



# Nexusonline

JULY / AUGUST 2012

Connecting the University community



Ferdinand von Prondzynski, Andrew McAllan – commercial photography student, Rob Wallen – Aberdeen College Principal

## RGU and Aberdeen College Extend Successful Collaboration

RGU and Aberdeen College signed a memorandum of agreement in May which renews the collaboration between the two organisations, especially on degree-linked courses, and confirms their commitment to assisting more students to achieve a degree.

## RGU Continues to Shine in League Tables

The university has performed well in the most recent league tables published in *The Guardian* in May and *The Times* in June.

In *The Guardian* league tables RGU came 35th overall, a jump of three places from last year. We are the best modern university in the UK with the next closest being Coventry University at 46th. In terms of graduate prospects we're 7th equal in the UK and top in Scotland.

In *The Times* Good University Guide 2013 RGU is up one place to 51st overall. Again we're the best modern university in the UK and top for graduate employment in Scotland and 10th overall in the UK.

Meanwhile the university continues to perform strongly in graduate employment with the latest data collection round returning positive results. These figures will be used in next year's university league tables.

The full-time first degree indicator (employed or in further study) has risen to 97.1%, a 1.4% increase. Most graduates continue to be in permanent full-time jobs but almost double the number of graduates are employed in large organisations (ie companies with over 250 employees).

The majority of respondents are in the £24,999 salary group and are in the human, health and social work areas. The majority of respondents were employed within the first three standard occupational classification groups: managers and senior officials; professional occupations; associate professional and technical occupations.

In the last three years 652 HND students from Aberdeen College have progressed to year 3 of a relevant degree course at RGU. In addition a further 128 students have progressed to year 2 following completion of an HNC.

Professor Ferdinand von Prondzynski welcomed the extension of the initiative. "The degree-linked courses with Aberdeen College have greatly improved access to the university. Many students who would not have previously considered a university degree completed their HND or HNC and realised they had the potential to push themselves further. There is no doubt that this initiative has encouraged more students to achieve higher qualifications by easing the transition from school to university."

Rob Wallen, Principal of Aberdeen College said, "Undertaking an HND programme at College helps students build confidence and gain skills in a particular vocational area, with the added bonus of achieving a nationally recognised diploma. This makes the journey from school through College and on to University seamless and more accessible and, if they follow this approach, they can achieve two qualifications – in the time usually taken just to get a degree."

The BA in Commercial Photography is a specific example of the collaboration between RGU and Aberdeen College. The course was designed in 2008 as a direct response to the desire by HND Photography students at Aberdeen College to achieve a degree, but who had no degree link option available to them. Staff at Gray's School of Art and Aberdeen College worked together to develop a course that allows students to develop further the photography skills that had been acquired at Aberdeen College. The BA Commercial Photography includes a business element which develops the entrepreneurial and enterprise skills of students who wish to establish their own photography business.

Degree-link courses are also available in a range of subjects including engineering, business, accounting, computing, management, law, science, media, tourism and sport.

## Welcome to Nexus online,

which is issued electronically every second month. Please get in touch if you have any suggestions for stories or features for the magazine. Email your ideas to Nexus online Editor. The cut-off date for articles to be included in the September/October edition is Friday 10th August. Can managers please ensure that staff without regular university email access are informed that Nexus online can be viewed from home, or in libraries and IT labs at any university site at Nexus online.

## RGU Announces Professor, Reader and Fellow Awards

The University has announced its annual professorship, reader and fellowship awards. These are as follows:

### Professor

Dr Susan Klein - Aberdeen Centre for Trauma Research / Institute for Health & Welfare  
Dr Sarah Pederson - Aberdeen Business School  
Dr Heather Fulford - Aberdeen Business School  
Dr Ruth Taylor - School of Nursing & Midwifery

### Reader

Dr Mamdud Hossain - School of Engineering  
Dr Robert Halsall - Aberdeen Business School  
Dr Simon Burnett - Institute for Management, Governance & Society

### Enterprise Fellow

Steve Smith - School of Nursing & Midwifery

### Teaching Fellow

Dr Bill Sutherland - Aberdeen Business School  
Susan Lawrie - Aberdeen Business School  
Thorsten Lauterbach - Aberdeen Business School  
Debbie Banks - School of Nursing & Midwifery

Ferdinand von Prondzynski, Principal of the University said, "I would like to congratulate our colleagues who have been recognised with these awards. Their work and achievements are a credit to RGU."

