

UNiverse

the magazine of Teesside University

Issue 67 Autumn 10

2009/10

Times Higher Education

UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR



Teesside
University

Inspiring success

Welcome

Professor Graham Henderson Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive

As the University celebrates its 80th birthday this summer and we draw to the end of our period as national University of the Year, an accolade awarded to us by the *Times Higher* magazine, I would like to reflect back on our continuing success as an institution, despite the difficult economic environment in which higher education currently operates.



Although we are experiencing tough economic times, it is clear that the combination of the outstanding progress which we have made in recent years and the flexibility, maturity and resilience acquired throughout our 80-year existence has meant that we have been able to remain confident and financially strong, despite the adverse effects of the global recession.

And, as a result, the University is, at least in part, responding to the effects of the recession by seeking to further expand and diversify our activities, and hence our income. We have seen a number of significant recent successes in relation to further funded growth of our UK student numbers, expansion of our international activity and a step change in commercial income from our business engagement and knowledge transfer activities. On the other hand, we are not being complacent and we are, as you would expect, continuing to look at ways of becoming an even more effective and

efficient institution going forward, whilst retaining a very sharp focus on continuing to respond to changing needs in the local and regional economy.

And, the success of our financial strategy, which sees us retaining our position as one of the most financially stable institutions in the university sector, has succeeded in generating the financial surpluses necessary to enable us to continue to invest in the University's estate and infrastructure for the benefit of our students, partners and staff.

This ongoing investment is an important manifestation of institutional confidence which has recently seen £17m invested in the new Centuria South building (for dental training and sports therapy), £3.5m in two new higher education centres in Hartlepool and Redcar & Cleveland, £13m invested in our new Darlington campus, which is set to open in a year's time, and design work is underway for a further £18m new building on the University's campus in Middlesbrough.

These new developments will not only see the University having a significantly enhanced campus in Middlesbrough, and an embryonic new campus in Darlington, but will also move us to a position where the University will have a University centre in all of the general FE colleges across the five Teesside boroughs. This is an important milestone in the pursuit of our aim of making higher education easily accessible to everyone within the Tees Valley, North Yorkshire and South Durham.

These developments, and the results of our recent audit from the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), highlighted elsewhere in this edition of UNIverse, give us confidence in the University's future and, despite the obvious, and growing, challenges ahead, we believe we can, and will, go forward to even greater success in the future.



New Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teesside

Professor Eileen Martin is Teesside University's new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development). Professor Martin is one of the University's three Deputy Vice-Chancellors and her diverse role includes responsibility for developing the University's academic portfolio and the further development of the University's collaborative local and regional partnerships. She will also lead on the University's bursaries and scholarships, develop the lifelong learning and student recruitment strategies, and oversee marketing and communications.

Professor Martin said, 'I am absolutely delighted with my appointment at Teesside University and to be joining the University of the Year (2009-10) from the *Times Higher* which has very good student satisfaction ratings and an excellent reputation for employer engagement.

'I am very much looking forward to working with our staff, students and many partners. It is a time of great change in higher education and it is essential that our academic portfolio allows us to grow and to continue to play a distinctive role in the higher education landscape. Similarly, our partnerships are crucial and I relish the challenge of nurturing and deepening those partnerships and to working with colleagues across the University to make our provision as relevant and dynamic as it can be.'

Professor Martin moved into health education with her first Tutor post at the Trafford School of Nursing, the hospital where the National Health Service was born; gaining her first and higher degrees from Manchester Polytechnic as a part-time student whilst working full time and raising her family.

Professor Martin progressed to Chief Executive and Principal of the Lancashire College of Nursing and Health Studies in 1992, which brought together six different schools of nursing. Following bids from different universities, the College joined the University of Central Lancashire's Faculty of Health & Social Care, with Professor Martin as Dean. She also chaired the Council of Deans for Nursing and the Allied Health Profession, making a significant contribution to the development of policy.

She later achieved the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Central Lancashire, focusing on teaching and



learning and the student experience, UK partnerships, corporate oversight of higher education developments on the Burnley campus, and responsibility for the public affairs agenda. Professor Martin was also appointed as the first Executive Chair of Westlakes Scientific Consulting, in West Cumbria, working with the nuclear industry.

Away from work, Professor Martin has two children and two grandchildren, and describes herself as an 'avid gardener' with three allotments. She is also a classical music lover, particularly opera.

Darlington campus is underway



Teesside University has marked the official start of construction work on a £13m five storey, high quality, undergraduate and postgraduate teaching building next to Darlington College.



Partners and supporters of the project came together to celebrate the major move towards expanding higher educational opportunities in Darlington and the surrounding areas at the west end of the Tees Valley.

