

Autumn 2010

Nexus

Connecting the University community



**ROBERT GORDON
UNIVERSITY • ABERDEEN**

University continues success in league tables

Researcher commended by European Wound Management Association

New Head of Management appointed at Aberdeen Business School

Art and design success at two prestigious shows

Thousands of people attended the University's two high profile shows in June, beginning with the BP Fine Art and Design Awards which launched Gray's Degree Show 2010.

The winners of this year's BP Design Award and BP Fine Art Award were presented with specially commissioned trophies and a cheque for £500 each on 18 June at the opening night of the Show, sponsored by BP.

Tim Smith, Vice President Communications and External Affairs, BP Scotland, said, "BP was delighted to continue sponsorship of the Gray's School of Art Degree Show for the seventh year. Once again we have been impressed by the creativity and quality of the students' work. This made the judging for the BP Design Award and BP Fine Art Award both very difficult and very enjoyable."

The BP Design Award was won by graphic design student Daniel Gear for his work on the debate about wind farm developments on Shetland. David produced a book and video programme illustrating the views of Shetlanders who are passionately involved in both sides of the debate. His aim was to engage people and keep the information objective and unbiased so Shetlanders could come to their own conclusions. Shetland Museum has requested his work for their archives.

The BP Fine Art Award was won by photographic and electronic media student Catherine Weir for her thought-provoking work on the construct of time



(L to R): BP's Tim Smith with winning students Margaret Gray, Alexander Gordon, Jill Patterson, Daniel Gear and Catherine Weir.

and our technological society. The basis of her work was a quote from the Japanese writer and photographer Shuji Terayama that "People cannot see time, they can only see clocks". Catherine's work combines modern and obsolete technology such as a box brownie camera and candles, together with digital technology. Her exhibit included a candle clock, digital sun dial and a series of images of the universe captured on a box brownie.

In addition to the main prizes, Alexander Gordon was highly commended in the BP Fine Art category, and Jill Patterson and Margaret Gray were both commended in the BP Design Award. They each received a cheque for £250.

Continued on page 9

THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the Autumn issue of the University's magazine, Nexus. Its frequency has now been reduced to quarterly.

This issue includes details of the summer graduation ceremonies, appointments of University staff, and a celebration of our students' successes.

Please get in touch if you have any suggestions for stories or features for the magazine. Email your ideas to g.caie@rgu.ac.uk. You can also use this address to contact me if you would like copies of any photos included in Nexus.

The deadline for articles to be included in the Winter edition is 1 November.

Gail Caie
Senior Communications Officer



Head of Management strengthens University's links with energy industry

The UK's most published academic in oil and gas accounting has been appointed Head of Management and Professor of Petroleum Accounting at Aberdeen Business School.

Professor Alex Russell has held top management positions at several universities, most recently as Head of Dundee Business School at the University of Abertay. He has researched issues relating to oil and gas accounting, and regulation, for many years and is the newly appointed Chair of the Oil Industry Finance Association, the body which sets Standard Oil Accounting Procedures for the North Sea oil industry.

Professor Russell has supervised PhD students from a wide range of countries and brings with him a number of strong international links. He hopes to utilise his knowledge of the energy sector, and the many contacts he has within industry, to develop courses in line with business needs, especially during this time of critical change as the North-east moves into renewables.



Mathematics lecturer retires after 30 years

Robin Grant, a mathematics lecturer in the School of Computing, has retired after nearly 30 years with the University.

Robin joined the then RGIT in 1980 as a lecturer in the School of Mathematics, and was the 15th member of staff in the School at that time.

Robin has witnessed many changes over the years, especially with the advancement of computing facilities – from the mainframe based in St Andrew St to virtually every member of University staff having access to their own PC or workstation.

After various name changes for the School, Robin became part of the Division of Mathematics and Statistics within the School of Computing. In recent years his main teaching commitments have involved teaching mathematics and statistics to engineering, pharmacy and surveying students.

Robin was the Disability Contact for the School of Computing since the 1980s, working closely with the University's Disability Support Services. Robin has also acted as Admissions Tutor for the undergraduate computing courses since the early 1990s.

Robin lives near Rothienorman and plans to use his retirement to help his wife with their large garden. He also aims to spend some time pursuing his hobbies which include mountaineering, playing the piano, Scottish country dancing and studying modern languages.

SPECIAL FEATURES

4

Summer Graduation

7-9

Student Successes

11

People Matters



Professor Malins

Spacemen and tartan bananas

Business innovation and creativity were the topics under discussion at the University's professorial lecture held on 8 June delivered by Julian Malins, Professor of Design at Gray's School of Art.

Professor Malins explored the concept of design thinking and how to release inner creativity in order to drive business innovation. He drew upon examples of unusual thinkers who have contributed to a philosophy based on a user-centred approach to innovation.