## New Head for School of Applied Social Studies



Professor Stephen Vertigans has been appointed as the Head of School of Applied Social Studies. Stephen, a sociologist by background, has strategic management and governance experience from previous posts in Local Government and Audit Commission. He led the Sociology Team within the School of Applied Social Studies and has been Acting Head of School since July 2011.

Commenting on his appointment, he said: "To become Head at a time when society faces tremendous challenges, perversely provides opportunities to make major contributions in areas where the School is particularly committed. Against the societal and global downturn our students, graduates and staff are working with the most vulnerable people, seeking to understand the individual and social processes that underpin contemporary problems and to help in the formulation of solutions. In essence we will be looking to further develop our contributions in helping inform local and national agendas that are designed to improve lives."

Professor Val Maehle, Dean of Faculty said, "I look forward to working with Stephen and have every confidence that he will lead the School successfully and enable it to achieve its full potential."

## Know Your Equality and Diversity Champion

Under the general duty of the Equality Act 2010, public authorities are required to pay due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations.

The university approved the establishment of equality champions to demonstrate senior leadership and support for equality and diversity matters and initiatives in the areas of:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Religion and Belief (including non-belief)
- Sex (Gender)
- Sexual Orientation

The champions are supporting the progression of equality for all protected groups by:

- contributing and providing a focus to the Equality and Diversity Advisory Group in the equality strand being championed;
- seeking the engagement of employees and, where appropriate, students in the work and activities of the Equality and Diversity Advisory Group;
- providing leadership in the University in the area championed;
- keeping up-to-date on developments in the area championed;
- actively contributing to the implementation of the Equality and Diversity Annual Plan.

You can view the university's equality action plan by [clicking here](#)

Professor Peter Robertson, Convener of RGU's Equality and Diversity Advisory Group said, "One of the most important reasons for having Equality Champions is the opportunity for those within our university community to be able to approach someone direct about a equality and diversity matter they might wish to raise."

Equality Champions who have specific responsibilities are shown below. Please click on the champion to contact them.



**Bill Somerville**  
Age



**Michelle Anderson**  
Gender



**Dr Bassam Bjeirmi**  
Race



**Professor Peter Reid**  
Religion and Belief



**Professor Brian Webster**  
Sexual Orientation



▲  
Dr McClean Receiving his Award

## Prestigious fellowships awarded to Scott Sutherland academics

Dr David McClean, Head of the Scott Sutherland School, and Professor Gokay Deveci, Senior Lecturer, have been awarded prestigious Fellowships from the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland.

The RIAS Fellowship is the highest annual award conferred on members of the profession, and is given in recognition of an individual's contribution to and status within the profession in Scotland.

Dr McClean was recognized for his contribution and accomplished record in architecture education including his leadership of the School. Professor Deveci was awarded for excellence in architectural design, particularly in the area of low energy and low carbon housing.

Dr McClean comments: "Professor Deveci and I were delighted to be awarded Fellowships which are a symbol of peer recognition and esteem within the architecture profession.

"However, as both architectural practice and education are collaborative in nature, in many respects these awards reflect very positively on the commitment and talent of colleagues within the Scott Sutherland School."

The awards were conferred by RIAS President, Sholto Humphries of GPA Humphries Architects, himself an alumnus of the School, at a special presentation at the RIAS Convention 2012 held in Aberdeen's Belmont Cinema from 10-12 May.

