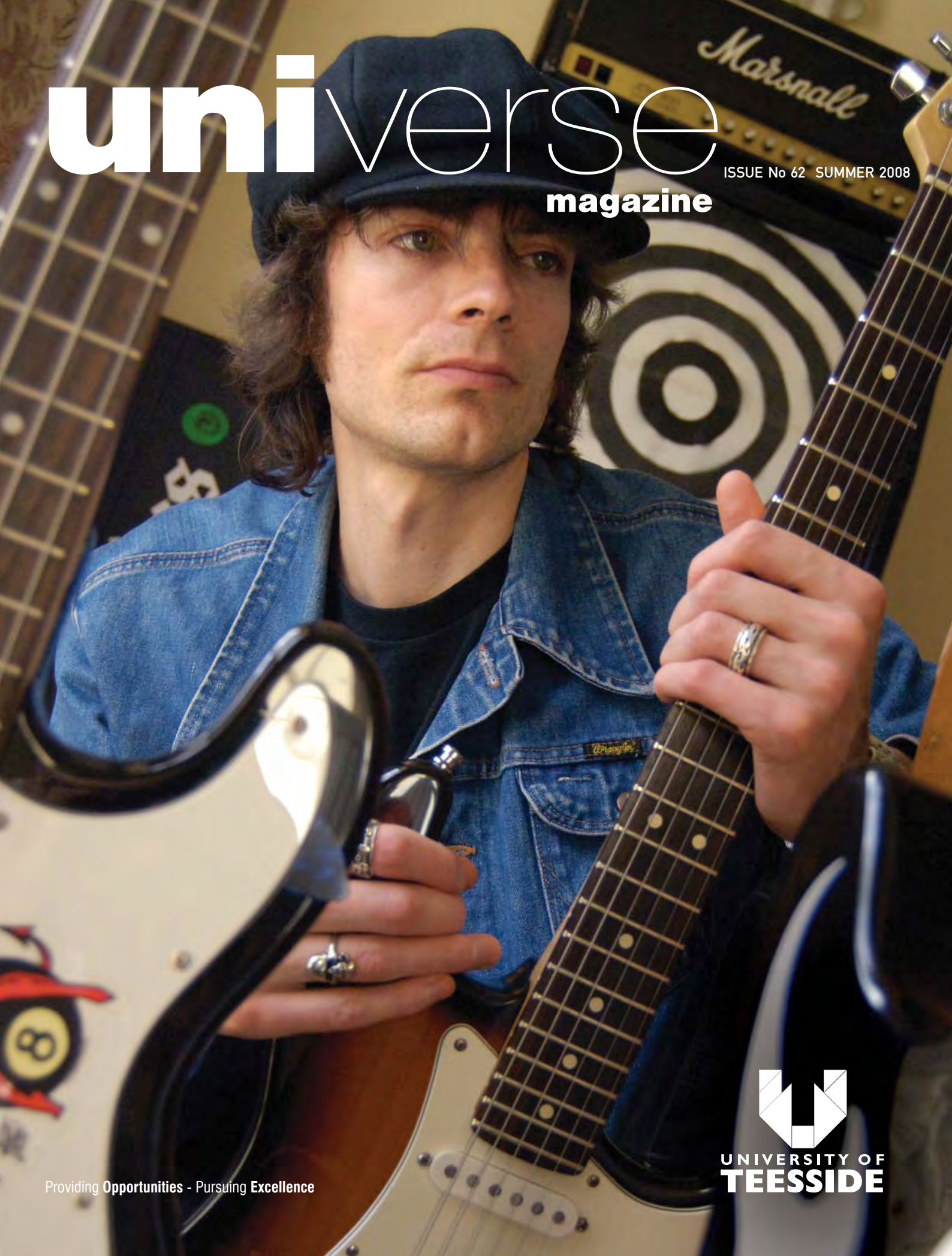


universe

magazine

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Providing Opportunities - Pursuing Excellence


UNIVERSITY OF
TEESSIDE

welcome

from Professor Graham Henderson
Vice-Chancellor

In the first quarter of 2008 we have seen several important developments at the University of Teesside.

The most significant of these has been the award of a £5.2m Strategic Development Fund grant to the University from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to enable the University to drive forward its partnership working with employers through its new Workforce Development Strategy. The grant is currently the second largest to have been awarded nationally for work in this area and, when taken together with the associated income for additional student numbers and the anticipated fee contribution from employers, equates to an injection of almost £13m for the University.

