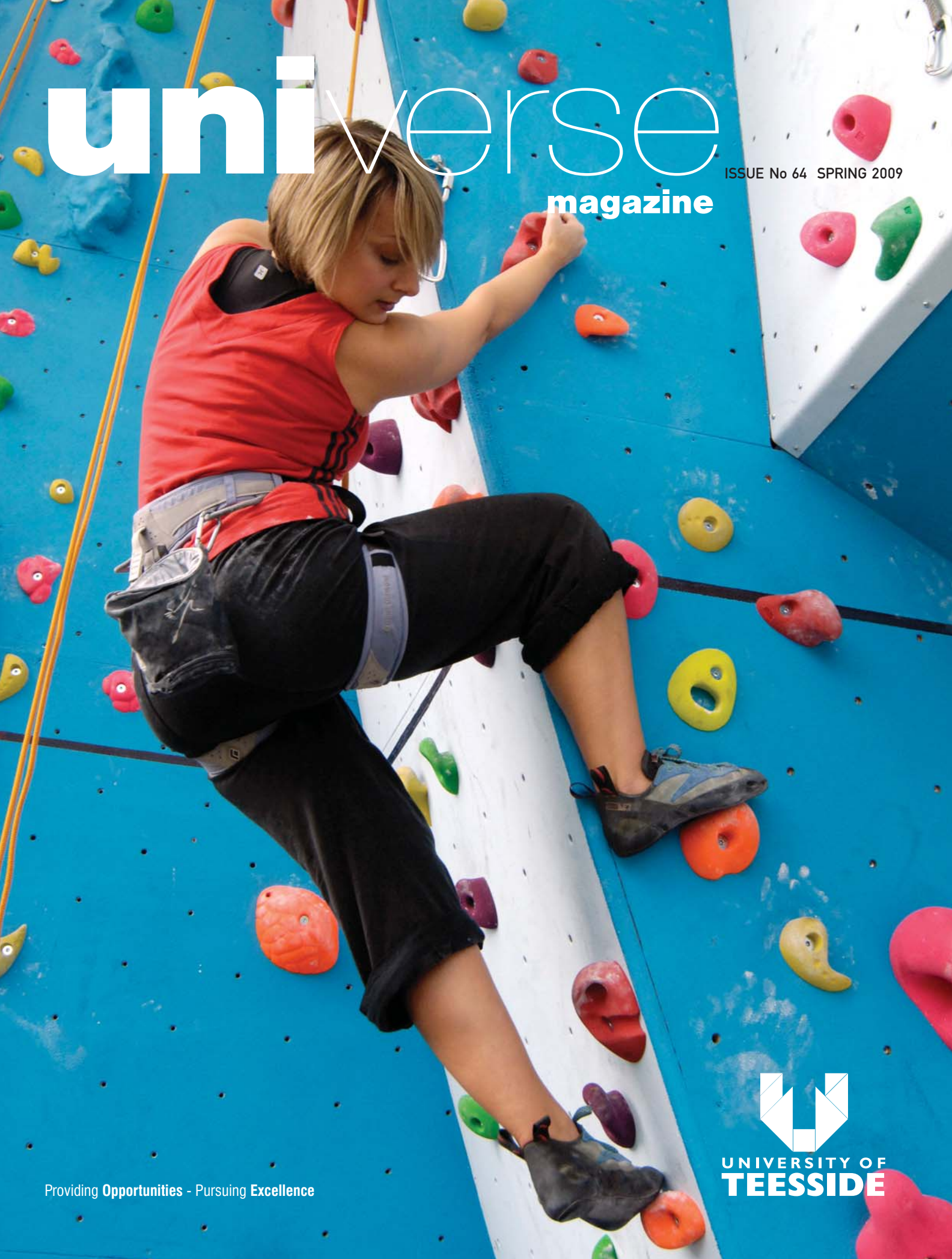


universe

magazine

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Providing **Opportunities** - Pursuing **Excellence**


UNIVERSITY OF
TEESSIDE

welcome

from Professor Graham Henderson
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive



I was again privileged recently to shake the hands of thousands of students at our annual academic awards ceremonies. I simply cannot overstate the importance of those ceremonies to our University as we celebrate the achievement of so many individuals, each with a different personal journey to their eventual success.

But as we celebrated the success of all of those individuals it was also a good opportunity to reflect on what has been another period of great institutional achievement and I am pleased to have the opportunity to share some of this.

The University has continued to grow and, with us approaching 25,000 students, has now become, we believe, the second largest university in the North East in terms of overall student numbers. This growth has not been without a purpose of course. We have continued to pursue our mission of extending higher education provision as widely as possible, in order to enhance the life chances and opportunities of individuals and communities within the region. The University also aims to continue to attract talented individuals into our region from around the world and support the economic, social and cultural development and regeneration of the Tees Valley and the wider north east region.