## Marketing Team Recognised with National Award

RGU's marketing department has won a prestigious award in recognition of a creative postgraduate student recruitment campaign.

The team took gold at the Heist Awards 2012 in the Best Student Recruitment Campaign (UK) category. They were selected ahead of 11 fellow shortlisted higher education institutions at a ceremony held in the Queens Hotel, Leeds in May.

Now in its 22nd year, the Heist Awards recognises and celebrates the professionalism and innovation shown in education marketing, from small regional colleges to global education brands.

The RGU team's accolade was conferred in recognition of their student recruitment campaign, 'My Future', which successfully contributed to the growth of the University's UK student body within postgraduate (PG) and online distance learning (ODL) programmes.

**Click here for full story.**

The winning team – Jeannie Price, Rachel Creegan, Karen Barrett-Ayers, Madeleine Marcella, Alison Allan and Martyn Spence



## Visiting Professor appointed to new university in China

Professor Alan Dunlop, a visiting professor at the Scott Sutherland School has been appointed as one of the first external examiners at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU), a new school of Architecture in Suzhou near Shanghai, China.

XJTLU is the only university in China to offer both UK and Chinese accredited undergraduate degrees and hopes to attain accreditation from the Royal Institute of British Architects. Professor Dunlop will visit the institution twice a year and assess the teaching at the school as an external examiner.

A leading architect, respected artist and educator, Professor Dunlop recently completed high-profile terms in the US as the Distinguished

Victor L. Regnier Visiting Chair in Architecture at Kansas State University and the Mahlum Endowed Lecturer at the University of Washington.

Professor Dunlop has also been invited to deliver a lecture at a 2-day international architecture and urban design conference in Shanghai in October. Entitled 'Masterplanning the future – China, India and the West' the conference aims to explore the ambitions of new and existing cities across the world.

# STUDENT SUCCESS

Micro-Tyco Students



## RGU Students Turn £1 into £13,782

40 groups of second year Management, Accounting and Finance students have turned £1 seed capital into an astounding £13,782 in just four weeks through the WildHearts Micro-Tyco challenge.

Micro-Tyco is a fun, fast and furious global business challenge designed to release entrepreneurial talent and inspire the spirit of enterprise in its purest form. It challenges participating teams to turn an initial £1 investment into as much money as possible in just one month, using their creativity, imagination and business skills. Previous Micro-Tyco challenges have seen multi-national companies such as Deloitte and Ernst and Young take on schools and SMEs from across the country. In February, RGU became the first higher education institute to make Micro-Tyco a compulsory part of its business degrees.

The students took part in the challenge over a 4 week period, taking their £1 seed capital and generating money through ventures such as commissioning hand-made Chinese decorations and importing them for sale in Scotland; organising a sight-seeing tour of the Highlands for Erasmus Students; selling themed decorations and cards for Mother's day; and organising charity events, including an Acoustic night at the RGU student Union.

All money generated by RGU through Micro-Tyco is being invested by WildHearts in Micro-Finance in 21 countries around the globe, taking Micro-Tyco participants on a journey from dynamic wealth creators to global ethical investors. WildHearts believe that by associating business success with helping others, Micro-Tyco will inspire the leaders our world deserves.

Micro-Tyco was introduced into RGU's Aberdeen Business School curriculum by Dr John Park, Charles P Skene Entrepreneurship Programme Leader, as an authentic entrepreneurial experience and runs in conjunction with RGU's Business Enterprise Development module, led by module coordinator, Graham Grant, lecturer in entrepreneurship. The success of Micro-Tyco has contributed to WildHearts being taught as a 'Live Case Study' at Babson College Massachusetts, the World's top school for entrepreneurship.

## Computing student recognised at national conference for iPad app

MSc Computing Information Engineering student, Wuraola Jinadu, received first prize at the British Computing Society's Lovelace Colloquium 2012 held at the University of Bath in April.

The Lovelace Colloquium is an annual event for female computer science students from across the UK and is named after Ada Lovelace – a British computing pioneer. The Colloquium provides a forum for women to share their ideas and network, listen to inspiring talks and receive careers advice from a female perspective.