Among those attending the event with the Vice-Chancellor Professor Graham Henderson were John Williams, Leader of Darlington Council and the local authority's Chief Executive Ada Burns, Jenny Chapman, MP for Darlington, Alastair Haworth, One North East's Capital Development Manager, and Darlington College Principal Tim Grant.

The completed building will cover 4,000 square metres, providing a flexible and stimulating teaching environment, and also offer facilities for business short courses and conference activity. Once opened, the building will enable a significant expansion of the range of higher education courses

available in Darlington. It is being funded by the University, with additional support from One North East, via Tees Valley Unlimited, and Darlington Council and is also supported by Darlington College and Tees Valley Regeneration.

Durham-based construction company Morgan Sindall has been chosen to deliver the high-quality academic building for the University. A major feature of the scheme will be the creation of a ship's fin, made out of a sub-structure of metal and a finished elevation treatment of glazing and brickwork. Work is progressing well and the project is expected to be completed by September 2011.

Professor Graham Henderson said, 'The University has a long history of widening access to higher education within the Tees Valley. The new initiative will provide an improved gateway to higher education for individuals and employers in the west end of

the Tees Valley, South West Durham and North Yorkshire.

'Darlington's pivotal location provides us with a number of exciting new development opportunities, particularly in relation to our rapidly expanding programme of work with regional and national employers. I am absolutely delighted to see work now underway on such a significant project and that so many key friends and partners from the town have joined us today.'

John Williams, Leader of Darlington Council, said, 'I am delighted that Teesside University is coming to Darlington. Many people and organisations, both local and regional, have come together to make this happen. The whole Darlington community welcomes them and the Council will continue to work with the University to help them thrive in the town.'

Jenny Chapman, new MP for Darlington, said, 'I am so proud to see the expansion of



Teesside University in Darlington. This new building will bring exciting educational prospects to the town, not to mention fantastic facilities. I look forward to watching the building grow over the next 12 months.'

David Cramond, Director of Capital Development at One North East, said, 'One North East and our partners have adopted Central Park as a key site of strategic importance to the Tees Valley and the wider region, which will significantly enhance the regional and national profile of Darlington'.

Darlington College Principal Tim Grant said, 'We are delighted to have been able to support this substantial investment by Teesside University to create a further and higher education quarter in Darlington. We look forward to working closely with the University to expand educational opportunities for the area for many years to come.'

As many as 3,000 full and part-time students could be accommodated in the building – and Professor Henderson said if the demand existed there could eventually be a second University building on the Darlington campus site.

The new £13m building is the culmination of a range of initiatives and developments in Darlington, which began in 2007, when the University opened its first higher education centre within a further education college at Darlington College – offering a range of diverse subjects including professional management and business, education, journalism and digital media.

In 2008 the University held its first graduation ceremony in Darlington for students who had achieved Teesside University awards at the higher education centre. At this year's graduation 300 people, made up of graduates and their families, gathered for the

annual ceremony at Darlington's Dolphin Centre.

In addition to the annual graduations, the University opened its own premises off The Fairway in September 2009, which delivers a range of part-time Teesside University courses. A joint prospectus between Darlington College and the University, detailing course provision offered by the two institutions in Darlington, has also been published for the first time.

Pictured inset are front row from left to right: One North East's Capital Development Manager Alastair Haworth, Darlington Council's Chief Executive Ada Burns and the authority's leader, Councillor John Williams, Darlington MP Jenny Chapman and Tim Grant, Principal of Darlington College. Teesside University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Graham Henderson is in the back row with the JCV digger.

For more details on the Darlington campus at www.tees.ac.uk/darlington

A duo of new Deans

The University has appointed new Deans for two of its academic Schools.



Dr Simon Stobart is the new Dean of the School of Computing. Dr Stobart, 43, from Durham, first joined the University as the School's Assistant Dean for Recruitment and Development. He said, 'To be appointed as Dean when we're University of the Year is absolutely fantastic. I'm aiming to make the School the number one place for anyone in the world who wants to study computing, animation and games design. The School has a history of innovation and being at the forefront of technology, and is recognised as delivering world-leading education and research.'

Dr Stobart first gained a BA (Hons) in Data Processing at the University of Sunderland. He remained there, initially as a Research Assistant and moved through various computing lecturing roles, progressing to his final position as a Principal Lecturer. While at Sunderland he also achieved a PhD which examined Computer Assisted Software Engineering.

After joining Teesside Dr Stobart played a key role in the School of Computing's international developments. He added, 'We now have high-quality strategic franchise partnerships in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and South East Asia. To see these grow and start to flourish is very pleasing.'



