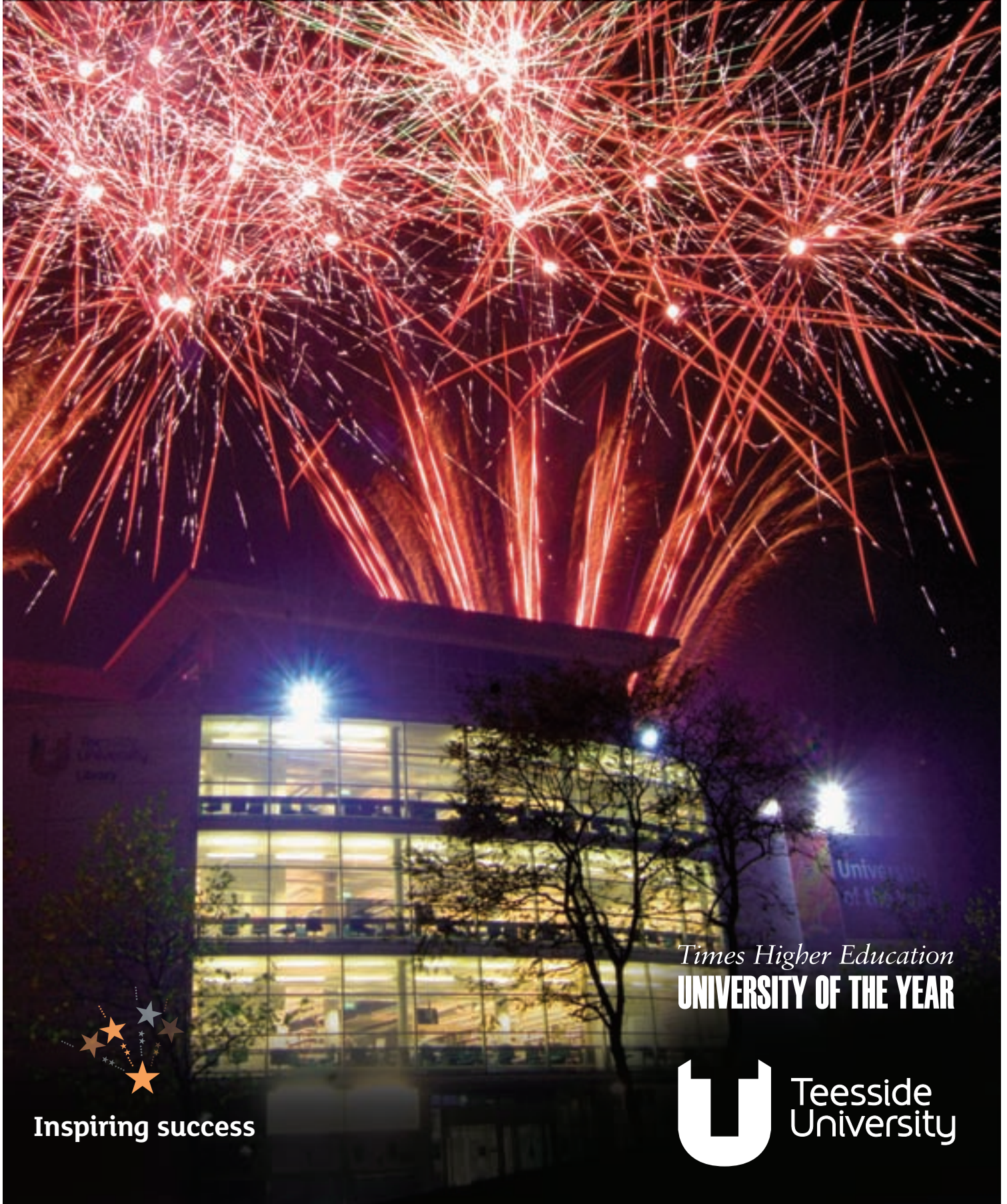


UNiverse

the magazine of Teesside University

Issue 66 Winter 09/10



Times Higher Education
UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR


Inspiring success

 **Teesside
University**

WELCOME

May I wish you all a very happy, successful and prosperous new year.

In my introduction to this edition of UNiverse I would like, if I may, to say a few words about what it means for Teesside to have been awarded the accolade of University of the Year by the *Times Higher Education* (THE) magazine – the first modern university to ever receive this honour.



Professor Graham Henderson
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive

Whilst the details of the award will be explored in the following pages, I think it is important simply to stress what a phenomenal achievement it really is, what a great tribute it is to the whole University community and how delighted I have been to see how receipt of the award has brought such pride and excitement not only to the University community but also to the town and the whole of the Tees Valley. Both the award of University of the Year and the award for Outstanding Employer Engagement Initiative of the Year have given a massive boost to the morale and self belief of everyone associated with the University; they have also given everyone the sense that the University is finally beginning to get true recognition for what it has achieved.

Indeed it was particularly pleasing to see our achievements acknowledged at the level of the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, who, having been told about the University's double success by Dari Taylor, MP for Stockton South, wrote a letter of congratulations in which he said, 'I understand... that you run an innovative and

creative team focussed on delivering quality higher education to your students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your hard work and to thank you for your ongoing dedication to public service.'

Last year, the University enjoyed one of its most successful years on a number of fronts, including both our UK and global student satisfaction ratings, and this has provided an excellent platform for the University as it moves into 2010 – a year which will be a very significant one for the institution, as we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the opening of Constantine College, the forerunner of the University.

