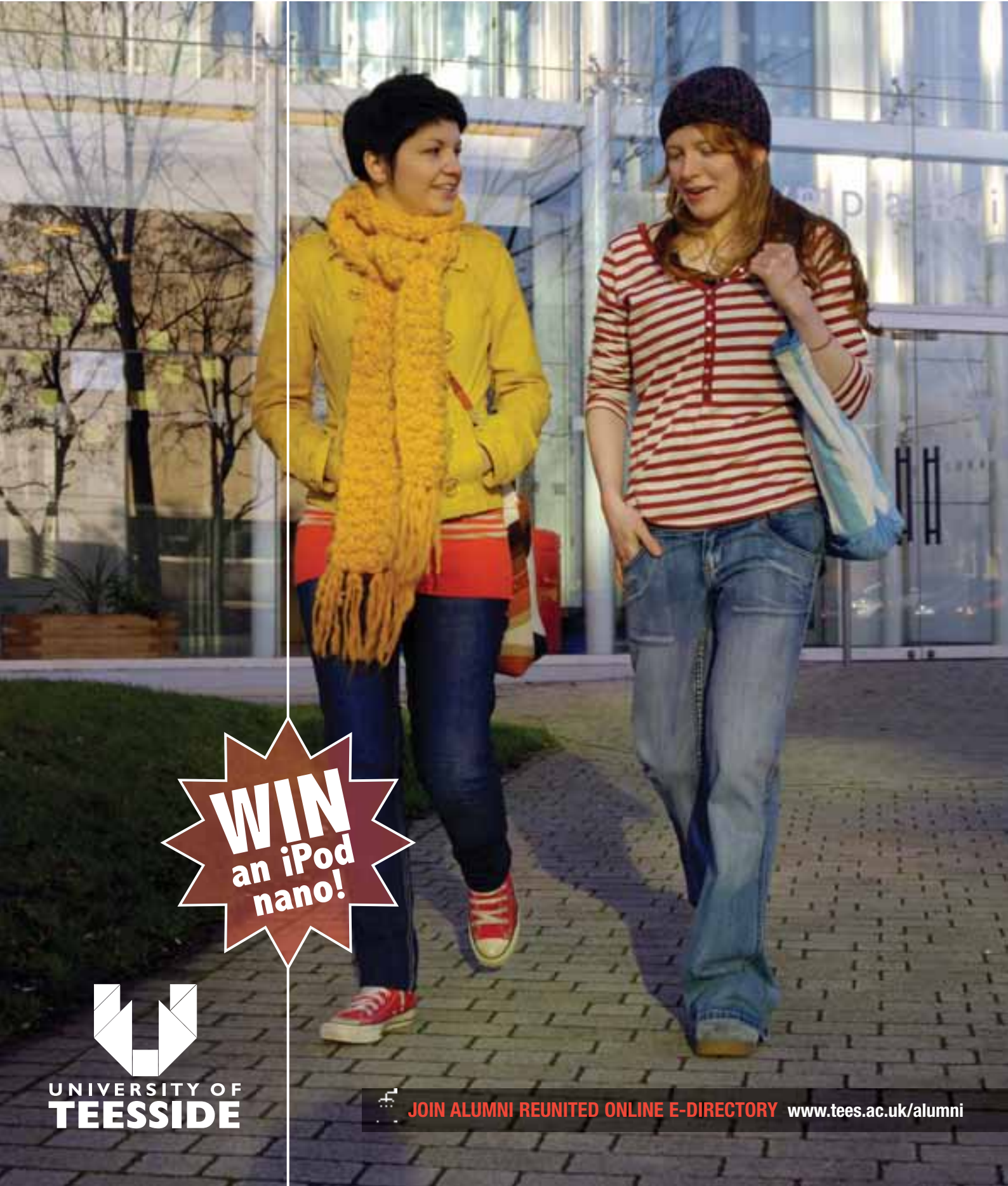


THE graduate

UNIVERSITY OF TEESSIDE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN 2007



WIN
an iPod
nano!



UNIVERSITY OF
TEESSIDE



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HELLO ALUMNI

Congratulations to all our new graduates. Well it's great to be back! As many of you know I have been on maternity leave for the last eight months; thank you so much for all your kind wishes. I left you in the capable hands of my colleague Lucy Owens – thanks to Lucy for all her hard work.

This year we've been trying out some new ways of keeping in touch with members. Our recent e-newsletter received great feedback and encouraged many of you to contact us with your news. To make sure you get a copy of the next edition, register your email details at www.tees.ac.uk/alumni and click on 'Register online'. As an incentive, all those registering by 31 December 2007 will be entered into a prize draw to win a fantastic iPod nano.

We've also set up a space on Facebook, where members can post messages and talk to one another. Sign in now at www.tees.ac.uk/alumnifacebook.

This edition of *The Graduate* sees the launch of the University of Teesside Annual Fund. The fund is designed to enhance the life of Teesside students and support the University's mission of providing opportunities while pursuing excellence in everything we do. There are more details about the fund and how you can contribute on page 12.

All regular readers will notice that we've changed the publication date of the magazine from February to October, which means that this year you get a bonus of two editions!

Good luck in the year ahead, and please keep in touch.



Sarah Jane Irving
Alumni Officer

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Cover photo: Students outside the Olympia Building.

Opinions expressed in *The Graduate* are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the University.

This publication is available in alternative formats on request. Please contact the Alumni Office.

