

UNiverse

the magazine of Teesside University

Issue 65 Summer 09



Inspiring success



Teesside
University

Welcome

The University continues to thrive and, as we approach the next academic year, we can once again reflect on a highly successful year on many fronts.



Professor Graham Henderson
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive

Due to the success of our raising aspirations, widening access and employer engagement activities, student numbers have once again grown, bringing the number of enrolled students to over 25,000 for the first time.

Given the central importance of students to the University, it is pleasing to note that we once again achieved an excellent outcome in the National Student Survey – featuring in the top ten universities in the country for overall student satisfaction in no less than eight major subject areas and being ranked third nationally for satisfaction with both our learning resources and access to our ICT facilities. This outcome was closely followed by the University being ranked as the second top modern university in the UK in the *Times Higher Education's* Student Satisfaction Survey. Then, as the icing on the cake, the University achieved first place for student satisfaction in the latest International Student Barometer – the most comprehensive survey of international student experience in the UK.

On the teaching front, the University has continued to go from strength to strength with our annual Nursing and Midwifery Council quality assurance review yielding truly outstanding results. The recent Ofsted inspection of our education provision showed across-the-board improvements, and the international reputation for our work in digital animation and digital media was celebrated through our recent ExpoTees exhibition and the tenth international Animex festival organised and hosted by the University.

And we have also enjoyed success on the research front. Almost 70% of the work submitted by the University to the recent national Research Assessment Exercise was assessed as being of 'international quality' and 5% as being 'world leading'. This is an important statement about the quality of the research here at Teesside – research that is being complemented by a growing base of near-market, applied research which has included:

- > establishing a 'Science to business' hub, to help small local businesses gain a competitive edge in product development
- > attracting four major new grants from the European Regional Development Fund
- > implementing 11 Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) and 17 Collaborative Innovative Partnerships (CIPs) with businesses
- > receiving European funding for 62 master's degree places.

And all of this success has not only led to us improving our ranking in all of the major university league tables, but has also further strengthened the financial position of the University and led to us, once again, receiving one of the largest increases in government funding for the forthcoming year – an outcome which now places us in the top quarter of the UK's 133 universities in terms of overall funding council grant income.

But, notwithstanding all of this success, we remain absolutely committed to continuing to extend our social and economic contribution to the Tees Valley. I am therefore delighted that this edition of *UNIverse* has taken the opportunity to describe a number of the new initiatives that we have introduced to support individuals and employers in their efforts to respond to the pressures created by the current economic downturn. I hope that you find them to be of interest and of value.

UNIverse

the magazine of Teesside University

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EDITORIAL TEAM

Stephen Laing
Nic Mitchell
Michelle Ruane
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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Pictured on the front cover, Teesside University's Library.



New visual identity for Teesside University

We are now Teesside University instead of the University of Teesside – as the University adopts a new and stronger logo to take it forward into the second decade of the 21st century.

Launched to coincide with the publication of the University's *Undergraduate Prospectus*, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Graham Henderson, said, 'The new brand builds on our heritage but also reflects how far we have travelled since becoming a university in 1992. We've trebled student numbers and are now providing opportunities for tens of thousands to benefit from higher education.

'The exciting, colourful and positive new visual identity will make it easier for us to get our business partners and others to see Teesside as the confident and innovative University it has become. It will also help us to enhance our visibility and impact both nationally and internationally.

'Changing what we call ourselves from the University of Teesside to Teesside University reflects the name we are colloquially known by among our students and the outside world, and works well with the fresh new visual identity and our "inspiring success" message.'

Professor Henderson added, 'It is not just a question of developing our logo; but letting more people know what we've achieved and the contribution we are making to the economy. PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC) put the total gross domestic economic impact of the University at £815m per annum, which highlights just what an important contribution the University is making – not just to individuals but also to the regional and UK economy.'



The new logo will also give the University a chance to remind the world about a number of its recent successes, including:

- > students ranking Teesside as one of the two top modern universities in the UK (*Times Higher Education* magazine, 2009)
- > having eight subjects placed in the top ten nationally for satisfaction with their course in last year's National Student Survey and gaining exceptional results from the more recent International Student Barometer survey
- > being acknowledged as one of the country's leading business-friendly universities by regional business leaders and by the Higher Education Funding Council for England
- > helping to launch over 120 companies and creating nearly 250 jobs for graduates through on-campus business units and winning an 'Outstanding' verdict for working with industry through the Knowledge Transfer Partnership initiative
- > investing over £100m in new buildings and campus infrastructure, including the recently-opened Phoenix Building, home to the Institute of Digital Innovation which has a key role in developing Teesside's DigitalCity project
- > winning a string of coveted National Teaching Fellowships for excellent teaching
- > having a top ten record for graduate prospects among the modern universities, according to this year's *Complete University Guide* published by *The Independent*
- > being recognised for particular areas of strength, such as animation (where we are ranked in the world's top 20 by *3D World* magazine in their Global Ivy League) to mechanical engineering, with *The Guardian* ranking us as top in the UK in their *University Guide* last year
- > winning 'UK Students' Union of the Year' twice since 2002
- > starting work on a prestigious new £17m sports therapy and dental technology training centre, due to open in 2010.

Pictured, Sam Allinson, a recruitment assistant in the School of Arts & Media and one of the University's Brand Ambassadors. Her T-shirt displays the new logo.

Teesside University has a long and successful history of working with the region's primary and secondary schools. Here UNIverse highlights some of the University's recent activities to inspire pupils, held here on campus and in local primary schools.

Bringing science to life in schools

Science was brought to life for children during the Zoolab Tour which visited schools involved in the University's Meteor scheme.

Children from Newport Primary School in Middlesbrough took part in a session about the Food Web, which involved them coming face-to-face with creatures such as a cockroach, frog, snake, tarantula, rat and giant snail.

They learned about how the different animals fit into the food chain and the vital role which sunlight plays in our lives.

