



University  
of  
St Andrews

# University of St Andrews

## The StAndard

Staff Magazine, Issue 12, November 2007

## Growing relations



**A league of our own**  
**St Andrews and Tibet**  
**Female Firsts**

Scotland's first university

# Contents

**Page 1:** Welcome

**Pages 2-15:** PEOPLE

**Pages 16-21:** TOWN

**Page 21-22:** OPINION

**Pages 23-36:** GOWN

**Pages 37-45:** NEWS

*The StAndard* is financed by the University and edited by the Press Office under direction of an independent Editorial Board comprising staff from every corner of the institution. The Editorial Board welcomes suggestions, letters, articles, news and photography from staff, students and members of the wider St Andrews community. Please contact us at [magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk) or via the Press Office, St Katharine's West, The Scores, St Andrews KY16 9AX, Fife Tel: (01334) 462529.

Cover picture: International Relations staff

Credit: Rhona Rutherford

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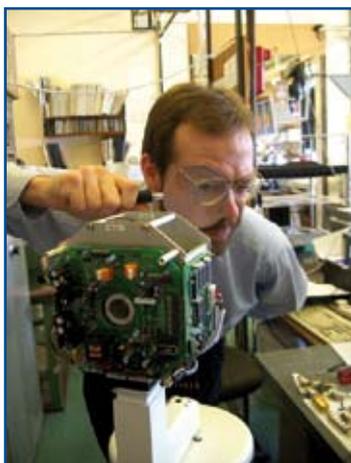




# In the hot seat

(of learning)

Would you like to put yourself or a colleague in the hot seat? Email us at [magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk) with your suggestions.



**NAME:** Dr Duncan Robertson

**POSITION:** Old Lag (Research Fellow) in Physics & Astronomy

**LAST GOOD BOOK** – *In search of Robert Millar*, by Richard Moore, which details the remarkable achievements of this enigmatic character who was undoubtedly Scotland's, and Britain's, most successful professional cyclist. He was at his peak in the mid to late 1980s when I started cycling.

**FIRST RECORD BOUGHT** – *Recovery* by Runrig. I asked my Gaelic teacher to translate all the lyrics into English, and I still think it's one of their finest recordings.

**TOP HOLIDAY DESTINATION** – I'm very fond of Scotland and there are many areas in the North where I love to spend

time, including Speyside. Further afield it would probably have to be the Alps in winter, as we don't really get much snow here any more.

**HAPPIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY**

– Family holidays in Switzerland with my Mum's relatives. Beautiful scenery, great weather and fantastic memories.

**IDEAL MEAL** – I'm an omnivore, so as long as it uses fresh, well-cooked food and has some nice wine or beer to accompany it, I'm not too choosy. I am partial to Italian food in general, and sharing it with the good company of friends and family is probably the best way to enjoy it. Of course, it has to be finished off with a few fine malts!

**MOST PRIZED POSSESSION** – My wife, of course!! It took me a long time to get my hands on her! ;-)

Ahem! Seriously, I would probably say my Pentax LX camera – arguably one of the finest models they ever produced. I wanted one since 1980 when I saw adverts for them in National Geographic. It took until 1995 for me to get one and I absolutely love using it.

**CHILDHOOD AMBITION** – To climb the Matterhorn. It will remain just a childhood ambition now!

**FAVOURITE LOCAL HAUNT** – It would have to be The Russell Hotel where I have spent many a happy time with friends over good food and a few

drinks. Their malt selection is highly recommended. I used to spend such a lot of time in there that I joked that, to cut out the middle-man, I should pass my student grant cheque straight onto the owner, Gordon de Vries! Slainte!

**FIRST LOVE** – Non-person: hillwalking – I used to go out in the hills all the time and got to know quite a lot of Scotland that way. Person: 'AM' from St Mary's – Funny to think it's nearly 20 years ago we met. Fond memories and I hope she's doing well whatever she's doing and wherever she might be these days.

**ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FILM** – *The Comic Strip Presents 'Mr Jolly Lives Next Door'*. Quite simply "It's a scorcher!"

**CURRENTLY PLAYING ON STEREO** – The James Taylor Quartet's recent album *Picking Up Where We Left Off*, signed by the man himself! With a new line up going under the moniker James Taylor's Fourth Dimension, James continues his prolific career as a true legend of Hammond-based jazz, funk and groove music. And he's fantastic live!

**THE PERFECT WEEKEND** – Time spent with my family - ideally a walk somewhere or a visit to a castle or some gardens – plus perhaps a little time to myself to do some photography. Rounded off with a nice meal with my wife with some good wine, perhaps followed by a cosy evening watching a DVD.

**NAME:** Graham Halley

**POSITION:** Computing Officer, IT Services

**LAST GOOD BOOK** - *Dancers at the End of Time* by Michael Moorcock. This is a compilation of three previously published novels - *An Alien Heat*, *The Hollow Lands* and *The End of All Songs*. I first read these books in the 1970s and I

keep coming back to them. It's science fiction, but I love the irreverence, wit and humour of Moorcock's writing in these books.

**FIRST RECORD BOUGHT** – *Twist and Shout* EP by The Beatles.

**TOP HOLIDAY DESTINATION** – Western Highlands of Scotland on my bicycle, which is odd because I hate hills,



and the Western Highlands seem to comprise of nothing but them!

**HAPPIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY**

– There are too many to pick out a single one. Looking through a periscope in a submarine berthed in Hong Kong harbour at age four was pretty good! Getting the stabilisers off my bicycle was certainly a milestone. Getting my first guitar at age nine is pretty high up the list as well.

**IDEAL MEAL** – A lamb jaal bhuna from the Shehnai in Cupar. The finest curry house in Scotland ... and a bit of a secret. Keep it to yourself.

**MOST PRIZED POSSESSION** – At the moment it’s my PRS SE Custom guitar, but next week ... who knows?

**CHILDHOOD AMBITION** – To be a soldier, fireman, train driver, etc.

**FAVOURITE LOCAL HAUNT** – Tentsmuir forest. It’s great for cycling, away from the horrors of road traffic.

**FIRST LOVE** – My teddy bear, curiously called ‘Teddy’. He stayed with me until I “grew up” many years later. I have always regretted the day I consigned Teddy to the bin. How could I be so cruel?

**ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FILM**

– *Apocalypse Now*, directed by Francis Ford Coppola. The recently released ‘Redux’ version adds another 49 minutes to the original cinema release and re-cuts many scenes, making it more coherent but just as surreal as the original.

**CURRENTLY PLAYING ON STEREO**

– *Eyes Open* by Snow Patrol, but I have 35GB of music on my iPod which I usually have set to random play, so I could be listening to anything from Rammstein, a German heavy metal band, to the great Captain Beefheart and his Magic Band or the even more brilliant Grateful Dead.

**THE PERFECT WEEKEND** – Lazing around in the garden having a barbecue and a few drinks with my friends. Of course, with the weather like it has been recently, this is just a pipe dream. I blame it on the fact that I recently bought new garden furniture!

**NAME: Fiona Oviatt**

**POSITION: School Secretary, International Relations**

**LAST GOOD BOOK** – I’ve just finished *At Risk*, by Stella Rimington. Hard to put down though it’s reminiscent in places of *The Eagle has Landed* and *Day of the Jackal*. I’ve just started *The Last English King* by Basil Rathbone, which also promises to be good. Best recent book is *Natasha’s Dance* by Orlando Figes, a fascinating history of Russian culture and surprisingly readable.

**FIRST RECORD BOUGHT** – Probably *Telstar* or *Venus in Blue Jeans*.

**TOP HOLIDAY DESTINATION**

– Sorrento, but Tobago is top of my wish list. I lived in Switzerland for a long time and going back there on holiday is like going home, but anywhere is fine provided I’m with my husband and son.

**HAPPIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY**

– Going from deepest Somerset where I grew up to spend summer holidays with my grandmother in Arbroath. A long drive, crossing on the ferry at Queensferry until the bridge was built, much ‘are we nearly there yet?’, visiting relatives, hearing my father’s childhood reminiscences, eating mealie puddings, going on the miniature railway like my father before me and, since then, my son. Picnics up Glen Esk. The sun (nearly) always shone then of course.



**IDEAL MEAL** – Lobster and strawberries and cream (My birthday dinner every year). Chocolate.

**MOST PRIZED POSSESSION** – My Saab and Bose music system, both idiosyncratic but each a joy in their own way.

**CHILDHOOD AMBITION** – To be a ballerina or a show jumper or even both!

**FAVOURITE LOCAL HAUNT** – Walking with husband and dog beside the Tay in Dunkeld, wonderful at any time of year – crisp winter days, colourful with rhododendrons in early summer, or all the autumn colours.

**FIRST LOVE** (not necessarily a person!) – Billy.

**ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FILM** – *Sleepless in Seattle*.

**CURRENTLY PLAYING ON STEREO** – Rachmaninov’s *Vespers* – wonderfully peaceful and uplifting.

**THE PERFECT WEEKEND** – A Friday night-sized dram of Famous Grouse, clean sheets, Saturday morning shopping in Perth, with a good lunch and walk by the Tay afterwards (see above), relaxed evening, lie-in on Sunday morning, indulgent Sunday lunch, followed by a snooze in the sun in the garden listening to music on headphones, all with my family. Chocolate would also feature.

# Sculpting through summer

**For seven days in August, Nicki Brain from the Lean project took part in Edinburgh College of Art Summer School's sculpture course... with impressive/interesting results.**

On the second day of summer school, I arrive at the college too early, leaving footprints on just-washed floors. Edinburgh College of Art is celebrating its centenary, and no amount of bleach can scrub away decades of paint; there are splashes of it on stairs, walls, doors, even on the headless statues that line the corridors. Our studio is in the basement, on the other side of a passageway crammed with artistic junk. Cast iron machinery, solid and obsolete, jostles for space here with desks and easels. I'm the only person around, and at this time of day the place is full of shadows and echoes. Catching a glimpse of a drab-green sleeve behind me, I turn. A life-size male glowers back at me from a freshly-painted canvas. A scrap of paper says 'To collect'. He doesn't look impressed.

One by one, the others arrive. We don't waste much time talking about the morning traffic, before setting to work in companionable silence. Each of us takes a position behind a rotating stand, forming a circle around the uncomfortable-looking seat in the centre of the studio. After a few minutes we are joined by our model, Colin. He slips with accustomed ease into the role of resident statue, breaking the illusion only to deal with the occasional itch or cramp. "He's not like a real person," one of my classmates remarks. Even when the tutor forgets him and he senses that he is late for a break, he holds his pose, his eyes alone betraying his irritation.

Our first project is to produce a portrait of Colin. A life-size (but not necessarily



life-like, we are relieved to hear) bust, modelled from clay. The previous day, on entering the studio with the wide-eyed nervousness of children on the first day of school, the twelve of us listen with half an ear as our tutor tells us about the properties of different clays. Given the choice, I suspect we would all just be grabbing lumps of it. First, though, we have to complete the balloon-shaped armatures (wood and wire frames) that will support all that weight. Crumpled sheets of newspaper are stuffed inside and the whole then wrapped with masking tape, until we have a collection of mummies. Only then are we permitted to take a wire and slice slabs of either terracotta (a brownish clay) or crank (a gritty, grey clay), which we use to start building the form piece by piece. It takes the rest of the morning to completely cover the armature. I chose the red-brown terracotta for this first project and by lunchtime my model resembles an enormous Easter egg left out in the sun, whilst that of my neighbour, built from small chunks of roughly applied clay, reminds her of a cornflake crispy cake. Or perhaps we are both just hungry!

In the afternoon, Colin joins us for the first time. With his waist length hair and drooping moustache, he makes me think of a pirate, or perhaps a Wild West sheriff. Eager to capture our first impressions and make those mounds of clay resemble something, most of us hurry through our initial sketches. Our tutor stresses to each of us the importance of modelling the skull and the planes of the face before we even think about adding features. Despite this warning, the urge to create a face is irresistible and it's not long before noses appear.

Colin marks each quarter hour by turning his chair 90 degrees. Before I know it, the afternoon has passed and my Easter egg is now more like an alien, complete with eye-sockets, a diminutive nose and pointy chin. Some of my classmates are already working on a



**Nicki Brain**

likeness. Before leaving, we fling black bin bags over our creations to prevent them from drying out overnight.

The next morning I work on my sketches as I sit, scruffy and clay-stained, amongst the Metro-reading commuters on the train. My day is spent transforming the alien into something altogether more humanoid, and in getting to know my classmates better. They are an interesting mix, amongst them a retired professor of Medicine, a mother of two young children, and an A-Level student. One girl is visiting from Poland; another woman comes from Spain, where she teaches English. My neighbour has flown over from Belfast, and in her other life is a project manager for BT. Somebody tells me that Colin is a web designer when not modelling, and previously was a ballet dancer.

The day flies, and I'm surprised at how tired I am from the intensity of concentration. By now, my portrait has a look of Colin about it (if you close one eye and view it from a certain angle) and my fast-working neighbour has already finished. It's fascinating to see the different interpretations emerging around the room. Some are impressionistic and textural, others aim at realism. The professor is finishing his portrait with clinical precision, using a plastic tool to comb in 'hair', detailing each muscle and etching every wrinkle. Earlier, the tutor scolded him for being precious about his portrait. He takes this to heart, and gouges out an eye (his sculpture's, fortunately) to better position it. At this stage we have all become protective of our creations, fussing over them like new parents, and admirers receive a curt "don't touch!" if they get too close.

Wednesday is the day when we complete the portrait and move on to a full figure pose. Someone says during tea break that this will be a nude. The professor – the sole male of the class – gives a mock grimace and the rest of us giggle nervously. Back in the studio, the girl with purple pigtails and Hello Kitty sailor top approaches me and says, within earshot of Colin, "I'm not looking forward to the next bit. For lots of reasons." She gives him a sidelong glance and asks me, "Does he keep his trousers on?"

Least concerned is Colin, who has done this all before, and doesn't bother with gowns or any such nonsense but strolls naked to the centre of the room, where he casually drapes himself on a mattress. Faking nonchalance, we circle him with sketch pads. A couple of hours later, the group is engrossed in ensuring that each leg is in exact proportion and the head tilted at just the right angle, and we have long since forgotten to be embarrassed by the nudity of a stranger. To enable Colin to keep his pose, we team up to shove the wheeled base beneath his mattress a quarter turn. The wheels have a tendency to stick, lurching Colin in unexpected directions, and he joins in the laughter.

Day four is spent finishing the full figure model. We work in near-silent concentration, broken by the occasional clatter as a modelling tool falls from the stand. The supply of paper towels at the sink has run out and we have no soap. I'm thankful that I cut my nails short before the course began, and resign myself to terracotta-stained hands for the remainder of the week.

And all of a sudden it is Friday, the final day of the course. This is the day I have to cut open my portrait sculpture's head and remove the armature that's been keeping it upright, before sticking it back together. I have a nightmare about it. In my dream, the unsupported clay turns to mush between my fingers.

All morning I wait with pre-exam dread, trying to distract myself with a new

figure sculpture. This one is clothed, with Colin in a 'Thinker' style pose. We only have him for the morning, so I work fast, rougher and larger than before. The clay I'm working with is an uninspiring grey, but is wonderfully tactile and as smooth as butter.

