

# universe

**magazine**

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**UNIVERSITY OF  
TESSIDE**

Providing Opportunities - Pursuing Excellence

# welcome

## from Professor Graham Henderson Vice-Chancellor

**In welcoming you to this edition of UNiVerse I am delighted to be able to point to the fact that 2007 has once again been a highly-successful year for the University, culminating in the celebration of the achievements of thousands of our graduates at the recent academic awards ceremonies at Middlesbrough Town Hall.**

The year has seen yet further growth in student numbers and student achievement, significant additional investment in campus development, another record year for financial achievement and further enhancement of our national reputation as reflected in national league tables. For example, the results of the third National Student Survey place the University in the top quarter of all universities in the UK for

overall student satisfaction and amongst the top four in the areas of Law, Design and Nursing and Allied Health Professions.

It was also pleasing to be able to start the new academic year in September with three new University buildings on campus, buildings which will provide an excellent working environment for students involved with the creative arts and digital technology aspects of the work of the Schools of Computing and Arts & Media.

And these developments have coincided with the launch of a number of new programmes in the areas of fine art, performing arts, multimedia journalism and design (including the transfer of the University's well-established Fine Art degree to the University from Cleveland College of Art and Design). Amongst those new initiatives are a new degree in performing arts (for students who have already completed a foundation degree within one of our partner colleges) and a new degree in Multimedia Journalism Professional Practice. This degree will utilise the facilities of the convergent newsroom in the new Athena Building to combine traditional aspects of newspaper journalism with the 21st century delivery of video reporting.

The new developments on campus have been paralleled by developments at our partner colleges with the recent opening of our University Centre in Darlington College and the progress towards the construction of a University Centre at the new Middlesbrough College site in Middlehaven, which is on schedule to be opened in September 2008.

But learning at the University does not only have to be campus based and the University is becoming increasingly widely recognised as being amongst the leading universities in the UK in terms of 'employer engagement', as a result of a number of innovative new initiatives spanning all parts of the University such as health, leadership and management (including School leadership, police training, criminal and forensic investigation, process industries, and digital technology and media). This is a key element of the future strategic direction of the University's work as we strive to become a 'business facing' University which makes the maximum possible contribution to the future social, cultural and economic success of the UK and, in particular, the Tees Valley and wider north-east region – and I look forward to being able to report further on our progress in this area in future editions of UNiVerse.

The Vice-Chancellor is pictured with Kristina Grimes, runner-up in the 2007 run of BBC One's *The Apprentice*. She visited the University recently on behalf of Middlesbrough Business Forum, to give a guest interview in front of an audience.

Kristina now works as an Investment Director for Dandara, a property company.

She said, 'The University's campus is great; it's large, bustling and sprawling. The students look like a good bunch!'

## universe

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

### EDITORIAL TEAM

Stephen Laing  
Nic Mitchell  
Simon Clayton  
John Dean  
Tel: 01642 342015  
Email: pr@tees.ac.uk

### PHOTOGRAPHER

Judy Hume  
Tel: 01642 218121, ext 3104  
Email: j.hume@tees.ac.uk

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Cover shows the University's Athena Building.

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# Honours from Teesside

The University's Honorary Graduates for 2007 are:

## Jeff Stelling

### Doctor of Professional Studies

Jeff Stelling is best known as the anchor for Sky Sports' *Gillette Soccer Saturday*. He is originally from Hartlepool and in the programme directs a regular panel of experts which includes ex-professionals such as Matt Le Tissier, Charlie Nicholas and Phil Thompson.

His media career began as a reporter at his local paper, *The Hartlepool Mail*.

## Mrs Anne Fine OBE

### Doctor of Letters

Anne Fine is a distinguished children's author. County Durham-based Anne received the Whitbread Award in 1993 and 1997. She was the Children's Laureate between 2001 and 2003 and has been the holder of the Carnegie Medal and the *Publishing News* Children's Author of the Year. Her 1987 novel *Madame Doubtfire* was adapted for the big-screen as *Mrs Doubtfire* starring Robin Williams and her book *Goggle-Eyes* was adapted for BBC children's television.

## Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys

### Doctor of Science

Alec Jeffreys is the inventor of genetic fingerprinting, which changed the face of forensic science and criminal justice throughout the world.

Sir Alec Jeffreys is currently the Wolfson Research Professor of the Royal Society at the University of Leicester.

## Professor Martin Narey

### Doctor of Laws

Middlesbrough-born and based Martin Narey is Chief Executive of the charity Barnados, having previously served as Chief Executive of the Prison Service, later the National Offender Management Service. Martin Narey has made a first-class contribution to education and to social inclusion.

