and discuss computer art and how new technology bring both new opportunities and challenges that must be faced."

Dr Harrison added, "The fact we were chosen to host IMPACT 8 is recognition of the work going on in Dundee, and our position internationally in the field of printmaking. It is a very prestigious conference and we will show why Dundee is worthy of hosting such an event, and how world-leading work is taking place here."

"There is a very highly regarded tradition of printmaking at the University and, within the city as well there is obviously the heritage of DC Thomson and their contribution to the history of print. Scotland itself has a proud tradition of public access to printmaking, and we will be seeking to build on this when we host IMPACT 8."

The first IMPACT event took place at the University of West England, Bristol in 1997. Since then it has grown to become one of the largest and most prestigious conferences of its kind in the world.

## Grant to build D'Arcy Thompson art collection



**The University's Museum Collections have been awarded a £100,000 grant from the Art Fund to build a collection of art inspired by D'Arcy Thompson, the University's first Professor of Biology.**

Curator Matthew Jarron expressed his delight at the award which was made through the Art Fund's RENEW programme.

"We're absolutely delighted to have been awarded this grant, which will allow us to acquire some 20th century artworks as well as working with contemporary artists to create new pieces for our collection," he said.



"D'Arcy was a brilliant polymath whose work laid the foundations for the science of biomathematics but who also had an extraordinary influence on art and design that continues to this day."

"Many famous artists such as Henry Moore, Richard Hamilton and Jackson Pollock drew on his work and we're keen to get today's artists using his surviving collection in our Zoology Museum as a further source of inspiration."

The Museum Collections will work in partnership with various other organisations to create a programme of exhibitions and events around the project, including Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee Science Centre and the Slade School of Fine Art in London.



## UK first for Dundee Dental Students

**Students at the University's Dental School have become the first in the UK to be trained to carry out surgical dental treatment on specially embalmed bodies.**

The third year students took part in a pilot project using the Thiel method of embalming which leaves cadavers with more life-like properties than those embalmed in the standard way.

"The Thiel bodies give us an excellent and very lifelike way of training dentists before they have live patients," said Dr Christine Hanson, Associate Specialist lecturing in Oral Surgery, who led the pilot project.

"It is extremely difficult to give dental students an opportunity to practise in a way that gives them a realistic experience. Using simulators or mannequins, or even animal heads, does not offer the same experience and does not let them develop the kind of transferable skills that working on a body can.

"Using live patients for training also presents significant problems. What the Thiel bodies allow us to do, because they are so flexible, is give students the sort of direct experience that is of huge value to them as developing dentists."

"It is a fantastic opportunity for our students. We hope to explore a range of procedures, including the placing of dental implants, and I am convinced this will give them the sort of hands-on experience that we have never been able to offer before."

Professor Sue Black and colleagues in the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification (CAHID) have been at the forefront of adopting the Thiel method of embalming.

"The Thiel method gives surgeons, dentists, students and medical researchers a more realistic method of testing techniques, practising procedures and developing new equipment and approaches," said Professor Black. "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.

"As well as this very exciting opportunity for the dentists, we have been working with colleagues in the University's Institute for Academic Anaesthesia who have found particular benefits in using the bodies to examine the effects of anaesthetics administered with the aid of ultrasound imaging."

The University has launched a major fundraising campaign to build a new morgue to support the Thiel method. The Million For A Morgue campaign aims to raise £1million towards the cost of the project, with the University having already committed another £1 million.

The fundraising campaign has attracted the support of leading crime writers including Val McDermid, Lee Child, Tess Gerritsen and Kathy Reichs.

For more on the Million For A Morgue campaign see: [www.millionforamorgue.com](http://www.millionforamorgue.com)

## Stuart MacBride offers murder tour of Aberdeen



**Best-selling author Stuart MacBride is offering a murder tour of his hometown of Aberdeen to the winner of the latest competition offered by the University's "Million For A Morgue" campaign.**

Stuart, currently riding high in the charts with his latest novel 'Birthdays For The Dead', is one of ten leading crime writers supporting

the campaign to build a new morgue at the University's Centre of Anatomy and Human Identification.

He is the campaign's Author of the Month for February. Everyone making a donation and logging a vote for their favourite writer at [www.millionforamorgue.com](http://www.millionforamorgue.com) over the next month will be entered into a prize draw.

The winner will be treated to a murder tour of Aberdeen in the company of Stuart, with travel to the city from anywhere in the UK and accommodation included.

"For a writer, there's nothing quite like a good excuse to get out of the house, and this one's perfect," said Stuart. "Not only do we all get to raise money for a really important cause, we get to go out and tour Aberdeen, poke our noses into its seedy fictional underbelly, then nip off to the nearest pub for a bit of fortification before moving on to the next scene.

"Think of it as a semi-educational stag-night, only without the general rowdiness, stripper, and inevitable kebab. What's not to love?"

For a chance of winning the prize just vote for who you want the new morgue to be named after at [www.millionforamorgue.com](http://www.millionforamorgue.com) or by text - you'll get one competition entry for each £1 donated to the campaign. The winner will be picked on 29 February. The winner of last month's competition is Janet Newey from Cannock, Staffs who will be enjoying lunch cooked by author Peter James at his home in Brighton.

More monthly competitions will run throughout the year. For more information visit [www.millionforamorgue.com](http://www.millionforamorgue.com)

# MILLION FOR A MORGUE .COM

**TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE AUTHOR VISIT THE WEBSITE [WWW.MILLIONFORAMORGUE.CO.UK](http://WWW.MILLIONFORAMORGUE.CO.UK) OR SIMPLY SEND A TEXT USING THE TEXT NUMBERS BELOW TO 70070 ALONG WITH THE AMOUNT IN POUNDS.**

(Eg to donate £10 for Stuart MacBride, type: STUM10 £10 and send it to 70070.)

- VAL MCDERMID (TEXT: VALM10) • PETER JAMES (TEXT: PETJ10) • TESS GERRITSEN (TEXT: TESG10) • KATHY REICHS (TEXT: KATR10) • HARLAN COBEN (TEXT: HARC10) • LEE CHILD (TEXT: LEEC10) • JEFFERY DERVER (TEXT: JEFD10) • MARK BILLINGHAM (TEXT: MARR10) • JEFF LINDSAY (TEXT: JEFL10) • STUART MACBRIDE (TEXT: STUM10)

**TO DONATE WITHOUT VOTING FOR A SPECIFIC AUTHOR TEXT MFAM50.**





## Top two spot for The Placement Base

**The Placement Base, based in the University's Careers Service, has won second place in a prestigious industry award.**

The facility was nominated in the Best University Placement/Careers Service category of the National Placement & Internship Awards.

The award celebrates the tireless and invaluable contributions made by university placement and careers service staff in helping students to maximise their work experience opportunities.

The Dundee service impressed judges with its innovative approach to sourcing, organising and matching placements, and helping students derive maximum benefit from these experiences. Placements have taken place from Orkney to London, and across a similarly diverse range of industries.

The Placement Base opened in October 2007, and has placed more than 600 students in specifically sourced placements since then. This figure includes more than 300 placements which have been sourced for credit-bearing Internship Modules, and the University's Scottish Internship Graduate Certificate (SIGC), an intensive and bespoke coaching programme which provides graduates with a unique insight into industry.

Karen Sleith, Employer Marketing Manager in the Careers Service, said she was delighted that the Placement Base had been shortlisted for the award.

"There was a very strong field of 40 nominations from universities right across the UK, so to have come second is fantastic," she said. "It is recognition of the work we do here, and our innovative approach to securing placements for our students which significantly enhance their employability after graduation."

More than 2100 students and graduates are now registered with the scheme, and around 700 new employer contacts have been generated as a result of the Placement Base's work. It is recognised externally as a model of how student employability can be developed in an innovative way and how placements can be offered to all students regardless of their degree subject.

The National Placement & Internship Awards were created by RateMyPlacement.co.uk to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of all stakeholders involved in undergraduate work placements and internships.

More information can be found at [www.rmpawards.co.uk](http://www.rmpawards.co.uk)

## CEPMLP welcomes delegation from Ibadan

**The Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral law and Policy recently welcomed Professor Adeola Adenikinju and Dr Peter Obutte to the Centre.**

The Director and Deputy Director from the Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law based within the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, travelled to the Centre to discuss potential collaboration over the delivery of postgraduate degree programmes both in Ibadan and in Dundee.

Photo shows L-R: Gillian Pallis, CEPMLP Associate Dean Learning & Teaching; Professor Adenikinju, Director of CPEEL; Ian Ball, Dean of the Graduate School and Dr Obutte, Deputy Director of CPEEL.