Wuraola presented work on the development of her 'iPad Class Diagram Editor' application designed to help students create, edit and share diagrams in lectures and tutorials.

Wuraola said, "I'm delighted to have won first prize at such a high profile event which has given me a great boost for my final dissertation. The conference was a very informative experience and provided a great platform to meet with and talk to successful women with computing careers. The encouragement given to women to pursue careers in IT was fantastic."

Dr Julian Bass, Wuraola's supervisor at the School of Computing said, "Enterprises are now creating business-critical applications using tablet and mobile computing devices. Wuraola's project uses a tablet computer to support important technical aspects of the software development process. She has done a great job in communicating the important elements of her MSc project, we're very proud of her achievement and that the School has been recognised at a national level."

Wuraola received the MSc First Prize of £200 at a prizegiving at the University of Bath.

## Students Raise over £14,000 for ARCHIE

Fashion Management students have raised over £14,000 for The ARCHIE Foundation, following their successful "Best of British" fashion show and fundraising efforts.

The RGU fashion show, this time organised by fourth year Fashion Management students to raise money for The ARCHIE Foundation, has established itself as a significant occasion in Aberdeen's fashion and charity event calendar.

The 400 strong audience celebrated the very best of British style and culture with a fashion show, live music and classic British foods including fish and chips, cupcakes and 99 ice-cream cones. The fashion show featured eight themed walks, each highlighting some of the best aspects of Britain including, the British seaside, countryside, music, sport, people, designers, royals and the traditional tea party.

The Fashion Management students surpassed last years huge £11,000 donation to The ARCHIE Foundation, by not only hosting the renowned fashion show but also carrying out a whole host of fundraising events, from sports walks to pub crawls and bake sales to bucket shaking.

Gail Gordon, Community Fundraiser at The ARCHIE Foundation said, "We're absolutely delighted with the huge amount raised from The Best of British Fashion Show and additional fundraising activities facilitated by the students. The event was fantastically organised and we had a truly entertaining evening. The money raised will help make such a difference to sick children and their families when they really need it most."



Students strut their stuff for charity

# STUDENT SUCCESS

## 'spAce' – Scott Sutherland School End of Year Show 2012

Students from the Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and Built Environment recently displayed a selection of student work addressing 21st century planning and design in a public exhibition in Aberdeen city centre.

Students from stages one to six occupied a previously disused space on the city's Belmont Street to host their annual End of Year Show entitled 'spAce'. The location was unlocked by *somewhere to\_*, an olympic-inspired project that helps young people find the space they need to do the things they love in arts culture and sport and has been sponsored by the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland.



End of Year Show - spAce

The exhibition included projects investigating the urban regeneration of Seaton and Union Street and explores the students' interpretation of space through a range of models, drawings and performative pieces. Encapsulating some of the well-known areas of Aberdeen and beyond, the exhibition journey ventures through the abandoned, populated and imagined spaces in which we live.

The projects for the Seaton and Pittodrie areas respond to social issues which have arisen over the years such as unemployment, crime and a lack of community facilities for residents.

Stage 5 student, Steven Lockhart proposed a masterplan to revive the existing unused green spaces in Seaton. The project provides

productive landscapes for residents within the community to grow their own fruit and vegetables which would create a fun activity and help to keep food locally sourced.

He explains: "A major issue involved in the built environment in the 21st century is how to sustainably use space that positively affects the population without polluting the environment. We took this principle and applied it at a local level within Aberdeen – suggesting a solution that would benefit the community of Seaton and not harm its natural spaces. Communal leisure space is a vital social aspect of communities and green spaces are often forgotten and unused."

Fellow student Amy Holmes also concentrated on the Seaton area. Her idea for a community-run refuse centre aims to tackle the rising issues of illegal dumping. She said, "I wanted to provide local residents with a commercial opportunity that would also address social problems. In looking at Seaton and Pittodrie, we wanted to contribute to the regeneration and future vitality of these areas."