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welcome



The Vice-Chancellor is pictured speaking at the University Forum.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to send my warmest wishes to all of the members of our growing Alumni Association. I hope that you still feel a part of what will now always be 'your University' and that we are succeeding in keeping you informed about our achievements and the exciting new developments that are continually taking place.

In January this year the University held a new event, the first of its type, called The University Forum, to showcase its achievements and set out some of its plans for the future. Over 250 guests attended, drawn from all of the communities that we serve. The outstandingly-positive feedback that we received – both on the night and after the event – was, I believe, a tribute to the progress that the University is making in establishing itself as a respected academic institution providing outstanding support to its students, its community and to the local and regional economy.

A special publication, *Moving Forward*, was launched at the event and copies are available to any alumni who are interested in learning more about what is happening at Teesside. Just send an email request to alumni.office@tees.ac.uk.

I have referred before in this column to the pace of change here at the University and, looking from my office window, I am pleased to report

that the next two new buildings – the 'Phoenix' Institute of Digital Innovation and 'Athena' Centre for Creative Technologies – are nearing completion with a view to them being 'open for business' by September.

Another campus development that I am particularly proud of is not actually in Middlesbrough; it is some 13 miles away on the site of the new purpose-built Darlington College campus. Our Chancellor, Lord Sawyer, and I formally opened a new £2m University Centre at the College on 4 May, a development which, for the first time, gives the University its own physical presence within a partner college – an approach which is set to be rapidly extended in the near future. Indeed, work is already well advanced on the construction of a similar University Centre on the new Middlesbrough College site (to host our joint work in creative and performing arts); funding is in place for similar University Centres in Hartlepool and Stockton; and planning is underway for a fifth

Centre in Redcar – moving us to a position where we will have accessible learning sites right across the Tees Valley as a basis for the further expansion of our provision.

Whilst the shape of higher education has undergone constant change throughout my 32 years in the sector, the new pattern of provision that we will be able to support through a combination of a major town centre campus supported by distributed hubs at partner sites will, I believe, be highly unusual. It will help to both facilitate access to learning and add immeasurably to the development of the higher-level skills that our society and economy so badly need.

This is just one of the many changes that we are seeing at the University and this edition of *The Graduate* will provide you with an interesting and informative insight into some of the recent highlights.

Very best wishes

Professor Graham Henderson
Vice-Chancellor

PRIZE DRAW WIN an iPod

We need your current details to make sure you receive our regular e-newsletter.

Register your email address at www.tees.ac.uk/alumni and click on 'Register online'.

All those registering by 31 December 2007 will be entered into a prize draw to win a fantastic iPod nano.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

UK first for Teesside

The University of Teesside has teamed up with Inverita, part of Capita Commercial Services, to offer the only part-time course in corporate fraud investigation of its kind in the country. The course, originally designed for Capita fraud investigators, is now open to all counter-fraud professionals working in both the public and private sectors.

As well as gaining a qualification from Teesside, successful students will also be accredited as counter-fraud specialists by the government-recognised Counter-Fraud Professional Accreditation Board.

Inspiration for the course came from Les Dobie, Head of Training and Development for Inverita, whilst he was enrolled on the University's MA in Fraud Management. He said, 'This is an in-depth, ethically based course relevant to those undertaking



Mike Ashwell, senior lecturer (left) with Les Dobie of Inverita.

front-line fraud investigations. The certificate is unique to the commercial and financial services sectors and it has already won two top industry awards.'

The year-long course, which is offered by Teesside Business School, is a mixture of classroom and distance learning.

Cloughie comes home

A long-awaited statue of University of Teesside honorary graduate Brian Clough (Doctor of Science, 2003) was unveiled in Middlesbrough this summer. Following his death from cancer in 2004, Boro fans and townsfolk responded to an appeal to raise money to commission the tribute to this local hero.

Born in the town, Brian played football for Middlesbrough, Sunderland and England. After a successful career as a player, he went on to manage Hartlepool United, Derby County, Brighton and Hove Albion and

Nottingham Forest football teams. He spent 18 years at Nottingham leading the team to victory twice in the European Cup.

The 7ft-tall bronze figure, by sculptor Vivien Mallock, is sited in Albert Park. It shows a 24-year-old Cloughie with football boots slung over his shoulder striding towards Ayresome Park, Middlesbrough FC's former ground, on his way to training.

In an emotional speech, Brian's wife Barbara said, 'He always made sure people knew where he came from and he was very proud of Boro. The fundraisers have done him proud and his children, grandchildren and brothers and sisters all feel exactly the same.'



Barbara Clough with the statue of her late husband Brian.

Meteor celebrates milestone

The University's renowned Meteor scheme has just celebrated its eighth birthday with a lively ceremony at Middlesbrough Town Hall. Graduates and former Meteor mentors were invited to the event to receive a commemorative award from the University's Chancellor, Lord Sawyer of Darlington.

Meteor targets local children between the ages of ten and 14 in a bid to raise aspirations and levels of achievement. A key part of the scheme is the involvement of Teesside students in mentoring these young people and providing them with positive role models. Meteor pupils also take part in activities throughout the year culminating in a Summer School where they spend time on campus before 'graduating' at the Town Hall.