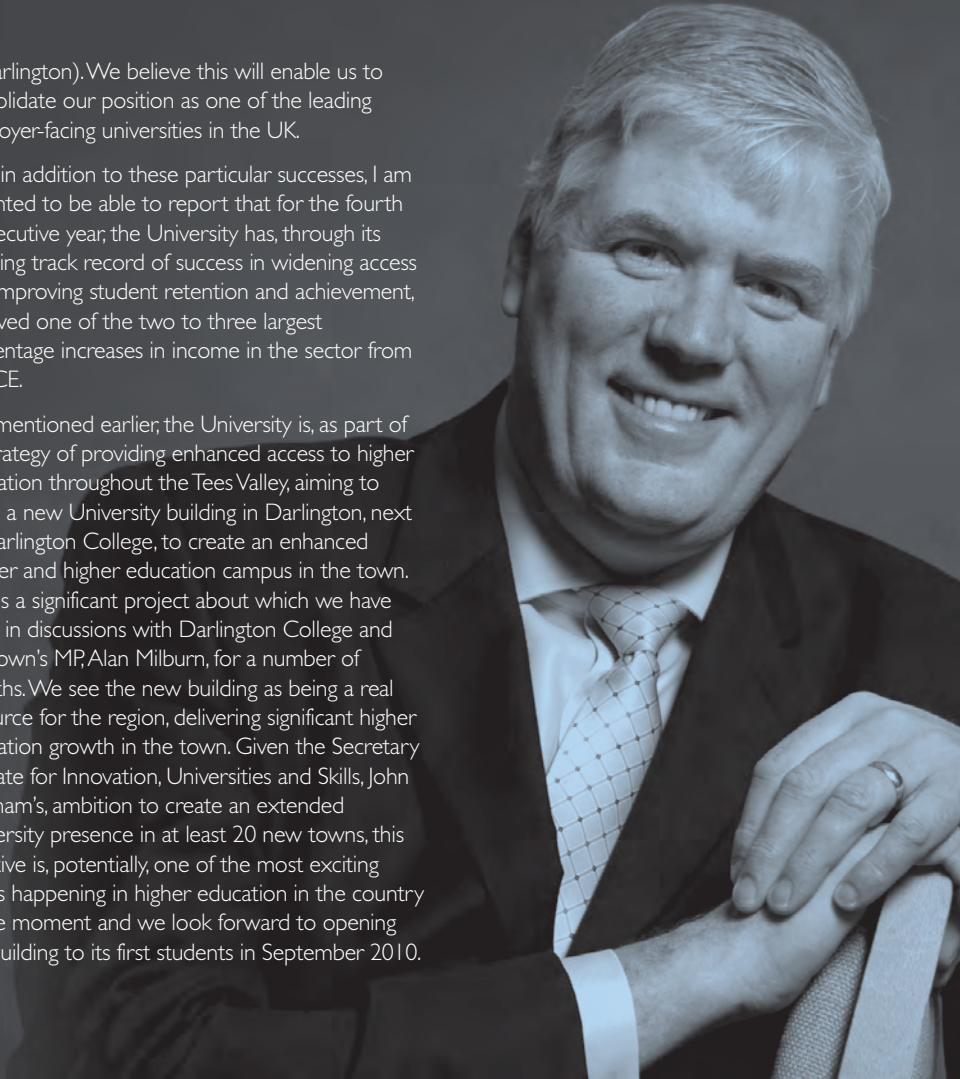
In addition, the University has received £1.4m from the Regional Development Agency to support the further development of the University's leading role in the region's DigitalCity regeneration project – a partnership project between the University, Middlesbrough Council and One NorthEast, which aims to create up to 210 new jobs and 90 companies within three years.

These successful bids will enable the University to work with a range of employers across a number of targeted areas including the process industries, the digital technology sector and cross-sectoral work in the area of leadership (linked to the development of a new physical University presence

in Darlington). We believe this will enable us to consolidate our position as one of the leading employer-facing universities in the UK.

And, in addition to these particular successes, I am delighted to be able to report that for the fourth consecutive year, the University has, through its ongoing track record of success in widening access and improving student retention and achievement, received one of the two to three largest percentage increases in income in the sector from HEFCE.

As I mentioned earlier, the University is, as part of its strategy of providing enhanced access to higher education throughout the Tees Valley, aiming to open a new University building in Darlington, next to Darlington College, to create an enhanced further and higher education campus in the town. This is a significant project about which we have been in discussions with Darlington College and the town's MP, Alan Milburn, for a number of months. We see the new building as being a real resource for the region, delivering significant higher education growth in the town. Given the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, John Denham's, ambition to create an extended University presence in at least 20 new towns, this initiative is, potentially, one of the most exciting things happening in higher education in the country at the moment and we look forward to opening the building to its first students in September 2010.



universe

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Cover shows University of Teesside lecturer and PhD student Alex Gillett.

The first academic awards ceremony has been held in Darlington for students who achieved a University of Teesside award from Darlington College. The ceremony was held in the Dolphin Centre, with an academic procession through the town before the awards. The procession, pictured, included Darlington's MP, Alan Milburn, and the Mayor, Councillor Marian Swift. Graduates received their awards from the University's Chancellor, Lord Sawyer of Darlington.



Darlington graduates

celebrate their University success

The University of Teesside has long-established links with Darlington College. Last year it opened a £2m Centre within the College. The Centre provides a number of courses including professional management and business, education, journalism and digital media, engineering, construction management, early years and access to health. There are further plans to open a free-standing University building next to the College to create an enhanced further and higher education campus.

Lord Sawyer awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration to Alasdair MacConachie OBE, FRSA, DL, pictured.

Alasdair MacConachie's achievements include:

- **the holder of the OBE for services to Darlington**
- **Chair of the Board of St Teresa's Hospice, Darlington**
- **Vice-Lord Lieutenant of County Durham**
- **Chair of the Darlington Strategic Partnership**
- **Chairman of Durham School's Board of Governors**
- **the longstanding Chair of Darlington College's Board of Governors**
- **a career as a very successful local businessman.**

Alasdair MacConachie said, 'I am immensely privileged having watched the tremendous progress made by the University of Teesside in recent years, particularly through its links with Darlington College. I am thrilled to be involved with the University in this way and grateful to them for bestowing this Honorary Doctorate.'



