



University of St Andrews

The StAndard

Staff Magazine, Issue 14, June 2008



**Here comes
the summer**

Virtually possible

From Land's End to John O' Groats

A bird's eye view of St Andrews

Scotland's first university

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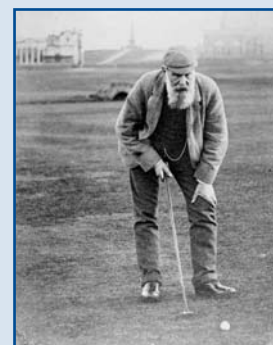


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Cover picture: 'Going on holiday', George Middlemass Cowie
c. 1935
Credit: Special Collections

Welcome



The one in which we go electric

Well, maybe with not quite the same impact as Bob Dylan's so-called Judas turn at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival... but this issue does take a serious look at the ways in which the University community is being driven by the internet and new technology. From Facebook to Second Life, there's no escaping the virtual world, but is it all just procrastination over a wifi connection or can it really help deliver the University's core aims of teaching and research? Turn to our University online special (pp 26-34) to take a trip to St Andrews' exotic presence on Second Life. We have our own island you know...

A further delve into technology driving the teaching experience unveils a new way to help those shy students who still fear putting their hands up in class. The handheld devices known as 'clickers' being successfully piloted in Physics & Astronomy and the Bute Medical School offer a way of increasing student interaction as well as confidence in class.

Talking of clickers, our creative colleagues section (pp 5-9) highlights yet more talented photographers among the University community, with wardens recognising student interest in the subject by holding a photography competition over Easter. Turn to p 9 to see how students captured the 'spirit of St Andrews'.

As ever our focus is on the people around us, with colleagues from across the University taking part in our regular features; we take the opportunity to put both Stefan Pugh and Brian Lang in the hot seat before they leave us, while welcoming two new colleagues in Estates and Residential & Business Services to their posts. In our academic profiles, Dick Byrne and Ineke de Moortel share their expertise in the evolution of intelligence and the sun. Beyond St Andrews, Jerry DeGroot provides a thought-provoking piece on Rwanda, and a student on the new Peace and Conflict MLitt shares her experience of a humbling field trip to Sarajevo.

We take a look at fundraising efforts too, with Stephen King sharing with readers the challenge of a cycle trip in memory of his late niece. Good luck to Stephen and thanks to him and all contributors to this issue for sharing their experiences, comments and talents.

Finally, on to major developments and news. From Living Links to the Records of the Parliaments of Scotland and our new School of Medicine and the Sciences, 2008 has so far witnessed two major areas of research reaching fruition and the beginning of a new multi-million pound build. Congratulations to everyone involved.

At this stage we would also like to thank the members of our editorial board, who have provided much helpful input since the magazine's inception four years ago, and are now bowing out since you have given it a life of its own. Now, it's over to you!

Anyone in the University is welcome to provide feedback, suggestions or contributions to *The StAndard*. The next issue is due out in November - email us at magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk or write to the address on the inside cover. All back issues are now available to view or download on the University website at www.st-andrews.ac.uk/standard and Facebookers among you can also join our group online (search for *The StAndard* as a group within the University community).

Finally, as ever, *The StAndard* acknowledges the use of images supplied by Alan Richardson, Pix-AR, Special Collections, Richard Cormack, Stephen Evans, Stephen King, www.stephenrasmussen.com, Eugene Theodore, Jerry DeGroot, Alan R Thomson RZSS, Ian Jacobs Photography, John Scott, Kris Getchell, Bruce Sinclair, BBC, Chris Kuklewicz, Dick Byrne, Sascha Hooker, Georgios Tsiminis, Peter Adamson, Jules Knight, Gayle Cook, Robert Gendler, R Jay GaBany, Vitor Fialho Lopez, Sidra Khan and Frances Lander.

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
with your suggestions.



NAME: Dr Stefan Pugh

POSITION: Reader in Russian

LAST GOOD BOOK – *Istanbul: Memories of a City*, by Orhan Pamuk.

FIRST RECORD BOUGHT – *Abbey Road* (The Beatles, of course!), bought in 1969.

TOP HOLIDAY DESTINATION
– Anywhere in Italy.

HAPPIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY
– Getting my first dog, Axel (a honey-coloured cocker spaniel), at age seven in Nürnberg, Germany.

IDEAL MEAL – Stefan Pugh's baked chicken breast stuffed with cheese (Havarti, Gruyère, etc.), wrapped in prosciutto and glazed with honey, accompanied by olive oil stir-fried

vegetables (with ground black pepper and garlic). Rice optional. Of course, where food is concerned, there really is almost no such thing as an 'ideal' meal: for me, a pasta with a rich Italian sauce (VERY rich in garlic, meat or veggie) would make me happy *any* time.

MOST PRIZED POSSESSION – Of the old: my small collection of pre-Columbian artefacts, collected in Ecuador in the late 1960s; of the new: my beautiful shiny 2008 Chrysler PT Cruiser.

CHILDHOOD AMBITION – To become an astronomer...then an oceanographer. And look what happened.

FAVOURITE LOCAL HAUNT – The Central. Any other answer would just not be believable!

FIRST LOVE – Chocolate. Lots of chocolate. Apologies to Suzie of my fourth grade class in 1964.

ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FILM – *The Godfather*.

CURRENTLY PLAYING ON STEREO
– Vince Gill (country: I'm a new convert); hits of the 60's and 70's (rock).

THE PERFECT WEEKEND – A couple of nights at a cosy inn in the Highlands with my wife. Long walks, a log fire in the evening, a great bottle of red wine. Might sound too predictable, but you can't beat it!

NAME: Brian Lang

POSITION: Principal and Vice-Chancellor

LAST GOOD BOOK – *Summits* by David Reynolds – describes six meetings between politicians that helped shape the twentieth century, from the Hitler/Chamberlain confrontations of 1938 to the 1985 Geneva Gorbachev/Reagan discussions. The book demonstrates that people in positions of very high authority really can influence events on the basis of their personal relationships with other leaders, and are not necessarily simply captive to events and circumstances around them.

FIRST RECORD BOUGHT – *That'll be the Day*, by Buddy Holly, must have been 1958, the year he was killed. (And I still occasionally listen to Buddy Holly, albeit on my iPod!)

TOP HOLIDAY DESTINATION – Bali. My wife is Indonesian and we visit every year, often combining a holiday with visits to in-laws. The island is beautiful and very tranquil (despite the bombings of 2002) and a favourite activity is watching Hindu ceremonies in local temples. These are colourful, musical affairs and local people are only too delighted to let us spectate. The food in Indonesia is wonderful, too!

HAPPIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY

– Probably walking the streets of Edinburgh with my father, as soon as I was able to keep up with him. He instilled a love for the city in me and liked to stroll the New Town, the Royal Mile and the museums, pointing out sights and telling tales from Scottish history. He was a wonderful, clever but unrequited man who deserved a better lot in life but had to leave school aged 14 – he was brought up in the 1930s and life was very different – to bring in a wage to keep the family.

IDEAL MEAL – A bowl of pasta with a good bottle of Italian red wine – preferably a Barolo if I can afford it at the time. Ken and Raphael in The Little Italian Shop in Bell Street make their own ravioli which I recommend.



MOST PRIZED POSSESSION – A greetings card sent in 1916 by my grandfather to my mother, only weeks old at the time, just days before he was killed on the Somme, serving with the Royal Scots.

CHILDHOOD AMBITION – To fly. I was desperate to be a RAF pilot. Fast jets still fascinate me and I enjoy watching the Leuchars Tornados swooping around St Andrews Bay. But my first real job was as a university lecturer, instead!

FAVOURITE LOCAL HAUNT – The Little Italian Shop (see above!). You can browse the shelves like a bookshop and the advice from the staff is always sound. It's a culinary Aladdin's cave.

FIRST LOVE – I had a tabby cat called Trunkie. He died when I was five and I was inconsolable.

ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FILM – *Play it Again Sam*, with Woody Allen. The film is about the lengths the Woody character goes to, to appear 'cool'; when the reality is that when just being himself, he is bright, witty and loveable (in the eyes of Diane Keaton, anyway).

CURRENTLY PLAYING ON STEREO – *The Soul of the Tango*, YoYo Ma on cello playing tango composed by Astor Piazzola. I love Latin music, including Cuban; a favourite singer is Omara Portuondo, whom you may have seen in *Buena Vista Social Club*.

THE PERFECT WEEKEND – Most weekends are perfect. In St Andrews, I like a leisurely breakfast with the newspapers, a stroll along Market Street with my wife Tari, chatting to people we are bound to bump into, a meal at The Cellar in Anstruther or a film at the New Picture House (I'm passionate about the lounging, feet-up seats upstairs). We like to entertain at home, and this can be either an official University dinner party or – my real favourite – we have all our offspring and their partners and our grand-daughter, to stay for the weekend. The noise level at these events is a marvel; we can probably be heard in Carnoustie.

PEOPLE

NAME: Amy Grieve

POSITION: Receptionist/
Administrator, The Gateway

LAST GOOD BOOK - From its early pages, I think my current book *The House at Riverton* by Kate Morton is going to be one of the best books I have read recently. I'm looking forward to the "thrilling mystery and compelling love story" that will unfold within its 600 pages.

FIRST RECORD BOUGHT -The first records I ever had were the Top Twenty singles I won in a children's competition in *The Daily Express*. With all of those to play it was a while before I bought my first record, Herman's Hermits' *I'm into Something Good*.

TOP HOLIDAY DESTINATION - It's difficult to choose between the west coast of Ireland and the north-west coast of Scotland. Both offer stunning views, great hospitality, relaxation and tranquillity. I'd also love to visit Australia and New Zealand one day.

HAPPIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY - I had a happy childhood, with memories of our train journey holidays to Mum's family in Liverpool (we'd have ferry trips across the Mersey for days out to the seaside at West Kirby, and also it was a time to enjoy meeting up with aunts, uncles and cousins), and the fun of playing out and about with friends at home in the school holidays. But I think one favourite would be tucked up, with a favourite book, listening to the birds singing and watching the summer evening's sun fade on the bedroom wall.

IDEAL MEAL - I've fairly simple tastes, but a good bowl of home-made soup followed by mince and tatties or stovies and I'm happy! I also love fish, especially salmon. Fisher & Donaldson is full of delights, and I can't pass an M&S store without stopping for one of their yummy cappuccinos!



MOST PRIZED POSSESSION - I think for the work that various relatives have put into it, it would be the family reminiscences through previous generations, including Dad's early memories and an account of his 20+ years in the Black Watch in often challenging situations and Mum's literature of social change through the 1900s. For the family it has been an interesting and often humbling insight into the past.

CHILDHOOD AMBITION - It was to be a nurse, but this ambition only lasted until the day I had a minor mishap in our vegetable patch and the sight of blood then put me off!

FAVOURITE LOCAL HAUNT - I think St Mary's Quad has a lovely relaxed air about it, I enjoy sitting there having lunch on a summer's day. By contrast, the West Sands offer a bracing walk and the smell of sea air - invigorating!

FIRST LOVE - Perth, it was a great place to grow up in, and has a lovely setting. I still always enjoy going there. I really enjoyed primary school as there was just so much to learn about, it held my

interest. Learning to swim, knit and sew there as well just topped it off!

ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FILM - I don't have a specific favourite, but anything that makes me laugh has to be good - Jack Lemmon had great comic timing. I also love a good edge-of-the-seat thriller, and period films that leave you with that feel-good factor.

CURRENTLY PLAYING ON STEREO - A CD my brother gave me last month saying "You'll love it!", Amy Macdonald's *This is the Life*. Otherwise, it would be anything from Joan Baez to Keane or Clannad as I enjoy a wide range of music styles.

THE PERFECT WEEKEND - For a weekend away it would be Loch Tay in Perthshire where I lived for some years before coming to St Andrews. A boat trip round the loch would be a must in order to enjoy the super views including Ben Lawers. Add in a lochside hotel with a roaring log fire, great company, family or friends, welcoming hospitality - and I'm there already!

A bird's eye view of St Andrews

by University Web Manager Dr Stephen Evans

Anyone who has climbed to the top of St Rule's tower to view St Andrews from above will have appreciated the beautiful view. It is only from a bird's eye view that we can start to understand the relationship between the town and the sea and the relative locations of different buildings.

For those who don't have the energy to climb to the top of St Rule's tower, or the means to charter a helicopter, there is an alternative! Dr Stephen Evans, University Web Manager, has been using a light weight digital camera mounted on his radio controlled aeroplane to take unique aerial photographs of St Andrews.



The camera shutter is remotely triggered by flicking a switch on the radio transmitter while the aeroplane flies overhead. Just as in any type of photography, the best photographs are



achieved by planning the composition. So, good lighting from the right direction, a suitable tide state and low wind speed are critical for success.

A quiet electric motor powers the 1.5 metre wingspan aeroplane so it can take photographs close to built up areas and from a lower height than that allowed by a conventional aircraft. For example, photographs have been taken by flying from the Lade Braes and East, West and Castle Sands.

It is not possible to know what the photographs will look like until the images have been downloaded and viewed on a computer, so quite a few photos have to be taken in order to select the best. Despite the apparent hit and miss approach to taking aerial photographs this way, the results have been remarkably successful.

To find out more about radio controlled aerial photography and to view a selection of photographs, please visit www.visualflight.co.uk



Capturing St Andrews & beyond

Emeritus Professor of Mathematics Richard Cormack has travelled the world capturing stunning images from far-flung locations along the way. Here, he shares his pick of the best from his personal archives with readers of *The StAndard*.

Richard, who arrived in St Andrews to become the University's first Professor of Statistics in 1972, is an award-winning amateur photographer and member of a thriving community of keen snappers in the St Andrews area. Instantly recognising the breadth of photographic opportunities in the town and surrounding areas, Glasgow-born Richard joined the St Andrews Photographic Society almost right away and hasn't stopped taking pictures since. Regularly rising before dawn to capture the best light, some of Richard's favourite locations have been caught on camera over the years before the rest of us are even awake. But Richard, who prefers candid photography, strives hard to take a different view from the popular shots regularly taken by visiting tourists. Indeed, for one year-long period, Richard challenged himself to take shots of the same one square furlong strip of the harbour, in an attempt to come up with something different every time.



The Pier, low tide

"It's very difficult to avoid the chocolate box images in a place like St Andrews," he said, "but principally I'm not trying to record images, I'm trying to create art and capture beauty. Morocco is a wonderful place to photograph, but closer to home the St Andrews Botanic Garden is excellent because of its beautiful design and its vast collections – they have over 8,000 different species, which offer unlimited opportunities to photographers."

Richard's favourite subjects include the Scottish Highlands, nature and mountains. Further afield his most visited foreign locations are Seattle, where most study leave was spent, and, since 1997, Morocco, in groups led by Honorary Graduate Dr Hamish Brown. He has just returned from his ninth trip to Morocco, happy to have seen new places and to have revisited some favourite locations in the early morning light. During his previous visit, he was disappointed to find his 'favourite bench' had been moved, but on reflection realised this created a fresh challenge!

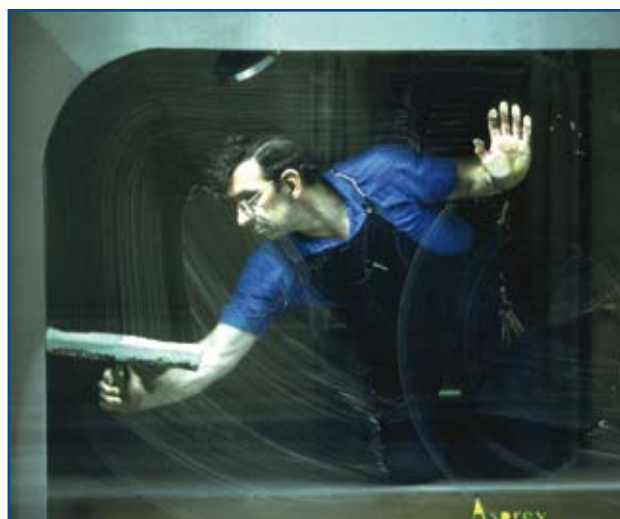


Closer to home, Richard is a member of the Friends of St Andrews Botanic Garden and is one of their semi-official photographers (see his images illustrating the piece on page 20). An active public speaker, Richard delivers around ten talks a year to photographic and other societies around the country on subjects such as 'Fascinations of Fife' and 'Encounters with plants.' One of Richard's favourite challenges to audiences is 'What colour is Scotland?' If you're thinking green, or even blue, you're wrong – the answer, according to Richard's keen eye, is actually orange.

'Rolled gold' was taken in the Palouse in eastern Washington State, during one Seattle trip



'In the cool of the evening', outside the Koutoubia in Marrakesh



'Quality Cleaning' – Asprey, New Bond St, London



'Ice floes, Blackmount' - Lochan na h'Achlaise, near Glencoe



'North Street in a windscreen' was taken in St Andrews recently

Over the years, Richard has captured some official, and not so official, University events – from the installation of Frank Muir as Rector to croquet matches with former Principal Struther Arnott, he enjoys the 'colourful' nature of University events. When he arrived in St Andrews back in '72, the Principal was Stephen Watson and John Cleese was Rector – who Richard remembers as being 'very friendly' at his final interview.

Richard, who retired in 1994, still carries his camera wherever he goes, taking a picture most days. However, he is not the only talented University photographer around – he was keen to stress that the local club has always had University involvement. He said, "I'm part of a really thriving community; there's a really active local photography scene in St Andrews and it's great to see new people joining and developing all the time."



'Windy Parade' was taken in December 1973, as part of Richard's harbour 'self-challenge'

A Wardennial system for the 21st Century

Wardens' Manager David Hamill outlines the results of a recent review of the wardennial system at St Andrews.

The vast majority of St Andrews students spend at least some of their time at university in a hall of residence. For some, the experience is so enjoyable and fulfilling that they decide to stay in hall for the whole of their undergraduate or postgraduate course, although most tend to sample hall life in the first year and then move into private accommodation, sometimes returning to hall once again for the final year. Whatever option they choose, most undergraduates spend at least their first year in a residence and for many the hall becomes a home, a familiar base during those first few nervous weeks.

If national student surveys are to be believed, the whole 'student experience' at St Andrews is rated pretty highly among those who spend their undergraduate days here – and that, of course, includes the residential experience. Even the student surveys carried out internally seem to indicate a reasonably high level of satisfaction with the halls of residence, although there is always going to be room for improvement. So, on the basis of 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it', it might be regarded as a pointless or even foolhardy exercise to embark on a full review of our wardennial system and the way in which our residences are managed in a pastoral and disciplinary sense. However, six months ago that is exactly what we did.

A review committee was convened by Chris Lusk, Director of Student Services, with the remit to examine our residential system with a view to discovering how we could improve the service we provide for our students and make it genuinely fit for purpose in the 21st century. From the outset we were keenly aware that there is much about our wardennial system which is good and so whatever changes we might make, it was important not to 'throw the baby out with the bathwater'. The review committee consulted widely with students, academic staff, residence

management as well as with all levels of the wardennial teams, past and present. We also investigated wardennial set-ups in other universities to see if we could learn anything from the way in which they approach this aspect of student life.

Interestingly enough, for a variety of reasons, an increasing number of universities throughout Britain are moving away from the provision of traditional wardennial cover in halls of residence. In some cases it is deemed to be an expensive luxury, while in others there is a feeling that students do not need this degree of guidance or pastoral care. Some have abandoned their wardennial systems altogether and, at least for a brief time, we considered this possibility for St Andrews. However, we came to the conclusion that whatever other institutions might do, St Andrews prides itself on the level of pastoral support and guidance which is available to those students who want it. At the same time we learned that, while students want to know that help and support is there, they do not want it to be forced on them. They want to be treated as the adults that they are and not 'mothered' or 'smothered' by over-zealous and unnecessarily intrusive pastoral care.

Therefore, we concluded that, whatever system we eventually decided to adopt, it must be one which provides a professional service to our students, one that is fit for purpose and one which has the aim of empowering students, helping them to help themselves rather than providing an ever-present safety-net.

How do we intend to achieve this?

The most notable and visible change within the halls of residence will be the replacement of Deputy Wardens, Subwardens and Resident Assistants with the new role of Assistant Warden. Wardennial teams are being slimmed down and the new Assistant Wardens will be required, after appropriate

training, to take on a higher level of responsibility and a greater degree of commitment in terms of the task of providing appropriate pastoral support, disciplinary guidance and community-building. For all members of the wardennial team there will be an emphasis on providing a joined-up service in conjunction with Student Support Services, Hall Committees and Residence Management teams. Above all, there will be an aim of empowering students to help themselves, and an involvement in students' lives, not in an interfering or intrusive sense, but meeting students at their point of need.

In order to try to provide a service which has continuity and consistency, it is our intention to employ only members of staff and PhD students. It is hoped that members of wardennial teams will want to stay in post for some years, as opposed to the present situation where there is a relatively high turn-over. We would like to encourage more members of the administrative staff to become involved in this way – wardening is not just for academics. Indeed, administrative staff often have exactly the sort of life experience which would be invaluable in a hall of residence. Being involved in hall life is fun. It also carries quite a substantial level of responsibility and commitment, but it is a satisfying and rewarding way of life. If you are the sort of person who enjoys contributing to the welfare of others, if you like helping to organise social activities, if you are caring and compassionate while recognising the need not to become over-involved, if you can keep your head in a crisis and if you have good managerial skills, then becoming involved in the wardennial system might be the right thing for you.

Anyone who is interested in finding out more about being a Warden or an Assistant Warden is welcome to contact David Hamill, the Wardens' Manager, at 'The Student Experience', 101A North Street or by email on dh31@st-andrews.ac.uk

Capturing the spirit of St Andrews

The New Hall wardennial team challenged students to capture their own unique views of St Andrews recently. The brainchild of Academic Adviser and New Hall subwarden Lara Meischke, the photography competition resulted in some 'quite remarkable' results. Students were able to select from the categories *Easter*, *The Spirit of St Andrews*, *The Pier*, *A ruin*, *Daily Essentials* and *An amusing sign*. A selection of the best are shared here with readers of *The StAndard*.



On the starting block

In this issue, *The StAndard* welcomes Petra Barber and Gillian Jordan to their new posts.

