

# universe magazine

The University of Teesside  
Providing **Opportunities** - Pursuing **Excellence**

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UNIVERSITY OF  
**TEESSIDE**

# welcome

## from Professor Graham Henderson Vice-Chancellor

**Our university has achieved some remarkable steps forward in recent years and is now able to look ahead with great confidence as it pursues the ambitious plans for growth and development that were unveiled recently at the first University Forum, attended by over 250 people.**

Our top priorities include enhancing the quality and standing of our work, addressing the current and future needs of students and their employers, and maximising our contribution to delivering the objectives of the Regional Economic Strategy and the Tees Valley City-Region Business Case. These are the key drivers behind the University's future development plans.

Teesside is acquiring growing recognition, regionally and nationally, as a provider of excellent learning and teaching and student support, and is emerging as a leading institution in several niche areas of academic provision. Our aim is therefore to complement a commitment to widening participation and social inclusion with a parallel pursuit of excellence in all aspects of our teaching, research and business support activity.

In addition, the University recognises the increasing importance of working in ever closer partnership with employers, in all sectors, and with other college and university partners to ensure that higher education is as accessible and as relevant as possible.

Hence, these building blocks of providing opportunity, pursuing excellence and working in partnership with employers and other stakeholders provide the foundations for the University's future.

We are confident that this approach is working and our message is getting through. For example, it has been pleasing to note that the proportion of entrants joining the University from high performing schools and colleges throughout the Tees Valley, the wider region and beyond is continuing to rise - as are the average entry qualifications of students entering programmes in those areas where we have established a strong reputation. Also in 2006, more than 60 first year undergraduates in animation alone received Teesside scholarships on the basis of their previous high level of academic performance.

However, university-level study means much more than achieving paper qualifications. Our staff go beyond the curriculum in order to turn out students who have strong employment and life skills, and we are justifiably proud of their sensitivity to environmental and social needs. Above all, Teesside graduates are equipped for work and for lifelong learning, and we are genuinely excited at the prospect of using this as a base for making an ever greater contribution to the local and regional economy.



The Vice-Chancellor is pictured speaking at the University Forum.

**universe**

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Cover shows the University's Learning Resource Centre.



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## ANIMATED ANDY RETURNS TO THE UNIVERSITY



Renowned animator Andy Lomas recently returned to the University of Teesside, the institution that helped launch his career. Andy was one of the keynote speakers at Animex, the international festival of animation and computer games, now in its eighth year and organised by the University.

Andy Lomas graduated from the University's MSc degree in Computer Aided Graphical Technology Applications in 1992 and embarked on a successful career in animation. He spent five years in the US and during that time he worked for leading studio DreamWorks. In 2000, he was made Head of 3D at Framestore CFC, the London-based computer animation company responsible for the popular TV series *Walking with Dinosaurs*.

By May 2006, Andy was Head of Computer Graphics at Framestore CFC. The company is currently working on *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* and *The Tale of Despereaux*, the largest computer-generated feature animation project ever undertaken in Europe. The University has purchased 12 of Andy's artworks to stage a permanent exhibition. Andy was awarded an Honorary Master of Arts degree from the University of Teesside in 2004.

Chris Williams, Animex Director, said: "Animex was a terrific event once again and the return of Andy Lomas generated a lot of interest."



## University's Sports Injury Centre is open for business

**The University of Teesside has opened a Sports Injury Centre, which is available to the public.**

It is staffed by Teesside Sports Therapy graduates who are registered with the Society of Sports Therapists. In addition, there are team members with specific expertise, including dieticians and sports psychologists.

Steve Smelt, a Senior Lecturer in Sports Therapy, heads the Centre. Steve, 54, from Hartlepool, worked as a therapist with Middlesbrough FC for two years and in the same role for Sunderland FC, for ten years.

He said: "When I first joined the University, I wanted to set up a sports injury clinic to enable students to gain practical experience. We then found that our high quality graduates were leaving the area and we were losing their expertise. We can now harness their skills through the Centre."

The Sports Injury Centre is based in the University's Innovation Building, off Stephenson Street, Middlesbrough, with satellite clinics at Stokesley Leisure Centre, Billingham Forum and Redworth Hall, outside Newton Aycliffe. More details are available at [www.teesside-sports-injury-centre.org](http://www.teesside-sports-injury-centre.org), or by emailing [bookings@teesside-sports-injury-centre.org](mailto:bookings@teesside-sports-injury-centre.org).