Employer engagement gets vote of confidence

Higher education funding chiefs have given a major vote of confidence to Teesside's strategy to become one of the country's leading business-facing universities.

A £5.13m grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) will help the University deliver a significant institutional change programme designed to enable 3,000 employees take advantage of new higher education and learning opportunities.

The initial £5.13m award – one of the biggest awards to any university to support employer engagement – will be supplemented by another £4.5m to support additional student numbers and a further £3.3m contribution expected from employers to support the programmes over the next three years.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Graham Henderson, said, 'This is a £13m vote of confidence in our strategy to become a leading employer-facing university'.

Speaking to *The Guardian* newspaper, the Vice-Chancellor, said, 'We have some very talented and committed staff here, with a strong track record of working with employers'.

Professor Henderson explained that the investment will allow the University to increase its focus on giving employers the customised education and training packages they need to improve staff skills and qualifications. That will, in turn, make them more competitive.

The HEFCE announcement follows the visit to Teesside by the Funding Council's Chief Executive, Professor David Eastwood, where he told the Conference of Northern Universities of the Funding Council's plans to provide at least £105m over the next three years to support the development of courses where the cost is jointly shared by the individual, the state and the employer.

Professor Eastwood believes this will create 5,000 new places part-funded by employers by 2008-09, with the target raised to at least 10,000 new entrants in 2009-10 and a further 20,000 in 2010-11. Teesside's share is 3,000 employees on university programmes, part-funded by employers, over the next three years.

Professor Eastwood said Teesside was a good place to focus on what 'employer engagement' means in a modern setting, pointing to examples such as:

- the Department of Health-funded digital X-ray management training programme with Agfa, the camera film company
- the modular management training programme for Sainsbury's and its Bells convenience stores
- the foundation degree courses developed with Cleveland Police and West Mercia Constabulary.

Professor Cliff Allan, Teesside's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), is among the driving forces behind the employer engagement strategy. He said, 'We'll be working with employers on a wide range of professional development programmes, particularly in leadership and management, and developing new courses with process industry partners to keep workforce skills and qualifications at the cutting edge.'

Pictured left to right, from NEMS Market Research, Graeme Coyle, Louise Caswell and Nicola Moore.



Geoff Siggins is Director of NEMS Market Research in Billingham. When he heard about the University of Teesside's Foundation Degree (FD) in Leadership and Management, he thought the course would be ideal for three of his newly-appointed middle managers, Graeme Coyle, Louise Caswell and Nicola Moore. The FD is a collaboration between the University and the NorthEast Chamber of Commerce and just one successful example of the University's partnerships with employers.

Geoff oversees a staff of 100 and said, 'All three were relatively inexperienced in terms of their managerial roles and Graeme was totally new to people management. I'm always on the look out for new, long-term training opportunities for my staff, rather than short courses.

'I liked the mix of elements, they're a good fit for staff development and developing the individual. I can already see a noticeable difference in the way the team is thinking about things and how it's improving.

Teesside

becomes a Media Academy

The University of Teesside has achieved Media Academy status to become part of the Skillset Media Academy network. The network is a national creative grouping of colleges and universities that will work with industry in developing innovative concepts and media content for the future.

The network has been devised by Skillset – the UK Sector Skills Council for the Audio Visual Industries. It is made up of 17 Academies, drawing together education partnerships from 43 colleges and universities across the UK. Skillset initially received bids from over 140 educational institutions for Academy status.

Cliff Allan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), said, 'As a leading employer-facing University we are delighted to become a Media Academy. This status is fitting recognition of the extensive range of courses the University offers to the media industry. Through the Media Academy we will build on

our knowledge and relationships with the industry to ensure that our students have relevant skills and education to meet the needs of this very important sector in the UK economy.

'Our ambition over the next five years, through the DigitalCity partnership with Middlesbrough Council and One NorthEast, is to develop digital media provision in the North East of England as a key attractor for industry and a generator of new employment and business opportunities. The Skillset Academy will play a hugely-important role in helping us achieve this.'

All institutions in the network are already centres of excellence in television production and interactive media.

This is the first attempt anywhere in the world to harness collaborative partnerships between the media industries and academic institutions.



Sport has an increasingly high profile at the University of Teesside. Here, **UNiverse** profiles just some of the University's diverse sporting developments.

Rower Darren aims for 2012



A sporting accident has led to a new passion for world-class rowing for Teesside Sports Therapy lecturer Darren Cooper. And he now has the potential to represent the UK in the 2012 Olympics.

Darren, 25, is originally from Horsham, near Brighton. He is a Teesside BSc (Hons) and MSc graduate and is continuing with postgraduate study at the University. In 2006 he sustained a knee injury after a running activity with his students. Darren said, 'I ruptured the tendon below my knee cap. Following rehabilitation, I couldn't run anymore and take part in my previous sports of basketball and rugby.'

At the time, Darren was living with students who were keen rowers so he joined them at the University's Water Sports Centre. He enjoyed rowing so much that he started regular training where he met Nathan Adams, a World Class Start programme coach. This programme is run by the Amateur Rowing Association to produce rowers of gold medal standard. Darren was tested for the programme and accepted

onto it, progressing rapidly to one of the higher-level training groups.

