

# UNIVERSE

The University of Teesside - Providing Opportunities - Pursuing Excellence

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UNIVERSITY OF  
**TEESSIDE**

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Cover shows University of Teesside marketing lecturer Noel Dennis.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## From Professor Graham Henderson Vice-Chancellor

**In November, our graduating class of 2006 crossed Middlesbrough Town Hall's stage in their thousands. And now the University's new academic year is well underway, providing education, training and employment opportunities to a community of almost 24,000 students and staff. It is therefore timely to reflect upon the way in which Middlesbrough, the home of our University, has been changing to provide an evermore impressive and welcoming location for our students, staff and graduates.**

Increasingly, people point to the fact that Middlesbrough is becoming a student town, which it most certainly is. As the University welcomes its new students and celebrates with its graduating students (who we hope will stay and work here in the Tees Valley), it is encouraging to observe the way in which the town is striving to change its largely outdated, and increasingly undesired, image. The investment being made in our town is simply fantastic, as evidenced by a number of major, and in many cases iconic, new developments such as the Centre Square and the neighbouring Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art. The developments provide two outstanding additions to the town and give testimony to the pride, aspiration and ambition of the town and the Tees Valley.

These investments have been paralleled by an equally impressive level of ongoing investment on the University campus. The University has continued its ambitious programme of campus development, which has involved the construction of ten new buildings within a decade and the major refurbishment of a number of existing University buildings. This programme has provided one of the most modern and well-maintained campuses in the university sector. And, as I look out of my office window, I can see the emerging structures of the University's next two new buildings, the Institute of Digital Innovation and the Centre for Creative Technologies. These buildings will underpin the University's position as a national leader in the provision of education, research and business support to the digital technology and media sector, and are on schedule to open for business in autumn 2007.

However, regular readers of UNIVERSE will know that, whilst important, our campus only provides the physical environment within which the talent of the University - embodied in our staff and students



Pictured left-right, Professor Graham Henderson, the University of Teesside's Vice-Chancellor and Bill Rammell, Minister for Higher and Further Education and Lifelong Learning. Mr Rammell visited the University at the invitation of the Vice-Chancellor.

- can be supported and encouraged to flourish. Evidence of our success in nurturing that talent was provided recently with the publication of the results of the second National Student Survey (NSS).

The NSS is a government-led initiative aimed at assessing the quality of the student experience within individual universities to provide potential applicants with as much information as possible about the choices available to them. The Teesside results, based on views collected directly (and independently) from our students, have once again proved to be a source of huge pride to everyone at the University and, I am sure, to readers of UNIVERSE.

The University has performed outstandingly well against both regional and national comparators. For example, Teesside was deemed to be joint top of all the universities in the country for the quality of its learning resources and featured in the top ten for overall student satisfaction in no less than six subject disciplines (being ranked first in England in Art & Design). Further, when ranked amongst the five universities here in the North East, the University was joint top not only for learning resources but also for academic support and assessment and feedback. Such results are indeed a great tribute to the talent and achievement of our staff and students and hopefully provide a clear signal of the way in which the institution continues to go from strength to strength in pursuit of its mission of 'providing opportunities and pursuing excellence'.

# Honorary Graduates

# 2006



Picture from Empics

Richard Griffiths receives his award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play for *The History Boys*, at the 60th annual Tony Awards at the Radio City Music Hall in New York.

**Richard Griffiths, Doctor of Letters.** Richard was born in Thomaby, studied drama at Stockton & Billingham College and has gone on to a distinguished stage, screen and television career. Richard has been awarded the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Actor, the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Actor in a Play, the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Featured Actor in a Play and the Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play, all for his role in the Alan Bennett play *The History Boys*. Film roles include Uncle Monty in *Withnail and I* and Uncle Vernon Dursley in the Harry Potter films. His television series include *Pie in the Sky* and the critically acclaimed version of *Bleak House*.