The exhibition was made possible through the support of *'somewhere to\_'* a Legacy Trust UK funded project that helps young people who don't have a venue for their activities by opening up spaces and connecting young people with local space-holders.

Sarah Flood, a Scott Sutherland Alumni and Regional Co-ordinator for *somewhere to\_* said: "The students' initiative to work with *somewhere to\_* and to search out such an innovative solution to their need for space is testament to their enterprising spirit."

Lecturer, Gillian Wishart, adds: "The End of Year Show comprises fragments of the students' journey showing the internal workings of the architectural process. By taking key design issues and applying them at a local and national level, the work on show reflects the talent and imagination of our students."

## Student success in international design competition

A group of students from the Scott Sutherland School have been recognised in an international design competition. Second-year students Mirja-Anneli Kivieniemi, Paul Stewart, Kjersti Monsen, and final-year student Christopher Smith, entered their innovative bench design to the Hernessari Urban Furniture Competition in Finland.

This is the first competition entered into by 'Archintentions' – a new society at SSS which aims to encourage more competition participation by students.

As World Design Capital 2012, the city of Helsinki is regenerating its old industrial port into the up-and-coming 'Hernessari' district. The design brief invited students to design a series of urban furniture to be placed around its new cruiseport.

The SSS group were listed in the top 10 of entries for their innovative bench entitled 'Kaksi' which means 'two' in Finnish, reflecting the dual function of their design as both a bench and a bike stand.

Kaksi – bench and bike stand



## Sports Ball raises funds for Friends of ANCHOR

Funds raised at this year's RGU: SPORT Awards Ball have once again been donated to north-east charity, Friends of ANCHOR.

Over 500 guests attended the event held within the main sports hall on Friday 20 April. A game of 'Heads & Tails' played prior to the conferral of the annual awards raised a total of £700, building on last year's collection of £600.

## Keeping Health and Safety Alive

It has taken seven months and involved more than 70 RGU students, and very soon a brand new campaign to change the way we think about Health and Safety will be launched in the North-east.

A group of third year students from the University are being mentored by a number of advertising, design, brand and marketing agencies, and together they have been working since October on a project called "Keeping Health and Safety Alive".

The brief for the students and agencies was to create a campaign, using any platform they choose, to keep the message of health and safety fresh and relevant. It is not about reminding people to hold handrails or report spills – as important as that is; it is about trying to engage us all, in every walk of life, in creating a positive safety culture. The project forms a graded module for the students, turning a paper exercise into a very real challenge.

Airport Head of H&S Steven Law explained why it is so innovative: "This theme presented a great opportunity to bring together the fresh ideas of some young students mentored by the experience of some of this area's top agencies. The beauty of this project is that the students learn how the professionals plan, model and measure campaigns in a competitive world."

**For the full story click here.**

## RGU academic to become published in China



Chris Yuill

Chris Yuill, a lecturer in the School of Applied Social Studies, has had his bestselling textbook translated into Chinese by Taiwanese publisher Weber.

'The Sociology of Health: An Introduction', published by Sage and co-authored by fellow academic Anne-Marie Barry, regularly tops best-sellers list in the field of

medical sociology and is widely used in health and sociology courses in the UK and in parts of Europe. The third edition was published earlier this year.

**Click here for full story.**

## IDEAS researcher appointed to EU Working Group

Professor Richard Laing, a Senior Member and Research Co-ordinator at the Institute for Innovation, Design and Sustainability Research (IDEAS) has been appointed to the EU's Energy Efficient Buildings Working Group, a high-profile panel exploring urban energy solutions.

Part of the EU's Smart Cities and Communities Platform, the Working Group forms part of a research programme into innovative solutions for supplying energy more effectively and efficiently in modern cities.

Professor Laing comments: "Smart Cities is an ongoing programme of heavily funded research within the EU. I'm very much looking forward to taking part in discussions and providing expertise which will help shape future work and efforts in the future."

