

universe

magazine

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welcome

from Professor Graham Henderson
Vice-Chancellor

As we look forward to the start of the new academic session, the University can reflect on yet another successful year, during which it consolidated its position as one of the UK's leading institutions on a number of fronts. These include raising aspirations and widening participation, employer engagement, developing effective partnerships for the delivery of higher education in a further education (FE) setting and having a transformational impact upon the community of which we are a part. Our achievements, and growing recognition for those achievements, have given us the confidence to set ourselves an ambitious agenda for future development.

Our new Athena Building, recently opened by John Denham, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and our two other new buildings (the Phoenix, home to the Institute of Digital Innovation, and the newly-refurbished Cook Building with its focus on design education), have significantly enhanced the quality of our learning environment and provided a strong platform for future developments in digital arts and media. And, following the achievement of another strong financial surplus, the University is in good shape to press ahead with its plans for yet further new investment in its campus and the supporting learning environment. Indeed, we

already have short-term plans for two further new buildings on campus and work is about to begin on the first of those buildings to support our growing portfolio of work in health and sport and a new initiative relating to the training of dental health professionals.

The University is however also diversifying its offerings off campus and overseas through the development of physical University of Teesside centres in each of its partner FE colleges and the establishment of University offices in key locations overseas, such that we already have offices in India and Malaysia and are moving towards establishing a regional office in China.

But we are not only investing in bricks and mortar. Over the past few months the University has announced 68 new staff posts across a range of academic schools and departments. These appointments, many at senior level, make a clear statement in the confidence that the University has in supporting its plans for growth.

With respect to our academic work, the University is pushing ahead on a number of fronts, not least in relation to our work with employers and the development of its overseas activities through the expansion of both its direct recruitment of international students to Teesside and the delivery of its courses in institutions globally.

This edition of UNiverse includes a number of examples of our collaborations with regional and national employers, such as those with the Military Police and West Mercia Police.

Chris Braithwaite, Chief Operating Officer for Wellstream International, the Tyneside-based manufacturer of pipes for the oil and gas industry, recently highlighted the University's engagement with business as 'outstanding and a model for all'. And we are actively pursuing a strategy of rapidly accelerating this employer-facing provision, to build on this growing reputation as one of the UK's leading 'employer-facing universities'.

Making learning relevant, flexible and accessible has become key to our success, and we look forward to using this philosophy as the basis for the continued expansion of both our activities and our reputation – regionally, nationally and internationally.



UNIVERSITY OF
TEESSIDE

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Front cover shows left to right, dancer Karen Stone and Heike Salzer, course leader for the BA (Hons) Dance in the Community.

Prestigious National Teaching Fellowships have been awarded to two lecturers at the University. The National Teaching Fellowship Scheme, run by the Higher Education Academy, recognises excellence in learning and teaching. Only 50 Fellowships have been awarded this year to academics from universities in England and Northern Ireland.

Double National Teaching Fellow Success

The two recipients at the University are **Dr Briony Oates**, Reader in Information Systems in the School of Computing, and **Paul van Schaik**, a Professor of Psychology in the School of Social Sciences & Law. In total, seven Fellowships have now been awarded to lecturing staff from the University.

Briony Oates achieved a BA (Hons) German from the University of Newcastle, followed by a Postgraduate Diploma in Careers Guidance from Newcastle Polytechnic. Briony moved into Human Resource Management and then enrolled at Teesside Polytechnic in 1987 on an MSc Information Technology, where she gained a distinction. Briony went on to join the lecturing staff.

She said, 'I've always been concerned about the use of IT by people and organisations. I'm interested in how IT can be used to make people's lives better and organisations more effective. Lecturing gives me the opportunity to keep on learning new things and help other people to learn about them.'

During her career Briony became frustrated by the lack of any textbook on research methods for computing students, so wrote her own. Published in 2006, her book *Researching Information Systems and Computing* has already been adopted by more than 30 universities in the UK, USA, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, India, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

The second of this year's Teaching Fellowships has been awarded to **Professor Paul van Schaik**, a teacher of psychological research methods and the psychology of human-

computer interaction. Paul is originally from Ede in the central Netherlands. He achieved his master's degree in Applied Cognitive Psychology at the University of Utrecht, followed by a PhD from the University of Twente. Paul moved to the UK in 1994 as a senior research officer at the University of Hertfordshire and then moved to Teesside in 1997.

One of Paul's main research interests is the psychology of computer use. Paul has developed a suite of highly-interactive computer-based psychological experiments to aid students' learning of experimental methods in psychology, research design and

data analysis. He also designed computer-based (electronic performance support) systems to help students complete their revision of research methods and to make better use of library resources.

Paul said, 'The Fellowship is a recognition of the work I've been doing for the last ten years at Teesside in the human use of computers and its funding will allow me to carry this work forward. The University has given me the opportunities to progress in my career: I came here as a senior lecturer and went on to reader and then professor. The students are committed and actually see the opportunities learning presents to them.'



Secretary of State opens innovative Athena Building

John Denham, the Secretary of State for the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills has officially opened the University's £10m Athena Building.

The Building is for the University's art, media, design and computing students, and is located on the corner of Southfield Road and Woodlands Road, Middlesbrough.