## Dato' Seri Professor Dr Ibrahim bin Abu Shah

### Doctor of Laws

Professor Abu Shah is the Vice-Chancellor of the University's partner university in Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), the largest public university in the country, spread across 14 campuses. Professor Abu Shah is a sociologist by background, one of the most distinguished educators in Malaysia and a great supporter of the excellent link between the two universities.

## Mr Alan Noble

### Doctor of Professional Studies

Alan Noble is a highly-successful local businessman, founding the company that is now Northgate PLC in 1981. The company runs 100,000 vehicles and employs 3,000 people across Europe. Alan also makes a major contribution to his local community, including in his role as a previous Director of Tees Valley Regeneration.

## Mr John Foster OBE DL

### Doctor of Laws

John Foster retires shortly as University Visitor. He has an outstanding record of public service as Chief Executive of Middlesbrough Council, Chair of South Tees Hospitals Acute NHS Trust and as a long-standing University Governor:

Front row: Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, Anne Fine OBE, John Foster OBE DL, Dato' Seri Prof Dr Ibrahim bin Abu Shah, Dr James Caldwell who was awarded a Doctor of Science degree from the University in the Honorary Graduates' ceremony.

Back row: Lord Sawyer of Darlington, University Chancellor; Professor Graham Henderson, University Vice-Chancellor; Jeff Stelling, Sandy Anderson, Chairman of University Governors, Alan Noble, Professor Martin Narey.

## Nursing is top at Teesside



### **Nursing students at Teesside are the most satisfied in England, according to the 2007 National Student Survey (NSS).**

And students studying Design, Law and Subjects Allied to Medicine at Teesside gave their University a top four position in the country for student satisfaction, according to the NSS.

The most satisfied degree students at Teesside were studying Law, Subjects Allied to Medicine and History. 95% of Law and Subjects Allied to Medicine students and 94% of History students said they were satisfied with the quality of their course.

The results show that 81% of Teesside degree students are either satisfied, or very satisfied, with their courses compared with 79% in the 2006 NSS.

The University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Graham Henderson said, 'This is an excellent result. We take the views of our students very seriously and we're absolutely delighted to have done even better than last year in this nationwide survey.'

In a national ranking published by *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, the University featured in the top quarter of all universities overall. Teesside was joint 23rd out of 109 institutions and ranked second highest, amongst the former polytechnics.

In the North East, Teesside was once again top for satisfaction among the modern universities. The University did very well in comparison with the other regional universities, being top or joint top in four of the seven major survey categories. Teesside was top in the category of Assessment and Feedback and joint top in the categories of Academic Support, Learning Resources and Personal Development.

## Generous bursaries available at Teesside

**The University is once again offering a generous financial support package to students, worth as much as £6,000 to full-time undergraduates. Funding is also available for those wishing to take full-time postgraduate courses. The details are:**

- Full-time undergraduate students with a family income of £25,000 or less will be eligible for an annual £1,000 bursary
- Excellence Scholarships are designed to recognise and reward academic achievement. They are worth £1,000 a year to full-time undergraduates who make Teesside their firm choice
- Subject Scholarships worth £1,000 a year are available to undergraduate students studying a range of specified subjects who make Teesside their firm choice
- Postgraduate students on taught courses may be eligible for bursaries worth £2,400.

Professor Cliff Allan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development) said, 'We are keen to remove any financial barriers to higher education and ensure that students can continue to benefit from the opportunity of a university experience. Moreover, we want to carry on attracting high achieving students to our courses. I believe that our bursaries and scholarships offer students a great deal when coming to the University of Teesside.'

Chris Turner, Student Funding Development Officer at the University, said, 'The Teesside package, along with any applicable government support, will mean that many undergraduate students will have higher levels of non-repayable funding available to them than ever before.'

For more details on the Teesside funding package visit the University's web site at [www.tees.ac.uk/funding](http://www.tees.ac.uk/funding) or contact Student Services on 01642 342277, e-mail [studentfinance@tees.ac.uk](mailto:studentfinance@tees.ac.uk).



The University of Teesside has an excellent track record in employer engagement. Here, UNiverse profiles some examples of the University's collaborations with a diverse range of employers, in both the private and public sectors.



## Sainsbury's partnership addresses employer engagement issues

**Managers from supermarket retailer Sainsbury's convenience stores, formerly known as Bell's Stores, are benefiting from the University of Teesside's links with employers.**

Since its inception in 2005, 24 retail managers have completed the part-time Certificate in Advanced Professional Development: Resource Management.

Dr Ruth Helyer, Head of Workforce Development in the University's Department of Academic Enterprise, said, 'Sainsbury's wanted flexible, higher-level, vocationally-relevant skills training for their managers. It had to be challenging enough to meet the company's needs but also fit around an employee's 45-hour working week.'