Petra Barber **Deputy Director of** **Residential and Business** **Services**

Petra joined the University in November last year from a position at Lancaster University and claims her feet haven't touched the ground since! Having worked at the universities of Glasgow, Robert Gordon, Edinburgh and Stirling, she relished the opportunity to come to St Andrews for this challenging post.

On graduating from the University of Glasgow in 1992 with a Joint Honours degree in French and German, Petra then completed a postgraduate diploma in Tourism at Strathclyde. Her first job was at Glasgow University as a Trainee Manager and as an Assistant Warden, and the rest, as they say, is history!

Petra left Glasgow to take up a post in accommodation administration at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, and thereafter progressed into student residence management roles at the Universities of Edinburgh and Stirling. Most recently she worked at Lancaster University, where, as well as the role of Residences Manager, she undertook an "immensely enjoyable" 15-month secondment to Estates as the Manager of Facilities Management.

Petra said, "Over the past 10 years, student residences as a concept have become increasingly important when students are considering their choice of university and overall experience. St Andrews is consistently rated as one of the top universities in the UK. In terms of what the University has to offer residentially by way of quality, variety, associated services and in commitment to the student experience,



it is extremely hard to beat. It was a real draw to have the opportunity to work in an environment which is striving to expand and continually improve in all these areas."

Petra was pleased to return north of the border. She said, "It's nice to be back in Scotland and closer to friends and family!"

Her first impressions both of the people and place have been overwhelmingly positive. She noted, "Staff from other departments have been extremely helpful, friendly and supportive, and I have been impressed by the positive, committed and professional attitude of the RBS staff. A large proportion has been working for the University and the department for many years, which shows that both the town of St Andrews and the University are great places to work."

Although the role is a challenging one, Petra is keen to be involved in the ongoing development throughout the University.

Petra explained, "Universities are now operating within tight financial constraints and an increasingly competitive environment and RBS, along with all other departments in the University, has to rise to these challenges.

"It's an exciting time for the University, with the new development taking place on the North Haugh and additional challenges for RBS, such as the rolling refurbishment programme for existing residences, the drive to upgrade facilities, supporting the environmental agenda as well as dealing with the day-to-day student and commercial operations. I am looking forward to being part of it."

Gillian Jordan Cleaning Services Manager Estates

Dundonian born and bred, Gillian joined the University in February this year from across the water, just one week before the Government scrapped the bridge toll, fortuitously aiding her daily commute!

Gillian studied at Queen Margaret College in Edinburgh where she graduated with a BA degree. She went on to complete a year's postgraduate qualification in Institutional Management. Initially, Gillian worked for Dundee College of Education as an assistant manager in student residences looking after the cleaning operation. From there she moved to Dundee University Residences in 1987.

She said, "I started in Chalmers Hall (the old Royal British Hotel) on the High Street as "Bursar", a marvellous building and what sold it to me was the gorgeous old dining room with massive mirrors and ornate high ceilings! I worked my way around managing most of the catered halls, spending several years in each as well as a spell in the self catering sector."

After the birth of her second child, Gillian started working part-time, mostly in cleaning management, with a bit of catering and out-of-hours work thrown in for good measure! When her family were growing up, she took up a position at the West Park Conference Centre as Assistant Catering Manager.

When the management operation of Dundee University residences was contracted to Sanctuary Management Services several years ago, catered halls became a thing of the past and self-catering en suite accommodation was the way forward. Gillian moved from the catering management job in West Park Conference Centre to a full time position as part of a new management team and secured a job as Deputy Campus Accommodation Manager.

She said, "The University had commissioned new purpose-built flats and I was involved in the transition from the old accommodation to setting up the new builds, with all the joys that new buildings can bring! It was an exceptionally busy time from the opening of Belmont Flats in September 2006, with two further sites following on soon after. It was a good learning curve working for a Management Company, with many new systems, policies and procedures to learn."

She then became Health and Safety Representative for the Dundee Campus, liaising with the Residence Office over student disciplinary issues as well as the day-to-day management and maintenance issues of the residences.

She said, "I applied to St Andrews for a whole new set of challenges! My background has mostly been in residences/ accommodation and I felt a change would be good for me, while drawing on the experience I have gained over the years. I had visited the University on an Open Day in 2007 with my daughter and I liked the whole atmosphere of the University – she is now following in my footsteps in September to be an undergraduate student.



"My parents are both from Fife and as a family when I was young we regularly came over to St Andrews during the summer in the days when the summer holidays seemed to last much longer, and spent days on the West Sands – it always seemed much sunnier too - very happy memories.

"My own family spent our first summer holiday together at Kingsbarns when our son was three months old – proof that you do not need to travel far for an excellent time. Day trips to St Andrews for long walks and ice cream have been a part of our life from the early days!"

Working for Estates has combined Gillian's love of the town with her passion for its buildings. She explained, "When I first started in the post, the University seemed vast, but already it seems smaller and perfectly manageable! The Estates staff take a real pride in their jobs and it has been quite refreshing going round all the buildings with the Cleaning Supervisors, meeting the staff and seeing the effort that staff put in to keeping their buildings to such a high standard."

Gillian is looking forward to meeting people in her new position, not least her numerous colleagues in Estates. She said, "I enjoy meeting people and the number of staff that Estates employ ensured I would be able to do that easily.

"Getting to grips with the challenges of such a variety of buildings was also something I was looking forward to and taking on board new and different issues.

"On a daily basis all manner of things can crop up and as well as the planned agenda, unplanned events help to keep the days interesting."

Gillian is thoroughly enjoying looking after the buildings in this historic town. She said, "I have been bowled over by the definite "WOW" factor in some of the buildings and actually said the word when entering some of them for the first time!

"All of the people I have met have been very friendly and welcoming. I like the feel of the town and of the whole University and have thoroughly enjoyed the first few months with all the challenges I have met so far and look forward to everything else that may be thrown at me."

Retirals

School of Art History

As the date of his retirement approached **Professor Graham Smith** of the School of Art History made it clear that he wanted no party and no speeches since he had already enjoyed a conference in his honour organised by his colleagues Julian Luxford and Alex Marr last year. His departure in January has been suitably marked, however, thanks to the initiative of one of Graham's students, Tom Wright. Tom was taking Graham's module on *Photography and the Book* and conceived the idea of commissioning a photograph from the eminent Scottish photographer Robin Gillanders, whose work was discussed during the course. Robin is a good friend of Graham's and had contributed to the conference, so when Tom approached him he was delighted with the idea and undertook to persuade the subject to sit. In discussion he and Graham decided it should be a group portrait, reflecting Graham's pleasure in teaching and his hands-on approach to the use of real artworks in class.



Robin's photograph is a carefully composed and dramatically lit study inspired by the work of Hill and Adamson, pioneers of the medium, whose work is well represented in the University's Special Collections. In particular it is loosely based on a portrait entitled *The Dumbarton Presbytery* and Robin says "it was made with a view camera, the design of which has hardly changed since H & A's day with the exception that it has a shutter. The exposure was long, so the students and Graham had to be very still. In a manner of speaking I was also attempting to replicate the degree of formality (and discipline) that H&A would have had to apply to their works." One framed silver gelatin print has been made for Graham and one for the University Collections, which we hope will be on display later this year in MUSA, the new museum on The Scores. Robin has also generously given a smaller print to each of the students involved. The project has been made possible by contributions from Graham's students, from staff in Art History and Robin Gillanders himself. What better tribute could a teacher of Art History receive than to inspire students to commission a new work from a living artist?

Annette Carruthers
Head of School

School of Mathematics & Statistics

Two members of the School with over 80 years' service between them retired from their positions this year. Both academics received presentations in March.

Dr Colin Campbell retired from his position as Reader in Mathematics at the end of January, after more than 40 years' service to the University. Colin is a native of Edinburgh and studied for his first degree at Edinburgh University before going on to postgraduate study at McGill University in Montreal. Returning to Scotland he was appointed to a lecturing post in St Andrews and since then has served the University in a wide variety of ways. He has been an important contributor to the development of St Andrews into a leading centre in computational algebra and discrete mathematics and was for a time Head of the Pure Mathematics Division within the School of Mathematics & Statistics. His many services to the wider community include being an elected member of Senate, a period as Treasurer of the local branch of AUT and a long period as Editor of the Proceedings of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society. It was a very fitting tribute to his services to the mathematics community in Scotland that he was elected President of the EMS in 2006.



Colin (on the right) is with the Head of School, Professor Alan Cairns



Dr Robert Grundy (left) retired from his position as Senior Lecturer in the School of Mathematics & Statistics at the end of January. Bob Grundy is a Yorkshireman but his university education took place in London, where he gained his first degree and doctorate from Imperial College. He was appointed in 1968 to what was then the separate Department of Applied Mathematics and contributed greatly to the Department and to the School into which it was incorporated. In his research Bob has shown himself to be an accomplished and versatile applied mathematician with contributions to a variety of areas including fluid mechanics, asymptotic analysis and numerical analysis. He has also been a popular and effective lecturer and has served the School in a variety of ways, including a spell as Head of the Applied Mathematics Division. One notable contribution to University life is the fact that he is one of the few members of the staff cricket team to have scored a century in a competitive match.

School of Divinity

Professor Richard J Bauckham retired at the end of October after fifteen years service with the University, as well as twenty years in previous academic posts. He is one of the foremost living specialists on the New Testament and he has also made a major contribution to the interface between theology and biblical studies. James Davila (School of Divinity) pays tribute to him here.

Richard Bauckham was born in 1946 in London and he attended the Enfield Grammar School. He received his first degree in History at Clare College, Cambridge University. His PhD dissertation, also produced at Cambridge, was on a sixteenth-century theologian named William Fulke. In the 1970s Richard was a Research Fellow at St John's College in Cambridge and a Lecturer in Theology at the University of Leeds. From 1977-1992 he was a Lecturer and then a Reader in the History of Christian Thought at Manchester University. During this period his research moved steadily into the area of New Testament studies (with related interest in early Jewish studies and non-canonical early Christian literature), although his commitment to theological studies remained strong, as it does to this day. Richard was appointed Professor of New Testament Studies in the Divinity School of the University of St Andrews in July 1992 and he became Bishop Wardlaw Professor in 2000. During his time here he has also been appointed a Fellow of the British Academy and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Richard has published 17 sole-authored monographs and collections of essays and he has co-written or co-edited numerous other books. He has also published well over 200 articles in journals, books, and reference works. His contribution to New Testament studies has been wide-ranging and fundamental.

Richard has supervised more than 20 doctoral students to completion during his time here, and has contributed to the supervision of many others. He has also been active in contributing to and encouraging dialogue and co-operation between biblical scholars and theologians. And, finally, he is the author of the children's book *The MacBears of Bearloch* of which there may be more to come.

Richard moved to Cambridge shortly after his retirement, but he will continue his association with the School of Divinity, not least as one of the principal investigators for the More Old Testament Pseudepigrapha Project, an international collaboration, funded by a major research grant from



Richard J Bauckham

the Leverhulme Trust, to publish a new collection of biblical apocrypha pertaining to the Old Testament. We hope to see Richard here often in the years to come.