During his visit Mr Denham met the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Graham Henderson, and BA (Hons) Graphic Design student Helen Hurry. Helen, 21, from Fulwood, Preston has created an 8m by 6m mural displayed on the Athena's exterior. Her design was selected following a competition for design students, focusing on the theme of celebration.

Mr Denham said, 'I was delighted to open this new £10m state-of-the-art Building at the University of Teesside. It will enable the University to give students the skills that they need to get the high-paid jobs of the future. This innovative centre will unlock talent in the North East, by providing a high-tech environment in which students can gain the knowledge and expertise for crucial jobs in the creative industries.'

Pictured left to right, John Denham, Secretary of State for the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills, and Helen Hurry.



New Build for 2010



Visualisation of the new building supplied by CPMG architects.

The University is aiming to open a new four-storey £9.9m sport and health sciences building in summer 2010.

The building will be linked to the University's existing Centuria Building, off Victoria Road, Middlesbrough. It will include new dentistry training facilities, sports therapy facilities and

provide expansion for the successful School of Health & Social Care. A new multi-purpose forum space will connect the two buildings, providing a shared area in which the three disciplines can collaborate.

The new facilities will feature a series of laboratories, including specialist dental,

biomechanic and hydrotherapy facilities, and a number of general teaching rooms and academic offices. The building will also offer clinical facilities for the local community in both dental care and sports therapy, providing a much-needed community resource. The North-East Strategic Health Authority along with Stockton-on-Tees, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Primary Care Trusts will be contributing £1.3m towards the building's dental equipment.

The building will be designed by CPMG architects, who also designed the recently-completed Phoenix and Athena Buildings. CPMG is hoping to submit the project for planning approval in September 2008, and aims for completion in July 2010.

Professor Graham Henderson, University Vice-Chancellor, said, 'I am delighted to announce our plans for the new sport and health sciences building. It will not only support our fast-growing provision in health and social care and sports therapy but also allow us, for the first time, to deliver programmes for dental therapists and dental nurses. It will be a first-class addition both to the University campus and the whole Tees Valley. I am very much looking forward to seeing it rise on the Middlesbrough skyline and to welcoming our first students in 2010.'

From the Bard to the Business School

Dr Jenny Naish has joined the University's Business School as Assistant Dean for Partnerships. In this post Jenny will play a leading role in developing the School's work-based learning programmes, particularly at postgraduate level. Jenny is originally from London and grew up in Guildford. She is a graduate of Warwick and Middlesex Universities and her early roles included:

- Director of the Bear Garden's Museum in London (Shakespeare's Globe Theatre)
- Director of theatre and museum education for the former Inner London Education Authority
- a management consultant, specialising in professional and organisational development. Clients ranged from financial services in the Stock Exchange to strategic health authorities.

In 1991 Jenny moved into higher education, with the first of several roles at Middlesex University being to develop and implement work-based learning, where she initiated a major partnership with Marks and Spencer. Jenny was later awarded the first National Teaching Fellowship for this field. National Teaching Fellowships are awarded by the Higher Education Academy in recognition of excellence in teaching and learning.

Jenny's other roles at Middlesex were Head of International Development for work-based learning and finally Head of Accreditation.

She said, 'We'll be looking to significantly expand the programmes offered by the Business School to employers. This is a wonderful part of the country and the University is a friendly, welcoming place with huge potential.'



High-flying Teesside graduate entrepreneur goes global

Teesside graduate Richard Mairs is heading to the USA to learn from some of the world's best entrepreneurs.

Richard, 26, from Durham, has won a place on the prestigious Flying Start Global Entrepreneur Programme, offered each year by the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship in association with America's Kauffman Foundation.

The Global Entrepreneurs scheme is designed to give valuable knowledge and experience, and encourage successful UK graduates to develop strong and successful businesses.

Richard leaves for Kansas City in January to spend six months experiencing the very best support for graduate entrepreneurs that America has to offer. He will gain knowledge and develop links as a guest of the Kauffman Foundation, travelling to Harvard and Stanford Universities and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

During his stay he will also spend three months as an intern at one of the world's leading companies.

Richard said, 'For me, this is a great opportunity to hone and develop my creative ideas within a unique environment. I'm looking forward to benefiting from the support of my mentor at Teesside. I'll learn from top international experts in entrepreneurship and this will take my business ideas much further using the best advice available.'

Richard graduated from the University in 2003 with a BA (Hons) Creative Visualisation and in 2005 with an MSc Multimedia Applications.

He set up his company Gizmo Visual Studios – a technology and software development company which provides interactive solutions and consultancy to drive learning and creativity – after getting involved in the University Business School's New Entrepreneur Scheme. He has also just taken part in the DigitalCity Business Growth Scheme.



Richard was one of 75 most promising graduate entrepreneurs in England, recommended by their universities for this programme.

A Meteoric conference

The University first launched the Meteor scheme in 1999, a pilot initiative to inspire children from six Middlesbrough primary schools to think about the benefits of further and higher education. Through Meteor, Year 6 (aged 10 to 11) children visited the University for taster activities to gain a flavour of student life, were mentored by Teesside students and enjoyed their own 'mini-graduation' at Middlesbrough Town Hall.