## New collaboration to develop treatment for Huntington's disease



**The University and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) have entered into a joint research project to tackle Huntington's disease, an inherited brain disorder.**

The project looks to build on the findings of Professor Susann Schweiger, of the University's School of Medicine, who has discovered a mechanism that controls production of the disease-causing protein involved in Huntington's Disease.

"If we can inhibit this process then we may prevent the build up of this toxic protein in the brain and hopefully provide a treatment for Huntington's Disease," said Professor Schweiger.

The £1million-plus research project will be led by Professor Schweiger and her research team, along with Dr Ros Langston and Professor Jeremy Lambert from the Division of Neuroscience, located within the new Medical Research Institute, and by Dr David Gray from the Drug Discovery Unit. The project brings together expertise in molecular genetics, behaviour, brain physiology and drug development in an exciting synergistic collaboration with researchers at GSK.

Professor Jeremy Lambert said, "This is a truly interdisciplinary effort and one which we are uniquely placed to tackle in Dundee. It is extremely heartening to see GSK, a global pharmaceutical company, focusing on an 'orphan disease' like Huntington's. Their involvement greatly increases the chance of developing a treatment for this devastating disease."

Huntington's Disease is a devastating condition with symptoms typically beginning between 30 to 50 years of age. Patients may suffer from memory problems, anxiety and depression but all will eventually develop severe movement problems, leaving them unable to walk and care for themselves. There is currently no cure and patients die within 10-15 years of onset.

The disease is caused by a single gene defect. Anyone with a parent who has Huntington's Disease has a 50% chance of inheriting this fatal disease.

However, as Huntington's Disease is relatively rare, only affecting around 1 in 5,000 of the population, it is classed an 'orphan disease' and consequently has not been seriously 'targeted' by the pharmaceutical industry, until this breakthrough collaboration.

Cath Stanley, Chief Executive of the Huntington's Disease Association, said the collaboration was an "exciting step forward which will offer much needed hope to families affected by Huntington's disease."

The University and GSK are already engaged in a similar collaboration examining another orphan disease, Recessive Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa, a rare disease of the skin and mucosal linings which results in highly painful, debilitating and lifelong skin blistering and puts patients at great risk of infection and of developing certain skin cancers.

# In Memoriam: Celebrating the silent teachers

A remarkable new book which celebrates the lives of those who donate their bodies to science is launched this month (February) as part of the University's Saturday Evening Lecture Series.

*In Memoriam* which brings together award-winning writers, University staff members, medical and science students and participants on the Masters programme on Creative Writing includes poetry and short stories as well as chapters devoted to the life stories of four individuals who have donated their bodies.

Illustrated by internationally acclaimed artist and photographer Professor Calum Colvin, the book provides an illuminating insight into the generosity of the donors and the gratitude and respect felt by the students towards those they describe as their "silent teachers."

In a chapter on the Service of Thanksgiving which is held at the University in honour of donors every year University Chaplain Rev Dr Fiona Douglas quotes from a tribute written by a group of medical students.

"Our silent teachers, as that is what they were, provided us with a text that no book could duplicate, no series of lectures could match and no computer could simulate," it says. "Our medical learning stems from this understanding and the donation of one's body for the teaching of anatomy literally becomes the gift of life."

Anna Day, Director of Literary Dundee, who helped bring the book to fruition, said the gratitude and respect felt by students comes across strongly throughout *In Memoriam*.

"The way the students deal with the issue is very respectful and very tender in a way," she said. "Death is something people don't talk about. In this book it is dealt with in a very gentle way. It makes you think about what is going to happen to the people you love and to you. It might make people think about whether this is something they would be willing to do after their death."

"Only 300 people a year donate their bodies to science and there is a need for people to do so. For those who already have this book is a tribute to them, a way of celebrating their lives. Every life has a story behind it and that really is how the idea for the book came about."

"It meshed with an idea Kirsty Gunn, Professor of Creative Writing, was working on – a cross University project bringing together scientists and artists and writers."

The collaborative nature of *In Memoriam* will be to the fore at the launch as Professor Gunn is joined by Professor Colvin and Professor Sue Black, Director of the Centre for Anatomy, Human Identification.

“Our silent teachers, as that is what they were, provided us with a text that no book could duplicate...”

The three professors from three very different disciplines will launch the new publication at the Dalhousie Building on 18 February with a discussion about the project, the artwork, the writers and why those who donate their bodies are helping to train the next generation of doctors, scientists, dentists and surgeons.

As well as bring together different disciplines *In Memoriam* also unites new writers with established authors. Contributors include novelist Alan Warner, literary critic Professor John Carey and poet Christopher Reid, who won the Costa Book Award Best Book of the Year in 2009 for *The Scattering*, a moving tribute to his wife.

Joining these are creative writing students, medical students, Eddie Small, who paints such a beautiful portrait of each of the donors in his life stories, the University chaplain Rev Dr Fiona Douglas and Professor Aidan Day from the department of English. There is also a chapter devoted to the work of Bequeathal Secretary Vivienne McGuire, who deals with bequeathal requests, makes sure records are properly kept and gently guides relatives through the bequeathal process.

*In Memoriam* is published by Discovery press and will be available from the University's Online store priced at £9.99.





## One Thousand talents honour



**The global reputation of the University's Unesco Centre for Water, Law and Policy has been further enhanced by the appointment of centre Director Professor Patricia Wouters as part of China's One Thousand Talents Programme.**

Professor Wouters (pictured) will join the Xiamen Academy of International Law, one of the top international law schools in China, to help develop their expertise in international water law. This is regarded as essential in ensuring the water security of the country and its neighbours and in promoting the peaceful management of transboundary resources.

Professor Wouters' role, which will run alongside her post at Dundee, is therefore aimed at providing research and teaching leadership in the area of water law to assist with developing capacity in China in this area. This will contribute to building cooperative frameworks to address the current and future water challenges across China.

"China has so many international rivers and shared waters and they border very many different countries," she explained. "It also has a huge population with growing economic, social and environmental demands so the challenge for China is to manage its limited water resources, especially its transboundary waters, in the best way possible.

"It's vital that the Chinese develop water law expertise in order to meet these challenges. By doing this it can influence regional peace and security through the peaceful management of transboundary resources."

She added that the Xiamen Academy of International Law is spearheading China's efforts to meet these challenges.

"China has always wanted to manage its water resources on its own terms, as many of the world's largest nations do. For example, China is one of only three countries to decide not to ratify the 1997 UN Water Courses Convention. But now Xiamen is leading the way in promoting international law expertise in this field as a platform for advancing regional cooperation.

"At the moment there is a lack of critical mass of expertise in international water law; we will be working together to develop this much-needed capacity. The Xiamen Academy of International Law is world-renowned, bringing the leading international lawyers to Xiamen each year to share knowledge with the largest gathering of Chinese and regional international law experts across the world.

"It's an incredibly exciting opportunity. The vision is to provide our expertise and establish a Water Law Water Leaders programme in China. I want to use the talent we have developed to build this platform for excellence in teaching and research and help build a new generation of Chinese water law leaders based on the Dundee ethic of cooperation rather than conflict. I am confident from my discussions with my Chinese colleagues that this new generation will share our vision of water for all."

Professor Wouters was nominated for the One Thousand Talents programme by Professor Chen Huiping from Xiamen Academy of International Law in 2010. There then followed an intensive selection and vetting process before Professor Wouters was offered a three-year appointment, which will run from 2012-2015.

"I will be spending as much time in China as I can manage and that will be a challenge as I will continue my post in Dundee," she explained. "I plan to live there for a year and to take my family with me and in the interim to spend short periods of time in Xiamen.

"It is a beautiful part of China, with a leading international law department, which I look very much forward to working with. I first visited Xiamen in 2006 when I was invited to give the inaugural lecture at the Academy. Professor Jia Cheng from Taiwan came up with the idea of an academy similar to that in The Hague (home of the International Court of Justice) and the vision was to create a pan-Asian equivalent.

"He flew from Taiwan to The Hague, to the Sorbonne and then to Dundee to ask me to take part in the inaugural session of the Xiamen Academy, which I still find amazing; it was such an honour."

It is this international recognition and admiration of her expertise that prompted the nomination to the 1000 Talents programme, which aims to attract 1000 of the world's top academics to China.

"I've been really humbled by this," said Professor Wouters. "It is a deep honour to be considered as someone who might contribute to China's future water law expertise. It is a huge responsibility, but I have a wonderful team at the UNESCO Centre and Graduate School, and I have had great support from the Principal, Vice-Principal, Dean and all of my colleagues at Dundee.