Dr Mark Simpson is the new Dean of the School of Social Sciences & Law. The School is a very familiar environment for Dr Simpson, as he first arrived there from Yorkshire as an undergraduate student in the early 1990s.

Dr Simpson, 36, from Sedgefield, said, 'When I came here as an 18-year-old I could not have imagined that I'd end up as Dean of the School in which I was studying. I'm delighted with my new role as the School has expanded hugely. It's nice to see that this growth hasn't been at the cost of excellence, as seen by our very positive results in the National Student Survey and other external feedback, such as OFSTED reports on our education provision and reports on our foundation degrees in policing.'

'I want to see the School continue to deliver excellence at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and to develop further the business-facing aspects of our work. Through enhancing a research culture amongst staff and students, the School will continue to deliver high-quality research.'

Dr Simpson first achieved a BA (Hons) Politics at Teesside. He then gained a PhD in Criminology at the University, funded by the NHS, which explored the link between drug use and crime.

At the same time he joined the University's teaching staff as a criminology lecturer and progressed to later roles, including Learning and Teaching Co-ordinator and Subject Group Leader for Criminology. Dr Simpson was later appointed as Assistant Dean for Marketing and Recruitment in the School prior to his role as Dean.

New Dean at the helm of research focal point



Professor Zulfiqur Ali is the new Dean of the University's Graduate Research School (GRS), the focal point for all aspects of research. Its varied role includes research funding and projects, research degrees, and policy and strategy.

Professor Ali, 47, from Stokesley, North Yorkshire, said, 'I'm excited and very pleased to have gained this position; I was really attracted by the opportunity to work across the whole University research community. The results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise showed that the University has significant amounts of world-class and internationally excellent research work. We now need to build on our strengths, exploit new opportunities and demonstrate the value of our research.'

'It's important that we continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our research processes. We also need to continue to develop partnerships, both nationally and internationally, with other regional universities and with centres of excellence within the region, such as the Centre for Process Innovation.'

Last year the University launched five research Institutes, Digital Futures, Health and Social Care, Design, Culture and the Arts, Social Futures and Technology Futures. Professor Ali led the Technology Futures Institute before his appointment as Dean of GRS. He added, 'The research Institutes will be particularly important for increasing both the quality and quantity of research that is carried out in the University. They will provide more of a focus for our research as well as supporting synergies between the different disciplines. I'm also keen that we support research-informed teaching in the University's six schools.'

Professor Ali was born in Pakistan and grew up in Huddersfield. He achieved his first degree in chemistry at the former Thames Polytechnic, followed by a PhD from the University of Manchester. His first lecturing post was in the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Brighton, before joining Teesside's School of Science & Technology in 1996 as a senior lecturer in chemistry. He later progressed to the roles of reader, professor and finally Assistant Dean for Research and Innovation.

For more information on the GRS call 01642 738033 or email graduateresearchschool@tees.ac.uk

New principals in charge of the new academies

Teesside University is furthering its community involvement in its new role as lead sponsor to two new secondary academies in the Tees Valley. The academies are the Thornaby Academy in Stockton-on-Tees and Freebrough Academy in East Cleveland.

UNIverse profiles the two new principals and chief executives of the academies.



Linda Halbert is the Principal of Freebrough Academy. This Academy is the former Freebrough Specialist Engineering College and the University's co-sponsors are Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Prior Pursglove College in Guisborough, with Redcar & Cleveland College as named education partner.

Mrs Halbert, 50, pictured far left, is from Washington, Tyne and Wear. She is an Education graduate of Nottingham University and has nearly 30 years' teaching and management experience from secondary schools in Sunderland, Newcastle upon Tyne and North Tyneside. Before joining Freebrough Mrs Halbert worked as a head teacher for eight years in a Tyneside secondary school.

Mrs Halbert said, 'I am delighted to have been appointed as the Principal and Chief Executive of Freebrough Academy. The Academy will bring fantastic opportunities for students, staff and the community.

'Our new specialism of Business and Enterprise, the expertise and support of our sponsors, our focus on Learning and Teaching, and the development of an innovative curriculum will be major drivers in achieving our vision to be an outstanding school.

'Through our specialism I want to build lots of links with the University, I'm keen to work with our main sponsor, by collaborating with educationalists. I'm also looking forward to the opportunity of working closely with staff, students and parents to prepare for the new school year. I'm really keen to develop groups of students to work with other new students to help their induction into the new Academy. The student voice and student involvement will be a big part of the Academy's organisation and development.'