One of those managers is Simon Ingham, pictured, who is based in the Sainsbury's store at Chapelhouse in West Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Simon, 47, from Newton Aycliffe in

County Durham has over 20 years retail experience and said, 'I was one of eight managers selected to complete the Certificate, which is designed to fit around your current job and personal life. It consists of three modules in Finance and Trading, Personal Development in Management and People Management.

'We completed various assignments that were relevant to our day-to-day experience of managing a store. These included management techniques, communication skills and looking at how you perceive yourself. I have no doubt that it has made me a better manager, benefited my colleagues and ultimately increased the level of service we provide for our customers.'

## Teesside teams up with Inverita

**The University has teamed up with Inverita, part of Capita Plc, to offer a part-time course in corporate fraud investigation. The one-year University certificate, entitled Corporate Fraud Investigator, is the only one of its kind in the private sector. It is designed for fraud investigators working in a commercial or corporate environment who wish to increase their knowledge and expertise and gain a recognised relevant professional qualification.**

The first cohort of staff have graduated from the course, the first in the UK to do so. By achieving this certificate, the group also attained the status of Accredited Counter-Fraud Specialist from the government-recognised Counter-Fraud Professional Accreditation Board, of which Inverita is a member:

This status will enable them to work as a fraud investigator in the private investigator, the public and the regulated financial services sectors. The course also provides a progression route to higher-level fraud and economic crime management courses at the University. In October 2007, the fifth cohort enrolled on the course, which is a mixture of classroom and distance learning.

The Business School has built upon this success by delivering a new course, the Credit Fraud Technician, a five-day course for Marks & Spencer Money in Chester, and is planning the Insurance Fraud Technician, a five-day course to be delivered to a major financial services company in 2008. Both courses are accredited and moderated by the Business School and delivered by Capita Inverita, and also have the potential to be rolled out to other employers.

Pictured left to right, Mike Ashwell, senior lecturer in the University's Business School and Les Dobie, Head of Training & Development for Inverita.



# Media training for the twenty-first century

**The world of newspaper journalism is changing rapidly in the 21st century. Online reporting now features in newspapers' websites alongside the traditional print format. Last year, the University reached an agreement with the Trinity Mirror group, Britain's biggest regional newspaper publisher, to train Trinity's regional and national reporters and photographers in video journalism skills. So far more than 60 have been trained in the University's TV studio, Aurora House.**

Andy Price, Principal Lecturer in New Media, said, 'Trinity used a number of trainers at first, but felt that our five-day course was more suited to the needs of print journalists than the others. The trainees learn to shoot and edit video for online news packages. It's very practical, with a big emphasis on the journalists interacting with the public in pursuit of real stories and producing them to deadline.'

Nick Bowman, *Sunday Mirror* Chief Photographer, pictured, has recently completed the five-day course. He said, 'My main work involves shooting the big buy-ups of the week, which are paid-for interviews with celebrities or the public, kiss-and-tells and celebrity studio shoots. The videos I'm going to film will be mainly for the website but there are further plans to expand the use of video for the paper.'

'The training gave an excellent overview of the skills required. We are just about to jump in with both feet in shooting interviews, studio shoots, kiss-and-tells, and the intensive editing side of the course was fantastic. I can't thank the University's team enough for their patience and teaching the software side of things in such a way that it actually sank in! They really do teach old dogs new tricks!'

The University is also offering an entirely new degree, accredited by the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) and approved by Trinity Mirror. The BA (Hons) Multimedia Journalism Professional Practice is designed to meet the needs of the current news industry, by combining the skills of traditional journalism with multimedia production.

Joanne Butcher, Chief Executive of the NCTJ said of the degree, 'I am hugely impressed by the University's new degree. It is a very innovative course and has strong links with local employers. There is a genuine understanding about how the media industry is changing and how this impacts on journalism skills. The multimedia approach is how the industry is developing.'

'The degree is innovative as it combines the traditional skills of journalism, for example the depth of media law, with the developing new skills which are required across all media

platforms, such as video journalism. It's quite exciting to see a provider like the University leading the way in these new developments.'

Students will gain a flavour of working on a newspaper as the degree is run from a multi-million pound, purpose-built convergent newsroom, part of the University's new Athena Building. Innovatively the newsroom is directly linked to the Middlesbrough *Evening Gazette's* editorial system and it also has the audio, video and web tools needed for multimedia news production.



# Healthy leadership at all levels

**The issue of leadership is of huge importance to the National Health Service (NHS) modernisation agenda, which aims to make the Service more efficient, effective and productive. The University has been working collaboratively with the NHS since 2002 to deliver a range of tailored courses designed to develop and enhance leadership skills.**

Professor Paul Keane, Dean of the School of Health & Social Care said, 'It's important to remember that leadership applies to people involved at all levels in the NHS, from care assistants to chief executives. The decisions they take can make a difference to someone's life. Our courses aim to empower

professionals and managers to make informed decisions in the best interests of service users.'