With the clock ticking, there comes a point when I have to set it aside – a pity, as I'm enjoying the challenge of modelling the clothes – and begin the slicing of the head. Guided by the tutor's instructions, I carve a line across the sculpture's scalp, behind the ears and down over each shoulder. With my plastic scalpel, I then sever the face from the back of the head. The terracotta by now has the consistency of chocolate fudge cake. I resist the urge to take a bite, though the professor tells us it is harmless and actually quite good for diarrhoea.

Assisted by my neighbour, I prise the back of the head from the stand and we score the edges. The glue that will bind the halves back together is called 'slip'. This is made from small pieces of clay softened to a sludge in a dish of water. We apply it with our fingers, a messy business.

I now pull the front of the head free. This is a precarious operation, as it would be easy to flatten the ears or squash his nose at this point. We each take half, and literally stagger with the weight. It takes the two of us and the tutor to manoeuvre the two pieces back together and align them. The surrounding clay is used to 'stitch' up the gash: scoring, blending and smoothing until the halves mesh. Finally, we together heave the sculpture from the table and ease it back onto the wooden stand – minus the wire armature 'balloon' which would create havoc during firing.

I have some tidying up to do, in order to disguise the scar and deal with dents and scrapes. A bit of soft clay, some smudging with my fingertips, and 'Colin' is better than new. After the end-of-week show, he will sit in a corner to



dry for a month or two, before being removed from the stand and placed in a kiln at 1000 degrees. If he survives that, I will be able to travel to Edinburgh to collect him. The emphasis is very much on the 'if', as trapped air bubbles will cause the structure to explode. I take a few photos just in case.

We spend our afternoon adding final details and arranging the busts and figures in the exhibition hall. It's fascinating to see what students on the other courses that week have been up to - everything from Portrait Photography to Narrative Art. I find myself wondering what to try next summer.

As my classmates leave, I take a final look at our portrait sculptures, grouped on their pedestals at the far end of the hall, and feel just a little proud. Not only of my own, but the others too. By now they are all familiar faces. For a class of complete beginners, we haven't done badly at all. I take a final shot of the heads, each one lost in his own unfathomable thoughts, before heading off to scrub the last of the clay from under my fingernails and join the stream of office workers heading for Edinburgh Waverley.

*Nicki Brain*

**Do you do something creative or interesting in your spare time?**

**Email us at [magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk)**

# Geologist visits 'anthrax' island

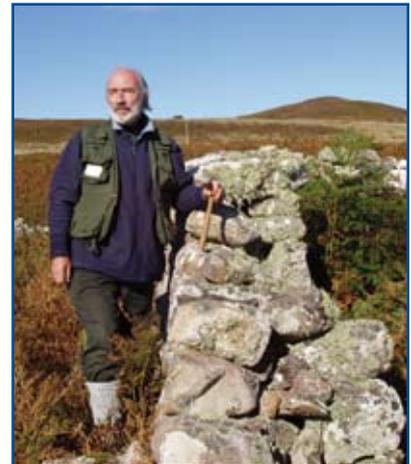
**Geologist Richard Batchelor from the School of Geography & Geosciences visited Gruinard Island (20km west of Ullapool) recently, as part of his investigations into the Torridonian rocks of NW Scotland.**

The last time a geologist visited this island was in the 1880's when HM Cadell surveyed the northern half for the Geological Survey. This long absence was due to the fact that the island became "out-of-bounds" to the public following its acquisition by the Ministry of Defence for testing biological warfare weapons. In 1942, bombs containing anthrax spores were exploded on the island and its deadly effects were monitored using a flock of sheep, all of which died within days. The island remained quarantined until 1986 when the whole island was disinfected by spraying with formaldehyde solution.

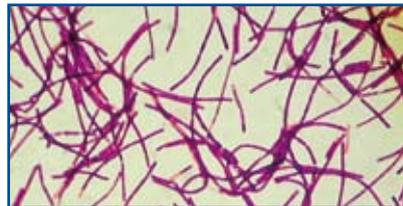
In 1990, the island was proclaimed 'clean' and the warning signs were removed. Sheep grazing on the island since then have shown no ill-effects. Also a healthy population of rabbits feeds a resident group of sea eagles, three of which were seen on this visit.

Richard chartered a boat locally which took him to the uninhabited island where he spent his time scrambling over the foreshore on the south and east coasts looking for elusive volcanic ashes in monotonous red sandstones and finer siltstones of Torridonian age. He didn't find any but he was able to make some general observations about the rocks which are not recorded in the geological archives in Edinburgh.

On the day of the visit, the sun shone and, with little wind, the sea was flat and calm - perfect conditions for jumping in and out of an inflatable dinghy! Progress was only temporarily hindered by forests of kelp close to shore.



Richard by the bothy enclosure, Gruinard Island



Anthrax bacteria

Taking advantage of the boat, he also landed at Cailleach Head at the head of Little Loch Broom, a place difficult of access over land, and collected more rocks.

Richard would like to thank Jane McClay (owner) for permission to visit Gruinard Island and Richard Ross for boat hire and helpful assistance during multiple landings. The work is funded by The Leverhulme Trust.



Gruinard Island (top left) lies in Gruinard Bay



Leaving the island



Old warning sign

# Musical notes

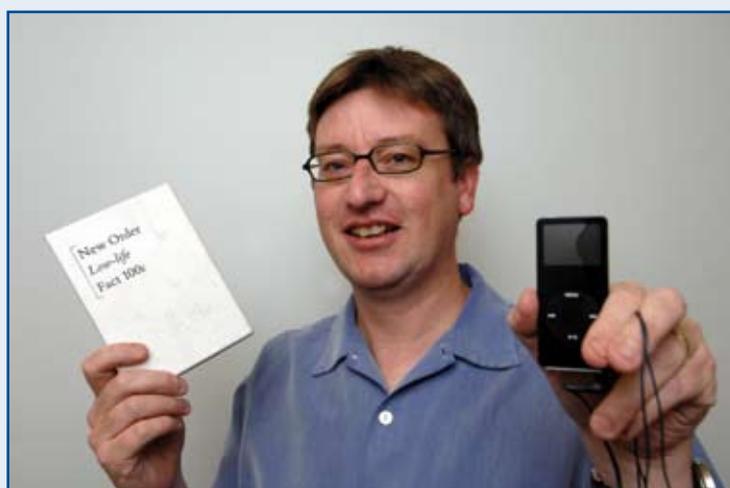
Do you have a soundtrack to your life? Is there one song that always cheers you up, makes you sad or reminds you of days gone by? What tunes inspire you, relax you or get you in the mood?

From what they listen to at work, home, in the car or on holiday, *The StAndard* asks members of staff to name their top ten tracks of all time. Send yours to [magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk)

**NAME:** Sandy Wilkie

**POSITION:** Staff Development Manager

1. *The Last Goodbye* by Jeff Buckley - taken from the 1999 album *Grace*, illustrates what a superb vocal talent this guy was. Sadly, like his dad Tim, didn't live longer to prove himself.
2. *Ratts of the Capital* by Mogwai - I first heard this 'post-rock' band live at a Tsunami benefit concert in 2005 and thought "wow". I saw them again at the wonderful new Connect Festival at Inverary Castle in the Autumn. They atmospherically upstaged Primal Scream.
3. *Wanderlust* by David Sylvian - laid-back, kind of Sunday afternoon track from the ex-lead singer of Japan. Taken from his 1999 solo album, *Dead Bees on a Cake*. Strange album title, but good music with lots of world influences.
4. *The State I'm In* by Belle and Sebastian - Glasgow's West-End finest collective, capturing the essence of what it means to drink coffee in Ashton Lane on Saturday morning and be looking forward to the Partick Thistle game.
5. *Accidental Babies* by Damien Rice - from the 2006 album *9*, this Irish singer songwriter at his best. Lyrics lay his soul bare, but take your breath away.
6. *Kelvingrove Baby* by The Bathers - what, a baby theme? Er no, but I did go to the same school as the lead singer Chris Thomson. As did our very own Derek Watson. Allegedly.
7. *Wickerman* by Pulp - enigmatic and engaging when they played live. Their midsummer gig played in the trees at Roseisle Forest, June 2002, was one of the most atmospheric concerts I have been at. Jarvis Cocker, great story-teller with such a dry, observational sense of humour and a real sense of place.
8. *Jigsaw falling into Place* by Radiohead - superb track off the new download-only album *In Rainbows*. Stunning return to form.
9. *Postcard* by Eddi Reader - this hugely under-rated artist can truly sing, I first saw her live in the grand architectural surroundings of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh.
10. *This Time of Night* by New Order - great track from the 1985 album *Low Life*. This album typifies Tony Wilson's Factory Label, ground breaking indie song writing with superbly designed album artwork. The album signalled the progression from darker moments of Joy Division towards the later electro pop of New Order.

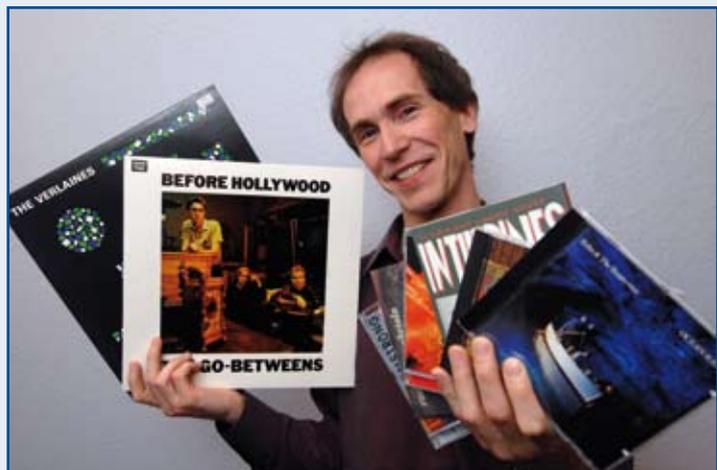


## PEOPLE

**NAME:** Duncan Stewart

**POSITION:** Graphic Designer/Illustrator, Reprographics Unit

1. *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Queen – A very unusual but hugely popular song. We didn't have a record player until I was 10 or 11 and this was one of the first singles I bought. It still sounds good to me now - and I can't say that about many of the records I bought then.
2. *The Killing Moon* by Echo and the Bunnymen – This is a band I followed during my last years at school and into college. The track I've chosen is from *Ocean Rain*, their excellent fourth album.
3. *Wendell Gee* by REM. I was introduced to this band by a friend from my Art and Design Foundation Year in Wales. *Fables of the Reconstruction* is one of their albums that I bought while still at college and *Wendell Gee* is the gorgeous closing track.
4. *Joed Out* by The Verlaines – This is my favourite track from *Ten o'clock in the Afternoon*, one of a handful of treasured records that I brought back from a 1985 holiday to New Zealand.
5. *Jerdacuttup Man* by The Triffids – This is a band Carol and I discovered at Art College in Dundee - through a video that formed part of an exhibition on Australian culture! *Jerdacuttup Man* is from the album *Calenture* but has just appeared in an excellent unpolished version on the re-issue of *In The Pines*. As far as I know, it's the best song to be inspired by an exhibit at the British Museum.
6. *Cattle and Cane* by The Go-Betweens – Shortly after leaving college, Carol and I shared a breakfast table at an Edinburgh B&B with a young Australian – “If you like The Triffids you should try listening to The Go-Betweens”. I didn't regret taking his advice (*Cattle and Cane* is from *Before Hollywood*, the first of many albums I went on to buy).
7. *Waterloo Sunset* by The Kinks – I only started listening to this group in the 90s and found there was a lot more to them than the well known singles. Probably only the Beatles have more great tunes hidden away on albums - but do they have any that start with the lyrical punch of *Muswell Hillbilly* (“Well I said goodbye to Rosie Rook this morning, I'm going to miss her bloodshot alcoholic eyes”). However, having said all that, my favourite just has to be that very well known classic single.
8. *Tight Like This* by Louis Armstrong – I'd always been aware of Louis Armstrong but hadn't been tempted to buy any of his recordings until watching the Ken Burns Jazz documentary. Since then I've bought and listened to quite a lot including the wonderful version of *Star Dust* that ran through the documentary series and a 1929 recording of *St Louis Blues* where it almost sounds as if he's inventing rock and roll. However, my favourite has to be *Tight Like This* which really does live up to the title 'hot' but seems to have originally been issued under the inappropriate sounding name of Louis Armstrong and his *Savoy Ballroom Five*.
9. *Diablo Rojo* by Rodrigo y Gabriela – With family in Yorkshire and Wales, Carol and I make quite a few long car journeys. The radio often helps pass the time but it's not often that a piece of music really grabs our attention (probably just as well for safety's sake). The fresh and exciting rock influenced Latin guitar instrumental of this Mexican duo was a definite exception. I could have chosen any track from the remarkable *Rodrigo y Gabriela* album but have selected the one that initially caught our attention.
10. Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, as performed by Fabio Bondi and Europa Galante – I'm still finding my way with classical music so selecting a piece is quite difficult. However, at the moment I think it would have to be this recording since it is the first piece I have re-bought purely in order to hear a different performance. This version is very vigorous and quite theatrical (sounding almost primitive in places) – definitely not background music.



# On the starting block

In this issue, *The StAndard* welcomes Andrew Disbury, Amanda Wilman and Leslie Bawden to their new posts...

## Andrew Disbury Director of Admissions

**Born in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, Andrew was principal lecturer in International Business at Sheffield Hallam University until December 2001. As one of four undergraduate programme heads in the Business School, his responsibilities primarily lay with part-time undergraduate courses, while also managing the student recruitment and marketing team.**

Recently relocating to St Andrews from Beijing, Andrew initially led the marketing team for 'Education UK' in mainland China and was instrumental in the dramatic explosion of Chinese students into UK Higher Education, which rose by up to 80% over the first two years. "But sadly I was not on performance-related pay," laments Andrew.

Also working out of offices in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chongqing, Andrew went on to become Director of Education China in 2003. "I was responsible for supporting and developing China-UK education policy, servicing annual education summits, as well as working with the Executive on Scotland's own bi-lateral education agreement with China, which was signed in 2005," he said.

In addition, Andrew ran a team delivering 'Education UK' marketing to Chinese students, as well as large-scale UK investment in education partnerships within China such as school links; HE collaboration; joint vocational projects; education leadership and management development. In 2005 Andrew's responsibilities extended to Hong Kong as well as mainland China.

Despite intending to remain in Beijing until 2009, Andrew spotted a vacancy at St Andrews in 2007. "I saw the job advertised and thought it was too good an opportunity to miss," he said. "I like the fact that student marketing, recruitment and admissions activity is located within one team, while also working closely with colleagues across the institution. I also thought St Andrews would be a good antidote to the mega-metropolis of Beijing."

Andrew is evidently relishing the challenges ahead – "St Andrews is clearly successful in recruiting students, but it doesn't mean to say that we can't do even better. There are aspects of our service that could be more efficient or more effective, and we can achieve even higher standards of customer service than we already do. I hope I can play a part in making a tangible difference for the students and also for the staff in my team."

Although Andrew has been in St Andrews for a relatively short period he has no regrets about his relocation to the east of Scotland. "It's been great so far. Everyone has been extremely welcoming and helpful, and my partner and I love living in Fife."



## PEOPLE

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### **Amanda Wilman** **University Court Co-ordinator**

**With a career as a professional secretary, organiser and problem solver spanning three countries, Amanda Wilman brings a host of unique skills to her new role as Court Co-ordinator.**

Amanda joins the University from the Artillery Centre on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire where she provided administrative support to the ceremonial head of the Royal Artillery (the Gunners), assisting with the distribution of charitable funds in support of the military including arranging ceremonial parades and functions.