"I am very proud to be acting as an ambassador for Dundee and ensuring that Dundee's expertise is instrumental in helping China meet these challenges."

Professor Wouters is also excited about the opportunities her new post as Professor of International Water Law at Xiamen will bring to Dundee.

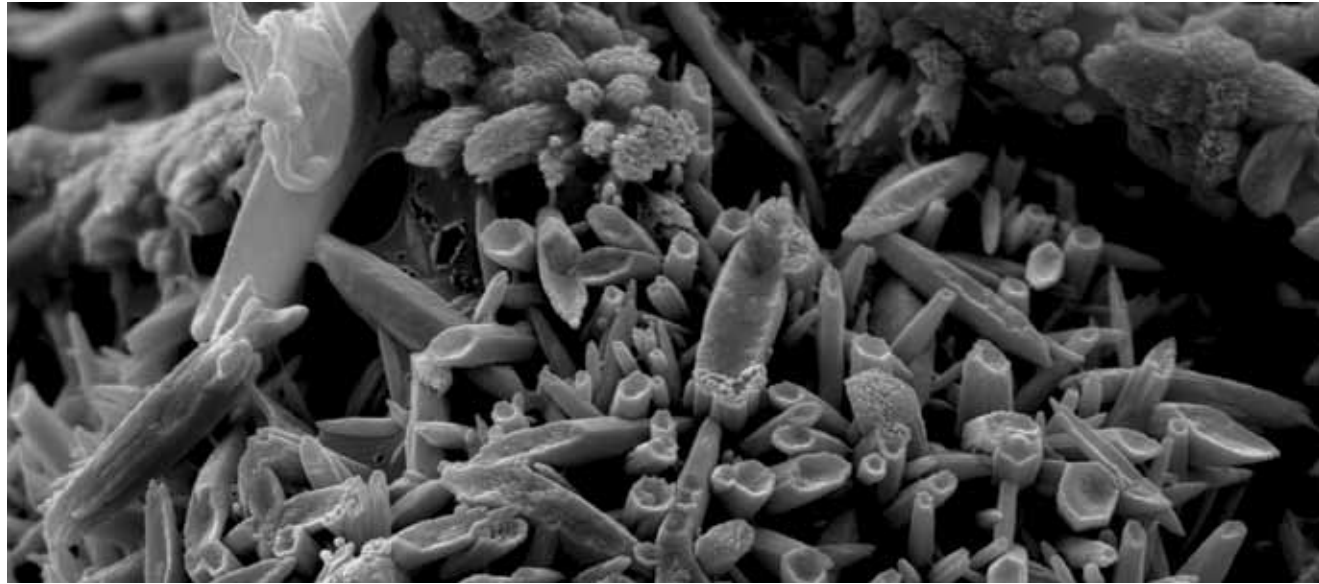
"It's also about bringing China here," she said. "I want to build a community of scholars in this field and plan to have more Chinese students coming to Dundee. I'm looking forward also to identifying and implementing exciting collaborative research projects to strengthen UK-China relations."

One idea already being developed is the launch of an international scholarship programme as part of the Rio + 20 event being hosted in Iceland later this year.

"As part of the Rio + 20 follow-on work, Iceland plans a unique world-awareness raising event - lighting a glacier to highlight the continued challenge by diminishing water resources as a result of climate change," explained Professor Wouters. "As part of the Scientific Planning Committee, I suggested that the event should extend its reach to providing a forward-looking platform to address these continuing challenges; we introduced the Lights of Future scholarship programme, aimed at sponsoring international interdisciplinary PhD research from around the world in this area, with the results presented annually in Iceland.

"I am in discussions to include Scotland, under its Hydro-Nation agenda, and with China, though my appointment in Xiamen, to be part of this Lights of the Future PhD programme. The future needs a new generation of local water leaders - Dundee is well-placed to make its contribution to this important mission."

# Fantastical Functions of Fungi



**Fungi may be among nature's most diverse kingdoms, giving us everything from mushrooms and baker's and brewer's yeast to the moulds that grow on rotting fruit and the infection that causes athlete's foot. Research in the Division of Molecular Microbiology at the College of Life Sciences is showing that these remarkable organisms can do things we barely imagined.**

A research project in Professor Geoff Gadd's laboratory has just found that fungi can transform lead into its most stable mineral form, which provides important new information about the cycling of lead in the environment, but also offers a potential biological solution to the worldwide problem of lead pollution arising from industrial processes including everything from firearms to paint production.

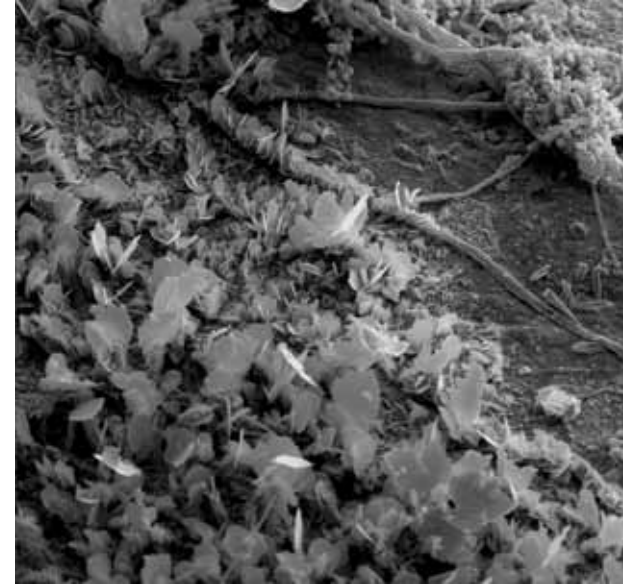
The findings, reported in the high-impact journal *Current Biology*, suggest that this interaction between certain kinds of fungi and lead may be occurring in nature anywhere the two are found together. It also suggests that the addition or encouragement of fungi may be a useful treatment strategy for lead polluted sites.

"Lead is usually regarded as a pretty stable substance," said Professor Geoff Gadd, of the College of Life Sciences at the University of Dundee. "The idea that fungi and other microbes may attack it and change its form is quite unexpected."

A common way to try and tackle lead in contaminated soils was through the addition of a source of phosphorus, an element that enables the incorporation of lead into the stable pyromorphite mineral. But that change had been considered to be a purely chemical and physical phenomenon, not a biological one. That is, until now.

"This is one of the reasons why we were very surprised by our findings, which we really were not expecting," said Professor Gadd. "Up to now, pyromorphite formation was regarded as an abiotic process. The concept that a living fungus could somehow mediate formation of this mineral from lead metal was very surprising. In fact, the significance of microbes in attacking lead metal is also not appreciated for obvious reasons! We all know lead is a tough metal, with some toxicity, and subject to atmospheric corrosion, but we do not generally associate it with microbial colonization or biocorrosion. It could well be that previous chemical treatment steps have completely missed the importance of microbes in the process."

In the new study, Young Joon Rhee carefully examined lead shot after it had been incubated with and without fungi. In the presence of fungi, the lead shot began to show evidence of pyromorphite formation after one month's time. This stable lead-containing mineral continued to increase in abundance with time. Minerals found on the surface of lead shot incubated without fungi represented less stable forms that resulted from normal corrosion.



"It seems the ability of many fungi to produce organic acids or other substances may be very important in attacking the lead and releasing forms of free lead including lead complexes, which can then react with phosphorus sources to form pyromorphite," Professor Gadd explained.

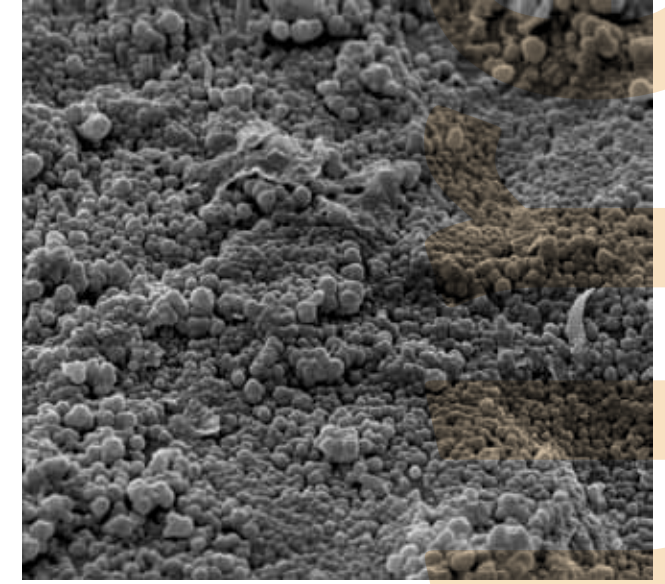
"While not all species of fungus are able to transform lead in this way, it appears many of them can", he added. It's not entirely clear why some fungi do this, but it might assist their survival in contaminated soils.