Professor Laing was also recently invited to speak at the Open University in Milton Keynes where he gave a workshop on 'designing space' alongside colleagues from Strathclyde University and the Architectural Association, and a seminar on his research into built environment visualisation.

## RGU Hosts 10th Annual Rural Entrepreneurship Conference

Aberdeen Business School played host to the 10th annual Rural Entrepreneurship conference in May.

The two-day conference, which examined entrepreneurship in a rural context focusing on matters such as farming, business start-ups and policies in the rural community, was attended by 35 delegates made up of scholars from Nottingham Business School, University of the West of Scotland, Heriot-Watt University, Glasgow Caledonian and RGU. There was international participation with scholars from America, Finland and Holland.

Significant advances have been made in rural entrepreneurship in the last ten years, with the annual conference playing a key role in fostering the developments. It has grown from being a Scottish affair to attracting interest from an international audience, providing a forum for the dissemination of research findings, analysis and good practice.

Dr Robert Smith, Reader in Entrepreneurship at RGU said: "The conference reflected on how the sector has evolved whilst going some way to predicting and identifying potential growth areas. It was a great opportunity to evaluate continuity and change in rural entrepreneurship on a local, regional, national and international level. The research delivered interesting findings on the nature and practices of rural entrepreneurs whilst examining the implications of policies for rural entrepreneurs."

**Click here for the full story.**

## Energy Leaders of Today Prepare RGU's leaders of Tomorrow

Industry leaders and over 140 students from RGU's full-time, part-time and Distance Learning cohorts for both the MBA and MBA Oil & Gas Management degrees came together to embrace leadership, at a week long event.

RGU hosted its annual leadership event last week to bring together MBA students and a number of speakers from academia and industry. The event saw RGU students from over 50 countries, some of which had travelled from as far as Japan and Colombia, participate in academic and practical workshops, team-building exercises and leadership simulation games. Each session explored a different aspect of leadership in two main streams - Energy and Enterprise/Entrepreneurship.

Over the course of the week, industry leaders imparted their wisdom on students. Guest speakers included Paul De Leeuw, Strategy Director at Centrica; Neil Poxon, Managing Director at ITF; Melissa Stark, Clean Energy Lead at Accenture; Leo Koot, Managing Director Taqa Bratani; Fraser Moonie, Managing Director at Bibby Offshore and Dave Workman Chief Operating Officer at Stork Technical Services. The purpose of the week was amplified at the Energy Evening, where successful leaders from the energy sector Sir Ian Wood, Chairman of Wood Group and Jim Milne Chairman and Managing Director of Balmoral Group were key speakers.



Participants at Leadership Week

Allan Scott, MBA director, said: "Leadership week is designed to bring together RGU's MBA students and immerse them in the fundamentals of leadership and the challenges that leaders face. The energy evening showcases leadership in the perspective of the energy industry and identifies the success factors of the leaders of today."



The ROV team from Bucksburn Academy

## School pupils 'dive in' to international ROV competition

Budding engineers from the North-east jetted off to Orlando, Florida to take part in an international ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) design challenge following victory in the Scottish regional finals held at RGU.

School pupils from Bucksburn Academy and Robert Gordon's College joined students from RGU's School of Engineering in the final from 21-23 June in the US after winning the Scottish heat on 29 March.

Pupils and students have been hard at work over the past six months constructing their ROVs from scratch to fit this year's competition brief, to evaluate the condition of World War II shipwrecks and determine what to do with any potentially hazardous material that remains on board.

After resting on the ocean bottom for nearly 70 years, the hulls of shipwrecks often deteriorate severely and if they still contain fuel oil, can pose the threat of an environmental disaster.

Using their ROVs, pupils completed various underwater mission tasks and technical reports in the RGU: SPORT swimming pool, and were assessed in engineering presentations and poster displays.