In that connection I was delighted to participate in the opening of our Phoenix Building, which includes the Institute of Digital Innovation, and provides a hothouse

environment for research, new ideas generation, knowledge transfer and business support and development. The Phoenix opening features elsewhere in UNiverse but I would like to say how pleasing it was to hear Sir George Cox comment in his address at the opening that 'the fusion of skills, leading edge technology and engagement with the business world was highly impressive ... and the University thoroughly deserves its growing reputation in this area'.

In December the results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) were published. These are also featured in UNiverse and I am very pleased indeed with the University's progress since the last RAE in 2001.

Regular readers will be aware of the University's excellent track record of student satisfaction as reflected in the UK National Student Survey. It was therefore pleasing to learn that feedback from our international students resulted in the University being ranked first out of 93 UK universities for 'living, employability prospects, financial support and careers advice' in the survey of international student opinion entitled the International Student Barometer. This further endorsement of our success in providing an excellent all-round experience for our students is clearly very satisfying and provides the University with the motivation to continue to work to enhance this experience still further.

Finally, in these brief reflections, the University was also delighted to be recognised as the Business Incubation Champion of the Year (2008). This award recognises the efforts and achievements of the team in the University whose role it is to provide a supportive environment for start-up businesses during the early stages of their development and hopefully provides another endorsement of the contribution that we are actively making to economic development within the region.

universe

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Pictured on the front cover, Hazel Wright, Sports Development Officer in the University's Student Services Department, ascending the climbing wall in the Olympia Building.



International students satisfied with Teesside

International students have rated the University of Teesside top out of 93 universities across the UK and Europe in the International Student Barometer (ISB) for employability prospects, financial support, careers advice and accommodation support.

The University was also ranked top for the support it offers to students in the ISB, the largest study of student satisfaction in the world.

The survey also shows :

- 94% of international students at Teesside are satisfied with the overall support
- 86% are satisfied with the overall learning
- 84% are satisfied with overall living experience
- 81% would encourage others to apply to Teesside.

Dr Keith Brown, Director of International Development at the University, said, 'It is a strong recommendation from the students and a vote of confidence from them'.

Among the 1,500 students who have come from overseas to study at Teesside is Sandeep Roy, from Secunderabad in India, pictured

above. He is currently working towards an MA Creative Digital Media.

He said, 'I wanted to gain an in-depth knowledge of computer animation and games, so I decided to enrol at a higher level. It's an area I've always wanted to study.'

Sandeep is now working on his dissertation on animation, along with a short animated film for his final project.

He said, 'The University has a lot of facilities for computing students and I've gained an enormous amount of knowledge from this course'.

Sandeep is also impressed with the campus and student services, adding, 'I think it's the best accommodation a student can get. My social life has been absolutely brilliant. It's perfect for a student as all the shops and clubs are close by and, most importantly, the cost of living is quite reasonable here.'

Around 400 students attended a recent International Student Reception held on campus, with a welcome from Vice-Chancellor Professor Graham Henderson and Middlesbrough Mayor Ray Mallon. The number of international students enrolling at the University in autumn 2008 has significantly increased, including over 150 from India and over 50 from China.

Dr Keith Brown added, 'A big attraction for our international students is the University's links with industry and the employability of graduates from our courses. We wish our new students well in their courses.'

For more information contact the Centre for International Development on **01642 384276** email international.office@tees.ac.uk or visit www.tees.ac.uk/international/

Research quality up at Teesside



Nearly 70% of all work entered by the University for the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) was classified as being of international quality or higher, with excellent scores across the board.

The RAE, the first for seven years, was a peer-review exercise which assessed the quality of work submitted by institutions in different discipline-based units of assessment.

Highlights for Teesside included 55% of the University's Computer Science submission being put in the two highest bands of international excellence, including 10% classed as world leading.

History, which was Teesside's top research area in the 2001 RAE, again did very well. Half of their work was internationally excellent, according to the 2008 RAE, and like Computing they had 10% of their work rated as world leading.

Sociology and Business also demonstrated world leading research and there was a big improvement in the performance of both the Allied Health Professions and General Engineering units of assessment.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Graham Henderson, said, 'We are delighted that so many of our researchers have had the quality of their work judged to be internationally excellent and in several cases world leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour.'

'This is a very good result reflecting the progress we have made since the last Research Assessment Exercise and a clear endorsement of the high quality of research that is taking place at the University of Teesside.'

'While special congratulations must go to Computing and History, all the areas entered have made considerable progress since the 2001 RAE and I would like to thank everyone involved for their contribution.'

Professor Cliff Hardcastle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise), pictured, added, 'The RAE has become much more selective since last time. So it is a major achievement for our staff, that their work has been recognised as being of international standing. This is a very good basis to build on in the future.'

Professor Hardcastle added that the University is 'striving to increase its research activity', and will be launching five new research institutes in 2009 to focus and build our research activities in key areas of strength, such as digital media, technology, social science, arts and culture and health and social care.