Among the children taking part was 11-year-old Sophie Fixter, who said, 'I learned that a cockroach can live for 14 days without its head and that it breathes from little holes near its legs. I was really surprised'.

The tour was organised as part of the Meteor programme STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Integrated Education Strategy, funded by One North East. The University first launched Meteor in 1999 to inspire primary children from six Middlesbrough schools to think about the benefits of further and higher education. Since then Meteor has expanded massively and now includes young people in secondary schools throughout Teesside.

Pictured, a pupil from Sacred Heart primary school in Middlesbrough, with a Zoolab guest.



Gold medallist master's graduate shares his expertise

Athletic tips were shared with secondary school pupils during a special event at the University led by former Commonwealth and European 4x400m gold medallist Jared Deacon.

Jared's visit was among a wide range of activities held during the day-long sport and nutrition workshop as part of the University's award-winning Meteor programme.

During the event the pupils saw the workings of the University's Environmental Chamber, which simulates extremities of hot and cold temperatures to assist athletes' training, and completed a session on food labelling to highlight the health and nutritional value of various foods.

Jared, pictured left, has previously been named UK Athletics Coach of the Year for his work as a voluntary athletics coach in the North East. He achieved an MSc Sport and Exercise from the University last year through part-time study.

The sport and nutrition workshop was organised as part of the Meteor programme's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Integrated Education Strategy. The workshop was led by staff from the school of Social Sciences & Law and the sport and recreation section.

Jared, who works as a coach for the English Institute of Sport in Gateshead, also teamed up at the event with University students studying Sport and Exercise.

Teenagers become amateur sleuths

The group of around 60 Year 9 pupils, aged 13 and 14, visited the University from across the Tees Valley and North Yorkshire to take part in a Forensic Awareness Day.

They worked with 15 final-year Teesside forensic students and academics from the School of Science & Technology to help identify mock murder suspects amongst their classmates. They were briefed in advance about a 'murder' and worked in groups to follow staged clues in the University's forensic and vehicle laboratories.

During the day they used fingerprint analysis, explored blood pattern analysis, examined footwear impressions and fibres, and completed a session on DNA evidence.

Teachers from William Howard School in Cumbria observed the day's activities to help their preparations for teaching forensics as part of GCSE level science.



Pictured, one of the aspiring teen crime scene investigators.



Budding reporters made the news at Teesside

Young reporters made the headlines during a special News Day at the University.

Schools across the country took part in the BBC News Day. During the event 12 to 14-year-olds had a deadline to create print, television and radio news reports.

The University's School of Arts & Media offered support to a team comprising 30 pupils from Conyers School in Yarm and English Martyrs School in Hartlepool, who came together at the University to put together their final news stories.

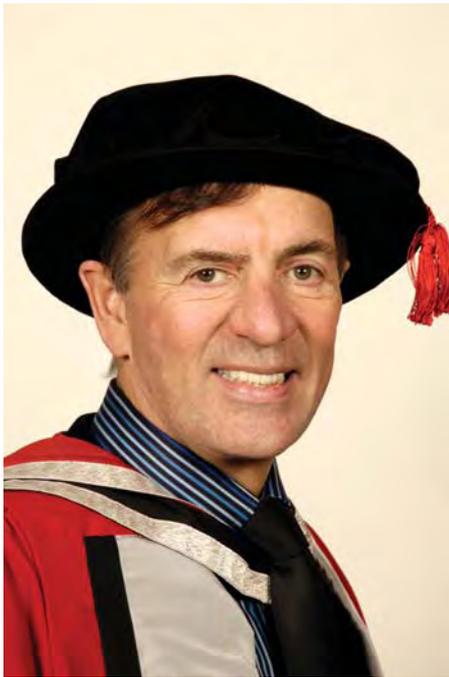
The pupils spent time at their own schools compiling news stories, before 15 pupils from each of the two schools returned to Teesside to work as a combined team on the News Day.

All work produced by BBC News Day participants across the country had to be ready to 'go live'.

And finally, secondary pupil Jessie Pink from Conyers School, Yarm, prepares to go on air.

Dragon becomes a Doctor

Duncan Bannatyne OBE, entrepreneur and one of the stars of BBC Two's *Dragons' Den*, has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration from the University.



He received his degree from the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Graham Henderson, in a special ceremony at Darlington's Dolphin Centre. During the ceremony Professor Henderson also gave a range of qualifications to the University's graduates who had achieved their awards at Darlington College.

Before the ceremony Duncan joined the University's Vice-Chancellor and other senior members of the University community in an academic procession through Darlington town centre.

Duncan Bannatyne said, 'It's fantastic to be honoured by the University and I feel very humbled, it's a very good University. It's great to be honoured in the area where I live and where my local business is.'

Duncan has been part of the *Dragons' Den* panel since the show was first screened in

2005. The hugely-successful programme has had six series and several specialist shows focusing on past entrepreneurs and the Dragons. On the programme, aspiring entrepreneurs pitch for investment in the Den from the panel of Dragons, five venture capitalists willing to invest their own money in exchange for equity.

Duncan began his entrepreneurial life by car trading, but an ice cream van purchased for £450 changed the direction of his life. He set up 'Duncan's Super Ices', and later sold the business for £28,000 to found a nursing home business.

He sold his nursing home business for £46m in 1996. Duncan has expanded into health clubs with the Bannatyne's chain, and also owns bars, hotels and property. Bannatyne's is now the largest independent chain of health clubs in the UK. Duncan's latest venture is Sensory Spa, a chain of luxury health and wellbeing spas.

In 2004, he was awarded an OBE for his services to business and charity. UNICEF and Scottish International Relief have benefited from Duncan's involvement and he has recently launched the Bannatyne Charitable Trust to support worthwhile causes.

The challenge of ending child poverty

Professor Martin Narey, Chief Executive of Barnardo's, Chair of the End Child Poverty Coalition and Teesside honorary graduate, recently delivered a free public lecture at the University.