Health care practitioners and experts are involved in developing and delivering the courses and there is an emphasis on learning within the workplace.

Leadership programmes are delivered on the University's campus in Middlesbrough, but also via masterclasses, workshops and e-learning. There are currently 100 London GPs enrolled on one master's level course.

Faye Stinton has recently completed the one-year part-time Postgraduate Certificate in Leadership. Faye, 29, from Newby near Stokesley, North Yorkshire, is a Teesside Diagnostic Radiography graduate. She works

in a Clinical Lead role in the Radiography Department at Middlesbrough's James Cook University Hospital.

Faye, pictured, said, 'Thanks to the Certificate I have the knowledge behind the concept of leadership. Also, I am much more confident and effective in my role as a leader.'



# A strong forensic link

**The University's well-established links with the UK Forensic Science Service (FSS), one of the world's leading providers of forensic services, has resulted in a unique new course aimed at professional investigators.**

The University of Teesside Certificate in Professional Development, Professional Investigation (Forensic Awareness) is aimed at detectives and investigators working in a range of organisations including the police service, Customs and Excise and the Highways Agency.

Ian Pepper, Principal Lecturer in Policing at the University, said, 'This is the first time any University has worked collaboratively at this level with the Forensic Science Service. It's a unique development and a wonderful opportunity. We are very excited about being able to offer this new course, which we know will be of interest to many current and future investigators.'

In the past, the University and FSS have worked together on course developments including the University's BSc (Hons) Crime Scene Science and its Foundation Degree in Police Studies, which is run in conjunction with Cleveland



Police. This is the first time the two organisations have collaborated on the delivery of a programme in this way.

The course will explore the value of various evidence types such as biological samples, footwear and fibres in order for investigators to determine the best and legally most appropriate evidence to submit for scientific tests. The first students are due to enrol on the course in February 2008. They will be based at the FSS'

state-of-the-art new laboratory at Barmston Court in Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Ian Pepper added, 'The course is intensive. It's designed to ensure that students develop the key skills and knowledge necessary to become effective investigators. Amongst other things, students will see how evidence is processed in a laboratory setting, how DNA profiles are created and how technological evidence is received.'

## Teesside joins forces with the Metropolitan Police Service

**The University of Teesside is to develop and accredit a career development scheme for forensic practitioners within the Metropolitan Police Service.**

The five-year contract was won in competition with other universities and will involve training for approximately 800 staff. Teesside already has established links with the National Policing Improvement Authority (NPIA) regarding forensic and crime scene training.

The University accredits short courses provided by the Durham-based NPIA, which are delivered to all police forces throughout England. The new contract with the Metropolitan Police Service means that the University will have links in crime scene/forensic developments with all English police forces.

In the contract's first six months, the University will work with the Metropolitan Police Service to map out their existing forensic and crime scene training and see how it matches against

different levels of higher education study and the University's academic practices. The mapping process will grade the Metropolitan Police's provision according to three course levels, with level three matching an honours degree. The eventual aim is the development of a degree course for the Met's forensic staff, based upon their current provision. The process will also lead to the design of support modules to address identified academic gaps.

Following the initial mapping exercise, the University will continue to monitor the courses' academic quality, ensuring they follow normal procedures for accredited work.

Professor Graham Henderson, University Vice-Chancellor, said, 'It is a clear signal of the strength of our provision in forensic science that we have been able to win this contract. I am absolutely delighted that we are forming this partnership with "the Met".'



Pictured, University of Teesside Forensics student.

## A policing partnership

**The University's two-year Foundation Degree in Police Studies in partnership with Cleveland Police is an established success, with nine cohorts completing the new form of police training. Cleveland was the first in the UK to complete the Foundation Degree.**

The course was developed in partnership with Cleveland Police and combines practical on-the-beat training with rigorous academic work. The University's police training was expanded recently to West Mercia Constabulary in the Midlands, who now educate and train new recruits through their Foundation Degree in Professional Policing.

The Foundation Degrees were devised in response to the government's reform of the police, to assist in professionalising the service. The courses have been tailored to meet the individual requirements of the forces.

Success in the Foundation Degrees has also led to the development of a number of programmes for the University's partners in law enforcement, including police community support officers and special constables.



Pictured, Police Studies student Kathryn Dunn.

## Graduate talent is at the heart of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs), a unique government-backed initiative designed to help companies innovate and grow by linking them up with university expertise and by subsidising the costs by up to 60%.