Since the first pilot, Meteor has expanded massively and also now includes young people in secondary schools throughout Teesside. Each year the core of the Meteor programme is topped-up by 500 Year 6 pupils from 14 primary schools across the Tees Valley. The programme is now going to expand as a pilot into County Durham schools.

Meteor has won national awards for its pioneering work in reaching out to primary and secondary pupils, and the team recently hosted their first conference, sharing their expertise with other higher education institutions (HEIs). Funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the conference attracted



Pictured left to right, Viewley Hill pupils Ryan Swales, Rachel Pyle and Chantelle McCabe.

representatives from the following Universities: Aston, Birmingham, Birmingham City, Bradford, Bolton, Canterbury Christ Church, Leeds, Liverpool, Liverpool Hope, Middlesex, Wolverhampton and a representative from the Central School of Speech & Drama, University of London.

The conference followed several HEFCE-supported events to spread the word to HEIs about Meteor. Conference visitors took part in workshops and heard from the Meteor team about how to adapt the Meteor model for their own institutions. They also saw visits to the University by local primary and secondary school pupils.

Barbara Sherlock from Liverpool Hope University is part of their Widening Participation team, which is to expand its activities to primary pupils. She said, 'Teesside has shown the way ahead with Meteor, it's a wonderful opportunity to share their experience. What's so impressive is the total buy-in to the scheme from the local community, the school teachers, and the University's own students and academic staff.'

During the conference Year 6 pupils from Viewley Hill School in Middlesbrough were transformed into presenters in the University's radio station, UTRN (University of Teesside Radio Network).

Honorary & Professorial Public Lecture Series

The University's 2008-09 series of Honorary and Professorial Public Lectures are:

Honorary Graduate Anne Fine OBE, 'Writing for Adults and Children', on 12 November 2008. The County Durham-based writer received the Whitbread Award in 1993 and 1997, and was the Children's Laureate between 2001 and 2003. Her books have been translated into 26 languages and her 1987 novel *Madame Doubtfire* was adapted for the big screen as *Mrs Doubtfire*, starring Robin Williams. Her novel *Goggle-Eyes* was also adapted for BBC children's television.

Honorary Graduate, senior circuit judge and recorder of Middlesbrough, Judge Peter Fox, 'Current threats to the independence of the legal profession', on 4 December 2008.

Middlesbrough-born Honorary Graduate Professor Martin Narey

Chief Executive of Barnados, 'Child Poverty: A Challenge for the UK and a Challenge for Teesside', on 4 February 2009.

Professor Simon Hodgson, Dean of the University's School of Science & Technology, 'Size Matters? Engineering Materials and Performance from the Nanometric to the Macroscopic', on 4 March 2009.

Professor Cliff Allan, the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), will talk on the subject 'From "More Means Different" to "Higher Education and Work"', on 13 May 2009.

National Teaching Fellow Professor Paul van Schaik, 'The Human of Human-Computer Interaction', on 10 June 2009.

The free lectures are open to the public and start at 6.30pm in the University's Centuria Building, Victoria Road, Middlesbrough. To book a place contact the University's Alumni Office on **01642 384255**, email alumni.office@tees.ac.uk.

As Teesside Visualisation students, three housemates talked about setting up their own company. Seven years later, the trio has successfully realised their ambition and combined to form Animmersion UK Ltd, a professional visualisation studio.

Graduates are immersed in Animmersion

Animmersion is one of the first companies to rent premises in the University's four-storey £12m Phoenix Building on Woodlands Road, Middlesbrough. The Phoenix Building is providing the nerve centre for Teesside's ambitious DigitalCity project.

Animmersion are Sam Harrison, 29, from Nottingham, Andy Liddell, 29, from Redcar, who are both BA (Hons) Creative Visualisation graduates, and Dominic Lusardi, 30, from Leeds, who achieved a BSc (Hons) Visualisation.

Sam said, 'We knew we wanted to set up our own business but had to get industrial experience first. At Animmersion we create visually-rich and interactive websites, animations and virtual environments. We are using a lot of what we learned at University and the joy of having our own company is that we can see projects through from start to finish.'

In 2005 Sam set up Animmersion while undertaking the University's DigitalCity Fellowship Scheme. This offers support to talented graduates and Teesside alumni to develop commercially-viable portfolios or business ideas. The company was first based at the University's Graduate Business Unit where Dominic joined Sam, as business partner and Technical Director. Andy joined later as Studio Manager and they moved into the Phoenix Building this year.

Andy said, 'The premises are brilliant with a fantastic view of Middlesbrough. And our business is booming.'

The team has created an interactive surgical training tool, which could be mass marketed throughout the National Health Service (NHS) and beyond. Animmersion were commissioned by Mr Raj Naik, a Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist with Gateshead's Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Mr Naik set up the project via NHS Innovations, who contacted DigitalCity, who in turn contacted Animmersion. Their work was funded via an NHS Research & Development grant as a feasibility project.

Both Sam and Dominic spent an afternoon watching Mr Naik undertake surgery, as part of their research for the simulator.

Dominic said, 'There's an absolutely-incredible tempo to an operation that's almost like an orchestra. We specifically aimed to capture this within our application. The objective was to produce a visually-realistic training manual, to give professionals the knowledge to perform operations. It's extremely flexible and

can be accessed in different locations using lap tops or mobile phones. It will be trialled soon by over 1,000 doctors.'