In January Darren attended a ten-day World Class Start/GB training camp in France. Later this year he takes part in major rowing events, including the Henley Royal Regatta and National Championships. The tough training schedule involves 17 training sessions a week of two to three hours each time, involving weights and rowing up to 200km. His diet now requires a daily intake of up to 7,000 calories.

Darren said, 'I've gone from recreational rowing to potentially representing Great Britain in a very short space of time. There are only 70 rowers on the World Class Start programme in the UK. If I get to take part in 2012 that will be phenomenal.'

A cutting edge sporting resource

A new sport science consultancy for staff, students and the public is now available at the University. The consultancy is based in the Olympia Building and will help enhance performance in a range of sports. It provides access to over 30 members of University staff who can offer their expertise in various specialist areas, such as sports psychology and physiology.

Dr Peter Olsen, Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise, is the consultancy's Director. He said, 'This is a cutting-edge resource. We can undertake a needs analysis with athletes to assess what they require in terms of sport science support. Then we develop a sport-specific package, which is holistic and includes vital components like nutrition.'

For more information contact Dr Olsen on 01642 384267, email p.olsen@tees.ac.uk, or Darren Paul, call 01642 382310, email d.paul@tees.ac.uk.

University features in Olympics Guide for 2012

The University of Teesside has been selected to appear in the *Training Camp Guide* for the 2012 Olympics. The *Guide* will feature the University's £6.5m Olympia Building, pictured, as a possible venue for table tennis training and the Tees Barrage facility for canoeing, which the University supports.

The *Training Camp Guide* will first be published at the Beijing Games, when all participating Olympic nations will learn about the University's facilities and the other 18 North East training venues.

Only those facilities of the highest standard were picked as potential training camps for athletes. Technical criteria for the camps include good sports science facilities, the ability to offer high-quality sports training facilities, experience of hosting elite teams,

comfortable but affordable accommodation, the ability to offer appropriate catering, good transport links and access to a good hospital.

Mark Hawkings, Head of Sport and Recreation at the University, said, 'The University's inclusion in the *Guide* builds upon our increasing reputation in sport and hosting international events at the institution. We will be working closely with partners at Ormesby Table Tennis Club in Middlesbrough to attempt to bring a prestigious country to Teesside'.

Professor Graham Henderson, University of Teesside Vice-Chancellor, said, 'I am delighted that the University has been recognised to appear in this *Guide*. The University has invested heavily in sport and it is extremely pleasing that our facilities will be showcased in this way at the Beijing Olympics'.



Middlesbrough FC transforms its soccer training

Satellite technology is playing a key role in a joint sport performance project between the University and Middlesbrough Football Club. Since 2006 the Club has been working with the University to explore the use of global positioning satellite (GPS) technology to evaluate players' performance.

During training sessions players wear a GPS device in a harness between their shoulder blades. Data from the device allows players' work volume and intensity to be computed. Results are presented in terms of movement speed and distances covered. This data is then compared with the match performance data and used to appraise objectively the effectiveness of training. Middlesbrough was the first club in the UK to buy GPS technology for this purpose.

Matt Portas, Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise, who works on the project, has delivered presentations at international conferences about the findings. He said, 'This work is very exciting. Until now, clubs and coaches had to rely on heart rate and players' perceptions for feedback on the intensity of training sessions. Now we can use the GPS data to manipulate training drills so they are match specific or more accurately meet the stated physical goals of training.

'The technology has other applications too, such as player rehabilitation, where training loads and exposure can be carefully controlled and progressively increased. Two other UK clubs, Chelsea and Glasgow Celtic, have now bought GPS. And it has potential for other sports, including athletics and orienteering'.

Pictured, Middlesbrough FC's Riverside Stadium.



Prestigious prize for Teesside Professor

A Teesside professor has been awarded a prestigious international prize previously won by some of the biggest names in the computing world.

Professor Alan Clements, 59, is the first European academic to win the coveted Taylor L Booth Education Award. It is the highest international award in computer science education.

Professor Clements won the Award for his texts on computing, work on curriculum development and for running an international computing competition. The Award comes from the internationally-renowned IEEE Computer Society and consists of a bronze medal and a \$5,000 honorarium.

He said, 'I am delighted to have won this Award. I would never have won without the support and resources of both the University and the School of Computing. They have allowed me to develop my talents in computer science education. If the University hadn't given me the opportunity to do this, I wouldn't be where I am today.'

He has added to this achievement through his recent appointment as a visiting professor to the University of Information Sciences in Havana, Cuba, the first western academic to be awarded this accolade. He was invited to visit the Cuban University by one of their academics, Tomás López Jiménez, who was aware of Alan's judging role on the IEEE Computer Society competition. Due to the US boycott, Cuban institutions are able to take part in the competition but not allowed to win a prize.

Professor Clements holds the Visiting Professorship until 2010. He has recently returned from lecturing at the Cuban institution and said, 'It is an exciting opportunity to be working in a developing country which has overcome many problems. The staff are incredibly young, very, very enthusiastic and keen to make contacts with British and European organisations and companies.'



Animated rats spotlighted at Animex

This year's Animex, the University's annual International Festival of Animation & Computer Games, reached its finale with a talk entitled 'The Science and Art of *Ratatouille*'. The talk was delivered to a packed audience by Mark Walsh, Supervising Animator for *Ratatouille*, and Stuart Sumida, Professor of Biology at California State University.