Stephen's cycle challenge

This summer, Stephen King will undertake the challenge of a lifetime in memory of his “inspirational” niece to raise funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust. He spoke to *The StAndard* about his forthcoming test of endurance.

Stephen has been a technician in the Photonics Innovation Centre since 1998. A keen cyclist, he has often contemplated the Land's End to John O'Groats challenge. Last year when his niece Zoë was ill, Stephen made up his mind to do it for her.

Before coming to St Andrews, he worked at the City University in London for ten years, where he became passionate about cycling.

He explained, “Long before the congestion charge I found that the best, and least stressful way to get around London, was by bike. The roads were jammed and the Underground always felt like you were walking through a dust buster. Eventually, I was lucky enough to work out a commute using the canal and river paths in North London.



Zoë

“This was a great way to avoid traffic fumes, wake up and get some exercise, without having to drag myself out to a gym or whatever in the evenings. What could be better?”

Following his relocation 400 miles north in 1998, he soon discovered some of the best cycling roads in the country. One of Stephen's favourite routes is from Dundee to St Andrews via Tayport.

“First the Tay Bridge: I never get tired of that crossing, with some of the best sunsets. Then head along to Tayport looking out to sea (with potential dolphin sightings).

“Tayport to St Michaels with the lovely Tentsmuir forest in the distance. Avoid low flying aircraft and it's on to Guardbridge. Finally, the path along to St Andrews has its views out to the Eden estuary and the St Andrews skyline as you approach. Fantastic, and most of the time with a tailwind.”

“People who don't cycle much think that it's a long way, but they would be surprised how the miles go by once you get used to it, and you see so much more when you are cycling.”

Stephen's niece, Zoë King, was diagnosed with cancer, aged just 14, and refused to let it get her down. She lost her fight with cancer on Wednesday 12 September, 2007, just days before her 18th birthday. But, throughout the three-year period, Zoë was never beaten.

A positive, upbeat, schoolgirl, Zoë supported the Teenage Cancer Trust in a bid to see better facilities in Edinburgh



Stephen

for teenagers fighting cancer. In April 2007 she helped organise a fundraising fashion show for the Trust – and was one of its star models. She wowed the audience with her positive attitude and turned heads in her variety of wigs.

Stephen said, “Even though she was going through a lot of treatments Zoë still found the energy to fight her corner for teenagers with cancer.”

“Having lost her hair during repeated chemotherapy, Zoë also backed the campaign for real-hair wigs. Although grateful to receive acrylic wigs from the NHS, she - in common with most teenage patients - found them inflexible and eventually uncomfortable. Real hair wigs are very expensive and Zoë wanted them to be more readily available.”

Stephen decided then to bring attention to these causes by doing a cycle ride for the charities.

He continued, "I have thought about the Land's Ends to John O' Groat's cycle from time to time then it would disappear as I built excuses in front of it. It came to mind again last year when my niece Zoë was ill.

"I plan to do the journey in seven days from Saturday 26 July to Saturday 2 August. It will be on my own, with changes of kit being picked up and posted back as I go. This means that I can use a fairly light bike and hopefully keep up a good average speed. The target most days will be 130 miles. I am choosing an East of the Pennines route which means I should be able to come through St Andrews and Dundee on my way up.

"Zoë was a wonderful person and it will be an honour to help in something she cared about so much."



At nearly 1,000 miles, this test of endurance will be the biggest challenge that Stephen has faced.

He said, "This is from a person that wasn't very sporty at all for a long time. When I first arrived in St Andrews it was the Spokes cycle shop that pointed me in the direction of Dundee Thistle CC. That was the first cycling club that I had ever joined and I now help run yearly cycle events.

"I have also been involved with Scottish Cycling in getting a youth cycling academy started in Dundee, which with a bit of luck will have people competing in the 2012 London Olympics.

"I could go on and on about the benefits but all I would say is try it, it may be just what you have been looking for!"

To contribute, visit www.justgiving.com/rememberzoe and mention Stephen's "End 2 End" cycle trip in the comments section.

For further details on The Teenage Cancer trust visit www.teenagecancertrust.org

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

NAME: Andrew Disbury

POSITION: Director of Admissions

1. *Come What May*, sung by Ewan MacGregor and Nicole Kidman in "Moulin Rouge" – full of optimism, passion, confidence and style.
2. *Constant Craving*, K D Lang – for a best friend.
3. *Cha Cha No. 1*, Bebo Valdez & his orchestra – I was strictly Come Dancing before it was popular.
4. *He's the Greatest Dancer*, Sister Sledge – well, I thought I was!
5. *I Will Survive*, Gloria Gaynor – because I did...
6. Long de Chuanren's *Masters of the Dragon*, Hou Dejian – the anthem of Tiananmen Square 1989.
7. *Possession*, Elvis Costello – the sound of my student years.
8. *True Love*, Bing Crosby / Grace Kelly – a swellegant, elegant movie (*High Society*).
9. *Tu Te Reconnaîtras*, Anne-Marie David – a champion Eurovision chanson.
10. Yueliang Daibiao Wo de Xin's *The Moon Represents My Heart*, Teresa Teng – one of China's first pop songs in the early 80s; a compulsory karaoke classic.



NAME: Paul Harryman

POSITION: Telephone System Administrator

1. *Forget That Girl*, The Monkees – love's first loss when I was 14.
2. *(On the) Threshold of a Dream* (LP), Moody Blues – Lazy Sundays training at RAF Cosford 1970.
3. *I Hear You Knockin'*, Dave Edmunds Rockpile – playing at a disco when I met the future Mrs H (Sandra) 38 years ago.
4. *Whiter Shade of Pale*, Procol Harum – refused permission to play it at our wedding.
5. *One Year of Love*, Queen – Freddie Mercury at his best.
6. *Silent Night/7 o'clock News*, Simon and Garfunkel – thought provoking.
7. *I Will*, The Beatles – short and sweet love song – dedicated to Sandra.
8. *Time in a Bottle*, Jim Croce – I get goose bumps every time I hear this.
9. *Hazard*, Richard Marx – a story of prejudice and suspicion.
10. *War of the Worlds* (LP), Jeff Wayne – I never tire of listening to this and Richard Burton's narration.



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 57

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2



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StAnza review

StAnza 2008: A Celebration of Poetry

StAnza: Scotland's Poetry Festival, which took place in St Andrews from 12-16 March, provided audiences with poetry for every mealtime and over a few drinks, writes Annie Kelly, StAnza Press & Media Manager.

Poetry could be enjoyed with coffee and a pastry at Poetry Breakfasts, with a lunchtime pint and a butterie during Poetry Cabaret performances and you could even have a poem recited to order, from a 'cocktail menu' provided by Poetry Theatre performance duo Retta Bowen and Laura Lloyd. Gone are the days when a poetry festival means sitting on a rickety chair in a draughty hall or being squashed in the backroom of a bar, straining to listen to a poet read. Festivals are real celebrations and StAnza is unique in being a festival of live poetry, presented in a variety of forms in a town that has been dubbed the Poetry Capital of Scotland.

Throughout this year's Festival, poetry was constantly spilling off the stage and into the centre of things. There were unexpected moments, such as an impromptu jazz howl by Frisian poets Tsead Bruinja & Elmar Kuiper, or especially moving ones, such as American poet Tess Gallagher's reading from her own volume, *Dear Ghosts* and from the poetry of her late husband, Raymond Carver.



Musicians from the Scottish Vienna Horns

The celebration began on Wednesday 18 March in the Byre Theatre's main foyer, with a fanfare from the Scottish Vienna Horns, a welcome from Festival Director Brian Johnstone, and a nostalgic and witty opening speech by Brian Taylor, BBC Scotland's Political Editor, recalling his own brushes with poetry as an undergraduate at the University of St Andrews. Readings by StAnza's Poet-in-Residence, Adrian Mitchell and the American poet August Kleinzahler introduced the Festival's themes: *Poetry & Conflict* and *Sea of Tongues*.

The challenges of the first theme were crystallised in a discussion (held in partnership with the University of St Andrews Poetry Forum). There was an energetic exchange of views between the panellists on whether poetry could inspire people in wartime towards



James Fenton, reading at the Byre Theatre



BBC Scotland's Brian Taylor launches the Festival

'resistance and restraint.' For August Kleinzahler, poetry was less effective as a form of protest than songs, film and journalism. Adrian Mitchell (whose father came from Cupar, and who treasures his Scottish connections) spoke eloquently about his father's wartime experiences, and how these influenced his own commitment to pacifism. The poet Brian Turner, also on the panel, talked about his time as a soldier in Iraq: his collection, *Here, Bullet*, is an urgent poetic despatch from that conflict. Tom Jones, who teaches at the School of English, talked about how poets 'at variance with the State' are influential, referring to the Russian poet Anna Akhmatova, whose work he has translated.

Sarah Maguire, poet and Director of London's Poetry Translation Centre, delivered this year's StAnza Lecture on the theme with a similar question to the panellists: 'Starting with W H Auden's damning line, 'poetry makes nothing happen', she proceeded to counter this view with another: that 'poetry is a way of making things happen'. In her spirited survey, she discussed how governments can treat poetry both as an enemy and sometimes a tool of the State and how 'translating poetry is the opposite of war'. She continued with an examination of how poetry is treated in

other cultures, giving as an example the career of the Somali poet, Maxamed Xaashi Dhamac 'Gaariye', lionised in his own land – 'Somalis are the most poetry-obsessed people on earth' – because his poetry articulates the country's culture and identity. To read the StAnza Lecture in full, visit www.stanzapoetry.org

With its emphasis on poetry in translation, Sarah Maguire's lecture encompassed both StAnza's first theme and its second, *Sea of Tongues*, which celebrated the diversity of languages in which poets work, and created an atmosphere which inspired and entertained audiences. The Festival welcomed poets writing in over eleven tongues, from Scots and Gaelic to Norwegian, French, and the less well known Frisian (Netherlands) and Franconian (Germany). The Festival's first Masterclass in Translation, led by Edinburgh-based poet and translator, Ken Cockburn, successfully showcased the creative possibilities that come with working in other languages. For example, Norwegian poets Odveig Klyve and Finn Øglænd could find common ground and historical links



August Kleinzahler

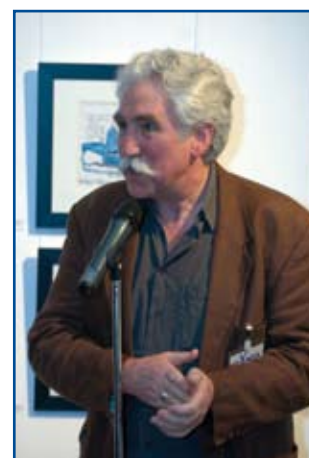
with Robert Alan Jamieson's work in Shetlandic. Among those moving between languages was Heather Dohollau, who was born in south Wales, but who has lived in France for most of her adult life and writes hauntingly about place and memory, particularly her native Wales and her adopted home, Brittany. The visit to St Andrews of this distinguished poet was also marked by key readings and seminars on her work at the School of Modern Languages. StAnza's Glasgow Focus produced a series of talks and readings by some

of that city's finest poets and writers, including Liz Lochhead, Janice Galloway, Michael Schmidt and Tom Leonard, who, in one outstanding poem, told how the war of terror came home (almost literally) to him over a cup of tea with a smiling young policeman. Newer voices, Cheryl Follon and A B Jackson, presented poetry laced with humour and satirical observations of everyday life.