"The fungi are not using the lead for growth or metabolism - lead has no essential role in any organism," said Professor Gadd. "However this transformation of lead into pyromorphite may somehow help fungi survive

in a lead-polluted environment, as not all fungi may be tolerant to lead pollution."

This transformation of dangerous lead to a more stable mineral form is another aspect of the amazing properties of many fungi.

"It seems the ability of many fungi to produce organic acids or other substances may be very important in attacking the lead and releasing forms of free lead including lead complexes, which can then react with sources of phosphorus, forming pyromorphite. Many fungi produce organic acids, such as citric and oxalic acid, in fact the citric acid used in many of our foods and fizzy drinks is obtained from the fungus *Aspergillus niger* for example."



"However we have found that not all fungi we have examined can do this. We can perhaps understand that this may be due to differences in metabolism but we need to study this further. We are sure that even though some species cannot do this, many species can and it is a widely-found property."

Professor Gadd and his research team, which includes Steve Hillier from the James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen, previously showed that fungi may also have an important role to play in the fate of potentially dangerous depleted uranium left in the environment after weapons testing and military campaigns. They found evidence (also reported in a *Current Biology* article) that fungi can "lock" depleted uranium into a mineral form that may be less likely to find its way into plants, animals or the water supply.

"All of this work provides evidence of the incredible properties of microorganisms in effecting transformations of metals and minerals in the natural environment," said Professor Gadd. "Fungi are perfectly suited as biogeochemical agents, often dominate the biota in polluted soils, and play a major role in the establishment and survival of plants through their association with roots. Now we are seeing that even metals can be subject to microbial colonization and attack.

"That being the case, fungal-based approaches should not be neglected in our attempts to deal with metal-polluted soils, which are a problem right around the world."

# So far, so good on South Georgia



How can you remove all of the bad guys (the introduced rodents) without also removing the good guys (South Georgia's native birds) from an island the size of Lancashire and with the topography of the Andes?

Cue the South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT), of which DJCAD's Professor Elaine Shemilt is a founding Trustee. An ambitious decision by the Trust to facilitate the eradication of the island's invasive rodents, a generous donation from another of the Trustees, and the long-established link between SGHT and CRE led to Tony Martin's recruitment and the beginning of a whirlwind period of research and field activity. A year's preparation included the purchase and shipping of two vintage helicopters (one whose original owner was Jackie Onassis), and the transportation of people and equipment from five continents to this 190km long ice-draped island in the sub-Antarctic.

In March 2011 some 55 tonnes of specially designed and formulated rat bait was spread thinly by helicopter over 128 km<sup>2</sup> (50 sq miles) - an area isolated from the remainder of South Georgia by huge glaciers. This was to be a trial run, a test of methodology before the bulk of the island was attempted. Then the wait began. Would every single rat take the bait? Would birds do so and die in such large numbers that their populations would never recover?

Two years must pass before there can be confidence that the rats have all gone, but nine months after bait spreading the island is emerging from the winter snows and the signs are greatly encouraging. No rats, rat tracks or rat faeces have been seen since the bait was dropped in March. Just as importantly, the new breeding season has seen no reduction in numbers of vulnerable birds (those that were large enough to consume the bait pellets), so any losses have been quickly replaced.

Excitingly, for the first time in perhaps a century, the treated area seems to be on the brink of producing a surplus of the endemic South Georgia pintail, a charming duck found nowhere else on the planet. Broods of ducklings are being seen frequently now, whereas previously they were nearly always killed and eaten by rats immediately after hatching.

Although the 2011 trial operation - Phase 1 of the project - covered one eighth of the island's ice-free surface, it is already the largest of its kind ever attempted, and the conservation world is watching with bated breath to see if it succeeds. Meanwhile, with cautious optimism the project team is already well into preparing for Phase 2 of the work - a two season operation to remove rats and mice from the remainder of the island. A further £5m of the original eye-watering £8m target is still to be raised, but a fund-raising team is hard at work and confident of reaching the objective, buoyed by these recent encouraging signs from South Georgia and the knowledge that Phase 1 was delivered on time and under budget. Watch this space.

**A Dundee-based operation to restore the UK's greatest wildlife concentration has recently completed its first season of work, with encouraging results.**

Directed by Professor Tony Martin (pictured) of the University's Centre for remote Environments (CRE) and funded through the South Georgia Heritage Trust, the South Georgia Habitat Restoration Project seeks to re-establish millions of seabirds on this jewel of the UK's overseas territories through natural regeneration.

When Captain Cook took the first steps on South Georgia in 1775, this remote and breathtakingly beautiful South Atlantic island was probably the most important seabird breeding island in the World - home to countless millions of penguins, albatrosses, petrels and other seabirds, some little larger than sparrows.

But within a decade of that discovery, and over the next two centuries, furry destruction in the form of stowaway rodents was carried to the island in hundreds of ships which ventured there from all over the World in pursuit of seals, whales and fish. The rats and mice quickly spread to all accessible areas of land, killing and eating most of the eggs and chicks they encountered on the way. Having evolved in the absence of mammalian predators, the island's ground-nesting seabirds were naïve and defenceless.

The consequence is that today the wildlife of South Georgia is but a shadow of what it could and should be. But how do you set about undoing the damage?





## Singing honour for multi-talented Barbara

**A fitness instructor at ISE has been officially recognised as one of the top traditional Scottish singers in the country.**

Barbara Dymock, who only resumed her folk singing career a few years ago, was nominated for Scots Singer of the Year in the Scottish Traditional Music Awards.

Although she didn't win the title she did receive enough public votes to make it to the final four in the competition.

"I was very surprised to be nominated because I only recently got back into the music scene," said Barbara. "The nomination itself was a very great honour but to be one of only four singers shortlisted was amazing particularly when one of the others singers was Brian McNeil from the Battlefield band."

Barbara's singing career is one of three she has successfully managed to juggle over the years and first began while she was studying medicine at the University in the 1970s.

"I graduated in 1978 and sang in a variety of bands including Ceolbeg but I was working as a house officer at a time when there was no European Working Time Directive and the sheer pressure of work meant I had to take a break from music.

"I sang to my three sons at home but I stopped performing because there just wasn't the time. There are festivals all over the country and I didn't have the time to travel to them."

Instead she used her limited free time to train as a fitness instructor and so began another career at ISE.

She began taking classes in 1991 and now teaches on ISE's seniors programme and Phase IV cardio rehabilitation programme. She is also gaining further qualifications to enable her to take a greater role in ISE's ABC classes for people with cancer.

Barbara rejoined the folk music scene in 2006 and what began as a hobby turned into a third career when fellow singers encouraged her to make a CD.

"I've made two CDs since I started back again," she said. "The latest, Hilberts Hotel which is produced by Michael Marra, was leased last July."

Having taken early retirement from her post in medicine for the elderly at Stracathro Hospital in 2009 Barbara has more time to devote to her music and she is already booked up for a number of festivals across the country this year including Celtic Connections in Glasgow.

## Keep taking the tablet to boost cancer research



**Fiona Edwards, a receptionist in the College of Life Sciences, has become a well-known and welcome figure at local running and sporting events over the years thanks to her talent for making mouth-watering Scottish tablet.**

But as well as keeping athletes' energy levels topped up Fiona has also helped breast cancer researchers at the University carry on with their vital work by donating them the proceeds of her tablet sales.

At the end of last year she presented Alastair Thompson, Professor of Surgical Oncology at the School of Medicine, with a cheque for £4200.

Since she first started raising money almost ten years ago Fiona, a keen runner, has donated an amazing £25,000, including gift aid, to local breast cancer research.

"I had breast cancer in 2001 and in 2003 I decided to run the Race for Life as a way of giving something back," she explained. "I ran it with my daughter who was 11 at the time and we raised about £450 from sponsorship.

"I was looking at different ways of raising money and I saw someone selling tablet and thought that seemed like a good idea. I sold some at work and then when I was thinking about other places to sell it I realised I could try races. I'd been running for a few years and I was taking part in quite a few races so I tried that in 2004 and made about £1800 that first year.

"It has really taken off since then. The most I've raised in a year is £5000. Last year it was £4200."