Robert Hodgson, one of the original pupils on the scheme, was just 11 years old when he was part of Meteor. He plans to return to the University again this autumn as a student on the BA (Hons) English and Media Studies and is the first member of his family to go to university. He said, 'I remember coming to



Graduates and former meteor mentors (from left) Michelle Kempson, BSc (Hons) Psychology, 2000; Annette Lorraine Weber, BA (Hons) Social Work Studies, 2002; Leona Hunter, BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology, 2002; Deborah Harkley, BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology, 2002; David Sutton, BSc (Hons) Sports Science, 2001; Samantha Smith (nee Robinson), BA (Hons) Cultural Studies and English, 2002; Hazel Marie Smalley, BSc (Hons) Applied Science and Forensic Measurement, 2003.

the University for the first time. The technology on the campus was really impressive and made me think about going to

university when I was older. Meteor made me see that Teesside was my local university and that I could get there if I wanted to.'

Teesside tops league table

In its recent University Guide, the *Guardian* newspaper placed mechanical engineering at Teesside first for graduate-level employability and in overall second place out of all UK universities teaching the subject.

Dr Paul Shelton, project tutor in the subject, said, 'Being so well placed in the *Guardian* league table confirms what we have always known about the quality and relevance of our courses here at Teesside. I know we could find jobs for twice as many graduates in

mechanical and design engineering as we are able to produce.'

The University's overall ranking has gone up nine places to 70 out of 120 UK higher education institutions. The league table also places Teesside in the top 20 nationally for education, and art and design.

Professor Graham Henderson, the Vice-Chancellor, said, 'This is yet another indicator of the success of the University in realising our mission of providing opportunities and pursuing excellence and I take great pride in the continuing achievements of our staff and our students.'



Students Paul Giles (left) with Paul Howard, in the University of Teesside's Innovation Building.

New names join top team



Professor Cliff Hardcastle (left) and Professor Cliff Allan.

The University strengthened its top team this year with the appointment of two new Deputy Vice-Chancellors.

Professor Cliff Hardcastle and Professor Cliff Allan will work alongside Vice-Chancellor Professor Graham Henderson and Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Leni Oglesby.

Professor Allan has taken on the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development) with a remit to progress the University's academic portfolio, both campus-based and with partner colleges. He was formerly the Deputy Chief Executive of the Higher Education Academy.

Professor Allan said, 'I'm delighted to be working in a dynamic and vibrant university with a can do, will do ethos. Teesside has a tremendous number of strengths and is continuing to build on the many achievements already made in terms of its access mission and regional purpose.'

Professor Hardcastle is the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Enterprise) and joined the University from his previous post as Dean of the School of Built and Natural Environment at Glasgow Caledonian University. He said, 'I believe strongly in Teesside's underlying ethos, its inclusiveness, its commitment to the region and, of course, its dedication to excellence. Its students are entitled to and deserve to have access to the best possible research and an education that fits them for their future careers.'

International dimension

The University's Centre for International Development was set up last year with the aim of developing and implementing an international strategy for Teesside. This includes recruitment of international students to Teesside, delivering the University's programmes overseas and the wider internationalisation of the University.

Dr Keith Brown is the Centre's Director. He came to Teesside from the University of Sunderland, where he was Director of the International Office. He said, 'I think off-campus delivery for international students is the future; it's not just about bringing students to Middlesbrough.'

'Some really good work has been undertaken at Teesside and I am looking forward to working with the Schools and departments to develop things further. The higher education experience should be international and it's important that British students meet people from other cultures.'

Offices in India and Malaysia are two initiatives that will be developed over the next two years. An office in Mumbai will represent all the University's interests in India and act as a regional centre for Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. An office in Kuala Lumpur will act as a regional office for South-East Asia. Several Teesside programmes are running in Malaysia already with more in the pipeline.



Dr Keith Brown, Director of the Centre for International Development.

Great savings from new software

Researchers at the University are spearheading a revolution that could save the construction industry millions of pounds.

Led by Professor Nashwan Dawood, Director of the Centre for Construction Innovation and Research, the team are developing a software tool which allows planners and builders to rehearse the different phases of construction projects before building work begins. For instance, putting in foundations or installing pipework and electrical equipment.

The researchers have already used the software to rehearse the build process on several major national construction projects. These include a new bridge over a London Underground line at White City and the University's £12m Phoenix Building, home to the new Institute of Digital Innovation.

Professor Dawood said, 'This 4-D planning software can go into minute detail, looking at all construction activities and helping to find the most efficient way of tackling a contract. This is particularly important when lots of

different trades are working on a multi-million pound project in a tight location and where delays can cost big money.'

He has worked closely with the international project management and construction consultancy Faithful+Gould on a new gas receiving facility in Hull. He estimates that savings of 5-7% could be made on the £100m plus project by using the University's software.

Professor Dawood is now perfecting the computerised virtual construction site instrument with the help of academic colleagues and Faithful+Gould's Stockton-based national planning manager, Ian Mackenzie. Together they are looking at the possibility of using it to help in the decommissioning of nuclear power stations. A £100,000 government award is helping to fund the next stage of the development.



Professor Nashwan Dawood, Director of the Centre for Construction Innovation and Research.

Journalism degree for the future

The University has launched a new degree which is designed to meet the needs of today's diverse news industry. The BA (Hons) Multimedia Journalism Professional Practice combines the skills of traditional journalism with multimedia production.



Artist's impression of the University's Athena Building.

Graduates will have the accreditation they need to go directly into a career in journalism as well as the specialist skills necessary to work in a modern multimedia newsroom.

The course has been accredited by the industry's leading organisation, the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ), and approved by Trinity Mirror, Britain's biggest regional newspaper publisher.

