Contact

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

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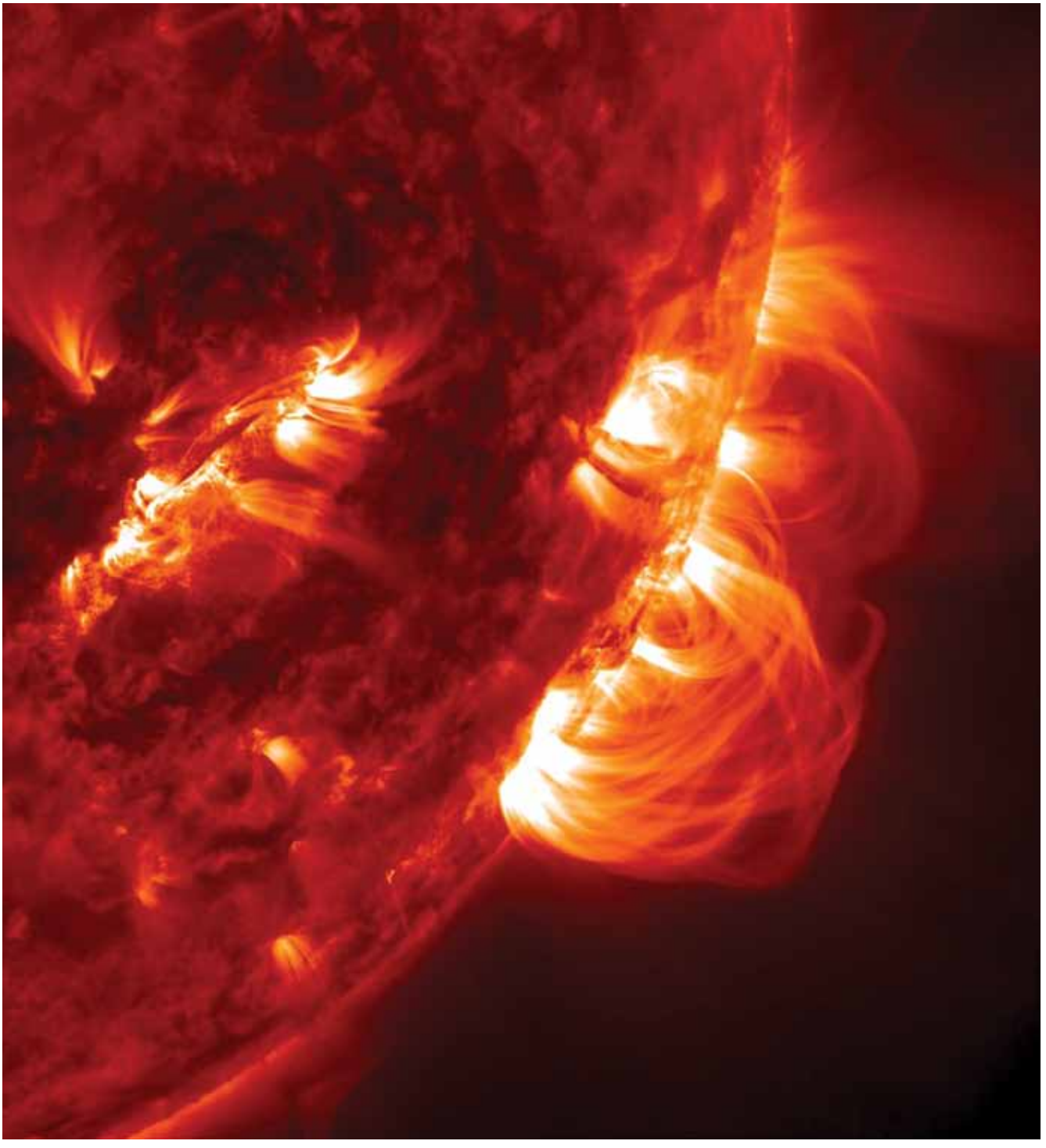

Researching an enigma

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from the principal...

I've been thinking a lot about access lately, not least because this has been the focus of a recent bid for additional funding to the Scottish Funding Council. The Scottish Government, quite rightly, wants to see increased participation rates in higher education by students from the most deprived areas of Scotland. This is incontrovertibly a laudable goal, and the University of Dundee has a good and longstanding record in this area, with around 1200 students entering university education through our Access to Learning Summer School since 1993. But even so, as part of the recent bid, we decided we could do even better and have undertaken to recruit an additional 150 students from deprived backgrounds next year.

I see this move as one of the cornerstones of our transformation agenda. We transform lives through the discovery and application of new knowledge as a result of our research activity, but that's not the only way to transform lives: we transform the life chances of each and every student who studies here, and this is especially true for those who have not had the opportunities of others, but who are in many cases just as able and as determined to succeed.

But some may say this conflicts with our goal to become Scotland's leading university within the next 25 years. Evidence shows that students from underprivileged backgrounds tend to perform less well on average in exams than equivalent students from the most privileged environments. By lowering entry standards to recruit such students, it is argued, we risk jeopardising our league table standings.

For me, these are misplaced and ill-informed concerns that focus on the wrong outcomes. University education is about making a difference, and what better way of doing so than changing the lives of students who might otherwise not come to Dundee. They also focus on only one mechanism of determining the quality of applicants to the University, and that is exam results. Applicants from poorer backgrounds are not necessarily any less able or competent to follow a University career, despite what their exam performances might show. To lead this agenda we have to find innovative ways to identify the potential they have for any given course. To some degree this is already being addressed through the development of contextualised admissions, but this is still in its infancy.

At the Discovery Day on 11 January, I saw how the School of Medicine has become a leading practitioner in the development of 'contextualised' admissions to medical degrees. For them, this became necessary as a means of differentiating between applicants who all have top grades at A Level or Highers. But the principle in use is one which could be beneficial in the access agenda, and indeed the introduction of multiple mini-interviews (MMI), in which applicants work through a series of scenarios, challenges and problems, has enabled the School to take a more balanced approach to admitting students from other backgrounds. The philosophy behind the MMI is an attempt to determine who can demonstrate the qualities required to be a good doctor, irrespective of their academic abilities, and research into the outcomes of such an approach further down the line seems to support the methodology as a more reliable predictor of achievement than exam results alone.

The Medicine model also uses a self-assessment process to determine degrees of deprivation during a candidate's upbringing, an approach which is likely to be much more accurate than the current reliance on domestic postcodes. This approach may also be suited to a broad range of disciplines and could enable the University to spot potential at an early stage. This could be an area in which we can be truly leading, if we get it right. Perhaps the biggest challenge, though, is that we will need to provide students from less privileged backgrounds with the right support and resource to ensure that they can succeed.

Professor Pete Downes • Principal and Vice-Chancellor

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

University awarded Regius Professorship

The College of Life Sciences is among twelve outstanding university departments to have a prestigious title of Regius Professor bestowed upon it by The Queen to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

Professor Pete Downes, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, said, "I am delighted by this announcement. The award of a Regius Professorship to Dundee is a tremendous affirmation of our world-class standing in Life Sciences.

"I am equally delighted to announce that the first Regius Professor in Life Sciences at the University will be Professor Mike Ferguson CBE, FRS, FRSE.

"The leadership and expertise of established scientists who have achieved global acclaim in Life Sciences at Dundee includes 10 Fellows of The Royal Society and 27 Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. We now add to that a Regius Professorship.

"We also have a strong cohort of dynamic young scientists and rising stars in their fields, who will help carry the excellence of Life Sciences at Dundee into the future."

Professor Mike Ferguson (pictured above), who is Dean of Research in the College of Life Sciences, has dedicated his research to studying the biochemistry of parasites that cause human tropical diseases and is a world-renowned expert in his field.

He has been instrumental in establishing the Drug Discovery Unit at Dundee and the new Centre for Translational and Interdisciplinary Research. He is a member of the Wellcome Trust Board of Governors.

A Regius Professorship is a rare privilege, with only two created in the past century. It is a reflection of the exceptionally high quality of teaching and research at an institution.

David Willetts, UK Minister for Universities and Science, said, "I was incredibly impressed by the quality and range of the applications received and am delighted that twelve new Regius Professorships are to be created. Together, the successful applications demonstrated an exceptionally high level of achievement in both teaching and research.

"It is testament to the quality and strength of our higher education sector that so many universities were considered worthy of such a distinguished honour."

In the past, Regius Professorships were created when a university chair was founded or endowed by a Royal patron. Before today, they were limited to a handful of the ancient universities of the United Kingdom and Ireland, namely Oxford, Cambridge, St Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Trinity College, Dublin.

The title of Regius Professor has notably been held by the late historian Hugh Trevor-Roper, Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, and the 18th century poet Thomas Gray, who was Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge.

The creation of Regius Professorships falls under the Royal Prerogative, and each appointment is approved by the Monarch on ministerial advice.

Only two others have been awarded in the last century, to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin in 2009. Before then, the most recent Regius Professorship was created by Queen Victoria.

New CTIR building takes shape

Funders and stakeholders who are helping develop the £12.5 million Centre for Translational and Interdisciplinary Research at the University had the opportunity to see how the building is progressing at a topping out ceremony at the end of last month (January).

Work on the new Centre began in July last year and is scheduled to finish in November 2013. The CTIR will enhance Life Sciences capacity, including in drug discovery - an area in which Dundee is already the leading University in the UK and one of the foremost academia-based centres in the world.

Around 200 new research jobs in Life Sciences will be added once the CTIR is complete, adding to the 1000-plus scientists, research students and support staff from 62 countries in already working in the College of Life Sciences in Dundee.

"The build on the CTIR is progressing well and we are excited about how it will enhance our capabilities across key areas of research," said Professor Michael Ferguson, Dean of Research in the College of Life Sciences.

"We are extremely grateful to the organisations who have generously supported this major investment in what we are doing at Dundee.

"This facility will help further develop the already very strong drug discovery programmes we have in the area of neglected tropical diseases - including African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), Leishmaniasis, Chagas' Disease, tuberculosis and malaria - which are producing strong candidates for drug development. We expect to see these leading to effective drugs for at least one of these diseases.

"We are also addressing other unmet medical needs which affect millions of people. What we aim to do is translate our basic research in areas like cancer and eczema, and other diseases, to produce chemical agents that can tackle these problems in an innovative way."

The construction of the CTIR will cost about £12.5 million, helped by a peer-reviewed Wellcome-Wolfson Capital Award in Biomedical Science of about £5 million, with matched funding by the University.

The remainder has been raised thanks to the generous donations of Scottish funding agencies and charitable trusts.

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) has also made a contribution towards a networking centre in the CTIR, thanks to the BBSRC Excellence with Impact Award won by the College of Life Sciences in 2011.

£4 million private funding boost for V&A at Dundee

V&A at Dundee has raised £4 million in private donations. The money represents a major step towards realising the project's fundraising target of £45m.

The Scottish Government has already committed £15 million in capital funding, and the Heritage Lottery Fund has given V&A at Dundee a first-phase pass on a bid of up to £9.2 million. Further bids to other public bodies are on track and work will continue in developing discussions with prospective donors.