Pictured, Sports Therapist and Teesside graduate Gwen Dalgleish, delivering treatment to one of the Centre's clients.



## GRAEME OPERATES TO A HIGH LEVEL

**Graeme Measor started his career as a scrub nurse in operating theatres. This inspired him to think about playing a greater role in surgical interventions.**

So he enrolled on a new part-time degree course at the University of Teesside that would enable him to do this. Graeme, 32, from Hartlepool, achieved a First Class BSc (Hons) Surgical Care Practitioner degree and the Su Blewitt Award for best overall student. He was in the first cohort of students to graduate from the degree.

Graeme said: "As a theatre scrub nurse, the only career progression open to me

was management, which would have meant less clinical input. I wanted to further my career but I also wanted more clinical involvement with patients. Fortunately, the University of Teesside had just developed the Surgical Care Practitioner degree programme. I'd definitely recommend the University to other colleagues in the NHS who want to increase their knowledge and skills."

## JANE'S FIRST CLASS TRIBUTE TO MUM

Jane Batham overcame the tragic death of her mother to achieve a First Class degree in Business Management from the University of Teesside.

Jane was awarded a BA (Hons) Business Management degree and the Cecil M Yuill Award for the highest achievement in any field of study. This made her the University of Teesside's Student of the Year.

Jane, 22, from Richmond, said: "I had to leave the course during my final year as I was struggling with the workload as well as caring for my mum, Sarah. She was diagnosed with cancer in April 2004. However, I decided I really wanted to complete the degree so came back and began the final year again. Mum was in hospital during this time and she died in January 2006.

"I was really overwhelmed when I received the call from the University and found out I was Student of the Year. I'm sure my mum would be very proud; the award was for her."



## Postgraduate bursaries

The University is offering non means-tested bursaries worth £2,400 to most full-time UK and EU students on taught postgraduate courses. In addition, all students will receive an Achievement Award of £500 subject to satisfactory progression. The bursaries do not apply to research degrees or taught doctorates.

For more details contact the University's Finance Department on **01642 342156**, e-mail **finance@tees.ac.uk** or check the University's website at **www.tees.ac.uk** under the fees and funding section.

# FROM FIXING CARS TO TACKLING CRIME

**Robert Bridgett thought his school days were over when he started training as a motor mechanic aged 15. But, 25 years later, he achieved a Law degree from the University of Teesside and is to begin a Bar Vocational Course in Newcastle that will qualify him as a barrister.**

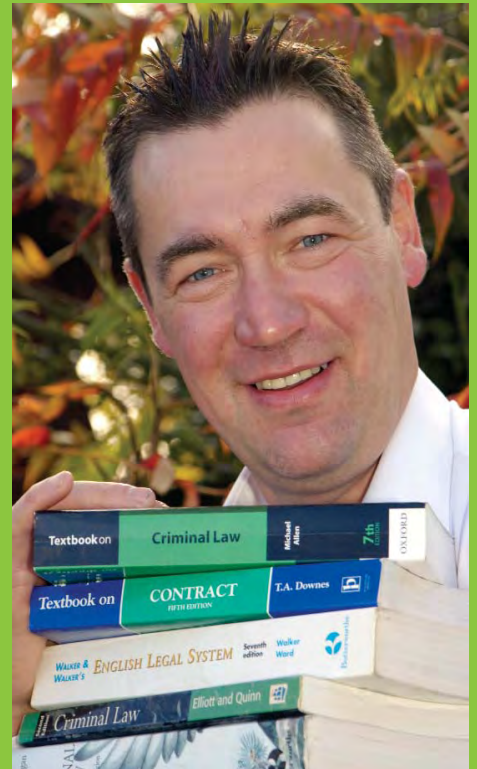
Robert, 41, from Shildon, County Durham, gained the Sweet and Maxwell prize in addition to his LLB (Hons) degree.

He said: "I didn't really like school or have a good time there. I was quiet and kept myself to myself. Although I got six O levels I started training as a motor mechanic to please my dad."

Robert worked as a mechanic for several years, then switched to selling insurance. He gained a taste for learning when he studied GCSEs in Maths and Law.