Professor Sumida has provided advice on the movement and physiology of animals to numerous big-screen successes including *Beauty and The Beast*, *The Lion King*, *Scooby-Doo* and *Ratatouille*. The talk described their collaboration on *Ratatouille*, the 2007 box office hit which received this year's Oscar for Best Animated Feature.

Mark Walsh, from Pixar Animation Studios in California, was also Directing Animator on *Finding Nemo* and part of the animation team behind *The Incredibles*. He said, 'I get really excited when I come to Animex. It's really invigorating to talk to the students and see their passion for what they're doing. I get a real energy charge here which I take back to my work.'

Professor Sumida added, 'Coming to Animex, you get to meet world-class personalities from famous studios like Disney and Pixar. When you speak to people in the States about entertainment in the UK, they think London. But there is talent in unexpected places, like here on Teesside, and I love seeing that. Animex is genuinely friendly, a terrific environment.'

Animex will celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2009.

Pictured left to right with *Ratatouille* toys, Stuart Sumida and Mark Walsh.



Paul's pirate project on display

A small pirate town has been built in the centre of Middlesbrough. This town, however, is of the cyber variety. It was part of the final-year project by Teesside computing student Paul Haynes.

Paul's pirate project was one of many to be displayed at the University's annual ExpoTees exhibition, which showcased the final-year projects of all students from the School of Computing.

Paul, 24, from Wolvey, near Coventry, is on the BA (Hons) Creative Digital Media. His project created a new level for an existing computer game, *Unreal Tournament 3*. Paul said, 'I've combined level design with new-found skills in modelling; it's really got my imagination going. I chose the pirate town theme as it's a bit different from the usual

route that players of this computer game would explore.

'I devised an area known as a map for the game players which consists of a small pirate town. Within that map are 3D representations or models, ranging from buildings, stone ruins, palm trees and a shipwreck on the beach. There's a big difference between playing a computer game and creating your own material to make your own environment. When I graduate I'd like to work in the computer games industry, either in the UK or internationally.'



Michael is a fine DigitalCity Fellow

Michael Wright is among graduates who have received support to nurture their creative ideas as DigitalCity Fellows.

The University's Fellowship programme offers bursaries, business and skills training, and support and mentoring from industry specialists, with the aim of helping to keep creative entrepreneurs in the North East.

Michael, a Fine Art graduate, is one of a growing number of DigitalCity Fellows who have received help to develop commercially-viable portfolios or business ideas.

He said, 'The Fellowship experience certainly helped me to develop my attitudes as to how I need to work. It's necessary to be focused from the outset and to set ambitious but achievable objectives.'

His paintings featured in the DigitalCity Fellows' exhibition in the University's Phoenix Building, which displayed a diverse range work from art installations to games mastery.

Michael said, 'The people at DigitalCity make available a raft of support on issues such as business planning and start up, finance,

marketing and legislation, and more specific issues such as copyright.'

Potential new Fellows can apply in three categories – Junior Fellowships focus on basic idea and skill development, Innovation Fellowships for individuals or teams developing an idea or using a new technology and

Creative Fellowships, for teams working from concept to developing new products.

For more information call 01642 383332, email scott@thedigitalcity.org or cheryl@thedigitalcity.org or check the web site www.idi-uk.org.



CBI Director General speaks at Teesside



Picture supplied by CBI

In a major event for the University, Richard Lambert, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), headlined as this year's guest speaker at the Teesside Business School lecture. In his role as editor of the *Financial Times*, Richard was a key commentator on the economic impact of the break up of ICI on the UK economy. He expressed his delight in revisiting Teesside during this period of economic resurgence. His lecture focused on the role of globalisation in shaping the fortunes of the Tees Valley. He also explored the importance of the CBI's work in ensuring that the UK offers an attractive fiscal and regulatory environment for international and indigenous investors.

Richard highlighted the critical role higher-level skills played in the UK's international competitiveness and welcomed the

University's collaboration with employers to ensure that the Teesside skills base is fit for the future.

Alastair Thomson, Dean of Teesside Business School, said, 'The work we do at Teesside Business School is widely recognised in the region. But it's not every day that the Director General of the CBI comes to talk to us. It couldn't come at a better time for Teesside Business School, with a permanent senior management team soon to be in post, the Strategic Development Fund bid providing significant new resources for the School to expand its workforce development agenda and our prospects higher than they have been for some time. To have Richard Lambert here to help us relaunch the Business School and everything we stand for is a great privilege.'

International research group expands its investigations

The University has played a major part in the formation of a new international research group. The International Investigative Interviewing Research Group (iIRG) aims to bring together academics and practitioners who wish to study and carry out research into investigative interviewing of victims, witnesses and crime suspects. It was set up by Gavin Oxburgh, Senior Lecturer in Forensic Psychology, and Trond Myklebust, Detective Chief Inspector and Academic Researcher from the Norwegian Police University College in Oslo (NPUC).

Earlier this year a formal agreement was signed between the University and NPUC. Gavin, pictured right, worked for the Royal Air Force Police for 22 years before joining the University. He said, 'The whole aim of the

Group is to share good practice in this highly-specialist area. It will be an invaluable resource for many academics and practitioners including psychologists, police officers, criminologists and linguists. The iIRG has many world-renowned members in the area including Professors Ray Bull and Michael Lamb, Dr Becky Milne and Dr Georgina Heydon.