"The private donations mean the project is well on its way to achieving the £45 million fundraising target," said Sandy Richardson, Development Director of V&A at Dundee.

"We are absolutely delighted to be able to make this announcement and are extremely grateful to those individuals and organisations who are supporting the project. It is a wonderful show of confidence in V&A at Dundee."

Donations have been received from individuals, trusts and foundations. Among those who have donated are W S Philips Charitable Trust, Leng Charitable Trust, Misses Barrie Charitable Trust, Binks Trust, and Dunard Fund. Some donors have chosen to remain anonymous.

The funding announcement was made last month as the project displayed its latest building plans as part of a three-day exhibition at Bernard King Library, University of Abertay.

Architect Kengo Kuma's revised plans showed V&A at Dundee moving shorewards - closer to the RSS Discovery and other city attractions and into the heart of Dundee's redeveloped central waterfront. The plans also detail the way in which the iconic building, created of two separate structures arching up to meet each other will be built within two pools of water, reinforcing the connection between the building and the River Tay.

Mr Kuma discussed his approach to architecture and how a new relationship is being formed between people and place at a public lecture in Dundee this month.

He talked about his projects around the world as well as updating progress on his thoughts and designs for V&A at Dundee. Mr Kuma previously gave public lectures in Dundee in May 2011, when the initial event was so heavily oversubscribed that an extra session had to be added to accommodate over 1400 interested people.

Philip Long, Director of V&A at Dundee, said, "We remain absolutely committed to developing an outstanding building to good time and on budget. Our proposal for the location of the building gives Dundee greater certainty of this, while retaining the integrity of Kengo Kuma's design for a new institution of national importance."

The revised planning application will be lodged with Dundee City Council later this year following the 12 week public consultation period.

For more information visit: **www.vandaatdundee.com**

The enigma of solar plasmas

Researchers from the University have been awarded more than £750,000 for a project that seeks to further our understanding of how the Sun works.

Members of the Magnetohydrodynamics group within the University's Division of Mathematics have received £765,000 from the Science and Technology Facilities Council for the three-year 'Complex Magnetic Fields: An Enigma of Solar Plasmas' study.

The aim of the work is to understand the basic physical processes that go on in plasmas on the Sun and throughout the Universe.

The study will focus on the solar corona, the outer atmosphere of the Sun. Magnetic loops in the solar corona solar flares and coronal mass ejections, are among the phenomena that scientists still cannot fully explain.

Plasma, an ionised gas, clings to magnetic fields in the Sun's atmosphere. This means that the magnetic loops in the atmosphere can be seen by high-powered telescopes due to the radiating plasma. The images these telescopes capture show that the plasma on the magnetic loops has temperatures of more than a million degrees, far higher than that of the 5800C surface of the Sun.

The grant of £765,000 research time for the group members – Professor Gunnar Hornig, Dr David Pontin, and Dr Antonia Wilmot-Smith – as well as two new full-time Postdoctoral posts. A further £68,000 has been awarded to the group's colleague Dr Anthony Yeates at the University of Durham.

Finding out why the loops are so much hotter than the solar surface is a key of the aims of the work, according to Professor Hornig.

"The main focus of this research are these magnetic fields that arch up into the atmosphere from below the surface of the Sun and back down again," he said.

"It is really surprising that with distance from the core of the Sun the temperature drops until it's relatively cool at the surface but then increases dramatically such that coronal loops have multi-million degree temperatures. We don't know why these loops are so hot, why they occur in the way and number they do, and this is what we endeavour to discover."

Professor Hornig says that understanding how the Sun works, and the structures we see on it, will broaden our knowledge of the whole solar system, including our planet.

It may help to resolve some of the challenges that scientists have battled with for decades, or even centuries, and prove to have practical benefits for everyday life.

He continued, "Humans have always been interested in understanding their environment, and the Sun is part of our wider environment. One thing we do know about these coronal loops is that they organise themselves according to a pre-determined principle, similar to how frost forms in fantastic patterns on windows.

"Learning more about the self-organisation of magnetic fields on the Sun means we will gain more understanding of the principle of self-organisation in our more immediate environment.

"Another aspect to the research is to try and understand the behaviour of magnetised plasmas in general. This is of interest, not only for astrophysics, but also fusion physics. In fusion, we try to capture the same process that heats the Sun on earth in machines that encase plasma in a magnetic field and they try to make fusion.

"This is a long term effort which started about 50 years ago or so. The same type of problems that have so far prevented people from building a working fusion reactor are also affecting plasma on the Sun. So, by studying this, we also improve our understanding of how fusion plasmas work."

Another aspect of the Sun's behaviour the group will look at is coronal mass ejections, explosive events in which billions of tonnes of solar plasma are thrown into space.

Depending on the direction in which it is thrown a mass ejection may be on a collision course with the Earth as it moves through interplanetary space. It is when such a mass crashes into the Earth's magnetic field that the Northern and Southern Lights occur.

Less welcomingly, it can also cause problems for spacecraft, satellites, and high-flying airplanes. Blackouts in power distribution systems and corrosion of oil pipelines are other potential side-effects of what is known as "space weather".

"The sun is a constant source of plasma, which it pumps out into space," explained Dr Wilmot-Smith. "At some point, the Earth is affected as these eruptions send out matter which can interact with its magnetic field.

"When this happens it's like an electromagnetic version of an earthquake taking place so understanding how the Sun affects space weather has a direct impact on all of our lives. If we can predict when these things are going to happen we could plan ahead and give warning of these dangerous events. That's one of the long-term goals of this research."

University hits top spot in international survey

The University has been ranked number one in the most recent International Student Barometer (ISB) Survey.

It follows the University also coming top in the Times Higher Education's Student Experience Survey earlier this year.

The ISB survey examines the experiences of students studying at universities in countries other than their own. Responses were gathered from 53 institutions in seven countries including 41 UK universities, of which seven are Scottish.

It takes place across two waves, one in summer and one in autumn. The Summer Wave survey examined three main aspects of the university experience – learning, living and support.

University Principal Professor Pete Downes, has welcomed the survey.

"Making a difference not just locally or nationally but internationally is a vital part of the University's mission, and this survey helps illustrate why students from around the world choose to come here," he said.

"It is especially pleasing to see us ranked top for so many elements related to the learning experience. I am also delighted to see the results reflect the friendly welcome our international students receive and the ease with which they fit into life in Dundee.

"As well as our international students benefitting from their experience in Dundee, they also enrich the experience of all our students from Scotland and elsewhere in the UK."

This latest survey saw the University ranked top across the entire ISB range of categories including subject area expertise of lecturers/ supervisors; time from academic staff / personal support with learning; teaching ability of lecturers/supervisors, quality of lectures; guidance in topic selection; social facilities; making good contacts for the future; cost of living; Students' Union and University clubs/societies.

The ISB has gathered feedback from 630,000 students since its inception in 2005. The University has also been participating in the Student Barometer Survey Autumn (Entry) Wave 2012. For the first time, UK students are also included in the survey, and all on-campus students have been asked to participate.

This will also include questions on students' Arrival experience as well as Learning, Living and Support. The results will be published this month (February).

It is independently administered for the University by the International Graduate Insight Group (i-graduate.org).

Seeing the Bard as others saw him

The face of Robert Burns has been revealed thanks to work by forensic experts at the University.

An STV documentary, *In Search of Robert Burns*, screened last month revealed the real face of Scotland's most famous poet.

The documentary, presented by actor and Burns enthusiast David Hayman, unveiled a life size model of Robert Burns' head, reconstructed using state-of-the art forensic technology by Professor Caroline Wilkinson and her team at the University.

Casts of Robert Burns' skull and contemporary portraits were used to recreate the most accurate 3D depiction of his head.

Professor Wilkinson, who is Professor of Craniofacial Identification, said: "To be able to reveal the 3D head of Burns to Scotland and the world is an immense privilege for us and all the team have watched this head develop and take on character over the last year. Finally we can see this charismatic poet as others would have seen him in life and it has not been disappointing.

"This project has been quite a challenge and an enormous responsibility. We assessed as much material as we could for this reconstruction, including skeletal and anatomical structure, facial proportions from the Reid miniature and the Miers silhouette and texture details from the portraits. This 3D depiction is as accurate as possible based on the available information and shows Burns in his full living glory."

In Search of Robert Burns followed David Hayman as he delved into the world of Robert Burns (1759–1796). He discovered how Burns' upbringing, education, tough life and romantic spirit forged a creative genius that would transform him from humble farmer to globally renowned poet.

David Hayman said: "The highlight of this film for me is, undoubtedly, the unveiling of the reconstructed head of Rabbie Burns. It had a very profound and startling effect on all who witnessed it. A powerful, sensual and sensitive face. Thoughtful but with a quiet determination and a hint of a smile. It is a knockout. I felt very privileged to be in its presence."

GeoWAVE project aims to anchor wave energy

A major new research project - led by the University - has been launched with the aim of helping make offshore wave energy a sustainable proposition.

Funded with 1.1million Euros from the European Union FP7 programme, the "GeoWAVE" project also involves the University of Western Australia and University College Cork, together with a number of small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs): Lloyds Register, Seaflex AB, Deep Sea Anchors, Wavebob Ltd and Cathie Associates.

Sustainable offshore wave energy has the potential to make a real contribution towards the binding European Union commitment to source 20% of its electricity requirements from renewable sources by 2020.

"There is great potential for wave power to be a valuable source of renewable energy but if it is to be realised we have to make it robust and cost-effective," said Dr Jonathan Knappett, Senior Lecturer in the School of Engineering, Physics and Mathematics, who is co-ordinating the project.

"One of the big challenges facing the industry is how wave energy convertors can be safely attached or anchored to the sea bed.

"Currently this accounts for around one-third of the production costs of convertors. That cost needs to come down if they are to be used within a fully commercial wave farm.

"If we can reduce the costs associated with station-keeping, then it will go a long way to making wave power an energy source that we can harness more effectively."

GeoWAVE aims to address this immediate research need by conducting industry-specified research on a new generation of offshore anchors and mooring components deemed to have the highest economical and technical merit for mooring wave energy devices.

By doing this, GeoWAVE will remove the technical and economical hurdle of mooring wave energy converters to the seabed so that widespread deployment on a commercial scale becomes viable.

The new knowledge generated by the project will be fully assigned to the SME partners in the project, thereby providing new business opportunities. The new approaches generated within GeoWAVE may also benefit other types of offshore green energy solutions such as floating platforms for offshore wind turbines.

For more information see the project website at:
www.geowave-r4sme.eu

Part-time diploma offered to law graduates

A prestigious course which is an essential requirement for Law graduates wishing to become fully qualified practising lawyers is to be offered by the University on a part-time basis for the first time.

The Diploma in Legal Practice is the course taken by Law graduates as they look to move in to the professional arena. The course is normally taken full-time over one year but it will now be offered on a two-year part-time basis.

"We are recognising that the changing marketplace means that there are people who are not in a position to move straight into the Diploma after completing their degree, for many reasons," said Elizabeth Comerford, Deputy Director of the course.