He then took an Access to Higher Education course, which led on to the Law degree. By then, Robert was working as an interviewer for the National Centre for Social Research.

Robert had problems with the computing requirements of the degree: "I was absolutely hopeless to start off with. When I heard young kids talking about cutting and pasting I thought they were talking about decorating! My tutor was very understanding and let me hand write my essays in the first year. Everybody at the University was so supportive."



Judith Earnshaw felt disappointed when she failed her A level Chemistry. Sixteen years later, she overturned her previous result to achieve a First Class BSc (Hons) degree in Applied Chemistry at the University and gain the Teesside Science Award.

Judith, 34, from Stokesley, works as a Research Scientist at ICI Wilton. She said: "The part-time degree was a lot of hard work but it was worth it. I was shocked to get a First and the prize, it's a big contrast to my failed A level! My parents, John and Diane, were especially pleased. I'm the first in the family to get a First. Dad has three degrees, so his achievements were a hard act to follow!"

## A level failure is First Class graduate



# Teesside's new Deputy Vice-Chancellors

The University of Teesside has appointed two new Deputy Vice-Chancellors to its Executive.



Pictured from left to right, Professor Cliff Hardcastle and Professor Cliff Allan.

## PROFESSOR CLIFF HARDCASTLE is Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Enterprise)

Cliff said: "I am delighted to be joining the University. I believe strongly in its underlying ethos, its inclusiveness, its commitment to the region and of course in its dedication to excellence. The University's students are entitled to and deserve to have access to the best possible research and an education that fits them for their future careers."

Cliff is originally from Blyth, Northumberland and worked as a Site Engineer before enrolling on a BSc (Hons) in Building at Lanchester Polytechnic. He joined the University of Strathclyde as a Research Assistant before moving to Newcastle Polytechnic to lecture in Built Environment. At Newcastle, Cliff was awarded his first research council grants and was a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Oregon.

Cliff then moved to the University of Westminster as Head of the School of

Construction, Housing and Surveying and he also undertook a PhD with Heriot-Watt University. He moved to Glasgow Caledonian University as Head of Department and later Dean of the School of Built and Natural Environment. He progressed to Assistant Principal, with responsibility for commercial development, and acted as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Operations.

Throughout his career, Cliff has continued as an active researcher. He was recently Visiting Professor to the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and is engaged with the universities of Dundee, Loughborough and St Andrews in a major £1.25m Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council project.

Cliff added: "The University is extremely well founded, embedded in its community and region and has energetic and enthusiastic staff. I hope to be able to build upon this strong foundation and ensure that the world knows about its strong centres of research and enterprise. I will be working with colleagues to develop this agenda even further for the benefit of all the University's stakeholders."

## PROFESSOR CLIFF ALLAN is Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development)

Cliff, from Harrogate, said: "I'm looking forward to working in a dynamic and vibrant university with a can do, will do ethos. The University has a tremendous number of strengths and is continuing to build on the many achievements already made in terms of its access mission and regional purpose."

Cliff achieved his first degree in Politics and International Relations from Coventry Polytechnic, followed by a Masters in African Studies from the University of Birmingham. He returned to Coventry to lecture and later moved to Africa as an English teacher. Cliff lived in the Sudan during the Ethiopian refugee crisis in the mid-1980s and helped USA aid agencies in their work.

Cliff then worked in fund raising and education for the development agency Action Aid for five years. He returned to higher education, working for the Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council, later to merge with the Universities Funding Council to form the Higher Education Funding Council for England. He progressed to Head of Learning and Teaching Policy, where one of his roles included interacting with the Dearing Committee of 1997.

In 2000, Cliff was involved in setting up the Learning and Teaching Support Network (LTSN), which consisted of 24 subject centres based within relevant departments, hosted by higher education institutions throughout the UK. Four years later the LTSN merged with the Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education to form the York-based Higher Education Academy. Cliff was the Academy's Deputy Chief Executive, with responsibility for developing policy and strategy through liaison with the government, funding councils and the Quality Assurance Agency. He was appointed Visiting Professor of Higher Education Policy and Practice by the University of Bradford in 2005.

# NEW DIRECTORS TO DRIVE INSTITUTES FORWARD

The University of Teesside has organised its activities into nine multidisciplinary 'clusters' to focus academic development on areas of existing strength or regional priority.



Dr Jim TerKeurst with a visualisation of the University's £12m Institute of Digital Innovation building, currently under construction.