**Steve McClaren, Doctor of Professional Studies.** Steve was Manager of Middlesbrough Football Club from 2001 to 2006, giving up this role in June 2006 to become Head Coach of the England Football Team. Under his management, Middlesbrough FC won the Carling Cup and qualified for Europe twice, reaching the UEFA Cup Final last season.

**Marek Reichman, Master of Science.** Marek Reichman graduated from Teesside Polytechnic in 1989 with a BA (Hons) Industrial Design. He then joined the MA in Transport Design at the Royal College of Art. Marek began his career with Rover Group before leaving to become Senior Designer at BMW Designworks/USA in California. He came back to the UK to establish a design studio, returned to the US to work for Ford/Lincoln Mercury in California as Chief Designer and in 2005 became Director of Design for Aston Martin in the UK. He designed James Bond's new car, the DBS, for the 2006 Bond film, *Casino Royale*. Marek also met actor Daniel Craig, the new Bond, during location filming in Prague.

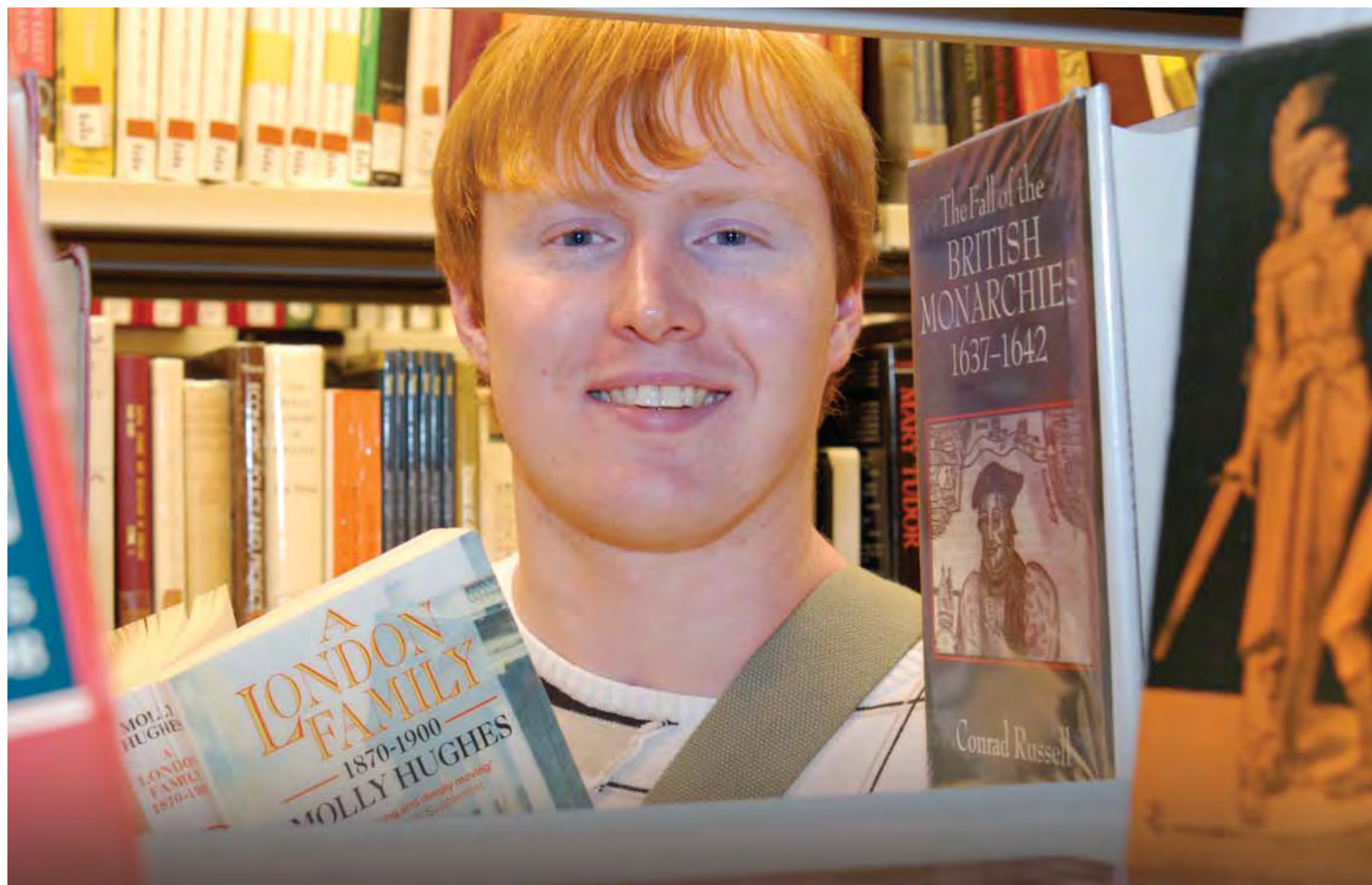
**Moira Britton OBE, Doctor of Professional Studies.** Moira was Chief Executive of the Tees and North Yorkshire NHS Trust from 1999 to 2006. She was awarded the OBE in 2003 and served as Chair of the County Durham and Tees Valley Workforce Development Confederation. In addition, she was a member of the Executive Group of the National Mental Health Partnership. In 2006, she won the Kate Smyth 'Make a Difference' Award from the National Mental Health Partnership.