Joanne Butcher, Chief Executive of the NCTJ, said, 'I am hugely impressed by the degree. It is very innovative and has strong links with local employers. There is a genuine understanding about how the media industry is changing and how this impacts on journalism skills. It's exciting to see a provider like the University leading the way with such a development.'

Students will benefit from working in a purpose-built, state-of-the-art, convergent newsroom, which is housed in the University's new multi-million pound Athena Building on Woodlands Road, due to open later this year.

Mock court room opens



The University has a brand new resource for budding legal eagles. The mock court room was opened earlier this year with a ceremony attended by His Honour Judge Peter Fox QC, Senior Circuit Judge and Recorder of Middlesbrough and an honorary graduate, and His Honour Judge Leslie Spittle, Circuit Judge at Teesside Combined Court and a member of the University's Board of Governors.

To mark the occasion Cath Crosby, senior lecturer in law, was 'murdered' by one of her students, Taib Kasnazany. Taib was tried for the

crime in the new facility with a jury made up of pupils from St Mary's College in Middlesbrough. Elizabeth Burke, LLB (Hons) Law, 1997, is the subject manager for law at the college. She said, 'This has been a great opportunity for our students to apply their theoretical knowledge and gain a better insight into the legal process.'

The court room is an exact replica of the facility at Teesside Combined Court and it can be set up to accommodate a range of legal proceedings such as family, Crown or magistrates' court hearings. The room has all the latest equipment including video link and playback facilities and it will be used as a resource for law, forensic and crime scene students and by trainee police officers on the University's foundation degrees in policing.

More Th>n capable

Part-time lecturer Jill Newman, MA Human Resource Management, 2004, won the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) North East Branch Award for Human Resources Practitioner of the Year.

She was presented with the award at an event attended by over 500 people at the Marriott Hotel in Gosforth, Newcastle. As well as lecturing for Teesside Business School on managing equality in a diverse workplace, Jill also works as an HR consultant for the insurance company More Th>n in Sunderland.



Part-time lecturer, Jill Newman.

The leaders of tomorrow

The North East Chamber of Commerce (NECC) and the University of Teesside have together launched the region's first dedicated degree course aimed at developing the leaders of the future.

The foundation degree in leadership and management was put together in response to demand from NECC members who identified a lack of trained leaders as one of the biggest issues affecting their future growth.

The highly practical course, which is aimed at junior and middle managers, consists of a series of two-day master classes supported by work-based assignments and learning. Modules are run in Newcastle, Durham and Middlesbrough and can also be delivered on company premises.



Rachel Featherstone (left) and her mother Jean. Both work for the North East Chamber of Commerce and are enrolled on the new foundation degree in leadership and management.

A return to rebuilding



Dr Steve Bloomer, subject group leader for construction.

The devastating Pakistan earthquake of October 2005 killed thousands of people and left hundreds homeless. Two Teesside lecturers have continued to support the international aid effort by setting up a charity, Healing Hands, with support from local people in Stockton, Councillor Bob Gibson, Dari Taylor MP and local surgeon Dr Mohammed Shafiq.

Dr Steve Bloomer, subject group leader for construction, and David Kitchen, a part-time lecturer in civil engineering, first visited the village of Sehunta in North-Eastern Pakistan last year. After seeing the destruction for themselves they met with builders, contractors, architects, engineers and village elders and hatched a plan to design a range of buildings in support of the reconstruction process. They have just returned from a second visit to oversee the initial construction of three houses based on their plans.

Steve said, 'One of the key elements of our design is the pitched triangular roof which we prefer to the more traditional flat-roof style. This should make the building more resistant

to earthquakes and will provide additional living space in the event of a future emergency.' The houses will be built using earthquake resilient materials including reinforced block and timber.

The first house will be used as a medical centre and will include services such as general surgery and a visiting eye surgeon. The second building will be used as a training centre. Dr Bloomer said, 'Before the earthquake there were 70 houses in the village. Only one was left standing. Hopefully our work will go some way to improving the situation for the local people in the years to come.'

FEATURES

Fellows drive forward innovation



Mark Elliott (left), Business Director DigitalCity and Gareth Edwards, Creative Director DigitalCity.

DigitalCity Fellows are playing a key role in creating one of the country's most fertile and successful digital and creative media clusters in Middlesbrough.

Business is booming. All the start-up units are let, and there's an impatient queue building up – all thanks to the joined-up efforts of the University and Middlesbrough Council in delivering a scheme that helps talented graduates turn digital ideas into digital business.

The pioneering DigitalCity Fellowships Programme provides would-be entrepreneurs with vital business advice and professional support, much of it through intensive mentoring by industry specialists.

Fellows who go on to set up in business can join the University's well-established start-up programme, which has supported some 85 companies and 300 jobs to date.

According to Gareth Edwards, DigitalCity's Creative Director, the Fellowships are going from strength to strength. 'By March 2008 we expect to have completed over 200 Fellowships,' he said.

'They're unique in allowing graduates to decide if entrepreneurship is for them through

an intensive support programme,' explained Cheryl Evans, DigitalCity Project Manager.

'Not everyone who gains a Fellowship – awarded to talented graduates from the region and lasting from three to six months – wants to set up their own business immediately,' she continued. 'Some need space and time to decide whether to do a research degree based on a project started on their first degree or to go on and create a "portfolio piece" to make them more employable. Perhaps they want to complete an animation or a graphic design or a work of art if they are a creative. This is what's so great about the Fellowships. They're tailored to individual circumstances.'