Prior to that, she worked for the Chief Constable of Tayside Police during the G8 Summit in Gleneagles.

Born in Tidworth, Hampshire, Amanda said, "I was itching to earn money and live in London when I finished school so did not take my A-Levels to university (although I did consider a journalism course). My first job was as an Editorial Secretary for Teach Yourself Books in London and I then progressed through the London book publishing world before moving out to Pergamon Press (Oxford) and the Cambridge University Press".

Due to her husband's career as a military engineer and numerous postings abroad, Amanda's professional life has been extremely varied, with 23 house moves in 22 years.

"After marriage, my mobile lifestyle meant I had to find jobs wherever we lived. They have varied from supporting a lawyer for three rock stars to scheduling court martial, running an aromatherapy sales team and freelance reporting for a weekly paper".

So, the chance to settle in St Andrews was an appealing prospect for Amanda.

"After so many moves, the opportunity to settle in our own home in the lovely coastal hamlet of Kirkton of Balmerino near Newport-on-Tay, was the main attraction. My husband had previously commanded the University Officer Training Corps (UOTC) at St Andrews (with Dundee and Stirling) and this was how I was introduced to and impressed by the University. The chance to work 20 minutes from my home in a beautiful environment taking up a role that uses many of the skills I have worked hard to gain was too good to miss. I have really enjoyed my past work in governance in a historical setting and hope that working to develop a new role co-ordinating the work of the University Court of St Andrews will develop that interest further".



"It's fascinating learning how the Court works, particularly how work flows through the Committees and Councils of the University, while supporting the wide range of talented people who comprise members of the Court. I hope to become the approachable professional face of the Court Office for everyone, both in the University and the communities surrounding it. I'm getting lots of support though and already feel as though I am starting to belong. Do pop in and say hello to me if you read this and are passing by!"

### **Leslie Bawden** **Staff Development Officer**

**Although Leslie only joined the University's Staff Development team this summer, many will already have heard him talk of his "passion" for learning and development. "I genuinely love what I do in helping people to develop their knowledge, skills and experience. My role when delivering training is to inspire, enthuse and motivate people to change their behaviour because they want to and see a value and benefit in doing so, not because they have been told to."**

Born in Bristol, Leslie spent his formative years training for a life in professional football, which was sadly cut short by a serious knee injury. Recognising that he would have to follow a different career path, Leslie took up a role within the Civil Service in Bristol, eventually moving into Learning and Development for blue chip companies such as Alliance and Leicester, Barclays and Abbey.



With extensive experience in Training Needs Analysis (TNA), design, delivery and evaluation, Leslie is also a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, as well as a qualified financial advisor. Leslie quickly recognised that business performance is a crucial part of financial services, knowledge he put to great use while working with the Barclays team, increasing its sales performance by 30% over a 12 month period.

In 2004, Leslie and his wife decided to relocate to Fife from Berkshire. They bought the four-star guesthouse, Pinewood Country House in St Michaels.

“Our intention was to change our lifestyle and pace of life, and more importantly to spend more time with our two boys”, said Leslie. However, his natural enthusiasm for his profession resulted in Leslie setting up his own Learning and Development consultancy

‘2Imagine Ltd’, as well as running the guesthouse.

Leslie is enjoying the challenges of his new role - “It provides me with an excellent opportunity to develop my knowledge, skills and experience in an academic environment after having worked for so long in the private sector. Every job I have taken has developed me in some way and this will be no exception. I hope to bring some of my expertise to the Staff Development function at St Andrews but also to take away some of the things I will learn in my new role from the approach we take here. This fits with my philosophy that everyone should take responsibility for their own learning and that their learning should continue to help them develop, whatever their role.”

Part of Leslie’s new remit will be to review the induction programme - “I hope to encourage more new staff

to visit the online induction course, available through the WebCT system. There is a huge amount of information available here that will help new staff before and after they arrive here in St Andrews.”

In the relatively short period Leslie has been at the University, he has been delighted with the help and support he has received - “The old adages used in customer service training such as ‘first impressions are lasting impressions’ and ‘you never get a second chance to make a first impression’ are both very true. I am confident that the positive and enthusiastic feeling I gained when first joining the University will continue throughout my twelve-month stay at St Andrews.”

## Staff capture crumbling coastlines

**The photographic skills of two members of staff, together with a student, are being showcased in a rolling exhibition highlighting the country’s coastlines.**

Dr Simon Powis from the Bute Medical School won the over 18s category of the SCAPE (Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion) ‘Capturing the Coastline’ competition which appealed for entries illustrating Scotland’s heritage on the edge.

Dr Powis was singled out for his image of the old harbour at Cambo Sands, Kingsbarns. The image took around two hours to create, waiting for the perfect composition and for the tide to rise slightly. Dr Powis said, “To me, my image symbolises a type of loss, with the farthest rocks being almost completely submerged and out of reach, and the nearest under threat next.” Simon was awarded the top prize of £1,000.



Cambo Sands, Kingsbarns - Dr Simon Powis

# PEOPLE

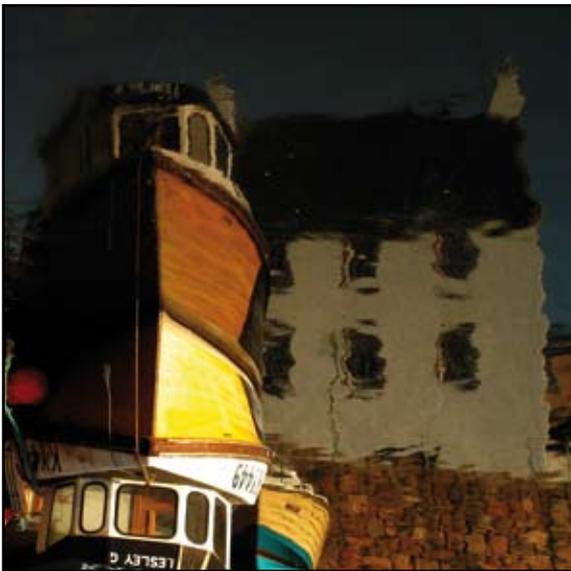
Meanwhile, puffins on the Isle of May were the inspiration of another winning entry (second place, over 18's) by Vicki Cormie, Academic Liaison Librarian (Science and Medicine). An additional image taken by Vicki was also selected for the exhibition.

Vicki, who won a three-day whisky-making experience at Bruichladdich Distillery on Islay said, "I was really excited to come second in the competition, I really had no expectation of winning anything and having another picture selected for the exhibition was just the icing on the cake. Although I have had a camera since someone gave me an old box Brownie when I was five or six, I only started taking pictures seriously a couple of years ago and just got my first DSLR camera this summer - so I very much still consider myself a beginner. Winning the whisky-making experience to Islay was a complete surprise - I hadn't looked at the prizes before I entered. I've had lots of volunteers from people wanting to come with me and carry my luggage!"

Finally, a runner-up prize (also over 18's category) went to student Amaury Triaud who captured a beautiful scene at Crail harbour.



**Puffins, Isle of May - Vicki Cormie**



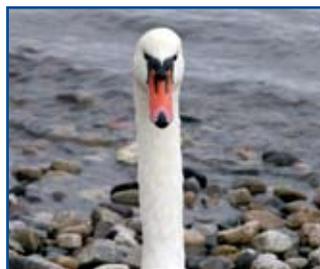
**Crail Harbour - Amaury Triaud**

An exhibition of the winning pictures is now on a Scottish tour, having launched at the National Trust for Scotland Headquarters in Edinburgh, visiting The Gateway in St Andrews from June until August next year, and ending up at Brodick Castle, Arran next autumn.

Based in the University's School of History and managed by Tom Dawson and Labhaoise McKenna, SCAPE seeks to research, conserve and promote the archaeology of Scotland's coast. SCAPE is particularly interested in remains that are threatened by coastal erosion and runs the award-winning Shorewatch project, which encourages and assists members of local communities to become involved in practical archaeology and help salvage threatened sites.

The competition judges were Colin Prior, one of Scotland's leading landscape photographers, Janette Harkness, deputy editor of *The Herald*, and Katinka Stentoft, web designer for SCAPE and curator at Kelvingrove Art Gallery in Glasgow.

**For more  
information visit  
[www.scapetrust.org](http://www.scapetrust.org)**



**Runners up in the same category**

**- Richard Addison**



**- Anna Dickie**



**- Ken Crossan**

# Friends of St Andrews University Library

By Dr Alice Crawford

**The Friends of St Andrews University Library will be launched in style on Thursday 8 November at 5.15pm in School VI with an inaugural lecture by Ronald Milne, Director of Scholarship and Collections at the British Library.**

The lecture will be entitled, *A Sure Foundation? Research Libraries in the Digital Age*.

The 'Friends' have been formed recently with the aim of promoting the Library's reputation and encouraging interest in its collections. Membership is open to both town and gown, and it is hoped that the group's activities will attract both current and former staff and students of the University as well as those with no formal university connection who simply enjoy using the Library.

The Friends' mission will be to support the Library in its acquisition of rare books, manuscripts and other valuable items it might not otherwise be able to afford. A programme of Friends events is currently being prepared, and will offer members lectures, visits, 'treasure tours' of the Special Collections Department and an annual reception.

The group is excited to have as its chairperson Professor Kay Redfield Jamison from Johns Hopkins University, who has been for some years an Honorary Professor in the School of English at St Andrews. She is looking forward to visiting annually to chair the meetings of the Friends' Committee. Mrs Christine Gascoigne (former Acting Librarian) will act as Vice-Chairperson and look after the business of the



**Some members of the Friends Committee (back row) Dr Alice Crawford, Dr Norman Reid, Dr Frank Quinault, Professor Robert Crawford and (front row) Mrs Christine Gascoigne and Dr Paula Martin**

Committee when Professor Jamison cannot be present. Mrs Frances Mullan (recently retired secretary from the School of English) has been appointed as Honorary Secretary, and Mr Jon Purcell, Director of Library Services, will be the group's Treasurer.

Annual Membership is £30 and life membership is £150.

The Friends are delighted to welcome Ronald Milne to St Andrews and look forward to an interesting lecture. His talk will be followed by wine and canapés in Lower College Hall.

Prior to taking up his post at the British Library earlier this year, Ronald Milne has worked extensively in the UK research library sector, and has held posts at the Universities of Glasgow,

Edinburgh and London as well as at Trinity College Cambridge and the University of Oxford where he was Acting Director of University Library Services. He has been actively involved in the Google Library Project at Oxford and is currently Chair of the UK's National Preservation Office Board and of the Digital Preservation Coalition.

More information about the Friends is available on their webpage at [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/library/library/friends/](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/library/library/friends/) from which a Membership Application Form can be downloaded. All are welcome at the lecture. If you would like to attend the wine reception (cost £5 per person), a booking form is available from Dr Alice Crawford, Academic Liaison Librarian. [ac101@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:ac101@st-andrews.ac.uk)

## Academic to 'swim the Channel'

**Anne Fearfull, a lecturer at the School of Management aims to 'swim the Channel' for charity later this year.**

Anne, who is fundraising for the spinal injuries charity ASPIRE, will swap the chill of the English Channel for the Old Course pool in order to swim the equivalent of the English Channel (22 miles).

Anne has already met the requirements of the event having covered over 40 miles in training since mid-September. However, she intends to complete the swim in a single session, which will take approximately 13 hours, before December 9 this year.

The UK-wide event is organised by ASPIRE, who support the use of swimming pools to treat spinal injuries.

If they haven't already done so, colleagues can sponsor Anne, or find out more information, by visiting the following website: [www.justgiving.com/annefearfull](http://www.justgiving.com/annefearfull)

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## Retirals

**Jim Douglas**, Assistant Facilities Manager and Bedellus, retired at the end of September. Jim joined the University in January 1987 as Senior Janitor at St Mary's College. He was promoted to Head Janitor and Bedellus in July 1990 and to his current role with effect from June 2000.

Prior to his appointment at the University, Jim served 19 years with the Merchant Navy and six years with HM Coastguard. He is also a St Andrews alumnus, graduating in 2000 with an MA. Jim is a well-known face around the University as his role has brought him into contact with a large number of staff and students over the years.

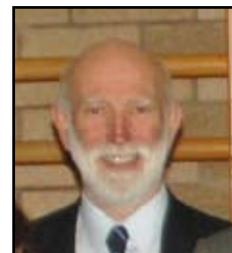
*The StAndard extends a special thank-you to Jim, an editorial board member, for his contribution to its content over the years.*



**Neil Dumbleton**, formerly University Librarian and latterly part of the SALTIRE team, retired at the end of August after 24 years' service with the University.

Neil joined the University Library as Associate Librarian in 1983, having held posts at York University Library and the Open University Library. Appointed University Librarian in 1989, Neil continued to develop the Library's automation project and laid the foundations for SAULCAT and for the migration from print to electronic resources. Neil joined SALTIRE in March 2004, working for the unit part-time while still engaged on various projects for the Library.

**Martin Farrally** has taken early retirement from his position of Director of Sport and Exercise, after 21 years service. Martin came to the University from Jordanhill College in 1986 and, under his leadership, the unit of Sport and Exercise has moved on significantly over the years. A strong advocate of student sport at all levels Martin has done a great deal to improve the quality of programmes and services on offer to students and employees of the University. He has been involved with students as a teacher, coach, scientist and mentor, none more so than with enhancing the Golf Bursary Scheme and individual golf bursars. Recent developments include the development of a coordinated Strategy for Sport with the Athletic Union. Martin will continue his University association by retaining his administration of the Golf Bursary Scheme and teaching on the Sport and Exercise modules in the School of Biology.



**Hamish Johnston** has taken early retirement from his post as Head of Support Services, after 32 years with the University. A graduate in hotel and catering administration from Portsmouth Polytechnic, Hamish joined the University in 1975 as assistant domestic bursar. Latterly, as Head of Support Services, he was responsible for over 300 members of catering and housekeeping staff and a key figure in dozens of graduations, formal dinners and six Open championships.

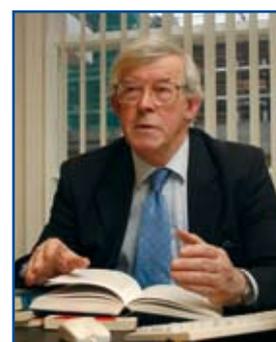
**Alex McHardy**, Media Services Officer with Residential and Business Services, has taken early retirement after 29 years' service. Alex, who left at the end of September, joined the University in February 1978 as Technical Manager of the Crawford Arts Centre. His role expanded as the need for AV requirements increased throughout many areas of University life, including lecture theatres, public events and conference venues.



**Frank Quinault** retired from the University at the end of September 2007.

Frank came to St Andrews in 1972, as a Lecturer in Psychology, and was promoted to a Senior Lectureship 15 years later. During that time he also helped with the training of new lecturers, shed some light on first year failure rates and pioneered the active recruitment of overseas students. He became Assistant Principal for External Affairs in 1987, with particular responsibility for alumni relations and for fundraising, then Hebdomadar in 1994, with responsibility for student welfare and discipline, and finally founding Director of SALTIRE in 2001.

**Professor Paul Wilkinson** of the School of International Relations retired at the end of August. Paul arrived at the University in 1989 to become its first Professor of International Relations. During his time here, the School experienced a huge expansion in staff and student numbers, and Paul played a significant role in this. He was a popular teacher and mentor, and has also been highly instrumental in the development of the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence.