The details are:

- 85% of Computing in the top three grades for research quality, including 10% considered to be world leading and 45% internationally excellent
- 80% of History in the top three grades for research quality, including 10% considered to be world leading and 40% internationally excellent
- 80% of General Engineering in Grades 2* and 3* (25% internationally excellent and 55% recognised internationally)
- 65% of Sociology in the top three grades for research quality (5% considered to be world leading, 20% internationally excellent and 40% internationally recognised)
- 60% of Business in the top three grades for research quality (5% world leading, 20% internationally excellent and 35% internationally recognised)
- 55% of Health in Grades 2* and 3* (20% internationally excellent and 35% internationally recognised)
- Nearly 70% of Teesside's work entered into the 2008 RAE recognised internationally or above, ie in Grades 2*, 3* and 4*.

A tradition alive and well in the internet age...

It was an incredible day as 13 of the country's leading bookbinding craftsmen and women came together, first in the ornate surroundings of the Royal Gallery at the House of Lords and then in the magnificent library of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers overlooking St James' Park in London.

by Nic Mitchell

Their host was Lord Sawyer of Darlington, Chancellor of the University of Teesside, and an avid book collector for nearly half a century – who, for many years, was a key figure in the Labour and trade union movements working closely with Neil Kinnock and Tony Blair.

He was showcasing one of the finest new collections of hand-bound books and at the same time celebrating the 400-year rise of the British socialist ideal up to the birth of the Labour Party.

'Collecting books has been my absorbing and lifelong hobby. But increasingly I have become interested in the book as an expression of craftsmanship, design and beauty and this exhibition gave me a chance to showcase the work of some of the very best British binders. I wanted to demonstrate that the traditional bookbinding craft remains alive and well, despite the age of the internet,' said Lord Sawyer, or Tom as he prefers to be known.

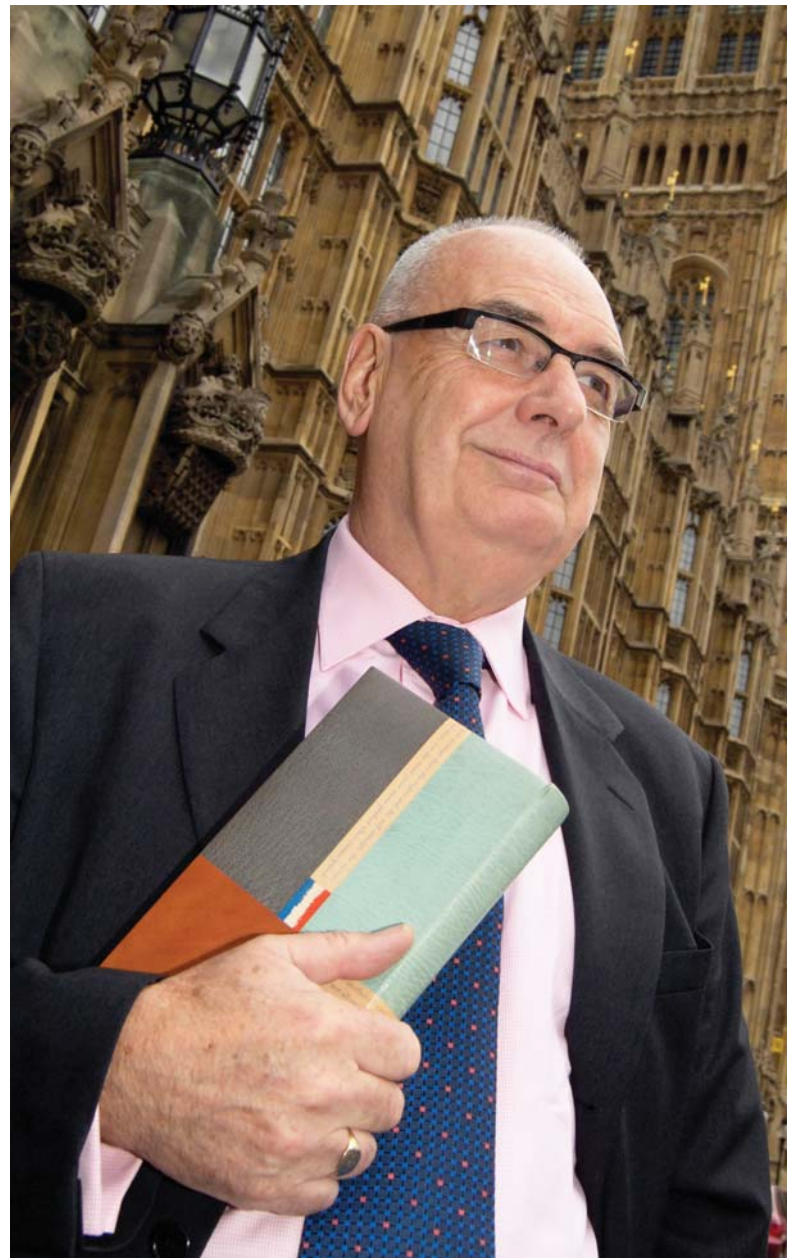
His project began with a chance meeting with leading Yorkshire-based bookbinder Stephen Conway at a book fair six years ago. 'Stephen persuaded my wife, Liz, and I to visit a major European bookbinders' convention in Brussels and things took off from there', recalls Tom.