Professor Malins is Director of the University's Centre for Design & Innovation (c4di). He said, "In tough economic times businesses are constantly being urged to generate new ideas, products and services. Unlike outmoded methods of forcing innovation, applying a designer's way of thinking can help free the mind of boundaries, such as a fear of failure, to reach creative solutions. This is the main message I wanted to get across in the lecture as it defines everything we do at C4DI- helping businesses achieve competitive advantage through a flexible way of thinking".

Obesity team showcase research at Royal Society Summer Science exhibition

A team of academics from the School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences has exhibited at the 350th Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition, from 25 June - 4 July in London. Their contribution to this prestigious annual event delved behind the headlines to investigate the science behind obesity, body shape and health.

The team, led by Dr Giovanna Bermanno, and comprising fellow members of the Institute for Health and Welfare Research and the Centre of Obesity Research and Epidemiology (CORE), was one of only 26 exhibitors from across the UK to have been selected from over 120 applicants.

The exhibit, entitled 'Fat Body Slim: Shape Matters!' has been designed to showcase the University's cutting-edge obesity research through a series of accessible and interactive displays. Members of the public attending the exhibition were able to take part in various body size and composition measurements, including the BodPod - a specialised piece of equipment shaped like a human-sized cocoon which is used to measure a person's body fat. They learned how weight distribution impacts on their life, as well as the role individual lifestyles play in maintaining health and fitness. Attendees were also able to stain fat cells and see what they look like under a microscope, and find out whether they can differentiate between the myths and the facts about obesity.

The announcement of the University's involvement in the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition follows on from recent news that the team has also received a £25,000 grant from the Scottish Government Science Engagement Fund to deliver a series of workshops to more than 10,000 teenagers in the North and North-east of Scotland.

Dr Mandy Plumb, School of Health Sciences, Jodie Hay, fourth year Forensic Sciences student, Dr Giovanna Bermanno, Institute of Health and Welfare, Dr Marie Goua, School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences and Dr Arthur Stewart from CORE.



Best modern university again in Guardian University Guide

The University has again excelled in national league tables with an outstanding performance in graduate employment, helping the University to be the top modern University in the UK for the third year in a row and the only modern university to appear in the top 50 of all UK universities.

Graduates of the University are amongst the most sought-after by employers in the UK according to *The Times Good University Guide 2011*. Only Imperial College has a better record for students going into graduate-level jobs, with both Cambridge and Oxford lagging behind the University.

The University came 46th overall, the first time the University has appeared in the top 50 of *The Times Good University Guide*, just behind Heriot-Watt (43rd), Dundee (44th) and Stirling (45th) universities.

In the *Guardian University Guide 2011*, published in June, the University ranked joint 27th overall with Kent and Stirling Universities, up from 36th last year.

This position again makes the institution the best modern university in the UK, and joint sixth overall in Scotland with Stirling.

Professor John Harper, Acting-Principal and vice-Chancellor, said, "Our graduate-level employment continues to be a key factor in our success, with only Imperial College doing better than us in the whole of the UK.

"The excellent performance in both *The Guardian* and *The Times* league tables is something we should be proud of and reflects the hard work and commitment of University staff."

GRADUATION 2010

Over 1700 students graduated during four days of ceremonies at His Majesty's Theatre from 13-16 July. Students from across the three faculties - Aberdeen Business School, Health and Social Care and Design and Technology, celebrated the culmination of their hard work and listened to words of wisdom from eminent honorary graduates including environmentalist Dr Gabrielle Walker, nurse and humanitarian Dr Dame Claire Bertschinger, explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes, entrepreneur Alasdair Locke, businessmen Stewart Spence and Donald Emslie and musician and actress Barbara Dickson.



Sir Fiennes



Stewart Spence



Dr Walker



Dr Bertschinger

New Professor celebrates three PhD students graduating together

PhD supervisor Professor Paul Kong, from the School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences, celebrated a rare occasion when three of his students - Gemma Barron, Clare Hoskins and Louisa Vincini - graduated together on Tuesday 13 July.



Barbara Dickson

Baby three means Certificate success is enough for busy mum!

Mature student and University staff member Tori Wilkie graduated on 14 July with a Graduate Certificate in Project Management.

Tori is the timetabler for the University's Aberdeen Business School. She is now pregnant with her third child, which is due in December, and is putting her studies on hold to concentrate on her growing brood which consists of Rosie (3) and Millie (1).



BP Student Tutoring Success 2009-10



The Careers Centre has successfully co-ordinated the BP Student Tutoring Scheme, in collaboration with the University of Aberdeen and Aberdeen College, for sixteen years. BP, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council sponsor this valuable scheme, which aims to inspire pupils to consider further and higher education, and has seen student numbers increase, year by year. Students value the importance of this voluntary work experience for employability purposes, and students have the opportunity to 'test the water' before embarking on a teaching career.