During 2010 the University's campus will continue to develop, with the opening of a new £17m dental education and sports therapy building (Centuria South) and work will be going ahead apace towards the creation of our new University presence in Darlington – a £13m, five-storey building based alongside Darlington College, scheduled to open for business in summer 2011. And, the University's Board of

Governors has also recently given its approval to our next building, right in the heart of the University campus – an iconic building that will provide conference facilities and enhanced part-time teaching accommodation.

Winning the THE Awards has undoubtedly reinforced the growing sense of confidence that exists at the University as a result of our academic achievements, our financial success and our highly positive industrial relations environment and, despite the difficult economic environment, we look forward to taking the University on to even greater heights in the future.

UNiverse

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The fireworks display took place during an evening to celebrate the *Times Higher awards*.



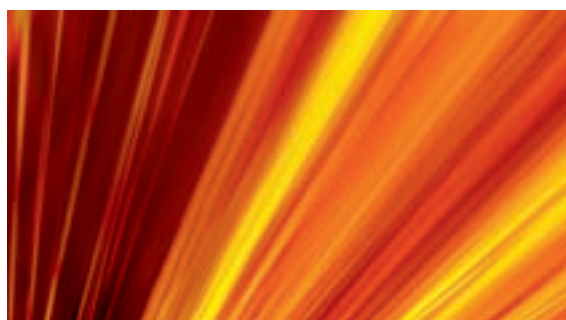
Double accolades for Teesside University



Teesside University has triumphed twice in the annual *Times Higher* magazine awards, being named University of the Year and receiving the Outstanding Employer Engagement Initiative of the Year award.

The awards are one of the most prestigious events in the national higher education calendar and were presented to Professor Graham Henderson, the University's Vice-Chancellor, at a glitzy gathering of higher education leaders in London's Grosvenor House.

THE AWARDS
Times Higher Education
UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR



Professor Henderson said, 'Teesside is the first modern university to ever receive recognition as the University of the Year. It was therefore both an amazing moment and a huge personal honour for me to be able to accept this Award on behalf of my University.'



The University was awarded the top prize for its 'outstanding regional economic strategy and strong financial performance'.

Award judge Dianne Willcocks, Vice-Chancellor of York St John University, praised Teesside for its 'history of working with communities and businesses that makes it the public benefactor par excellence and truly a well-merited winner'.

Times Higher Education Editor Ann Mroz said, 'Teesside is a fantastic example of an institution that has put itself firmly at the heart of its community, embracing with zeal its mission of working with both individuals and businesses to help them achieve their full potential. With an ambitious 16-point plan, it has helped to create and sustain jobs in the midst of a recession. The University has been a beacon of hope in the region's economic gloom. It also set a fine fiscal example by turning in a strong financial performance of its own. Teesside is a very worthy winner of this year's top accolade.'

Professor Henderson said, 'I really cannot put into words how proud everyone at the University feels at having been given such a wonderful accolade. There is, as I am sure you can imagine, a tremendous buzz around the campus because of this achievement. I am sure that I speak for the whole University community – our staff, students, governors and our many partners – when I say we all feel a sense of pride and elation that our achievements have been recognised in this way.'

'To win such a major national award in competition with such outstanding institutions shows how far we have come in this our 80th year. We started our journey from quite

humble roots, first as Constantine College, then as Teesside Polytechnic and now as Teesside – the University of the Year.'

Professor Henderson also paid tribute to all the excellent finalists in this year's University of the Year Awards and to the *Times Higher Education* magazine for sponsoring the Awards.

He said, 'I believe the Award will really put Teesside on the map as a strong player, particularly in terms of our mission of providing opportunities and promoting enterprise around a first-class experience of higher education for our 28,000 students, and helping the North East region out of recession. I am incredibly proud of all of my staff and students and this Award is true recognition of what they have all worked so hard to achieve and I am sure there's more to come in the future.'

Professor Henderson added, 'We are confident that winning this Award will go a long way towards changing perceptions not just of the University but also of the town and the Tees Valley, both nationally and internationally.'

'I would like to thank personally all those who contributed to our success – namely our staff, students and governors, but also our many partners and supporters in the region and beyond.'

Middlesbrough Mayor Ray Mallon offered his congratulations, saying, 'This recognition will attract more students and shows how far this University has come in a very short space of time. I offer my congratulations to everybody concerned. What I like about the University is that it is very positive, it's got that wow factor and a real sparkle about it!'

Alan Clarke, Chief Executive of One North East, said, 'This is fantastic news and I would like to offer my huge congratulations to Teesside University and all of those involved who have helped achieve this impressive accolade. This Award is national recognition for Teesside University and its staff who have worked tirelessly to help both students and the region.'

Also adding his congratulations was entrepreneur and *Dragon's Den* star Duncan Bannatyne, who said, 'It's absolutely fantastic that Teesside University has won the award of University of the Year from the *Times Higher*. As a Teesside honorary graduate, I offer my congratulations to the whole University community.'

Before being presented with the University of the Year Award, Professor Henderson was up on the platform to receive the Award for Outstanding Employer Engagement Initiative of the Year. The Award was national recognition for Teesside University Business School's Foundation Degree in Leadership and Management, designed and developed in partnership with the North East Chamber of Commerce (NECC).

Professor Henderson said, 'I think it is fantastic that we have won the Outstanding Employer Engagement Award for our innovative work with the NECC as well as University of the Year. Winning the Employer Engagement prize is testament to the excellent spirit of partnership that governs our business relationships in the region. We look forward to working together with more companies and organisations in the coming year to bring real benefit to the North East.'



AN OUTSTANDING INITIATIVE

Pictured left to right at the first Foundation Degree in Leadership and Management graduation are mother and daughter Jean and Rachel Featherstone, who both work for the NECC.