At first, Tom considered just having one or two of his favourite editions bound, but it proved so difficult to decide which books to exclude from his shortlist of 15 that he took the plunge and had them all professionally hand-bound by 13 of the country's top bookbinders.

The result is a magnificent collection that not only celebrates the best of radical English writing, but also the cream of a traditional British craft which goes back over a thousand years. It includes works like *Utopia* by Sir Thomas More, the earliest in the collection which was first published in 1551, *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan, and *The Rights of Man* by Thomas Paine.

The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Graham Henderson, also attended the collection's unveiling.

The University of Teesside's Chancellor, Lord Sawyer of Darlington, outside the Houses of Parliament.



University students

give Teesside their vote of confidence



Design and media students at the University of Teesside are the most satisfied in the UK, according to the 2008 National Student Survey (NSS). The scores in these subjects for overall student satisfaction were 94% for design and 96% for media studies.

In addition, law has come second nationally for overall student satisfaction, with a huge score of 98% from those studying the subject at the University. Teesside students also put their University in the top ten nationally for overall student satisfaction in the following subjects: history, medical technology (radiography), nursing, social work and forensic science.

This result means the University has eight subjects in the top ten, double the number of last year's NSS. All of the above subject ratings are for full-time undergraduate degree students.

The percentage of overall student satisfaction has gone up for the third consecutive year, rising to 83%. This figure is above the national average.

Learning Resources at Teesside also received outstanding scores. To the question 'the library resources and services are good enough for my needs', Teesside scored 91%, placing it joint third in the UK's universities for full-time undergraduate students, just behind Oxford and Cambridge. For 'Access to IT resources', Teesside was joint third university. Teesside was also ranked top among the five North East universities for its learning resources, again by full-time undergraduates.

A skilful endorsement for the University

The University of Teesside has been awarded Skillsmark endorsement for five of its courses. Skillsmark is the education and training quality mark for the Justice Sector. The courses are:

- BSc (Hons) Crime Scene Science. Teesside is the first UK university to be awarded Skillsmark recognition for a Crime Scene Science degree
- Foundation Degree in Police Studies (in partnership with Cleveland Police)
- Foundation Degree in Professional Policing (in partnership with West Mercia Constabulary in the Midlands)
- Postgraduate Diploma/Master of Science Advanced Clinical Practice (Forensic Radiography)
- Postgraduate Certificate in Forensic Radiography.

The endorsement was awarded following an intensive visit to the University by the Skillsmark assessment team. They reviewed the programmes in detail, spoke to employers, including Cleveland Police, and interviewed students.

Brian Rankin, Head of the University's Centre for Forensic Investigation and President of the Forensic Science Society, co-ordinated the assessment. He said, 'The Skillsmark assessors gained a good understanding of the student experience and the value of the programmes to a potential employer. Future students will know their courses have an external and independent accreditation. This will give them extra confidence that their education has an employer focus, equipping them better as graduates.'

The programmes will have the endorsement until 2014. Brian added, 'The University is very aware of the government's agenda of engaging with employers. The Skillsmark endorsement is a reflection of our commitment.'

Honours

from the University of Teesside



This year's Honorary Graduates are:

Back row: Sandy Anderson, Chair of Governors, Lord Sawyer of Darlington, University Chancellor, Professor Graham Henderson, University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Eric Thomas, Alan Hinkes OBE.

Front row: Steve Penrose, Margaret Fay OBE, Thelma Barlow.

Thelma Barlow Doctor of Letters

Middlesbrough-born actress Thelma is fondly remembered for her role as Mavis Riley in *Coronation Street*, whom she played for nearly 2,000 episodes over 26 years.

Her next major role after *Coronation Street* was Dolly in Victoria Wood's *Dinnerladies*, a role that was written specifically for her. She has also appeared in *Fat Friends*, *The Royal*, *Marple*, *Midsomer Murders* and *Doctor Who*. In 2005 she starred in her first film *Mrs Henderson Presents* alongside Judi Dench and was nominated for 'Most Promising Newcomer' in the British Independent Film Awards. Her stage roles include works by Noel Coward and Alan Bennett.

Alan Hinkes OBE

Doctor of Professional Studies

Alan Hinkes was born in Northallerton, North Yorkshire, and is an internationally-renowned, world-record-holding, extreme altitude mountaineer. He first achieved fame as the first Briton ever to successfully climb all 14 of the world's highest (8,000 metres plus) mountains. These include K2 in 1995 and Mount Everest the following year, which was filmed for the Channel Four documentary *Summit Fever*. Alan is also an accomplished cameraman, photographer and writer. Alan is to officially open the University's climbing wall in the Olympia Building in 2009.