A total of 53 Robert Gordon University students participated in session 2009-10 with 16 from the Applied Social Sciences course, 22 from Gray's School of Art, 10 from ABS and the remainder from the School's of Health Sciences, Life Sciences and Computing. Students spent one half-day per week, for a period of ten weeks, within one of the participating 17 secondary schools or 44 primary schools the City or Shire.

A formal evaluation of the scheme will be undertaken in May. Informal feedback from students whilst on placement included, "school is amazing - love my class so much, such great kids", "Really like the school and really get on with the teachers and pupils" and "I have enjoyed the placement immensely and would like to thank

all those involved in organising the scheme for giving me this opportunity."

Catherine Redgate, placed at Tough School in Alford was "very much in charge of the whole art programme" and loved every minute of it. Another Gray's student was delighted to be offered a place on the PGDE Secondary Art course and said, "I spoke about BP Tutoring in my interview and I think it was the main reason for me getting a place in teaching. So thanks for organising it."

Comments from teachers include, "We would be happy to participate in the BP Tutoring Scheme in the future. Our pupils benefit from working with the students." Another teacher wrote a glowing reference for a student applying for teacher training indicating that, "I sense that she would be a very industrious PGDE student who would give her best to the profession."

The scheme culminated with an Awards Ceremony at BP Headquarters on the 21st of April. This year 10 of our students attended and were impressed by the genuine thanks given by Ritchie Johnson, Acting Director of Education, Aberdeenshire Council followed by presentation of their certificates and an informal buffet.

Laura McLean, a final year 3D Design student, shared her extremely positive experience of working at Hazelhead Academy during an informal presentation at the event and is a shining example of how the Scheme helps increase confidence within participants. Visual Communication student Simone Russell furthered her practical experience within the Scheme by taking all the Awards Ceremony photographs and for her third year project creating a fantastic animation and posters to promote Student Tutoring, incorporating pupil work from her placement at Strathburn Primary School, Inverurie.

Christine Buchanan, Dean of Students, said, "The Scheme provides an exceptional volunteering opportunity. For all participants, students, school pupils and classroom teachers, it provides an outstanding opportunity to share experiences, contribute expertise and enhance the school curriculum."

For further information on the Scheme which will run again from October 2010, please contact Gayle Scott, Careers Consultant g.scott@rgu.ac.uk.

University team focus on public involvement in research

Three researchers from the Alliance for Self Care Research (ASCR) based in the Faculty of Health and Social Care attended the annual conference of the Scottish School of Primary Care (SSPC) held at Crieff Hydro in Perthshire earlier this year.

The focus for the two days was on patient and public involvement in research, and the clear message was that lay people have valued contributions to make to the research process.

Presenting her research at the conference, Dr Anita Young, whose background is in occupational therapy, discussed her recent project which explored the capacity of people with learning disabilities to self-manage health.

A poster presentation was given by Audrey Stephen who is a Chief Scientist Office Research Training Fellow and also a PhD student at the University. Her research is about bereavement care for older people in healthcare services. In her presentation she focused on participant recruitment and difficulties encountered in identifying and approaching older people to take part in research.

The third member of the team, Simon Naji, a Reader with ASCR, also attended the conference and joined in discussion of the topics raised.



(l to r) Professor Rita Marcella greeting HE The Chancellor, Professor Ahmed Al-Rawahi during a recent visit by the University of Nizwa to discuss collaborative activities.

Hats off to award-winning designer

Quirky handbags, show-stopping heels and sparkling jewels, the Parisian tradeshow Premiere Classe has it all, including award-winning hat designs by Gray's graduate Caroline Sinclair. In amongst the glitz and glamour, Caroline's designs were hand-picked from hundreds by prestigious London department store Fortnum and Mason.

Back in 2007, Caroline established Caroline Sinclair Millinery. Over the years she has exhibited at a number of events and won several awards, including second place Hat Designer of the Year Award in 2009. As a prize she was given a stall at the Premiere Classe tradeshow in Paris, where she exhibited earlier this year.

Caroline said, "Whilst exhibiting my Scottish themed winter hat collection featuring thistles and tartans, I couldn't believe it when I was approached by a buyer from Fortnum and Mason. When asked what existing stores I supply to, I responded 'none'. Now I am working on an exclusive range of hats for Fortnum and Mason as part of their winter 2010 collection.



Caroline modelling one of her pieces.

"This year my business has really taken off. As well as the winter collection for Fortnum and Mason, I am also launching a new bridal collection in collaboration with bespoke dressmaker Isabelle Randall. Our work will be exhibited in Belmont Brides later this year. 2010 is set to be hard work but I am cherishing every minute already."