Mr James Ramsbotham, the NECC's Chief Executive, was at the Awards Ceremony on the Teesside University table when the Award was announced.

He said, 'It is a great accolade and I'm really delighted that the Foundation Degree has received this national recognition.'

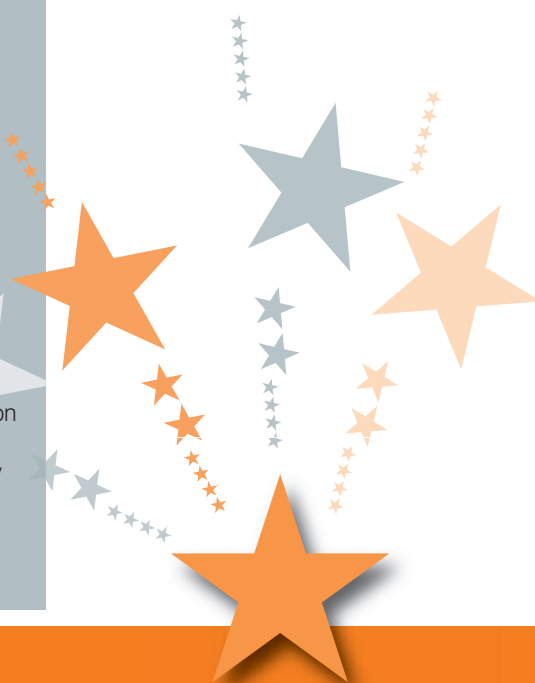
'From NECC's perspective, working with Teesside University has been fabulous. They really understand businesses and business needs and are always willing to be flexible. It couldn't be a better partnership.'

Teesside University Business School Dean, Alastair Thompson, said, 'For several years, providing employer-focused, demand-led programmes has been at the heart of our work and we're very proud of the

Foundation Degree in Leadership and Management. We developed the programme with the North East Chamber of Commerce to meet the real needs of employers in the region.'

'In most parts of the country, "real-world" leadership and management skills are sorely lacking and we're pleased that our innovative work in this area has been recognised as the Outstanding Employer Engagement Initiative of the Year.'

NECC's director of training and skills development Patricia Wilkinson added, 'It's absolutely fantastic that the Foundation Degree has won this Award. The Foundation Degree has proved to be very successful since its introduction and the Award helps to confirm this.'



Teesside bucks national trend in student satisfaction survey

Teesside University bucked the national trend by recording a 3% rise in overall student satisfaction in the 2009 National Student Survey, with History scoring a remarkable 100% for student satisfaction.

Nationally, student satisfaction rates fell marginally by 1% from 82% last year to 81% in this year's National Survey.

But Teesside University's figure went up from 81% to 84% for overall student satisfaction.

Doing best of all was History, scoring 100% and making it joint top in the UK for satisfied students. Among the satisfied History students from Teesside is Laura Cuff, 23, from Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough. She graduated last year and is working in her first post as a teacher at St Bernadette's RC Primary School in Middlesbrough, where she studied as a child.

Laura, pictured, said, 'History is a subject I was always passionate about and chose to study it at Teesside because it has such a good reputation for the subject. The lecturers were supportive from every angle and all had expertise in their own individual areas. In fact the lecturers' support was unflinching throughout my three years at the University. If you have a passion for the subject of History then I'd recommend Teesside, the teaching expertise is second to none.'

The 22 questions in the Survey measure student satisfaction in their courses and teaching at different universities.

In all seven subject areas scored over 90% for overall student satisfaction at Teesside.

- **History 100%**
- **Law 95%**
- **Nursing 95%**
- **Psychology 94%**
- **Sociology 92%**
- **Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology 92%**
- **Social Work 91%**



Laura Cuff with pupils from her first class

And seven subjects taught at Teesside were in the top ten nationally for overall satisfaction. These were History (joint 1st), Nursing (which came joint 3rd); Law (coming 7th); Design Studies (8th); Social Work (8th); Psychology (9th) Medical Technology (Radiography) (10th).

Professor Caroline MacDonald, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Student Experience), said, 'I am delighted that Teesside University has, for the fifth year running, registered such an outstanding performance in the National Student Survey. With seven subjects ranked in the top ten nationally for student satisfaction, this really is a vote of confidence from our students.'

'The experience of our students is a priority for all the staff at the University and we will continue to work to build on our reputation and strengths in student support and learning.'

Tim Cobbett, the University's Academic Registrar, said, 'Teesside scored above the national average in 20 out of the 22 questions asked in the Survey and we performed particularly well for library provision, IT resources and specialist equipment.'

'The results also put Teesside in joint 4th place nationally among the modern universities and show the progress we are making in building our reputation.'



Mirror, mirror on the wall - who is the fittest of them all?

Can looking in a mirror while running on a treadmill affect your sporting performance?

This issue has been explored in a research project by Daniel Eaves, Senior Lecturer/Programme Leader for Sports Psychology at the University, and two colleagues, Nicola Hodges, from the University of British Columbia, Canada, and Mark Williams, from Liverpool John Moores University.

Daniel, 29, pictured with a runner, was the lead researcher and main author of the study, which has been published in the highly regarded journal *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*. Daniel said, 'What we see influences how we co-ordinate our limbs. When two people walk or run alongside each other they are often drawn towards doing the same thing at the same time. Their step patterns become

spontaneously synchronised. We wanted to look at the effects this may have on performance, specifically when people are running in front of a mirror on a treadmill.'