Although Fiona takes a break from tablet making at the start of each year, because she reckons everyone is "sweetied out" after Christmas, the money has already started rolling in for 2012.

"I made some for a wedding over the holidays and I've had donations in this year already so I'd raised about £500 by January."

Fiona will be back in her kitchen this month cooking up more of her famous tablet to boost her fundraising efforts still further. However she admits she doesn't eat it herself and nor does her family.

"We don't really like it," she laughs. "I can't say I enjoy making it either but I do enjoy raising the money and reaching another target. It's always a wonderful feeling when I hit another zero.

"Making and selling it is quite hard work. When I started out I found it a bit embarrassing asking people to buy it but now I reckon I could sell anything."

Fiona makes the bars of tablet in batches of 16 on her days off and has to make enough to keep the reception at Life Sciences well stocked as well as making her usual deliveries to football matches in Monifieth, her mum's church group and a variety of local running events.

She attends so many races she has become known as "the tablet lady" to a whole generation of runners and their families.

"Runners are very good at buying and people know me now so they'll come up and ask for some tablet," she said. "Someone in Glasgow even posted on Facebook before a race to remind runners to bring money with them to buy tablet.

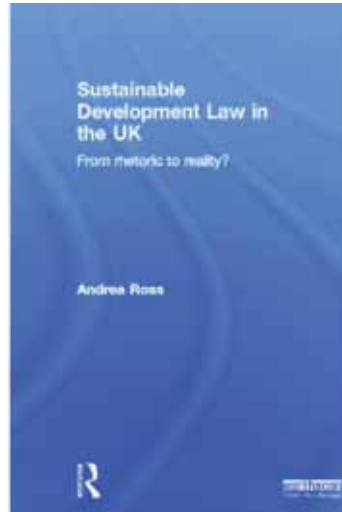
"I have a whole new generation of customers and I get cheered on when I run because people recognise me as the tablet lady."

Professor Thompson, who accepted the latest cheque in December, is full of praise for Fiona's fund-raising efforts.

"We are hugely indebted to Fiona for the magnificent contribution she makes to supporting cancer research, and breast cancer in particular," he said. "I can also vouch for the quality of the tablet, which is delicious!"



## New book calls for legal backing for sustainable development



**Progress on sustainable development in the UK has been too slow and it is now time for specific legislation to drive the process forward, according to a new book by Andrea Ross, Reader in the School of Law.**

*Sustainable Development Law in the UK: From Rhetoric to Reality* is a critical examination of the UK's approach to promoting and delivering sustainable development.

In it, Andrea argues that the favoured minimalist policy approach to the issue is not delivering sufficient change fast enough and what is needed is explicit legal backing for sustainable development.

"It's time we made well-established good practice mandatory," she explained. "Over the years some very powerful tools have been developed in the UK to promote sustainable development but, in many instances, they have not protected from short termism and political change.

"While many good tools for implementing sustainable development such as indicator sets and sustainable procurement continue, it is remarkable that several particularly successful tools have been abolished and many more continue to be ignored.

"In the past we have had enviable sustainable development strategies, cross cutting cabinet committees focused on delivering sustainable development and a strong, independent expert body in the Sustainable Development Committee.

"The SDC in particular made a huge difference to the delivery of sustainable development and were recognised world wide for the contributions they made. The UK administration currently is without a strategic framework, lacking in strong leadership for sustainable development and without a regular source of expert advice and review on sustainable development.

"Within the UK, it is only Wales which has retained all of the above institutions, and interestingly, it is only Wales which has strong statutory obligations to produce and review a sustainable development scheme as part of its devolution settlement. The Welsh have and continue to move forward on this issue while the rest of the UK has backtracked.

"There is no strategy at a UK level, Northern Ireland's strategy is focussed on economic growth and although the Scottish Government, in many respects, has a very clear approach to governance they are also focussed on increasing sustainable economic growth and are silent on the need to contain that growth within the limits of the Earth"

Andrea believes that living within the Earth's limits needs a stronger moral and legal status equivalent to concepts like justice. It should also provide the basis of any vision of sustainable development. She also believes that if the UK, Scotland and Northern Ireland administrations are serious about becoming sustainable then experience in Wales shows that imposing procedural obligations to produce and review a strategy and then requiring public bodies to use it when exercising their functions actually works.

"A more formalised approach to sustainable development based around living within the Earth's limits could address many of the current shortcomings and turn what is now at best, good practice into meaningful legal obligations supported by monitoring and review mechanisms which impose significant consequences for failure."

Andrea's book is published by Earthscan /Routledge.

“The UK administration is without a strategic framework, lacking in strong leadership for sustainable development and without a regular source of expert advice...”

## £10,000 prize offered as book prize launched



**Aspiring novelists will once more have the chance to have their work published and land a lucrative cash prize, with the launch of the 2012 Dundee International Book Prize.**

Now in its 8th year, the prize is one of the UK's premier awards for new writers with the winner receiving £10,000 in cash and a publishing contract with Cargo Publishing.

The competition is a joint venture between the 'Dundee - One City, Many Discoveries' campaign and Literary Dundee, a University-led initiative to promote interest in literature. It is open to both local writers and authors from around the world. Unpublished novels on any theme and in any genre are welcome.

Ann Day, Director of Literary Dundee said she was sure that would-be novelists would once again rise to the challenge.

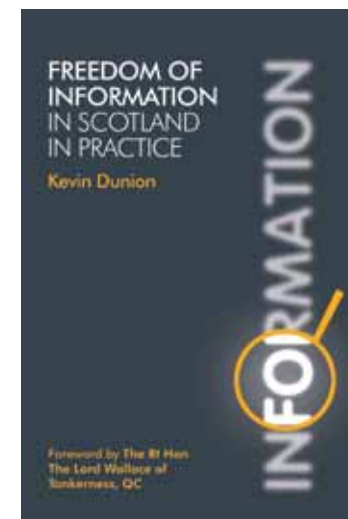
"Each year the job of judging gets more difficult as the reputation of the Dundee International Book Prize grows throughout the world, and I'm sure we will once again find ourselves agonising over having to choose just one winner from an impressive batch of entries."

Entries should be sent to [bookprize@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:bookprize@dundee.ac.uk) and manuscripts must be accompanied by an entry form, which is available from [www.dundeebookprize.com](http://www.dundeebookprize.com).

Entries must be prose, in English and can be in any genre with the exception of children's and young adults' fiction which will not be considered. The first three chapters of each entry - or the first 60 pages - will be read in the first instance.

The closing date is 1st March 2012. Shortlisted authors only will be contacted by the organisers of the prize. The winner will be informed of their success in June and the book will be launched in published form in the autumn as part of the Dundee Literary

## New freedom of information guide published



**A new in-depth guide to Scotland's access to information laws has been written by Kevin Dunion, the first person to hold the post of Scottish Information Commissioner.**

Mr Dunion, who is Co-Director of the University's Centre for Freedom of Information with the School of Law, has described the new book as a "legacy" of his eight years as Commissioner. His second and final term in office comes to an end this month. (February)

"I've distilled much of my experience of working with Scotland's new access to information laws over the past eight years into 500 pages," he said.

"I've been proud to serve as the first Scottish Information Commissioner and this book provides, I hope, a sort of legacy.

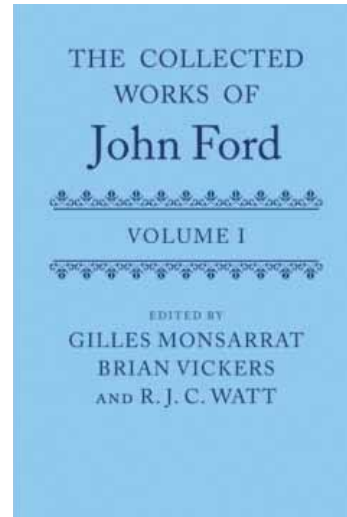
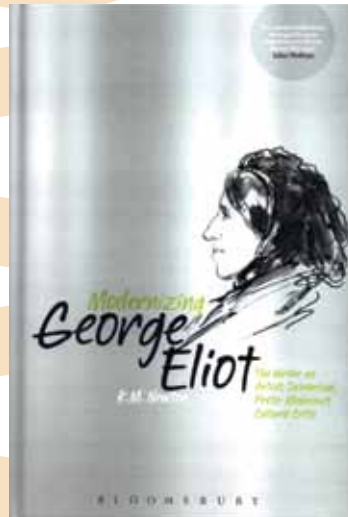
"It is above all a practical guide to the legislation - how to interpret it, how to work with it and how to keep our freedom of information regime strong in the future."