Their other clients include Kinetic WW, an international outdoor media specialist which Animmersion helped to visualise potential advertising locations for the 2008 US Open tennis championships at Flushing Meadows, New York. They have also created the new interactive 3D rotating campus map on the University of Teesside's website and visuals for DigitalCity Business, the business end of the DigitalCity project. Animmersion has produced a 'fly-around' of the upcoming BoHo One, the flagship building for the BoHo Zone. This area of Middlesbrough will provide space for new digital and creative companies to grow, network and do business.

Animmersion's website is www.animmersion.co.uk.

Pictured left to right, Dominic Lusardi, Andy Liddell and Sam Harrison.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEESSIDE'S OLYMPIANS

Third medal success for Teesside student Chris

Teesside sport science student and Olympic cyclist Chris Newton clinched his third medal in Beijing. Chris' bronze in the Points Race follows bronze in Sydney in 2000 and silver in Athens in 2004, both for the team pursuit. Beijing was Chris' fourth Olympic Games and his medal success was all the more remarkable as he sustained two injuries this year.

In March Chris was thrown from his bike after a car passenger opened the door into his path, while cycling in Manchester. He was thrown into a steel fence and had to have metal plates fitted in one of his shoulders, which seriously disrupted his training and threw Beijing into doubt.

Chris, 35, is originally from Middlesbrough and now lives in Oldham. He said, 'I was in super form before that accident, which smashed my collarbone in six places. I made a good recovery from the collarbone surgery but then tore a calf muscle while training in Spain, four weeks before Beijing. In some ways the Beijing medal was one of the biggest of my career, as this year has been an uphill battle all the way. It felt really good to win the bronze, a real sense of relief.'

'The atmosphere in the Laoshan Velodrome in Beijing was brilliant, about a third of the crowd were British. I was quite nervous four days before but then prior to the race it was business as usual, I just got on with it.'

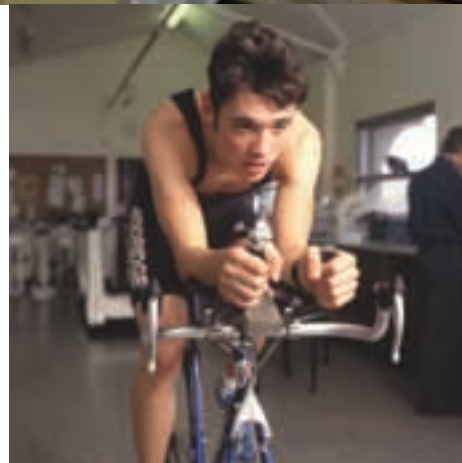
Chris is studying the BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise (Coaching Science) part time via distance learning. He started the degree in 1994 and left to concentrate full time on his sport. Chris added, 'I resumed the degree two years ago and definitely want to complete it. Hopefully it will help me gain some sort of coaching role for the 2012 games in London, I've never forgotten what I've learned.'



In addition to his Olympics medals, Chris has achieved a Commonwealth Silver in 2002 and Gold in 2006 for the team pursuit.

Former School of Computing student Johanna Jackson also took part in the Olympics, finishing 22nd in the 20km women's walk, creating a new British record.

Chris is pictured at the University in 1994, when he first enrolled as a full-time student and with his Beijing bronze medal.



University of Teesside students and staff have taken part in this year's Olympics and Paralympics in Beijing. UNiverse profiles the achievements of athletes Chris Newton and Stephen Payton, and former Paralympic athlete and Teesside lecturer Stuart Braye.



Teesside's Paralympic medal-winning duo

Athlete and University technician Stephen Payton has run in his fourth and final Paralympics in Beijing. He came fifth in the 400 metres final.

Stephen, 31, from Westoe Crown Village, South Shields, works as a sports therapy technician at the University. He was born with minimal cerebral palsy, the least affected category of the condition's seven levels. Stephen is originally from Livingston, Scotland, and started running aged 11. He got involved in disability sports five years later after a chance meeting with Pete Wyman, then national Scottish coach for disability sport.

Since 1994 Stephen has competed for Great Britain, running in the 200 and 400 metres. He has clinched the following medals in the last three Paralympics:

- gold in Atlanta, 1996
- silver in Sydney, 2000
- bronze in Athens, 2004.

Stephen trained for 30 hours a week at Gateshead International Stadium, the Gypsy Green stadium in South Shields, the University's gym and ran on a local beach.

He said, 'It's a fantastic experience to be in the Paralympics, a very unique competition. The medal I'm most proud of is the bronze in Athens, as I'd fractured my right ankle nine months before. The atmosphere at the Beijing stadium, with a crowd of 90,000, and in the athlete village are both better than any other Paralympics I have competed in. I feel this Games has been the first truly parallel Olympics in every area. London 2012 will have a huge task on its hands to equal these Games on many levels.'

Before flying to Beijing, Stephen used the Environmental Chamber in the University's Olympia Building. This simulates extreme temperatures for athletes to prepare them for competing in different climates. Stephen said, 'I'd like to thank the University for the use of the Environmental Chamber to help prepare for Beijing. I'll still be involved in sport at some level but my immediate needs are my wife Silvia and our new son Oliver. And I won't miss fitting my life and work around my training schedule!'