The research sample was ten physically fit males with an average age of 22. They each took part in three 20-minute treadmill runs, separated by a day's rest between each run. Participants faced a different life-sized image of themselves while running under each condition. The images were a normal mirror, a normal mirror where left and right sides were reversed, and a static image. Various performance factors were measured, such as oxygen consumption, heart rate, biomechanical running patterns (ie how the body moved) and reaction time.

Daniel said, 'Our results showed that seeing a dynamic mirror image of yourself while running is less energetically demanding than seeing a static image. The reversed image placed more demands on the runners' thought processes. The majority of gyms in the Western world have mirrors in front of treadmills and our research suggests mirrors help to stabilise your movement, allowing you to focus on running more smoothly. However, looking at yourself in the mirror can make your work rate less energetically demanding.'

'If you are just getting into running then mirrors may be ideal for developing your style and performing a less demanding run. Experienced runners, however, who want to train harder, may benefit from not looking in the mirror.'

Celebrating a Meteoric ten years



Pupils from Sacred Heart RC Primary School in Middlesbrough admire their own 'mini-Temenos'.

Teeside University's award-winning programme Meteor celebrated its tenth anniversary this year.

Meteor was launched by the University in 1999 to inspire local primary pupils to think about further and higher education. The programme offers a series of activities on and off campus where the pupils work with student mentors. Meteor culminates in a summer school and 'mini-graduation' at Middlesbrough Town Hall. This year 500 pupils crossed the stage at Middlesbrough Town Hall to receive a certificate from the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Graham Henderson, watched by their families, friends, teachers and VIPs.

When first launched in February 1999, Meteor was offered solely to Year Six pupils in six primary schools in central Middlesbrough. Ten years later the programme has expanded to 14 primary and 19 secondary schools from across the Tees Valley. Each year its core is topped-up by 500 Year Six pupils from 14 primary schools.

At this year's summer school the pupils designed and made their own art structures, inspired by a model of the forthcoming public art structure, Temenos, which will be unveiled at Middlesbrough's Middlehaven site this year.

Pat White, Acting Deputy Director in the University's Department for Marketing & Student Recruitment, said, 'Over the last ten years thousands of pupils have passed through the Meteor programme. This shows the University's commitment to our local community as we believe everyone can come to university. We want our young community to achieve their best and we want to inspire them to do their best.'

PAT WHITE

Acting Deputy Director, Marketing & Student Recruitment, has been recognised as the Outstanding Individual Contributor to Aimhigher for 2009.



Aimhigher is a national programme which aims to widen participation in higher education by raising awareness, aspirations and attainment among young people from under-represented groups.

The Outstanding Individual Contribution to Aimhigher Award recognises individuals who have excelled in representing the Aimhigher programme, either in their local area or further afield.

Pat has contributed to the widening-participation agenda for more than 20 years. She has

successfully designed and implemented numerous activities, engaging tens of thousands of young people, parents and teachers, helping with progression to higher education.

The Aimhigher judges noted in particular, that Pat was instrumental in developing the Passport Scheme. This was introduced at the University as part of the wider schools and colleges partnerships strategy in response to concerns about the low number of students progressing to higher education in the region.

Passport is now in its tenth year, with over 8,000 members and the partnership has grown from one institution to currently include 30 colleges.

The judge's citation says, 'Pat has a remarkable track record and she continues to demonstrate a level of engagement which is both dynamic and innovative. Her deep commitment to the cause and her achievements are clearly evidenced in the profound value of Aimhigher's work both across the wider region and nationally.'

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF 2009



Anne is a First-class Student of the Year - at the University of the Year

Anne Henderson enjoyed double graduations from the University, achieving a first-class BSc (Hons) Computer Studies and the Cecil M Yuill Foundation Student Award, Achievement in Any Field. This Award made Anne the University's Student of the Year.

Mother-of-three Anne, 49, from Marske, said, 'Receiving this Award just amazed me, I wasn't expecting this and it was absolutely

wonderful. When I opened the letter telling me I thought "how can I better that" getting student of the year from the University of the Year? I even joked with my daughter Vicki, saying "top that!" as she's aiming for university in 2010.'

Anne's success is the culmination of years of hard work. She first completed a basic computer qualification, followed by a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Computing (Information Technology) from Teesside.

At her 2007 graduation she clinched double academic prizes, the British Computer Society Prize and the HND Prize. At the time Anne was working as a classroom assistant in a local primary school. Since then she's fulfilled a long-held ambition by setting up her own company ALH Computing Designs, providing web and database services for local businesses.



Moving from Mauritius to Master's

Aged 14 Radha Brown flew to London with her grandmother from her home country of Mauritius. Her grandmother was to receive cancer treatment in a London hospital and she was so inspired by her first-class treatment by English nurses that she wished for Radha to train as one.

Radha fulfilled her grandmother's ambition by moving to Britain in 1996 and achieving a nursing diploma at Teesside University. She continued her studies at the University with BSc (Hons) Midwifery. In 2004 she enrolled on a part-time Master of Science (MSc) in Health Sciences (Public Health) and Radha has now completed her degree.

Radha, 36, works as an Assistant Clinical Matron for the Corporate Practice Team at The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough.

She said, 'My gran always said education was the way forward. Moving into nursing was quite a big change for me as my A levels were in accounting, economics and French. I've never regretted it, I feel very proud to be involved in the drive to improve patient care and patient safety.'

Radha is hoping her MSc research into monitoring fetal heart electronically during labour may be published and her Director of Nursing is keen for this to be applied in clinical practice. She will be returning to the University to study for a leadership qualification and may consider a PhD.