**Professor Sir Alan Wilson, Doctor of Laws.** Sir Alan went to school in Darlington and is now the Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Before this he was the Director General of Higher Education, the Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University and Assistant Director of the Centre for Environmental Studies. He is a hugely distinguished academic and a passionate believer in widening participation.

**John Hackney, Doctor of Laws.** John Hackney was Chair of the University's Board of Governors for ten years. Before this role John served as a University Governor for many years and gave outstanding service to the University. He was also Chief Executive of the Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority and Chair of the Post Office Users' National Council.

# Robert survives beating to achieve BA (Honours)

**A summer holiday in Gran Canaria changed Robert Pooley's life forever, after he was subjected to a vicious beating.**



**The random attack left Robert in a coma for six weeks with a one-in-100,000 chance of survival. His parents were told he would be blind and severely disabled.**

However, Robert underwent an astounding recovery. Although he is 50 per cent blind, registered disabled and has other health problems, he never gave up on his dream of going to university.

Now, seven years after the attack, Robert has achieved a BA (Hons) degree in History from the University of Teesside. At his graduation, Robert was also awarded the Ede & Ravenscroft prize.

Robert, 26, who lives in Billingham, was attacked in 1999, during a break with friends in Playa del Ingles.

He said: "There was a knock on our apartment door at 5.00am. I got out of bed

to answer the door and a big guy grabbed me by the throat and pulled me out. I woke up six weeks later in Middlesbrough General Hospital. At first, I thought I'd been in a car crash. I was told I had a head injury. Then my Dad, Bob, asked if I could remember who had attacked me? I had no idea. The circumstances came back to me slowly; I had no memory of the attack before then."

Robert was later able to identify his attacker but the case could not be prosecuted for lack of evidence.

Initially, Robert was paralysed from the neck down and could only communicate by blinking. His senses and movement began to recover gradually but he was in hospital for six months, wheelchair-bound for a further five and still undergoes rehabilitation.

Robert said: "When I was in hospital, university was always my aim. The medical

staff tried to dampen this; they thought I couldn't do it."

He enrolled on a History degree at Teesside in 2002, studying for two years full-time and two years part-time.

Robert said: "I'd been through a wasteland of depression and being at university was critical to getting me out of this. I did sometimes get very tired and switching to part-time helped. And my mum June was a huge help, reading through textbooks and highlighting passages for me."

Robert, who is aiming for an arts career such as working in a gallery, added: "My parents are ecstatic. When my Dad first saw me after the attack he thought I would be a cabbage, that he'd have to look after me for the rest of my life. Now I've achieved a degree and am living independently."