For the University of Teesside, KTPs are an important way of providing companies access to expert skills and resources to improve their profitability and competitiveness. KTP projects are backed by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (formerly the Department of Trade and Industry). **UNiverse profiles two successful KTP projects.**

## A Casting collaboration

**Graduate Martin McKie has been helping to transform a company working in one of British industry's most traditional sectors.**

Martin has become sales development engineer for Stockton Casting Company under a KTP with the University. The Company, which employs 28 people, has been working with Martin to improve the way it works.

The roots of the collaboration lie in Martin's successful completion of an Advanced Manufacturing Systems degree at Teesside in 2006. Martin has introduced a range of improvements at the Company including developing new subcontractors, introducing Enterprise Resource Planning systems and increasing recycling.

Martin said, 'This project has helped to make the company more competitive as well as improving my own skills'.

For Alex Ramsay, Technical Manager of Stockton Casting, the benefits are clear. He said, 'Martin has enabled us to turn some of our ideas into reality'.



Pictured left to right, Martin McKie, Professor Farhad Nabhani, KTP supervisor at the University, and Alex Ramsay, Technical Manager at Stockton Castings.



## Competitive POP world benefits from graduate expertise

**A University of Teesside graduate is helping a Wearside company find new opportunities in a competitive global market through a KTP.**

Matt Burford, pictured above, who achieved a degree in Design Marketing, has been working with Washington-based Simpson Group, which specialises in creating point-of-purchase material (POP) for large chain stores.

The company provides POP, in the form of in-store advertising boards and stands for clients such as Sainsbury's and Matalan, and Matt is using his expertise to help the company improve its competitive edge.

Peter Reid, Senior Lecturer in Design at the University, said, 'Simpson Group works in an industry traditionally driven by sales, where price

is paramount. However, there's not much to differentiate one POP manufacturer from another.

'Matt's project is focusing on introducing and embedding new product development processes as well as a number of new products. Hopefully this will help the company to win new customers as well as improve the service provided to existing customers.'

Bill McNally, Managing Director of Simpson Group, said, 'Matt's recruitment was a strategic decision which was key to the development of our product portfolio and future growth. Matt is currently working with a number of our key customers on new product launches.'

## New perspective from Business School Dean

**Alastair Thomson is the new Dean of the University of Teesside's Business School. Alastair's appointment is his first in higher education.**

Alastair, 45, lives in Stokesley and is originally from Glasgow. He is a law graduate from the University of Strathclyde with previous managing director (MD) roles.

These include MD for Loop Customer Management Ltd, a key business within Kelda Group plc, the owners of Yorkshire Water; a FTSE 100 business. The business won numerous workplace best practice awards, including *The Sunday Times* Top 100 Places to Work in the UK, where it was ranked for three consecutive years.

In 2004 Alastair set up his own company, Mint Services Ltd, a niche training and consulting business.

Alastair is also Tees Valley Branch Chairman of the Institute of Directors.

He said, 'My experience has given me the perspective of someone

who has worked at MD level, in both large and smaller UK businesses. I have also run my own business, it's difficult to imagine what it's like to do this unless you have actually done so. I can bring this huge spectrum of experience into the leadership of the Business School. I think it makes a difference coming from the angle of a practitioner.

'I'm also looking forward to working with the different subject experts within the School. One of my immediate aims is to make the School more relevant to the needs of local business, of all sizes. I believe we have a big part to play in helping the regeneration of the Tees Valley. I've seen at first-hand the regeneration of both Glasgow and Leeds and see the same potential for growth in places like Middlesbrough and Stockton.'



## Fantastic opportunity for new School Dean



**Professor Simon Hodgson is the University's new Dean of the School of Science & Technology.**

Simon, 44, pictured, joined the University last year as the School's Assistant Dean for Research. Following a short career in industry, he started university as a mature student, graduating with first class honours from the University of Sheffield. He followed this later with a PhD from Sheffield Hallam University, both awards were in the field of engineering materials.

He initially lectured at Sheffield Hallam, and then moved to the University of Humberside's School of Engineering and IT where he was School Research Manager and a senior lecturer. In his Research Manager role Simon oversaw a growth in external research income from zero to nearly half-a-million pounds over a four-year period. Following this, Simon moved to the

University of Loughborough's Department of Materials Engineering, enjoying a highly-successful academic career, rapidly rising through the ranks to the post of reader and becoming a member of the senior management team.

Simon, who lives in Stokesley and is formerly from Kent said, 'I see my appointment here as a fantastic opportunity. Teesside's School of Science & Technology has been very successful and has continued to grow over the last five years, increasing its staffing base. This gives us a springboard to move forward positively to meet the new needs of the 21st century. We also need to ensure that the School engages with and takes advantage of its geographical location.'