Working ROV and subsea professionals from companies including BP, Subsea 7, Canyon Offshore, Apache, Trittech and Stork Technical Services also volunteered their time and technical expertise as mentors and competition judges.

The event also provided an opportunity for RGU student teams to battle it out and demonstrate their readiness to go forward to the Explorer Class international final.

The regional competition, the only one of its type in Europe, is co-ordinated each year by RGU in conjunction with the Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Centre in California, USA.

Principal sponsorship for the Scottish regional final was provided by BP North Sea. In addition, OPITO, the skills body for the oil and gas industry contributed prizes and hardware to the competition.

Grant Maxwell, Associate Head of the School of Engineering at RGU said, "Every year we are impressed by the enthusiasm and ingenuity of the school pupils who show their abilities to problem solve, think critically and tackle problems in innovative ways.

"Competitions like these help young people see the practical applications of engineering and motivate them to study and pursue careers in this field. Some of our graduates who took part in previous years have subsequently gone on to work in the ROV industry as a direct result of this competition."

**For the full story click here.**

## Ghanaian Pharmacy Dean visits RGU

The School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences (PALS) recently played host to a senior academic from the University of Ghana (UoG).

Professor Arthur Sakeyfi, Dean of School of Pharmacy at UoG, visited RGU for 10 days in early May to discuss the potential for collaboration in research and teaching.

This visit has arisen through RGU's previous work in Ghana where the PALS team have contributed to the development of Clinical Pharmacy through provision of its distance learning MSc Clinical Pharmacy. This began with a cohort of five, and then two cohorts of 20 funded by the Ministry of Health in Ghana. Since then informal links have continued through a steady stream of self-funding pharmacists from Ghana enrolling on the course.

Dr Scott Cunningham, Teaching Group Leader- Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacy Practice, commented: "We were really pleased to host Professor Sakeyfi, who has been instrumental in setting up the second



School of Pharmacy in Ghana over the past few years. We recognise that this is the ideal time to discuss potential collaboration and formalise links with an institution in Ghana, and so the next steps are to agree a Memorandum of Understanding with an agreed plan of activity."

Professor Don Cairns (Head of School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences), Professor Arthur Sakeyfi and Dr Scott Cunningham.

## University hosts European student nursing conference

The School of Nursing and Midwifery was selected to host the European Network of Nursing in Higher Education (ENNE) 2012 Student Conference running from 29 April – 5 May.

Representing 13 countries from across Europe, ENNE promotes the development of nurse education, professional practice and research. The annual student conference provides the opportunity for the nurses of today and tomorrow to share learning about nurse education and practice in their countries and to work together to develop collaborative patient care plans.

This year a total of 35 students and 17 academic staff from 14 member universities were in attendance. During the course of the six-day conference, student delegates work in groups to investigate and present upon pre-selected themes including 'Patient Case Studies' and 'Nursing in My Country' (education and profession).



Delegates to the ENNE

The week's programme also included tours of the University's cutting-edge facilities, visits to NHS Grampian hospitals and community health centres, plus a host of cultural and social events such as a ceilidh and tour of Aberdeen's tourist attractions.

Senior lecturer and International Coordinator for the School, Avril Milne, was a leading force behind the conference. She commented: "We were absolutely delighted to host the ENNE student conference which, at its core, is all about opportunity, collaboration and helping prepare the next generation of nurses for their roles within the global healthcare workforce."

## Celebrating 25 years of Erasmus

European and Overseas Exchanges Co-ordinator, Julia Kennedy, has led the UK's celebrations in the Erasmus Programme's 25th anniversary.

In her elected role as UK Staff Erasmus Ambassador, Julia has attended a series of events throughout Europe to mark the European Commission Programme's success in reaching nearly three million students in its quarter century existence.



Julia Kennedy with Kate Samways, UK Student Erasmus Ambassador

From 8 to 9 May, Julia attended the official 25th Anniversary conference held in Copenhagen which featured speakers including the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, the Danish Minister of Education and HRH Princess Marie of Denmark.