Teesside University graduate Maryssa O'Connor is the Principal of the Thornaby Academy. The Academy replaces the former Thornaby Community School and Teesside University is the lead sponsor, with the co-sponsors being the consortium of Stockton Sixth Form College, Stockton Riverside College and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

Maryssa, 38, pictured right, is from Middlesbrough and achieved a BA (Hons) English from Teesside in 1994. After graduating, she went on to achieve a postgraduate teaching certificate in Newcastle, specialising in English. Maryssa started her career as a secondary English teacher in North Tyneside and Newcastle and moved to a school in Croydon, as Head of English and Assistant Head. She returned to

the North East to her role as Deputy Head of Tanfield School, Specialist College of Science and Engineering.

She said, 'My new role is an exciting opportunity and I'm particularly looking forward to working with my old University as the lead sponsor, that's one of the many things which attracted me to the post. Working with such a quality establishment, the University of the Year, will be a key part of making the Academy a success. Studying English at Teesside really opened my eyes to the scope of communications which exist within the language, it was an exciting part of the degree, showing how English works.

'I'm also looking forward to the future, to developing opportunities for staff, and to working with the new students and their parents. I want to make sure that the students have a skills foundation which gives them employability skills and enables them to progress to further and higher education. Our Academy's specialism of Business and Enterprise is important and I'm looking forward to developing this and also the core functional skills of English, maths and information communication technologies, as these are key skills for every student.'



Celebrating 80 years of excellence



This year Teesside University celebrated its 80th anniversary. Since its foundation as Constantine College in 1930, the University has expanded massively and now has a national and global reputation for excellence. This was recognised in 2009 with the accolade of University of the Year by the *Times Higher Education* magazine.

The annual award is given to an institution that has demonstrated exceptional performance in the past academic year, and Teesside was the first modern university to achieve this title. The top prize was presented to the University for its 'outstanding regional economic strategy and strong financial performance.'

On 2 July 1930 Constantine College was officially opened by the Prince of Wales. It was named after local businessman Joseph Constantine who contributed £80,000 to the cost of the building, although the first students were actually enrolled in September 1929.

The early years were very successful, and student numbers grew to 2,211 by the outbreak of World War II. Until the mid 1960s, Constantine was both a further and higher education college with some students as young as 15. At first, Constantine College concentrated on metallurgy, engineering and chemistry. Later, mathematics and computer science were added and became major strengths. Work on the 11-storey Middlesbrough Tower building started in 1963

and in the late 1960s the former High School (now the Waterhouse Building) was acquired.

When re-launched as Teesside Polytechnic in 1969, there were 17 degree courses and 600 postgraduate students. The Clarendon Building was opened in 1973 and in 1978 Teesside Polytechnic merged with Teesside College of Education and the Students' Union was opened.

Leaving local authority control in 1989 signalled renewed growth. In the 1990s new halls of residence were built on Woodlands Road and overlooking Albert Park.

Student numbers had risen to 8,000 by 1992, when Teesside Polytechnic became the University of Teesside – one of 14 new universities. The first Vice-Chancellor appointed to lead the University was Dr Michael Longfield, followed by Professor Derek Fraser. The current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Graham Henderson, was appointed in 2002.

The University's expansion continued rapidly in the 1990s. New degrees including Criminology and Computer Graphics attracted students from further afield and

helped Teesside gain an international reputation for its specialist courses.

The University has developed with over £120m in campus investment, starting with the opening of the Europa Building in 1994, the Library in 1997, the Innovation Building (now Stephenson Building) in 1998, the Centuria Building and the Centre for Enterprise in 2000, and the Olympia building in 2004. The most recent campus additions are the Phoenix and Athena Buildings, both in 2007.

In 2010, with 28,000 full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate students, Teesside will open the latest addition to its campus, Centuria South, a sports therapy and dental training facility. And next year, Teesside University will expand beyond its Middlesbrough campus, with the opening of a £13m five-storey building in the centre of Darlington, to serve the wider Tees Valley.



Official opening of the Constantine College by the then Prince of Wales and future King Edward VIII, 1930.

The Waterhouse Building, acquired in the 1960s.





Centuria South, to open autumn 2010.



Phoenix Building

TEESSIDE'S TALENTED ALUMNI

As Teesside celebrates its 80th anniversary, UNiverse meets the diverse graduates of Constantine College and Teesside University.

How Constantine set Molly on her career path



Molly Moody's two years' studying at Constantine College stood her in very good stead for her chosen career.

She was a foster carer and mum-of-three in 1965 when she saw an advertisement for a new Home Office course run at the College.

Now aged 85, the grandmother-of-eight said, 'It was for mature students wanting to qualify to work in the children's department of local authorities long before social services existed. The children's department came into being as a result of the poverty and deprivation which was discovered when mass evacuation took place during the Second World War.'

Molly said, 'I was aged 40, married with three children. I had done no formal learning since leaving school at 16 with a school certificate to my credit. But I was drawn to applying for this course and was accepted.'