**The University of Teesside has been selected as a national centre of excellence for manufacturing. The National Skills Academy Process Industries will have its UK hub based at the University and regional offices throughout the UK and start operating from early in 2008.**

The Academy will be vital in overcoming skills shortages in the manufacturing sector. It will benefit from the vast experience of process industry employers in the region, combined with the University's academic and vocational approach to engineering and science.

Craig Crowther, Chief Executive for the National Skills Academy Process Industries, said, 'We are delighted to be basing our national hub at the University of Teesside, and are looking forward to working with them and similar higher education establishments across the UK to develop the skilled workforce required to meet the demands of new technology and changing work practices in the process industries.'

Professor Graham Henderson, University of Teesside Vice-Chancellor, said, 'The fact that the University is hosting the National Skills Academy recognises the critical role of the process industries on Teesside in the UK economy. It also sends a very important message about developing skills at all levels for the process industries and about the role of higher education in working directly with the Skills Academy and the sector.'

'The process industries are essential to our success both here in the North East and nationally and the Academy will be invaluable in developing the skills to help the sector flourish.'

'We particularly look forward to working with the Skills Academy to develop the progression

## University to be hub for UK skills centre



routes to higher skills that will ensure the continued international success of the process industries.'

The National Skills Academy Process Industries will be based in a suite of offices in the University's Innovation Centre. It aims to deliver up to 8,000 extra national vocational qualifications and train an extra 800-900 apprentices across the region. Fourteen staff will

be employed by the Academy, with eight working at the University and the other six in industrial centres around the UK.

The Academy will also provide key employers such as Sabic, SembCorp and Huntsman with the opportunity to become Skills Academy training providers, alongside existing educational and training establishments.

## Vice-Chancellor outlines vision

Local secondary head teachers, further education and sixth form principals were recently invited to an evening with Professor Graham Henderson, the University's Vice-Chancellor, to share in his vision and future plans. Guests were first offered a guided tour of the University's new Athena Building and its facilities, including the animation, music and design studios.

During the evening, the Vice-Chancellor spoke to the invited guests regarding the *Moving Forward, Achievements and Ambitions for 2006-2009* document, which outlines the University's vision, achievements and plans for the future. The audience also had the opportunity to question the Vice-Chancellor and other senior managers about these future plans, and offer suggestions where appropriate.



Picture by North News.

## North East football fans to score their matches



**The North East's football fans are renowned for their passionate support for their teams. Now, a joint University research project will explore the lifestyles and attitudes of fans from all of the region's teams: Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Sunderland, Hartlepool and Darlington.**

This project, headed by Kevin Dixon, a lecturer in sport studies at the University, will examine fans' honest evaluations of every game this season. Kevin, pictured with scarves from all of the five teams, said, 'This project will give the North East's football fans the chance to speak for themselves instead of people just theorising about them. We're looking for volunteers to take part in online forum discussions and questionnaires throughout the season. We urge fans to log onto the forum after every match, to tell us how much they thought it was worth and why.

'Other issues include the spending habits of fans - how do they 'consume' their football? What drives the fans' passion for football? Is there pressure on the next generation of fans in terms of merchandising? Is sporting celebrity endorsement important? What qualities do fans feel are important in their celebrity players?'

All online interviews will be anonymous and confidential. The project is supervised by Ellis Cashmore, Professor of Culture, Media and Sport at Staffordshire University. Its results will appear in the journal *Soccer in Society*. Fans can log on at <http://football.tees.ac.uk/> or email [football@tees.ac.uk](mailto:football@tees.ac.uk).

## Project offers hope for sufferers of deadly condition

**Zulf Ali, a Professor at the University, is co-ordinating a European consortium that is developing a device which will help to diagnose patients suspected of having a deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or pulmonary embolism (PE). Failure to diagnose and treat DVT/PE has made it the most common cause of unexpected death in hospitalised patients in most developed nations.**

The consortium is working with industry and University partners including Helena Biosciences, a diagnostics company with a strong presence in the North East, and Cenamps, the regional Centre of Excellence in Nanotechnology, Microsystems and Photonics. The project has been funded by the European Commission.

Professor Ali specialises in micro and nanoscale technologies. It is this 'science of the small' which is behind the development of the new hand-held device. The device comprises a cartridge to handle a blood sample and reader to identify DVT/PE conditions.

Professor Ali said, 'Being able to carry out tests for DVT and PE at the bedside, rather than sending samples to a laboratory, could reduce the time taken to diagnose these conditions. Such point-of-care testing is particularly important in situations where fast diagnostic monitoring can improve medical decision-making, for example in intensive care units and operating theatres or when measurements need to be taken at the patient's home or GP's office.'



# Forensic Presidency for Brian



**Teesside forensic specialist Brian Rankin has been elected as President of the Forensic Science Society, an international professional body. Brian, 52, recently joined the University as head of its Centre for Forensic Investigation.**

He said, 'I have held many of the key roles in the Society over the last 30 years and I'm really looking forward to the presidency. This is an exciting time for the forensic industry both nationally and internationally and the Society needs to play a key role.'