# A Sporting Mecca!

**Summer 2007 was an exciting time for both town and gown with the arrival of footballing giants Barcelona FC. But it wasn't all glitz and glamour - for the weeks beforehand, staff were working hard behind the scenes and pulled out all the stops to make it a particularly successful summer for the University Sports Centre.**

**John Scott, Acting Director of the Department of Sport and Exercise, describes how the summer's events succeeded in raising the flag for sport in St Andrews.**

Combine some pleasant Scottish weather in an ambient and peaceful setting with potentially premier-standard playing pitches, and you have in part what it takes to attract top sports teams in rugby, soccer and other sports for pre-season training.

These features, allied with easy access in a small University town with a world-class reputation and a wide range of accommodation levels, gives you the appropriate ingredients for a very marketable product. Such has been the rationale behind the Department of Sport and Exercise's forays into the external market place over a number of years, and with considerable success.



**Alex Salmond being presented with a Barcelona shirt**

The likes of Wigan FC, Southampton FC, Birmingham City FC, Preston North End FC are among several well-known football clubs who have visited in the past few years. Ulster Rugby visited in July 2005 and 2006, along with Glasgow Hawks and Stewart's Melville this year, and the Scottish national rugby and Scottish national soccer team are frequent visitors.

Aside from these household names there has been a plethora of lesser well-known clubs, international events and teams who have visited. Perhaps one of the earliest fore-runners of these was the World Ultimate Club Championships when 89 teams and 1800 players descended on St Andrews in 1999 demanding sixteen Ultimate pitches. Since most of us had never even heard of this sport we quickly had to acquire the pitch dimensions and plan the sixteen pitches which were subsequently played on from dawn to dusk over six days, the only cessation in play being during the eclipse of the moon!



**Scotland's Rory Lawson**

So whilst it was no great surprise to hear that Barcelona FC was interested in moving from their usual pre-season training base in Denmark to Scotland, it was with some trepidation that no confirmation of their impending visit was reached until early May of this year. With only some ten weeks to their arrival and with a series of remedial and upgrading actions required of the pitches and local infrastructure, it was a tall order on the University's groundstaff and contractors. Suffice to say that a new piped water supply was installed, the pitches were scarified, weedkilled, top dressed, verti-drained and verti-seeded and with plenty of divine intervention and some unseasonal mizzly weather, the pitches were in pristine playing condition with adequate 'zip and pace' to the liking of Xavi, Ronaldinho, Henry, Eto'o and the rest of the Barcelona squad.

Apart from the playing surface demands, there were many matters which lay outwith the normal procedure for the visit of a sports group: security of players, security of player boots... imagine the price of Ronaldinho's boots on ebay... , the security and safety of the players, controlled access to the playing surfaces, overnight security of the pitches and kit store, highway safety and parking on the local streets, protection of University property, good location for 25 TV crews and 110 media, access to players for interviews, pitch surround sponsorship, stewarding, the flying of the University flag on the Carnegie flagpole - last done in the 1970s – and finally, procedures and protocol occasioned by the visit of the First Minister, Alex Salmond, revisiting his alma mater.

In all of this, there was great support from a whole variety of University staff, including janitors, groundstaff, security and the Corporate Communications team, working together to ensure that the expectations of Barcelona were exceeded. Fife Police provided invaluable support and advice throughout.

Will Barcelona be returning? There is no doubt that the visit of Barcelona, whether they return or not, did wonders for the local economy and Fife generally.

#### **Professor Keith Brown with Ronaldinho and Ruud Gullit**



In terms of day visitors alone, there were buses coming from as far afield as Motherwell and Glasgow. Perhaps the saddest story, and hopefully the only one, related to a mother and her seven year old son, a Barca club member, who had travelled from Hull on a day's visit. Having arrived too late for the morning training session and having asked when Barca were training later that day, they were told that the Thursday afternoon session was cancelled due to an evening match against Dundee United.

In the course of the two weeks in late July to early August in which Barcelona visited St Andrews, the Scottish Rugby team trained the following week, the Women's British Open took place with players using the University fitness suite, and two English Division 1 clubs visited for pre-season training; there were also ten other external soccer teams including two from the States who played on the University pitches and three international summer schools, for whom sports play is an afternoon 'must'.

This town is a hidden gem of an oasis for a diverse range of sports teams, golf has been long established, and now that Barcelona has visited, the publicity from the media presence of 110 reporters and 20 TV crews will no doubt encourage a greater interest from the sports industry, further enhancing the local economy and the growth of sports tourism publicity for the University.

The potential for the growth of sports tourism in St Andrews is substantial in view of a number of present and future external factors:

- 2012 Olympics and the acclimatisation needs by various international teams;
- The spin-off from the Glasgow bid and potential hosting of the 2014 Commonwealth Games;
- A number of European soccer tournaments at senior and youth level over the next few years, including the growth of pre-season tournaments;
- The need to escape from Southern Europe to cooler climes and play on surfaces which are not hard and of poor grass growth.



**Star players Thierry Henry and Ronaldinho**

In all of this potential development, there needs to be a match between the facilities required and those available and, whilst we may be able to cater for some sports, it is a limited range within the present facility base. It is likely that Barcelona will return along with other prestigious soccer teams but, despite some press claims, no agreement has yet been reached on future visits.

# Movie matters



## Mad about movies and keen to hear the latest tips for the best new film?

Perhaps you love catching up on the golden oldies or are trying to diversify into world or arthouse cinema. Whatever the case, if you love films and would like to learn from those who know more than most about movies, read on for *The StAndard's* 'DVD digest' ...

In each issue, members of the University's Centre for Film Studies will share their views with *StAndard* readers and recommend their pick of new and existing DVD releases. All titles will be available in the University's Library for staff and students to borrow.

### ***I Saw Ben Barka Get Killed (J'ai vu tuer Ben Barka) (Serge Le Péron, France, 2005)***

Cahiers du Cinema critic turned director Serge Le Péron establishes his cinephilic credentials early on by having his shady protagonist, Georges Figon (Charles Berling) narrate the film from the grave, Sunset Boulevard-style. At first glance a docudrama that relates the 1965 disappearance (and likely kidnapping and murder) of Moroccan exile, political idealist, and revolutionary, Mehdi Ben

Barka, *I Saw Ben Barka Get Killed* is clearly more. The film mixes actuality footage, references to filmmakers Jean Pierre Melville and Jean Rouch, and staged interview sequences to produce a highly-stylised political thriller with noir and documentary overtones.

The stylisation promises a polished and intriguing film, but the result is almost too cool. Throughout the film, characters repeatedly assert both the value of Ben Barka to the revolutionary promise of the 1960s and the tragedy of his loss. Yet, this loss is not felt, but only appreciated in the same manner

one appreciates the film's aesthetic: from unemotional distance. Ironically, the film suffers from an excess of exposition while failing to effectively provide historical context (needed for any younger or non-French viewers). All in all, the multiple film references, the multi-generic quality, and the powerful subject matter promise a richer viewing experience than is ultimately delivered. Nonetheless, failure to transcend seems an unfair bar to set for this film, which above all, remains a solid and entertaining affair.

**Dr Leshu Torchin**

### ***Ten Canoes (Rolf de Meer/Peter Djigirr, Australia, 2006)***

This Australian film is extremely enjoyable. An engaging meditation on traditional aboriginal culture and in particular its story telling tradition, it is far from pretentious. The opening's light-hearted fart gags endear you to the protagonists without being gross, and the tale of a tale being told is handled masterfully, avoiding the tediousness of many European art house films that experiment with voiceover and reflexivity. Nor is there any sign of the blatant exoticising of a violent, "primitive" past seen in Mel Gibson's Mayan action film, *Apocalypto* (2006). Instead, in *Ten Canoes* aboriginal identity is historicized by the intertwining of two fictionalised moments, loosely set in the historical past. The "unvoiced" suggestion captured in the film's beautiful imagery is that it is creating the same interplay between past and present as the fictional storyteller did in the story being told in the past, and in this way is also keeping the indigenous past alive in the present.

The film is visually stunning. The way *Ten Canoes* depicts the landscape in its cinematography, especially the stillness of bodies in the frame, is easily on a par with classics of African cinema like Idrissa Ouedraogo's *Tilai* (1990). In fact, perhaps the best compliment I can pay this excellent film is that in its post-colonial cinematic exploration of a minority people, and its focus on the preservation of the past in the oral storytelling tradition, it is reminiscent of the already canonised feature films – from *Xala* (1975) to *Moolaadé* (2004) – of the late great father of African cinema, Senegal's *Ousmane Sembene*.

**Dr David Martin-Jones**

### ***Dans Paris (In Paris, Christopher Honoré, France, 2006)***

French art cinema is alive and well. To enjoy this slightly pretentious but sincerely touching comedy-drama you must accept the rules of the game and follow Jonathan (Louis Garrel), our

irresistible self-appointed guide through the story. On first look, *Dans Paris* is a simple tale about the sentimental hazards affecting two young brothers who cope in different ways with loss and family memories. Paul (Romain Duris) is emotionally paralysed after his recent break-up with Anna (Joanna Preiss). Jonathan is an energetic seducer who roams the city in pursuit of fleeting

encounters with women. The pleasure of the game largely stems from the cinematic world the film is trying— successfully— to evoke at every turn: a former period in French cinema known as the New Wave, which flourished in the 1960s with innovative films set against the vibrant backdrop of post-war Paris.

The film's dialogue with the past is embedded in multiple self-distancing devices which are the trademark of 1960s filmmaking: from Jonathan's direct address to the camera, seeking the complicity of us as spectators, to an emotional phone conversation that suddenly turns into a musical duet (and which nicely connects with Honoré's latest offering: a fully-fledged musical

entitled *Les Chansons d'amour/Love Songs*, screened at the last Edinburgh Film Festival). These formal games enhance the emotional impact of a film that can be best enjoyed as an intimate, ironic drama posing valuable questions about the nature of family bonds and the fragility of romantic relationships. This is not to mention the portrait of Parisian life far from tourist clichés and

the highly-charged performances of two of the hottest up-and-coming French actors: Duris (*Pot Luck; The Beat that My Heart Skipped*) and Garrel (already seen in another film reminiscent of the 1960s: Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Dreamers*). Give it a try if you are in the mood for a quirky, yet engaging, European film: an exquisite bite of the French New Wave—reloaded.

Dr Belén Vidal

## Guess where?

Again, we take a closer look at some of the town and gown's most distinctive features – can you guess what it is yet?  
Answers on page 45

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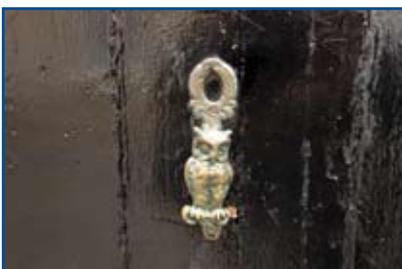
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# “The Student Experience” at St Andrews

by Chris Lusk, Director of Student Services and The Student Experience

**Most students at the University consistently rate the St Andrews experience very highly. The National Student survey named us the top mainstream university in the UK, placing us second only after the Open University. So, whatever the essence of their time here, students think we are doing something right.**

Articulating what that experience means is, however, a complex task. It is idiosyncratic; it is varied, eccentric, and personal to each student. We have asked students why they chose this institution, and how they would describe the experience of being here to someone else. We have also asked what they would like to see different about the experience in ten years' time, for we are determined not to lose our edge. One thing comes over clearly: life at this University is very different from any other in the UK.

What we've been told so far is that students feel part of the life here; that an offer from St Andrews is an offer for life. The Student Experience Office gathers feedback, monitors opinion, ensures that people are nurtured and that the experience itself is protected. Staff engage with students on a regular basis and listen to their understanding of what life is really like. We know that this is a very special community and we do not take it for granted.

Life here has, at its core, a fundamental teaching system of an excellent standard. That is a given requirement.

But it is the additional experiences that can make the difference between us and other institutions of high calibre. Enjoying the sense of community in a hall of residence. Taking moonlit walks along the beach. The culture of 'Balls', which are diverse – everything from taffeta gowns and dressing like James Bond to bopping with the Pigeon Detectives and KT Tunstall live. We have 110 student societies – more than any other university in Scotland – focusing around anything from Debating and Hillwalking to Tiddlywinks and the Tunnock's Caramel Wafers Appreciation Society! The Sports Experience is a crucial core of the University that sees over 50% of the students signed up to the Sports Centre and our performance athletes competing all over the UK.

Being a small university, students have a real chance to integrate and to feel a sense of belonging. They are active in politics, in volunteering locally and in playing a governance role in how their services are run. We celebrate our student diversity, with more international countries represented than any other Scottish institution.



October 6-12 marked the 'Student Experience Week' when two strands of activity took place. Firstly we harvested opinion on a scale not known before. We held 42 Focus Groups with students. We surveyed all 7,000 current students and 12,000 alumni. We pulled together a Past Student Presidents' Seminar. We tried to find out more about the actual essence of this place. What did people actually think about it and, what's more important, what has to change in the next ten years and what has to stay the same?

Secondly we celebrated the experience. Students and Heads of Schools and Units were asked to nominate people within their areas who had 'gone the extra mile' for students over the years. And there were many of them. Secretaries, cleaners, janitors, and tutors. Stories came forward of students being cared for when ill, students being advised out of hours, or being cheered up. One student described how the staff here had made him feel this was his home and that's why he came here, stayed and would recommend it to others.





So a strand of the Student Experience Week had to celebrate the fun and the life that students had – and to say a big ‘thank you’ to the staff who made it possible. They don’t have to do some of the things they do...and the students appreciate it.

We believe that if, as a student, you are happy in your living environment, if you feel integrated socially, if you have clear expectations which are met and feel supported throughout, then you will go on to expand your learning much further. You will live the Student

Experience here and will take away with you a time in which you have gained life skills, lifelong friends, social contacts, and confidence, with a love of learning to carry with you throughout your life. That allows the offer from St Andrews to be an offer for life.



## A league of our own

By Dr Brian Lang, Principal and Vice-Chancellor



**The high standards St Andrews has been achieving in teaching, research and the way we look after our students have been recognised in the remarkably good positions we have been accorded in this year’s batch of university league tables.**

We had been climbing steadily over the past few years but, this year, we did better than ever, being placed consistently among the top 5 or 6 UK universities. As one newspaper put it, we are the only university outside the ‘golden triangle’ of Oxford, Cambridge and London, to break into that small group of top universities. Everyone who works in the University, whether in a laboratory or a lecture theatre, a hall of residence or an office, should be incredibly proud of what we have done together, in this terrific team effort.

We need to be aware, though, that these newspaper features are not universally popular with some academics or, come to that, some universities. Errors abound (as we know – last year a reputable daily gave us a very high rating for our engineering teaching) and some of the statistics that are used look very suspect and capable of alternative interpretation. Most criticism comes, though, from those universities that do less well in the tables and there are frequent attempts to criticise on the basis that they are not good for the morale of the ‘poorer performers’. Contra to that, critics of those critics suggest that such remarks come from the same outlook that banned competitive sport in schools. Perhaps some critics are still uncomfortable with the notion that institutions of higher education might be in competition with one another, or that we should entertain the idea of ‘performance’ – and hence my inverted commas above.