Middlesbrough-born Professor Narey gave his lecture *Child Poverty – a challenge for the UK* as part of the University's annual Honorary and Professorial lecture series. Professor Narey was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University in 2007.

In his lecture to a full audience Professor Narey argued that there is an urgent economic and moral case to eradicate child poverty both in the Tees Valley and in the wider UK.



A University Cabaret

for Wayne Sleep



Pictured, Wayne Sleep with teaching staff and students from the BA (Hons) Dance degree.

Wayne Sleep OBE, one of the UK's most famous dancers, returned to the Tees Valley to meet students from the University's BA (Hons) Dance degree. Brought up in Hartlepool, Wayne gained a Leverhulme Scholarship to the Royal Ballet School aged 12 and went on to achieve national success as a dancer, choreographer and actor.

Wayne has appeared in scores of productions and this year starred in a touring version of *Cabaret*, which came to the North East.

While in the Tees Valley, Wayne watched some of the University's students complete an assessment at Middlesbrough College and gave an informal talk about his career. The students performed at the College's state-of-the-art theatre and dance studios, where they complete some of their studies. The design of the theatre reflects that of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Wayne already has a connection with the University, as he was awarded an Honorary Master of Arts from Teesside in 1999.

Ronan Paterson, Head of Performing Arts at the University, said, 'It was marvellous that Wayne Sleep took time out from such a busy schedule to come and talk to students at the University. Dance is a new programme here, and of course Wayne has been an inspiration to dancers from the Tees Valley for a number of years. As Wayne was performing locally in *Cabaret* he was able to pop across to the University and visit and encourage the young dancers, some of whom might hope to follow in his footsteps.'

Carl Eddy, 25, from Stockton has just completed the first year of the BA (Hons) Dance degree. He is pictured top left with Wayne Sleep and said, 'It was really good that Wayne Sleep came to see us and quite a privilege. He said he wanted to get involved in the course, which is good, especially for the University. Wayne's also invited us all as a group to see *Cabaret* in July when the tour visits Newcastle, which I'm really looking forward to.'

'I'm really enjoying everything about the course. I started off with an interest in street dance but now enjoy the contemporary side as well. My ambition is to open my own dance school.'

New Campus Showpiece



Senior health officials joined students and staff to mark the official start of work to build a showpiece dental education and practice facility and sports therapy complex at the University.

The £17m development will provide a state-of-the-art teaching and learning environment for those who will be studying a range of subjects including dental nursing/technology, dental hygiene and sports therapy.

The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Graham Henderson, was joined by Mr Ian Dalton, Chief Executive of the NHS North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) at the ceremony on site to mark the official start of construction work.

Mr Dalton said, 'I'm really pleased to be at this event on behalf of the NHS. Teesside University has an outstanding reputation for the training and education of healthcare professionals and I firmly believe this new development will keep it at the cutting edge for many years to come.'

Professor Henderson added that he was delighted to see work underway on the new Centuria South Building, which will be linked to the existing School of Health & Social Care Centuria Building.

'The new development will not only support our fast-growing provision in health and social care and sports therapy but also allow us, for the first time, to deliver programmes for dental therapists and dental nurses. It will be a first-class addition both to the University campus and the whole Tees Valley and I am very much

looking forward to welcoming our first students in 2010. I'm also delighted that Ian Dalton was able to join us for this important and symbolic event.'

The main building contract, worth £11.2m before VAT, has been awarded to local construction company Morgan Ashurst. The total development cost of the project is £17.2m including VAT, equipment and fittings. The NHS North East SHA is contributing £1.3m to the new dental facility and the building will take about 16 months to complete. The building has been designed by CPMG architects to be energy efficient with low carbon emissions. They also designed the recently-completed Phoenix and Athena Buildings on the University campus.

The four-storey, 4,200 sq metre development is due to open in time for the start of the 2010 academic year. It will also include sports therapy facilities, a series of laboratories and biomechanic and hydrotherapy facilities, plus general teaching rooms and academic offices. The dental suite will have 20 dentists' chairs and practice 'phantom heads', and the facility will help to address the skills shortage in dental services in the region.

Pictured, above left, Vice-Chancellor Professor Graham Henderson and Ian Dalton, Chief Executive of the NHS North East Strategic Health Authority. A visualisation of the new building is pictured to the right.

Teesside University is taking the lead in helping businesses and individuals through the economic downturn.

TAKING THE LEAD

through tough times

The University's measures to help businesses include halving invoice turnaround time to help suppliers with their cash flow, running future management masterclasses to help companies cope with the recession and offering generous bursaries to postgraduates and those new to higher education.

Professor Graham Henderson, University Vice-Chancellor, pictured, said, 'We're accelerating some of our planned activities to give a further boost to the local community, such as having a second campus base in Darlington. We're looking for temporary accommodation to start a range of courses this coming autumn and not waiting until we have a new purpose-built development. We believe there's a lot the region can do to pull together to beat the recession.'

One North East Chairman, Margaret Fay, welcomed these initiatives, saying, 'The region's businesses are the lifeblood of the economy and it is crucial that we act now to provide real help to support them through the downturn and see them emerge stronger on the other side. This campaign is an example of how public organisations, private businesses and academia can work collectively to support the North East during the recession. This is a practical approach that Teesside University is taking to help during these challenging times and it is very much welcome.'