CONGRATULATIONS

Partnership role for Allan



The study of crime has paid off for Allan Cattermole as he has gained his first job as a partnership intelligence analyst with Redcar & Cleveland Council. Although employed by the Council, he is working as part of the Redcar & Cleveland Community Safety Partnership based at Redcar & Cleveland Police's HQ at Kirkleatham. His diverse role includes the monitoring and evaluation of the drugs intervention programme and the prolific and priority offender scheme. He is also providing analytical support in the areas of crime, drugs and antisocial behaviour.

Allan, 21, from Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, achieved a BSc (Hons) Crime and Investigation. He said, 'I was attracted by the variety of the degree as it includes law, forensics, criminology and psychology. There are so many different avenues you can go down after graduating, such as fingerprint analysis or law. The lecturers also give a lot of support; they're always willing to help at any time.'

Michelle is mentored to a new career

Teesside BSc (Hons) Digital Forensics graduate Michelle Thomas has a new career with West Midlands Police, thanks to the University's mentoring scheme DiversiTees.

The scheme is in its fifth year and available to disabled, mature or black, ethnic minority students, linking them with local employers to enhance their employability. By taking part in DiversiTees, the students are paired with mentors who offer advice, encouragement and possible work experience in their specific fields.

The University's Careers Service, which runs DiversiTees, teamed Michelle up with Howard Smith, a Fire and Safety Officer with Cleveland Police. During her placement Howard arranged for Michelle to shadow one of Cleveland Police's experts in digital evidence. Howard later saw a job advert in *Police Review* for a Computer Forensics Technician with West Midlands Police, and encouraged Michelle to apply. She did so and clinched the post, her success aided by the fact she was the only candidate with relevant work experience.



Michelle, 21, from Thornaby, said, 'DiversiTees was such a good experience as it got me into the real world of work. When Howard told me about the job ad I didn't think about applying as I was busy completing my dissertation and coursework, but Howard encouraged me to go for it, he said "just do it, you don't know if you don't try". I was one of ten candidates and told afterwards that the work experience at Cleveland Police had given me the edge.

'In my new role I'll be looking at electronic devices such as computers and mobile phones for evidence.

'My life is totally different now. I missed some of my GCSE study time due to epilepsy and lacked confidence. Studying at Teesside has opened my eyes a lot and I'm very grateful to Howard for being such a supportive mentor.'

Honours from the University of the Year

This year's Honorary Graduates are:

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu

Doctor of Laws

Dr John Sentamu was appointed in 2005 and is the UK's first black archbishop and the Church of England's second most senior clergyman.

Dr Sentamu is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda and practised at the Bar and the Bench before he came to the UK in 1974 to study theology at Selwyn College Cambridge, where he obtained his master's degree and doctorate.

As the Church of England's number two, Archbishop Sentamu works closely with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams. His appointment was hailed as a breakthrough in the history of the Church of England and he is an outspoken speaker on a number of issues including modern-day slavery, injustice and conflict.

Paul Rodgers

Doctor of Letters

Singer-songwriter Paul Rodgers was born in Middlesbrough and was the founding member and main songwriter of the bands Free, Bad Company and The Firm with Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page. Since 1968 he has toured internationally and recently as Queen + Paul Rodgers and as a solo artist. He has released 30 albums and sold over 90m records. He has consistently been voted number one vocalist of all time. He and his wife Cynthia quietly support over 30 varied charities internationally and in 2008 he received the prestigious US Congress Proclamation for his humanitarianism, of only eight awarded.



Back row: Sandy Anderson, Chair of the University's Governors, Professor Graham Henderson, Teesside University's Vice-Chancellor, Lord Sawyer of Darlington, University Chancellor.

Front row: Archbishop Dr John Sentamu, Rob Smedley, Trevor Arnold MBE, Adele Parks, Paul Rodgers.

Rob Smedley

Doctor of Professional Studies

Rob Smedley is originally from Normanby, Middlesbrough. He has built an outstanding career as an engineer in Formula 1 racing, first with Peugeot, then with Williams and Jordan. He moved to work for Ferrari in 2007 and was later appointed as Felipe Massa's race engineer. He is widely recognized as being one of the most respected engineers in the whole of Formula 1.

Adele Parks

Doctor of Letters

Adele comes from Stockton and studied English Language and Literature at Leicester University. She has sold over 1.5m copies of her romantic fiction novels in the UK, with nine top ten bestsellers. Adele's books have been translated into over 15 languages and she was official spokesperson for World Book Day in 2006 and 2007. She is also a supporter of numerous charities.

Trevor Arnold MBE

Doctor of Business Administration

Trevor Arnold is the former Managing Director of Thornaby-based K Home International where he spent 21 years securing contracts for Teesside. These contracts included the development of an 800-bed hospital in Abu Dhabi, as well as work on Dubai's Atlantis Hotel – the world's second seven-star hotel. Trevor saw the company win two Queen's Awards for outstanding achievement in international trade.



Before receiving his honorary Doctor of Professional Studies degree, Rob Smedley, Felipe Massa's race engineer at Ferrari, officially relaunched one of the University's academic Schools.

ROB SMEDLEY

launches a school for the future

Previously known as the School of Science & Technology, Rob Smedley unveiled the new identity of the School of Science & Engineering, after his guest lecture. Rob's lecture, delivered to a packed audience, explored his career as a F1 race engineer.

Professor Simon Hodgson, Dean of the School of Science & Engineering, said, 'We were delighted to welcome Rob Smedley, who is such a talented and high-profile figure, not only to give his guest lecture but also to launch formally the new School identity. We have adopted the new title as the School of Science & Engineering to mark our focus on supporting the science and engineering industries of the future, and to celebrate the region's rich engineering heritage.'