It is fundamental that universities are not businesses. Universities exist for the public good, to create new knowledge, to disseminate knowledge, to educate and to foster learning. Research must go hand in hand with teaching; universities do not exist for the purpose of making money. However, it is equally fundamental that universities must be financially sustainable; staff must be paid, students provided for, laboratories, libraries and lecture theatres must be properly maintained and new facilities have to be built to ensure fitness for purpose as thinking develops and new ways of working steadily evolve. Expectations always grow, too. Universities have to be efficient and effective in whatever they do, and to retain capacity for planning for the future they must return healthy cash surpluses year on year to permit affordable borrowing and investment. So while universities are not businesses, they have to be business-like.

Furthermore, it is a fact of academic life that universities compete with one

another, for the best staff, students, research grants and donations. Scotland’s universities have been very creative, however, at finding ways to improve the contribution they are making to Scotland by finding ever-inventive new ways of collaborating with one another, such as the recent ‘pooling’ arrangements for research in some subjects. Numerous joint degrees and courses are available. The notion of competition can be, thankfully, substantially modified. Government seems to have several minds about the desirability of inter-university competition. On the one hand, research councils disburse their funds on an unashamedly judgemental basis, to ensure that the best research projects get the cash they need. While the Scottish Funding Council operates mainly by distributing resources to universities on the basis of a number of complex formulae, it has distributed strategic change grants, and research grants, by choosing what they have considered the best proposals. The quinquennial (or so) Research Assessment Exercise is a ranking exercise that has massive financial implications for the income universities receive from the funding councils. For purposes of quality assurance in teaching and learning, though, the quango that oversees this and inspects universities to ensure standards are maintained uses a marking system that is designed quite specifically to prevent ‘league tables’ of teaching quality being constructed. One effect is that we toiled for almost three years before our 2006 ELIR inspection to get all our assurance processes in place, with appropriate backing in voluminous documentation, staff trained (and rehearsed) for the arrival of the team of inspectors, only to be granted the less-than-confidence-inspiring or enthusiastic ‘top mark’ of what is referred to in the final report as ‘broad confidence.’ “Is that it?” colleagues asked when told that they had done all that could be expected of them during the inspection and been given a good, clean bill of teaching

health. Hard working, dedicated and high-performing people need and want to be recognised as such, and deserve praise when it is their due. When performance is measured, as is increasingly the case in universities, then an honest and complete account of relative performance should follow. Now that the notions of performance are embedded in the way good universities operate, and think about themselves, then poor performance as well as good performance needs to be recognised. How else can we continue to improve?

And so back to the newspaper league tables. Whether or not these are regarded by government as politically correct (the signs point to not) they are closely examined by prospective applicants and their parents. At recruitment fairs in New Delhi and Shanghai, admissions staff from UK universities are interrogated on the significance of shifts of single places, and completion rates and library spends are ruthlessly and minutely compared. UK parents and applicants, too, watch *The Guardian*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Times* and all the other lists that are published, each deploying slightly different permutations and combinations of the available variables and the interpretative and descriptive comments that accompany them. Most Scottish universities, fortunately, tend to show up quite well in these league tables, despite feeling slightly guilty about taking pride in doing so. League tables are here to stay, they play a part in university choice, and help universities identify those areas of their activities that might need a bit of attention. They also make it clear where each university’s varying strengths lie and underline in the strongest way the increasing heterogeneity of what we mean today by ‘university’. But then I would say that, wouldn’t I? St Andrews does well and long may that continue. You all deserve the accolades and I am very proud of you. Thank you for a terrific performance.

# It's all academic

**What attracts leading academics to St Andrews and what makes them stay? This feature focuses on individual researchers, looking at their achievements so far and their hopes for the future.**

**This issue, we spoke to researchers in Late Mediaeval British history and animal behaviour.**

**NAME:** Katie Stevenson

**POSITION:** Lecturer in Late Mediaeval British History

**AREA/S OF RESEARCH:** Aristocratic and courtly culture in late mediaeval and early Renaissance Scotland, in particular the royal court, chivalry and officers of arms (heralds).

## WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE THIS FIELD OF RESEARCH?

A combination of factors led me to this area, rather than it being a choice *per se*. As an undergraduate at the University of Melbourne I took a lot of modules focusing upon chivalry in the Middle Ages. As a postgraduate at the University of Edinburgh, I was keen to use Scottish sources and, as they say, the sources spoke for themselves, and I found a research area that hadn't really been explored.

## WHY IS YOUR RESEARCH IMPORTANT?

Well, I don't think it is going to help reduce the world's carbon emissions ... but I suppose my research is indicative of a new wave of historians working on Scotland and its relations with Europe. The late Middle Ages and early Renaissance are periods of fascinating tensions, changes and developments throughout Europe in which Scotland not only had a (sometimes leading) role, but which also influenced the kingdom in terms of its political goals and cultural achievements. My research is important because I am able to add a further dimension to the political narrative which has only very recently been established for this period in Scotland. My work has been enthusiastically received by scholars from England to Argentina, so I feel happy that I am positively promoting the history of Scotland.

## WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT YOUR WORK?

The variety – no two days are the same! I love that one day I may be quietly working my way through a manuscript in an archive or library, and the next day lecturing to a theatre of 120. Plus the travel opportunities are excellent: going to France several times a year is fast becoming the norm, I get to visit places in the UK to which I might normally never go, and I've even been invited to speak in Sydney this coming year. (I'm still waiting for an invitation from the University of Hawaii ...)

## WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING FINDING YOU HAVE MADE?

It is difficult to pin this down to one specific item. Perhaps the most significant to me personally is the research that resulted in my first publication. In this I established that, contrary to popular belief, there was no order of chivalry in Scotland prior to 1687, when the Order of the Thistle was founded. Since then I take great pleasure in finding nuggets of information that I'm not quite sure what to do with yet. I have a very large file in my office marked 'interesting bits and pieces'.

## AND WHAT DEVELOPMENTS AND/OR CHALLENGES DO YOU FORESEE IN THE FUTURE?

The same challenges that all junior members of staff at the University face: regularly publishing high-quality research, teaching our increasingly demanding undergraduates, attracting more postgraduates and offering them more intensive training, and applying for (and ideally securing) major funding. It can be difficult maintaining the balance and separating work life from home. In terms of my research, my immediate challenge is to get on with my next book of the culture of the royal courts of late mediaeval and early Renaissance Scotland.



# GOWN

## WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO ST ANDREWS?

The School of History is the perfect place for a mediaeval historian of Scotland, as we have a large concentration of mediaevalists (and indeed even more mediaevalists throughout the University), as well as nearly a dozen people who work on Scotland specifically. Amongst the staff in my School are some of the leading historians of our time, and it is a privilege to work with them. St Andrews is a charming town and living in this part of Fife has so many benefits, although a Marks and Spencer Food Hall wouldn't go amiss ...



## AND WHAT MAKES YOU STAY HERE?

I think I am very lucky to wake up every day happy to go to work. After working in the 'real' world as a marketing manager post-PhD, and for a year dreading every day ahead, I realise just how important it is to enjoy your

job and to find the right workplace. For me, that's St Andrews. Many of my colleagues have become friends, with whom I spend a lot of social time as well. That is very important in a discipline where independent scholarship is standard. My research interests also complement those of

people working in my immediate field within the school, which makes for a productive and supportive research environment. St Andrews tries very hard to give staff a sense of community and, compared to other universities at which I have worked, the University does so successfully. Long may it continue!

**NAME:** Peter Slater

**POSITION:** Professor of Natural History

**AREA/S OF RESEARCH:** Animal behaviour, but especially communication using sound in birds and in mammals.

## WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE THIS FIELD OF RESEARCH?

As a boy I was a very keen bird watcher and spent a lot of my holidays in Orkney and Shetland where I developed a great love for the outside world. Zoology was the natural thing for me to study at university and I went to my local university in Edinburgh. As it turned out this was a fortunate choice as I was lucky enough to be taught animal behaviour by Aubrey Manning, an extremely charismatic teacher. I went on to do a PhD with him and, by then, my course was set.



## WHY IS YOUR RESEARCH IMPORTANT?

My research is pure research and I would not want to claim any direct

economic advantages for it. But, as with so much research, benefits can emerge unexpectedly and unpredictably. A lot of animal behaviour research has implications for conservation and

animal welfare. In the field of acoustics, the study of animals' reactions to sounds has helped in the devising of scaring devices, and individual differences between the calls of animals have made them useful in censusing techniques. But such direct benefits are rare. More indirect advantages are those we gain from our greater understanding of the natural world and the immense sense of wonder at its beauty and the extremely elegant phenomena to be found within it. No-one educated in biology can do other than be staggered at the extraordinary diversity of nature and impressed with the incontrovertible evidence that this has largely stemmed from the simple process of evolution through natural selection. It all fits together like a jigsaw: all we need to do is find the pieces and where they go. In a sense we are revealing a work of art, and anyone who watches natural history programmes on television is sampling this side of the work done by zoologists like me. But the enterprise is also a deadly serious one, given the large and increasing number of people in the world who do not base their view of the way the world works on evidence, something which threatens us all.

#### **WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT YOUR WORK?**

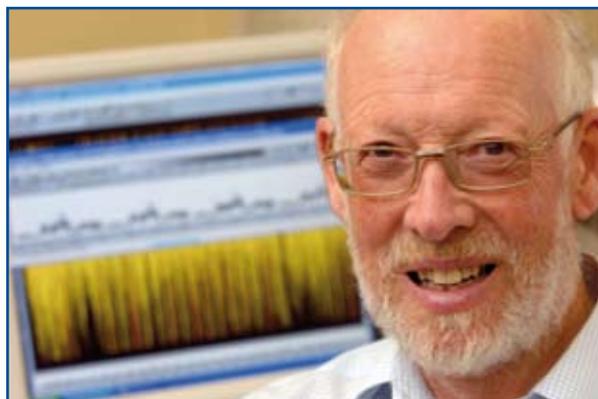
I am an immensely privileged person. The subjects I lecture on are ones that students find intrinsically interesting and challenging. For over 40 years now I have been able to teach them to classes of students that are amongst the brightest of their age group. They enjoy the subject and I enjoy telling them about it (it helps that it's a different class each year too: some of my jokes are also 40 years old!) Another wonderful aspect of my job has been the opportunities it has given me to go out in the field and study animals in the wild and this has taken me to some fantastic places. As a recent example, as part of our study of song in Latin American wrens, I needed to collect data on the Inca wren to see where it fitted into the picture. It only occurs in two or three valleys in the immediate vicinity of Machu Picchu, so I'm afraid I just had to go there!

#### **WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING FINDING YOU HAVE MADE?**

Much of animal behaviour research consists of nibbling away rather than making single sensational findings, like determining the structure of a molecule or solving an equation. A lot of my work in St Andrews has necessarily been in collaboration with others, especially when I was Head of School and Dean and the credit is mostly theirs - for finding that bird song is not nearly so energetically expensive as often supposed, for discovering in the plain-tailed wren what is arguably the most complex song ever described, for showing that birds, like humans, raise their voices when the audience is further away. These are just a few random recent examples. But a single finding in which I take some pride is the light we have shed on the mechanisms underlying the way in which the songs in populations of birds change in time and space simply because they learn their songs but don't always get it right. What looks like something very complicated is actually, when one looks closely, delightfully simple. At a more theoretical level, I think studies of bird song learning, such as those we've carried out on zebra finches, have done more than any others to show how development is a subtle interaction between nature and nurture in which both are of critical importance.

#### **AND WHAT DEVELOPMENTS AND/OR CHALLENGES DO YOU FORESEE IN THE FUTURE?**

For me, retirement looms, and that is a challenge in itself! But in my research field, perhaps the biggest



challenge is integrating the findings of molecular biology into animal behaviour. DNA fingerprinting has already done wonders in helping us to understand how relatedness influences the behaviour of animals towards one another. But this is within a species. DNA studies can also help us to understand how different species have evolved. This can be full of surprises. The central American wrens we work on were all thought to belong to a single group when we set out to study how their songs had evolved. Using molecular techniques we have shown that this is clearly not correct and that they belong to four separate groups, some quite unrelated to the others. But, knowing this helps us to make much more sense of the differences in their behaviour.

#### **WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO ST ANDREWS?**

Any zoologist worth the name would be immensely pleased to be appointed to a Chair of Natural History at an ancient Scottish university. There only are three of them, and that in St Andrews is arguably the oldest chair in the University. But as a Scot, who had spent 16 years in exile, it was also very much a home-coming.

#### **AND WHAT MAKES YOU STAY HERE?**

Why ever would one leave?

**Nominations or volunteers for this feature are welcome.**

**Email your suggestions to  
magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk**

# St Andrews and Tibet: historical links

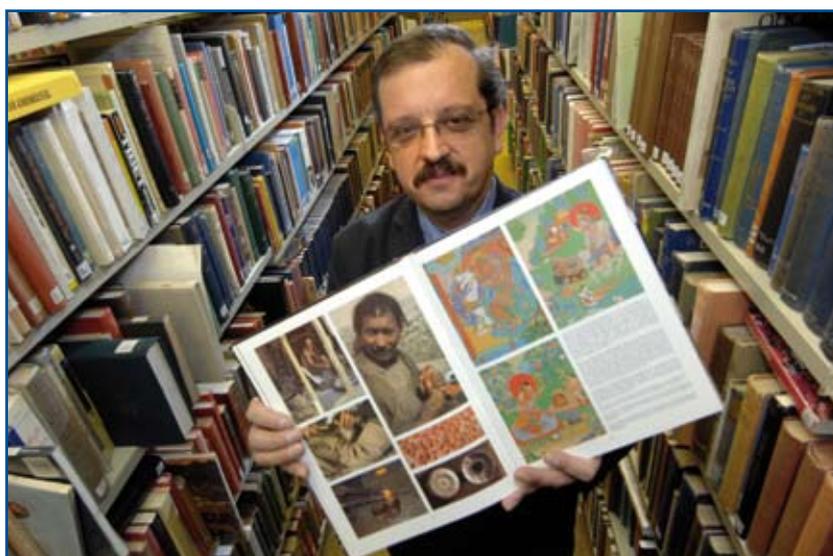
By Professor Mario I Aguilar (Centre for the Study of Religion and Politics)

In September 2007 the Centre for the Study of Religion and Politics (CSRP) of the University launched an ambitious programme of research on aspects of history, religion and politics of Tibet.

The project with the general title *Religion and Politics in Tibet 1391-2006* will look at different aspects of Tibetan history, and all history in Tibet is religious, for the next ten years. Supported by the Office of the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, an honorary graduate of this University (DD 1993), the success of the proposed project has surprised some quarters outside St Andrews because the University does not have a department of Buddhist Studies or of Asian Studies (though Buddhism is taught within the School of Divinity).

It has been through the planning of the project and the raising of research money that I discovered why St Andrews is so well-known among Tibetans and how it has been linked to the history of Tibet during the twentieth century. This discovery began in July 2007 when I visited the Tibetan Peace Garden in London. Located beside the Imperial War Museum, it was opened by the Dalai Lama in May 1999 and constitutes a peaceful place where Tibetan and Chinese writings speak of peace and of a common humanity ([www.tibet-foundation.org/ac/tpg.php](http://www.tibet-foundation.org/ac/tpg.php)). Beside it there are a couple of trees planted in remembrance of the disappeared of Chile, the subject of some of my previous research. It was at the Tibetan Peace Garden that the research project started. After my visit to the Tibetan Peace Garden I visited the British Museum where many Tibetan artefacts are deposited and I also made enquiries at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, London) where there are experts on Tibetan language and Tibetan Buddhism and in whose library there is a very special collection of historical manuscripts related to Tibet.