Her team looks after the scheme on a day-to-day basis – finding mentors for fledgling graduate start-up companies and customising the support to fit the individual needs.

Fellows – and there have been over 150 to date – receive grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 plus advice on how to take their ideas forward. And when the Institute of Digital Innovation opens this autumn they will have even more studio space and access to the latest technology.

Gareth and Cheryl stress that the Fellowships and other DigitalCity initiatives are all about sustainability. 'Our aim is to turn the North East into a magnet for digital and entrepreneurial talent, creating high-value businesses and jobs,' said Gareth. 'We're not into "flash in the pan" schemes. We're committed to helping creative businesses flourish. It's not an easy ride, but we know the formula works.'

Fluid Pixel Studios

Being a pioneer in an emerging technology is a daunting prospect for any company, let alone a start-up. But Stuart Varrall, BA (Hons) Computer Animation, 2005, of Fluid Pixel Studios is relishing the challenge. Not only is the 24-year-old quickly realising commercial success, he's winning awards for his entrepreneurial skills.

The company, based in a University start-up unit, specialises in creating mobile phone games, screensavers and wallpapers using Adobe Flash Lite – a new generation technology with a high standard of visual effects.

Since founding the company less than a year ago, Stuart and co-founder Paul Ivorra, BSc (Hons) Computer Games Programming, 2005, have already been approved by mobile

phone giant Nokia to sell games and wallpapers through the company, and are hoping to secure similar agreements with other firms.

'We are one of only a few British companies in this field,' said Stuart. 'It's challenging working with unproven new technology. But the download market is huge and the big firms are keen to adopt it.'

Stuart won a DigitalCity Fellowship in 2005, along with a prestigious Insight Out award from the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts.

He has gone on to win national recognition through a Kauffman Entrepreneurship Fellowship, which will see him spend six months in the US working alongside like-minded IT experts, universities and thinkers.

'I will continue building my portfolio in the US and look forward to making business contacts too,' he said.



Stuart Varrall of Fluid Pixel Studios.

The Maidenhead-born businessman, who has always wanted to start his own digital media company, says that DigitalCity is the perfect environment for entrepreneurs, not just because of its business support, but because it provides direct access to the best talent on offer.

'We've been working with Jeremiah Alexander of Babel Digital, who is based in the University's Victoria Building alongside us,' he explained. 'Being able to work together and bounce ideas off each other is really important in this business.'

Size doesn't matter

Gaming software firm Halch is yet further proof that size in the gaming industry doesn't matter.

The nine-strong Middlesbrough-based company, founded just two years ago by Teesside graduates Marc Williamson, BSc (Hons) Computer Studies, 2005, and David Hankin, BSc (Hons) Computer Games Design, 2004, is just weeks away from completing games under licence for both Sony Play Station 2 and Nintendo DS Lite.

Halch has also been commissioned by music channel MTV to produce online animation.

The high-profile projects have led to regular approaches from European and Japanese firms and the company is set to grow.

'We're looking to move to the new Institute of Digital Innovation Building on the campus or to Middlesbrough Council's BoHo zone in the town centre,' said David, who specialises in comic art and character design. 'We do have plans for recruitment in the near future, and are looking for Teesside graduates.'

For the entrepreneurs, the financial and business support offered by the scheme was key to their success.

'It gave us our first round of money to develop and promote ideas,' said Marc, who is keen to emphasise the valuable camaraderie offered by fellow tenants in the University's business start-up units.

'It's great to have the support of like-minded people who are just down the corridor from you – especially when you're just starting out.'



Marc Williamson (right), and David Hankin of Halch.

Playing the game of life

Learning about budgeting and finance will soon be child's play, thanks to an innovative computer game designed by Jeremiah Alexander, BSc (Hons) Computer Games Programming, 2006.



Jeremiah Alexander, BSc (Hons) Computer Games Programming, 2006.

The DigitalCity Fellow and Teesside graduate has launched Babel Digital – a creative media firm specialising in educational games for PCs and mobile phones. He has based his company in one of the University's business start-up units.

Babel's first project was working with Scarborough Building Society to create an educational game to help improve the finance and numeracy skills of young people.

Complete with funky contemporary graphics and characters, the game, developed in association with North Yorkshire teachers and the North Yorkshire Business Education Partnership, is aimed at nine and ten-year-olds.

Jeremiah, a winner of a National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts Insight Out award, said, 'Games are often associated with entertainment, but they have an

important educational role, too. They offer the flexibility to meet all learning styles, no matter what the player's ability. And they're fun as well!'

John Carrier, Chief Executive of Scarborough Building Society, said the idea for the game was prompted by research showing that more than half of England's teenagers are in debt by the age of 17 and that 90% are worried about money and spending. 'We're really excited about this project and the potential to make a real difference to the financial outlook of so many young people,' he said.

'The Building Society first approached the University of Teesside with the idea and later contacted me to help them develop it,' explained Jeremiah. 'The game will first be launched in Scarborough schools, but I understand that the intention is to roll it out nationally.'

Jeremiah is now looking at developing a number of other educational games aimed at helping people learn foreign languages.

He is delighted to be part of the DigitalCity revolution and to have the opportunity to develop the business with help from the University and business mentors, adding, 'I've got access to expertise when I need it if I land another major project. That's a big reassurance for a new company.'

For more information about DigitalCity Fellowships, please contact Cheryl Evans in the DigitalCity office at c.evans@tees.ac.uk or call 01642 384324.



Amanda Clarkson, CACTUS Clinic Manager and Researcher, and Dave Woodhouse, Head of the Clinic.