Caroline Sinclair's work will be part of the Fortnum and Mason winter collection. To view Caroline's work closer to home, her hats will be exhibited at Belmont Brides, Union Terrace, Aberdeen, later this year.

Caroline offers Robert Gordon University graduates a 10% discount. To obtain your discount card please email: alumni@rgu.ac.uk

Enabling blended learning

ENABLE, the Enhancement Academy for Blended Learning, is a University-wide initiative that is supported by the Higher Education Academy as part of its national eLearning Enhancement Academy programme.

The aim of the ENABLE programme is to support the implementation of blended learning in key strategic areas across all faculties to:

- Build upon existing use of CampusMoodle for current face-to-face and distance learning to create a community of practice;
- Try out new technologies by providing structured support from DELTA;
- Assist review of student time, location and learning activities.

The ENABLE Programme team members are: Jacqui Nicol (DELTA), Victoria Farmer (Library), Martyn Main (School of Nursing and Midwifery), Phil Richards (Aberdeen College), Duncan Stephen (School of Engineering) and Roddy Smith (Aberdeen Business School). Two placement students from Aberdeen Business School, Patience Gatima and Agata Zaremba, are supporting the programme and also provide a student perspective on blended learning developments. Peter Bullen, Director of the Blended Learning Unit at the University of Hertfordshire is the ENABLE programme 'critical friend', and is providing guidance and support in running the programme and moving towards blended learning approaches.

The ENABLE team and DELTA are supporting a range of blended learning development projects from across the University. Outcomes and evaluation of these projects will help inform recommendations for wider adoption of blended learning approaches across the University. The projects are being supported using a staged support model, and are linked to the University's new Guidelines for Effective Learning and Teaching.

The ENABLE projects are:

- Gray's School of Art is developing a four year structure for student personal development planning using MyPortfolio@RGU and other technologies to improve feedback and social integration;
- The School of Computing is optimising an MSc IT Management course for delivery in blended format to expand their international market;
- The School of Health Sciences is developing their core Anatomy and Physiology module that will be used across five courses. Blended learning approaches will be used to reduce lectures, support different learning styles and allow students to manage their time more effectively;
- The School of Nursing and Midwifery is finding ways of using eLearning to enhance student engagement in feedback and reflective practice, particularly for placement students in remote areas;
- The School of Engineering will be developing a set of animated engineering diagrams and formative assessments to reinforce understanding in their Advanced Completions and Subsea Systems module on the MSc Oil & Gas Engineering;
- Aberdeen Business School has two projects. The Department of Information Management will be introducing different methods of real-time online learning and delivery of content, to help build a stronger virtual community of learners of face-to-face and distance learners. The Department of Management is extending the blended approach already adopted with the PT BA Management Course by using technology to improve learning materials and maintain student motivation between monthly Saturday workshops.

All projects intend to deliver their new blended learning approaches from September 2010.



Hannah Miley (Sports Person of the Year) with Steve Parry. Photo courtesy of www.fpphotography.co.uk

Swimming star presents awards at University Sports Ball

Olympic swimming medallist and broadcaster, Steve Parry, was guest-of-honour at the RGU: SPORT Awards Ball on 23 April at RGU: SPORT.

Sponsored by DG Fitness, the Ball is the highlight of the sporting calendar for the University's students and saw the achievements of sports clubs and talented individuals being recognised and celebrated in unique fashion.

Steve Parry is heralded as one of Britain's greatest swimmers, earning himself eleven major medals in a career spanning over 10 years.

In addition to regaling guests with his inspirational tale of triumph, Steve presented the Blues Awards on the night. Team of the Year was won by Rugby, while Club of the Year was picked up by Gaelic Football. Most Improved Club of the Year was won by Netball, and swimming champion Hannah Miley was a clear choice for Sports Person of the Year. Other top awards included Lynne Barnes (Netball) for Fresher of the Year and Ladies Football for President's Performance of the Year.

Full Blues were received on the night by: Lynne Barnes, Geoffrey Dunne (Rugby), Kevin D'Arcy (Weightlifting), Lauren Harris (Rugby 7s), Caroline Heron (Football), Marian Holohan (Shinty), Grant Milne (Trampolining), Louise Kelly, Derek Casserly, Niamh Morrison and Olive McCafferty (Gaelic Football).

Big-hearted students help ARCHIE

A group of enterprising placement students, currently working at Shell in Aberdeen, have raised £3,600 to boost the ARCHIE Foundation associated with the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital.

The management studies students from Aberdeen Business School and engineering students from Northumbria University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, revived a tradition of Shell placement students enjoying a diversion from work and study, with an annual fundraising project.

The money will be used to buy a special piece of equipment to assist patients suffering from a severe form of muscular dystrophy.