Poetry also provided a feast of music, performances, exhibitions and films. Among many outstanding highlights was a poetry and jazz night, which combined the talents of local musicians and assorted poets – including the aforementioned jazz howl – and a chilled-out evening of Lorca, Cohen and Nick Drake, set to music by guitarist Keith James and double bassist Rick Foot. StAnza's Poetry Film programme is in its second year and its innovative selection of short films blended visual images and haunting lines. Among a rich array of exhibitions was award-winning poet Jen Hadfield's show of exquisite artworks, inspired by Mexican folk art. They evoked Shetland's landscapes and formed a visual complement to her new collection, *Nigh No Place*.

The Festival ended with a joint reading by James Fenton and Adrian Mitchell, both of whom raised the roof – and many hearts – with their passionate and political poetry. A good moment to recall Sarah Maguire's quotation from John Berger in her lecture: "Poetry can repair no loss, but it defies the space which separates. And it does this by its continual labour of reassembling what is scattered".

Plans are already afoot for next year's StAnza. Eleanor Livingstone, the Festival's Artistic Director, is keeping the list of participants under wraps, but she can give us a hint of what is to come. "For March 2009, we plan to join in the Homecoming Scotland celebrations to mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, by lauding the contributions Scotland has made historically to poetry and by recognising the importance of this by Scotland's



Festival Director Brian Johnstone introduces StAnza 2008

diaspora. With our second theme, *Poetry Centre Stage*, we'll be continuing our collaboration with other art forms, this time theatre, with a series of focused events. "And the latest news," added Festival Director Brian Johnstone, "is that the festival has now been formally selected to be part of the Scottish Government's Homecoming project, one of only 58 such events across the country, and the only one in Fife. We are honoured and delighted by this considerable accolade."

Details of next year's StAnza will be available soon on www.stanzapoetry.org

StAnza is sponsored by The Scottish Arts Council, The National Lottery, The University of St Andrews, Fife Council and others.



Poet-in-Residence Adrian Mitchell

The 'hidden jewel' of St Andrews

Professor John Allen provides a colourful glimpse into the local Botanic Garden

When John Wilson founded the University Botanic Garden to the south of St Mary's Quad it was a prominent feature of the University, although laid out in an instructional rather than ornamental manner. Later, it expanded over the road to Dyer's Brae where a few of the plants still flourish on the south-facing slope.

In the early 1960s there was a great expansion when the University moved the Garden to a site of seven hectares, two wind-swept fields between the Canongate and the Kinnessburn on what was then the outer edge of St Andrews. Bob Mitchell (Curator) and Jim Mackie (Head Gardener) performed the Herculean tasks of landscaping the ground, moving the plants from the existing garden and planting a shelter belt of trees to mitigate the wind. Today the trees and plants have grown, as has St Andrews which now encircles the Garden. The site is no longer so obvious, therefore has become one of those jewels of St Andrews; less well-known than it deserves.

The landscaping used the lie of the land to good effect. There are upper and lower levels separated by a long steep bank. Part of the bank was made of rocks, with a stream cascading down to a pool in the grassy area below. Rock plants grow in the crevices and the scree area, water-side plants on the banks of the stream and pool. Further along, the bank is built up of peat, with many species of rhododendron, primula, trillium and other plants for a

shadier, more humid climate. On the upper level are the systematic Order Beds, a long herbaceous border, a Peace Garden, a herb garden and the glasshouses. A long glasshouse corridor full of spectacular flowers goes from cool to high temperatures, with side glasshouses leading off and following the temperature sequence, culminating in the hot and humid tropical house with an astonishing display of orchids (and bananas!). There is also a large temperate glasshouse with a pond containing goldfish, where in January and February camellias bloom in profusion, almost unseen because so few people venture into the Garden in winter. In fact there is beauty and interest to be found in the Garden at all times of the year.

The Garden has wide appeal. For the botanist, there are 8000 species of plants, many rare, from diverse geographical and climatic regions of the world. They are properly labelled with their name and area of origin. A gardener can see what a plant they are thinking of buying from a nursery looks like in growth, and can use the labelling to identify that plant whose name

they have always wanted to know, or have forgotten. To this end the herbaceous border, which is a mass of colours throughout the summer, has plants selected to appeal to the gardener. For the casual stroller there is a good variety of relaxing environments.

Gunnera by pond



Loches pool in Spring

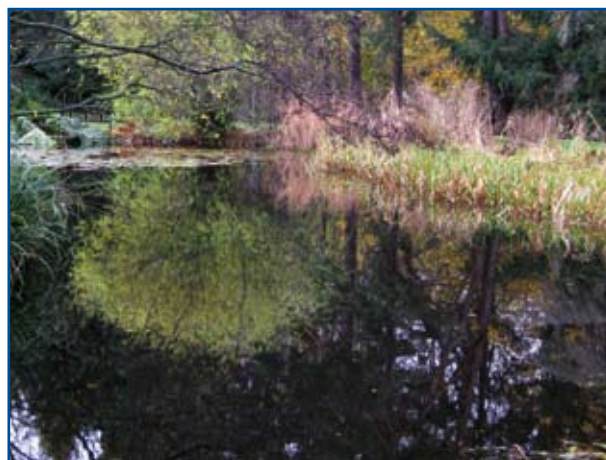


In 1987 the University, short of money as usual, decided it could no longer afford to maintain the Garden. Fortunately, instead of its being closed and thrown to developers, an agreement was reached with NE Fife District Council that the Council should manage the Garden on a 25-year lease. Later, the agreement transferred to Fife Council Community Services. The aims are to provide a public amenity, to preserve an important plant collection and to continue with the use of the Garden for education and, to a lesser extent, research. Input from the University is formalised and Bob Mitchell, now retired but active in many things, is Honorary Curator. The educational aspects extend to all ages. There are regular lecture/demonstration courses on various aspects of horticulture. There is also Junior Hortus, a youngsters' gardening club, which was started 33 years ago. Visits by groups of school children have increased in number greatly in recent years. They enthusiastically study not only different aspects of plants but also the birds,

wee beasties, creepy-crawlies and fungi found in the Garden. A "Glass Class", a glasshouse dedicated to the purpose and appropriately equipped, aids the studies. These educational activities are mainly run by the Friends of the Botanic Garden. To co-ordinate and expand them, the St Andrews Botanic Garden Education Trust Ltd was set up as a registered charity and took over from the Friends in January 2006.

The Friends of the Botanic Garden, founded in 1981 to further the aims of the Garden, is a flourishing organisation with a membership now of about 1200, which is large for a population the size of St Andrews and its surroundings. Money is raised through modest subscriptions and, substantially, through sales of plants, many assiduously propagated by the Wednesday Group. With the funds, the Friends support many things in the Garden: for example, they paid for the creation of the herbaceous border, provided a sophisticated labelling machine, give money to the Educational Trust and pay for summer workers.

From October to June they have monthly lectures, well attended, on topics as diverse as plant collecting in Iran and nineteenth-century illustrations of Indian botany. It is a notably friendly organisation, and members have the advantage of free entry to the Garden.



Loches pool in Autumn

If you did not know of the existence of the Garden, or knew of but never visited it, now is a good time to go although any time in the year is good.

The Garden entry is on the Canongate, with ample car parking. Opening times are 10am to 7pm May-September, 10am to 4pm October to April. Admission charge is £2 adult, £1 concession and children, free for children under five and Friends of the Botanic Garden. There is disabled access to most of the Garden. Dogs are not allowed except guide dogs.

www.st-andrews-botanic.org



Camellia bush

Azaleas



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 the fields of Evolutionary Psychology and Solar Physics.

NAME: Dick Byrne

POSITION: Professor of Evolutionary Psychology

AREA/S OF RESEARCH: Animal cognition and the evolution of intelligence. 'Intelligence' isn't a unitary quantity, but best thought of as a collection of skills that allow animals – including us - to survive and prosper by using their brains. By gaining an understanding of the natural conditions that led to the evolution of intelligence in different groups of animal, and by charting the variation in cognitive abilities across species, we can begin to sort out when and why humans became so very specialised for brain power, and understand how our abilities differ from those of other species.



WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE THIS FIELD OF RESEARCH?

'Choose' would be an exaggeration. Only my ineptitude with languages made me take a scientific path, and I went up to Cambridge to read physics. There, physics is taken as part of natural sciences, and that allowed me to discover the fascination of using cognitive psychology to understand the human mind, with the advantage that it did not require Bessel functions or tensor algebra, so I went on to a PhD in cognitive psychology. When interviewed for a lectureship at St Andrews I had little track record, but Malcolm Jeeves nevertheless picked me for his rather new Psychology Department. This meant that, by sheer luck, I had ended up in the only British psychology department where ethology was studied. My PhD work had left me worried by psychology's failure to analyse everyday behaviour as data, and I was delighted to discover ethology, the scientific study of natural behaviour. The laissez-faire climate of academic research at that time allowed me to begin studying animal behaviour in the field—and I've not looked back!

WHY IS YOUR RESEARCH IMPORTANT?

My own motivation is a fascination with trying to understand the evolutionary origins of human abilities, and pure pleasure in watching and analysing animal behaviour. But studying animal cognition and human evolution is important, because only if we can understand the biological underpinnings of everyday human behaviour are we likely to be able to do something useful when things go wrong: in pathology, developmental disorders, or antisocial behaviour.

WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT YOUR WORK?

It is exciting to discover that making comparisons between species allows animal cognition data to feed in directly to modelling human cognitive evolution. But I'm not sure if I would still be doing it, if I had not also discovered how enjoyable it could be to collect that data. When working on human subjects, I had always been in a hurry to graph the results and test my current theory, whereas following large animals in the field is a pleasure in itself, working surrounded by the biological richness of a tropical environment. And with species like gorillas and elephants, the animals' social lives are a good deal more exciting to observe than *Neighbours* or *EastEnders*. That makes a day painstakingly recording sequences of manual action or inter-animal proximity into a story to tell in the evening.

WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING FINDING YOU HAVE MADE?

That's hard to choose—different things interest different people. Personally I'd rate as most important my discovery that the plant-feeding methods of mountain gorillas were technically complex, with several consistent stages each involving the two hands working in opposition on a single task. Before, gorillas tended to be dismissed as big and cute, but dumb. Chimpanzees, in contrast, were famous for tool using. Gorilla feeding proved to be organisationally more complex even than chimpanzee tool-use; way beyond anything a monkey could do. This points to what may be 'special' about great ape abilities, the ability to understand and organise new behaviour tasks, rather than whether or not tools are used—a hint towards understanding our own distant past evolution. But most science is done as part of a team and nowadays most of my time is spent directing and supervising others, so interesting findings are joint efforts.

For instance, work with my postdoctoral student Lucy Bates on the African elephant, in collaboration with Cynthia Moss's 35-year project in Amboseli, has shown that elephants keep track of up to 30 family members by updating their memories with information they get from smelling recent urine deposits. PhD students often bring new ideas: Rahel Noser has shown that baboons plan their day's route ahead of anything they can physically detect; they have a 'mental map' of the terrain. Erica Cartmill found that orangutans are able to take account of how well their audience has understood their gestures, showing an ability that forms part of the 'theory of mind'.