The CACTUS Clinic – seven years on

The Clinical and Counselling Training Unit (CACTUS) Clinic was established by Professor Steve Baldwin in 2000 with the specific aim of providing alternative treatments to children and teenagers who had been prescribed the amphetamine-type drug Ritalin. Ritalin is routinely given as a treatment for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD).

Based on studies in the US and Australia, Steve developed a treatment programme involving activities such as counselling, family therapy and psychotherapy. Following his death in the 2001 Selby train crash, a donation from his family ensured that the CACTUS Clinic was able to continue this ground-breaking work. The Clinic has since helped over 100 young people from across the UK and Europe ranging from the age of three to 17.

Dr Dave Woodhouse, Head of the CACTUS Clinic, said, 'The Clinic's overall philosophy remains the same as when Steve established it. We don't believe that medication should be the first resort in the treatment of ADD or ADHD.'

'We now use more than one approach with the children; not just behavioural but also nutritional, looking at the importance of food intolerances and mineral imbalances. We also leave the ultimate decision about whether to continue on medication while going through our programme to the parents.'

- In 2000, 114,000 children in the UK were prescribed Ritalin. Last year, 456,909 prescriptions were issued for the drug in England and Wales, as well as 55,859 for Strattera, a new treatment for ADHD and ADD.

Your chance to give something back

With the launch of its new Annual Fund, the University is giving Teesside graduates the opportunity to enhance the experience of current and future students.

The University has a long history of enabling individuals to achieve their potential, whatever their background.

Our commitment to providing opportunities goes hand-in-hand with a desire to ensure that Teesside students have access to some of the best learning, teaching and recreational resources available.

Students come from all over the UK and the wider world to study at Teesside. The University is committed to ensuring that all its students have the best possible higher education experience. Your support will allow us to enhance this experience by improving facilities and equipment and extending the range of sporting activities that we provide.

Today, many students face great financial pressure. With your support, the Annual Fund

will give assistance to those who need it most so that we can continue to provide opportunities to a wide range of students.

Your gift will be used in one of two main ways:

- Providing student scholarships
- Improving facilities, equipment and student sport.

We will be contacting you in the future with more details about how you can make a donation to the Annual Fund and play a part in Teesside's mission to provide opportunities while pursuing excellence.

If you would like to make a donation now, please contact the alumni office at alumni.office@tees.ac.uk or write to us at the address at the front of this magazine.



EVENTS

Honorary & Professorial Public Lecture Series

If you're still living or working in the local area, come along to one of our popular public lectures. They are held in the Centuria Building on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm - 7.45pm. Some are also streamed live on the University website so you can view them from your PC.

For more details and bookings contact the Alumni Office.



Memento Mori: Remember we will all die Helping achieve a good death in today's society

PROFESSOR EDWIN PUGH

Wednesday 28 November
6.30pm – 8.00pm



An Emotional Journey

MAREK REICHMAN

Wednesday 20 February 2008
6.30pm – 8.00pm



The sustainable city – in search of the holy grail

PROFESSOR CLIFF HARDCASTLE

Wednesday 12 March 2008
6.30pm - 8.00pm



The journey of a psychologist with women suffering from breast cancer

PROFESSOR ANNA VAN WERSCH

Wednesday 7 May 2008
6.30pm – 8.00pm



The ninth annual Animex festival is taking place in Middlesbrough from 4 - 8 February 2008.

Organised by the University, this exciting international festival of animation and computer games attracts speakers and delegates from across the world.

Whatever your level of expertise or knowledge, whether you're an industry expert or just an interested enthusiast, you're sure to enjoy the mix of screenings, workshops and talks by some of the leading lights from industry and academia.



Last year, renowned animator Andy Lomas (pictured above), MSc Computer Aided Graphical Technology Applications, 1992, gave a keynote address at the event. After graduating Andy went to work for London-based Framestore CFC before moving to the US where he spent five years working for studios including DreamWorks. In 2006, he moved back to the UK to re-join Framestore where he has since worked on a range of high-level projects including *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* and *The Tale of Despereaux*, the largest computer-generated feature animation project ever undertaken in Europe.

If you'd like to attend the 2008 festival either as a delegate or a speaker, visit the Animex website for more details at www.animex.net.

Past versus Present Sports Tournament – be a part of it

The 16th annual Past versus Present Sports Tournament takes place on Saturday 24 November. This fun-filled event sees graduates battle it out for sporting supremacy against teams of current students. This year we're looking for even more alumni to demonstrate their sporting prowess and ensure that the Past team retains the Vice-Chancellor's Cup for the fourth year in a row.



The list of sports currently on offer is below, but we're open to new suggestions. A day of laughs and sporting achievement is rounded off by a great night of celebration in the Students' Union. We also welcome alumni spectators to cheer on the teams. So what are you waiting for? Get in touch with the University's Sport and Recreation Office on 01642 342267 or email sport@tees.ac.uk.

Men's Basketball

Women's Basketball

Climbing

Cricket

Football

Gaelic Football

Golf

Hockey

Netball

Rugby

Squash

Ten-pin Bowling

The LRC - ten outstanding years



The University is planning a series of events to mark ten successful years of the Learning Resource Centre. As part of the celebration we are asking graduates to contribute their memories of the building for inclusion in a commemorative brochure.

The LRC, as many will remember it, was officially opened by Mo Mowlam, the then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. The building was designed to provide students and staff with a 21st-century resource to rival the best in the sector.