Margaret Fay OBE Doctor of Laws

Margaret Fay is Chairman of the Regional Development Agency One NorthEast. Before joining One NorthEast, Margaret had a 22-year career with Tyne Tees Television, including six years as Managing Director. She also currently holds the position as the Prince of Wales' Ambassador for the North East of England. Until recently, Margaret was a long-serving member of the University of Teesside's Board of Governors.

Professor Eric Thomas Doctor of Science

Eric Thomas was born in Hartlepool. Following a period as Dean of the Medical School at Southampton University, he progressed to the role of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol, becoming one of the country's best-known and most-influential vice-chancellors. Professor Thomas has made, and continues to make, a major contribution to the future direction of the higher education sector.

Steve Penrose

Doctor of Business Administration

United States-based Steve Penrose, graduated from the University's predecessor, Teesside Polytechnic, in the 70s with a computer science degree. He is now Senior Vice-President of ADP, one of the largest providers of integrated computing and business outsourcing companies in the world. The company has over 47,000 staff.

Twin peaks of achievement

Twin sisters Anna and Nicola Irish have always followed the same path. After leaving school, they both worked as care assistants in the same nursing home, then in the same private hospital. They also studied the same Access Course at Stockton Riverside College and followed this by enrolling on nursing courses at the University of Teesside .

This year the twins, aged 25 from Stockton, graduated on the same day from the University. They work as staff nurses in the Intensive Care Unit (ITU) at the University Hospital of North Tees in Stockton.

Anna, the older of the twins by one minute, achieved an Advanced Diploma in Nursing. She said, 'Nicola started in ITU first, while I worked in Women's Health. Then I saw the ITU vacancies, one in Hartlepool and one in Stockton. I was surprised to get the Stockton post as I thought they might not want us to work together! We've only been on one shift together though.'

Nicola graduated with a Diploma in Nursing Studies. She said, 'We've always been best friends and are very similar, although people might have said I was the louder one when we were growing up! We both have caring natures, nursing is such a rewarding career and I can't imagine doing anything else.'

The twins have followed older sister Rachel into nursing. Rachel, 27, graduated from Teesside three years ago and works at North Tees' Orthopaedic Trauma Unit.

Pictured left to right, sisters Anna, Rachel and Nicola Irish.



Branislav joins first Forensic cohort

Branislav Mlinarc came to the University to develop his work as a radiographer.

And when he graduated he was amongst the first cohort of students from the very first Postgraduate Certificate in Forensic Radiography in the UK.

Branislav, 40, works as a senior radiographer in the Radiology Department at Sunderland Royal Hospital.

Originally from the Republic of Serbia, Branislav moved to England to work as a radiographer nine years ago, having previously worked in the Greek islands and Belgrade.

He came to Teesside to complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Forensic Radiography, as his Department was developing its use of computerised radiography using a filmless environment.

Branislav said, 'The course connected to what I was doing in my job at the Hospital and now we are trying to apply everything that I have learned.'

'I wasn't sure what the course at Teesside would involve with it being the first of its kind to run in England, but the lecturers were amazing. Our senior lecturer, Jacque Vallis, has been involved in identification of people injured in disasters such as the bombings in London and also the tsunami in Thailand.'

'The course involved theory and practical work and was quite intensive, but an enjoyable experience and also very valuable, as we can now all apply what we have learned in our jobs at our places of work.'

Branislav is now continuing his studies at Teesside, enrolling on the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Forensic Radiography).

SIR GEORGE VISITS AN

Uplifting Phoenix



The prestigious nerve centre of the University's DigitalCity project has been officially opened by a former chairman of the UK Design Council, Sir George Cox. The four-storey high-tech Phoenix Building is the latest showpiece development to be completed on the University's campus and is home to the Institute of Digital Innovation (IDI) and a number of talented creative companies pushing at the frontiers of digital technology.

DigitalCity is a collaboration between the University, Middlesbrough Council and the Regional Development Agency One NorthEast and aims to create up to 300 new jobs and 130 companies within three years. The Phoenix Building will play a key role in supporting this digital revolution which is helping to transform the economy of Middlesbrough, the wider Tees Valley and the North East.

The £12m Building's 4,250 square metres includes specialist digital sound studios and screening rooms, and research and development commercialisation space. In addition, the top floor houses business accommodation for companies looking to work alongside graduates and research and development teams.

Along with space for joint academic and business research, the IDI is also home to the University's DigitalCity Fellows. The Fellows are talented graduates and alumni from the region who are given support to develop commercially-viable portfolios or business ideas. The Fellowship programme offers bursaries, focused business and skills training, support and mentoring from industry specialists, and is helping to keep creative entrepreneurs in the North East. One NorthEast is a partner in the Phoenix Building, contributing nearly £6m towards the project. The Building was also funded by the University and European Union.