She fondly remembers her two years at Constantine College, saying, 'It was a whole change of lifestyle for me to move into a learning situation. We studied law relating to the juvenile court and the procedures for taking children into care as well as sociology, social history and many branches of human growth and development.'

Molly went on to a varied career, ending up working within the family courts where estranged couples fought over the custody of access to their children. Molly added, 'An emotional environment, but those two years at Constantine College stood me in good stead'.

A big educational adventure



Back in 1958, teenager Patricia Hope was anticipating a big adventure, by enrolling as a GCE student at Constantine College.

Patricia, from the little village of Marske-by-the-Sea, was amazed at the size and buzz of the grown-up College, which then took students from the age of 16 upwards.

'In those days women were still second-class citizens in terms of opportunities and very few of us went on to further education after leaving school,' she recalls.

'But I loved Constantine and thought I had really made it studying among so many older students. Middlesbrough was like a big city in comparison and being at Constantine was an eye-opener. Many of the older students were doing things like marine engineering at a higher level. Some were from such exotic places as Keighley and there were even some foreign students, but we were too shy to talk to them.'

Patricia, now 68, pictured with a photo of her younger self, opted

for arts subjects and studied English Language and Literature, French, History and Geography.

She got her big break into the newspaper advertising world when she became the first female display advertising rep in the entire Thomson Newspaper empire. This included the local *Evening Gazette*, where she still works part time.

Looking at the campus today, Patricia is amazed at its transformation. She said, 'There was just the one building when I was there, but it all seemed so big and busy. Incredible to think that we didn't have a proper library then! We used to have to pop across to the reference library. Now just look at the place, the University's own Library is a four-storey palace and there are just so many more students. We only had a few thousand, if that, when I was there.'

TEESSIDE'S TALENTED ALUMNI

Graduating from the hospital to the law courts

Andrew Scott has fulfilled a teenage ambition by qualifying and working as a barrister. He is based at Park Lane Plowden Chambers in Leeds and is a Door Tenant at the chambers of the high-profile barrister Michael Mansfield QC. A Door Tenant is defined as a barrister who has been granted permission to join a set of chambers and work with them from premises outside his home chambers.

Andrew's legal career is a sharp contrast to his previous 14-year career as a nurse. His career change was launched by his first-class law degree from Teesside University, achieved after five years of part-time study.

After consistently high marks at Teesside, Andrew successfully applied for a Master Bedingfield Scholarship from Gray's Inn, London. This enabled Andrew to fund a one-year Bar Vocational Course in Newcastle, setting him onto his new career as a barrister. His 12-month pupillage (a legal apprenticeship) was at Doughty Street Chambers in London.

Father-of-two Andrew, 41, lives in Skelton, Tees Valley and commutes to the Leeds Chambers. He said, 'Without a shadow of a doubt going to Teesside University changed my life. It's been a fantastic journey qualifying as a barrister but now I have a job that's intensely interesting and rewarding, you can help people who are sometimes in dire circumstances. Law is interesting, practical and stimulating, whether you're young or more mature, it doesn't matter what age. Education is for life.'

Andrew hasn't forgotten his old University. He has donated an annual prize which is awarded to a high-achieving law student at the November graduation ceremonies.



Teesside graduate joins the 2010 Commons intake

In May 227 new MPs joined the House of Commons. One of the 2010 intake was Tom Blenkinsop, a Teesside graduate and new Labour MP for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. Tom's route to the Commons was tinged with sadness, as he succeeded the previous constituency MP, Dr Ashok Kumar, following his sudden death in March.

Tom, 29, from Saltburn, first worked as a volunteer in Dr Kumar's Guisborough office and then as constituency researcher and liaison officer. In this latter role Tom made contact with local industry, charities, trade unions and educational establishments on behalf of Dr Kumar. Tom followed this by working as a regional officer for the Community trade union for two years.

He said, 'Ashok was an honourable, hard-working, nice guy who worked his heart out for this area and his locality. After he died

several party members approached asking me if I wanted to stand, but becoming an MP wasn't something I'd thought about. Only three weeks passed between Ashok's death and being selected as a candidate. It was fantastic to be selected by my fellow members, people I'd known for a number of years.

'I was amazed to be elected; I'm still getting over it! It is a massive honour to be an MP, representing somewhere I grew up. During the election I got to talk to so many people and listened to their views. I have taken these on board and want to ensure their voices are heard in the Commons. That's my priority above anything else, to repay the investment people have put into me.'

Tom found entering the Commons a memorable experience. He said, 'I'm a huge football fan and it was like walking into Wembley for the first time. I was surprised what a very small chamber it is but I was still

in awe of all the sense of history, visualising all the past national figures like Nye Bevan who've stood in there.'