# Government recognises student support

**The University of Teesside's commitment to student welfare has been officially recognised by a government scheme.**

The Student Services Department has received Matrix accreditation, the Department for Education and Skills' quality standard for information, advice and guidance providers.

Only a handful of Student Services Departments from all of the UK's universities have earned the accreditation.

The University of Teesside's Student Services Department provides support in a wide range of areas, including accommodation, financial advice, careers, health, chaplaincy, counselling and sport and recreation for students.

Garry Toulouse, Director of Student Services, said: "The whole department worked hard to

meet the standards laid out by Matrix and I think it's brought us closer together as a team. We've all learned more about each other's roles and have been able to share examples of best practice to improve our service to students.

"Applying the standard has highlighted areas where we needed to do more work and enhance the service we provide. Earning the accreditation is proof that our service meets, if not exceeds, the needs and expectations of our students."

Areas highlighted by the Matrix assessors included the development of a Well-Being Centre for student health issues and the establishment of the DiversiTees mentoring programme, as well as a very high level of student satisfaction.



# From expulsion to teaching



**David Wilson-Stonestreet was expelled from school at 17 and failed all his GCSEs.**

More than 15 years later, he has changed in a huge way and this year achieved a BA (Hons) degree in English and Media Studies from the University of Teesside. In September, he started training as a secondary school English teacher.

David, 32, originally from Upminster in Essex, recalled: "At infant's school I found some of the teachers quite frightening. I felt spoken down to and wasn't inspired. I started secondary school with poor literacy and numeracy skills and fell in with a bad crowd. I'd been accepted into the sixth form, but was expelled in Year 12, aged 17. The highest grade GCSE I got was a D in English."

David became a care worker and, aged 24, moved to New Zealand where he met future wife Kirstie, from Marton, Middlesbrough. The couple returned home four years ago with new daughter Grace and live in Redcar.

David said: "I felt a failure to Grace; I had no academic belief in myself. But Kirstie had faith in me and told me I'd make a good teacher."

He started with three GCSEs and an Access Course before his degree. David said: "I really enjoyed it; authors like Ibsen and Henry James blew my socks off. And analysing film was excellent. I used to say to the tutors all the time 'I can't believe I'm doing this.'"

# First Police Foundation students in the UK graduate

A unique celebration of achievement took place at the University of Teesside when 21 Cleveland police officers were confirmed in their posts and awarded Foundation Degrees. The cohort of 21 was the first to enrol on the University's two-year Foundation Degree in Police Studies in September 2004.

Cleveland was one of five pilot forces to implement a new localised form of police training. They were also the first in the UK to introduce and complete the Foundation Degree in Policing for new recruits.

The officers' friends and families attended the celebration in the University's Innovation Centre lecture theatre, where the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Graham Henderson, awarded the degrees. Congratulation speeches were also made by Mr Sean Price, Cleveland Police's Chief Constable and a University Governor, and Mr Robin Field-Smith MBE, from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Personnel, Training and Diversity.

The Foundation Degree was developed in partnership with Cleveland Police and combines practical, on-the-beat training with rigorous academic work. The trainee police officers spend 34 weeks at the University, with another year at Cleveland Police's Professional Development Unit.

Since September 2004, seven cohorts have enrolled on the Foundation Degree. The University's police training and education has expanded to West Mercia Constabulary in the Midlands, who now train their new recruits through their Foundation Degree in Professional Policing.

Sean Price, Cleveland Police's Chief Constable, said: "This first graduation demonstrates a marvellous partnership between Cleveland Police and the University. The partnership is growing and getting better all the time - 180 police officers work with our trainers here at the University. The degree has been brilliantly put together with professionalism, producing an excellent set of police officers."

At the end of the ceremony, Cleveland Police awarded a commendation to the University for its hard work.