The recent National Student Surveys showed that the LRC is continuing to have a major impact on students today. Teesside was ranked amongst the top two universities in the country for its library facilities.

Please send your memories, by 10 November 2007, to the Alumni Office.



Learning Resource Centre

LEADING THE WAY

A sparkling success



Anthony (Tony) Silvester, BA (Hons) Graphic Design, 1999, started his career with Trinity Mirror as a multimedia designer on the icTeesside website before moving to Star Tek Europe Ltd as the lead web designer. Here he worked on projects for major companies such as Filofax and Hewlett Packard.

In 2005, Tony took the plunge and set up his own business, Silver Cat Media, in what proved to be an eventful year. He said, 'I got married, launched the business and my wife had a beautiful baby boy.' Tony says he is thriving on the excitement of the last couple of years and is looking forward to the future.

Bridge to a brighter future

Richard Harrison, BA (Hons) Business Management, 2002, took advantage of the University's graduate placement programme - Bridges and Routes - to gain vital experience after his degree.

A 15-week placement with East Cleveland Youth Housing Trust turned into a year-long contract, giving Richard a wealth of experience. He is now working for Middlesbrough Council and is involved with major regeneration projects in the centre of Middlesbrough. He said, 'The projects will have an immense impact on the older housing in the town. They will encourage more people to live and work here.'



Graeme grabs the headlines

Graeme Pickering, BA Journalism, 1997, loved University life and was a founder member of the 'badgers', the journalism club named after the degree title – BA Journalism (BAJ for short). They had their own logo and regular newspaper.

Since badger newspaper days, Graeme's career has gone from strength to strength. He worked as a freelance journalist for several regional radio stations before joining local radio station TFM as a news reporter and producer. Graeme is now at ITV Tyne Tees where he produces news bulletins as well as the *North East Tonight* programme. He is delighted to be able to pursue a career in the industry he loves. He said, 'The course at Teesside was a fantastic grounding. The practical experience I gained was invaluable and set me on the path to my dream career.'



Making radio waves



Ben Murphy enrolled at Teesside as a business studies student but he enjoyed the marketing module so much he decided to change course and study marketing instead – the rest is history, as they say.

After graduating from the BA (Hons) Marketing in 2003, Ben went to work as a sponsorship and promotions executive at local commercial radio station TFM. Following a career break travelling around the Greek islands, he resumed his career with the station as a marketing executive. Last year, Ben continued his rise up the career ladder when he was promoted to marketing manager. He said, 'I love the challenges that my job brings – every day is different. It's a really exciting environment and it's a bonus that I get to meet lots of famous people.'

Designs on an inspiring career



A family trip to Spain left such an impression on Isla Wishart, BA (Hons) Interior Architecture and Design, 2006, that it inspired her future career.

At the age of just 12 Isla was so impressed by the Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Familia in Barcelona that she knew she wanted to study architecture. She is currently working as a project manager for Cardinal PLC in Shipley. She collaborates on a wide range of projects from small domestic to large retail for high profile clients such as Boots and Marks & Spencer. She said, 'I'm very much enjoying having an input into the design of new projects. I really thrive under pressure – you have to in this job!'

Business-minded couple thrive

Andrew Fenner, BA (Hons) Business Studies, 1992, always wanted to work in the media but felt a broader degree would be a safer option. After graduation he worked in marketing before moving on to the BBC, initially in local radio but progressing to network radio (Radio 1, 4 and Five Live) and then to television.

His career has been varied, ranging from making documentaries for the *Steve Lamacq Show* on Radio 1 to reporting for Five Live. He has spent the last five years on and off working on the *Heaven and Earth* show but recently did a spell on *Countryfile*. He said, 'I got to sit next to John Craven each week – which for any child of the 1970s is a truly awe inspiring prospect.'

Andrew is married to former Teesside classmate Karen Fisher, BA (Hons) Business Studies, 1992. Karen is a successful entrepreneur and runs her own IT training company. She said, 'I love being my own boss. I haven't had to advertise as I get requests from all over the country for work.'



Probation achievement



Margaret Hunt (nee Haron), BA (Hons) Social Work Studies, 1998, thrives on her career as a probation officer working with offenders in the community and several prisons. Since leaving Teesside, Margaret has been employed by the National Probation Service Northumbria.

She feels Teesside prepared her well for this demanding role. She said, 'The course was invaluable. My tutor was a former probation officer and was able to give me sound advice and direction. I have much to be grateful for.'

GRADUATES AROUND THE GLOBE

A lasting connection

A recommendation from his sister, who was studying at Teesside, convinced Wayne Fortunato, BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance, 2002, to leave his home in Gibraltar for Middlesbrough. It proved to be a fortuitous move as Wayne not only gained a degree but also a wife – Helena (nee Webber), BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy, 2002.

After graduating from Teesside, Wayne continued his studies with a law conversion course at Northumbria University. The couple moved to Gibraltar in 2004 and married in 2005. Their son Rhys was born last February. Wayne is now working as a lawyer specialising in trust management and administration for international law firm Hassans. Helena is an occupational therapist for the Gibraltar Health Authority.



AUSTRALIA IS BEST

After a spell as a graduate trainee in data management with Marks & Spencer, Michael Swinhoe, BSc (Hons) Information Society, 2000, worked for Zurich Financial Services as a senior systems developer before seeking a new life down under.

He said, 'I've been living in Sydney for over four years now and I have to say the quality of life here is the best in the world. I love fishing, camping and surfing and you can't live in a better place to pursue these activities.'