Tom has fond memories of his time at Teesside University, where he achieved a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, and followed this with a master's in philosophy at Warwick University. He added, 'Education isn't purely classroom based, the range of different people I'd studied alongside was also important. You met people with real-life experience, such as a fellow student who'd served in Bosnia. Teesside's award of University of the Year is fantastic and well-deserved. The University performs a massive social role for the community and the local economy, bringing education and investment.'

Tom's wife Vicki is also a Teesside graduate, achieving a Master of Creative Multimedia.



State-of-the-art services from new building

A new £17m dental education and practice facility and Sport & Exercise complex, including sports therapy dedicated facilities, will open at the University this autumn. The Centuria South building will provide a state-of-the-art teaching and learning environment for students from dental nursing, dental hygiene and therapy, potentially dental technology, sports therapy, and strength and conditioning for sport and exercise.

A team of five teaching staff will deliver tailored courses to the first cohorts of 12 dental nursing students and 12 dental therapy students, who will begin their courses in October. The team has over 75 years' combined experience of working in dental practice, in the UK and abroad. Dental hygiene and therapy students will achieve a BSc (Hons) in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy after three years' full-time study and Dental Nurse Practice students will be awarded a certificate of higher education following their one-year course.

Centuria's dental suite has 20 dentists' chairs and practice 'phantom heads' and an on-site dentist will also be recruited to examine, diagnose and treat patients. The dentist will refer patients to be treated by the students. Patients will be drawn from the local community which may include the University's staff and students.

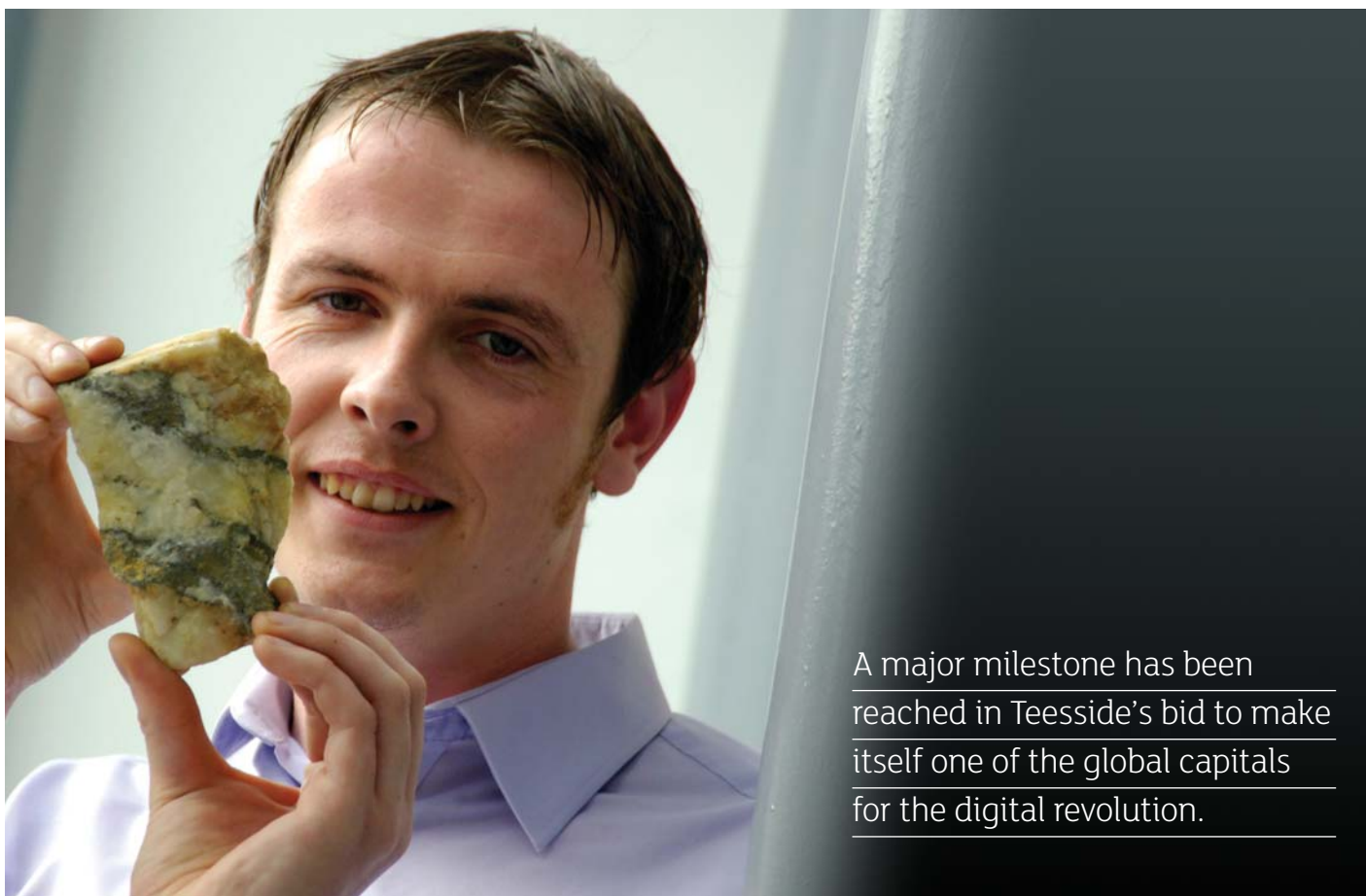
The Sport & Exercise facilities will include a purpose-built sports therapy clinic and bespoke hydrotherapy pool, anatomy laboratories and dedicated strength and conditioning and physical activity space. The new facilities will be used across a number of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Sport & Exercise.