Stuart Braye, a Senior Lecturer in Sports Studies at the University, is a former Paralympic athlete and has a link with Stephen. Stuart's former coach John de Courcy is now Stephen's coach. Stuart, 50, from Stockton, clinched the bronze medal in the 400 metres, single below-knee amputee category, during the 1992 Paralympics in Barcelona.

Stuart lost his leg 23 years ago while working as a lorry driver when the brakes on his lorry failed, resulting in a crash and his injury. After a lengthy recovery Stuart didn't allow this experience to hold him back, and went on to become a Paralympic athlete and eventually achieved a master's degree.

Stuart said, 'Barcelona was an amazing experience, running in front of a massive crowd of 65,000. I was very happy to win a medal, with my wife and two sons there to see it.'

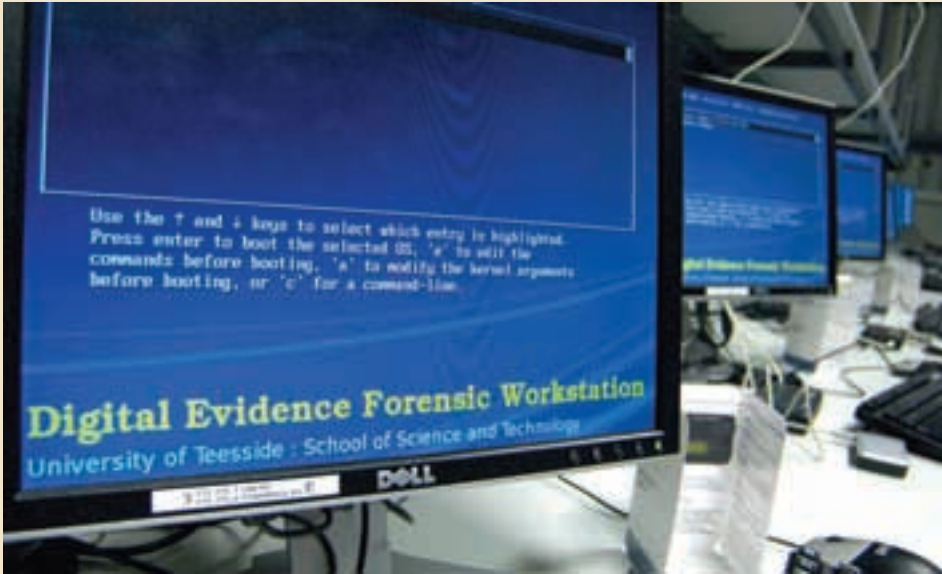
'It must be quite rare to have two Paralympic athletes, past and present, in one department of any organisation. We both work in the School of Social Sciences & Law. It would be great if our presence here at Teesside attracted disabled sports people onto some of our courses.'

University's Digital Evidence Lab officially open for investigations

The University's new Digital Evidence Laboratory, a 30-workstation facility with 60 computers, is now open for business. State-of-the-art software and hardware for computer and mobile phone examination have been installed to provide the most realistic environment possible.

It was officially opened by the Home Office's Forensic Science Regulator, Andrew Rensison, and is available for training courses, workshops and conferences. The Laboratory will also be used across all five of the University's digital evidence programmes at first degree and postgraduate level, and by students from other Crime Scene Science and Forensic Science and Investigation courses.

Angus Marshall, Senior Lecturer in Forensic Science at the University, said, 'This is one of the largest facilities of its type within any university in the UK. We are very pleased to have such a facility. Up to 30 students can carry out simulated casework and research at the same time. However, the facility should not be viewed as a student-only domain and can be used for research and supporting police forces and other organisations with their training and casework investigations.'



A Forensic-Archaeological fusion

A collaboration between the University of Teesside and Durham University has resulted in a new course which will explore techniques in locating and identifying bodies. The short course, entitled 'Body location and recovery in forensic contexts', will combine the expertise of staff from Teesside's forensic science section and Durham's Archaeology Department.

The development of the course has been funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England's Pathfinder initiative, which helps to foster links between education institutions and industry. The need for such a course was identified by Cleveland and Durham police forces, to help raise awareness amongst practitioners and an appreciation of the processes involved in the excavation and examination of bodies.

Dr Tim Thompson, Senior Lecturer in Crime Scene Science at the University of Teesside, will work with Dr Becky Gowland from the University of Durham in delivering the course. He said, 'The course has been devised so

practitioners in the North East can be more fully prepared for a complicated or high-profile case that may involve the location and recovery of bodies. It will be suitable for crime scene investigators, crime scene managers and also for postgraduate students. After

completion, they should be able to understand how to approach these sorts of situations, who to ask for advice and how to devise a strategy before starting so they don't lose important evidence.'



Pictured in the background, left to right, Dr Tim Thompson and Dr Becky Gowland.

The University has signed an agreement to provide accreditation of the training and education for investigators within the military police, the only UK university to do so. The agreement is with the Defence College for Police and Guarding in Southwick Park, Portsmouth.

Middlesbrough makes a military police link

The College has historical significance as the place where General Eisenhower decided to proceed with the Normandy landings in 1944. It is a combined military school and training facility for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Police, the Royal Military Police and the Royal Air Force Police.