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

I think evolutionary psychologists have all focused on large-brained species too much (my own recent work with elephants is a case in point!) Of course, species have large brains for a reason, so studying them is likely to be exciting,

AND WHAT MAKES YOU STAY HERE?

When I arrived, I expected to stay a couple of years in what was to me almost a foreign country. It was only after the Psychology Department here started getting top ranks for research that I began to realise that leaving might not be smart, and by then I had come to love living in Fife and Scotland.



Dick with Zizi, a mountain gorilla in Rwanda, 1989

but unless we also study cognition in more average species it will be impossible to interpret the special cases in an evolutionary framework. For that reason, I'm happy to be collaborating with Mike Mendl and Suzanne Held, at Bristol University, on the cognition of domestic pigs, and in the future I hope to study cognition in more modest species still, even reptiles and insects. Now that would be a challenge!

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO ST ANDREWS?

A job advert. Applying for jobs seemed the thing to do when finishing a PhD, and I got this one.

To someone brought up in the London suburbs, it is a treat to walk to work over the Kinkell Braes and along the East Sands, with views of the snow-covered Grampians. I can only hope that the Scottish Government's treatment of universities doesn't make a move to England an essential career move.

NAME: Ineke De Moortel

POSITION: Royal Society University Research Fellow,
School of Mathematics & Statistics

AREA/S OF RESEARCH: Solar Physics

WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE THIS FIELD OF RESEARCH?

I studied maths and astronomy as an undergraduate and, as a final year student, I did a project in Solar Physics. I became fascinated by our Sun, and decided to continue as a PhD student. Who doesn't like the Sun?

WHY IS YOUR RESEARCH IMPORTANT?

The Sun is the only star that is near enough to observe in great detail. Understanding our Sun will help us understand other stars. Obviously, the Sun also has a large impact on the Earth and understanding how the Sun affects for example, the Earth's climate is a topic which is more important than ever.

WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT YOUR WORK?

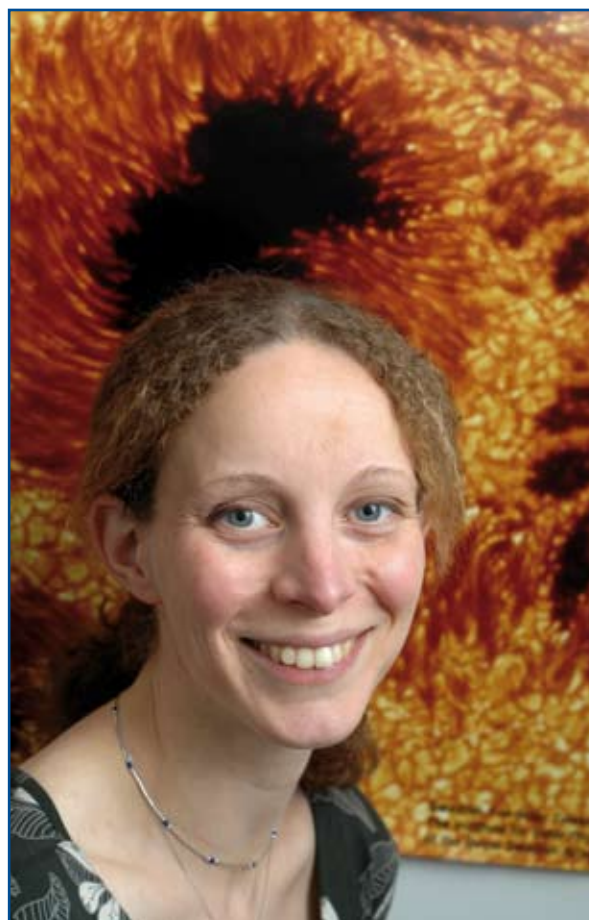
The research I do is really varied, and it's certainly very challenging. The modern satellite images we now get daily from our Sun show so much detail. Just looking at them makes you wonder how we are ever going to understand it all. Apart from doing research, I am also involved in teaching and supervising students. I find it very rewarding to be able to pass on some of the knowledge I have gathered over the last ten years.

WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING FINDING YOU HAVE MADE?

From satellite observations, I found evidence for the existence of a type of magnetic waves in the Sun's atmosphere. Theorists had long predicted that those waves should exist, but until the modern satellites came along, nobody had actually seen those waves on the Sun. Observations of waves in the solar atmosphere have now become very frequent but being involved in their discovery right from the start has been a great experience.

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

The next generation of solar satellites will produce data at such a high rate that it will be impossible to look at them all individually. Hence, we will have to teach computers how to analyse observational data for us. At the same time, theorists have to improve their models continuously to keep up with reality. The current budget crisis within STFC, our research council, is certainly providing an additional challenge. On a more personal level, I will have to find out soon how to combine my work with the demands of a young family.



WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO ST ANDREWS?

I originally came here as a final year undergraduate student, on the Erasmus exchange programme, and returned a year later as a PhD student. My supervisor in Belgium knew the Solar Theory Group here quite well and previous exchange students really enjoyed their time in St Andrews. So I decided to give it a try as well and I guess I have stayed here ever since.

WHAT MAKES YOU STAY HERE?

St Andrews is just a great place to live and work and I love Scotland, despite its somewhat erratic climate. Since arriving here ten years ago, I have taken up mountaineering and have climbed all the Scottish Munros. There is still so much unspoiled countryside in Scotland and I have a great sense of freedom when I go walking in the mountains. If only the Sun would shine a little bit more often!

Nominations or volunteers for this feature are welcome.
Email your suggestions to magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk

New Appointments

Professor David Brown joins the School of Divinity at St Mary's from Durham where he had been Van Mildert Professor of Divinity and a Canon of the Cathedral for the past seventeen years.

Prior to this (for fourteen years) he was University Lecturer in Ethics and Philosophical Theology at Oxford and Fellow and Tutor in Theology and Philosophy at Oriel College. As those titles perhaps indicate, his main research interest in those days was relations between philosophy and theology, and this is reflected in his two principal books from that time, *The Divine Trinity* and *Continental Philosophy and Modern Theology*, with the former in particular reflecting his training in analytic philosophy at both Oxford and Cambridge. While not losing concern for such interaction, his focus at Durham broadened to encompass the relationship between theology and wider culture more generally.



The result, over the past decade, has been a series of five books (all published by OUP). The first two (*Tradition and Imagination; Discipleship and Imagination*) explore the kind of factors that have led, over the centuries, to fresh ways of understanding the Christian Scriptures and what sort of impact this has had on the arts. The latter three (*God and Enchantment of Place; God and Grace of Body; God and Mystery in Words*) examine the sense in which it might be appropriate to speak of the experience of God being mediated through the arts and culture more generally: so not just music and architecture, for example, but also such things as gardens and meals. The School of Divinity has taken the opportunity of his arrival to launch a new one year MLitt course in Theology and the Arts. David was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2002.

Although he has lived in England for most of his life, David is in fact a Scot or at any rate a half-breed (Scot by birth, but with an English father). He was brought up in Islay, went to school in Dumbarton and took his first degree in Classics at Edinburgh. On that occasion he had also been offered a place at St Andrews, so he is delighted to have this second chance of coming to Scotland's oldest university.

New RSE Fellows

Four St Andrews academics have followed in the footsteps of distinguished pioneers such as Sir Walter Scott, Charles Darwin and Einstein, having been elected Fellows of The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE).

Professor David Dritschel, Professor of Applied Mathematics, **Professor Russell Morris**, Professor of Materials Chemistry, **Professor Hamish Marshall**, Wardlaw Professor of International

History, and **Professor Malcolm White**, Professor of Biochemistry, join over sixty experts as new Fellows of the Society.

New Honorary Fellows include international statesman, HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal and Professor Robin Hochstrasser, a pioneer in the innovative use of lasers.

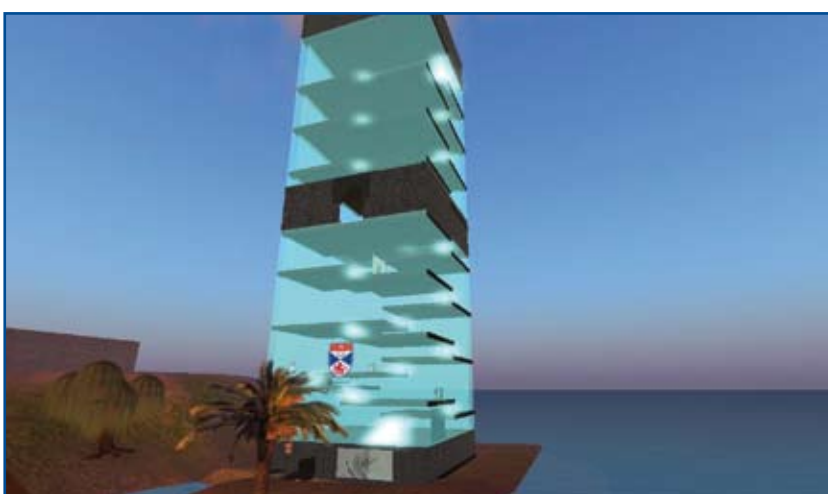
Fellows are elected in recognition of outstanding achievement in their fields and contribution to public service.

At the time of the announcement President of The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Sir Michael Atiyah, commented, "I am delighted to be able to welcome this outstanding cohort of new Fellows to the Society. Conferring the accolade of Fellowship on individuals recognised as amongst the best minds in Scotland and around the world, is the beginning, not the end, of the Society's purpose."

Virtually possible – buying into the Second Life

Imagine the scene... an open-air lecture theatre surrounded by the swishing of palm trees and the sound of the ocean's waves, or a modernist staff room, complete with sea views and warmed by a roaring open fire. Welcome to Minerva Island, the University of St Andrews' Second Life and an oasis of learning developed by group of University academics.

Named after the Roman God of learning, Minerva Island is a place where staff and students 'fly' to lectures, excavate ancient ruins and open exhibitions; in reality they don't need to leave home to attend classes or pick up course notes – instead, everything can be done online.



St Rule's Tower, as it appears on Second Life

Second Life is, virtually, a place where anything is possible. From attending real-time events from university lectures to rock concerts, buying anything from an island to a new pair of shoes, or using it as a meeting place for the twenty-first century, the 3D space is fast developing as an educational resource for institutions around the world. With thousands of new 'residents' joining every day, Second Life is an online virtual world, rich in multimedia content, and created entirely by its residents, who are on average aged 30. Inspired by the cyberpunk literary movement, it offers an advanced form of social networking where residents can interact with each other in real time. Many organisations use the site for marketing, promotional and recruitment purposes (Harvard hosts open days on SL); businesses sell their goods online (over \$12m were spent in March 2008), IBM have their own island, even Dr Who has joined in the act. Bands such as U2 and Suzanne Vega have held live events. So-called 'metaverse Evangelists' hold

mass conferences to audiences all over the world. Although many of its users are traditional 'gamers', educational establishments are catching on, with 700 universities around the world (and 52 in Britain) establishing a 'presence' on the MUVE (Multi User Virtual Environment).