The Sport & Exercise teaching team of 25 have a wealth of expertise across a number of disciplines. Further developments in sports therapy provision, in collaboration with the Society of Sports Therapists and external bodies, will be enhanced by these new facilities, which include a Sports Injury Clinic. Both the University and the wider community are able to benefit from the Clinic together with a Sports Science Consultancy staffed by experienced Sport & Exercise scientists.

For more details on the Dental courses email sohsadmissions@tees.ac.uk and for Sport & Exercise sssl-ug@tees.ac.uk, or check the University's web site at www.tees.ac.uk



Principal lecturer for Dental Care, Erica Clough with some of Centuria South's new facilities.



A major milestone has been reached in Teesside's bid to make itself one of the global capitals for the digital revolution.

100th company spun out from

Teesside's digital revolution

For the 100th company has been launched by the DigitalCity Fellowship scheme based at Teesside University, which has been supporting digital entrepreneurs for nearly seven years.

The new company is a science-based enterprise, Gold Extraction and Purification Technologies, and Andy Robinson is the brains behind it.

The aim – as its title suggests – is to extract gold from rock and waste materials and purify it to 99.9% purified gold for medical research.

Andy, 29, was born in Middlesbrough and now lives in Ingleby Barwick, Stockton-on-Tees. He is an electrical engineer by trade and spent six years working with the steel industry as a consultant, advising on how to make high-value products such as stainless steel out of scrap steel.

He believes the same can be done with gold, and says, 'Over the past decade, gold has

become a metal of great interest in the fields of science and engineering as new commercial opportunities have opened up. This, however, has been coupled with increasing prices of gold as well as increased difficulties in extracting new gold sources.'

With this in mind, and in conjunction with the Institute of Digital Innovation (IDI) at Teesside University, Andy has been working to develop digitally based reaction mechanisms that will:

- > reduce reaction development time
- > increase the profitability of gold extraction and purification
- > minimise the amount of waste produced through gold processing.

'In many ways, the greatest innovation with this project is moving a heavy element of process design onto a computer screen and out of the laboratory where the greatest expenses occur. There is an additional benefit in that the resulting gold won't have any toxic

impurities associated with current extraction techniques – especially important for medical research,' he explained.

At present gold is often extracted from rocks and waste material using dangerous chemicals such as arsenic and cyanide – hardly appropriate for use in developing products to support cancer research.

Andy has been provided with a DigitalCity Fellowship grant funded through the European Regional Development Fund and One North East along with space in the IDI digital labs at the University, as well as with advice and other support from experts.

He has also been mentored by Andrew and Sylvia Dean from another of the DigitalCity Fellowship science-based companies, Nano Agrochemicals, which was launched two years ago.

For more details on DigitalCity Fellowships call Cheryl Evans on 01642 384324, email c.evans@idi-uk.org.

Teesside gets vote of confidence from Higher Education watchdogs

Teesside University has received an important vote of confidence from the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for Higher Education.

The Agency carries out institutional audits of higher education institutions every five years, and in its latest review of academic standards and the quality of learning opportunities provided for students at Teesside, the University achieved top marks.

Professor Caroline MacDonald, Teesside University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Student Experience), pictured, was delighted with the outcome and the small number of recommendations for action by the QAA in the institutional audit.

'The language used by the QAA is very restrained, particularly when compared with OFSTED inspections of schools which uses terms like "Outstanding", she explained.

'The role of audit is to look at two aspects of our provision and decide whether the QAA can have confidence in the soundness of our academic standards and the quality of the learning experience available to students both now and in the future. In both cases, the auditors said they had confidence in Teesside University, which is the best results you can get,' said Professor MacDonald.