Through the agreement, over 200 military police personnel will complete short courses accredited by the University. The courses will vary in level of complexity, at advanced and intermediate level. The advanced courses will cover investigations ranging from murders and rapes, while the intermediate ones will examine other crimes such as burglaries and thefts.

They will be undertaken by appropriate military personnel or specialists from various ranks. These include non-commissioned officers, for example corporals or staff sergeants, and commissioned officers, such as pilot officers and captains.

The University link with Southwick Park came through Ian Pepper, Principal Lecturer in Policing at the University. Ian said, 'This is a fantastic opportunity to work in a very diverse policing arena. It expands the provision that we already offer with Cleveland and West Mercia police forces. Although the courses are studied at the College, the military personnel can be deployed anywhere in the world, from a ship to a garrison to an air station.'

Graduation ceremony for West Mercia officers

The University has been in partnership with West Mercia Constabulary since 2006, offering a Foundation Degree in Professional Policing. The first cohort of West Mercia police officers has recently graduated from the University of Teesside with their Foundation Degrees.

The 34 officers attended the graduation ceremony at their force headquarters at Hindlip Hall, Worcester, to receive their Foundation Degrees from Professor Cliff Allan, the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), alongside Chief Constable Paul West.

The Degree was introduced as part of the new Initial Police Learning and Development Programme.

As a result of national changes to police officer training, West Mercia Constabulary began working in partnership with the University to design and deliver a training programme that enables new officers to gain specific skills and knowledge in a classroom environment, before putting these professional skills into practice in police stations and out on patrol.

The programme takes two years to complete and equips student officers with the general and specific skills they need to be effective operational police officers. The student officers work with specialists from various police departments as they progress through the course, as well as with lecturers from the University, and community groups and organisations.

Professor Cliff Allan said, 'We are delighted to have worked with West Mercia Constabulary during the development and subsequent roll out of this programme.'

'The staff at West Mercia Constabulary and the University of Teesside have been fully committed to the programme and it is wonderful to see the first group of officers graduating.'

The University has also been in partnership with Cleveland Police since 2004, offering a Foundation Degree in Police Studies.



Picture shows Foundation Degree students from Cleveland Police.



Scholarships awarded in areas of research strength

The University has recently awarded nine full-time research doctoral scholarships. Under the three-year scholarships, researchers will have their tuition fees covered and receive an annual allowance. These scholarships aim to raise the profile of research and encourage more staff to get involved in this area. In addition, they aim to enhance the research community and the integration of research across the University.

The scholars will carry out research in key areas such as entertainment computing, the assessment of food intake, sustainable technologies and regional cultures.

Rebecca Roberts, of Malton, North Yorkshire, pictured above, was one of the successful applicants. She will research the role of major buildings in shaping northern culture in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Having already studied literature and history to master's level, Rebecca will produce an 80,000-word thesis examining the cultural lessons that can be learned from the gentry's houses and buildings like York Minster and Durham Cathedral.

Rebecca, who aims to become a lecturer, said, 'I would like my work to give people a better insight into how architecture shapes people's cultural values.'

Another of the scholarships went to Godfrey Pasirayi after he completed his MSc Analytical Chemistry at the University.

Godfrey, from Zimbabwe, pictured right, is interested in nanotechnology, the science of the small. His three-year PhD research will seek to create a small device that both grows

micro-organisms and analyses them at the same time.

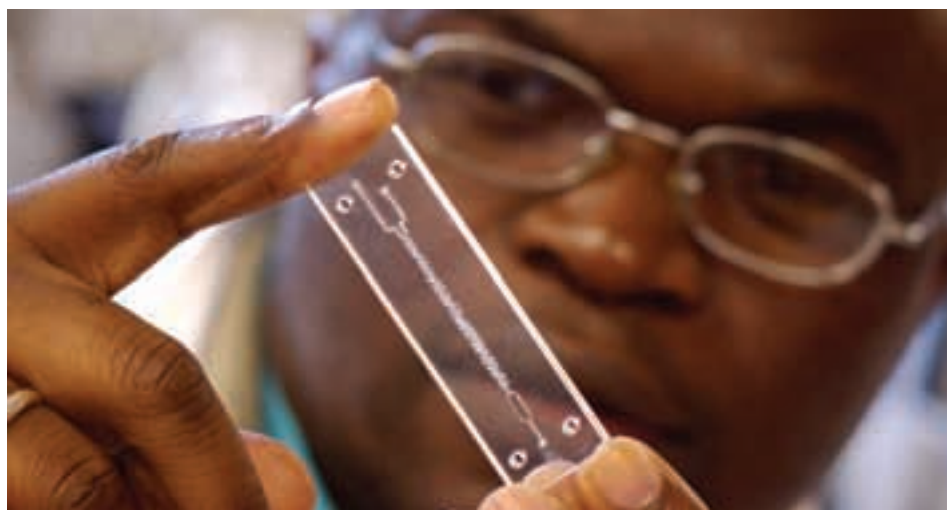
Currently, the two processes require separate pieces of equipment and Godfrey believes that the new device will have applications in sectors including pharmaceuticals.

He says, 'The idea grew out of work I was doing on my master's degree. Nanotechnology is the science for the 21st century.'