Sir George Cox is the author of the *Cox Review of Creativity* in UK Business commissioned by Gordon Brown when he was Chancellor in 2005. This Review continues to have a significant influence in shaping the future of the UK's Creative Economy. From 2004 to 2007 Sir George was Chairman of the Design Council, and prior to that Director General of the Institute of Directors from 1999 to 2004.

Professor Graham Henderson, Vice-Chancellor, said, 'I was delighted that such an influential figure from the world of design agreed to officially open our new Phoenix Building and that we have been able to create such an important new building to support the DigitalCity project, thanks to generous financial support from the Regional Development Agency One NorthEast and the European Union.'

Sir George said he found his visit to the Phoenix 'an uplifting experience', stressing that the world would overcome its current financial difficulties and predicting that regions such as the North East would flourish if they learn again how to innovate.

Sir George said, 'We need more of what I have seen here today. Our future national prosperity is going to rely on harnessing our creativity and getting different skills to work together.'

'The role of universities is to ensure that we don't turn out engineers who can't communicate or scientists who don't understand design. We need to bring different skills together and that's what I find so exciting by the fabulous examples of this in action here. I have found the day uplifting because it shows the way we should go and that you at Teesside University thoroughly deserve your growing reputation.'

Sir George started his tour of the Phoenix by visiting the new TV and sound studio, complete with sophisticated visual special effects, where he had a lively discussion with himself in a double-take. The sophisticated special effects available are some of the best in the North East and certainly the best in a UK university, see picture above.

The TV and sound studio has state-of-the-art broadcast quality surround sound and broadcast-definition video production facilities, and Sir George was transported to a virtual world when he stood in the middle of the studio. The facilities allow any kind of backdrop to be superimposed onto the digital screen.

During his tour of the Phoenix Sir George met 13 Strides, a sporting web design company founded by former Team GB athlete Anthony Borsumato, whose clients have included Olympic gold medallist Dame Kelly

Holmes and Olympian Steve Backley. Anthony set up the digital company with his cousin Kevin Allinson after they both graduated from Teesside with master's degrees in Multimedia Applications. Their company is now based in one of the business suites in the Phoenix.

He also met Professor Marc Cavazza from the University's award-winning School of Computing and found out more about his research team's work at the frontiers of virtual reality for art and entertainment. This was followed by a meeting with Professor Nashwan Dawood, whose Centre for Construction Innovation and Research is helping to lead a multi-million Euro energy conservation project.

In addition, Sir George toured the University's d-lab, which is spearheading new developments in 3D virtual worlds and currently creating a unique searchable online resource to help track the growing number of virtual world environments.

Fellowship enables the animation of Rory

DigitalCity Fellow Paul Miller, who lost his hearing as a child, is drawing on his own experiences to create animated films.

Paul, 37, has been deaf since the age of three, following a childhood illness. His animated films include a character called Rory who has featured in animation for deaf projects.

He was born in Scotland, but moved several times during his youth as his father was in the Army. Paul now lives and works in South Shields.

Paul studied illustration and animation at Newcastle College in 2003, but felt his deafness made it difficult when he was attempting to contact publishers in order to pursue his aim of becoming an illustrator for children's books.

Undeterred, Paul went on to animate a two-dimensional character he had created called Rory. Featuring no dialogue, the animated film uses sign language.

Paul said, 'I went on to try working in 3D animation. The University of Teesside liked my idea and I was offered a place on the DigitalCity Fellowship scheme.'

Paul went on to spend three months last year at the University as a DigitalCity Fellow. During this time he was able to develop his work in 3D animation and work further on his Rory character:

He said, 'I had never used 3D and tried using motion capture, which didn't work well, so instead I was filmed doing sign language using a normal camera, with the footage used on the film equipment to animate the cartoon character to copy my sign language.'

'I learned a lot from the University and went on to make a short film, *Rory A to Z*, with the character using sign language.'

Paul recently met a writer who he started to collaborate with to create illustrations for her books. They were due to be published in December.

He has been involved in various animation workshops across the North East with deaf and hearing children. Paul has also shown his first exhibition at Gateshead Library, featuring his work on the Rory animated film.



A healthy sharing of expertise



The University's School of Health & Social Care has established a Unit for Innovation and Enhancement, enabling health providers to access the expertise and knowledge of the School's staff.

The Unit was established, with help from the Higher Education Innovation Fund, to encourage enterprise activities within the School.

Wade Tovey, Assistant Dean (Enterprise, Knowledge Transfer and Employer Engagement), explained the Unit works with practitioners on developing and enhancing ways of delivering services to patients and service users.

For further information e-mail unitie@tees.ac.uk

Pictured left to right from the Unit, Maria Morrissey, Wade Tovey, Terry Bearpark and Professor Robert Adams.

New Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teesside

Professor Caroline Macdonald is to join the University's Vice-Chancellor's Executive as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Student Experience) in early 2009. Her previous role was Pro Vice-Chancellor at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU).

Caroline, pictured right, said, 'I'm looking forward to working somewhere that makes a difference. The University is full of energy and ambition and this is obvious from all the activity and new buildings on campus. My impression is the University is very much an institution where people work together in a collegiate manner. I'm also keen to work in a university with good local links but that also has international activity and aspirations.'

Caroline, 57, is originally from Edinburgh and achieved her first degree in molecular biology from the University of Glasgow. She followed this with a PhD, again from Glasgow, which explored vitamin B12 deficiency in adults. Caroline began her academic career as a Post-doctoral Bioscience Research Fellow at Glasgow, in a project funded by the Cancer Research Campaign.

After periods as a lecturer at both the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde, Caroline spent 12 years as a Professor, Head of Department and Assistant Principal at the University of Paisley, before taking up her previous position as Pro Vice-Chancellor at GCU in 2004.

During her time at GCU she had strategic responsibility for a range of areas of relevance to her role at Teesside, including developing a new Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy; Student Services and Students' Union Liaison; Quality Enhancement; Progression, Retention and Completion; Widening Participation; and Further Education and Community Links.

The University has also made several other appointments at senior level. These include:

Director of Library & Information Services, Liz Jolly. Liz has over 16 years' experience of working in a Library & Information Services environment, within both pre-92 and post-92 universities. For the last five years, she held a senior position at the University of Salford.

Director of Finance, Heather Ashton. Heather was previously employed as Service Director; Finance of Wakefield District Housing where



Image supplied by Glasgow Caledonian University

she had responsibility for the management of over 40 staff and a capital budget of over £700m and a revenue budget of over £100m.

Director of the Centre for Learning & Quality Enhancement, Kathy Wiles. Kathy will join Teesside from the University of Newcastle where she was Head of Quality, Learning & Teaching.

Congratulations to Teesside's Chair of Governors



At the recent North East Business Executive of the Year Awards, the University's Chairman of Governors, Sandy Anderson, received the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of the huge contribution he has made to the region.

Sandy is a former ICI Director who managed their Teesside operations from 1989 to 94 before becoming Director of Engineering and then Senior Vice President, Technology for the ICI Group Worldwide.

Sandy first got to know the University as Chairman of the European Process Industries Competitiveness Centre which the University set up with industrial partners in 1995. He joined the Board of Governors in 1998, becoming Chairman in 2005.

Professor Graham Henderson, Vice-Chancellor said, 'I was absolutely thrilled to learn that Sandy was to receive this award. He is not only one of the most well-liked and widely respected people that it has been my privilege to know, he is also a perfect Chairman. His friendly, supportive approach and his wisdom and strategic thinking have made an outstanding difference to our University, and his past, and ongoing, contribution to industry and public life in the Tees Valley has been extensive and lasting. I cannot think of anyone that would be more deserving of this recognition and I am delighted to have this chance to offer him my warmest possible congratulations.'

IMPROVING training to the trainers

A course has been launched to enhance the education delivered by the police who train their new recruits in the workplace.



The University of Teesside already runs the Foundation Degree in Police Studies, with Cleveland Police, in which the force's new officers complete their first year in the job studying on the campus.

Following the year at the University, the recruits spend most of their second year working in-force, with training being overseen by colleagues who are known as Tutor Constables and act in the role of mentors.

Now, those Tutor Constables are themselves undergoing a short education and training course to ensure that the knowledge and skills they provide fits in with the foundation course.

Ian Pepper, Principal Lecturer in Policing, School of Social Sciences & Law, said, 'Tutor Constables are an integral part of the team on the Foundation Degree and have a lot of experience to impart. By offering them training of their own, we can ensure a consistent approach in the way the Degree is

delivered both within the University and in-force.

'Recent years have seen significant changes in police training and Cleveland Police is very switched on to the opportunities.

'If you go back a few years, most forces' training tended to consist of sending out new recruits with officers to learn on the job. Although that still happens, courses like ours ensure that they are better prepared and that there is more structure to it.'

The Foundation Degree teaches officers a range of theory and practical subjects and gives recruits the chance to experience everything from patrolling the campus to experiencing the atmosphere in the University's mock courtroom.

Course gives insights into the world of death

Investigation experts at the University of Teesside have linked up with the Metropolitan Police force to run a course to develop skills for coroners' officers.

Coroners' officers, who are a mixture of civilians and police officers, are always called in to sudden, unexpected or unnatural deaths.

Their job is to liaise with investigating police officers and medical experts, deal with bereaved families and advise the coroners who will eventually conduct the hearings to determine cause of death.

The short course devised with the Metropolitan Police takes students through the kind of challenges they will face.