The UK festivities culminated in a presentation held within the British Council, London, on 17 May which was attended by the Rt. Hon. David Willetts MP, Martin Davidson, Chief Executive of the British Council, Steve Beswick, Director of Education for Microsoft and Erasmus students past and present.

In her presentation, Julia shared her own experiences of studying abroad 20 years ago. Her time studying languages in France and Spain inspired her to pursue a career encouraging students to make the most of the study and work exchange opportunities on offer through the Programme.

## CORE presents at national conference

The University's Institute for Health and Welfare Research recently featured prominently in the Association for the Study of Obesity conference in London.

Professor Iain Broom and Hazel Ross from the Centre for Obesity Research and Epidemiology (CORE) presented at the conference which was held in University College London (UCL) on 28 March.

Titled "Lightening the Load: What works in Primary Care?" the conference also featured speakers from Cambridge, Warwick, Birmingham, Newcastle and Exeter. The CORE duo presented two of the Centre's research areas and their impact on obesity management in Primary Care: the Counterweight Programme, and the use of very low and low calorie diets in the community. Both areas have received multi-million pounds of research funding over the last 5 years.

Following from this, CORE has also been asked to present at the Obesity 2012 Conference in London in October. Dr Arthur Stewart will discuss the best way of defining obesity in relation to health impact using anthropometric criteria, and Professor Broom will provide the evidence base for formula diets in the long-term management of obesity.

## RGU students win Scottish project Challenge

A team of MSc Project Management students from RGU have triumphed at the Association for Project Management's (APM) annual Scottish Project Challenge.

The team of five RGU students, Abu Hussain, Dani McCarthy, Morton Park, Samuel Slesser and Yemisi Komolafe emerged victorious after completing their final project challenge, raising £1,678.92 for the Grampian Autistic Society (GAS).



The winning team from ABS

The students were one of four shortlisted teams for the finals in Glasgow, and faced tough competition in the last stages of the challenge from fellow finalists at Heriot-Watt University, Selex Galileo and Wood Group.

**Click here for the full story.**

## RGU Deans Address Oil & Gas Conference

Professor Rita Marcella, Dean of Aberdeen Business School and Professor John Watson, Dean of the Faculty of Design and Technology gave a keynote speech at the Oil & Gas Human Capital conference in London in April.

The Deans highlighted the success factors in university-business engagement as well as how to overcome potential barriers at the conference, which focuses on addressing the skills shortage in the oil and gas industry. The RGU speakers referenced not only the courses available and modes of study offered by the University, but also how corporate engagement can ensure the University meets the training needs of global organisations, citing recent examples of alliances with Shell, Chevron and Stork Technical Services.

## Nursing students benefit from Grampian - Houston Exchange



RGU students Iona Hynd and Beverley Brown, RGU lecturer Leanne Morrison, and Houston Baptist students, Rachelle Gerke and Katherine Sacueza

A pair of nursing students played host to their equivalents from across the pond as part of the Grampian Houston Student Nurse exchange.

Organised in partnership between Grampian Houston Association and RGU, the most recent exchange in the successful programme's 16 year existence took place from the 13 to 26 May.

Second-year adult nursing students Iona Hynd (19) and Beverly Brown (24) were selected to buddy the American students - Rachelle Gerke and Katherine Sacueza - who visited from Houston Baptist University.

Co-ordinated by Leanne Morrison, Grampian Houston Exchange Co-ordinator and lecturer at RGU's School of Nursing and Midwifery, the purpose of the exchange is to offer clinical, academic, cultural and social experiences for the Houston students.

Iona and Beverley will head out to Houston from the 7 to 21 of September as part of the reciprocal exchange.

## EVENTS DIARY 2012

For further information on all events, visit: [www.rgu.ac.uk/news/eventdiary](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/news/eventdiary)

### JULY

10	Graduation, Aberdeen Business School
11	Graduation, Aberdeen Business School
12	Graduation, Health and Social Care
13	Graduation, Design & Technology