'NPUC is an extremely-useful link for Teesside as they offer police education like our foundation degree, only their trainee police officers complete a three-year bachelor's degree, so we can share research in police training. Long term, we want to get more research published and attract more funding.'

The Group was set up following a research seminar at the University last year. So far it has over 100 members from across the world, including the USA, Canada, New

Zealand, Australia and Japan. Research areas include interviewing sex offenders, terrorists, violent offenders, vulnerable and intimidated witnesses, and victims of crime.

The Group recently held its first international conference, which attracted more than 100 delegates. Details can be found on the University website at www.tees.ac.uk/iirg



High-achieving alumni make their returns

Two of the University's successful graduates recently visited Teesside.

Marek Reichman

Marek works in his dream job as Director of Design for the car manufacturer Aston Martin, a company voted the coolest UK brand in both 2006 and 2007. His design skills were honed in the Tees Valley, as he graduated from the University's predecessor Teesside Polytechnic in 1989 with a first-class BA (Hons) Industrial Design.

The 42-year-old said, 'My course was inspirational, it made you go back to basics and think about what problem-solving skills you needed to use as a designer. I've applied these ideas throughout my design career.'

Marek has maintained his links with the University and was awarded an Honorary Master of Science degree in 2006. More recently, he delivered a public lecture at

Teesside, where he discussed new philosophies in contemporary car design, and met the next generation of design talent when he spoke to current undergraduates, pictured right.

Marek added, 'Design comes out of a passion for beautiful objects and getting along with your colleagues who enjoy what they do. Mentoring is also important, the youngest designers won't win the competitions but you need to encourage them so they get the chance to mature their ideas and grow.'

His talents have been viewed by millions of cinema goers worldwide, as Marek designed the DBS car for Daniel Craig's debut as James Bond in *Casino Royale*. When designing Bond's car Marek spent a day researching with Daniel Craig and saw some of the location filming in Prague and the UK.



Roger Shannon

Roger Shannon graduated from Teesside Polytechnic in 1976 with a BA (Hons) Humanities. He went on to enjoy a very successful career in the British film industry, working as a producer, executive producer, financier, Film Festival Director, writer and broadcaster.

He has worked with a range of big-screen British acting talent, such as Bill Nighy, Rita Tushingham, Ricky Tomlinson and Samantha Morton. Some of his films, including *Butterfly Kiss*, *Under the Skin* and *Beautiful People*, have won awards at major international film festivals.

Roger recently returned to Teesside to speak about his film career and tour the University campus. Roger, 55, is now Professor of Film

and Television at Edge Hill University. He came to Teesside in 1973 from Liverpool and said, 'In some ways I started my career here. I set up a film society and made some long-term professional contacts with a social group of film-makers in Newcastle, some of whom went on to form Amber films.'

'I very much took to the North East as a whole. The whole town has changed now, the mima art gallery is a fantastic development, really inspiring. I'm also impressed by the changed campus; it's much bigger than I thought. I wanted to study English and not only did I do that but the course propelled me into areas that sent me on my way.'

Roger is pictured outside the University's £10m Athena Building.



A new dental direction for Teesside

A new dental care facility is to open at the University in April 2010. The education and clinical facility will not only train dental professionals of the future, but also provide on-site dental care to the general public.



The facility was commissioned by the local Primary Care Trusts and the North East Strategic Health Authority. They jointly proposed the new facility to help address the dental-care shortage in the local population and enhance their existing dental-care provision.

Training will be provided by the University's School of Health & Social Care for dental technicians, orthodontists and nurses in accredited programmes ranging from certificate to degree level. It is anticipated there will be collaboration with Newcastle University's Dental School. The facility will have its own dentist who will treat local patients.

Professor Paul Keane, Dean of the School of Health & Social Care, said, 'This is an excellent development as the University continues to

endorse its commitment to meeting the needs of employers and service users. When the service is fully operational it can be accessed by members of the public as patients and endorses the University's commitment to enhancing community well-being.

'We're already working very closely with dental care advisers in the area with regard to the specific requirements of this new facility. We've also visited the University of Portsmouth to see how they operate a similar facility.'

The facility will be based in new purpose-built accommodation on the University's campus. Training programmes of different lengths will start in April 2010, for example the orthodontist's course is at degree level. Initially there will be ten students on each of the courses.

Hundreds take pledge for a 'better life'

A research project led by the University of Teesside's Centre for Food, Physical Activity and Obesity is on target to recruit 1,000 volunteers.



Over 900 volunteers have joined the 'Get a Better Life' project by making two pledges – a small change to their diet either linked to reducing fat intake or increasing fruit and vegetable intake, and one small change to their physical activity levels.

The aim is to involve 1,000 Teessiders during 2008 and discover whether a community challenge project can help people living in one of the UK's capitals of obesity to improve their health.

The £500,000 research project for the Food Standards Agency is supported by the *Evening Gazette* newspaper and Middlesbrough NHS Primary Care Trust. Volunteers are asked to keep records during the year which will then be analysed by the Teesside research team.

Professor Carolyn Summerbell, joint head of the University of Teesside's Centre for Food, Physical Activity and Obesity, said, 'The campaign incorporates many of the targets set out in the government's obesity strategy and is important to the Tees Valley because we are failing the fitness test on levels of obesity and smoking.'