The book provides detailed commentary on the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and also the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 as well as key issues of interpretation since the law came into effect.

It also includes case studies illustrating the practical application of the legislation and offers a unique insight into how the Commissioner's investigations are conducted. Comparisons with provisions and developments in other parts of the UK and internationally are also included.

Freedom of Information in Scotland in Practice is published by Dundee University Press.

## Prolific author measures books by the yard



*Modernizing George Eliot: The Writer as Artist, Intellectual, Proto-Modernist, Cultural Critic*

**K. M. Newton**  
Bloomsbury Academic

George Eliot stands apart from most writers in the modern era in aspiring not only to be a literary artist at the highest level but also to be an intellectual of the first rank who could engage through the medium of literature with the most significant cultural, ethical and political issues of her time, many of which are still central to current debates in the twenty-first century.

The book is in three main parts. The first focuses directly on Eliot as an intellectual and shows how she confronts in her literary writing issues such as Darwinism, the Byronic tradition of egotism and scepticism, Kantian ethics.

The second focuses on Eliot as self-conscious artist, committed to realism but anticipating modernist innovation through, for example, a complex approach to symbolism, literary allusion, intertextuality, irony. The third part focuses on Eliot as cultural critic and defends her against political criticism that identifies her with various forms of conservative ideology - such as support for imperialism, colonialism and right wing nationalism - through stressing that such criticism fails both to grasp her mode of thinking and to take sufficient account of the complex literary structure and texture of her writing. Eliot's intellectual affinities with modern thinkers, such as Bernard Williams and Jacques Derrida, are discussed which reveal the subtlety of her thought and its pertinence to twenty-first century cultural and political debate.

*Professor Ken Newton is Emeritus Professor of English in the School of Humanities.*

*The Collected Works of John Ford, Volume I*

**Edited by Gilles Monsarrat, Sir Brian Vickers FBA, and R. J. C. Watt**  
Oxford University Press

John Ford (1586-1640?) was one of the leading playwrights of the generation following Shakespeare, best known for such plays as *The Broken Heart*, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*, and *Perkin Warbeck*.

This, the first collected edition of his works since 1869, will span three volumes. Volume I contains in 700 pages all of Ford's poems and prose works, mostly written before he became a dramatist.

Rob Watt has edited and written the commentary on Ford's two longest poems: *Fames Memoriall* (1606), a panegyric to Charles Blount, a distinguished soldier, courtier and scholar who served both Elizabeth and James; and *Christes Bloodie Sweat* (1613), Ford's greatest poem, an intense meditation on Christ's Agony in the Garden, which widens out to a sharp analysis of individual and social corruption.

The book also presents poems newly ascribed to Ford, *A Funerall Elegie for William Peter* (1612), discovered in manuscript in Los Angeles, and the *Elegie for John Fletcher* (1625), previously attributed erroneously to Shakespeare.

This old-spelling edition will be accompanied by a planned online concordance to Ford's works directed by Rob Watt.

Gilles Monsarrat was Professor of English, Université de Dijon (now Université de Bourgogne).

Professor Sir Brian Vickers is a Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study, London University and Fellow of the British Academy.

*R.J.C Watt is an Honorary Research Fellow in English at the School of Humanities.*

**Publishing fifteen books in a year would be a significant landmark for any academic, but former Director of Quality Assurance Dr Jonathan Weyers achieved an additional milestone in 2011, when he reached a grand total of more than 50 titles including translations, adaptations and different editions.**

Dr Weyers, who retired from the University in December, has been so prolific his books now account for over three feet of bookshelf space.

"I only discovered that this point had been reached when tidying my office and collecting all the different volumes together on one bookshelf," said Dr Weyers. "I was surprised to find there is now a full yard of titles over the twenty years since the first text appeared in 1991."

Dr Weyers' textbooks reflect the different roles he held within the University over a career spanning more than 33 years.

The first series dates from his time as a Senior Lecturer in Life Sciences when, with ex-colleagues Rob Reed and Allan Jones, he started writing 'Practical Skills' books supporting the development of students' laboratory expertise.

"We began with Practical Skills in Biology, and moved on to Biomedical Science, Chemistry, Environmental Science and then Forensic Science," said Dr Weyers. "Two new books published in 2011 were in Sports & Exercise Science and Food Science, Nutrition & Dietetics.

"The basic format for each of these new titles is similar, with chapters of generic material being combined with those co-produced with experts in the subject areas.

"However, my current task is proof-reading the 5th edition of the original Biology title, which is due out this year."

Jonathan's second string of books dates from his time as Director of the University's Learning Enhancement Unit, where one of his main roles was to improve student retention and performance.

"I worked closely with Dr Kathleen McMillan at that time, and we decided to write a book called 'The Smarter Student' that would help undergraduates to study successfully. This led to three more specific texts on writing essays, producing a research dissertation, and preparing for exams, now all in their second edition.

"These were closely followed by a student planner, which incorporates study tips into its diary pages, and then by several adaptations of the texts for the Pearson Education 'Brilliant' series.

There have also been a number of foreign language translations, and last year we also published a version of the original text for international students, to assist with the particular academic and social challenges they face when studying in the UK."

In fact, Jonathan's co-authored books will shortly have been translated into no fewer than 11 languages including Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Danish, Estonian, Finnish, Indonesian, Italian, Polish, Swedish and Vietnamese. They have been widely adopted in places as diverse as Australia, Canada and South Africa. His achievements in authorship and quality assurance were recently recognised by the University of Central Queensland, Australia, which has appointed him as a Visiting Professor for 2012.



“There is now a full yard of titles since the first text appeared in 1991”

## court news

**The final meeting of Court for 2011 took place in early December. The topics for discussion were broad ranging in nature, covering financial statements, rest of UK (RUK) bursaries and scholarships, and league table performance.**

### Finance

The December meeting saw Court approve the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st July 2011, noting that the internal and external auditors had expressed confidence in both the finance team and in University Management. The operating surplus for 2010/11 was £1m, but adding back voluntary severance costs and endowment adjustments, the underlying operating result was around £5.6m – an increase on the result for 2009/10 of £1.5m. Income had increased by 5% during the year, with tuition fees rising more slowly, but research income outperforming targets with a rise of 13% mainly from research council awards. Expenditure had also increased by 4%, with staff costs broadly flat but other operating costs rising by 7%. The statements are available online at [www.dundee.ac.uk/finance](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/finance).

### Bursaries and Scholarships

The Court approved a paper which detailed the strategy for awarding bursaries to students from the rest of the UK (RUK), and academic scholarships to students from across Scotland and the rest of the UK. A two-level approach was approved for bursaries, with a bursary of £3,000 available to students with a family income of less than £20,000 and a £1,000 bursary available to students with a family income of less than £42,600. This approach was seen to be simple, whilst offering a meaningful level of support to a significant number of students. The proposed scholarship programme will see academic schools able to offer a flexible range of scholarships of between £1,000 and £3,000 designed to attract high-achieving applicants and to improve conversion of applications to enrolments.

### Vice-Principal & Head of College of Art, Science & Engineering

The Principal confirmed the appointment of Professor Malcolm Horner as Vice-Principal & Head of College of Art, Science & Engineering for a period of 6 months commencing the 1st of January 2012.

### League Table Performance

The Court heard an analysis of the University's performance in a range of world and UK league tables. Despite some variation in specific areas, the data itself suggested that the University's individual performance was relatively unchanged, but that competitors had been improving at a faster rate. Analysis of individual subject rankings highlighted the importance of embedding the strategic review approach towards excellence, focus and impact.

### University Strategy to 2018

The Court received a progress report on the development of the University strategy to 2018. The University's current overarching strategy - the strategy framework to 2012 - is now in its final year, and a new strategy is required to steer a course through the next six years from August 2012. A comprehensive internal consultation exercise was undertaken during October and November 2011, and a 'Consultation Draft' of the strategy was shared with business units, committees, student representatives and trade unions. This feedback will inform further development of the strategy - the final version of which will be presented for approval at the June meeting of Court.

### Comings and Goings

December saw Court welcome Mr Andrew Hewett as Director of Finance, whilst at the same time Ms Catriona Blake was thanked for her important contributions to the success of the University as Deputy Director of Finance and latterly as Acting Director of Finance, and Court wished her well in her future endeavours. In other changes, Dr Lesley McLellan stood down from Court following her appointment as Director of Quality Assurance, and Court thanked her for her contributions to Court and Court committee meetings. Professor Sue Black will succeed Dr McLellan as Academic Council member on Court with effect from the 1st of January 2012. Court also acknowledged the contributions of Dr Neale Laker in the role of Clerk to Court – Dr Laker had been appointed as Director of Policy, Governance and Legal Affairs earlier in 2011, and Dr Christine Milburn would now take on the role of Clerk to Court.