'We also unveiled the wider development of our School's new mission – *Developing the Problem Solvers, Innovators and Leaders of the Future*. For the past two years, the School has completed a comprehensive review and redesign of every course we offer, working towards a vision of a new and distinctive style of university education. Our focus will be on producing graduates with highly developed skills in the application of academic knowledge in the real world.'

Rob Smedley said, 'It was a great honour to come to the University, being amongst and speaking to the undergraduate and postgraduate students. I was really proud to be asked to be part of this relaunch.'

'I'm very interested in what's going on here in this School; you're providing the missing link between a classical technical education and what you need to have in the real world. The students are in the right place here. I've followed my dream and that's what a university degree should be, a springboard to anything that's possible.'

'To be successful, you need to know how to lead a team. As a race engineer I need to be able to manage people and this applies to any discipline. Managing a group of people is at the heart of your job and you'll never cut it as an engineer without this. What the School of Science & Engineering is doing is really, really very important, trying to bridge the gap between study and life after graduation.'

National Recognition for Teesside Lecturer Stewart

A prestigious National Teaching Fellowship has been awarded to Stewart Martin, a principal lecturer at the University. The National Teaching Fellowship Scheme from the Higher Education Academy awards its Fellowships in recognition of excellence in teaching. Only 50 Fellowships are awarded to academics annually from universities in England and Northern Ireland. Each recipient is awarded £10,000 to support their personal and professional development and research work.



Stewart, 61, is the eighth Teesside lecturer to be awarded a Fellowship since 2000. He is originally from Preston, Lancashire, and now lives in Fishburn, Stockton-on-Tees. Stewart first joined Teesside University's School of Social Sciences & Law as a principal lecturer and head of its education section in 2007.

Stewart said, 'I was extremely pleased to receive this Fellowship. It really is a very significant honour to be told by your peers that they think your work is important enough to merit recognition in this way. Awards like this are particularly gratifying, as we need to raise the recognition and status of teaching nationally.'

Stewart achieved his first degree in education at Lancaster University, before embarking on a 30-year career as a secondary school English literature teacher and later a head teacher. When computers were introduced into schools in the early 1980s he became a passionate advocate of their use in the classroom to assist in pupils' learning. In 1984 Stewart and his business partner John Mahoney built upon this initiative by forming their own online computer software company. They were commissioned by Penguin and Letts to develop international literature study guides as computer packages and self-study books, which have exceeded sales of one million.

Ten years ago Stewart moved into higher education as a lecturer in education at the University of Durham, before moving to Teesside. He has recently been awarded British Council Funding under the Prime Minister's initiative, researching how virtual environments such as Second Life can contribute to high-quality teaching and learning. This involves collaboration with academic colleagues in two Japanese universities, who came to work with Stewart at the University in September.

Professor Graham Henderson, Teesside University Vice-Chancellor, said, 'I offer my personal congratulations to Stewart on his well-deserved National Teaching Fellowship. To have eight members of our teaching staff receive this recognition showcases the calibre of our staff and the quality of teaching we offer to all our students at Teesside University.'

Beijing office will be the University's third international satellite

Once approved, the Beijing office will act as a focal point for all of Teesside University's recruitment and partnership activities in the region. The team from the University's Centre for International Development is working to establish partnerships with further and higher education institutions in China.

Dr Keith Brown, Director of the Centre, said, 'The office will be our first permanent presence in China. The partnerships we are aiming for are on a deeper basis. Not only are we wanting to establish a partnership whereby Chinese students from certain institutions can complete their studies here, we also want to set up a student exchange scheme and provide opportunities for Teesside graduates to work in some of these institutions teaching English. We're also looking at sharing research possibilities between teaching staff here and in China.'

The University is planning to establish an office in Beijing for the first time, expanding its international presence and activities. The office will be the third international 'satellite' alongside the existing ones in India and Malaysia.

The Beijing office is the latest stage of focused activity in China, which has resulted in over 200 Chinese students enrolling at Teesside this year, compared to 60 in 2008 and eight in 2007. The majority of the new arrivals from China have enrolled on courses in the Business School, but there is also strong interest in animation, computing, engineering, and arts and media.

Dr Brown added, 'There are 50,000 Chinese students in the UK who are able to study here for five years. It's very exciting to have more who wish to experience student life at Teesside.'



STEVEN GOES BACK TO THE 70s for a logo of the future

Animex, Teesside University's annual international festival of animation and computer games, celebrated its tenth anniversary this year. As the festival enters its second decade, the organisers launched a competition for a creative talent to design a new Animex logo. Their selected winner is Steven Parker.

Steven, 29, from Middlesbrough, is a graduate of the MA Future Design. He turned to computer games of the past for artistic inspiration.

Steven said, 'I looked at the original basic 1970s computer game *Pong* as I wanted a retro feel combined with a modern use of typography. I'm a huge animation fan, of films like *Bolt*, and have wanted to attend Animex in the past but didn't have the time.

'I'm definitely going to this year's Animex to see the logo being seen for the first time by an international audience. I'm very happy that the organisers picked mine so that it will be seen for years to come. Eventually I'd like to establish my own graphic design business and this is a good start.'

Steven will be presented with an iPod Touch as one of his prizes and is invited to the 2010 festival as a special guest, where he will receive his artwork in a commemorative frame from Chris Williams, Animex Director, and a guest speaker. Steven will also be invited to the closing Animex dinner as a guest with a partner and receive a free pass to Animex for three years.