Frances Hillier, 'Get a Better Life' project manager, pictured, said, 'We are extremely pleased that so many people have signed up to the campaign. Health is obviously a very important issue to people living in the Tees Valley and we appreciate the time and effort that volunteers have made. We wish them every success with their pledges.'

Peter Heywood, Director of Public Health for Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust and Middlesbrough Council, added, 'This is an ambitious project across Teesside specifically looking at whether making a pledge to change your own lifestyle really makes a difference.'

For more information visit www.getabetterlifecampaign.co.uk/

Emma's memories of Mo

In 1998 Mo Mowlam, then Redcar MP and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, officially opened the University's Learning Resource Centre (LRC).

Guests included local primary school pupils from Middlesbrough. One of those pupils, Emma Jones, is now a Teesside student and she joined the celebrations for the LRC's tenth anniversary.

Emma, 21, from Middlesbrough, pictured, is a third-year BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance student. Back in 1998, she was among children from both her own school, St Thomas More, and Whinney Banks Junior School who were invited to the LRC opening.

They were invited as pupils from both schools organised an exhibition which updated the research of Lady Florence Bell's 1907 book *At The Works*. This text explored the lives of iron workers and a new edition was published by the University in 1998. Emma was among the children who presented a copy to Mo Mowlam. She has

fond memories of the building being opened by Mo, who died in 2005.

Emma said, 'I remember this very important lady shaking my hand and asking me about a project we had been working on about Lady Bell. I was very nervous speaking to her. Also, I can remember thinking how big the building was. And now I'm using the library as a student, it's really useful.'

A special lecture to celebrate the LRC's tenth anniversary also took place, by popular author and public speaker Gervase Phinn.



Teesside is the top scoring modern university



Teesside is the UK's top scoring modern university, according to a national student survey, which ranks everything from teaching quality to social life.

The poll, commissioned for the first time by *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, surveyed more than 22,000 full-time undergraduates across the UK. Teesside was the top scoring modern university in the country and joint 18th overall in the poll. In the North East, Teesside and Durham were joint top universities.

Students at 106 higher education institutions were included in the survey. Undergraduates rated their universities and colleges of higher education on 21 categories chosen by the students themselves.

Teesside scored best for:

- High-quality facilities
- Good students' union
- Centralised/convenient facilities
- Good library and library opening hours
- I would recommend my University to a friend.

Professor Graham Henderson, University Vice-Chancellor, said, 'I am absolutely delighted with this ranking. It is an excellent reflection of the commitment of the whole University community. It also reflects on the investment we have made in our campus and the outstanding learning and support services we provide for our students.'

News round-up

From performing arts to the environment

A wide range of new courses is on offer at the University from September 2008.

Among new courses from the University's School of Arts & Media are the BA (Hons) Decorative Arts*, BA (Hons) Dance in the Community* and BA (Hons) Performance for Live and Recorded Media*.

The University's School of Arts & Media and School of Science & Technology are also joining forces for ground-breaking new programmes suitable for those wanting to play a part in tackling issues such as pollution, ecological damage and climate change.

Courses in the programme include the BSc (Hons) Environmental Sustainability*, BSc (Hons) Sustainable Technology*, BSc (Hons) Sustainable Design and Technology* and BA (Hons) Design for Sustainable Futures*.

The University's School of Computing's portfolio includes the following: BSc (Hons) Business Systems Design, BSc (Hons) Software Development, BA (Hons) Web and Multimedia Design, BA (Hons) Computer

Character Animation*, BSc (Hons) Computer Networks* and BSc (Hons) Games Graphics Programming*.

The University's School of Social Sciences & Law is offering the MSc Contemporary Issues in Drug Use and BSc (Hons) Death Investigation.

Helen Caswell, University of Teesside Marketing Manager, said, 'There's a whole world of new opportunities at Teesside this year; now we've added to our range of ground-breaking courses.

'Look at our huge investment in campus facilities over the last few years and our top feedback from students and you can see why now is such an exciting time to be studying at Teesside.'

For more information about all courses at the University of Teesside check the University's website at www.tees.ac.uk or call 01642 218121 or email registry@tees.ac.uk.

* Course is subject to approval

Open Days

The University will be hosting three summer Open Days for potential applicants and their families.

The first two take place on **Thursday 19 June 10am to 4pm** and on **Saturday 21 June 11am to 2pm**.

The final summer Open Day is on **Saturday 16 August 10am-3pm**, tailored towards prospective autumn 2008 entry applicants.

For further information call the Schools & Colleges Partnership Team on 01642 342275 or email scl@tees.ac.uk.

Teesside scores highly in an animated league

The University has soared into the top 20 of a global animation league.

The prestigious international magazine for 3D artists, *3D World*, has launched its first Computer Generated Imaging (CGI) Global Ivy League. The League lists the world's top 20 animation schools and placed Teesside joint 15th in the world and joint fourth in the UK.



Slim 'n' Jim courtesy of Reuben Fleming and Owen Williams, MA Computer Animation

Top Link

Former Commonwealth and European 4x400m gold medallist Jared Deacon recently visited the University and spoke to local teenagers at the Top Link Youth Sport conference.

Jared works as a coach for the English Institute of Sport in Gateshead and has previously been named UK Athletics Coach of the Year for his work as a voluntary athletics coach in the North East.

Jared is studying part time at Teesside for a Master of Science in Sport and Exercise. He spoke to the visiting teens about the importance of coaching.