Established in 2003 by Linden Lab, there are currently over 13M residents on SL, beaming in direct from their homes around the world (over 100 countries are represented). In any seven-day period, half a million people log on to their 'other life' on one of the 16,993 islands (and there is 21M square feet of 'land' for sale). Second Lifers can set up whole communities online, buy and sell goods (in real money, though the online currency is Linden dollars – currently exchanging at around 500 to the pound) and even read the local paper, which reports on island life. The cultured among us can visit the Sistine Chapel, the adventurous can take part in mediaeval jousting tournaments,

while the romantic can get 'married' in the decadent Gentle Hearts Touch chapel. But this virtual space is not just a home for lonely hearts – thousands of businesses around the world are capitalising on the popularity of SL, where some can fare better than in the real world. Second Life has a list of 'Top millionaires' that earn real life money. For example one Chinese teacher is worth \$1m by trading virtual land and developing diverse business activities around virtual worlds.

Users can join as a basic user for free – the only cost is incurred when buying goods (such as land), which is optional, and SL is accessible via downloadable software. Newcomers are eased in gently with a series of online tutorials to introduce them to the Second Life, where life is really what you make it – from setting up your own business or building your own home to playing games and going shopping, the Second Life world is your virtual oyster. Indeed, the creators call it a 'home away from home'.



(left-right)
**Vicki Cormie, Kris Getchell,
 Alan Miller, Ross Nichol,
 Thomas Sturgeon, Colin Allison
 and Andrew Macías-Díaz -
 and their Second Life personas
 (Colin Allison missing
 from virtual photo)**

Though the University has no 'official' presence on the island (i.e. for recruitment or marketing purposes), there are a number of ongoing projects related to teaching and research, which started up in the last year through funding from FILTA, via SALTIRE and the Higher Education Academy. Though they use unique 'avatars' (online characters) rather than their own identities, *The StAndard* tracked down and met up with the staff members involved. Enter *Ishbel Hartmann* (Vicki Cormie, Library), *Alan Thor* (Alan Miller), *Aardvark Gumbo* (Colin Allison), *Kristoffer Drake* (Kris Getchell) - all Computer Science - and *SchoolofManagement1413 Maximus* (Andrew Macías-Díaz, Management), all seasoned Second Lifers with a passion for the online life and the endless possibilities it offers to teaching and learning.



An important component of the learning process facilitated by MUEs is the ability to 'learn by doing'. Alan explained, "Usually MUEs are games that are goal orientated. While the technology is similar to games such as Quake, the difference with Second Life is that the system doesn't define what you do. It's been designed so that you cannot just fully interact with the environment, but you can change it too. The whole process lends itself really well to exploratory learning, which is where we come in. The whole idea of applying gaming methods and a 3D environment to the learning process is really quite important and unique. 3D virtual worlds like Second Life lend themselves to supporting many aspects of learning, for example the exploration of virtual environments, the development of virtual laboratories and interactive learning using multimedia content."

Alan's colleague Thomas Sturgeon has created a virtual lab within Second Life for experimentation with wireless networking. Students can learn about the computing science behind the development of 3D virtual worlds, as well as wireless networking. "It really is quite groundbreaking what we're doing," he said. "The lab is available to students on the Computer Science Networks and Communications course as well as Honours students, who may wish to carry out projects on SL. As part of their coursework, students will be graded on the code they write which contributes to the development of the lab on Minerva Island."

"This is throwing up many serious challenges in providing the same quality of simulation and learning that has already been achieved in the version that runs outside Second Life, but there's no doubt that the environment intrigues and captivates students", said Colin Allison, "We will be conducting user tests with undergraduates in the near future".

Meanwhile, PhD student Andrew Macías-Díaz in Management has already taught a module entirely in Second Life. Andrew recently taught 22 students on the e-business module for the Masters in Finance, Marketing, IT and Human Resources via the virtual space. The idea behind the paperless module was to teach students how organisations can use the virtual world for marketing purposes. From Andrew's remodelled ultra-modern glass fronted St Rule's Tower, students can do anything from picking up course notes from their virtual pigeonhole to communicating with each other online. Each step they climb at St Rule's represents a stage in their coursework, which ultimately leads to them setting up their own e-business. Far from students completing the course from the comfort of their bedrooms, they spent a set number of hours on level 2 of the Gateway, many of them staying longer than necessary, while Andrew was available one level up. Nor did it replace face-to-face teaching, with the beginning of the module taking the form of a group meeting before starting the training module in SL, where new users literally have to learn how to walk.

Andrew, who became interested in the possibilities of teaching via the virtual world through his research for the Future of Digital Cities project, said, "Students were enthusiastic and had more motivation because it is an interactive and fun way to learn. It is a very hands-on environment where students can work in teams or as individuals and could carry out a whole project within a virtual environment. I think one of the reasons that students enjoyed it so much is because they were in the driving seat because they can work at their own pace, completing coursework in their own time. But

the organisation element means students can easily see when they are falling behind. It's very practical too – rather than send them to a trip to Edinburgh on an assignment, I can set up something for students to visit in Second Life, from international organisations to virtual businesses."

A group of six students from the Masters in Management and IT are currently writing their dissertations on topics such as security, finance, psychology, marketing and the technical aspects of Second Life and its application for businesses.

Though admitting that there are pros and cons to the virtual world, and that the danger of internet addiction is one to be wary of, he said, "Anything is possible in the virtual world. On Second Life, you can fall in love, work and make money. You can telework and have actual meetings in Second Life, as IBM do. It's very important for entrepreneurship and in the future everyone will have their own personal avatar and a telepresence on virtual worlds like Second Life. It is still relatively new but things are moving very fast, Second Life is just at the stage now where the internet was in the 80s."

Andrew is very interested in the potential of SL outside of teaching and recently found himself accidentally marketing his course when bumping into curious St Andrews' alumni online! As for the Masters students, Andrew said that they had overwhelmingly enjoyed the module (77% would continue the course in SL) and later in the year they will give presentations to fellow Management students (and anyone else who wants to listen) via Second Life. Andrew will repeat the module for the next set of students in September. He is also considering

the possibility of hosting conferences for anyone in the world to attend on Second Life. Last month the School broadcast key speakers from the Fourth Scottish Doctoral Management Conference across the internet.

"It is very important for communication skills," he said. "It is a very pioneering way to teach. Harvard, for example, host weekly seminars on Second Life. But you can learn so much online too; you can set up experiments and you can even learn what it feels like to be schizophrenic on one island. In the future it will be possible to teach students across the world in this way... already two of my students are using SL to learn a new language – one, a Greek learning Chinese, while the other, a Chinese student, is learning Spanish. It's amazing."

Vicki Cormie, Academic Liaison Librarian (Science & Medicine), agreed, "Second Life is very good at modelling, for example you can build the ecosystem on a whole island. Objects can evolve over time and there is a whole educational aspect, where, for example, you can interact with molecules."

Vicki is currently developing a virtual exhibition space for the University library on Second Life. She became interested in the virtual world two years ago on a personal basis and soon found herself engrossed in a burgeoning community in which people fully integrate into 'immersive characters' (it's



Vicki's space for Special Collections online

considered bad etiquette to ask fellow residents about their real life) when online. Recently she has been working in Second Life as a teaching assistant on the Information Management degree at the University of Sheffield. She also attends and occasionally presents sessions in Second Life at the weekly meetings of the Information Literacy Group which includes professionals interested in the subject from all around the world.

On Minerva Island, Vicki has developed an exhibition space which will allow Special Collections to highlight some of their treasures and allow visitors an interactive experience of turning the pages and examining some of their rarest material in close up detail. "It will give us the chance to show off some of our most fragile material to the wider world", she said.

"The best thing about Second Life is that the system doesn't define what you do – instead, users can define their own environment, which lends itself really well to exploratory learning," she commented.

It's a sociable place too – Vicki has been known to host house parties online, enjoying a glass of wine with friends across the country, and even attended a virtual music festival, which was so realistic she got annoyed at it being so crowded. "I went to church yesterday morning," she added, not meaning a local one.



Kris Getchell aka Kristoffer Drake surveys the Basilica

Computer Science PhD student Kris Getchell meanwhile is working with Alan Miller and Colin Allison, Sarah Kennedy (aka Bunni Deerhunter) and Rebecca Sweetman (School of Classics) to create a virtual excavation of a Byzantine Basilica in Sparta, Greece. The authentic 3D model is based on Rebecca's real-life excavation of the area in 2000, the first in a hundred years, and which Kris describes as a 'footprint' for the project. The idea behind it is to enable students on the Ancient History Archaeology degree to participate in a virtual excavation of the Basilica and highlight how real world findings can be used to provide an authentic virtual excavation experience. From searching the deep overgrowth of the Greek Acropolis for the actual site to submitting funding proposals to the virtual research council, students have to uncover and identify artefacts before curating an exhibition of their significant findings in the Second Life Basilica Visitor Centre.

The project came about when Kris's supervisor Alan got talking to Rebecca about various projects at their staff induction, and they decided to combine skills to create a unique educational opportunity. They felt that SL offered an environment that encourages 'self-motivated discovery'.

Rebecca explained, "In many cases the opportunities to participate in a real excavation are limited due to lack of space and finance. To allow students

some opportunity to experience an excavation and the wider processes involved, we developed a virtual excavation on Second Life. Indeed, many of these experiences may not be readily available on a real excavation."

In the future, Rebecca and her colleagues hope to create a new island

in Second Life which is particularly rich in different archaeological material so that students can really put their survey skills to the test.

Of course not everyone is suited to the Second Life – approximately 80 per cent of islanders don't get past the first stages and give up. "It's not Nirvana," commented Alan, "there are lots of problems so we're definitely not in danger of replacing face-to-face contact."

It remains to be seen whether Second Life has a shelf life, and what its lasting impact in higher education will be. Inevitably it raises questions around resource, IT bandwidth and reputational risk, all of which need careful consideration within the context of the University's overall mission.

Experimentation adds to our understanding of its usefulness and risk however, meantime our virtual colleagues will progress with their own projects. The expansion of Minerva Island and a hoped-for reconstruction of St Andrews Cathedral are both in the pipeline... watch this virtual space for developments.

"It's very much work in progress," said Alan. "It's important to be part of the educational potential; we would like to see a whole suite of projects develop across the University. Anyone can use it, it's an appealing and engaging way to learn and is an important part of the future of learning. Ten years ago this sort of interaction with an environment like Second Life was just not possible. The whole virtual world is not something that will go away - it will only develop more in the future as systems do. Who knows where we will be in ten years' time?"

As Andrew Macias pointed out, we could all have our own 'telepresence' with different University units being adapted into the second life - it may not be long before staff can form their own club online for a virtual coffee.

Gayle Cook

Accessible Auld Acts

Fuel shortages, arguments over tolls on the Forth and Tay, binge drinking, and debates over the credit crunch - sound familiar? Scottish politicians were fighting about them some 500 years ago, according to a major new historical resource produced by academics within the University.

In a project of unprecedented scale and complexity, Professor Keith Brown, Deputy Principal and Master of United College and a team of researchers from the School of History have created a fully searchable online database of the proceedings of the Scottish Parliament from its first surviving act of 1235 to its dissolution by the Act of Union of 1707.