"By making it a part-time offering it makes it more flexible for people, either those who are returning some time after completing their degree and who have other demands on their time, or for newly graduated students who may want to start some kind of work but also continue their studies.

"The two-year, part-time option allows students to spread the fees cost and also the demands on their time. This is the kind of flexible learning offering that we think may be appealing not just to potential students but also to employers in the sector looking to offer their staff opportunities for professional development."

The first students can start on the part-time option from September 2013. For further details see: **www.dundee.ac.uk/law**

Going green this Springtime

Smart bins, reverse vending machines and a successful car sharing scheme are all helping make the University a greener place this Spring.

And with a whole host of activities planned for Fairtrade Fortnight at the end of this month (February) and Green Week in March efforts to make the Campus more environmentally friendly are gathering pace.

The University is already in the top 100 universities in the world in the UI GreenMetric World University Sustainability Rankings which assess and compare universities' sustainability efforts.

This month it became the first University in Scotland to install reverse vending machines across campus thanks to a £142,000 grant from Zero Waste Scotland.

The machines aim to encourage recycling by paying out a monetary voucher each time a plastic bottle or can is deposited. The vouchers can then be used in the DUSA shops.

From this month the machines will be available inside the Dalhousie Building at the side of DUSA, inside the Matthew Building and at the south end of Belmont Tower.

Smart bins are also available across the campus, thanks to another grant from Zero Waste Scotland, this time for £41,000. At the end of last year ten solar-powered "Big Belly" bins were installed for a trial litter-reduction project.

Big Belly bins use solar power to compact materials, allowing them to hold six to eight times more waste despite being the same size as a standard street bin. This increased capacity reduces collection trips, fuel costs and greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent. Surplus power generated by the bins will be used to power free wi-fi hotspots at each bin.

Trudy Cunningham, Environment & Sustainability Officer at the University, said, "Litter is a problem which affects communities up and down the country, and as such we are delighted to receive this funding to help us address the root of the problem, developing a new approach to prevent littering from occurring.

"The Big Belly bins feature a Wireless Management System which provides online access to real time bin fill levels, reducing the number of collections required by 86 percent and making this service more efficient. If successful, we hope this innovative new approach could be rolled-out further."

The funding comes from a £250,000 Litter Prevention Innovation Fund, launched by Zero Waste Scotland for the first time earlier this year. The fund aims to provide community groups, local authorities, businesses and landowners with the opportunity to trial new innovative ways to prevent littering - helping to keep streets clean and capture more valuable materials for recycling.

Iain Gulland, Zero Waste Scotland, said, "Our funding aims to help prevent the problem of litter in the first place. Littering is not only an ugly blight on our streets, it also sees valuable materials go to waste.

"When collected for recycling, items like plastic bottles and drink cans can bring financial benefits to Scotland. It has been estimated that achieving a 70 percent recycling rate by 2025 could benefit our economy by around £175million."

The University's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint has also been helped by the success of its car sharing scheme. To date more than 500 members of staff - representing nearly 20 percent of the total workforce - have signed up for the scheme.

More than 200 of the registered members have been successfully matched with colleagues to share journeys and therefore transport costs, representing a saving of 154 tonnes of carbon per annum.

According to Liftshare, this makes Dundee one of the most successful higher education institutions in the UK for encouraging staff to consider car sharing.

Ali Clabburn, Managing Director and Founder of Liftshare, praised the University for passing the 500-member mark, saying, "To have so many staff signed up to the scheme is a tremendous achievement and, as a result, the University has shown it is a leading organisation in Scotland in terms of car sharing. We're certainly going to be using the University as a best practice example to inspire many of the other clients we work with."

The Liftshare scheme is just one example of the University's initiatives to promote sustainable transport. Having obtained funding from Transport Scotland, it has purchased four electric vans to replace petrol vehicles, saving 11 tonnes of carbon each year. A van pool has also been established to allow members of staff to use a van free of charge during working hours. (For more information visit: **www.dundee.ac.uk/estates/facilities/vehiclebookingform/#d.en.40653**)

> "The University has shown it is a leading organisation in Scotland in terms of car sharing."

Recycle & Reward

The University was also the first employer in Tayside to receive a Cycle Friendly Employer Award recognising its efforts to encourage staff to leave their cars at home and cycle to work instead.

A Cycle to Work initiative allows staff to hire bikes and safety equipment at a cost-effective, tax-free rate that avoids an expensive initial outlay, while a bike pool is available for staff who wish to travel around the University estate on two wheels or to use to attend meetings in the city. (**www.dundee.ac.uk/estates/energy&environment/cyclescheme/**)

Approximately ten per cent of staff and students currently commute by bike, and a Bicycle Users Group is well established at the University. New racks and lockers have been installed across the campus with match funding provided by TACTRAN to allow cyclists to safely park and secure their bikes outside the most commonly used buildings.

In total, over 600 tonnes of carbon have been cut from the University's transport footprint as a result of the various initiatives over the past four years.

Further efforts to make the University more environmentally friendly will take place next month with Green Week which runs from 4 to 11th March. Timed to coincide with national Climate Week and part of Fairtrade Fortnight, Green Week will be focussing on "global sustainability."

It will include a transport day and bike sale, an energy efficiency day, a Fairtrade/sustainable food day and a waste and recycling day featuring a celebrity swap event where participants registering to recycle items will be in with a chance of winning an item swapped by celebrities such as tennis star Andy Murray, footballer Frank Lampard and actor Hugh Laurie.

For more information on Green Week visit **www.dundee.ac.uk/estates/energy&environment/whatson/**

Oral cancer figures make sobering reading

For anyone embarked on a New Year's Resolution to quit smoking or cut down on their drinking February can be a tricky time when the excesses of the festive season seem a distant memory and motivation starts to wane.

But for Professor Graham Ogden, Professor of Oral Surgery at the University's School of Dentistry, it is an ideal time to highlight the benefits of making such lifestyle changes.

Professor Ogden is a leading specialist and researcher for oral cancer and an advisor for Drinkaware's Medical Advisory Panel, the UK-wide organisation which aims to change the UK's drinking habits for the better.

A great deal of his time is spent raising awareness of oral cancer, a disease which in the UK, has seen an astonishing 300 percent increase over the past 25 years. The major risk factors for the disease are drinking and smoking. In fact, of the 6000 cases of oral cancer per year, three-quarters of them are linked to alcohol and tobacco use.

And the situation in Scotland is even more alarming.

"Scotland has the highest incidence rate for mouth cancer in the UK and is increasing particularly in younger people," said Professor Ogden.

"In the past it was considered a disease of older men who had let themselves go, so most people thought "well that's not me, I'm not at risk". People do still think of it as a disease of old age but one in ten oral cancers arise in those under the age of 45.

"The main risk factors are smoking and drinking. If someone smokes a packet of cigarettes a day but doesn't drink they will increase their risk of oral cancer tenfold. If they smoke and drink heavily they will increase their risk by a factor of 40. Unfortunately smoking and drinking often go together.

"In Scotland we drink more per head of population than the rest of the UK. A third of Scots regularly binge drink. We drink on average 12 litres of pure alcohol per adult per year. If you consider that some adults do not drink then some people are drinking a huge amount ."

He added that Scotland's hard drinking culture is also behind a dramatic rise in other illnesses.

"Liver mortality has quadrupled over a 30 year period and alcohol related deaths have increased alarmingly too. Male alcohol related deaths have risen three fold over a 20 year period. It is a very worrying trend.

"At Drinkaware we are trying to encourage people to use the website MyDrinkAware (http://my.drinkaware.co.uk/) to keep track of their drinking. The site calculates for you the number of units you are drinking. The advantage is that you can see what level of alcohol intake you really have, rather than what you think you are drinking. It also displays a line showing the average amount of drink consumed on your drinking days and another line for average if you include all days. If you binge drink (defined as taking at least twice the recommended daily limit) it will show that as well.

"People tend to underestimate how much they are drinking and also how much actually constitutes a unit so the website can help."

"Scotland has the highest incidence rate for mouth cancer in the UK and is increasing particularly in younger people."

Professor Ogden was invited to join the Drinkaware Medical Advisory Panel in recognition of his work in raising public and professional awareness of oral cancer and the lifestyle risks associated with it.

He gives regular talks to doctors and dentists across the country and every November coordinates Mouth Cancer Awareness Week where the main focus is raising awareness amongst students. Progress is being made. The General Dental Council have recently made oral cancer a recommended topic for Continuing Professional Development for dentists.

"Oral cancer has a 50 percent mortality rate but if caught early enough it can be cured," he said. "It's therefore very important to make people aware of the risks and also the first signs of the illness developing.

"It's also important to encourage health professionals to share expertise. The inside of a mouth can tell us a lot about systemic health. When we give lectures to medical students I highlight the importance of making links with the local dentist and when we lecture dental students I remind them of the importance of working with GPs, particularly if they end up working in remote or rural areas."

Early warning signs of mouth cancer include red or white areas inside the mouth, any ulcer or swelling that has been present for more than three weeks (especially an ulcer that is not painful.)

"Cancerous ulcers are usually not painful in the early stage," explained Professor Ogden. "Pain is a later manifestation of such cancer so if anyone has an ulcer which is not painful they should get it checked out. Later signs of cancer in the facial region also include an ulcer that bleeds, a numb lip and facial weakness."

Prevention, of course, is better than cure which is why Professor Ogden and his team are keen to encourage healthier lifestyle choices including stopping smoking and cutting back on alcohol consumption.

"After Christmas and the New Year people often take stock so it is a good time to encourage people to make these changes.

"We would also encourage people to make a few other lifestyle adjustments to cut their risk. These include eating a healthier diet with more fresh fruit and vegetables, visiting their dentist regularly and having at least two alcohol free days a week.

"All we can do is raise awareness of the risks but people have to make their own mind up based on the information we can give them. In the end they have to be ready to accept the changes in their lifestyle."

For more information about the Drinkaware campaign visit the website at **http://www.drinkaware.co.uk/**

Oral cancer warning signs include:

- red or red-and-white patches on the lining of the mouth or on the tongue
- one or more mouth ulcers that do not heal
- a swelling in the mouth that lasts for more than three weeks.

If you experience any of the above symptoms please have them checked out by your GP or dentist.

Dundee Dental Coup

Two clinical academics from the University's Dental School have been elected to leading roles in the Association of British Academic Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (ABAOMS).

Professor Graham Ogden has been elected President of the Association while Dr Mike Macluskey Senior Lecturer/Consultant Oral Surgeon has been elected Chair of the Education Committee of ABAOMS.

It is the first time that both positions have been held by members of staff from the same institution. ABAOMS is the representative body for Academic Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in the UK.

Move More Dundee programme begins at ISE

A new exercise programme aimed at improving the physical and psychological well-being of cancer survivors in and around Dundee has been established by the University's Institute of Sport and Exercise.

The Move More Dundee Programme follows on from the highly successful and popular Active ABC project for women living with breast cancer.