Liz Barnes, Dean of the University's School of Social Sciences & Law, which delivers the Foundation Degree, said: "I am delighted to see the first cohort of police officers graduating from the programme that I believe has become a flagship programme for the School of Social Sciences & Law. I am sure that Cleveland Police feel a sense of great pride in their innovative and insightful approach to Initial Police Training and education that is leading the way nationally."





Pictured left to right, Katrina Clarke, Shane Kyme and Paul Faulkner, three of the graduating police officers.

Katrina, 42, from Eaglescliffe, first tried to join the police at 17 but at that point height restrictions in the force were different for females. She joined her parents in running a newsagents and then worked in accounts before successfully joining the police. She said: "I was a bit apprehensive when I first came to the University. I used to say to the other students I felt like the character in *Educating Rita*! It was really hard work but I got a lot of support from the University tutors. Students on other courses were very interested in what we were doing."

Shane, 40, from Redcar, joined the Royal Navy aged 17, serving for five years. His tours included the Middle East and the Falklands. Shane then worked as a burglar alarm engineer for over 12 years. He is a keen runner and met other police officers in a local running team, which inspired him to join. Shane said: "I felt a bit daunted when I found out about the Foundation Degree, as I don't have a particularly academic background. But I was also excited as there was something to aim for. I'm glad I've got this far and I've actually passed everything. I'm aiming for the University's Investigative Studies degree in the future."

Paul, 22, from Darlington, was one of the youngest trainees on the course. After achieving three good A levels Paul's parents wanted him to go to university but he wanted to follow his uncle into the police. Aged 19, Paul took a post as a Police Community Support Officer, working very closely alongside the police on areas of anti-social behaviour.

Paul said: "We had a good reaction from other students - mixing with them in places like the canteen helped to break down barriers. I enjoyed the forensic science elements and working on crime scene preservation in the University's Crime Scene laboratory. Because of the Foundation Degree I understand the origins of police policy, for example, on diversity or domestic violence. My parents have emigrated to Perth in Australia and couldn't make the ceremony, but they're pleased that I'm continuing my studies part-time on the University's Investigative Studies degree."

# All that business jazz

**Jazz lovers throughout the UK can access a wealth of information about jazz bands, concerts and festivals with the launch of a website created in partnership with the University of Teesside.**

The site, [www.jazzservices.org.uk](http://www.jazzservices.org.uk), run by London-based Jazz Services, aims to get more people in the UK to enjoy the music.

Graduate researchers from the University's Teesside Business School, led by marketing lecturer and jazz musician Noel Dennis, carried out research and marketing to help Jazz Services improve its communications.

The website was launched with a simultaneous concert at the University of Teesside and Covent Garden, in London, featuring music from a variety of acts, including the Noel Dennis Quartet at Teesside and Liane Carroll in London.

Noel, who plays trumpet in the band, said: "Jazz music marketing can be a very daunting subject to tackle but the students rose to the task of delivering innovative and professional theories.

"As a lifelong jazz addict, I'm thrilled that we had the chance to take part in a project aimed at introducing jazz to a wider audience."



## New virtual radiography suite open



**Radiography students at the University are the first in the world to train using a virtual radiography room that simulates an x-ray room.**

Philip Cosson, Senior Lecturer in Medical Imaging at the School of Health & Social Care, said: "Ionising radiation poses risks and it is only right that we do everything possible to ensure radiographers have the knowledge and the experience to protect their patients. This new virtual environment allows our students the opportunity to learn without putting themselves or patients at risk. "We have brought the technology of 3D computer gaming to the area of medical imaging. At several stages, the programmers have had to go back to the drawing board and start on a new approach. It has been very fulfilling, seeing the virtual radiography room being used by students."

The software was developed over several years by students in the School of Computing on the MSc Computer Animation and Graphical Technology Applications (CAGTA) degree, which specialises in applications of computer graphics and computer games technologies.





## Students give Teesside a vote of confidence

The most satisfied Art & Design students in England are at the **University of Teesside**, according to the second National Student Survey.

Media Studies and History courses were voted amongst the top in the UK in their subject areas for overall student satisfaction.