'The technologies exist, what makes my idea unique is that it integrates them. If I am

successful, this could result in a commercial product. The idea is to keep it as simple as possible and ensure that it can be produced cheaply. There are many other advantages, including that it reduces the energy used.'

Godfrey spent 13 years working in the pharmaceutical regulation field in Zimbabwe before returning to education, and hopes to become a full-time researcher when his PhD is completed.





Pictured left to right at Middlesbrough FC's Riverside Stadium, Kevin Dixon and research respondent Liz Benmoran.

The football season is underway and a researcher from the University is seeking the opinions of those who are dismayed by this fact. Sports Studies lecturer Kevin Dixon wants to hear from so-called 'football widows or widowers', people of either gender who feel sidelined by the nation's love of the beautiful game.

Kevin, 29, has already conducted research into the behaviour and attitudes of fans from the five North East football teams – Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Sunderland, Hartlepool and Darlington. His research revealed that 74% of surveyed fans said they

arranged their personal lives around football fixtures.

Kevin said, 'This statistic made me want to explore what effects could this have, not just on partners, but close friends and relatives of our nation's football fans? This time I'm not just looking for responses from the North East but the whole of the UK. We want those who feel strongly about this issue to come forward and share personal experiences online.'

Issues to be explored include:

- How does football affect household expenditure, particularly during the credit crunch and with rising fuel and water costs?

Football widows to kick off online!

- How does football interfere with your life?
- Does football affect your relationships?
- What do you do to escape the endless exposure to football in the mass media?
- What do you really think of football fans?

The survey will only take five minutes to complete at <http://football.tees.ac.uk>, where an online forum is also available.

There is no deadline for responses and the research findings will eventually appear in the journal *Soccer in Society*.

International activities for the new academic year

The University continues to expand its international activities with the signing of two new agreements. Firstly, Teesside has recently signed an articulation agreement with the College of the North Atlantic (CNA-Q) in Qatar. CNA-Q is a government-sponsored further education college and the agreement enables CNA-Q graduates to transfer to Teesside to complete their degrees.

The agreement currently includes students who are enrolled in engineering, business and information technology programmes at CNA-Q, with future plans to include radiography students also.

While CNA-Q has many similar agreements with institutions throughout Canada, the agreement marks the first with a UK university. Through the agreement, CNA-Q graduates will move straight into the final year of the related degree programme at Teesside.

Professor Cliff Allan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development) at the University, said, 'We are proud and privileged to join into this partnership with CNA-Q. And we look forward to welcoming CNA-Q graduates to our campus.'

In addition to Qatar, a new agreement has been signed between the University of Teesside and the Bahrain Training Institute (BTI). Through this agreement, BTI will deliver

the University's honours degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Other degree programmes may follow.

The University has previously been involved with BTI when their own higher national diploma students came to Teesside to complete the final year of the Mechanical and Electrical and Electronic Engineering degrees.

Teesside has also co-sponsored a major international teaching and learning conference at TAR College in Malaysia. A University of Teesside delegation, led by Professor Leni Oglesby, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, took part in the conference, with Professor Oglesby a keynote speaker.

News round-up



New Students' Union Trustees

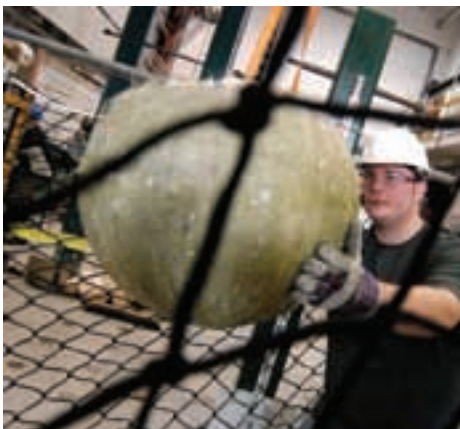
A quartet of new officers has taken the helm at the University's Students' Union. The Trustees are current or graduating students who were elected by fellow students to oversee the running of the Students' Union for one year.

They are, pictured left to right, Natalie Broom, Student Activities Officer; Julie Ann Pringle, Education and Welfare Officer; Mark Gillespie, Communications Officer; and Tom Cawkwell, President.

Tom Cawkwell said, 'We're all incredibly honoured to have been trusted with such responsibility by fellow students and we don't just want to live up to expectations, we want to completely surpass them. We're hoping to preside over a brilliant year for the Union with big campaigns, some great events and loads of students getting involved in everything we do.'

Teesside is top for mechanical engineering

The University of Teesside is the top place to study mechanical engineering in the country, according to *The Guardian's* university league table.



Pictured, Mechanical Engineering student Neil Rees-Davies.

The national newspaper's *University Guide* for 2009 is published online at <http://education.guardian.co.uk/universityguide2009/> and shows that Teesside moved from second to first place in the ranking of British universities teaching mechanical engineering.

Professor Graham Henderson, Vice-Chancellor, said, 'We are delighted with this reaffirmation of the excellence of our University's engineering programme, which is designed to produce graduates with the skills employers desperately need in our region and across the UK and beyond'.

Teesside scored ten out of ten for value added to students undertaking the degree and gained high marks for satisfaction with teaching and assessment on the course.

April conference

The International Investigative Interviewing Research Group's (iIIRG) second annual conference, 'Putting Theory into Practice: The Dilemmas of Law and Psychology' will be held at the University from 14 to 16 April 2009.