Set up in 2011 by Dr Anna Campbell, lecturer in Clinical Exercise Science at the University, Active ABC provided specially designed exercise classes for women who had been diagnosed with breast cancer.

It was based on research carried out by Dr Campbell and her colleagues in Glasgow in 2005 which showed significant health benefits from exercising including improved quality of life and more positive mood.

A five year follow up study also showed the programme had lasting benefits with women who had remained active being aerobically fitter, more positive and significantly less depressed than those who had been less active.

The Active ABC programme at ISE was so popular and the health benefits so apparent to all that attended that Dr Campbell and her colleagues decided to extend it to people with other types of cancer.

> "We are working with the cancer health care professionals at Ninewells to establish a referral process into the Move More programme"

In autumn of last year a group of men with prostate cancer began a 12 week programme of resistance training in the ISE gym. They have now progressed on to their own individual programmes.

One of the participants, 68-year old retired engineer Mike Dolan, said he found the sessions both enjoyable and beneficial.

"At my last check-up at Ninewells Hospital I was asked if I'd like to take part in a trial programme of resistance exercise for men recovering from prostate cancer. I hadn't set foot in a gym for 30 years but I was very impressed by the range of facilities and the expert assessment and guidance provided.

"Although I consider myself to be a fairly active person – I do a lot of walking, cycling, gardening & D.I.Y. etc. - I was really surprised by the improvement both physical and mental at the end of the six week programme.

"I found it very enjoyable working out with the other seven or eight guys on the programme and knowing we had each been through similar problems with the same disease was also very helpful."

Fellow Move More member Ron Thomson (65) agreed.

"It's been brilliant," he said. "The last time I was in a gym was when I was at school. I have kept fit in other ways playing golf, walking and dancing but it has been fun trying something different. Having the routine of weekly sessions also made it easier and the social aspect of it all is a bonus."

Hazel Ednie, Move More Programme Coordinator, explained, "At the moment a few of the participants coming along self referred. However, we are working with the cancer health care professionals at Ninewells to establish a referral process into the Move More programme. This referral pathway model is similar to the Cardiac Rehab Referral programme for coronary heart disease patients but is for people in Dundee who are living with cancer.

"The consultation with the NHS staff has been very positive and work is ongoing during this first year of the programme".

The Move More programme based at ise received start-up funding from national charity 'Breast Foot Forward' following their first Twilight Walk in Dundee last year.

The charity decided that all the money raised by the walk would stay in Dundee in support of the Move More Programme and the many Tayside cancer survivors who would benefit from accessing it.

The programme consists of a range of physical activity options tailored to suit each individual who is referred to the team at ise. The Move More participants are offered a phone consultation, advice, a home programme, or may be signposted to a programme elsewhere including Macmillan Day Care or Maggies in Dundee. For most individuals, the Move More programme at ISE will include weekly exercise sessions, an individual gym programme and ongoing support.

For more information on the Move More Dundee Programme, contact Hazel on h.c.ednie@dundee.ac.uk

Dundee wins UK first with ISAM conference

Physicians from around the world studying the effects of addiction will meet in Dundee in 2015 to attend the annual International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM) conference organised by Dr Alex Baldacchino from the School of Medicine.

Dundee beat competition from the rest of the world to host ISAM2015 and this is the first time the conference, entitled '*Addictions: From Biology to Recovery*', will be held in the UK. It aims to promote collaboration between individuals, institutions and countries to further the development of research to treat patients and help them to manage problems related to addiction.

Dr Baldacchino, a Clinical Senior Lecturer in Addiction Psychiatry with the University and Consultant Psychiatrist with NHS Fife, is the Lead Organiser of the conference, which will take place at the Caird Hall in October 2015.

"Dundee is renowned for its academic excellence and has many world class achievements," he said. "It will provide the perfect platform for ISAM to discuss new opportunities in dealing with problems related to addiction.

"We worked with the Dundee and Angus Convention Bureau to create a solid tender bid presented a few months ago in Geneva that highlighted the main benefits the area can offer.

"With leading institutions such as the Centre for Addiction Research and Education Scotland and the Division of Neuroscience, both based at Ninewells Hospital and Medical School in Dundee, it is the ideal location from which to share research, forge new relationships and showcase the excellent work being carried out here."

Karen Tocher, Manager at Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau said, "ISAM is a leading organisation in the study of addiction medicine and Dundee is home to many specialists within this field. With support from our local ambassadors, including Dr Alex Baldacchino, we continue to attract major international conferences to Dundee and Angus. This conference is expected to generate £868,635 economic benefit, providing a significant boost to the city and the local economy."

The conference will bring together scientists from research institutes and universities and clinicians from treatment and recovery services with a common focus of translating research evidence to improve clinical practice. ISAM2015 has been jointly organised by the University's Division of Neuroscience in conjunction with Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau, Duncan Jordanstone College of Art & Design and Stark Events.

More about Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau can be found at **www.conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk** or by calling 01382 434318.

Step towards personalised asthma medicine

Testing asthmatic children for a specific gene could prevent their condition worsening, according to new research by scientists at the University.

Professor Brian Lipworth and genetics expert Professor Colin Palmer joined Professor Somnath Mukhopadhyay from the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) to carry out the research which has been published in the journal *Clinical Science*.

It is the first genotyped study comparing additional treatments given to asthmatic children who continue to experience symptoms despite use of their prescribed inhaled steroid preventer

The arginine-16 genotype of the beta-2 receptor is carried by one in seven asthma sufferers and the research found their condition could be aggravated by the use of the long-term controller medicine, Salmeterol, a long acting beta-receptor stimulant, which is administered through an inhaler.

Testing children for the genotype would identify those who might react poorly to Salmeterol and means their asthma control may improve with the use of alternative medicines.

The researchers tested 62 children with the susceptible arginine-16 genotype. They had all missed school or had treatment at hospital or out-of-hours GP surgeries as a result of their asthma, despite being treated with regular inhaled steroids.

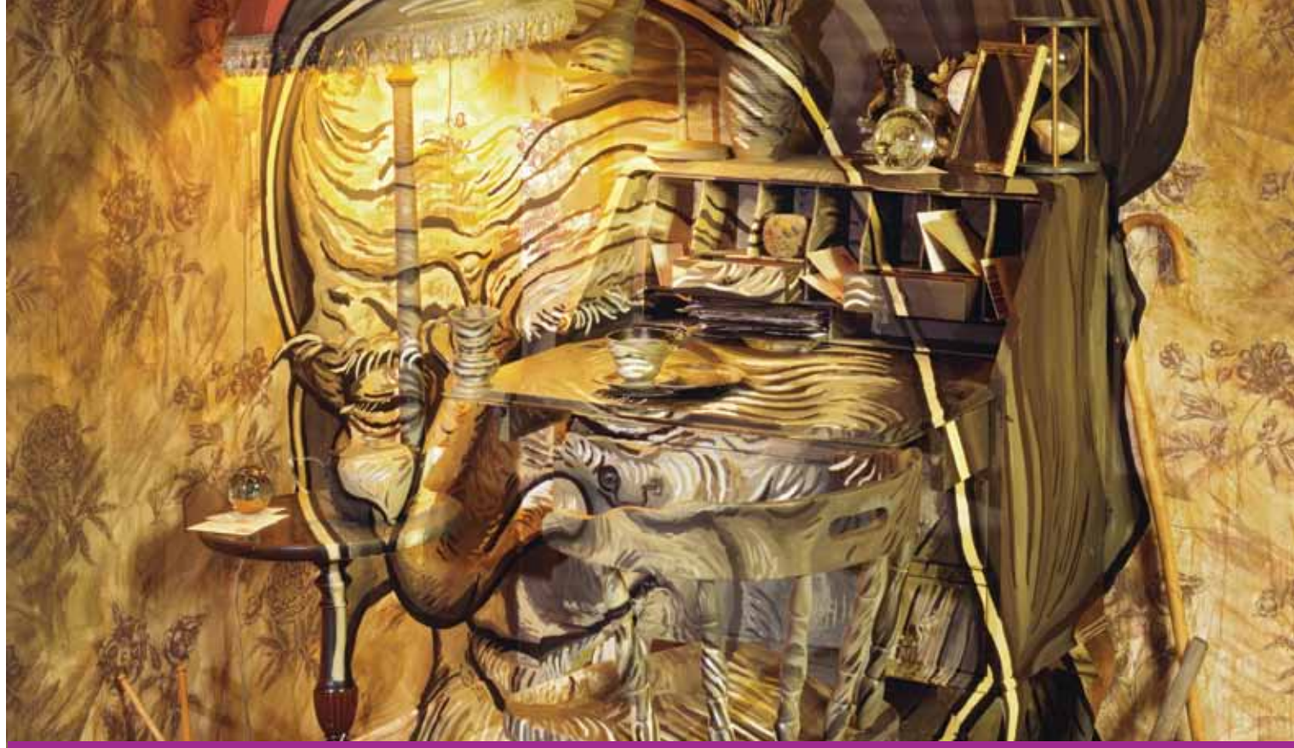
While continuing with their usual preventer, the children were randomly assigned to two treatment groups for the period of a year – Montelukast or Salmeterol.

The research found they responded better to an alternative anti-inflammatory medicine, Montelukast. They experienced an improved quality of life, wheezed and coughed much less, and were less likely to experience worsening of their symptoms and needing more 'reliever' treatment, compared to the Salmeterol users.

At the start of the research, 36 per cent of these children tested needed to use their relievers every day. But by the end of the year-long study, the number of children needing daily reliever use had halved in the group using Montelukast. In contrast, there was no improvement for the children in the Salmeterol group. This is despite the fact that Salmeterol is currently the preferred drug for children with asthma not controlled with inhaled steroids.

The researchers have warned that many children with serious asthma respond poorly to Salmeterol and may be suffering needlessly from asthma, regularly missing out on sports and recording low school attendances during long-term treatment with this medicine. They said their treatment may be made more effective with the help of a simple relatively inexpensive gene test.

The researchers said their results are "a step towards personalised and tailored medicine for asthma".



Silent teachers book wins Stephen Fry award

The team behind an anthology celebrating the people who donate their bodies to science when they die has won this year's Stephen Fry Award for Excellence in Public Engagement with Research.

'*In Memoriam*' celebrates the "silent teachers" whose remarkable gesture helps to train the next generation of doctors, scientists, dentists and surgeons.

The project was driven by Calum Colvin, Professor of Fine Art, Kirsty Gunn, Professor of Creative Writing, Anna Day, Director of Literary Dundee and Eddie Small, who were presented with the award, named after the former University Rector, during the annual Discovery Day event last month.

The project drew on the research and expertise of Professor Sue Black and her team at the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification (CAHID), who are creating new mortuary facilities to accommodate Thiel embalming and are set to become the first university in the UK to exclusively adopt this method of embalming.

Since the book's publication, the University has experienced an increase in the number of people wishing to bequeath bodies upon their passing, while its influence has extended across Scotland, through work with other universities, the Scottish Government and the NHS.