The following subject areas were rated above the national average in terms of overall student satisfaction:

- Art & Design
- Computer Science
- English-based Studies
- History
- Law
- Mechanically-based Engineering
- Media Studies
- Psychology
- Social Work

Teesside students rated their learning resources the best nationally (along with seven other universities) and gave their academic support an above average score. The University achieved an overall satisfaction score of four out of five.

In the context of the North East's five universities, the results put Teesside:

- Joint top for learning resources
- Joint top for academic support
- Joint top for assessment and feedback
- Joint second for teaching on the course
- Joint second for overall satisfaction
- Equal to the others for personal development

In addition, the majority of Teesside's subject scores have exceeded last year's results.

Professor Leni Oglesby, the University of Teesside's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), said: "All of us at the University of Teesside are absolutely delighted that the results of the second year of the National Student Survey exceed the outstanding results of 2005. The survey again

shows that the University of Teesside is a first class place in which to study. We look forward to building even further on the excellence of the student experience."

Stephen Dowson, President of the University of Teesside Students' Union, said: "It's very encouraging to see that the University is performing so well in many areas and that student satisfaction remains high. Here at the Students' Union we're sure the University will respond positively and effectively to all the results of the National Student Survey and other research. We look forward to working with them to keep improving all aspects of the student experience."

In total, over 1,400 University of Teesside students responded to the Government's survey, which had the backing of the higher education funding councils and the National Union of Students. Over 150,000 final-year students took part nationally. The results form part of the new Teaching Quality Information website for prospective students and their advisers.

## Mary has designs on the University



Mary Alexander has major plans for the University of Teesside's campus. Mary, 21, from Scarborough, is a BA (Hons) Interior Architecture and Design graduate. For her final project she drew up detailed plans for a fictional conversion of the Waterhouse building, one of the University's landmarks.

The Waterhouse building is a Grade II listed building used by the University and external organisations for lecturing and conferencing events. Mary explored the possibility of converting the Waterhouse building into an exhibition centre to display the work of the University's students.

Mary said: "I thought the Waterhouse could be converted into the perfect place for a display centre. It's a lovely building and could work really well as an art venue.

"My design shows how the interior of the building could be redesigned to include a permanent exhibition space as well as lecture rooms, projection rooms and an area for visiting artists to display their work. The display rooms could be altered to suit the work that is on show and I've also included the design for a specific art and media supply shop as well.

"The University estates team was very helpful and supplied me with the plans for the building. With it being a listed building I had to be very careful about what I was proposing to change because of the possible legal issues. Even though my redesign was purely for academic purposes and I know it won't get created, I can imagine how it would look and how the students could use it. You never know, it might happen one day!"

The second National Student Survey has revealed that the most satisfied Art & Design students in England are at the University of Teesside. UNiVerse profiles the diverse projects of three Teesside Design graduates.

## Sarah raises awareness of Tourette's



**The medical condition Tourette's syndrome has been in the headlines due to the Channel 4 hit programme *Big Brother*.**

The 2006 *Big Brother* winner, Pete Bennett, is affected by Tourette's and millions of viewers saw how he deals with the condition.

Also helping raise awareness has been University of Teesside graduate Sarah MacKenzie, who produced a campaign about Tourette's as part of her final-year project.

Sarah achieved a BA (Hons) degree in Graphic Design and submitted her campaign to the Tourette Syndrome (UK) Association, which is considering her ideas.

The 22-year-old, from Acklam, Middlesbrough, devised the campaign before the start of this year's *Big Brother*.

"She said: 'I'd seen some programmes about people affected by Tourette's, including Tourette's Camp. They intrigued me; I wondered why people behaved in this way.'"

Sarah's campaign is aimed at the public and includes posters listing the symptoms, coasters and a T-shirt. There is also an information booklet for people newly diagnosed with the condition and their friends and family.