For more details on Animex, go to www.animex.net.

From Teesside to the TARDIS via Gotham City

‘New, exciting and big.’



This is how concept artist Dan Walker describes the spring 2010 series of BBC One’s *Doctor Who*, the first to star new timelord Matt Smith. Teesside University Industrial Design graduate Dan has a unique insight into the forthcoming series which is currently being filmed in Cardiff. For the programme makers have commissioned Dan’s skills to help bring their scripts to creative life.

It’s Dan’s second *Doctor Who* stint, as he first worked on the programme when it returned in 2005, as a key member of the design team for the Doctor’s ever-present sonic screwdriver and the evil Emperor Dalek.

Dan, 38, graduated in 1993 and now lives in West London. He returned to his old University recently to give a guest lecture ‘From Teesside to Gotham City’.

Dan’s work is not confined to the small screen. His talent has been viewed by film audiences worldwide in the two Batman films starring Christian Bale. In the first, *Batman Begins*, he designed the interior of the new Batmobile. He has also worked on *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince* and *The Golden Compass*.

As well as these cinema fillers, Dan’s work will be seen in two forthcoming releases, the new Disney film *The Prince of Persia* and Ridley Scott’s new Robin Hood film, starring Russell Crowe.

Dan said, ‘I enjoyed the whole creative process when studying at Teesside, there was camaraderie between the students and even now we’re a very tight group and keep in touch. I’d describe my role of a concept artist as a designer and illustrator combined.’

‘My main advice is “be persistent and always play to your strengths”. Students have to be really keen and not be frightened to pick up the phone; they may be surprised to find that companies have got time to talk to them. I didn’t have that confidence when I finished my master’s, there are many phone calls I wished I’d made and letters I’d written.’

‘My first big break as a freelancer was on *Batman Begins* and I was just in the right place at the right time. I put in an unauthorised pitch for the Thunderbirds film and then my name was passed on to the Batman makers. I was in another right place for *Doctor Who*. I’ve always been passionate about films and have no connections with the industry so this is my dream job. Hopefully I gave the students and guests some inspiration for their futures in design.’



Picture by Dave Charnley

IN TUNE

with a new way of business teaching

Inventive work which combines music and business teaching is attracting international attention for Teesside University.

Noel Dennis, Principal Lecturer in Marketing in the Business School, has been playing jazz since he was a teenager and uses the music in lectures and in workshops delivered for businesses.

The lecturer, who plays the trumpet in the Noel Dennis Quartet, is now working on a PhD encapsulating his theories.

He said, 'Music is fantastic for helping people in business think differently. A quartet has different roles but their success depends on the support that each one gives the others. They need to work together, supporting each other, and also need to improvise at times. These lessons are as true of business as they are of music.'

'I am not saying that we should dispense with more conventional teaching methods, such as Powerpoint, because they have their place, but we can learn through a different approach as well.'

Noel will use his PhD to outline his principles through a series of articles that he has had published in academic journals. It is likely to be complete within two years.

He said, 'The good thing about my teaching is that it has a sound academic basis. It has been peer reviewed.'

The work will also be promoted through a podcast, supported by the University and due to be made in the autumn.

Featuring the Quartet and noted jazz musicians, Dave O'Higgins and Pete Churchill, the film will be made with the help of technical staff at the University.

Further raising the profile of the work was Noel's appearance at the recent Annual Academy of Marketing Conference at Leeds Metropolitan University.

Alongside globally recognised marketing expert Stephen Brown, of the University of Ulster, Noel gave the keynote lecture about how music aids teaching.

He said, 'I received quite a bit of feedback from people interested in what we are doing. It is terrific that Teesside University is able to help raise its profile through this. I felt proud to be representing the University at such a high-profile conference.'

Noel also hopes that his work will revolutionise the teaching of young musicians at specialised colleges.

Noel said, 'There are a lot of great musicians out there but they do not all have the business acumen to survive as freelancers. I am suggesting that they receive some form of business training, perhaps in the form of modules on their courses. I hope that, as I research my PhD, I will be able to make some recommendations.'



Teesside takes the academy lead

The University is furthering its involvement with the local community in its new role as lead sponsor to two proposed secondary academies in the Tees Valley. The academies will be the former Thornaby Community School in Stockton-on-Tees and the former Freebrough Specialist Engineering College in East Cleveland.

The co-sponsors on the Stockton Academy are Stockton Borough Council and a consortium of Stockton Sixth Form and Stockton Riverside Colleges. In Freebrough the co-sponsors are Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, Prior Pursglove College in Guisborough, with Redcar & Cleveland College as named education partner.

Lynn Parker, Director of Educational Partnerships at the University, said, 'Teesside University is delighted to be the lead sponsor on both schools as they evolve into academies. We also look forward to working in partnership with students, staff, parents and the wider community.'

'We will be building on the exciting and innovative work that the staff of both schools have been doing and we are aiming to add value to help make the schools even better. The University is also delighted to be asked to provide additional support with the school's subject specialisms. We hope we can help staff in their work in encouraging young people to go to university and forge even better links between the schools and local further education colleges, establishing clear progression pathways.'

In addition, the University is a partner in the Endeavour Education Trust, which is leading on a merger of two former Middlesbrough secondary schools, Hall Garth and Kings Manor. Middlesbrough's Macmillan College and Middlesbrough College are also partners in this development.

Lynn Parker added, 'As a University we are committed to working with our local communities across the Tees Valley. A new Trust school so close to the University provides an opportunity to demonstrate practical application of this commitment.'