Brian, originally from Northern Ireland, lives in Wetherby, West Yorkshire. Before embarking on an academic career, he worked for the Forensic Science Service.

## Crime scene science and forensic degrees commended

**The Forensic Science Society has given its seal of approval to four degree programmes at the University of Teesside.**

The BSc (Hons) in Crime Scene Science, Applied Science and Forensic Investigation, Forensic Biology and Forensic Chemistry have all been accredited by the Society following an assessment process.

The Society assessed laboratory analysis, interpretation, evaluation and presentation of evidence, and crime scene investigation components of the courses.



The report said, 'It is highly commended that for a considerable portion of each year students are required to complete a variety of crime scene scenarios which then continue through mock trials, all of which enables the student to understand and be fully conversant with the demands of a professional crime scene investigator.'

'The balance of the associated teaching staff in terms of academic, professional and practitioner experience is excellent, as are the new teaching team initiatives.'

The Society described the infrastructure and resource support provided by the University as 'commendable'.

Professor Simon Hodgson, Dean of the School of Science & Technology said, 'I am delighted to have this external recognition from the Forensic Science Society for four of our degree programmes. This confirms the quality and professional relevance of the range of courses we offer in crime scene and forensic sciences, and our place at the forefront of universities offering such subjects both in the UK and internationally.'

## Nine for Northumbria Police

**A group of nine University of Teesside Crime Scene Science graduates have recently joined Northumbria Police as scientific support officers.**

Detective Chief Inspector Glyn Williams, scientific support manager for Northumbria Police, said, 'The University's Crime Scene Science degree means there will be no requirement to send the new recruits for national training. We evaluated the course and found it to be excellent, it more than meets our requirements.'

'Our faith was justified during the recruitment process when all of the successful degree candidates demonstrated a high level of technical competence at the stage-managed crime scene. We're now hoping to use this course for potential recruits in the future.'



The graduates, pictured left to right, are: Jess Vicary, Alex Short, Louise Hudson, Claire Richardson, Craig Jones, Carly White, Fern Nicholson, Suzanne Cutler and Paul Wilson.

# University invests £25m in new buildings

**The University's campus has two distinctive new buildings, the £12m Phoenix Building and the £10m Athena Building. Along with the transformation of part of the Evening Gazette offices near the campus, a total of £25m has been invested to reinforce the University of Teesside's reputation as a premier location for design and digital media technology.**

The four-storey Phoenix Building is home to the Institute of Digital Innovation (IDI) and is the nerve centre for Teesside's ambitious DigitalCity project, which aims to create up to 300 new jobs and 130 companies within three years.

The new Athena Building is a £10m development for art, media, design and computing students. It contains 4,000 square metres of studio space for teaching and learning across a range of areas of digital technology and media, enabling the University to build on its

reputation for teaching excellence in areas such as computer animation, games development, design and digital media.

Facilities inside the Athena Building include state-of-the-art design studios, an experimental workshop, a convergent media newsroom, broadcast news studios and multimedia publishing studios and workshops. There are also suites for 2D and 3D computer animation, computer games art, design and programming, visualisation, graphics programming and digital

music, and gallery space for exhibitions at the entrance.

Dr Derek Simpson, Dean of the School of Computing, said, 'We're looking forward to co-operating with other schools across the University on innovative developments such as web journalism, digital music and film production.'

'The new buildings will help us to take another step forward and build on Teesside's excellent reputation for being at the leading edge of digital developments and open up new possibilities of collaboration on both undergraduate and postgraduate provision across a range of disciplines.'

The University's acquisition of part of the *Evening Gazette* offices is the final piece of the investment jigsaw. Now known as the Cook Building, the interior has been transformed as part of a £3m revamp and includes new workshops for design students working in wood, metal, plaster, resin and glass as well as a large customised design studio and IT suite for computer-aided design. A smaller convergent newsroom will enable the University to run professional training courses for journalists.

The top floor and terraced area will be occupied by the Drawing Centre for Fine Art which relocated from Cleveland College of Art and Design to join the University this year.

One of the interesting features of the Phoenix Building is an exciting new sculpture entitled *Cactal*, pictured, which has been installed high up on the Building's external façade on the side of the Building. The five-ton 'floating sculptural form' has tendrils growing across the building surface like 'digital ivy' and is designed to reflect the internal activity of the IDI. The futuristic design combines the talents of internationally-renowned artist Simeon Nelson with skilled engineering by North East-based steel fabricators Architectural Metalworkers.