Dr Jon Urch, Public Engagement co-ordinator, congratulated the *In Memoriam* team on their award. "This is a truly remarkable book that not only pays tribute to the silent teachers but also raises awareness of the vital role that those who donate their bodies play in medical and scientific education and research.

"It is a beautiful publication that demonstrates the University's strengths in medicine, science, art, and the humanities. Renowned artists and writers came together to make *In Memoriam* possible and it reflects the interdisciplinary approach that marks out the University's approach to research and public engagement.

"*In Memoriam* has undoubtedly raised the awareness of body donation both locally and nationally, and the success of this innovative and unique project can be measured by the increase in the number of bequeathals to the University."

In Memoriam sees medical and creative writing students explore the lives and achievements of the donors. Interviews with people who intend to donate their body, and the families of those who have already done so, help to personalise the individuals who give hope to others after their own death.

The project was conceived and managed by Anna Day while Professor Colvin contributed original artwork to the publication, Professor Gunn wrote the introduction and Eddie Small worked to bring the donors stories to life. Award-winning writers Alan Warner, Christopher Reid, and John Carey also contributed new work to the book.

The Stephen Fry Award for Excellence in Public Engagement with Research celebrates the sharing of the world-class research carried out at Dundee with the wider public and is given to the researchers (or team) who have made the greatest contribution to public engagement in the past year.

Inspiring bugs bring art success for Judy

Insects on display at the University's D'Arcy Thompson museum have helped Textile Design student Judy Scott to win a prestigious international competition.

Judy, who is in final year of study at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, was named the winner of the Society of Dyers and Colourists' (SDC) annual International Design Competition at an awards evening in Hong Kong.

The 2012 competition brief challenged students to "demonstrate the creative, imaginative and original use of colour in either fashion or textiles", with the theme being "Fashioning Colour Responsibly." Winning the competition, sponsored by speciality chemicals company Clariant, meant Judy landing a £1000 cash prize.

The judges noted that Judy's work, entitled 'Natures Jewels', showed 'a real understanding of the brief as well as an innovative use of colour in the expression of her designs.'

Judy explained that her inspiration came from the plant and insect illustrations of Ernst Haeckel and the collection of bugs held at the University's D'Arcy Thomson museum, including bright vibrant beetles.

"I developed my designs through mixed media, collage, photography and drawing and translated these into designs suitable for hand printing by mono and screen-printing methods," she said.

"These were further developed on the cloth and the fabric choice determined which dye methods I used. To keep the richness and depth of the colour, acid dyes on protein fibres gave lustre and sheen to the fabric. Colouring the cloth by hand enabled me to mix exact quantities for weight of fabric ensuring no wastage.

"Large-scale production using these methods could have a greater impact on the environment and I've looked at a number of ways of minimising this impact. Receiving this beautiful trophy along with the amazing cash prize really enforces that I was so right to follow my dreams and come to study at the age of 50 and shows it is never too late to learn.

"The £1000 is going into my equipment fund as I am saving to purchase a professional steamer to enable me to sell my designs and create accessories for fashion and interiors. Producing this body of textile designs pushed me to experiment with layering colour on colour and was great preparation for the work I'm now undertaking in my final year for my degree show in May 2013."

The SDC, established in 1884, is the world's leading independent educational charity dedicated to advancing colour science and technology. The International Design Competition was launched in 2002 and annually attracts entries from hundreds of fashion and textile design students worldwide.

Dandy goes digital in the Tower

The 75th birthday of The Dandy and the launch of its new digital version was celebrated at the University in December.

An exhibition looking back over the illustrious history of the DC Thomson publication and forwards to its online future was held in the Tower Building's Baxter Suite to coincide with the launch of the Digital Dandy.

The exhibition featured original artwork from DC Thomson's collections dating back to the earliest years of the comic, much of which had never been shown in public before.

Dr Chris Murray, Director of the Scottish Centre for Comic Studies (SCCS), led a discussion about taking the comic online with former editor Morris Heggie, Digital Dandy editor Craig Ferguson, writer Dan McGachey, long-time DC Thomson artist David Sutherland, and Stephen White, one of the artists closely involved in the process of creating the Digital Dandy.

The exhibition and launch were created as part of an on-going partnership between DC Thomson & Co Ltd, the University's Museum Services and the SCCS.

Research reveals blackening copper benefits

Researchers at the University have found that copper, one of the world's most widely used metals, could be made even more adaptable and efficient by blackening it using industry-standard lasers.

Professor Amin Abdolvand and colleagues have discovered that intense nanosecond pulses of laser light can be used to transform copper's characteristically lustrous surface to a deep, absorbent black, making it even more effective for many technical applications.

The laser they used is industrially adaptable. Previously it was thought that only much more expensive lasers (ultra-short pulsed lasers) could be used to make metals appear black, thereby making the process impractical for industrial use.

"By making copper so much more light- and heat-absorbent it means we can do so much more with it," said Professor Abdolvand. "Because copper is normally shiny it reflects most of the light back. Blackening it allows it to absorb light throughout a broad spectrum, making it far more effective.

"This technique for fabrication of black copper could find applications in broadband thermal radiation sources, solar energy absorbers, irradiative heat transfer devices, and thermophotovoltaics.

"Copper and its alloys and metals with similar metallurgical behaviour are important materials for many technical applications due to their unrivalled thermal and electrical conductivity.

"Affordable and practical routes for processing of such metals are essential for us to meet our ever growing energy demands and much higher electrification of our everyday lives."

The results of the research were published in the December issue of *Applied Physic Letters* and also highlighted by *Physics Today*.

By stepping the laser beam over the surface of the copper, Professor Abdolvand and colleagues were able to modify the properties of the copper. Under a microscope the modified surface resembles an upturned egg carton whose individual dimples have been pushed in.

The researchers tested various firing patterns for the laser before finding the most effective pattern, which gave the greatest boost in absorption. The absorption boost is attributed to several mechanisms, including light-trapping in microcavities.

"Importantly we are able to exercise full control over the structuring process, using nanosecond lasers. These lasers are already used widely in industry, so the process is one we think could have widespread application."

This work was conducted under the aegis of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). Professor Abdolvand is an EPSRC Career Acceleration Fellow and Research Leaders Award holder.

Medical prize for honorary reader

An Honorary Reader in the School of Medicine has been awarded the Norman Gamble Prize by the Royal Society of Medicine.

S. Musheer Hussain, Consultant Otologist and Neurotologist and Honorary Reader in Otolaryngology, was awarded the prize for the best original work in otology over a four year period.

Mr Hussain moved to Dundee in 1998 having previously been Senior Lecturer / Hon Consultant in Otolaryngology at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

His early training was in London and Portsmouth and he completed higher training in ENT Surgery on the Yorkshire rotation. He was also TWJ Fellow in Otology and Neurotology at The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, USA.

Mr Hussain, whose research interests include the external and middle ear function and the palatine tonsil, was recently appointed Associate Medical Director for Professional Governance and is Lead Appraiser for Secondary Care in Tayside.

His research collaboration is with Professor Eric Able in Mechanical Engineering and with Professor Frank Sullivan in Academic General Practice.

court news

Court News

The final meeting of Court for 2012 took place in early December. Discussions focussed on the Post-16 Education Bill (Scotland), Scottish Funding Council (SFC) Investment Proposals and the approval of the Financial Statements for 2011/12.

Vision Presentations

Continuing the series of vision presentations from senior officers across the University, Professor John Connell (Vice-Principal & Head of the College of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing) opened the meeting with a presentation outlining the achievements of the Schools within the College of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing as well as the College's future plans.

Finance

The December meeting saw Court approve the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2012, noting positive comments from the auditors as well as the Finance & Policy and Audit Committees. The operating surplus for 2011/12 was £6.1m, compared to £5.6m for 2010/11. Income had fallen by 2.6%, and expenditure had fallen by £11m. The full statements are available online at www.dundee.ac.uk/finance.

Scottish Funding Council (SFC) Investment Proposals

The Court considered the submission from the University in response to a call from the SFC for investment proposals for additional funded student places in 2013. The call focussed on: widening access, expanding articulation and enhancing the supply of graduates and postgraduates to key sectors of the Scottish economy.

Governance Matters

The Court discussed at length the content and implications of the Post-16 Education Bill (Scotland), with members expressing concern in relation to certain aspects of the Bill which was at the time of the meeting subject to a consultation process by the Scottish Parliament's Education and Culture Committee.

The Court also received an update on the development of a Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance by the Committee of Scottish University Chairs of Court. Members of the Court were to meet with representatives from the steering group developing the Code in January 2013.

The Court was pleased to note that there had been a high response rate to the advertisement published in November 2012 which highlighted up-coming lay vacancies on Court. Interviews to identify replacements for the three lay members who would complete their maximum term of office within the next two years would begin in early 2013.

Following the departure of Professor Julie Taylor, the Court noted that the Senate had elected Professor Trevor Harley (School of Psychology) to serve on Court as a Professorial member of Senate. The Court expressed its thanks for the hard work of Professor Taylor in her service of Court, and looked forward to welcoming Professor Harley to his first meeting in February 2013.

Student Admissions

The Court continued to pay an interest in Student Recruitment, and received a report outlining undergraduate matriculations for 2012/13 entry, along with a review of the cycle, its challenges and considerations for the future. Members were pleased to hear that minimum recruitment targets for Rest of UK (RUK) students had been surpassed, and were keen to remain informed on recruitment initiatives for the current admissions cycle.

League Table Performance

The Court considered an annual report on the University's performance in a range of world and UK league tables. Discussions focussed on the international league tables where despite an improvement in the performance of the University in the raw data scoring within the tables, the University's ranking within the tables had slipped as a result of the rapid development of the higher education system elsewhere in the world.

Contact

The next edition of Contact will be published in April 2013. The copy deadline for that edition is 4 March 2013. Submissions should be sent to h.mcnally@dundee.ac.uk by that date.

appointments

Professor Karl Leydecker

Vice-Principal (Learning and Teaching)

The University has appointed Professor Karl Leydecker as Vice-Principal (Learning and Teaching).

Karl Leydecker is a Professor of German and Comparative Literature. He is currently Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Kent, where he also has institution-wide responsibility for Flexible Learning.

He was previously Vice Dean (Learning and Teaching) of the Faculty of Arts and Head of the School of Languages, Cultures and Religions at the University of Stirling.

University Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Pete Downes said, "'I am delighted that Karl Leydecker will be joining us as Vice Principal to lead on this critically important agenda for the University. The University has much to be proud of in relation to the quality of its teaching and the excellent student experience it provides."

Professor Leydecker will take up his post at Dundee in June. He said, "I am delighted to be joining Dundee and look forward to working with students and staff right across the institution.

"My aim is to ensure that the University maintains and enhances its excellent reputation for learning and teaching, and for an outstanding student experience which transforms lives."

Professor John Rowan

Professor of Physical Geography

Professor John Rowan is Founding Director of the Centre for Environmental Change and Human Resilience (CECHR), an interdisciplinary initiative established jointly by the University and the James Hutton Institute (www.dundee.ac.uk/cechr)

A graduate of Glasgow University, Miami University in Ohio in the USA and the University of Exeter, where he gained his PhD, Professor Rowan began lecturing in environmental management at the University of Lancaster in 1990.