16 steps from Teesside University to help the region through the recession

- 1 Halving the time it takes to pay bills – with weekly payments of all authorised invoices.
- 2 Delivering Future Management masterclasses to give employers new skills on managing through the recession.
- 3 Bringing forward £2.2m of work on University buildings.
- 4 Starting work on the construction of a new dental technology training and sports therapy centre, creating 150 building trade jobs.
- 5 Accelerating plans for a second campus base to provide courses in Darlington, bringing higher education to the west of the Tees Valley.
- 6 Appointing a team of business account managers to develop relationships with business and promote a business-like culture.
- 7 Introducing subsidised training packages with employers and further education colleges to help workforce development.
- 8 Providing low-cost business start-up incubation units on campus to graduates and others launching new enterprises and bringing jobs to Middlesbrough.
- 9 Supporting the flagship DigitalCity initiative to keep high-tech jobs and companies in the region.
- 10 Offering temporary University posts to skilled personnel facing redundancy in regional companies and organisations.
- 11 Stepping up Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and shorter Collaborative Innovation Partnerships to help firms introduce new ideas.
- 12 Providing generous bursaries worth £2,400 for postgraduate students.
- 13 Delivering free taster sessions in the June - August Summer University to help people with career changes and developing new skills.
- 14 Introducing special initiatives to support the process industry, including a new Science to Business Hub supported by the European Union.
- 15 Offering new bursaries in partnership with One North East for displaced workers in the electronics, process and engineering sectors who can start postgraduate courses this summer, worth up to £11,050.
- 16 Providing careers advice to graduates for up to two years after they leave the University.

Also see the website for Business Solutions for the Real World, <http://www.tees.ac.uk/businesshelp/>

Animex, the University's international festival of animation and computer games, has celebrated its tenth anniversary. The first Animex, in 2000, was a one-day event organised in just two months.

TEN ANIMATED YEARS OF **ANIMEX**[®]

Now it has evolved into one of the biggest festivals of its kind in the world, transforming into a five-day event, where the cream of international animation and computer games talent converge on Middlesbrough.

The first Animex was organised after Chris Williams, a Principal Lecturer in Animation at the University, took a call from the organisers of the British Animation Awards. They wanted to know if the University planned to submit any films. Chris asked if they were screening in the North East and, after hearing that they didn't have a venue, the seed was sown for Animex.

Chris is now the festival's director. He said, 'I approached colleagues and then my boss, whose initial reaction was to take a sharp breath. We managed to get some cash from the University to enable us to bring in animators from the UK to start what has become Animex.

'We had film screenings and a day of talks. It was free and packed out. It only seemed logical to do it again the following year and it has grown beyond belief.'

Animex involves screenings, professional talks and workshops from some of the world's best-known animators and animation companies, computer games events, along with school and community activities.

Emerging international talent is also showcased with the Animex Student Animation Awards which attract entries from over 20 countries, including America, France and Germany.

Previous Animex guest speakers include animation legend Ray Harryhausen, whose stop-motion artistry in *Jason and the Argonauts* still captivates young audiences, and Nancy Cartwright, the internationally-recognised voice of Bart Simpson.

UNiverse profiles some of the many highlights from the tenth Animex.

Brosta TV fly to the Tees Valley

A leading Japanese computer games illustrator and graphic designer was one of the many guests at Animex, accompanied by a Japanese TV crew.

Susumu Matsushita is famous in Japan through his illustrations for the computer games *Maximo*, *Golden Axe* and *Ghosts 'n Goblins*. He also illustrates the front covers for the country's highly-respected games magazine *Famitsu* whose editor-in-chief Hideki Osada also came to Animex.

Susumu shared his expertise with guests in a workshop, while being filmed by Brosta TV, a

Japanese channel. Brosta TV has a major animation awards competition each year, with a student section. In 2008 they invited Chris Williams, Animex Director, to attend their awards ceremony in Japan. A partnership has now formed between Brosta and the Animex team, whereby students who enter Brosta's student animation awards can enter the equivalent at Animex, and vice versa.



Gala screening for Bolt



Bolt, Disney's latest animated feature, was one of 2009's early box office hits. It features the voice of John Travolta as the dog *Bolt* and was Oscar nominated for best animated feature film. Mark Empey, computer graphics supervisor at Disney Feature Animation flew from California to present a gala screening of *Bolt* at Middlesbrough's Cineworld. *Bolt* is the first film released by Disney since the studio acquired Pixar and it was networked across the UK after the screening.

Mark Empey also closed the week at Animex, as the festival's keynote speaker. The tenth Animex had a Disney focus, climaxing with a special Disney day.

Mark said, 'I was inspired to come to Animex by Professor Stuart Sumida, who's spoken here several times. Stuart is Professor of Biology at California State University and has given advice on the movement and physiology of animals for many animated films, including *The Lion King*, *Scooby Doo* and *Bolt*.

'I'd heard great things about the festival from Stuart; he said "Animex is a blast and a lot of fun". So he contacted Chris Williams for me. It's a great opportunity to be here, not just to meet my industry peers but hopefully to inspire the students. It's exciting to feel the students' energy and nice to be able to give advice and guidance. This kind of advice wasn't available when I was a student, there wasn't much information about computer graphics at the time, you had to figure it out for yourself.'

Horton's animator meets young fans at special screening

Young animation fans packed into Middlesbrough's Cineworld cinema for a special screening of the Dr Seuss adaptation *Horton Hears A Who!*

As the screening was part of Animex, the film was introduced by Jason Sadler, one of two character designers who worked on the film. Jason also worked on the hugely-popular *Ice Age* films, including *Ice Age 3* which will be in cinemas this summer.

Jason said, 'When we're working on a film we're focused on the details and making sure that it will look right on the screen, so it's awesome to be able to come along to events such as this and see the reaction of the children as they watch the film.

'It's my first time at Animex and I'm really excited to be here. My colleagues at Blue Sky Studios where I work in New York are looking forward to hearing all about it.'

During his introduction Jason told the young audience, 'Working in animation is an attainable goal. If you enjoy drawing, surround yourself with things that inspire you.'

Children from North Ormesby, Berwick Hills, Hemlington Hall, Pennyman and Park End primary schools in Middlesbrough were invited to the special screening.

In addition to the screening, Jason was also a guest speaker at Animex. Jason is pictured centre outside the Cineworld with, left to right, Elise Hesk and Kody Clark, both pupils at North Ormesby Primary School in Middlesbrough.



An exciting equation

A scientific equation devised by a Teesside University PhD student could have a wide-ranging impact on the scientific community.