Michael joined Computer Sciences Corporation, a leading global IT services company, as a technical specialist but was quickly promoted. He is currently lead architect. Since moving to Australia, Michael has become engaged to Jodie-Lee, and they plan to marry this November in Mauritius.



DO YOU LIVE OVERSEAS?

Would you like to share your story? We would love to hear all about you - email us at alumni.office@tees.ac.uk.

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni updates & desperately seeking

1991

Phil Pearce, BA (Hons) Business Studies, works for the Royal Bank of Scotland. He's keen to contact old Uni friend Tricia Belben, Dip Personnel Management, 1992. Phil can be contacted at phil.pearce@rbs.com.

1996

Helen Caslin, BA (Hons) Politics, is now a stay-at-home mum to her son William (18 months) in Milton Keynes after working in the city for five years. She'd love to hear from old friends at helencaslin@hotmail.com.

2003

Stephane Varrault, MSc CAGTA, now lives in France and works as associate lead creative director of Gameloft, supervising the development of mobile games. He'd love to hear from old friends at atstephane.varrault@gmail.com.

2003

Skido Achulo, MSc Multimedia Applications, now lives in Ghana and works as an ICT lecturer at the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. He'd like to set up an alumni subgroup and would love to hear from fellow Ghanaian graduates and other graduates of Teesside residing in Ghana. He can be contacted at skidoachu@hotmail.com.



Joanne and David Maude.

2004

Joanne Maude (nee Ashbridge), BA (Hons) Graphic Design, married **David Maude**, BA (Hons) Graphic Design, 2007, last year. Joanne now works as a marketing assistant at Wilberforce Sixth Form College in Hull and David is running his own graphic design and photography business. They'd love to hear from old friends at ja_wkd@yahoo.com and dave@davidmaude.com.

Alumni Reunited

Lost contact with your Teesside friends? Alumni Reunited can help you get back in touch. Go to our website and register for the service now at www.tees.ac.uk/alumni.



Join us on Facebook

Want to find out what's going on with Teesside alumni? Then join the Facebook discussion forum – we'd love to welcome you to our group! You'll need to register with Facebook, which takes only a few minutes. Sign up now at www.tees.ac.uk/alumnifacebook.



Visit Middlesbrough and take a trip down memory lane

Graduate Tina Langguth, BSc Criminology, 2001 recently visited Teesside. She contacted the Alumni Association prior to her visit and we arranged for Tina to take a tour of the campus so she could see all the changes since her graduation. Tina was taken on the tour by a current student who told her all about developments on campus and what students get up to these days!

If you are visiting Middlesbrough and would like to take a tour of the campus email us at alumni.office@tees.ac.uk.

PRIZE WINNERS

Thank you to all who completed and returned the survey in the last issue of *The Graduate* – the response was excellent. **Sarah Martin**, BSc (Hons) Crime Scene Science, 2006, won the first prize of £100 House of Fraser vouchers.

The runners up were **Christine Summerhill**, BSc (Hons) Promoting Practice Effectiveness, 2006, and **Graham Rix**, HND Business and Finance, 1992, who each receive £25 House of Fraser vouchers.










The winner of the Middlesbrough Monopoly prize draw was **Collette Pratchett**, BSc (Hons) Social Studies, 1985 – congratulations to you and we hope that playing the game will bring back many happy memories of your time at Teesside.

ORGANISE A REUNION

Want to catch up with all your old classmates, sports team or year group? Then organise a reunion with our help! We can get in touch with your friends, help you to select a venue and recommend local hotel accommodation. We'll give you access to the campus and even include a tour to bring back all those old memories. Get in touch with the Alumni Office.

UNIVERSITY GIFTS

Prices include postage and packaging

	Tie Pin £2.50		Scarf £22.00
Tie £10.00	Parker Steel Vector Pen (in silver) £12.00	Golf Umbrella £14.00	
	Middlesbrough Monopoly £25.00		Mascot Bear £17.50
Hooded Sweatshirt with Zip £22.00			
	White T-Shirt (S,M,L,XL) £9.00		White Mug £4.00
Hooded Sweatshirt £20.00		Business Card Case £10.50	
			Key ring £4.00
Notebook/Pen Set £11.50	Square Coaster £7.50		

Order Form

Item	Size/Colour	Quantity	Price Per Item	Total Price
White Mug			£4.00	
Key ring			£4.00	
Tie			£10.00	
Golf Umbrella			£14.00	
Hooded Sweatshirt - Navy (S, M, L, XL)			£20.00	
Hooded Sweatshirt with Zip - Black (S, M, L, XL)			£22.00	
Hooded Sweatshirt with Zip - Charcoal (L, XL)			£22.00	
Hooded Sweatshirt with Zip - Light Grey (S, M)			£22.00	
White T-Shirt (S, M, L, XL)			£9.00	
Tie Pin			£2.50	
Parker Steel Vector Pen (in silver)			£12.00	
Square Coaster			£7.50	
Notebook/Pen Set			£11.50	
Business Card Case			£10.50	
Middlesbrough Monopoly			£25.00	
Mascot Bear			£19.50	
Scarf			£22.00	
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Please return to: Corporate Communications Unit, University of Teesside, FREEPOST, Middlesbrough, Tees Valley, TS1 3BR

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We know how important a postgraduate course is when it comes to improving your prospects.

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*UK and EU taught students only, subject to eligibility. Excludes courses already funded by the Department of Health.