He moved to Dundee in 1998 to take up a post as lecturer in physical geography. This was followed by promotions to senior lecturer in 2001 and Reader in 2006. He was also Head of the Environmental Systems Research Group (ESRG) in the University's School of the Environment between 2008 and 2011.

Professor Rowan's established research interests are water and sediment dynamics, including the use of environmental radio nuclides, sediment fingerprinting and hydromorphological assessment.

A more recent policy focus has stimulated engagement on climate change adaptation (**www.climatexchange.org.uk/**) including a major new project evaluating lakes as sentinels of climate change.

Brian Cox re-elected as Rector

Hollywood star Brian Cox has been re-elected as Rector of the University for a second term of three years to February 2016.

Mr Cox, who is also an honorary graduate of the University, will be formally re-installed as Rector in a ceremony later this year.

Mr Cox said, "I cannot express how much I am touched and moved by the incredible support from the student body of Dundee University. It is such a privilege and honour to be allowed to serve the students of Dundee for another three years.

"It is a tremendous opportunity to be allowed to continue the extremely fruitful and satisfying work of the last three years. I hope to reciprocate in my heart the tremendous trust you have given me."

Born in the city, Mr Cox started his acting career at Dundee Rep and has gone on to become a Hollywood star, including being the first person to portray Hannibal Lecter on screen, in the film Manhunter.

He also stars in the upcoming BBC comedy series, 'Bob Servant Independent', which is set in the Dundee suburb of Broughty Ferry.

Mr Cox has been a long-term supporter of the university, particularly of its research programmes in diabetes.

Iain Kennedy, president of Dundee University Students Union (DUSA), said, "On behalf of DUSA, I would like to offer my congratulations to Brian on securing another term as Rector.

"Having worked with Brian since he took on the role in 2010, I have witnessed his dedication to the students of Dundee University and I know that Brian will use his second term to continue listening and campaigning for them throughout the country. He has been a fantastic ambassador for the University and the city and his re-election is well deserved. "

Images highlight importance of water safety

The economic and public health benefits of safe water provision is highlighted in a new exhibition of work by celebrated US photographer Gil Garcetti currently being hosted by the University's Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science.

Organised to mark the beginning of the UN International Year of Water Cooperation, "Women, Water & Wells," includes 24 images from a collection which was started when the photographer toured Ghana, Burkina Faso and Niger in 2001.

"The most startling fact I heard early on was that close to 70 per cent of rural farm communities did not have safe water for everyday use," explained Gil, who gave a presentation on his work at the official opening of the exhibition in January.

"Visiting the villages quickly brought home to me the consequences of unsafe water - infant mortality, severe and recurrent illness for villagers of all ages, blindness, very poor and unsanitary living conditions, low farm production, absence of opportunity for private enterprise efforts, and - especially for girls - virtually no opportunity to attend school.

"When you provide safe water you forever change lives. I returned to West Africa four more times in preparing to tell this story. Spending time in Mali, as well as in the previously visited countries, was always fascinating, inspiring, and profound due to the significance of my undertaking."

The UN International Year of Water Cooperation aims to raise awareness, both on the potential for increased cooperation, and on the challenges facing water management in light of the increase in demand for water access, allocation and services.

The Year will highlight the history of successful water cooperation initiatives, as well as identify issues facing the world. Professor Geoffrey Gooch, Director of the Dundee Centre, said the exhibition was the perfect way to mark the start of the year.

"The images that Gil Garcetti has captured breathe life into the statistics and vividly illustrate the human story that underpins the issue of safe water supply," he said. "We are delighted that Gil was able to join us for the first event to be held as part of our celebrations of the UN International Year of Water Cooperation.

"The message of hope that is contained in his collection is vital as we aim to demonstrate how much of a difference we can make to people's lives through cooperation."

The exhibition, which runs until March, is at the Dalhousie Building.

Treasure trove of art revealed in catalogue

A complete catalogue of all oil paintings in public ownership in Dundee including the University's collections of over 800 works of art, has now been published thanks to the Public Catalogue Foundation charity.

Illustrated in full colour, this 320 page hardback book includes details and images of every painting in the city. As well as the University's collections it also features paintings in the collections of The McManus, NHS Tayside, the Maggie's Centre, the University of Abertay and Dundee Heritage Trust. The book also features essays about each collection and numerous full-page illustrations.

University museum curator Matthew Jarron explained: "The book has been three years in the making and involved new photographs being taken of every painting - in the university alone this took over a year and involved photography in over 50 different locations where paintings are displayed or stored, a considerable challenge for ourselves and the photographer.

"A big thanks to all our volunteers who helped with this mighty undertaking, and to colleagues across the university for giving us access!"

The catalogue is now available for sale for £35 from the Museum Services office in Hawkhill House or via the online store at **www.buyat.dundee.ac.uk**

More than 60% of the proceeds of each purchase made via this site go towards the care and development of the University's art collections.

New exhibitions celebrate D'Arcy Thompson

Art inspired by natural science and, in particular, the work of the University's first professor of biology D'Arcy Thompson, is on show at two exhibitions in the Tower Building until next month (March).

"Unnatural Wonders," in the Tower Foyer Gallery and "Drawn from Structures Living and Dead," in the Lamb Gallery form part of an ongoing project to explore the influence of D'Arcy Thompson on the visual arts.

The project was made possible by a two-year grant worth £100,000 awarded to the University's Museum Services last year by The Art Fund, a fundraising charity enabling museums and galleries to buy, show and share art.

Curator Matthew Jarron said, "These exhibitions are the latest in a series of activities to tie into the collection of art inspired by D'Arcy Thompson that we received a grant to build.

"We're delighted to be showing work by four exciting contemporary artists who have drawn on D'Arcy's ideas and collections. Like the exhibitions we held last year as part of the same project, these shows demonstrate a range of different responses to his legacy."

In "Unnatural Wonders," painter Mark Wright draws on visual imagery sourced from organic structures and forms, exploring ideas of visual perception and concepts of beauty. Mark, a Lecturer in Fine Art at Loughborough University, has exhibited widely in the UK and overseas. Two of his large scale oil paintings have already been acquired for the University's art collection.

In the Lamb Gallery exhibition, which takes its title "Drawn from Structures Living and Dead," from a section of D'Arcy Thompson's seminal book "On Growth and Form," artwork by contemporary artists Gemma Anderson, Mirna Sarajlic and Lindsay Sekulowicz is on display.

The three artists work in various media but all of them use drawing as a starting point to help understand the natural world.

Gemma Anderson is based in Falmouth and is undertaking a PhD on isomorphology, looking at shared patterns across different natural forms and the role of the artist in helping scientists to understand these.

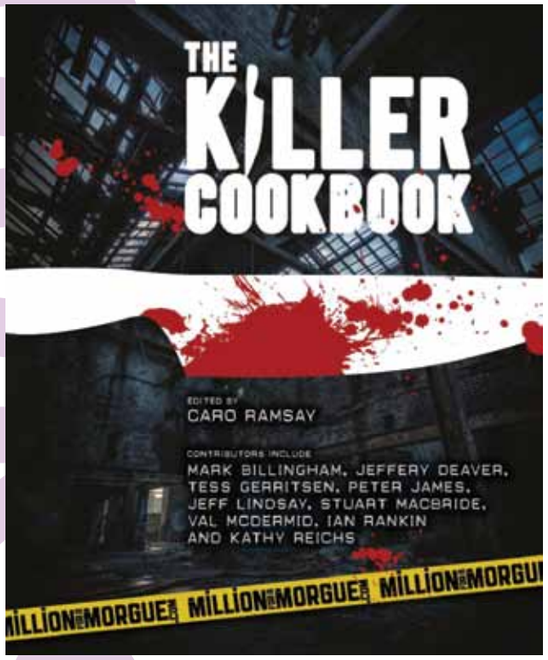
Dundee-based Mirna Sarajlic recently completed the Masters of Fine Art course at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, for which she created a series of detailed etchings of animals.

Lindsay Sekulowicz, who works in London, was artist-in-residence in the D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum during the summer as part of a collaboration with the Barns Graham Charitable Trust and the Royal Scottish Academy.

Both exhibitions run until 23 March 2013.

More details are available at **www.dundee.ac.uk/museum**

Killer cookbook shortlisted for global award



The Killer Cookbook – published as part of the University's Million For A Morgue fundraising campaign – has been shortlisted in the World Cookbook Awards 2012.

The book, which features recipes from leading crime authors including Ian Rankin, Val McDermid and Jeffery Deaver, is one of five books on the shortlist for 'Best Charity and Fund Raising in Europe'. The awards will be announced at Carrousel Du Louvre in Paris later this month (February)

"We are absolutely delighted that the Killer Cookbook is being given international recognition," said Emily Dewhurst, from the Million For A Morgue campaign. "The book has been really well received and we must say a big thank you once again to all of our contributors.

"The book is packed full of great recipes including Val McDermid's Russian Stuffed Aubergine, Tess Gerritsen's spicy Chinese chicken salad or the Killer Margaritas from the husband of Professor Sue Black."

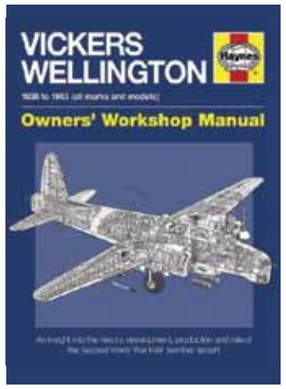
Professor Black, Director of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification, said, "This is the most amazing news! I can only thank everyone who has bought the book and helped us to raise much needed funds."

The Killer Cookbook was edited by Caro Ramsay and illustrated by Steve Carroll.

Copies of the book are available at: **www.millionforamorgue.com/content/killer-cookbook** and from all good bookshops.

All monies raised from sales of the book go to the Million For A Morgue campaign, which aims to raise £1million to help the University build a world-leading forensic centre based around the pioneering method of Thiel embalming.

Wellington bomber revealed by lecturer



The Vickers Wellington was the RAF's main bomber for half of World War Two, and it is famous for its unique geodetic framework which made it both light and able to withstand heavy combat damage.

The secrets of geodetic construction and other technical details of the aircraft are brought to life in a book newly published by local author Iain Murray, a lecturer in the School of Computing.

Published by Haynes, famous for their range of car repair manuals, the new book is the fortieth in a new range of Haynes manuals covering historic aircraft, ships and other vehicles ranging from the Routemaster bus to the Space Shuttle.

Dr Murray added a book about the Dam Busters to the range last year, and has also written a history of the work of Sir Barnes Wallis, who designed the Wellington's structure and the bombs used by the Dam Busters.

"The structure of the Wellington looked complex," said Dr Murray,

"But it was actually very easy to mass produce, as most of the frame components could be made on just one machine.

"This also made it very versatile, and it was used in a range of roles throughout the war, being built in larger numbers than any other British multi-engined aircraft."

Vicker Wellington: Owner's Workshop Manual is published by Haynes, and is available from Amazon and all good bookshops, priced £22.