### April Contact

The next edition of Contact will be published in April. The copy deadline is Tuesday 6 March. Submissions should be emailed to [h.mcnally@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:h.mcnally@dundee.ac.uk) by that date.

## appointments



### Professor David Miller

*Personal Chair of Primary Education*

**Professor Miller has worked in teacher education for more than 20 years, starting in Aberdeen before moving to Northern College in Dundee in 1994. Prior to that, he worked in primary schools in Scotland and abroad, both as a classroom teacher and in a management role.**

His qualifications include a Dip. C. E. from Dundee College of Education, B.A. in Education from the Open University, M.Ed from the University of Dundee and a D. Ed. Psych also from Dundee.

He is now a member of the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education, contributing to pre-service teaching with undergraduate and post-graduate students in education, undertaking CPD work with qualified teachers and supervising doctoral students.

He has a responsibility for the development of research capacity within the school, and his own research interests relate to those aspects of classroom interaction which impinge upon personal, social and emotional development. In particular, his current work has been looking at self-esteem, game-based learning and peer learning.



### Professor Divya Jindal-Snape

*Personal Chair of Education, Inclusion and Life Transitions*

**Professor Divya Jindal-Snape (BA, MA, BEd, MEd, PhD) is based in the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education.**

She gained her undergraduate and Masters qualifications at Meerut University in India. She then lectured in Education before moving to Japan to complete a PhD at the University of Tsukuba.

After a period teaching and researching in Japan she moved to Dundee in 1997. Her research expertise lies in the field of inclusion and educational and life transitions.

She has collaborated on research projects and publications with academics internationally, including a seminal textbook in the field of transitions. She has also acted as research consultant for national and international organisations.

Professor Jindal-Snape is leading an online international and inter-professional research network on transitions.

She is the Programme Director of the PhD programme and during her tenure the number of overseas and home postgraduate students has increased significantly. For more information, please visit [www.dundee.ac.uk/eswce/people/djindalsnape.htm](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/eswce/people/djindalsnape.htm)

## Carlyn wins geography medal

Top geography graduate Carlyn Stewart had her success rewarded last month when she was presented with a Royal Scottish Geographical Society University Medal by The Princess Royal.

Carlyn, who graduated last summer, was nominated by the University for her studies including her dissertation on the hydromorphological assessment of the water supply reservoirs in the Pentland Hills.

The RSGS University medal is an award given annually to the best graduating honours geography students from Scottish universities.

Carlyn and her two fellow recipients from the Universities of Strathclyde and Edinburgh received their medals at a ceremony in the recently refurbished RSGS headquarters in Perth.

The Princess Royal made the presentations in her position as Vice-President of the RSGS.



## £2000 trip to Nepal won by student wildlife artist

Madeline Mackay, a student at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, will be travelling to Nepal next month after winning the Tim Greenwood young wildlife artist award.

Madeline's etching of a cormorant and waterless print of an egret won her the top prize of a £2000 trip to the mountains and forests of Pipar in Nepal in the competition run by the World Pheasant Association.



Most of Madeline's artwork is based around bird imagery and as a volunteer for the RSPB, she was well placed to draw her subjects in fine detail and with such character.

"It is a great feeling to have my prints picked as the winning selection, and I'm very excited about the trip," she said. "It will be an amazing experience and will hopefully generate lots of new ideas for artwork."

During the two-week trek to Pipar, Madeline will have the chance to visit the local schools and communities in the area that the World Pheasant Association supports and see the conservation work the charity is involved with.

The award is a lasting memorial to Tim Greenwood, the talented wildlife artist and founder member of the WPA, who died in 2010.



## Architecture students design dream classroom

Children at an Angus primary school will be looking forward to warmer weather so they can take advantage of a new outdoor classroom designed by architecture students at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design.

A total of 68 second-year students submitted designs for the classroom after Grange Primary School in Monifieth asked architecture programme staff at the University for help.

The five best proposals were selected and the students split into teams to work with the original designers to develop the ideas. The winning design "Willow Dome," was originally conceived by Stephen Sampson and meets the brief to seat 30 children.

Grange Primary head teacher Mrs Lorraine Will everyone at the school was thrilled by the final design and are now engaged in a fundraising campaign to raise the £10,000 required to build the classroom.

"We couldn't be happier with the work the students did for us, and the final design, which is just absolutely brilliant," she said. "The idea behind the outdoor classroom is to maximise our lovely school grounds, and fits with the Curriculum for Excellence requirements to use the outdoor environment to support learning.

"It was lovely to have the staff, pupils and parents voting for the winning design as it gave everyone a real sense of involvement with the project. The fact the University have got involved is fantastic, and the enthusiasm of the students helped to raise the levels of excitement surrounding the project.

"When the students came up to present their designs it was also beneficial from a careers education perspective as it formed a link between primary school and university and already we've seen some of the pupils say they want to be architects as a result."

Stephen (29), originally from South Africa, said the original idea was sparked by childhood memories of being educated outdoors.

"My primary school had a willow tree in the playing fields, and I remember it being one of the most popular places for us to sit under, whether it was for a class or during lunch break so this formed the ideology for the concept," he said.

"The willow tree was often referred to as 'the tree of dreaming' by the early Celts and this acts as a reminder that an aspiration driven by creativity and dedication can become a reality.

"This is the first project I've been involved in that will result in something being built so it has been an amazing learning experience in all aspects. I'm very excited about seeing the classroom develop and built. It will be fantastic to see my idea become a reality and creating a learning space that will be populated by the school."

A brief to design outdoor structures has been part of the brief for second-year architecture students for several years now. In previous years, they were challenged to design and build 'sitooteries', a series of timber shelters for the University campus. These had to be aesthetically pleasing, functional and sufficiently inviting to allow staff, students and visitors to enjoy a relaxing seat outdoors.



from the archives...

## The Medical School – 125 this year!



Today the University of Dundee is widely recognised as an international leader in the provision of medical education and training. The foundations of this success were laid 125 years ago with the realisation of plans to give Dundee its own medical school. During the 1880s, what was then University College's zoology classes were recognised by the University of Edinburgh as contributing towards its own degree and Dundee had a pathological laboratory for the use of members of the medical profession. However, it was not until late 1886 that University of St Andrews (with whom University College was soon to merge) entered discussions with UCD about setting up a joint Medical School in Dundee.

Although only in its infancy, UCD was an obvious place to sight a medical school given its proximity to a large hospital, Dundee Royal Infirmary, which could be used for teaching. In January 1887 a detailed document outlining the proposal to create a medical school, and how it would function, was issued by the Council of UCD. The proposition was considered practical, partly because of a gift by Thomas Hunter Cox of £12,000 to fund a chair in anatomy to mark the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Dundee Town Council also agreed to actively support and develop the scheme as part of its celebrations of the Jubilee, and further gifts from benefactors were made throughout the year.

The medical school building finally opened to the north of the college in 1904, by which time UCD and St Andrews had merged. Since those days the teaching of medicine in Dundee has gone from strength to strength. Several notable figures, including Margaret Fairlie, Scotland's first female Chair of Midwifery and Gynaecology, Sir Donald Douglas, Sir Ian Hill and Sir Alfred Cuschieri have taught future doctors at Dundee, while notable medical alumni include Lord Patel and Sir James Black, current and past Chancellors of the University. Ground-breaking research work into diseases such as diabetes and cancer has been carried out and techniques such as keyhole surgery have been pioneered by Dundee academics.

Archive Services hold extensive records relating to the history of medical training in Dundee as custodians of both the university records and the NHS Tayside Archive. Some of the gems in the archive include papers showing the University working closely with the city to combat disease; records of a pioneering surgeon who learnt his trade in the First World War; research into cholesterol, nutrition and breakthroughs in the understanding of histamine; and admission records and case notes for patients in the city's major hospitals and asylums. The collections are available to be used for teaching and academic research. For more information see [www.dundee.ac.uk/archives](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/archives) or contact [archives@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:archives@dundee.ac.uk)



www.dundee.ac.uk/pressoffice

## ABC class celebrates successful first year



The ABC (active after breast cancer) Programme at the University's Institute of Sport and Exercise celebrated its first birthday last month (January).

Set up to provide women with an opportunity to exercise during and after breast cancer treatment the programme now has 29 women currently taking part.