Anniversary Honorary and Professorial Lectures

Teesside University's 80th anniversary Honorary and Professorial Public Lecture programme continues into 2010.

The remaining lectures are free and open to the public, with an opportunity for questions afterwards:

24 February, Professor Matthew Rampley, Assistant Dean (Research), School of Arts & Media, 'State of the art'

17 March, Dr Maria Olea, Reader in Chemical Engineering in the School of Science & Engineering, 'Developing eco-friendly sustainable chemical technologies'

21 April, Honorary Graduate Alan Smith, the former physiotherapist for the England football team, pictured, 'Getting physical with World Cup football'

12 May, Professor Tony Chapman, from the School of Social Sciences & Law, 'Is it ideal to strive for the perfect home?'

9 June, Linda Polley, Senior Lecturer in History, School of Arts & Media, 'Building a university: a history of architecture and education'.

All of the lectures will start at 6.30pm in Room H0.01, Centuria Building. Refreshments are available from 6.00pm.

For further information contact **01642 342887** or email **alumni.office@tees.ac.uk**.

Warm welcome for new research institutes

Sir Richard Brook, Director of the Leverhulme Trust, has helped the University to launch its five research Institutes.



The new Institutes are:

- The Digital Futures Institute led by Professor Marc Cavazza
- The Health and Social Care Institute led by Professor Janet Shucksmith
- The Institute of Design, Culture and the Arts led by Professor Matthew Rampley
- The Social Futures Institute led by Dr Barbara McGuinness
- The Technology Futures Institute led by Professor Zulf Ali.

Pictured left to right at the launch, Dr Elizabeth Robertson, Dean of the Graduate Research School, Professor Cliff Hardcastle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Enterprise), Professor Graham Henderson, Teesside University's Vice-Chancellor, and Sir Richard Brook, Director of the Leverhulme Trust.

In his keynote address at the official launch of the new Institutes, Sir Richard gave a warm welcome to the direction that Teesside was taking with its research activities, saying, 'The formation of the research Institutes is the right approach' because it showed where the University was building up its research strengths and had a pool of talented researchers.

'After all, there are now some 150 universities. A profile becomes important. You need to know what you are good at. For outside agencies, it is quite helpful if an institution says "We have structured our research contribution into the following categories". I think the new broadly based research Institutes make a lot of sense,' he said.

Sir Richard also spoke about the importance of supporting talented individuals and groups of researchers whose work benefits society. He said they deserve to be supported wherever they are working and was delighted to see that Teesside University was already benefiting from Leverhulme support.

Professor Cliff Hardcastle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Enterprise), said, 'The five research Institutes give Teesside University the opportunity to create synergy and link our research activities with the regional economic strategy and the nation as a whole'.

At the launch, Sir Richard and other guests watched a showreel highlighting the impact Teesside researchers were already making.

The event coincided with the publication of the University's first *Annual Research Report* – both the *Report* and showreel are available from Chrystine Carroll, Research Administrator, on 01642 384438 or email c.a.carroll@tees.ac.uk.

For more information about Teesside University's new research Institutes contact Dr Elizabeth Robertson, Dean of the Graduate Research School, on Elizabeth.Robertson@tees.ac.uk.

Leopards land on Teesside University

Teesside University was recently invaded by over 100 leopards. The furry creatures were however of the toy variety and their invasion part of the University's annual campaign to raise students' awareness of the symptoms of meningitis.

The 160 toy leopards were included in 'goody bags', distributed to students during the campaign. The leopards highlighted the saying 'a leopard doesn't change its spots', to remind students of one of the symptoms of meningitis, a rash which doesn't fade when a tumbler is pressed upon it. The goody bag also included a wallet-sized card showing all the symptoms of meningitis. A fridge magnet with the same information was also available for students to display in halls of residence or shared houses.

Hazel Wright, Health and Well-being Co-ordinator in the University's Student Services Department, said, 'We used the leopards to get an important message across in a fun way. The rash is only one of the symptoms of meningitis, there are lots of others and students need to be aware of this. We also organised two events on campus where students took part in a quiz about meningitis to win the goody bags, as we wanted them to engage with us during this campaign.'



The other main symptoms of meningitis are,

- severe headache
- stiff neck unable to put chin to chest
- high temperature
- vomiting
- joint or muscle pain
- aversion to bright lights
- drowsiness.

Information can be found on the University's website at www.tees.ac.uk/meningitis. The Meningitis Trust's 24-hour helpline is, **0800 028 18 28**.



Legend's statue returns to score

The bronze statue of footballing legend Brian Clough in Albert Park, Middlesbrough, went missing last year. The statue needed repairs to the right leg, as a result of keen fans leaning or hanging on the left leg while being photographed. This led to cracks on the right leg and corrosion had also occurred due to water, at the top of the right leg's sock.

Ian Busby, Highway Services Manager at Middlesbrough Council, sought expert advice on how to repair the statue from Dr Paul Shelton, the Assistant Dean in Educational Partnerships in the University's School of Science & Engineering.

Paul, 52, from Great Ayton, is a metallurgist by profession and has lectured in engineering at the University for 14 years. He also acts as an engineering consultant for local companies and said, 'My ideas were to either secure the leg with a pin which would be unsightly or to change the statue slightly so it looked as though he was coming down a step.'

'The statue's been restored by Laurence Flood of Bronze Restoration in Surbiton. Laurence agreed to my suggestion as did the statue's sculptor Vivien Mallock. It was quite gratifying that my advice was followed. However as a Leeds United FC fan my first reaction when asked about a Brian Clough statue was to suggest melting it down!'

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

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