Once I returned to St Andrews I decided to check the availability of books on Tibet in our library. I was amazed;



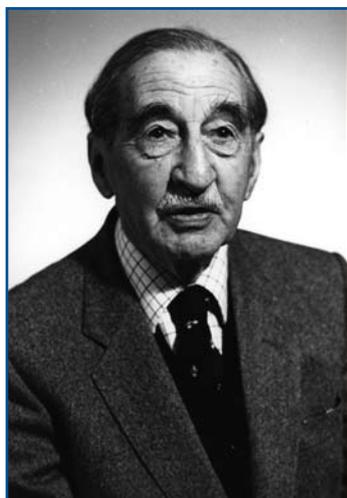
Professor Mario Aguilar

the library had a superb collection of Tibetan books and one name was mentioned in every book and by every expert with whom I had talked about the possibility of the project: the name was Hugh Richardson. Whenever I identified myself as working and living in St Andrews a person would say: 'Isn't that the place where Hugh Richardson retired to?'

Hugh Richardson (1905-2000), an honorary graduate of this University, was born in St Andrews on 22 December 1905. He was educated at St Salvator's School, St Andrews in what is now the Scores Hotel and Trinity College, Glenalmond, and studied Classics at Keble College, Oxford. After briefly teaching at Glenalmond he joined the civil service in 1930. His first post was to Bengal where he resided between 1932 and 1934. It was at that remote post that his interest in Tibet began. He started learning Tibetan language from a servant and in 1933 he ventured for the first time into Tibet via

the Indian border. In 1934 Richardson was posted as Assistant Political Agent to Loralai, Baluchistan, Pakistan under Basil Gould. It followed that when Gould was appointed Political Agent for Sikkim, Buthan and Tibet in 1935 he asked Richardson to take a post in Tibet. Richardson took up the post of trade agent in Gyantse and in August 1936 arrived as part of the British Mission to Lhasa. The mission included eight civil servants led by Gould and Richardson's job was to open channels of communication with the Tibetan administration in Lhasa and to advise on British-Tibetan foreign policy. In February 1937 all British personnel was moved back to India and Richardson remained as the British representative in Lhasa.

Hugh Richardson became the first European allowed to reside in Lhasa, capital of Tibet, where he represented the British colonial administration in India until the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1950. Thus, he resided in Lhasa from



**Hugh Richardson**

1936-1940 and 1947-1950. Richardson became fluent in Tibetan and felt at home among society in Lhasa. Strict diplomatic protocol didn't allow him to meet the young fourteenth Dalai Lama but they later met when the Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959.

Tibetan officials encouraged him to attend many ritual ceremonies and he visited several monasteries. His passion for gardening and golf are still remembered among Tibetans. He introduced golf to Tibet – he was a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews – even though he commented that “the ball tended to travel too far in the thin air”. He received an OBE in 1944 and a Companion of the Indian Empire (CIE) in 1947. He left Lhasa before the Chinese invasion and after a short period of service in Malaysia he returned to St Andrews where he married Huldah Rennie in 1951. His intention was to enjoy playing golf in St Andrews for the rest of his retirement; however as the Dalai Lama fled Tibet in 1959 he devoted the rest of his life to Tibetan scholarship and to brief international bodies that were discussing the Chinese invasion of Tibet.

His dedication to scholarship on Tibet gained him the title ‘the father of modern Tibetan studies’ and he wrote extensively on the history, culture and Tibetan society in general, see

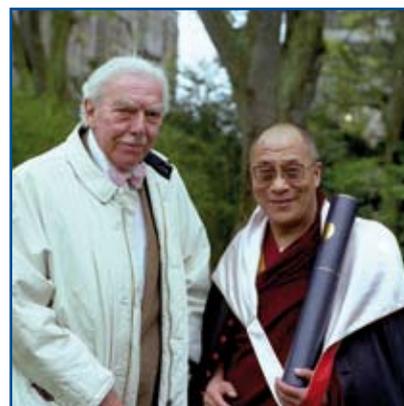
*A Cultural History of Tibet* (1986, co-authored with David Snellgrove); *Ceremonies of the Lhasa Year* (1993); and *High Peaks, Pure Earth* (1998), a collection of papers and articles, edited by Michael Aris. Richardson became one of the recognised experts on Tibetan history and his *Tibet and Its History* (Oxford University Press, 1962) remains a seminal work to understand Tibetan society as it was before the Chinese occupation. His photographic collection remains one of the few windows into Tibetan life during the twentieth century (see his photographic collection at [http://tibet.prm.ox.ac.uk/thumbnails\\_collection\\_Hugh+Richardson.html](http://tibet.prm.ox.ac.uk/thumbnails_collection_Hugh+Richardson.html)).

In 1985 the University of St Andrews conferred on him an honorary doctorate and he became Honorary Fellow of the British Academy (1986) and of Keble College, Oxford (1981). Richardson was generous with his book and manuscript donations to the University Library and I can say that we have one of the best collections of Tibetan books available in Scotland including a copy of the very exciting lectures that Richardson gave at Harvard University. Together with Professor David Snellgrove of (SOAS, London) Richardson was a founder-trustee of the Institute of Tibetan Studies in Tring. Richardson continued his support for Tibetan independence and he was a harsh critic of the British Government's position towards China after 1959; Richardson argued that Britain had been the only Western government to have had a diplomatic treaty with Tibet; however when it was needed the British Government didn't defend the Tibetan position of autonomy from China at the United Nations. In 1959 Richardson was instrumental in the foundation of the Tibet Society of the United Kingdom; an association that today sponsors young monks and orphans in Tibet and one of its aims is to support the study of Tibetan Buddhism and Tibetan culture and history in general.

Richardson died in St Andrews on 3 December 2000 after a long illness and on the day of his memorial service in

St Andrews traditional Tibetan butter lamps were lit at the sacred site of the Jokhang in Lhasa while the Dalai Lama wrote a personal letter to his family stating ‘I consider him not only a personal friend but also a very good friend of the Tibetan nation and its people ... And because he had lived in Tibet and known Tibet and the Tibetans intimately he was truly precious to us... With his death Tibet had lost one of its foremost champions ...’ [© Pitt-Rivers Museum, University of Oxford].

In my contacts with Tibetan charities, with the Tibetan Government in Exile and with Tibetans all over the world St Andrews has seemed familiar to those I have spoken to. Many of them associate St Andrews with Hugh Richardson's birth place and the place in which the Dalai Lama was honoured. As one Tibetan said: ‘Your project must be an auspicious one ... you are in St Andrews where Hugh Richardson “a friend of Tibet” was born!’ The next sentence in most cases was very auspicious to me: ‘what can we do to help you with the project?’ Indeed the help has been so generous that it will keep the memory of Hugh Richardson alive for ten years through the annual Tibetan lecture in honour of Hugh Richardson, a great honorary graduate of this University ... and it will keep me very busy as well – the research project is larger and better supported than what I wished for at the start of my planning at the Tibetan Peace Garden in London.



**Frank Muir - Rector - 1976 to 1979 and the Dalai Lama**

# Growing relations

**Just five years ago, the Department of International Relations consisted of a dozen members of staff based in the top floor of School III in St Salvador's Quadrangle.**



Even though the subject has been taught at the University for 25 years, it wasn't until a period of rapid expansion, combined with an ever-increasing student intake, that International Relations eventually became a School in its own right in 2003 (it was made a Department in 1990).

At that point the University was the first in Scotland to create a School of International Relations, and in 2007 it remains at the forefront of examining global issues to explain conflict and co-operation in the modern world.

With specialist areas in international security, peace and conflict studies, terrorism studies and international political theory, the School's research expertise spans a wide geographical region including Eastern and Central Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. Recent developments include the launch of an innovative distance learning degree in terrorism and the world's first Syrian research centre, while upcoming initiatives include an increasing Asian research focus and a collaboration with the School of Psychology and the Scottish Institute for Policing Research.

At the time of writing, seven new academic members of staff were about to join the 26 existing members of the School of International Relations, now happily housed together in the new purpose built Arts Faculty Building (they moved in September 2006). Despite the new £8M building's vast expansion of light-filled space, Head of School Dr Ali Watson points out they are 'almost full' already.

“It’s been a period of tremendous expansion,” she said. “One of the best things about the growth is that there are now a number of specialists in one area, where previously there might only have been one independent researcher working alone. It has allowed us to expand our range of knowledge and grow into groups who can collaborate on common areas of interest.” Ali continued, “What we have now is a dynamic research environment where new and young researchers are working with our more established senior academics to create real hubs of research. Our terrorism and security courses are extremely popular and we’ve always been strong in the Middle East, but we are also moving into much broader areas which have traditionally been seen as having a softer security focus, such as rights issues, and cutting edge critical theory work. Our research into peace and conflict is a focus for around a quarter of the School’s staff, while we have made some major inroads into research on Africa and the developing regions.

“Of course, there are also areas we would like to expand into, such as international law, but while we will continue to fine-tune our future development, it is unlikely we will see this level of expansion again,” she said.

Indeed, the new building has allowed IR staff to develop links with researchers from around the world in ways that were not possible before - with dedicated office space set aside for visiting scholars and new space for hosting workshops and seminars, the School has since been able to host visits from researchers from all around the world. Extra space has also allowed existing staff to spend time editing specialist journals from St Andrews.

And of course the new building has benefited staff from around the University. Ali explained, “It sounds like a cliché but the building really is fit for purpose. The lecture and meeting rooms are booked pretty solidly from

colleagues across the Arts and we’ve had a number of conferences from outside the University held here during the summer. But one of the most important things about the move is that we are now one School under the same roof, after a period of staff being housed in different temporary locations across the University.”

The School has expanded its interests in other ways too – it is developing reciprocal links with Georgetown University, and for the first time this year teaching staff took part in the Sutton Trust Summer School - which offers a free taster on university life to S5 school pupils – and the Head Start programme.

Those who do end up coming to study at St Andrews enjoy the fact that it is one of few universities in the UK to offer a Single Honours degree in the subject. With around 900 undergraduates (including a new intake this year of 305), the School also has a large and vibrant postgraduate community, with around 70 taught postgraduate and 50 research students in any year, many of them coming from overseas.

Existing and former students describe the School as ‘a fast-paced and friendly environment’ in which to learn about the world we inhabit. By studying each aspect of IR from world politics and geography to history, philosophy and social anthropology, students see it as a subject which bears ‘a real and present day relevance’.

“Our numbers of undergraduate students have doubled in the last seven years alone, which is in no small part due to the high profile and world-leading reputation of our staff, as well as the broad range of expertise that we have,” said Ali. “Combine this with the beauty of St Andrews and our new state-of-the-art building, our new students really do have a world-class environment in which to learn about global issues that concern us all.”

## Who’s who

The School’s 33 academic staff are supported by the administration team, which consists of seven secretaries covering all areas of teaching and research - including one dedicated E-learning appointment for the innovative distance learning degree – and a data manager for CSTPV / E-learning.

Researchers are drawn from a range of countries including Great Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the USA and Singapore, and are involved in a number of research Centres in the School, as well as collaboration with academics from other disciplines across the University. The Centres/Institutes housed within the School are:

**The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies** (CPCS, est. 2005) examines the relationship between conflict and the forms of ‘peace’ being created in conflict zones mainly in the developing world today. Geographical expertise covers Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Uganda, the Middle East, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, East Timor, the Balkans, Turkey and Cyprus.

**The Centre for Syrian Studies** (est. 2006) was set up to foster scholarship and dialogue about Syria and exchanges between Syrian and British scholars and others. It undertakes research on contemporary Syria, specifically, on economic and political reform and security and foreign policy issues.

**The Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence** (CSTPV, est. 1994) is one of the oldest and most respected centres in its field. It aims to investigate the roots of political violence and its impact, as well as responses to it, at societal, governmental and international levels.

The School also jointly directs (with the School of History), **The Institute of Middle Eastern, Central Asian and Caucasus Studies** (MECACs, est. 2004) which aims to stimulate interdisciplinary discourse, research and teaching on this geographic area.

Gayle Cook

# Research highlights

As we approach another year-end, *The StAndard* looks back on some of the stories that made the headlines this summer.

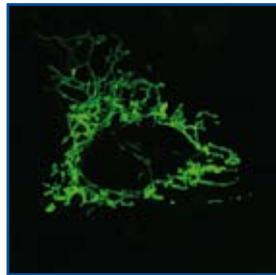
## The secrets of leadership

New research has found that leaders are most effective when they transform themselves into 'one of us'.

The School of Psychology report shatters the stereotype that 'good' leaders must have a specific set of qualities. Instead, it shows that leaders must embody the qualities and opinions of the group they seek to influence, even down to personal appearance. Professor Steve Reicher's research, a collaboration with the University of Exeter and the Australian National University, was published as the cover story of the journal *Scientific American Mind*.

## Reversing the signs of Alzheimer's

Biologists are one step further to finding a cure for Alzheimer's, thanks to the development of a compound which reverses signs of the disease.



ABAD protein



Dr Frank Gunn-Moore's (above) team, in collaboration with researchers in the US, have developed man-made compounds capable of blocking a nerve cell interaction known to lead to the symptoms of the disease. The researchers have shown that it is possible to reverse some of the signs associated with Alzheimer's.

## New insights into seal behaviour

An international team of scientists led by the University of St Andrews has witnessed for the first time the behaviour of the southern elephant seal and its interactions with its physical environment.

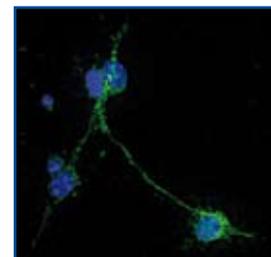
Professor Mike Fedak and Dr Martin Biuw, marine biologists with the Sea Mammal Research Unit, collaborated with the British Antarctic Survey and a number of international bodies to track the movement of 85 seals using new sensor technology. The study, which also collected data about the marine environment, could be fundamental in predicting how seals may respond to future climate change.



## Study into 'recipe' for breast cancer

Scientists have also been awarded funding to investigate a potential new method of treating breast cancer.

Professor Richard Iggo and Dr Frank Gunn-Moore are among a group of eight scientists in Scotland to receive a share of £510,000 from the Breast Cancer Campaign. The funding will allow the St Andrews researchers to launch a one-year pilot study into a protein called NrCAM found in breast cancer cells.



NrCAM protein

## Orangutan charades



Orangutans communicate as if they were playing charades, according to more School of Psychology research.

When using gestures to get their points across, orangutans rely on the same basic strategy that humans follow when playing the popular game and intentionally modify or repeat hand (or other) signals based on the success or failure of their first attempt.

Professor Richard Byrne's findings were published in a recent edition of *Current Biology*.



## Young adult suicide 'cluster' found in Scotland

Suicide rates in young adults have increased dramatically in Scotland's most deprived areas, according to new research from our health geographers.

The study by PhD student Dr Daniel Exeter and Professor Paul Boyle is the first in the world to identify a 'persistent, and remarkably consistent' geographical 'cluster' of young adult suicide. The cluster is focused on East Glasgow.

The findings build on other recent research which found that, during the two decades 1980-2000, young people (aged 15-44) in Scotland's poorest areas became more than four times as likely to commit suicide than those in its least deprived areas.