The equation has been invented by Andrew Henderson, 26, from Newby, near Middlesbrough. Andrew is completing a PhD at the University, funded through the government's EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council) CASE (Council for the Advancement of Science and Engineering) studentship and IDS (Immuno Diagnostic Systems) Ltd, a sensor manufacturer.

Andrew's PhD is exploring medical sensor design. He has already achieved a BEng (Hons) Chemical Engineering degree from Teesside.

Andrew's equation is the first ever to accurately predict the time taken for two molecular structures to sequentially and automatically form on a surface. He devised this following weeks of research, which involved looking at existing equations, applying basic chemical engineering techniques and analysing the experimental data collected.



Andrew said, 'I believe the discovery of this equation is exciting and encouraging, and only a tiny proportion of its potential has been explored. The benefits of this could hopefully help to progress and speed up cutting-edge research in a number of fields. These include medical sensor design, chemical reactions and nanotechnology, the branch of engineering that deals with things smaller than 100 nanometres.'

'With medical sensor design especially, there are several stages that require optimisation experiments, which is costly and can take weeks. Applying this equation could drastically reduce the time spent on these. I'm doing further work to probe the equation's potential and the results look very promising indeed.'

The equation has been peer reviewed and appeared in the *Langmuir Scientific Journal*, with Andrew as the lead author. He will complete his PhD later this year.

Unlocking fluoride's secrets

One of the most keenly-debated issues in health care has been the effect of fluoride on children.

Now, Narges Omid, who is based in the School of Health & Social Care, is working on a PhD which analyses the tests used to measure the level of fluoride in children's diets.

Narges came to the UK in 2000 to further her studies after working in the field of clinical microbiology in her native Iran. Last year, working with senior Teesside lecturer and fluoride expert Dr Vida Zohoori, she began a three-year PhD assessing the two main methods of testing children for the level of fluoride in their diet.

One method, widely used in the UK, involves parents keeping a food diary, and the

second method, used in the US, is based on providing spare portions of each meal.

Narges said, 'I have set out to compare both methods, something which has not been done before. I hope at the end of the project to be able to recommend which method is the most effective when dealing with children. I will be looking at issues including effectiveness and the ease of use for parents.'

She has approached local schools to see if they will permit their children to be involved in the project. Narges also hopes that her work will add to knowledge about fluoride in children's diets.



A TV producer who has worked with industry heavyweights such as Simon Cowell has joined the University as a visiting professor.



Leading TV Producer becomes a Professor

By Bethany Usher

Tom Gutteridge, who also produced the BBC hit *Challenge Anneka*, has moved back to his native North East and is working with the University's media production students on a series of tailor-made events.

And the brains behind TV formats such as *Robot Wars* and *Star for a Night* – a talent show which discovered singer Joss Stone – says he is thrilled to be able to give support to young people in his native North East.

Tom, from Northumberland, said, 'It really feels like I have the opportunity to give

something back to my community. I'll be giving lectures, seminars and working with students on professional pitches.

'I enjoy helping develop new talent and to be able to do that in the North East – which has given me so much – is really wonderful. I've already given a couple of lectures and I am relishing every moment.'

Tom previously lived in Los Angeles, while heading the *American Idol* production company FremantleMedia.

He added, 'It was fantastic to be involved in shows like *American Idol*. Simon Cowell and

everyone involved are hugely talented. But I wanted to come up with my own programmes and pursue other interests, and lecturing here is part of that. There are opportunities out there for young British talent and I want to give Teesside students the right skills to get ahead.'

Tom will be working as a visiting professor alongside running his new Newcastle-based production company Standing Stone.



Key role for Dennis Kelly

Dennis Kelly has moved from Leeds Metropolitan University to take over as the new Director of Teesside University's Department of Marketing & Student Recruitment.

He brings a wealth of experience to the role, having worked in marketing and public relations roles, both in the public and private sectors.

Dennis, pictured, said, 'Teesside has a formidable track record of success and I look forward to using my experience to help build a higher profile for our University. I have been impressed with the knowledge and professionalism of my new colleagues, and I am very confident that we will quickly establish the reputation we deserve and attract even greater levels of interest from potential students, the business community and our other stakeholders.'

Professor Graham Henderson, the University's Vice-Chancellor, said, 'I am delighted that we have made such an excellent appointment. Dennis Kelly will

provide outstanding leadership in this crucial area of our work and I am very much looking forward to working with him.'

Dennis has a master's degree in Public Relations (PR) Management from Leeds Metropolitan University, which he joined to help set up their Centre for PR Studies as Director, working alongside Anne Gregory, the UK's first Professor of PR. The Centre acted as a communications consultancy and developed training and tailored research. Dennis moved to become Director of Marketing and Communications at the University and worked in this role until his appointment at Teesside.

Dennis is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations and continues to deliver their training courses.

TEESSIDE'S TALENTED ALUMNI

Marek motors back to Middlesbrough

Marek Reichman graduated from the former Teesside Polytechnic 20 years ago with a first-class BA (Hons) Industrial Design and now works as Director of Design for the car manufacturer Aston Martin. He returned to Teesside to spend the day sharing his expertise with current BA (Hons) Product Design students. And he also brought an Aston Martin car along!

Marek, 42, said, 'I had no idea when I was a 19-year-old student here in the 1980s that I'd be coming back to meet a future generation of Teesside designers, and give them advice. I love coming back here, it's right that I give a little bit back from industry and show how education is the future. It's also important as I'll be old one day and will hopefully be buying these students' future products. So I'd like to make sure they look good!'

Marek also gave a presentation to the students, entitled 'Aston Martin, a timeless design'.

Mark Freary, Subject Leader in Product Design, added, 'It was fantastic to have Marek back here. When he said he wanted to spend the day with our students it was an offer we couldn't refuse.'

Marek Reichman was awarded an Honorary Master of Science from the University in 2006. His talents have been viewed by millions of cinema goers worldwide, as Marek designed the DBS car for Daniel Craig's debut as James Bond, in *Casino Royale*.