Amongst the varied ways the students raised funds was to organise the design of a Christmas card by the young patients, which were then sold to colleagues and friends.

RGU: SPORT questionnaire winner

Anna Gaw, a third year Social Work student, was randomly selected from all the completed questionnaires and won a night's dinner bed and breakfast and mini spa treatment at Ardoe House hotel.

RGU: SPORT would like to thank everyone for taking the time to complete the questionnaire which has provided them with feedback to help them continuously improve services.

Anna with Filippo Antoniazzi, Director of RGU: SPORT.



Part-time PhD student awarded prestigious Fulbright Scholarship

Inspector Steve Ritchie, a part-time PhD student at Aberdeen Business School, is soon to depart on a five-month research visit to New York Police Department (NYPD). Having won a prestigious Fulbright Fellowship, Steve is to conduct research into NYPD's Operation Impact, which has been credited with maintaining low crime rates within Manhattan and the rest of New York City, making it a safer place to live and work.

The UK Fulbright Awards Programme offers a wide range of exchange opportunities with the US. Each year, a small number of awards are made available to UK Police officers and staff with only two being selected from Scotland. Selection for the Awards is by interview and is not only based on academic excellence but also focused application, a range of extracurricular and community activities, demonstrated ambassadorial skills, and a desire to further the Fulbright Programme and to give something back to the home country on return.

STUDENT SUCCESSES



Aberdeen scientist recognised for pioneering research into wound-healing wafers

A researcher from the School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences has been commended by a prestigious European organisation for her innovative work on the use of antimicrobial wafers to control infection in wounds.

Olga Labovitiadi delivered her presentation at the European Wound Management Association 2010 (EWMA) annual meeting, in Geneva, Switzerland, and was presented with the award for a 'First-time Presenter at an International Conference'.

Olga is currently in the final year of a PhD entitled 'Formulation and evaluation of antimicrobial wafers as a novel technology for infection control in chronic wounds', under the supervision of Dr Kerr H Matthews and Dr Andrew J Lamb.

Olga's work concerns the formulation of antimicrobial wafers - freeze-dried dressings made from natural materials which look like sponge and can contain substances such as antiseptics or antibiotics.

The wafers work by absorbing all the fluid produced by the wound, while at the same time releasing the antiseptic or antibiotic to kill the bacteria in the infected wound bed.

At the EWMA, Olga presented data generated over the last three years, discussing how she produced the freeze-dried wafers. During the period she also tested the efficacy of these wafers in the laboratory using a specially designed experiment, which demonstrated the efficiency of these wafers in killing MRSA. The conditions under which the experiments were carried out mimicked the constituents who experience slow healing wounds.

This is the second award Olga has been presented with for her research work on infected, non-healing wounds. She was awarded first prize for a poster presentation at the British Pharmaceutical Conference 2008 (Manchester).

Olga previously delivered three podium presentations about this project in 2009, first at the Society of General Microbiology (Harrogate), second at the British Pharmaceutical Conference (Manchester) and thirdly at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (London).

Architectural elite join students for 'The Big Crit'

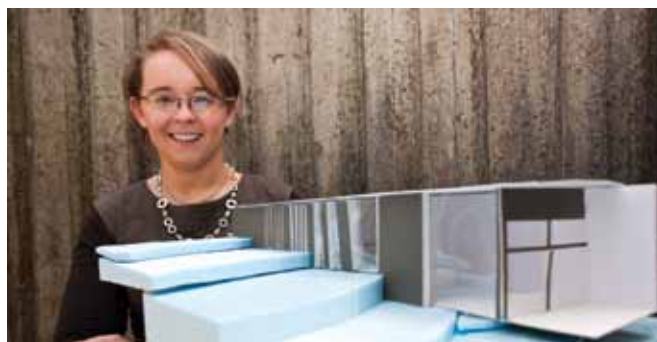
The Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and Built Environment hosted a distinguished panel of architects and academics at 'The Big Crit' event in May.

The event saw 30 students, drawn from each stage of the Architecture course, delivering presentations on their designs and concepts to the panel and interested members of the public. They were critiqued by a number of internationally respected architects and academics, namely: Joseph Rykwert, one of the world's foremost authorities on the history of art and architecture; Neil Gillespie of Reiach and Hall Architects; award-winning architect Alan Dunlop; David Howarth, co-director of drdharchitects; Mary Arnold-Forster of Skye-based Dualchas Building Design and David Kohn of David Kohn Architects.

One of the students who presented at the event was Margaret Mary Connolly. Margaret devised innovative designs for a janitor's house, and a gallery to be situated on the University's Garthdee site. The second year Architecture student designed a building that blends in with the picturesque landscape and its contours.