# Working towards a greener future

**With environmental issues at the top of everyone's priority list, UNlverse takes a quick look at some of the things Teesside is doing to make the campus a greener place.**

Feedback from staff and students is helping to shape a new 'green' University travel plan. The plan, which is to be agreed early next year, outlines a five-year investment designed to encourage a change in travel habits. Amongst other things, it will champion a switch to more environmentally-friendly modes of transport such as walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing.

The two latest additions to the University's campus, the Athena and Phoenix Buildings, have achieved positive BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) ratings. BREEAM is the world's most widely-used tool for assessing the environmental performance of buildings. It looks at factors like energy and water use, materials and ecology. Both Buildings were judged to be 'very good' which is commendable given the heavy use of information technology within each of them.

A new 'green corridor' of trees is being created right in the centre of the campus along Southfield Road and Woodlands Road. The trees will ensure that there is an attractive and welcoming heart to the

campus as well as providing important environmental benefits.

Over the summer, the University turned a small plot of land into a vegetable garden as part of the regional Designs of the time 2007 (Dott07) urban farming initiative. The project was designed to encourage town and city centre residents and businesses to grow their own food and thereby reduce the impact of food miles on the environment. The produce from the garden went towards a 'town meal' which was shared by 300 people at an event in Middlesbrough's main square.

Dr Derek Simpson, Dean of the School of Computing and Chair of the University's Environmental Sub-Committee, is pictured tending the Dott07 vegetable garden.

For the past year, the University has been running a pilot project recycling waste paper and cardboard. And the two newest campus buildings have been declared 'bin-less', thereby encouraging their occupants to recycle any waste material. Each month, around a tonne and a half of cardboard alone is sent for recycling rather than to landfill.

Stuart Robb, Head of University Services said, 'Teesside's waste disposal bill is over £100,000 a year. Recycling helps us to manage our waste costs and reduce our environmental impact at the same time.'

The University is working on a new energy policy and carbon management plan. Amongst the many related initiatives is a scheme to replace ordinary light bulbs with energy efficient ones in student halls of residence and an energy awareness campaign aimed at staff and students.

Darren Vipond, Head of Maintenance explained, 'The plan is that the energy awareness scheme will be rolled out over the next few months. It's not just about making people aware of the issues, but getting them to take some responsibility for their own energy use.'

And, like many other organisations, Teesside now aims to produce its own printed publications, including UNlverse, on recycled paper.

# Professorial and public lecture series

**The University's professorial and public lecture series continues until May 2008. All lectures are free and take place on Wednesdays from 6.30-8.00pm in the Centuria Building, Victoria Road, Middlesbrough. Refreshments are available from 6pm. The remaining lectures are:**

Marek Reichman, 'An emotional journey', on 20 February. Marek is Director of Design for Aston Martin and is pictured at their factory. He designed the DBS car used in the James Bond movie, *Casino Royale*. Marek is both a Teesside design graduate and honorary graduate.

Professor Cliff Hardcastle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Enterprise), 'The Sustainable City', on 12 March. Professor Hardcastle's lecture will feature his work as part

of a research team which developed models and toolkits to aid the creation of environments that are economically, environmentally and socially sustainable.

Professor Anna Van Wersch, 'The Journey of a Psychologist', on 7 May. Professor Van Wersch is a psychologist whose research has mainly focused on issues related to health and illness, including breast cancer. Her lecture will explore her academic journey, featuring the breast cancer projects she started in 1992 in Rotterdam. Her work is ongoing with several NHS primary care trusts in the North East of England.

For more details contact the University's Alumni Office on 01642 384255, email [alumni.office@tees.ac.uk](mailto:alumni.office@tees.ac.uk).



# Thumbs up to The Hub



**Visitors to the Students' Union's new day and night venue, The Hub, have been impressed with the facilities on offer.**

The Hub is based on the second floor of the Students' Union building.

Incorporating the Liquid 5 Juice Bar, The Hub has a modern décor, comfortable furniture, PCs and a separate room for studying, meeting and training during the day. At night, it transforms into a premier venue for students.

Stephen Dowson, President of the University of Teesside Students' Union said, 'The thousands of

students who have used The Hub and Liquid 5 Juice Bar for our many superb evening events have provided some very positive feedback.

'The Hub has already established itself as a key space for study, socialising, relaxation and major events and we're optimistic that its reputation will continue to grow.'

Pictured with student staff at the Liquid 5 Juice Bar; left to right, Students' Union President Stephen Dowson, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Leni Oglesby and the University's Chancellor, Lord Sawyer of Darlington.



**UNIVERSITY OF  
TEESSIDE**

**MIDDLESBROUGH TEES VALLEY TS1 3BA UK  
TEL: +44 (0) 1642 218121 FAX: +44 (0) 1642 342067  
[www.tees.ac.uk](http://www.tees.ac.uk)**