Pictured left to right, Jared Deacon, Emma Surrey, BSc (Hons) Sports Therapy student and Lewis Harvey from Macmillan College.



England/Africa partnership leads to new policing degree

The University of Teesside has helped to reshape police training in Rwanda, which has undergone a massive shift compared to its military-focused past. Police officers now enrol on a four-year honours degree in professional policing, delivered by the Kigali Institute of Education (KIE) with the Rwandan National Police. The course evolved through links with the University of Teesside's police training and staff here will also act as external examiners on the Rwandan degree.

The proposal to transform Rwandan police training began with discussions between Professor Roger Sapsford from the University of Rwanda and Cyprian Gatete, head of training for the Rwandan national police. Professor Sapsford previously lectured in psychology at Teesside. He told the Rwandan head of training about the University's two foundation degrees in policing with Cleveland and West Mercia forces.

Following this, a joint bid was devised by Steve Taylor, then a Teesside sociology lecturer, together with the University of Rwanda and KIE. This project, entitled the England/Africa Partnership in Higher Education, built towards degree-level police training in Rwanda.

Emma Martin and Pauline Ramshaw, both senior lecturers in law at Teesside, will be external examiners on the degree, which was recently launched in a huge state event. Emma, pictured right, said, 'The Rwandan degree is a big change in the way the police training and education is delivered; it's what they need for the 21st century'.

Pauline, pictured left, added, 'The new programme will provide the opportunity for police officers to acquire a wider insight into social and political issues and the interpersonal dynamics of communities within a country that has emerged only comparatively recently from a period of deadly intergroup conflict and is rebuilding its economy and civil society'.



Teesside adapts to a changing world

The nature of international education is changing and increasing numbers of UK, USA and Australian institutions are delivering courses across the globe, a process referred to as transnational education (TNE). The University has responded to this changing environment by broadening and developing its international programmes and activities globally.

Dr Keith Brown, Director of the University's Centre for International Development, recently visited Singapore to explore the possibility of establishing Teesside links in four higher education institutions.

In addition to Singapore, Keith went to Malaysia, accompanied by the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Graham Henderson. They visited SEGi, one of Malaysia's largest private colleges, pictured right.

Teesside and SEGi already collaborate on two degrees and they aimed to add more.

While in Malaysia, Professor Henderson signed a memorandum of understanding with a software company, DKSH E2E Technologies Sdn Bhd. This will enable the University to offer its programmes in Malaysia incorporating DKSH E2E's state-of-the-art software and DKSH will guarantee work placements to Teesside students in Malaysia. Keith believes that this is one of, or maybe the first of, such tie-ups with industrial partners in Malaysia, giving employment skills to Teesside graduates.

The University's School of Health & Social Care already runs several programmes at the Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Malaysia's largest public university. The Vice-Chancellor led a delegation which included Professor Paul Keane, Dean of the School of Health & Social Care. They met with the UiTM's

management to look at ways of extending the partnership.

The University also set up a regional office in Malaysia last year. The Malaysian team provides advice to students who are planning to come to Teesside and gives extensive support to TNE partners in the region.





Band's success set to erupt

A rock band featuring Teesside lecturer Alex Gillett is celebrating glowing praise from the national music press.

The Eruptors – featuring the part-time Business School lecturer on guitar – are celebrating the release of their first album *Bad Time To Be Having a Good Time*.

The album, released through independent record label Maniac Squat, earned instant critical praise, with *Kerrang!* magazine calling it 'a turbo-injected, ozone-burning blast of garage-rock'.

Alex, 30, from Nunthorpe, has achieved two degrees from the University, a BA (Hons)

Business Studies and an MSc Marketing Management and is currently completing a Business PhD, so has drawn on his own expertise to help promote the band.

He said, 'It's taken a lot of effort, but has been worth every ounce of energy. Teesside Business School has always been supportive and enabled me to pursue my music career around the work that I do here.'

Find out more about the band at www.myspace.com/eruptors

Alex Gillett is pictured lecturing in the University's Business School, in contrast to his Eruptors pose on the front page!

Heritage Fund Award opens the Archive

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded £250,000 to a joint archival project between the University and Teesside Archives. The British Steel Collection was gifted to Teesside Archives in the 1990s and remained unexplored due to a lack of resources until an HLF funding bid was put together last year by the University and the Archives. The project started in April 2008 and will last three years.

Included in the British Steel Collection are the original plans of the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge, and images showing the construction of the Forth Road Bridge in Scotland, the Auckland Harbour Bridge in New Zealand

and the Bangkok Memorial Bridge in Thailand. In total, the Collection contains over 600 feet of unsorted material drawn from over 40 iron and steel companies active in the Teesside area between 1840 and 1980. This material has until now been virtually inaccessible to the public.

The HLF grant will allow the Collection to be explored, conserved and catalogued and provide a vast variety of sources for the general public.

Dr Joan Heggie from the University of Teesside, Director of the British Steel Archive Project, is pictured with the Archive and said, 'This is a wonderful boost for an important



project. This Collection belongs to the people of the Tees Valley and tells the story of how the iron and steel industries shaped the growth of Teesside.'

For more information, go to, www.britishsteelcollection.org.uk

This publication is available in alternative formats on request. Please contact Stephen Laing on **01642 342962** or email s.laing@tees.ac.uk.

All details correct at time of publication.

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