## Scientist float levitation theory



**Professor  
Ulf Leonhardt**

St Andrews scientists have discovered a new way of levitating tiny objects - paving the way for future applications in nanotechnology.

Theoretical physicists have created 'incredible levitation effects' by engineering the force of nature which normally causes objects to stick together by quantum force. By reversing this phenomenon, known as 'Casimir force', the scientists hope to solve the problem of tiny objects sticking together in existing novel nanomachines.

Professor Ulf Leonhardt and Dr Thomas Philbin believe that they can engineer the Casimir force of quantum physics to cause an object to repel rather than attract another in a vacuum.



**Dr Thomas Philbin**

# Academic appointments

## School of Art History

**Dr Luke Gartlan** recently joined the School of Art History after completing a prestigious fellowship based in Tokyo awarded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Luke specialises in the history of photography and will be teaching and researching this and orientalism and the legacy of imperialism, as well as other aspects of Art History. He strengthens our small team of photographic historians, as well as our growing caucus of Australians.



## Bute Medical School

**Dr Joanna Parish** was appointed lecturer in Medical Science in June this year. Joanna obtained her PhD from the University of Bristol in 2002, where she studied host cell interactions of the human papillomavirus (HPV) E2 protein. She then moved to the University of Massachusetts Medical School, USA to work with Professor Elliot Androphy and continued her study of HPV biology and the persistence of viral genomes in infected cells. Her research is currently focused on the molecular biology of chromosomal segregation and genome integrity, and the mechanisms of viral genome persistence in infected cells. Since joining St Andrews, Joanna has been awarded a Royal Society University Research Fellowship.



**Dr Lindsey Kent** has recently moved from the University of Cambridge to be appointed as Reader in Medical Science in the Bute Medical School. Her research focuses on the biological underpinnings of childhood neurodevelopmental disorders, which she investigates using a variety of molecular genetic and proteomic strategies.



## School of Classics

**Dr Emma Gee**, who arrived in September from the University of Sydney, is an expert on astronomy and the Roman calendar. Her research interests include Latin prose and poetry and the works of George Buchanan, the sixteenth century Scots intellectual who among other achievements taught Latin to Mary Queen of Scots, was Principal of St Andrews and imprisoned in the castle here. Dr Gee is the author of *Ovid, Aratus and Augustus* published by Cambridge University Press in 2000 and she has since written on the astronomy of Marcus Cicero and of his brother. She is at present completing a book for Cambridge University Press on cosmology and the afterlife in Greece and Rome.



**Dr Juan Coderch** joined the University from Oxford to take up the new position of Senior Language Tutor in Greek and Latin in September. He has degrees from the universities of Sheffield and Barcelona and, for the last four years, has been Lecturer in Classics, following a career that has included teaching in schools and universities. He was for many years editor of a web site that published world news in Ancient Greek, and is a marathon runner. He will take charge of language teaching at St Andrews and play a vital part in extending the University's support for Latin and Greek from beginners' classes (which are at record levels) to the support of postgraduate students both as developing researchers and as teachers themselves.



### School of Computer Science

Juliana Kuester Filipe Bowles joined the School of Computer Science as a lecturer in June. She is also an honorary fellow of the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, a post held since February 2005. Prior to arriving at St Andrews, she was a lecturer at the School of Computer Science, University of Birmingham. She has a PhD (Dr rer nat) from the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany. Her main interests are formal techniques for modelling and reasoning about large-scale distributed, critical systems.



### School of Management

Dr Louise Hassan joined the School of Management last month as a lecturer in Marketing. Louise has previously worked as a Research Fellow at the Institute for Social Marketing, which is a collaboration between the University of Stirling and the Open University.



Meanwhile, Dr John Ferguson will join the School of Management in January, as a lecturer in Accounting and Finance. He will join us from the University of Dundee.



# First females and female firsts

**Professor Lorna Milne, Dean of Arts asks: "I'm far from being the only female academic to have noticed that all the portraits displayed around the University are of men. In fact a previous Dean of Arts, Ann Kettle, pointed out that there was only one picture of a woman on the walls, in Lower College Hall - and what is she doing in the painting? Rowing a boat for a man! What about all those pioneering women from the history of the University?"**



*In response, Rachel Hart (pictured), Archivist in Special Collections, has investigated some of the first females and female firsts down the years.*

Perhaps the first female to be mentioned in the University's muniments is the laundress of St Leonard's College, who, in the Statutes of 1544, is the only woman to be allowed onto the premises, and then only if she was over 50 years old! Things are quite different today, but it has been relatively recently in the history of the University that women have received equal recognition.

The first woman to matriculate was Elizabeth Garrett (1836-1917) in 1862. However, the Senatus decreed that her application was illegal and she never studied here. She persisted in her determination to become a doctor and managed to pass the examinations of the Society of Apothecaries in 1865, after which they changed the rules to prohibit the admission of women to the medical profession, a rule which applied until 1876. She was the first woman physician in Great Britain and a pioneer for the participation of women in medicine.

The demand for university education for women in the 1870s provided an opportunity for the University of St Andrews itself to be a pioneer. The LLA (Lady Literate in Arts) scheme was, in today's parlance, a 'distance learning' qualification for women, introduced in 1877 to allow them access to University education in the days before they were admitted as students to the University itself. Students studied at colleges local to them, and took examinations set by the University at centres all over the UK and throughout the world. Many thousands of women participated in the LLA scheme, which was so popular that it survived for 50 years, into the 1930s.



**Elizabeth Garrett**

The first female founder connected with St Andrews was Miss Mary Anne Baxter (1801-1884) whose deed of 1881 founding University College Dundee stipulated that education should be provided for both sexes. When UCD became a constituent part of the University of St Andrews in 1890, women continued to attend classes, although they could not matriculate until the 1892-3 session. On 2 April 1892 the University Court, under the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889, agreed to allow Senatus to matriculate women students into those classes where the professors were willing to teach men and women together: 20 women signed the matriculation register at the start of the 1892-93 session.



**Miss Mary Anne Baxter**

Agnes Forbes Blackadder (1875-1964) achieved the MA from St Andrews on 29 March 1895. Our first female graduate, she went on to study medicine at Queen Margaret College for Women in the University of Glasgow and later had a distinguished medical career as a consultant dermatologist in London, one of the first women to be appointed in such a capacity in a hospital which was not exclusively for women. As Dr Agnes Savill (she was widowed in 1910), she published papers on the forcible feeding of suffragette prisoners on hunger strike and played a central role

as radiographer in the Scottish Women's Hospital at Royaumont, France during the 1914-18 War. For full details of her life and work see Glasgow Archives services roll of honour at: [www.archives.gla.ac.uk/honour/](http://www.archives.gla.ac.uk/honour/)

The admission of women as students resulted in the provision of the first hall of residence for women in Scotland: University Hall opened in 1896. Miss Louisa Innes Lumsden (1840-1935), pioneer of women's education, first headmistress of St Leonards School, suffragist and first Warden of University Hall, was created a Dame shortly before her death. The first family of female graduates has to be the Campbell sisters, daughters of the manse from Kirkcaldy, eight of whom studied in St Andrews for degrees between 1898 and 1930 and all of whom stayed in 'Hall'.

In the employment of females, the university has been slower to achieve equality: the first female lecturer was Miss Alice Umpherston who lectured in Physiology from 1896-1899. Margaret Fairlie was the first female professor, being appointed to the Chair of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 1940. However, it was not until a century after the admission of women as students that St Andrews had its first female professors based this side of the Tay: Ursula H M Martin took up her Chair of Computational Science on 1 September 1992 and was closely followed by Marie Johnston, Professor of Psychology from 1 October 1992.

In August 2003 the first female academic from the University of St Andrews was elected a Fellow of the British Academy, the national academy for the humanities and the social sciences. Professor Sarah Broadie of the University's School of Philosophical, Anthropological & Film Studies is a specialist in Classical Philosophy and has published extensively on Aristotle, but is interested in many areas of philosophy, modern and ancient.

A female presence in the senior administrative roles of the University was pioneered by one woman. Dr Kathleen McIver served successively as



**One of the first women students in the University, thought to be Agnes Blackadder**

the first female lecturer in Geography, and first female chair of department, the first female Dean of the Faculty of Arts (1980) and the first female Master of the United College (1984-1988). This interesting confusion of terminology, with a woman being 'Master', is an echo of the Senatus' approach to the first female honorary graduate. The minute of 16 January 1897 refers to the proposal of "the following gentleman" for an LLD: Miss Eugenie Sellars (later Strong) (1860-1943), archaeologist and Assistant Director of the British School in Rome. In January 1899 the second female recipient of the LLD was Millicent Garrett Fawcett, president of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies from 1897. Perhaps the University made that award in the light of its decision, 32 years earlier, to disallow the matriculation of her sister, Elizabeth Garrett?

## GOWN

**Stop Press... Stop Press...**

The painting of a woman rowing noted by Professor Milne is *Poissy* by Alphonse Moutte (1880) and is on long-term loan to the University from Professor A Falconer. Further investigations have revealed that five historical portraits of women are owned by the University. The paintings are not currently on display because they require conservation work. However, although two of them were acquired in the last three years to redress the gender imbalance and are works of genuine interest, they all depict either relatives or wives of male University staff.

*The StAndard* can however report that the Principal is extremely sympathetic to the issue and is keen to put right what he believes to be a serious shortcoming. He wishes to recognise, in an appropriate manner, just what women are, and have been, contributing to the University. He has therefore recently located the funding for two new portraits of women. Watch this space for further reports as this exciting project progresses.



**The painting in question, *Poissy* by Alphonse Moutte**

**Do you have a historical question or challenge for the Special Collections team?  
Email us at [magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk)**

## Caption fantastic!

Each issue *The StAndard* will trawl the University's photo archives, past and present for strange, surprising and humorous images calling out for an entertaining caption.



**Last issue we captured then Chancellor Gordon Brown during the official opening of David Russell Apartments. The winning suggested caption is...**

Keith Brown — "I'm a celebrity, get me out of here!"



**Suggested captions (anonymous or otherwise) can be sent to [magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk) or by post to the address on the inside cover. The best captions will be printed in the next issue. Likewise, images for possible use are welcomed.**

The latest image was taken during June's graduation ceremony.

# Green light for new eco-projects

**We're all guilty of it. Leaving a light on, a tap dripping, or driving when we could take the bus...**

Unless you're Environment Manager Roddy Yarr who, helped along by his double-shot cappuccino, waxed lyrical on the University's environmental and sustainability aims and achievements when we met recently. And that was after a bike ride to get there, of course.

By the end of it, I was well and truly green-ified ... and feeling much guiltier than I did before we met.

The University is spearheading a number of new initiatives to convert the likes of me. People who really mean to be green, but don't quite make it. Or who forget to be, more likely.

Since our last exposé on the Environment team, Roddy and David Stutchfield, Energy Officer, have been joined by Susan Horsman, Environment Officer. The team are now at their busiest ever and educating AND empowering staff and students on how to save the planet is one of their most challenging tasks.

However, some problems have simpler solutions than others. The next time you find a yellow post-it note on your computer, it might not be a telephone message but a note from your friendly cleaner, pre-printed with the words:

**"You turned me on and left. I'm wasting energy and harming the environment, please switch me off!"**



**Susan, David and Roddy**

Roddy said, "Lots of staff forget to switch their monitors off when they go to a meeting, or leave their lights on when they pop out for a sandwich. It might seem harmless but, if hundreds of others do the same, the energy wastage is staggering. We are asking cleaning staff to back our efforts and put a post-it on any equipment that's switched on when it's not in use, politely asking staff to switch it off. The logic behind the cleaners doing the stickies is along the same lines as the waste recycling - it worked for waste, why not energy? Yes, it's a small gesture but will hopefully make a big difference and make us all think".

Similarly, for lighting - "We're gradually replacing a lot of lighting systems within the University but, in the meantime, staff should make use of natural daylight as much as possible and switch lights off when they are the last to leave a room. Contrary to opinion, switching lights on and off does NOT use more energy than leaving them on. Also, make sure that you switch off any lights before you go home in the evening".

Students also have a crucial role to play in reducing the University's carbon footprint and helping maintain its improving green record.

Roddy and the team, together with Residential and Business Services, are encouraging students to adopt green behaviour by offering incentives for conserving energy.

Roddy said, "The University runs an inter-hall energy saving competition for students. We're basically urging them to reduce the amount of the energy they use by not leaving lights on unnecessarily, computers and televisions on standby, mobile phone chargers switched on, and so on - and we're offering attractive cash prizes in return".

What's more, the scheme seems to be working, having saved a staggering 45 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. The scheme is being mirrored - albeit without the competitive element and rewards - in the University's kitchens, where staff are trained and encouraged to keep a close eye on energy wastage and turn off appliances when not in use. Food waste is also being converted into compost for the University's grounds.

Meanwhile, the Permaculture Group, comprising students concerned about the environmental impact of their food, has created an organic garden, built on land kindly provided by the University. The project enables students to grow their own local, pesticide-free vegetables and, last month, they held a training course to encourage fellow students to get involved. Staff who require transport to do their jobs are also playing their part.

The University has switched its Grounds vehicles onto biodiesel and Estates is looking at alternative fuels for the rest of its fleet. This includes hybrid (petrol-electric), pure electric and low emission diesel engines. In fact, vegetable oil waste from halls of residence is being considered for conversion into bio-diesel and rest assured that the new parking attendants won't be seen driving around town! You're much more likely to see them, and other Estates staff, using the Estates bus, on electric pedal-assisted bikes or pool bikes reclaimed from the University's Abandoned Bike Scheme.

Likewise, the University is investing in Phase 2 of a Bike Parking Scheme which will provide up to 200 new spaces throughout the University in a bid to encourage more and more staff to opt for two-wheeled transport.

Roddy explained, "We are working hard to provide alternatives for staff and students to improve transport options. The types of fuel used, the option to cycle, and the work that we are doing with Fife Council and Stagecoach to provide better public transport will help us deliver the University's Travel Plan".

But saving the planet doesn't just apply to light switches, transport and recycling. It's about the environment around us, including natural habitats that surround and embrace our buildings and minimising any potential damage which our daily activities could have on them.

With this in mind, the University recently completed the first phase of a biodiversity survey, aimed at establishing which wildlife are living throughout the University estate. Having mapped activity in the North Haugh area, Roddy's team,



**Roddy, Susan and David on the University's new rickshaw!**

in conjunction with in-house expertise in the Gatty Marine Laboratory and Geography & Geosciences, is creating a database which will ultimately sit on the University website.

Roddy said, "It's amazing what we have found – a bat colony on the North Haugh, swans, herons, waxwings, sparrowhawks, tawny owls, hedgehogs, red squirrels – not to mention an exhaustive list of plants, trees and creepy-crawlies. We're not asking staff to walk around with their binoculars but we'd certainly urge colleagues to keep an eye out for wildlife around their workplace and report any sightings. It's all about generating awareness of 'what's in your backyard' so that we don't upset any habitats before starting new building work but, likewise, so we can take steps to protect them such as growing plants which will help them thrive and so on. It is this wealth of habitat that helped the University achieve Gold status awards for Green Tourism for David Russell Apartments and, more recently, for New Hall, which received a glowing report from the Tourism Scheme operators".

**Further information on the University's initiatives and renewable energy work can be obtained from Roddy Yarr on (46)3995 or email: [try@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:try@st-andrews.ac.uk)**

*Claire Grainger*

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## Upcoming events

### Graduation – November 2007

The following honorary degrees are confirmed for the St Andrew's Day ceremony on Friday 30 November:

**Professor Ian Wilson** – DSc (Doctor of Science) – is an international scientist at the forefront of research to understand the immune system and influenza.