More details are available from **www.SirBarnesWallis.com**

Maths-anxious teachers study wins award

A graduate of the University's Bachelor of Education programme has won the prestigious George D Gray CBE MA award for the best undergraduate thesis in teacher education in Scotland.

Sharon Friel-Myles, (32), graduated with a BEd (Hons) First Class from the University in June 2012. She is now in her probationary induction year at Hayshead Primary School in Arbroath.

She won the George D Gray Award for her dissertation, entitled 'How can a Maths anxious teacher promote positive attitudes towards Mathematics'.

Sharon's success adds to a long run of achievement by Dundee graduates, who have taken the award seven of the last ten times it has been made.

In her paper Sharon examined the difficulties some children and many adults face working with Mathematics. Sharon argued that there is a specific anxiety which undermines confidence in Maths and can contribute to reduced Mathematical performance.

She described its effects on both teachers (she had previously been affected herself) and pupils, and considered ways in which pupils could be assisted to gain confidence and to enjoy working with the subject.

Sharon Friel-Myles said, "I am absolutely delighted to win the George D Gray award. This thesis was very personal to me because I have experience of Maths anxiety.

"There are many teachers who are anxious about Mathematics, but are ashamed to admit it. There are also many pupils who feel anxious about the subject and are missing out on career opportunities as a result.

"My study has shown that symptoms of Maths anxiety relates to confidence rather than an inability to understand Mathematics.

"With the right strategies put in place I believe that Maths anxiety can be eliminated in teachers and in school pupils before it inhibits future career choices.

"I have indeed changed from a maths phobic to a maths fan and I intend to help my pupils do the same!"

Now in its twelfth year, the George D Gray CBE MA award is in the care of GTC Scotland and seeks to find the most distinguished BEd assignment in Scotland.

Research award for *PAMIS* project worker

A member of staff from *PAMIS*, the University-based charity that works with people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and their families, has won funding for a two-month research fellowship in Germany.

Hannah Young, a project worker and researcher at the organisation, has received a £2000 Caledonian Research Foundation award from the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

This will enable her to work with Professor Barbara Fornefeld, University of Cologne in two research areas - multi-sensory stories for people with PMLD and bereavement support for people with PMLD, a subject in which Hannah has conducted extensive research.

The collaborative work that Hannah is pursuing with international colleagues will be highly beneficial to *PAMIS*, staff and students at Dundee and Cologne, and clients and their families in both countries.

Hannah (24), who has worked at *PAMIS* since graduating with a degree in Psychology from Dundee in 2009, said she was delighted with the award.

"I'm really looking forward to working with Professor Fornefeld in Cologne and am sure it will be a great experience," she said.

"I met her when she visited Dundee a couple of months ago. She is working on multi-sensory story telling, and came here to share her research with us.

"Professor Fornefeld is also doing research looking at bereavement and loss issues affecting people with PMLD and their families, which is the area I've been working in for the past three years.

"We have already developed a resource pack for this area, and it made sense for us to collaborate.

"The award will cover travel, accommodation and living costs and this is a fantastic opportunity that will help us to advance our shared research interests and bring benefits to the people with PMLD and their families that we work with."

Hannah will visit Cologne twice as part of her research fellowship. She will fly out to Germany for two weeks in March to attend a major international conference before returning for a six-week research visit in October.

PAMIS aims to ensure that people with profound and multiple learning disabilities are valued both as individuals and in the contribution they make to the community. It is the only organisation in Scotland to provide support exclusively to people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and their families from birth right through to adulthood and for the rest of their lives.

More information is available at **www.pamis.org.uk**

SELS celebrates with fascinating line-up

A look at the nature of nationhood by internationally renowned author, journalist and broadcaster Michael Goldfarb marked the start of this year's Saturday Evening Lecture Series at the University in January.

The talk examining national identity was also the first public lecture held as part of the University's "5 Million Questions" project, which has been established to look at the many issues around Scotland's constitutional debate. The project aims to stimulate wider discussion, apply academic rigour to examination of the issues and engage with the public on all aspects of the major questions being faced.

Michael Goldfarb has written for the Guardian, The New York Times and the Washington Post but is best known for his work in public radio. For two decades Michael Goldfarb covered conflicts in the Balkans, the Middle East and Northern Ireland that had at their core people's frustrated sense of nationhood. In his lecture he looked back at the lessons he learned covering these wars and asked whether the nationalism of the 19th and 20th centuries will meet people's needs in the 21st.

The Saturday Evening Lecture Series, which celebrates its 89th anniversary this year, continued this month with a mix of art, poetry and music from acclaimed artist and sculptor **David Mach**. *Mach Mania* saw David discuss his career over the years, focusing on art in general and on the act of creativity - how it happens and why it is so important, and the effect it has on everything else - on society, on industry, and on the economy.

David, who made his mark with works such as his 'Big Heids', off Scotland's M8 motorway, and his acclaimed coat-hanger sculptures, recently completed his biggest exhibition to date, "Precious Light" at the City Art Centre in Edinburgh, in which he displayed over 40 major works, based on the King James Bible.

The next instalment in the SELS series takes place next month when **Alyson Leslie** from the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education at the University explores the harrowing subject of child abuse and how Britain has responded to tragedies.

In "*From Agatha Christie to Esther Rantzen: The British Response to Child Abuse Tragedies*," Alyson, who has been involved in the Child Death Review process for more than 20 years, will look at the British Inquiry System and whether faith in it is justified. She will also touch upon some high profile cases over the years including Dennis O'Neill in 1945, Maria Colwell in 1973 and more recently Peter Connelly and look at some of the women whose lives have directly or indirectly shaped the child death review process.

The lecture, which takes place at the Dalhousie Building on 9 March is taking place in connection with Dundee Women's Festival and International Women's Day.

Also in March is a talk by author **Fiona McLaren** on her book Da Vinci's Last Commission which tells the fascinating story of her research to find out more about an old painting which had hung on the wall of her family's Scottish farmhouse for years.

After calling in experts to value the painting there is talk that it may have been painted by Leonardo Da Vinci and could be worth more than £100 million.

Fiona's talk will cover what happened next and explain why she believes the painting points to one of the greatest heresies of our time. The lecture takes place in the Dalhousie Building on 23 March and will include a booksigning by the author.

In April autism expert **Professor Simon Baron-Cohen** will discuss the issues explored in his book *Zero Degrees of Empathy* when he delivers this year's Graduates Council Annual Discovery Lecture and the fifth SELS lecture. In his book he looks at the possibility that rather than thinking in terms of good and evil, most people lie somewhere on the empathy spectrum.

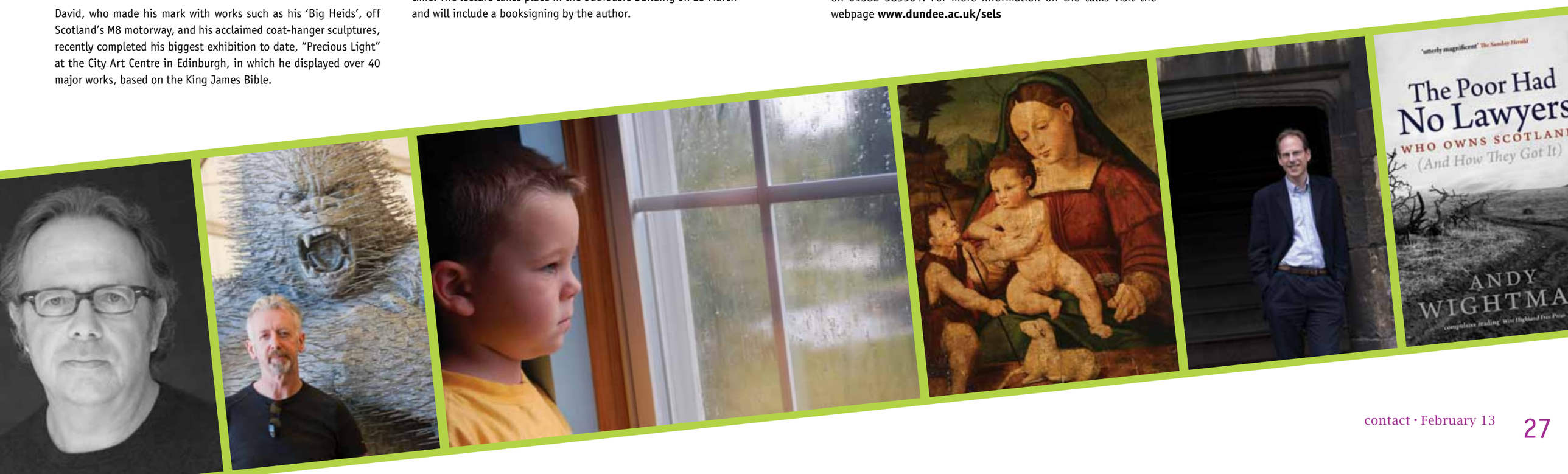
From the Nazi concentration camps of World War Two to the playgrounds of today, Professor Baron-Cohen, who is Professor of Developmental Psychopathology at the University of Cambridge, will examine empathy, cruelty and understanding in this challenging and fascinating new look at what makes our behaviour uniquely human.

A book signing will take place after the talk which takes place on 20 April.

The final lecture of the 2013 series takes place on 11 May when author and land rights campaigner **Andy Wightman** will ask "Who owns Scotland and how did they get it.

He'll delve into Scotland's history to find out how and why landowners got their hands on the millions of acres of land that were once held in common, and tell the untold story of how Scotland's legal establishment and politicians managed to appropriate land through legal fixes.

A book signing will follow this event. Tickets are available by emailing events@dundee.ac.uk or from the events office on 01382 385564. For more information on the talks visit the webpage **www.dundee.ac.uk/sels**



from the archives...

Fulbright at Dundee

The Centre for Archive and information Studies (CAIS) is hosting the first Fulbright Scotland Summer Institute, in partnership with historians from the University of Strathclyde. At the first of three annual events, ten students from universities in the United States will spend five weeks in Dundee and Glasgow during July and August 2013 for an intensive programme of lectures, seminars and cultural visits on the theme 'Scotland: Culture, Identity and Innovation'.

They will study a diverse range of subjects including Scottish history and palaeography, the history of Scottish art and architecture, creative writing & theatre and comic studies, forensic anthropology and crime, health and society in modern Scotland, politics & the media and science & technology. More information is available at **www.fulbright.org.uk/fulbright-awards/exchanges-to-the-uk/undergraduates**

CAIS has also been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for 2014-15, which will research 'Archives, Innovative Curation and Design', in collaboration the Design in Action project, headed by Prof Georgina Follett. The project will use as inspiration The Peto Collection, a major photographic resource held in the University Archives.

International Council on Archives funding

CAIS, in collaboration with the West Indies Federal Archives Centre (WIFAC) of The University of the West Indies, has been awarded funding from the International Council on Archives Development Fund to provide dedicated intensive training in archives, records management and digital preservation in Barbados in June. A range of information professionals from throughout the region will meet at the Cave Hill Campus of the University to undertake workshops and professional education & training and will be awarded credits which can be used against a CAIS Masters degree or diploma.