Pictured left to right, Marek Reichman, with an Aston Martin DB9 and BA (Hons) Product Design students Chris Barker, Michael Snowdon and Michael Clough.



Friends reunited at Teesside

The last time college friends Steve Penrose, Pete Stackhouse and John Bark walked around Middlesbrough, Harold Wilson was Prime Minister and the Bay City Rollers were topping the charts. Back in 1975, the trio were completing their studies at Teesside Polytechnic. Over 30 years later, they enjoyed their own college reunion and toured the University's hugely-changed campus.

The reunion was initiated by Steve, who received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business Administration from the University. Steve is now based in New Jersey in the USA, where he is Senior Vice-President of ADP. The company has over 47,000 staff, and is one of the largest providers of integrated computing and business outsourcing in the world. Steve invited his former college friends to share his second graduation and then tour the campus.

Steve, 56, first came to Middlesbrough, aged 18, from his home town of Bolton to study Computer Science. He said, 'I have happy memories of my studies here;

it was a pleasurable time and I was happy with the education I received. Back then, the whole place had over 2,000 students, now I'm told there are nearly 25,000!'

His fellow alumni are Pete Stackhouse, 57, who achieved a Mathematical Science degree and now works as a company financial accountant in Scunthorpe. And Computer Science graduate John Bark, 55, from Hull, East Yorkshire, who works at the University of Lincoln, where he manages the Application System Support team.

Pictured left to right, John Bark, Steve Penrose and Pete Stackhouse.

Picture taken by Dave Chamley.





Global investigations at Teesside

Over 130 police officers and trainers, academics and students gathered at the University to take part in the second International Investigative Interviewing Research Group's (iIRG) annual conference. The event, entitled 'Putting Theory into Practice, the Dilemmas of Law and Psychology', attracted delegates from a range of global locations including the USA, Australia, South Korea, Norway, Sweden, Canada and Japan.

The University played a major part in the formation of the iIRG, which brings together academics and practitioners who wish to study and carry out research into investigative

interviewing of victims, witnesses and crime suspects. It was set up in 2007 by Gavin Oxburgh, Senior Lecturer in Forensic Psychology at the University, and Trond Myklebust, Detective Chief Superintendent and Academic Researcher from the Norwegian Police University College in Oslo.

Research areas include interviewing sex offenders, terrorists, violent offenders, vulnerable and intimidated witnesses, and victims of crime. The iIRG now has over 210 members, who conduct research together and share ideas via the Group's designated website, at www.tees.ac.uk/iirg.

Gavin Oxburgh worked for the Royal Air Force Police for 22 years before joining the University. He said, 'The interview is one of the

most important aspects of any investigation. The whole investigation can fall down at this point, that's why we've got to get the process right.

'The iIRG shared good practice in a truly global conference. We had representatives from the Norwegian Police University College, the Swedish National Police Academy, a professor from the Netherlands, delegates from the Home Office's Serious Crime Analysis section and various police forces across the UK, including the British Transport Police. It's the first time we have held the conference here and there were stimulating speeches and debates'.

Jordan exchanges the Tees Valley for South Carolina

Teesside University student Jordan Hardy has a passion for the USA. He's acted on his love of all things American by flying to South Carolina, where he will stay until September 2010. Jordan has taken advantage of the University's exchange scheme with the University of South Carolina to study there for a year.

Jordan, 20, from Dewsbury, has just completed the second year of his BA (Hons) Media Studies. He said, 'I've always liked the USA; I wanted to be born and go to school there. Everything is bigger, the weather is good and the people are friendly. I've got a lot of friends out there. And I've worked as a tennis coach at summer camp in Connecticut for the last two years.'

Jordan first became hooked on the idea of going to South Carolina when he attended an Open Day at Teesside three years ago and heard a talk from a student who'd spent a year there.

He added, 'I'm just looking forward to the lifestyle and broadening my horizons. I'll be living on the campus of a university with 40,000 students and hot weather all year round. I'll also have free rein as to what courses I choose.'

When Jordan graduates from Teesside in 2011, he is aiming for a journalism career, eventually in the USA.

Teesside University students who wish to find out more about exchanges with partner universities can contact Heidi Cummins in the Centre for International Development on 01642 384415, email h.cummins@tees.ac.uk.



The world games await Physiotherapist Kenneth

Teesside student Kenneth Watt has overcome strong competition to clinch a place as a physiotherapist at this year's World University Games.