Margaret also designed a public gallery which would stage exhibitions of work by students at the Scott Sutherland School and Gray's School of Art. Her idea was to develop the existing path through the campus so that it becomes part of the building, and the building then becomes part of the campus.

Margaret Connolly with a model of her project.



Rick Burney with a model of his project.



Continued from page 1

An award ceremony to recognise the top students at the Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and Built Environment launched the School's 2010 End of Year Show on 22 June.

Master of Architecture student Rick Burney received not one, but two awards - the John B. Johnstone prize for best overall student, and the Aberdeen Society of Architects (ASA) Silver Medal (jointly with fellow MArch student, Raju Noor).

The ASA Silver Medal was awarded to Rick in respect of the outstanding quality of his final year project - designs for a local produce market located within the fish processing area of Aberdeen. Rick's project proposed the return of a lost institution, 'A market for the city' which would radically transform the life of the area.

A group of final year Master of Architecture students exhibited their cutting-edge vision for a new residential settlement in the Firth of Forth. Led

by Visiting Professor Alan Dunlop, the students were charged with exploring the idea of a new settlement for Edinburgh as their final year project. They came up with the concept of building a visionary new island - Cramond Island - in the Firth of Forth which would accommodate a new way of living, promoting community and bringing residents into contact with their natural environment. Fundamental to the design was the drive to create an 'extraordinary place to live and work'.

Project Management students win SmartSims simulation

Elizabeth Taama, Chukwudi Awa, Ifeatu Okafor and Niyi Olowu, a team of MSc Project Management students from Aberdeen Business School, were the overall winners in Smartsims Team, a business simulation game competition held between students studying Performance Planning and Decision Making. The team managed to score the highest ever result for teams using this simulation from business schools around the world, and in the words of the simulation organisers SmartSims:

"The Smartsims Team would like to acknowledge and congratulate you four on your exceptional performance throughout the eight

round MikesBikes-Advanced course. Your impressive effort has led to a SHV we have never seen before. You will be pleased to know that you have secured the top spot on our Hall of Fame page.

"Your ability to grasp the concepts illustrated by the simulation and make vastly superior educated decisions is contested only by your team's collective initiative. We understand that it must have been a conscious effort from each of you to create a team environment where individual decisions were made such that the overall firm strategy was always kept in mind and never lost sight of."

In addition to this impressive result, four other teams from this module were placed in the all-time world top 20 list.

Students recognised as Champions of Marketing Excellence

Several of the University's students were recognised as Champions of Marketing Excellence, and picked up Silver Star Awards at the recent Marketing Society of Scotland annual awards ceremony.

Graphic design students David Crombie and David Howie received the honour in recognition of their work in developing ideas around the theme of reducing the carbon footprint caused by the 2014 Commonwealth Games. David Howie looked at transportation, and designed a campaign to encourage people to get on the train to the Games, while David Crombie's idea is to invite those attending the Games to represent their country in a

competition to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the event.

Three Aberdeen Business School students were also recognised at the awards in the Star Marketing Student category. They were asked to submit a proposal about how the Scottish Ballet might attract more people to its events.

Heather Anderson won a gold award for her suggestions, which included using marketing e-cards and iphone applications to raise awareness of the company. Kerrie Tindall and Leanne Donaldson both picked up silver awards in this category.

The Star Awards are aimed at celebrating the most dynamic marketing campaigns in Scotland.



(l to r): Fiona Kennie, Senior Brand Manager at Bulmers UK, Heather holding her Award and Helen Campbell.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Belgian midwifery initiative takes a step forward

The School of Nursing and Midwifery played host to 28 student midwives from Belgium at the end of May, visiting from Vroedkunde Limburg University, Hasselt, with their mentor and midwifery lecturer, Nadia Segers.

Co-ordinated by lecturers Anne Marie Rennie, who also works as a local midwife in Stonehaven, and Carole Jackson, the visit allowed the Belgian cohort to enjoy a study tour and meet with representatives from both the University and NHS Grampian. It enabled students from both sides to share their experiences of midwifery and talk about their ideas for the future.

Dr Ruth Taylor, Associate Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery welcomed the international cohort, before they were immersed in activities at the University's state-of-the-art clinical skills centre, taken to hear from midwives in practice at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital and Aboyne Maternity Unit, and treated to outings at some of the region's favourite tourist destinations.

Midwifery lecturers Dr Helen Bedford and Stevie Walsh gave a presentation to the visitors about the provision of maternity services in Scotland, and how midwifery education in Scotland ties in with this. Phyllis Winters, Lead Midwife from the Montrose Birthing Unit, NHS Tayside, also gave a talk on water birth and how midwives can empower women.

This initiative follows on from an earlier visit by some of Vroedkunde's key academics last November. The leading Belgian university is looking to develop its nursing programmes and encourage international co-operation within the midwifery sector.