**Sir Alfred Cuschieri** – DSc (Doctor of Science) – is also an internationally renowned scientist, particularly in relation to his pioneering work in minimal access surgery (keyhole surgery).

**The Very Reverend Alan McDonald** – DD (Doctor of Divinity) – is the former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and member of the presbytery of St Andrews as a parish minister.

**Kathleen McConochie**, retired Headteacher of Greyfriars Primary School will be awarded the University Medal.

## Inaugural lectures

The following Professors will deliver their inaugural lectures in the coming months:

**Professor Craig Littler, School of Management**

Wednesday 28 November  
(Gateway LT, 5.15pm)

**Professor Lorna Hutson, School of English**

Wednesday 12 December  
(School III, St Salvator's Quadrangle, 5.15pm)

## Lectures

**The School of Geography & Geosciences launches its first Public Christmas Lecture series this December with a talk on the linkage of geology and culture by BBC science presenter Dr Iain Stewart.**

The lecture series is aimed at school pupils and teachers as well as University students and staff.

Iain is presenter of the forthcoming BBC2 series *Earth: The Power of the Planet* and the BBC series *Journey from the Centre of the Earth* and *Journeys into the Ring of Fire*.

In 2003, Iain, a graduate of the universities of Strathclyde and Bristol, became the first geologist (and Scot) to be invited to join the science team of the popular BBC2 programme *Rough Science*. Subsequently his own geological research was featured in two BBC *Horizon* specials — *Helike: The Real Atlantis* and *Earthquake Storms*.



**Dr Iain Stewart**

The 2007 Geography & Geosciences Public Christmas Lecture, *Unnatural Hazards: journeys into Cultural Geology* by Dr Iain Stewart (University of Plymouth) will take place on Friday December 14 2007 at 12 – 1pm at Purdie Theatre A, North Haugh, St Andrews.

**For more information, contact Ruth Robinson on [rajr@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:rajr@st-andrews.ac.uk)**

## Courses

### Career Bridges update

The Universities of St Andrews, Dundee & Stirling launched the fourth collaborative Career Bridges programme for 28 participants drawn from the 3 HEIs at an induction event held at Huntingtower Hotel, near Perth, on 1 October. Career Bridges is a modular programme which culminates in a final residential group project in May 2008.

*Forthcoming Staff Development courses include:*

**Handling Conflict** — an innovative drama-based workshop delivered by Forum Interactive on Thursday 8 November. This approach to learning has proved very popular with both academic and support staff in the last two years.  
Course code 13562

**Effective Feedback & Coaching Skills** is a very popular 1-day workshop, designed and delivered by Staff Development for the Universities Scotland network. The next one — hosted at Glasgow University on 14 November — is open to staff from St Andrews.  
Course code 12699

**Managing Absence** is a new internal workshop running on 20 November designed to provide practical advice to managers to enable them to play a pro-active supportive role for staff returning to work after illness or special leave.  
Course code 14772

**Springboard**, the University's established development programme for female staff, launches again in January 2008 and modules run until April 2008.  
Course code 13561

**For details on these and other courses visit**  
[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/staff/ppd/Courses/](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/staff/ppd/Courses/)

## Refurbishment update

**Most of you will know that Upper and Lower College Halls were closed for refurbishment for the first three months of the year, but have you seen the results for yourself yet?**

Lower College Hall now boasts an elegant gold and teal interior and Upper College Hall features a large screen, wi-fi access and fully embedded A/V, making either perfect for prestigious events, presentations or day conferences.

**Tours of the new facilities can be arranged by contacting Kendra Scott on 01334 46(2499) or [reservations@standrews.ac.uk](mailto:reservations@standrews.ac.uk)**



**The newly refurbished Lower College Hall**



## “Who did you say you were?”

**by the Special Collections Archivists**

**In the basement of the Library we have a bit of a problem. No, the strong room isn't leaking again – Estates have cured that. Rather, it seems that not only is what some of us do largely unknown to the wider University, but our very job titles are obscure and rather confusing. For Level One of the Library is apparently the abode of the University alchemists, the University archaeologists and even the University anarchists!**

For three glorious days in August the University's archivists, Norman Reid, Maia Sheridan and Rachel Hart were able to join up with sixty others with the same job title, from around the world. There was no confusion, no need for explanation, just the chance to share ideas and experiences and to realise that what we do is mirrored in Higher Education Institutions in places as far flung as Reykjavik, Latvia, Melbourne, Rio de Janeiro and Michigan.



**Norman Reid**

The International Council on Archives is the professional organisation for the world archival community, dedicated to promoting the preservation, development and use of the world's archival heritage. A UNESCO organisation (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), it brings together national archive administrations, professional associations of archivists, regional and local archives and archives of other organisations as well as individual archivists in a global network with more than 1,400 institutional members in 190 countries. It also has many archivists and records managers as individual members. The Section on University Archives (SUV) held its annual conference in Dundee in August, rather a different venue from Iceland last year and Kuala Lumpur next! Norman, Maia and Rachel were delegates to the conference which was based in the Apex Hotel in Dundee and attended by members from 15 countries.

We worked really hard during the week, with 30 presentations on a variety of topics around the conference theme of *Archives, Records and the User*. There were some very interesting and stimulating sessions including a keynote address from Nick Barrett, historian, writer and broadcaster, on 'archives and the media: the challenges for the twenty-first century', which he illustrated from his experiences on TV series such as *Seven Wonders of the Industrial World* and *Who Do You Think You Are?*. 'What do we think we are doing?' was the topic of Norman's controversial paper in which he analysed the many skills and abilities required of today's archivist. Other highlights included talks by Randall Jimerson on 'Orwell in the archives: memory, politics and records' which used Orwell's works to illustrate the significance of memories and records, and archives as authentic and dependable evidence. Dr Allan Beveridge discussed the use of archives in uncovering the mystery of the last years of Arthur Conan Doyle's father. In the panel session on 'Identifying and serving users' Norman and Rachel offered an analysis of the recent

survey of users of our Special Collections Department here and our plans for the library redevelopment.

We also played hard all week! There was a lively social programme with exposure to all sorts of expressions of the Scottish identity, including traditional music, McGoanagall, a distillery tour, lochs and glens, as well as a dinner and ceilidh dance at Fingask Castle at which archivists from all over the world had been persuaded into kilts - there has never been such an anarchic strip-the-willow! We were delighted to be able to welcome the delegates to St Andrews for an official reception and buffet dinner in Lower College Hall. They were very much impressed by the town and the University, even in torrential rain. Some visited the library to see an exhibition of treasures from Special Collections (running until the end of the year).



Rachel asking a question with Maia looking on



Norman and Rachel with Caroline Brown, Deputy Archivist at Dundee University, one of the conference organisers

So now all the Muniments Archivist and Keeper of Muniments have to do is to win the battle over the other part of the job title – no, it's not Monuments Archivist, or Munitions Archivist .... And whatever you do, don't call us Librarians!

**The Special Collections Archivists are - Norman Reid (Keeper of Manuscripts and Muniments and Head of Special Collections), Rachel Hart (Muniments Archivist) and Maia Sheridan (Balcasckie Project Archivist)**

# Disentangling the web

**As we all know, the new and improved University website was launched during the summer.**

A click of the mouse for staff testing it out but the result of 18 months' round-the-clock work for the Business Improvements team whose lives went on hold while it took shape.

However, it's by no means a finished product and the team remains keen to hear your views, good or bad, as it evolves further.

Stephen Evans, University Web Manager believes it's a vast improvement on the previous site, "The new site organises information according to the role of the user and its function. So no longer do students have to know which service unit is responsible for tuition fees, they can go to their 'Current student' home page and find out all about tuition fees within 'Money matters'.

The information from 25 service unit websites was migrated during March and April. Fifteen postgraduate students were trained on how to copy information across to Terminalfour Site Manager, the new content management system.

Stephen continued, "This was not a trivial 'copy and paste' job as they had to ensure the content was formatted to comply with the new style guidelines. In total, over 3000 pages were migrated. During the migration exercise, the web pages on the source websites were not updated. Therefore, it was very

important that the task of migrating pages was completed as quickly as possible in order to ensure that any updates were made to the new pages. The May deadline was an ambitious target, but we now have a site that is considerably easier to navigate to find the information users are seeking".

So, how has the site been received by staff?

Stephen replied, "Despite predictable 'teething problems', the response from users has been overwhelmingly positive. Interestingly, a lot of the issues that we had to fix were connected with information that was incorrect on the original site, in some cases five years out of date. It is just that the information is now easier to find! In others, the broken links were a consequence of switching from a very complex legacy system to a new infrastructure".

Now that the information is in a new centralised web page management



system, with a focus on single sources of content and clear information architecture, it has been very easy to respond to requests and resolve problems in a way that would not have been possible before. The BI team will also be training more staff on the system next year, nearly 100 having been trained to date.

The team will also be working on further updates and enhancements. All the web pages are now tracked with Google Analytics, which enables BI to precisely determine how many clicks a URL on a page has had. This will enable them to ensure that important information is given the greatest prominence. Further development will include the provision of RSS feeds for areas of the website that change frequently – for example, ITS messages and University news.

**If you have any comments or ideas about the new website, please contact Dr Stephen Evans on [webmaster@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:webmaster@st-andrews.ac.uk)**

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# New Director of Sport and Exercise

**Following the retirement of Martin Farrally, the University has appointed a new Director of Sport and Exercise. Stephen Stewart, currently Deputy Director of Sport at Loughborough University will join us on January 1st 2008.**



## Treasures from special collections



**The University Library is hosting an exhibition featuring some of the earliest treasures from its Special Collections.**

Items on display include some of the earliest and most significant material held within the collections. There are wonderful examples of printing, beautifully illustrated pages in both manuscript, print and facsimile and copies of items too large or fragile to include in their original form. Amongst the exhibits are a greek papyrus from the second century AD, the oldest printed book in the Library and an illuminated manuscript. There are also some of the exciting new accessions recently acquired by the Library.

The exhibition is free and can be visited on Level Two whenever the Library is open. It will run until 19 December 2007.

**The lavishly illustrated 'St Andrews Psalter' is one of the many manuscripts cared for by the Special Collections Department.**



### **BBSRC – RSE Enterprise Fellowships**

BBSRC and The Royal Society of Edinburgh seek proposals to the Enterprise Fellowships scheme to support researchers who wish to play a key role in the commercialisation of their research. The Fellowships provide salary and formal business training, allowing the Fellows to focus on developing the commercial potential of their research over a 12-month period.

The Fellowships are available to academic staff, research staff and postgraduates with relevant experience employed by a UK Higher Education Establishment or BBSRC-sponsored Research Institute. The business idea may be in any area within BBSRC's remit provided the original research was largely funded through BBSRC.

**The closing date for applications is 26 November 2007. Interviews for selected applicants will take place in Edinburgh in late January/early February 2008, with a view to the Fellowship commencing April 2008.**

Application forms and further details are available from:  
[www.royalsoced.org.uk/research\\_fellowships/bbsrc.htm](http://www.royalsoced.org.uk/research_fellowships/bbsrc.htm) or by contacting Dr Simon Cutler Telephone: 01793 413243, or e-mail: [simon.cutler@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:simon.cutler@bbsrc.ac.uk)

The  
**Royal Society  
 of Edinburgh**

### **STFC – RSE Enterprise Fellowships**

STFC and The Royal Society of Edinburgh seek proposals to the Enterprise Fellowships scheme to support researchers who wish to play a key role in the commercialisation of their research. The Fellowships provide salary and formal business training, allowing the Fellows to focus on developing the commercial potential of their research over a 12-month period.

The Fellowships are available to academic staff, research staff and postgraduates and graduates with relevant experience employed by a UK Higher Education Establishment or Research Institute. The business idea may be in any subject provided that the original research was part of a programme largely funded through STFC (formerly PPARC).

**The closing date for applications is 26 November 2007. Interviews for selected applicants will take place in Edinburgh between mid January and mid February 2008, with a view to the Fellowship commencing April 2008.**

Application forms and further details are available from:  
[www.royalsoced.org.uk/research\\_fellowships/stfc.htm](http://www.royalsoced.org.uk/research_fellowships/stfc.htm) or by contacting Sue Fuller, e-mail: [sue.fuller@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:sue.fuller@stfc.ac.uk)

# James Gregory Public Lectures on Science and Religion

**Two St Andrews professors are launching one of the most high profile series of lectures ever hosted by the University.**

Professors Eric Priest and Alan Torrance, from the Schools of Mathematics & Statistics and Divinity respectively, are co-directors of a major series of 12 public lectures to be held in St Andrews over the next four years. The lectures will see a range of eminent national and international speakers talk on a wide range of contemporary issues in Science and Religion. They are supported by a grant of £65,300 from the John Templeton Foundation.

Professor Priest explained, "The basic aim of the series is to encourage constructive and open dialogue and an exchange of ideas on many intriguing points of contact between Science and Religion. At this time of a rise in unhealthy fundamentalism, there is a need to increase understanding, so that we may be better informed about the nature of the scientific enterprise and of

religious thought. Indeed, both Science and Religion have key insights about our human nature, our creativity and our possible future."

Professors Priest and Torrance are delighted to report that the first lecture will be given by one of the world's foremost authorities on the New Testament. The Bishop of Durham Tom Wright will talk on the subject "Can a scientist believe in the resurrection?" The lecture promises to be a stimulating event and will take place on **Thursday 20 December at 5.15 in Physics Lecture Theatre A.**

The lectures derive their name from James Gregory, one of the most famous scientists to work at the University. The first Regius Professor of Mathematics at the University in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Professor Gregory - together with Isaac



Newton and Gottfried von Leibniz - helped found a major branch of mathematics called calculus. He also invented one of the two main types of telescope, called the Gregorian telescope.

**For further information and updates on the series, visit [www.jamesgregory.org](http://www.jamesgregory.org)**

# Two academics in the running for Spirit of Scotland Award

**Robert Crawford and John Burnside from the University's School of English have both been shortlisted for a national prize voted for by the public.**

The distinguished writers have been nominated for The Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Awards, which recognises inspirational figures 'for their contributions to Scottish cultural life'.

Robert and John have been nominated in the writing category of the award, a partnership between Scotsman Publications and Glenfiddich now in its tenth year.

There are four nominees for each of the eight categories (entrepreneur, art, food, sport, music, screen, writing and environment) and Robert and John are up against fellow Scots writers Edwin Morgan and Christopher Brookmyre. Previous winners for different categories have included Ewan McGregor, David Coulthard, JK Rowling, Chris Gorman and the British Wheelchair Curling Team.

The results of this year's award will be announced at the Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery in Glasgow and broadcast to the nation on St Andrew's night (30 November).



**John Burnside**



**Robert Crawford**

**For further information and details on how to vote, visit [www.glenfiddich.com/spirit](http://www.glenfiddich.com/spirit)**

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# Guess Where? Answers



1. St Katharine's Lodge



2. Buchanan Lecture Theatre



3. House in South Street



4. St Andrews Bus Station



5. St Mary's Quadrangle



6. Lloyds TSB, Church Street



7. Bottom of College Street



8. New Hall



9. Parliament Hall, South Street

**Back cover: Guess where?**  
**Credit: Alan Richardson, Pix-AR**



University  
of  
St Andrews