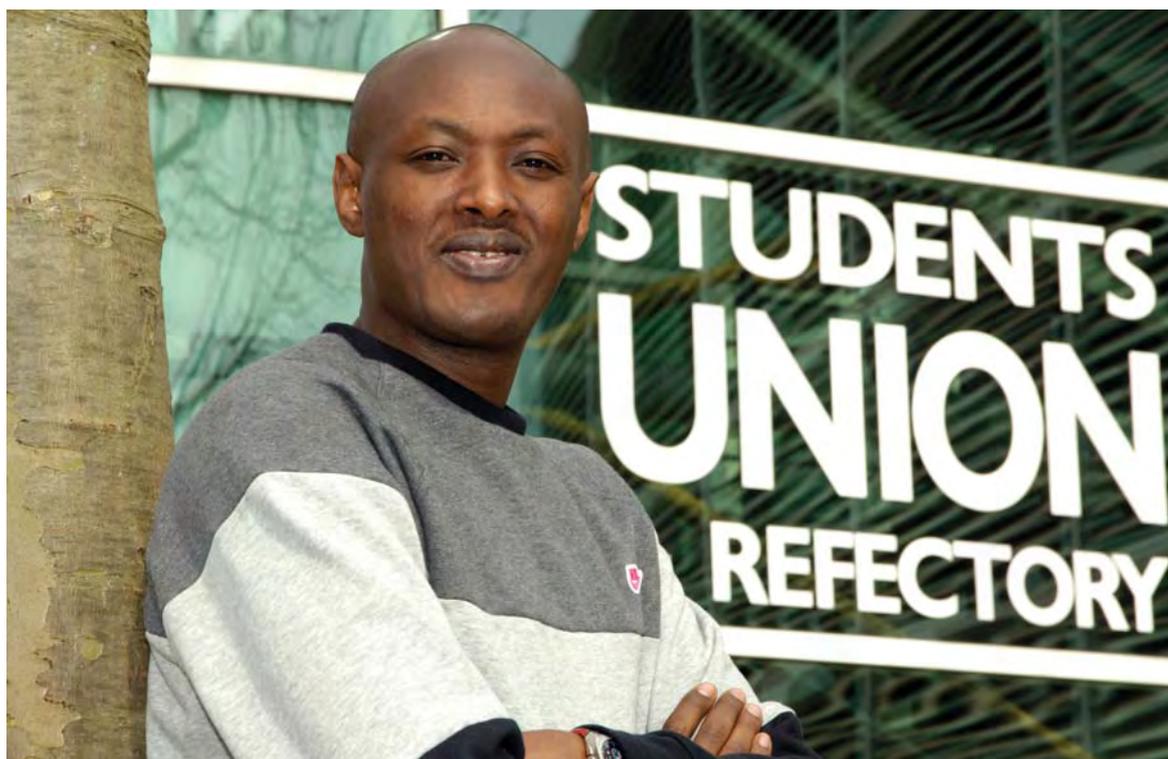
Kenneth, 29, is originally from Kinross, Scotland, and in the final year of the University's BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy. He has been selected to work as a physiotherapist at the Games in Serbia for three weeks this summer. He will be in a team of six physiotherapists, treating up to 180 athletes from team GB. The athletes will be taking part in 15 different sports including athletics, football, basketball and swimming. In total over 10,000 athletes from 140 nations will be in competition.

Kenneth said, 'There were 50 applications for one place to work as a physiotherapist at the Games so I was delighted to be accepted. Around 55% of last year's Olympic gold

medallists came from the University system so I'll have the opportunity to work with athletes who may be future Olympic gold stars. I'm also looking forward to building up a rapport with the other physiotherapists out there; it'll be a great learning experience.'

Kenneth needs to raise £750 towards his living costs in Serbia, and his family have joined in the fund-raising. His father Donald, 55, is set to climb Ben Nevis along with Kenneth's aunt, Linda Nicholson, 55, a primary school headteacher in Ayr. Donald is a former Scottish professional footballer, having played as a defender for Celtic, Dumbarton and East Stirling in the 1970s, before retiring in 1982.





Teesside Rated Top

by international students

The University has come top in a survey of the UK's international students. The International Student Barometer (ISB) is a twice-yearly survey of international students from the UK's higher education institutions (HEIs). The autumn 2008 survey explores the views of students from 81 HEIs, with 350 of Teesside's international and European Union students taking part.

The survey is divided into four categories, Support, Learning, Arrival and Living, and Teesside University attained the top overall average satisfaction score for the four categories with 87.8%.

Teesside also achieved the highest average scores for the following categories:

- > support average 92.3%
- > learning average 88.3%
- > arrival average 87.5%.

In addition, the University was rated the top HEI for 21 attributes within these four categories. These include top Students' Union in the UK, language support, library, internet access, technology and learning support.

Keith Brown, Director of the University's Centre for International Development, said, 'The University has performed outstandingly well in this latest survey. Teesside now has an

international student population of over 800. In February another 150 arrived to study here from a range of countries including India, Nigeria, Libya and Malaysia. This is a tenfold increase on our enrolments in February 2008 and shows that international students are making positive choices to come to Teesside.'

The ISB is managed by the International Graduate Insight Group which surveyed 63,711 international students studying in the UK in autumn 2008.

Ismael Baguma, 36, from Rwanda, is one of the University's international students. He has worked as a police officer back home for ten years and has been sponsored by the Rwandan National Police force to study for an MSc Criminal Investigation.

He is part of a group of six Rwandan police officers studying at Teesside, five on the MSc Criminal Investigation and one on the MSc Criminology. Their sponsored studies are part

of the professionalisation of the force's police training and are supported by the British Council. Teesside University has helped to reshape the country's police training through its links with the Rwandan National Police and the Kigali Institute of Education and is a further example of the University's international work in the area of policing.

Ismael said, 'The lecturers' methods are excellent, they are approachable and give you time to talk to them if you haven't understood something. The facilities, such as the Learning Resource Centre, are also excellent and the whole learning environment is very friendly and welcoming to international students. Some of us had initial problems with English and really appreciated the help and support that was given to us through the English language programme. I also liked the idea that when we arrived here we were given priority to stay in University accommodation, otherwise it would have been very difficult.'

Bringing poems to musical life



Pictured left to right, Rob Braniff and Jane Lindenberg, with students Kathryn Belmont, Adam Gatenby and Dan Wilson.

Professional musicians from The Sage Gateshead have collaborated with students from the University's School of Computing to bring poems to life through music.

The musicians are guitarist Rob Braniff and singer and songwriter Jane Lindenberg. Rob works as a Community Project Leader for The Sage Gateshead, while Jane is a Project Leader. Together they worked with the University's final-year BSc (Hons) Digital Music students over several weeks, exploring the use of various musical instruments and digital technology to interpret two contrasting poems. The students chose either *The Kraken* by Tennyson or *My Green Love Feels Yellow Today* by Mir Mahfuz Ali, a Bangladeshi poet. Their compositions were assessed as part of their coursework.

Rob said, 'The students have been fantastic; it's been a pleasure working with them. The facilities at the University's Athena and Phoenix Buildings are awesome; universities nationwide should take a look at what we've got here on Teesside.'

Jane added, 'It's been my first time working here and such a positive experience. The Athena Building is a really nice environment and the students have been engaged and enthusiastic.'



Backpackers go global with Matt's iTravel

Visiting cybercafés in Mexico and Guatemala gave Teesside computing student Matt Webster the idea to develop a social networking site solely for backpackers. Matt's idea has reached fruition as iTravel, the final-year project for his BSc (Hons) Multimedia degree. It was displayed at the University's annual exhibition, ExpoTees, which featured more than 70 final-year projects from the University's computing students.