(l to r): Professor Peter Robertson, Vice-Principal (Research and Commercialisation); speaker Professor Kevin Warwick; Professor John McCall, one of the key members of IDEAS, and IDEAS Director, Professor Susan Crow.

Human brains for robots at IDEAS launch

The University has continued to make significant advances in its international research profile with the launch of a new institute dedicated to research in Innovation, Design and Sustainability (IDEAS) in May.

Open to members of the public, the celebration launch included a keynote presentation by Professor Kevin Warwick, a world-leading expert in cybernetics at the University of Reading. Professor Warwick is best known for his cyborg experiments in which he neuro-surgically implanted a device into his arm in order to link his nervous system directly to a computer. His talk looked at the use of this pioneering implant technology to create biological brains for robots and to diminish the effects of certain neural illnesses in humans.

Up to 5K funding for Scottish SMEs to work with the University

As part of the Innovation Voucher Scheme, the Scottish Funding Council has offered the University up to £5,000 per project to directly support collaboration with SMEs. If chosen, a partner SME is expected to provide match funding for the project.

This award is to encourage new partnerships that have not jointly received funding from any source previously for the proposed project in order to build links between Scotland's HEI and SMEs. Therefore, this is a perfect opportunity for SMEs who have previously expressed interest in tapping into the University's academic expertise to solve a particular business problem or meet a particular business goal, but who have had trouble finding the funds.

There is no application deadline, but the funds are on a 'first come first serve' basis. Research and development activities to be carried out under the award must be completed by 31 July 2011.

For more information, please contact Anne Humphrey, Business Development Officer, CREDO at a.humphrey@rgu.ac.uk.

Engineering and business master-level modules first in UK

A suite of engineering and business masters-level modules has been approved by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) for use in Further Learning Plans for both individuals and companies working towards Chartered Engineer registration. The University is the first in the UK to have been awarded this approval.

The suite comprises 18 modules that are currently delivered at the University's School of Engineering and 13 from Aberdeen Business School. Each module has been deemed to meet the requisite content, academic level and academic rigour expected of an approved individual Further Learning Plan for registration with the IMechE. The suite can, therefore, provide a framework of Masters level

modules from which an applicant might develop an individual Further Learning Plan for Chartered Engineer registration.

The University is able to offer immediate access for individuals, SMEs and large corporations to the suite of modules. Those seeking further information should contact Pamela Neri at p.neri@rgu.ac.uk.

PEOPLE MATTERS

Appointments to Professor, Reader and Teaching Fellow Award

There have been several successful applications for the post of Professor and Reader from across the Faculties this year. Successful applicants for Professor were Paul Kong from the Pharmacy of Life Sciences, Peter Reid from Aberdeen Business School, and Stephen Vertigans from Applied Social studies. Paul Arnell and Rob Smith, both from Aberdeen Business School, were appointed Reader.

Dr Winifred Eboh, from Nursing and Midwifery, was successful in this year's Teaching Fellow Award process.

Honorary Research Fellow appointment

Dr Mark Cheesman, Director of Outlook Medical Ltd, has recently been appointed as an Honorary Research Fellow within the Institute for Health and Welfare Research.

Dr Cheesman is Senior Medical Advisor to TAQA Butani, and in this capacity is responsible for leading on development and delivery of a strategy to meet the offshore medicine and health needs of the business.

Dr Cheesman's research interests align perfectly with the Environmental and Occupational Health Theme of the Institute.

Professor appointed to CBI judging panel

Justin Greenwood, Professor of European Public Policy at Aberdeen Business School, was a member of the Final Awards judging panel for the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) Trade Association Forum UK Best Practice Awards 2010.

There were 17 different categories of awards, including the coveted 'Trade Association of the Year' and the prizes were announced at a ceremony in July at the Grand Connaught Rooms, London. The purpose of the Awards is to foster the search for excellence in the way trade associations operate, recognise and reward achievement, and encourage the communication and adoption of best practice.

Professor Greenwood, who has undertaken a number of studies of trade associations, commented, "The political arena is one of the key factors affecting business. The ability of trade associations to manage that challenging environment is a key issue for them and awards like these help to push industry forward by rewarding best practice."

New Researcher joins CUSP

Leuserina Garniati, known as Nia, has joined the University's Centre for Understanding Sustainable Practice (CUSP) as a Research Assistant.

Following a degree in Environmental Engineering, Nia received her MSc in Environmental Science in 2009 from the University of Aberdeen, with a project thesis in modelling energy yield and GHG gas emission from bio-ethanol and bio-diesel crops. Prior to that, she worked part-time both in sustainable development projects and environmental awareness campaigns to local communities, and as a media analyst for environmental, oil, and gas news monitoring.