European Commission funding

This summer CAIS will host the third year of an Erasmus Intensive Programme (IP), a study programme which is designed to encourage multinational teaching of specialist subjects. Previous years were held in Marburg Archiefschool and the University of Mid-Sweden in Härnösand. 35 European students from 13 universities will meet in Dundee to examine aspects of 'University Archives and Records Challenges in the Digital Information Society' (ARCHIDIS). During the first year on a visit to the Bundesarchiv in Koblenz students were shown Schindler's List. We hope to be able to equally inspire this year's students on visits to Glamis Castle Archives, Glencoe and the Scottish Parliament.

Lessons for all at Kumbh Mela

After four years studying the Kumbh Mela, a Hindu festival described as "the greatest show on earth," a team of researchers led by Dr Nick Hopkins, a senior lecturer in Psychology at the University and colleagues in St Andrews and India, presented its findings at a special event in Allahabad last month.

The team has been seeking to understand how people treat each other during the festival which attracts up to 100 million people to the shores of the Ganges, how they experience the crowd and what impact the crowd has on their everyday lives.

The presentation at the Centre for Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences at the University of Allahabad showed that despite the environment being densely crowded, intensely noisy and often insanitary pilgrims seem to thrive and describe the event as "blissful" and "serene."

Dr. Hopkins said, "Sometimes we look at the Mela as an exotic event and focus on how different the pilgrims are from us. Our work shows how the pilgrim experience has lessons for all of us about how to create a good community and to ensure that people thrive in the community."

Professor Stephen Reicher from St Andrews added, "By all the tenets of conventional wisdom, the Mela shouldn't work. It is crowded, noisy and unsanitary. One might expect people to be stressed, quarrelsome and conflictual. Yet the event is harmonious and people are serene. Studying the Mela has forced us to reconsider many basic beliefs about how people function in society."

Professor Narayanan Srinivasan at the University of Allahabad concluded, "This has been the largest ever social science collaboration between the UK and India and possibly the most successful."

Say YES to success for biotech team

A team of aspiring biotechnology entrepreneurs from the University scooped two prizes at the Biotechnology Young Entrepreneurs Scheme (YES) 2012 in London at the end of last year.

The Dundee team, which won prizes for best food and best presenter, designed and produced a specialised plastic film which prevents the over-ripening of fruit on the supermarket shelf.

"The BioYes competition has been a fantastic experience to be involved with and has seen us nurture our initial idea and come up with a defendable and very strong business model throughout the competition," said Alistair Davies, who won the award for best presenter and who was joined in the BioVita team by Dun Jack Fu, Anna Kelner, Eleni Karinou and Alexander von Wilamowitz-Moellendorf. All members of the BioVita team are PhD students at Dundee.

Alistair added, "I think I speak for all members of the team when I say that the experience has been highly rewarding and has really opened up our eyes to a career outside of academic research."

The annual contest is co-organised by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the University of Nottingham Institute for Enterprise and Innovation (UNIEI).

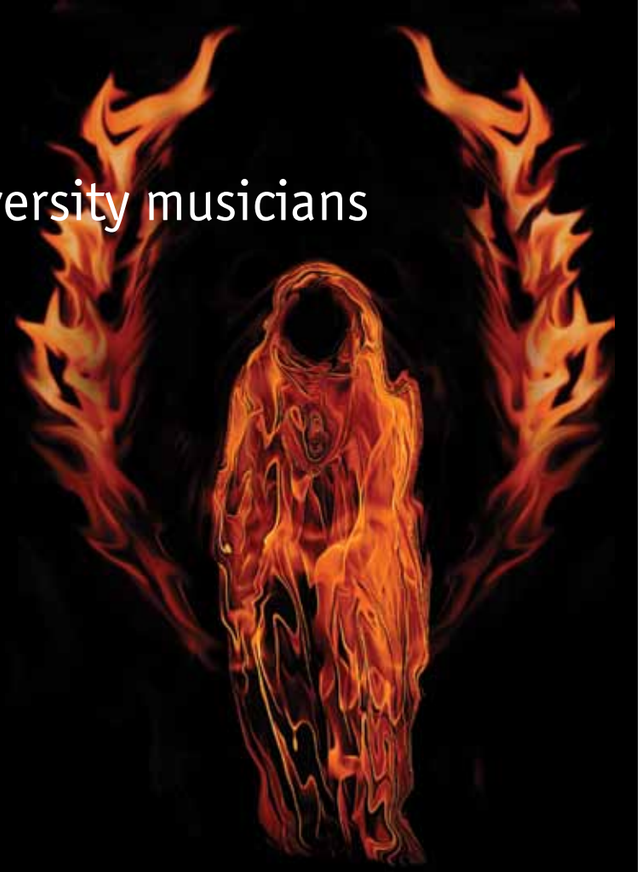
UK Minister for Universities and Science David Willetts said, "The participants in this competition have shown that there is a bright future ahead for biological science. This is one of the most vibrant and increasingly important sectors of the UK. They are developing the skills needed to translate world class research into wider economic and social benefits."

The competition, in its 17th year, sees bioscience postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers develop hypothetical business plans for plausible biotechnology companies. They receive help and advice from speakers, mentors and judges in areas such as intellectual property, financial planning and marketing.

The team members assume the roles of directors of their company and seek funding for their business plan from a group of "equity investors" – drawn from science and industry.

The hypothetical companies compete against each other and during the process participants gain valuable knowledge and skills about entrepreneurship, the world of business and commercialisation, in addition to transferable skills such as team working and time management.

Caird Hall debut for University musicians



The University Choirs and Orchestra, along with trebles from the Dundee branch of NYCoS, are making their debut in the Caird Hall in March when they will put on a performance of Carl Orff's exciting oratorio, Carmina Burana.

The concert, which takes place on Sunday 24th March, also features three young soloists and movements from Cesar Franck's symphonic poem, Psyche.

Tickets are £12, £8 (concession) and £5 (student) and are available from the City Box Office.

Meanwhile OPSOC are marking their 50th anniversary by putting on a production of EVITA by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd-Webber. The show will run in the Bonar Hall from Wed March 13th through to Saturday March 16th - tickets £10, £8 (concession) and £5 (student).

And at the end of a busy month, members of the Bach Consort will be performing Carl Heinrich Graun's "Der Tod Jesu" in St Paul's Meadowside on Saturday March 30th. It is a telling of the passion story but without biblical quotations and until the rediscovery of JS Bach in the 19th Century, was the most popular setting of the Easter story. Tickets are all £5 and the performance starts at 7pm.

what's on...

20th Feb 2013
The Dundee Volunteering Fair
Bonar Hall, Park Place | 11am to 3pm

Find out about volunteering, summer work and internships at the University's Volunteering Fair. The event is free and is open to all students, graduates and staff. This is a free event and takes place in the Bonar Hall and is open to all students, graduates and staff. For further information and a list of the organisations attending visit the careers web site at **www.dundee.ac.uk/careers/fairs/volunteerfair/**

25th February 2013
Café Science | Seeing the Invisible: Inside the Human Body
Chambers Coffee Shop, 34 South Tay Street, Dundee | 7-8pm

Inside our bodies is a hidden world that most of us never see. But with the help of Dr John McGhee from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, doctors and patients are now able to learn and share information about the human body using computer generated images (CGI). John combines the CGI with data taken from scans of the body, often from Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). Free event. No need to book but early arrival is advised. For more information contact Jonathan Urch at cafescience@dundee.ac.uk or by phoning 01382 386669.

5th March 2013
Dundee Arts Cafe | Stories from the Past: Women working in Dundee
The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum | 6pm to 7pm

History postgraduate Laura Paterson, from the School of Humanities, will examine changing experiences for women of paid employment and the social effects for women of the decline of the jute industry.

8th March
Independence: a distraction or an opportunity for Scottish women?
A Five Million Questions event
Dalhousie Building | 6 to 8pm

Join a panel of prominent female Scottish academics, politicians and commentators in this event organised by the University's Five Million Questions project, set up to examine the issues around Scotland's constitutional debate. This event forms part of Dundee Women's Festival. Pre-booking is essential as places are limited. To book visit **www.dundee.ac.uk/tickets**

8th to 24th March
Women in Science Festival
Various locations

Now in its fifth year celebrating and encouraging women in science, technology, engineering and maths in Dundee and across Tayside, this year's festival brings over 20 events, talks, workshops, seminars, film screenings and exhibitions. Part of Dundee Women's Festival Women in Science launches on International Women's Day and takes place during National Science and Engineering Week.

9th March
Saturday Evening Lecture Series | From Agatha Christie to Esther Rantzen: The British Response to Child Abuse Tragedies
Dalhousie Building | 6pm

Alyson Leslie from the School of Education, Social Work and Community Education looks at the British Inquiry system and whether our faith in it is justified. Tickets are available from the Events Office, tel: 01382 385564

11th March
Café Science | Swimming in an Ocean of Images
Chambers Coffee House, 34 South Tay Street | 7 to 8pm

Professor Jason Swedlow will discuss the Open Microscopy Environment (OME) which he and his team at the University have developed to aid the sharing and storing of biological image data. He'll highlight how this world-leading tool is now being used in different countries and its impact on science across the globe. For more information please visit **www.CafeScienceDundee.co.uk** or contact Jon Urch on 01382 386669

13th March
Café Science Extra | The Battle of the Sexes
Infusions Coffee Shop, Dundee Science Centre | 6pm to 7pm

Using a few examples from her own work on personality and aggression, Kate Cross will take the audience on a whistle-stop tour of research into sex differences: where it has come from, where it is going, and why it is so worthwhile. This free talk is part of Dundee Women's Festival

13th March
Dundee Afternoon lectures | How green was my valley
Tower Extension Lecture Theatre, Tower Building | 2.15pm to 3.30pm

Martin Kirkbride is an acknowledged expert on glaciology and environmental change. In his talk he will marry his science with art, and show how landscape paintings can help us understand environmental change in the Alps.

The Dundee Afternoon Lectures are organised by six local societies - the Royal Scottish Geographical Society Dundee Centre, The Friends of Dundee City Archives, Dundee Naturalists' Society, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Friends of the University of Dundee Botanic Gardens; and Abertay Historical Society. Admission if open to all, and costs £2.

23rd March
Saturday Evening Lecture Series | Da Vinci's last Commission
Dalhousie Building | 6pm to 7pm

Author Fiona McLaren will talk about her research into an old painting which had hung on the wall of her family's Scottish farmhouse for years and which some now suggest may have been painted by Leonardo Da Vinci. Tickets are available from the Events Office, tel: 01382 385564.

Children at the **University Nursery** took to the stage at DUSA in December to entertain family and friends with their nativity play. The talented tots aged between two and five years old sang, danced and told the story of the First Christmas on stage at Mono.

The Nursery, which caters for children aged between two and five years, has recently been inspected by the Care Inspectorate. The report, which graded the nursery highly in all areas, is available on the Care Inspectorate website at **www.scswis.com/**

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