The iIIRG at the University works in collaboration with the Norwegian Police University College in Oslo and the Centre for Forensic Linguistics at Aston University. The conference will be followed by a masterclass on linguistics in investigative interviews, delivered by experts from Aston's Centre.

Details can be found on the University's website at www.tees.ac.uk/iirg.

Open Days

The University will be hosting two Open Days in October for potential applicants and their families. The first is on Saturday 11 October from 10.00am to 3.00pm, the second on Wednesday 15 October, also from 10.00am to 3.00pm. The Open Days are tailored towards autumn 2009 entry applicants. For more information call the Schools & Colleges Partnerships Team on 01642 342275 or email scl@tees.ac.uk.



New initiative to fight fraud

High-profile speakers recently gathered at the University to attend the launch of the Business School's new Centre for Fraud and Financial Crime.

The Centre will educate police officers, specialists from other investigative agencies and workers from private businesses in how to prevent and detect even the most sophisticated of crimes.

It was officially opened by Judge Leslie Spittle. Also attending the launch as a guest speaker was Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Wilmott, of City of London Police, who has responsibility for their Economic Crime Department which includes the Financial Investigation and Cheque and Credit Card Units.

Fred Hutchinson, Director of the Centre, said, 'This new Centre builds on the significant reputation that we have already established in the field. Fraud is becoming a big concern because of its links with organised crime and suggestions that it is being used to finance terrorism.'

The Centre is developing courses in partnership with the National Police Improvement Agency to support work in



financial investigation, the Department for Work and Pensions and CIFAS, formerly known as CIPAS, the Credit Industry Prevention & Advisory Service.

Fred Hutchinson said, 'The nature of the organisations working with us indicates that we are at the forefront in this field. We see this

work as particularly important as there is increasing emphasis being placed on partnerships between the public and private sectors in dealing with financial crime. Many organisations want to improve the status of their work in fraud management – effective education and research can support them in their objectives.'

Teesside chosen to train more therapists

The University of Teesside has been chosen to create more psychological therapists as part of plans to improve access to services for people with mental health problems.

The government is investing £170m to train an extra 3,600 psychological therapists at two levels, to deliver high-intensity and low-intensity therapy. The aim is to improve services for people with depression or anxiety disorders and access to cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT).

The high-intensity course is aimed at those experienced in mental health care, such as applied psychologists, counsellors and nurse therapists. It will result in a postgraduate diploma in CBT.

The low-intensity training is to help people with less severe depression or anxiety. It offers

a postgraduate certificate, while non graduates receive a University Certificate Advanced Personal Development in Primary Mental Health Care.

The Universities of Teesside and Newcastle upon Tyne were both successful in their bids to provide training in the North East. Newcastle will start their courses this year and Teesside in September 2009.

Gordon Mitchell, Principal Lecturer in Mental Health, said, 'One of the reasons we were chosen is because of our track record in offering psychological therapy training and the network of support we have from local clinicians, such as those employed by Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust. We are now working with the stakeholders and service users to develop these nationally-prescribed courses.'

For information contact 01642 384927 or email g.mitchell@tees.ac.uk or j.sheahan@tees.ac.uk.



Pictured left to right, Gordon Mitchell, Principal Lecturer in Mental Health, and Dr Judy Sheahan, Consultant Clinical Psychologist from the School of Health & Social Care.

Michael is in pole position for F1 career



Teesside design graduate Michael Pollard has one of the most famous bosses in the UK – Formula One Chief Bernie Ecclestone! Michael, 22, from Thornaby, now works as a Graphic Editor/Designer for Formula One (F1) Management in Kent.

Michael's job involves operating all the on-screen TV graphics, including timing, positions, names and car data, that viewers see in each F1 competition. So Michael's work is seen by millions throughout the UK and internationally.

Michael is a BA (Hons) Industrial Design graduate. He said, 'This is my dream job. The pressure can be intense as it's a live race, so you have to get all the data on screen straight away. But then there's so many benefits, I've travelled to Spain, Turkey and Canada so far with F1. If I get some spare time I can go down to the race paddock and I've also stayed in the same hotel with drivers such as Lewis Hamilton.'

Michael is pictured with his F1 pass.



Creative duo make their Teesside debuts

Performing arts degrees have made their debut at the University. And the courses are headed by women with a real passion for bringing the creative arts to the region.

Dr Sarah O'Brien has returned to Middlesbrough to oversee the BA (Hons) Performance for Live and Recorded Media. While Heike Salzer moves from her international career in choreography and dance education to take charge of the BA (Hons) Dance and the Community.

The degrees will be taught jointly at the University's main campus in Middlesbrough and the state-of-the-art theatre and dance studios at Middlesbrough College's Middlehaven development.

Ronan Patterson, Leader for Performing Arts, said, 'The design of Middlesbrough College's theatre reflects that of RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art) and our students will perform at Middlehaven. The degrees here are offering something completely different to any other performing arts provision in the North East.'

For more information call 01642 384019, email arts@tees.ac.uk or check the University of Teesside's website at www.tees.ac.uk.

Heike is pictured right on the front of UNiverse with dancer Karen Stone and Sarah is pictured left.

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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