'I am particularly pleased that they highlighted the partnership we have with the Students' Union and the way we listen to students through things like the National Student Survey. It is one of the special features of Teesside. The student voice is important to us and helps us to enhance the students' learning opportunities.'



The features of good practice listed by the audit team included:

- > the proactive use of a range of outcomes from external evaluations to enhance student learning opportunities
- > the effective partnership between the University and the Students' Union to support student representation processes on taught programmes at all levels of the institution
- > the development and implementation of a comprehensive and responsive structure to support e-learning
- > the effective alignment of strategic aims and inclusive staff development activities in support of the University's mission
- > the systematic programme for admission, induction and support of postgraduate research students at both the institutional and school level.

A Meteoric mission to Temenos

Middlesbrough primary school children have been on a Meteoric mission to view the town's new £2.7m, 48m high sculpture Temenos, up close.



Mark Hopgood is pictured with Emma Hutchinson, a Meteor student mentor and MSc Criminology student, with Abingdon pupils Shaan Hussain and Heena Akram.

The sculpture is the work of influential artist Anish Kapoor and Cecil Balmond, one of the world's leading structural engineers, and is sited in Middlesbrough's Middlehaven area.

The two children, from Abingdon Primary School, were taking part in the University's award-winning Meteor programme, which aims to inspire primary school children to consider further and higher education. Their visit aimed to give them a flavour of Temenos before they visited the University campus to take part in the twelfth annual Meteor summer school, where they designed and built their own 'mini-Temenos'.

During the summer school, 500 year six primary school children (aged ten to eleven) visited the University for a range of activities. They came from across the Tees Valley and, for the first time, were joined by two Darlington primary schools.

Mark Hopgood, Project Director for Temenos, delivered daily presentations about the sculpture to the children, with a time lapse video showing the construction of Temenos, before starting their own designs.

Heena Akram, 11, from Abingdon School, said, 'It's so interesting seeing Temenos up close, the way the structure's built. I'd like it to inspire other young people to build their own structures in the future. The activities we've done for Meteor in school have been really fun and I want to go to University when I'm older. I want to study to become a doctor as I like helping people.'

Classmate Shaan Hussain, 11, said, 'I really like the shape of Temenos; it's interesting and good for Middlesbrough. It made me look forward to building my own structure at the University. I liked the Zoolab Meteor tour when it came to our School as we got to see lots of different animals. I also want to go to University when I'm older.'

Mark Hopgood, Project Manager for Temenos, said, 'I was delighted to come into the University to talk to the Meteor pupils. It gave them an opportunity to engage in a major art development in their own town and it was very interesting to see which structures they decided to make, whether they were similar to Temenos or they felt inspired to go in a completely different direction. Temenos will be here for 120 years so it's important that young people and their families come down to see it, they are the future.'

Meteor was launched by the University in 1999 to inspire local primary Year Six (aged 10 to 11) pupils to think about further and higher education. It offers a series of activities on and off campus covering a wide range of curriculum based activities. Meteor also provides an opportunity for pupils to meet and talk to the University's students, who mentor the pupils.

Teesside keeps scoring in international top three

Teesside University has again achieved a top three placing among participating world-wide higher education institutions (HEIs) for 'Overall Average Satisfaction' in a survey of international students.

The twice-yearly International Student Barometer (ISB) is the largest globally benchmarked study of international students in the world. Teesside has now scored top three placings internationally in the last four surveys for 'Overall Average Satisfaction'.

The survey is divided into three categories in the summer wave: Living, Student Support and Learning with an additional category looking at Arrival in the autumn wave, with individual attributes within each category. The ISB is independently administered by the International Graduate Insight Group and has gained feedback from over 500,000 students since its launch.

The most recent survey, for autumn 2009, explored the views of students from 57 HEIs in the UK and 123 world-wide. Teesside University came third globally for 'Overall Average Satisfaction.'

In addition, the University was ranked first among 57 UK HEIs for nine attributes within the four categories. Teesside was rated the top university in the UK for Technology, Language support, Library, Careers advice, Financial support, Living cost, Accommodation cost, Meeting staff (on arrival), and the Finance office.

Dorcas Onyike is one of Teesside's international students. Dorcas, 24, from Nigeria, has already achieved a BA (Hons) Marketing and Public Relations degree at the University and also received the DTW Prize for best overall performance on the course. She has returned to study for a master's degree in International Management and said, 'Life is full of challenges and being at university is full of them. However, Teesside reduced some of these challenges education wise by providing both practice and theory and, of course, the lecturers who do the great job of making sure this happens.'



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2009/10
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