Dr Anna Campbell, a lecturer at ise who has researched the benefits of exercise for those living with cancer, and who gave a Saturday Evening Lecture Series talk on the subject said it was "fantastic" to see so many women enjoying the ABC class at the University.

"The benefits of exercise for this group of people are vast," she said. "Treatment often leaves people with acute and long term fatigue, deconditioning and poor mobility. Research demonstrates that exercise can help reduce some of these effects of cancer treatment and help people to restore muscular strength for daily physical functioning and improve their quality of life by helping with fatigue."

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women with 1 in 8 women in the UK being affected. 48,000 women are diagnosed every year in the UK.

For more information on the ABC programme contact: Hazel Ednie, ABC Exercise Programme Coordinator at ise on 01382 385177.

Fundraising for Sport Relief



### zumba cardio party

wednesday 15 march • 6 - 8pm

dance like you've never danced before! come and join us for a fun filled zumba session with a difference. this cardio dance party is inspired by the traditional cumbia, salsa, samba and merengue music and moves we have in class. so we can accommodate as many zumba lovers as possible and raise lots of pennies for sport relief we are hosting our event in mono within DUSA! make sure you stick around after the dancing for a well deserved drink in the bar!! it's gonna be awesome!

register at ise reception now!

(only £5 to register, all pennies go to sport relief!!)

### superstar challenge

monday 19 march • 6 - 8pm

have you ever wanted to prove you're the best both physically and mentally?

here at ise we are recreating the legendary superstars. our competition will determine who is the toughest whilst raising money for charity! the aim of the game is simple, put together a team of 4 to take part in a variety of fitness tests to challenge endurance, strength, agility, and skill level. the overall champions will be crowned ise superstars, not for the faint hearted!!!

never heard of the legendary superstars? check it out on youtube!!

register at ise reception now!

(only £10 per team, all pennies go to sport relief!!)

any queries or questions, please contact

nik long • gym programme manager @ ise  
email [n.long@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:n.long@dundee.ac.uk) • tel 01382 386763

# Magnificent Microbes

Microbiologists from the University are inviting visitors to Dundee Science Centre to discover the wondrous world of Magnificent Microbes in March.

The Magnificent Microbes event, on Saturday 10th March, aims to use fun and interesting activities to make children and adults alike aware of how fascinating microbes, such as bacteria and fungi, really are.

Among the little known facts are that microbes can glow in the dark, lots of food and drink products are made using fungi or bacteria and that ants can use bacteria on their bodies to make their own antibiotics.

"Because of their size, people don't realise just how interesting and important microbes are so we wanted to hold an event where people could come and see how fascinating they really are," said Dr Nicola Stanley Wall, a lecturer in microbiology at the College of Life Sciences.

"People don't realise how broad the range of functions are that microbes play a role in. Microbes, especially fungi, are used to make a massive range of food and drink products.

"We hope that we'll be able to give people a better understanding of what microbiology is. With some of the youngsters, it might even persuade them to pursue a career in science."

Magnificent Microbes will run at Dundee Science Centre on 10 March from 10am to 4pm. Entry to the centre is free during the event.



**2012**  
SATURDAY EVENING  
LECTURE SERIES

This year's Saturday Evening Lecture Series got off to an active start in January when Dr Anna Campbell examined how cancer survivors can aid recovery through exercise.

Dr Campbell, a lecturer in Clinical Exercise Science at the University, looked at the benefits of exercise in her talk "Rest is not best: Cancer survival through active living" which took place at the Dalhousie Building.

The series continued this month with a talk by novelist Stuart MacBride, one of the ten crime authors taking part in the University's Million for a Morgue campaign.

Stuart read from his new book Birthdays for the Dead and discussed with Professor Sue Black, Director of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification, his path to becoming a writer and how he's getting people to vote for him in the campaign.

Still to come this month is a talk to launch a fascinating new book celebrating the lives of those who donate their bodies to science.

In Memoriam will be launched on 18 February with a talk by Professor Kirsty Gunn, Professor of Creative Writing, Professor Sue Black and Professor Calum Colvin who created the artwork for the book.

Next month Phoebe Caldwell, a leading national expert in the use of Intensive Interaction, will discuss autism and communication in her talk on 3 March.

A week later Antarctic historian Dr David Wilson will re-evaluate Captain Scott's expedition and its impact on 20th Century science and culture. Dr Wilson is the great-nephew of Dr Edward Wilson, Scott's Chief of Scientific Staff who died with him on their fateful journey back from the South Pole.

In April the final lecture of the series will see Nigel Henbest and Heather Couper delve into space with a presentation entitled "Cosmic Quest: the Story of Astronomy."

The Saturday Evening Lecture Series is Scotland's oldest continuous free public lecture series. All lectures are held in the Dalhousie Building at 6pm and are followed by a drinks reception. Overflow theatres may be in use if lectures are heavily subscribed.

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

## what's on...

**17 February**

**Sir William Patey "Afghanistan: Success or Failure?"**

D'Arcy Thompson Lecture Theatre, Tower Building, 6.15pm

The UK Ambassador to Afghanistan, Sir William Patey, returns to his Alma Mater to deliver a lecture as part of the Arts and Humanities Research Institute Series. Sir William will discuss the work being done in Afghanistan.

Entry is free.



**18 February**

**SELS: In Memoriam with Sue Black, Calum Colvin and Kirsty Gunn**

Dalhousie Building, 6pm

This lecture, part of the Saturday Evening Lecture Series, marks the launch of In Memoriam, a book celebrating the lives of those who have donated their bodies to science.

Tickets are free and are available from the Events office on 01382 385564.

**27 February**

**Café Science: The Origins of Life**

Chambers Coffee Shop, South Tay Street, 7pm

Professor David Lilley will discuss the Origins of Life in this latest informal discussion about science.

Admission is free

**29 February**

**Professor Sir Adam Roberts: "The Public Value of the Humanities."**

D'Arcy Thompson Lecture Theatre, Tower Building, 6pm

Professor Sir Adam Roberts, President of the British Academy, will deliver the latest talk in the Arts and Humanities Research Institute Series of lectures. Sir Adam is a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Oxford University and an Emeritus Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford.

Entry is free.



**3 March**

**SELS: Autism and Communication with Phoebe Caldwell**

Dalhousie Building, 6pm

Phoebe Caldwell, a leading national expert on the use of the technique of Intensive Interaction, will present the evidence and explanation as to why this style of communication is so effective and why these insights are not more widely understood.

Tickets are free and available from the Events Office on 01382 385564 or from the University's Online Store.

**7 March**

**AHRI Lecture with Professor Mary Margaret McCabe**

D'Arcy Thompson Lecture Theatre, Tower Building, 6pm

Professor McCabe will give a lecture entitled "Transformative Goods: Plato and the Modern Academy" in the Arts and Humanities Research Institute lecture series.

Admission is free.



**10 March**

**SELS: A Century on: The Legacy of Captain Scott 1912 to 2012**

Dalhousie Building, 6pm

A century after Captain Scott and members of his party met their tragic end on the Ross Ice Shelf, Dr David Wilson will relive one of the most epic tales in the history of human exploration.

Tickets are available from the Events Office on 01382 385564 or from the University's Online Store.

**26 March**

**Café Science: "Through the drinking glass and the story of alcohol."**

Chambers Coffee Shop, South Tay Street, 7pm



V&A at Dundee, due to open in 2015

*picture this...*

## Major conferences secured to 2014 Destination developments Putting Dundee and Angus on the map

### It's shaping up to be another exciting year in Dundee and Angus.

Attracting delegates to explore the glory of the Angus Glens to the vibrant, cultural hot spots of the city, Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau has major conferences in place until 2014. But it doesn't stop there; the bureau is working on 17 bids worth over £5.2 million to the area.

Business tourism plays a major role in the development of Dundee and Angus. Attracting thousands of national and international visitors helps to put the area on the map, business tourists can be key influencers in terms of inward investment and trade decisions. Attracting major conferences can encourage further inward investment in new hotels, development and renovation of existing facilities. With the prestigious V&A at Dundee set to open its doors in 2015 this will further reinforce Dundee and Angus credentials as a leading player in the global field of design. We're working closely with local experts to ensure Dundee and Angus continues to lead the way in business tourism, now and in the future.

Become an ambassador and host your next conference in Dundee and Angus. Contact Karen Tocher at Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau to discuss your requirements on 01382 434318 or email: [karen.tocher@conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk](mailto:karen.tocher@conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk).

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



**Dundee & Angus**  
CONVENTION BUREAU  
WORKING WITH YOU FOR YOU  
AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

www.dundeeandangus.co.uk/pressoffice