Sarah explained: "If the campaign is taken up, I'd like to see it on billboards, bus shelters, anywhere and everywhere to create as much awareness as possible. I'd like people to understand why those affected by Tourette's have certain symptoms, that they can't help it.

"When I first heard a person affected by Tourette's was going to be on *Big Brother*, I didn't think it would be the right thing to do but I think the programme makers treated Pete sympathetically."



# Mixing 250 pizza boxes with a field of cows

**What do 250 pizza boxes and a field of cows have in common? Both were featured in a project by University of Teesside graduate Dan Rad.**

Dan, 22, from Lancaster, achieved a BA (Hons) degree in Graphic Design and for his final-year project contrasted the rural and urban worlds.

He captured rural life in a five-minute film about the 2001 foot-and-mouth outbreak, filming at a friend's farm in Thirsk, North Yorkshire. For the urban, he constructed a model of 250 pizza boxes spelling the word junk.

Dan said: "I wanted a big contrast between two environments. I chose the rural as I grew up in the country and all my friends are farmers. I made the film at a friend's farm over a 12-hour period. I've shown in a simple way how farming communities were devastated by the effects of foot and mouth. Some of my fellow students who saw it were quite shocked.

"For the urban, I chose the 250 pizza boxes as I read a statistic on a news website that some people have 250 takeaways a year. When there are only 365 days in a year that's quite remarkable. I've nothing against pizzas, I eat them. It's one thing to buy a pizza; it's

another to buy one with chips on top. It's the type of junk food I'm concerned about. I first started to think about this when I saw the Channel 4 programme, *You are what you eat*, where a person's weekly food choices are stacked up on a table."

Dan has gained a place on a two-year Master of Arts course in Curating in Devon and eventually wants to establish an exhibitions company.

He said: "I chose Teesside because it has a good reputation for graphic design. I enjoyed the course; it was intensive but quite enlightening."



# Shafkat accounts for success at Teesside

**International students play an active role in life at the University of Teesside and one of them has used his sporting prowess to good effect.**

Shafkat Mahbub, 21, from the Bangladeshi capital city of Dhaka, who recently completed an Accounting degree, is a lifelong cricket enthusiast.

Playing for the University team as an off-spinner, he bagged a hat-trick against the York St John University team. He also played at professional level.

During his course, Shafkat took part in a one-year work placement with Copeland Borough Council in Cumbria. As well as working in the Accountancy Services Department, Shafkat played cricket for Whitehaven Cricket Club in the Northern Lancashire and Cumbrian League. During his time with the club, he played in matches alongside South African test bowler Andre Nel and Kenyan captain Steve Tikolo.

Shafkat said: "The council placement was a major part of the course for me. It gave me so much experience. It's one thing to read about it, but it's another thing to do it. The experience was a massive help during my third year. I understand the theories better because I've had a chance to put them into practice and see how they work in the real world."

# Gemma turns CSI

**Teesside graduate Gemma Lynch has explored the world of violent crime in the USA.**

Gemma, 22, from Thomaby, is a Teesside BSc (Hons) Applied Science and Forensic Investigation graduate. She flew to the USA on work placement to use her forensic science skills and was involved with 21 homicide cases.

She was invited to a course in blood stain analysis in New York after sending her dissertation *Interpreting Blood Stains in Clothing* to course leader Herb MacDonald, a leading expert.

Gemma had a six-week placement with Carolina Forensics, a firm contracted by the North Carolina District Attorney's Office to collect and analyse evidence.

She said: "I was called to a murder scene on my first day. I thought I would be scared by my first corpse, especially as it was a shooting so it would be really messy. But it was what I had trained for and I just put it out of my mind. After a few more crime scenes I was completely used to it.

"The evidence I helped to collect and analyse played a big part in the cases. Some suspects would immediately confess after being presented with the forensic evidence, even after they had spent hours denying it. I also managed to see our evidence used in court to convict a double murderer who was sentenced to 126 years in prison.

"I thought the Teesside degree was really good. We had the best of everything and I felt really confident when I began my internship in America."