Ian Pepper, Principal Lecturer in Policing, School of Social Sciences & Law at the University, said, 'The idea of the induction course is to teach awareness. We already run a BSc (Hons) Death Investigation and shorter courses for coroners' officers.

'Our suite of courses allows students to learn about disciplines including forensics and evidence gathering.

'Another important element of the course is to help the students with their communication skills, which are important because they will be dealing with people at difficult times.

'The overall effect is to help those students who are either working as, or hoping to become, coroners' officers or work in this judicial field.'

Nicola's breast cancer call to women



A Teesside PhD student aims to encourage more women to become breast cancer aware.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK, with more than 44,000 women diagnosed each year. Of those, around 12,000 die from breast cancer.

Nicola Smith, 23, of Thornaby, is working on a PhD study into breast cancer at the University. Her aim is to promote the idea of breast self-examination to all women and encourage them to adopt it as a daily part of their lives.

She said, 'It is really important that women are made aware of self-examination, as early detection of breast cancer can give the best possible chance of fighting the disease.'

'Self-examination needs to become as much a part of a woman's daily life as cleaning her teeth or putting on make-up. By regularly self-examining, a woman will know what is normal for her and will be able to notice any changes. It could be that many don't bother due to embarrassment, or are simply not sure what to look for. Regular self-examination is important to ensure that any changes are noticed by the woman.'

The aim of Nicola's study, which is part of a three-year PhD, is to focus on women's knowledge, beliefs and behaviour regarding self-examination.

She said, 'My nanna Joyce Hughes died when she was 64 from breast cancer when I was little and my family has always supported cancer charities. I saw the study as a way of involving other women and encouraging them to become more aware.'

Nicola, who aims to become a health psychologist working in health promotion, began studying at the University last year and has since completed an MSc Health Psychology.

Women wanting to get involved in Nicola's study into breast cancer and awareness of self-examination should email G7079216@tees.ac.uk

University partners Jobcentre Plus

Teesside is the first UK university to sign a local employment partnership agreement with Jobcentre Plus, part of the Department for Work and Pensions. The University has followed Middlesbrough Council in signing this agreement, and it was also the first council to sign up with Jobcentre Plus.

The agreement is designed to ensure that the University and its Students' Union can support Jobcentre Plus in assisting those in the local community who have been unemployed for some time.

Juliet Amos, Director of Human Resources at the University, said, 'The whole idea of this agreement fits neatly with the University's corporate social responsibility ethos. It helps the local community's regeneration in its broadest sense. We're already in discussions with Jobcentre Plus to pursue the idea of offering work placements or work trials for the unemployed and we're looking to expand them more widely across the University.'

'These placements or trials can offer a rounded experience for someone to enable them to get back into the world of work. Initially this experience is likely to focus on the

manual-related roles, such as catering and cleaning, but there is no reason why this cannot, in time, expand to other areas of work within the University.'

The work trials or placements at the University can be of different lengths, up to 12 weeks.

Further details are available at local Jobcentre Plus offices.

UTRN broadcasts to the world

The University of Teesside Radio Network (UTRN) is available globally to listeners, following its relaunch on campus.

UTRN broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week during term time. It was given the green light by the University to continue following a successful three-month pilot period which saw a number of presenters broadcast live over the internet.

Anyone who wants to listen to UTRN can receive the station on their computers or mobile phones through links to the internet.

Ange Ferguson, Technical Director, School of Arts & Media, said, 'It's a fantastic opportunity for our students, allowing us to build links with schools, colleges, potential employers and

sponsors. We are looking for staff and students who may be interested in getting involved in the station, whether that is to provide content or support.'

Volunteers are trained to use the studio equipment and are taught broadcasting techniques. They can also gain a University Certificate in Introduction to Radio Broadcasting.

For more information about UTRN or to listen to online visit www.utrn.co.uk

Pictured BA (Hons) Multimedia Journalism Professional Practice student Dominic Shaw in the UTRN studio.



Reach new heights with the University's climbing wall



The University's Sport and Recreation Unit has unveiled the new climbing wall facility which is now available for use on campus.

The wall is in the University's Olympia Building on Victoria Road, and cost around £78,500. It comprises a roped climbing wall with facilities for top rope and lead climbing, and a specific area for bouldering. There are a mix of styles of climbing routes available to cater for a wide variety of users and abilities.

The Sport and Recreation Unit is able to offer individual taster sessions, induction sessions and group sessions from complete novices, to

specific skill workshops later this term.

Along with use of the wall, users can also have use of harnesses, helmets, climbing shoes and belay devices. Those wishing to climb unsupervised would need to attend an induction session.

To make a booking for an induction or a taster session, currently held on Tuesdays from 1pm to 2pm, contact 01642 342267 or 384591 or email sport@tees.ac.uk

For enquiries about group use or other general enquiries contact Callum Anderson on 01642 342267 or email c.anderson@tees.ac.uk

The climbing wall is pictured left and on the front cover of UNIverse.

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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