Nia is currently supporting CUSP's work in carbon management and the MSc programme in Sustainable Energy: Engineering and Carbon Management.

ACTR Director appointed sole academic representative for the UK on Expert Advisory Committee

Professor David Alexander, Director of the Aberdeen Centre for Trauma Research, has been appointed sole academic representative for the UK on the Expert Advisory Committee. Chaired by Lord Boyce, the Committee was set up by the previous Government to review the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. The latter is the scheme whereby seriously injured military personnel from Iraq and Afghanistan receive appropriate financial compensation for their injuries, both physical and psychological. This review represents a major commitment to the welfare of these individuals who have sacrificed so much for our country.

To advance the urgent recommendations of the Lord Boyce group, the previous Government set up an Independent Expert Medical Group which Professor Alexander was invited to join. The Chairman, Sir Anthony Newman Taylor, intends that this group reports back to the Government towards the end of this year to press forward the claims of injured military personnel.

Recently, Professor Alexander was also invited to Chair the Validation Panel, on behalf of Mr Alex Salmond, to select individuals from civilian life and from those employed by the emergency services, who have distinguished themselves by acts of bravery.

Julian Bell Award for Outstanding Contribution

Students Fiona Cowe and Shona Lamb were the recipients of The Julian Bell Award for Outstanding Contribution this year in the School of Applied Social Studies. The award celebrates and acknowledges those who go beyond what is expected of them, and volunteer their time for the betterment of their class-mates or the course in general.

Chris Yuill, Lecturer at the School of Applied Social Studies, said, "The school places a strong emphasis on students developing such

a sense of civic and public responsibility in addition to academic and business-facing skills. Over the last four years Fiona and Shona have been keen and active in 'buddying' new students or assisting on open days. In all these interactions the enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by Fiona and Shona were a credit to both the course and the University. We wish them well for the future."

For more information about the award, please contact Chris Yuill on c.yuill@rgu.ac.uk

Law lecturers brave a 54-mile trek for charity



Three members of staff from Aberdeen Business School's Law Department, known collectively as the RGU Law Trekkers, challenged themselves to a 54-mile walk in 24 hours in June when they competed in the 2010 Caledonian Challenge.

The group walked the West Highland Way, taking in some of Scotland's most famous remote, rugged and beautiful landscapes. The physically demanding hike included Ben Nevis, Glen Coe, Rannoch Moor, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

Moe Alramahi, Leon Moller and Muhammed Sarris made up the brave team, and even though this was their first challenge together, they were confident the venture would be a success. David and Rebecca Cox were their support team, providing food, water and encouragement at the various check points.

Moe Alramahi was the only team member to make it to the gruelling finish-line, with Leon Moller making a valiant attempt, reaching checkpoint three.

Rebecca said, "We've raised £380 from the trek so far and aim to raise as much as we can for the Scottish Community Fund through various activities such as football matches against the students."

10% Alumni loyalty discount

The University is delighted to offer its alumni a 10% loyalty discount on postgraduate course fees.

The discount applies to both home and overseas alumni (holders of undergraduate degrees) of the University who commence postgraduate study at the University from September 2010 onwards. It can only be applied to tuition fees and cannot be used to cover any other programme-related expenses (e.g. residential costs, materials or membership fees). The discount will apply to all courses (including short courses) apart from the MSc in Advanced Architectural Studies.

If you have any queries contact PostgraduateAdmissions@rgu.ac.uk or (01224) 262132.

University climbs Times Higher People and Planet Green League tables

The University was ranked 57th and scored 29.5 in this year's Times Higher People and Planet Green League tables, rising from 66th place last year and a score of 34 out of a possible 70.

The University was also ranked as having 'Excellent Performance' for policies on student and staff engagement.

For more information go to <http://peopleandplanet.org/greenleague/table>

Gatehouse wins award



L to R: Rebecca Hanlon, UPMG Chair, Mark Eaton from Stephens and George (sponsor), Martin Parker and Jo Francis from Print Week joint sponsor of the awards.

The University's Gatehouse Graphics and Printing service has won a 'Highly Commended' award for their self promotional work - a brochure, and promotional video at the Annual University Print Managers Group (UPMG) Conference 2010.

The brochure and video are an introduction to the services the department offers. The video is available online at www.rgu.ac.uk/gandp, and the brochure is available on request.

Martin Parker, Gatehouse Studio Manager, also delivered a seminar at the conference and was elected to the UPMG National Executive, where he hopes to have input in future design issues.

EVENTS DIARY 2010

For further information on all events, visit: www.rgu.ac.uk/news/event diary

OCT	
6	Open Day
NOV	
6	Open Day
9	Professorial Lecture – Peter Strachan
DEC	
9-10	Winter Graduation ceremonies
15	Carol Service