Two of the clusters, the Institute of Digital Innovation and the Institute of Criminal and Forensic Investigation, have new Directors. Jack Dees is Director of the Institute of Criminal and Forensic Investigation. Teesside's activity in this field spans the following:

- initial police training
- continuing professional development for police officers
- forensic investigation and crime scene science
- criminology
- fraud management
- domestic violence
- disaster victim identification
- information security and criminal law

Jack, 50, from Newcastle, entered the academic world following a 30-year police career. After his retirement, he took up his first lecturing post in Lincoln. He moved to Teesside in 2005 as a Senior Lecturer in Law. Jack said: "There is excellence in the

University's Schools connected with criminal and forensic investigation. The Institute will bring this quality together, in terms of research, enterprise, teaching and learning and marketing and business growth. There will be a real opportunity to improve students' learning through a cross-fertilisation and sharing of ideas and methods. My role is an exciting one as I'll be driving this Institute forward."

Dr Jim TerKeurst is Director of the Institute of Digital Innovation. Teesside is already widely recognised as one of the national leaders in this field, particularly in computer animation, computer games design and virtual reality.

Originally from Michigan in the USA, Jim, 48, previously lectured at the University of Abertay in Dundee. He began his career in media production, specialising in corporate makeovers for major businesses, including advertising campaigns. He later achieved a PhD in Mass Communication at the University of Iowa.



Jack Dees is pictured in the University's Mock Court Room.

One of Jim's key tasks at Abertay was to support the IC CAVE project, which developed digital technologies.

He said: "The University of Teesside is a fantastic place to be as there is a great depth of talent and skill in key areas for digital growth, both across the region and wider afield. I hope to bring together talented people across all of the University's Schools and departments to create new ideas and concepts and to take advantage of the way technology is developing."

The other clusters are:

- Health and Social Care
- Design
- Sustainable Communities
- Sport and Exercise
- Applied Science, Engineering, Technology and the Environment
- Leadership and Management
- Creative Arts and Culture



## MELANIE'S RESEARCH SHOWS A DIFFERENT SIDE TO HISTORY

It's one of the most misunderstood periods of British history but now Melanie Devine has helped challenge commonly held perceptions about it.

Melanie, a part-time history lecturer at the University, has completed her PhD thesis examining late medieval life in Richmondshire, North Yorkshire.

She focused on the feudal structure, traditionally taught to schoolchildren as an oppressive arrangement that allowed the lord of the manor to demand his subjects' services.

However, Melanie's work, concentrating on the period 1372-1425, highlighted a much more enlightened system that seemed to suit all sides.

Melanie, 52, of East Cowton, North Yorkshire, spent five years on her thesis, under the guidance of Professor Tony Pollard.

The thesis focuses on the powerful Richmondshire families the Nevilles, Fitzhughs and Scropes and their relationship with the immensely influential John of Gaunt, who had strong local links.

Melanie said: "There is a huge debate about feudalism. I found a system that was mutually beneficial, as people were rewarded for the services they performed for the nobility and gentry. It was about more than money or land and seems to have been a positive system for both sides.

"We tend to think of those days in terms of everything revolving round London and the court and that the further north you headed the less civilised people became. What emerged during my research was a picture of a much more sophisticated society in Richmondshire.

"People were trading in wool with merchants from Europe, mining for lead and coal and farming both animals and crops. Not everyone benefited but, overall, it was a society that worked for most people at a time when Britain was recovering from the Black Death."

## New Director for International Development

**Dr Keith Brown has joined the University of Teesside as Director of the Centre for International Development. Keith, 53, from Durham, has come to Teesside from the University of Sunderland, where he was Director of the International Office.**

Before moving into higher education at the age of 40, Keith worked as a manager in diverse areas, including GEC, a manufacturing company for the defence industry and Magnet PLC. He has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from UMIST and a PhD in Educational Research from the University of Lancaster.

Keith said: "I think off-campus delivery for international students is the future. It's not just about bringing students into the University itself, although that is very

important. The key message is that success is not just measured by students attending here, it's also measured by the profitable overseas delivery of our courses.

"Some really good work has been undertaken here and I am looking forward to working with the Schools and departments to develop things further. I like change and I like developing things. The higher education experience should be international and it's important that British students meet people from other cultures."