Matt, 22, from Scales, Cumbria, first thought of this site two years ago. He said, 'I was travelling through Mexico and Guatemala and using cybercafés to keep in touch with family and friends using Facebook and MySpace. But the computers were low powered and made this difficult. So I thought about how to devise a site that could work on an older, less-sophisticated computer.'

'The iTravel site includes individual profiles for backpackers, with a basic photograph, email and the route to be taken. Other travellers can also add comments or advice on the journey. The site can help bring your home world closer, better than just emailing. I'm going to Guatemala at the end of the year solo to do

charity work and will use iTravel to keep in touch with my parents, brother and friends. The web address is www.itravel.m-d-w.co.uk. Who knows it could become a global success!'

After he finishes his degree, Matt will be working for an American charity From Houses to Homes in Guatemala helping to build houses. He will be involved from the very start, helping to mix cement and laying bricks. This won't be Matt's first experience of international charity work. Aged 19 he helped with the building of a school in Nicaragua for another charity. Matt needs to raise £800 for his next journey. To sponsor Matt, email matt.d.web@googlemail.com.

Lottery project has international implications

The University has clinched a BIG (Big Lottery Fund) grant worth over £370,000 to create a Digital Villages Network which links real community networks with their 'digital' counterparts. The project aims to establish a Digital Villages model for local communities which can be rolled out in other parts of the UK.

The community-based action research project is a partnership initiative, lasting over two years. The partnership is between Paul Davies at the East Cleveland Community Development Group, researchers, including Carrie Singleton in the University's Centre for Social and Policy Research, Steve Thompson from the Institute of Digital Innovation and community groups from across Redcar and Cleveland. The BIG fund received 127 applications for funding in this area and only 20 were successful.

Professor Eileen Green is the project's academic lead at the University. She said, 'This is very much a local and regional project with national and international implications. Research on the digital age has demonstrated that there are virtual communities linked by the internet. However, less research has been undertaken which looks at how real-life communities can use new digital technologies to network in innovative ways in order to enhance local service provision and virtual learning, and facilitate social inclusion.'

Community lead Paul Davies said, 'This is a tremendous opportunity for our group and, importantly for the people of East Cleveland and the wider region, to look at how technology can really begin to make an impact on the things that are important in the 21st century.'



Pictured left to right, Steve Thompson, Professor Eileen Green, Paul Davies, Carrie Singleton.

Teesside twins with the Gambia

The University has forged a new link with the University of the Gambia. So far Teesside has donated 2,000 surplus books from the University's Learning Resource Centre and 87 personal computers from the School of Computing have been shipped over.



The link was initiated by Jane Mackenzie, one of the University's international representatives. Jane used to teach in the Gambia, and the Gambian President AJJ Yahya Jemmeh is one of her former students. The President is also the University's Chancellor.

Jane Mackenzie is aiming to raise £25,000 to help further update the University, possibly through the United Nations and the Commonwealth Fund.

The University of the Gambia has just over 2,000 students, mainly enrolled on part-time sponsored courses.

Professor Cliff Allan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), said, 'This is similar to the twinning arrangements between the UK's towns and cities and their

equivalents abroad. This is a very supportive relationship and we are helping the University to develop a new infrastructure and academic programmes. We want to establish a number of links, such as matching staff in areas of mutual interest to support their curriculum development.'

Two members of Teesside staff, Dr Mark Simpson and Dr Dave Morland, have both recently been on a British Council-sponsored visit to the University of the Gambia.

Pictured left to right, Professor Cliff Allan, Dr Dave Morland, Subject Group Leader for Criminology and Sociology, and Dr Mark Simpson, Assistant Dean (Marketing & Recruitment) School of Social Sciences & Law.

Picture by Dave Charnley.

Students' Union sweeps the board

The University's Students' Union is celebrating after winning four accolades at the Best Bar None awards.

The nationally-renowned Best Bar None scheme, which recognises outstanding standards of customer service, staff training and good practice in licensed premises, named the Students' Union's 1,000-capacity nightclub and private hire venue The Hub as the Best Nightclub in Middlesbrough.

The Students' Union was also named overall winner of Best Bar None for Middlesbrough at the ceremony held earlier this year at Middlesbrough Football Club's Riverside Stadium.

More recognition came when the 620-capacity Terrace Bar was named runner up in the Best Pub category, with additional success coming in the form of the coveted Best Bar None accreditation.

Tom Cawkwell, President of the Students' Union, said, 'We're absolutely thrilled to be recognised in this way and it's a fantastic tribute to the exceptional performance of all the permanent and student staff who work in our licensed trade and venue departments.'

Find out more about the Students' Union and opportunities to hire The Hub for private functions by contacting the Facilities and Events Manager on 01642 342234.



Jumping for joy, the Students' Union's Trustees celebrate their awards, pictured left to right, Students' Union President Tom Cawkwell, Education and Welfare Officer Jules Pringle, Student Activities Officer Nat Broom and Communications Officer Mark Gillespie. All four have been re-elected as Trustees for the academic year 2009 to 2010.



Follow the part-time study path

Teesside University's Part-time Opportunities booklet for 2009 is now available. The University's fees for part-time taught courses are at the same level as 2008 and full fees details are included in the booklet. Details about our range of courses are also featured, along with student and staff profiles.

Helen Caswell, the University's Marketing Manager said, 'In this difficult economic

climate, there's never been a better time to study at Teesside. Courses are relevant to work and ongoing career plans, so they're a valuable use of your limited spare time. And discounts are available on some undergraduate courses for new students, so they're affordable too.'

The booklet can be ordered by calling 01642 342942 or by emailing enquiries@tees.ac.uk.

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

Teesside University

Middlesbrough T: +44 (0) 1642 218121
Tees Valley F: +44 (0) 1642 342067
TS1 3BA UK www.tees.ac.uk

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