Project manager Dr Gillian MacIntosh explained, "The new edition is the fullest record ever available of the institution that lay at the heart of the nation for nearly 500 years. While historians have tended to concentrate on parliament's role in great matters of state, the majority of its business was relatively mundane and would be familiar to anyone who follows parliamentary debates today.

"Indeed, a cursory search of the record reveals that many so-called modern issues – such as rows over MPs' expenses or the planting of trees to improve the environment – all have lengthy historical precedents."

The publication online of The Records of the Parliaments of Scotland to 1707 at www.rps.ac.uk makes freely available to all the 16.5 million words that document almost 500 years of Scottish parliamentary history.



An act from 1621 outlawing the robbing of hawk nests and hunting in snow. Parliament frequently legislated on environmental issues in an effort to preserve game and wildfowl for hunting, the main sport of the nobility.



(L to R) Bruno Longmore of the National Archives of Scotland, Professor Keith Brown, Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Dr Gillian MacIntosh, Presiding Officer Alex Fergusson and Dr Brian Lang.

Presiding Officer, Alex Fergusson MSP, hosted a formal launch of the major new parliamentary record at the Scottish Parliament in May.

He said, "This project is the perfect blend of old and new, taking documents and texts, some over 700 years old, and bringing them alive today through the use of the most technologically advanced methods currently available. It will provide our people with a greater understanding of their past and the historic chapters of Scotland's parliamentary life."

The project has taken 11 years to complete and presents the records of the Scottish Parliament in a format that is amongst the most user-friendly of any historical record yet published. The resource offers students, scholars and anyone interested in Scotland's past an immediately accessible and fully searchable point of entry into one of the country's key historical sources.



Dr Gillian MacIntosh and Professor Keith Brown

Professor Keith Brown said, “Eleven years on, at a cost of £1.2 million in grants and much more in terms of full economic costs, and having employed, in one form or another, an army of post-doctoral fellows, research assistants and postgraduates, as well as having solicited the good will of many others, the project has been completed.

“After countless project meetings, the mammoth enterprise of transcribing, translating and marking up some 16.5 million words of Scotland’s parliamentary record was quietly placed in the public domain in November 2007.

“It has been a long journey in the course of which people have moved jobs, crossed continents, published books, acquired children and generally got older altogether. For example, Gillian MacIntosh moved through the life of the Scottish Parliament Project as a Postgraduate, Research Assistant, Research Fellow, editor and latterly Project Manager. No-one ever imagined it would take so long!”

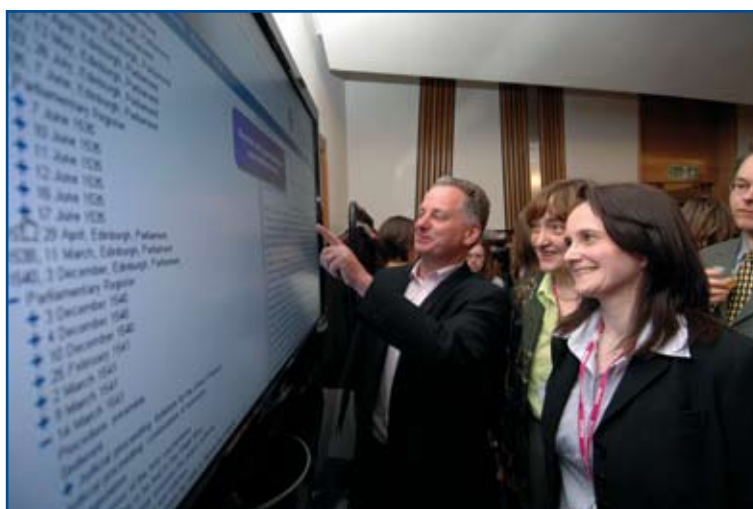
Since the website’s “soft launch” in November, Greenland, Mongolia and Central Africa remain the only territories which have not yet logged-on to investigate Scotland’s parliamentary past.

Nicola Sturgeon, Deputy First Minister of Scotland, also attended the launch and praised the “Herculean efforts” of the St Andrews team. She said, “I would like to congratulate everyone at the University of St Andrews who has been involved in this landmark project to make publicly available, in an accessible form, some of the most important documents in Scotland’s history.

“Anyone with an interest will now be able to read for themselves about the goings-on in Scotland’s original national parliament over nearly 500 years. What’s particularly fascinating

about these records is the fact that our parliamentary predecessors were legislating on many issues that are still of concern to Scots today, from binge drinking to the cost of fuel. Most importantly, perhaps, this database is a reminder that Scotland has a long and proud tradition of representative government that provides the backdrop for our present-day democracy.”

The project has been supported by the National Archives of Scotland, Scotland’s oldest national collection, where the majority of the records of the old Scottish Parliament are preserved.



Dr Gillian MacIntosh and Jack McConnell in front of the new website

Hands up for clickers

Students' fears of putting a hand up in class may now be a thing of the past thanks to emerging new technology successfully piloted by St Andrews academics.

Innovative devices designed to engage students, prompting and enhancing learning in class lectures, have been employed by the School of Physics & Astronomy and the Bute Medical School. *The StAndard* spoke to Dr Bruce Sinclair and Dr Peter Nelson to find out how the pioneering electronic voting system, known as the personal response system (PRS), has been received in St Andrews.

Student response units or 'clickers' enhance interactive classes, benefiting both students and lecturers. Feedback is fast and frequent; the clickers can be used to check understanding, giving formative feedback to both students and presenter as well as enabling lecturers to use responses to adapt teaching on the spot to suit the group.

Director of Teaching in Physics & Astronomy, Dr Bruce Sinclair, explained that the purpose behind the trial was to engage students more within lectures.

He said, "For some time we had been putting questions out to students in lectures and getting them to talk about them and to answer back via a show of hands. This in itself was successful in getting most thinking about the topic and doing things with it, but it could be considered embarrassing to those who got the wrong answer, and it may be



tempting for some students to see how the 'good' person in the front row was responding.

"With clickers the whole class can be polled with no indication as to who is giving what answer. The responses of the class overall can be seen by students and lecturer in an easily interpreted histogram. All in all a much cleaner and less potentially intimidating system than a show of hands. Depending on the result the lecturer can then structure the next part of the lecture to take account of where the students are in their understanding and abilities to work with the materials."

In the Bute Medical School, Senior Teaching Fellow and Deputy Director of Teaching Dr Peter Nelson also uses clickers to gauge response to potentially 'problematic' topics. He said, "I initially thought it would be a suitable way to have responses to questions that students might find awkward or sensitive in a subject such as medical ethics i.e. making judgements that were perhaps deemed critical of potential colleagues.

"For example, I have asked the students as a class whether they themselves would have struck off the doctors who actually were struck off because of 'substandard paediatric cardiac surgery' in the Bristol Heart Inquiry."

The systems feature radio frequency clickers and receivers that use a two-



way transmission protocol to send data back and forth. PRS clickers are battery-operated devices featuring an LCD screen and a keypad that includes numeric, lettered and mathematic symbols, as well as navigation keys. The clicker's display makes it possible for the student to see and edit their answers before they are sent, and to receive status messages about each answer they transmit.

Peter described how the devices had been well received in the BMS. He said, "Students initially treat it with the usual glee that is generated with any new technology. I believe they also like to see they are with the class majority in the response summary statistics. Those who want to go against the perceived orthodoxy would probably do so even if they were not anonymous 'clickers.'"

A study conducted by Bruce in the School of Physics & Astronomy confirmed that students have responded positively to the PRS. Over three-quarters of the class surveyed described the clickers as 'useful'.

Physics & Astronomy took delivery of 110 clickers in late 2006. These have been funded by the School and by a University SELF grant and have been utilised primarily in level one and two physics lectures to encourage even more thought by students during lectures. Due to the portability of the receiver hardware and given that clickers are handed out for a lecture at a time, it is hoped that the equipment will be widely used throughout the School.

The clickers are probably best used in multiple-choice concept-testing questions in lectures. When requested, the student presses on response A to E or can enter a numerical value, or answer True/False then press the green arrow key to enter their response. This signal is sent using RF to the receiver that is connected to the lecturer's computer. This unit sends a signal back to the student to tell them that their response has been received, and can (optionally) tell the student if their response is right or wrong. Once the polling time is over, the lecturer can bring up a histogram of the student responses on the screen. The lecturer can then adapt her/his next part of the lecture in response to the class answers. The School of Physics & Astronomy is currently using this teaching method in lecture class sizes of around 80, though elsewhere it has been used successfully with a few hundred.

Educational benefits from such interactive learning address the issue of limited attention span, involving learner participation and engagement. Additionally, since the feedback to students is immediate, explicit and non-threatening, this mode of lecturing appears to promote both their interest in, and understanding of, the subject material. The devices enable contingent teaching: genuine teacher and learner interaction where both parties' actions depend on what the other did last.

Peter explained, "In terms of educational benefits they give immediate feedback as well as long-term consideration to the understanding of what and how you teach a subject area."

Bruce agreed, "Educational benefits are to encourage active participation by students in lectures, and to give immediate feedback to the students and lecturer as to where members of the class are in the understanding of the topic in question. It can also be used as a survey tool or for formative or summative assessment, though we have not gone down the summative assessment route with them."



In March SALTIRE hosted a series of engaging talks on the use of 'clickers'. Tom Haffie from Western University, Canada (an invited speaker at this year's Enhancement Themes conference) gave a presentation on "Engaged Pedagogy Meets Emerging Clicker Technology". Tom's talk was followed by short presentations by Bruce and Peter on how clickers are being used here at the University of St Andrews.

Dr Heather McKiggan-Fee, Web & Educational Developer of SALTIRE explained, "SALTIRE was pleased to be able to arrange for Tom Haffie to give a talk at St Andrews on his innovative use of clickers to enhance student engagement, particularly in large classes. Over 20 staff attended the event, including the Vice-Principal of Learning and Teaching and the Dean of Science, as well as two learning technologists from other Scottish universities who were particularly interested in finding out about the St Andrews application of clickers. Two more Schools have now expressed an interest in trying out clickers as a result of the presentations."

If you would like more information on using clickers, or are tempted to give them a try, SALTIRE would be happy to help. Heather said, "We have a set of Quizdom clickers which we can loan out if anyone would like to experiment with the technology before committing to it. Bids can be submitted to the SELF (Strategic Enhancement of Learning Fund) or FILTA (Fund for Initiatives in Learning, Teaching & Assessment) for funds to contribute to the purchase of such technology."



Please direct enquiries to:
learning@st-andrews.ac.uk

For links to information on the pedagogy of using clickers, and the practicalities of setting up the model used in Physics & Astronomy in St Andrews, visit
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~bds2/clickers/

Fiona Armstrong

It's 'all Greek' to me

When Juan Coderch arrived in St Andrews to take up the post of Senior Language Tutor at the School of Classics, he brought with him a global phenomenon in the form of a unique web-based news service.

From the latest on the US Presidential elections to news of major football transfers, Juan offers regular news bulletins from around the world... in Ancient Greek. His website Akropolis World News, which has been running since January 2003, is a hit with keen users of the ancient language across the globe due to the novel nature of its current affairs content.



Fans from the US, Spain, Australia, Germany, Italy, the UK and, of course Greece, have described the site as a 'very valuable' online resource, as well as a 'breath of fresh air' which helps both old and new students of the ancient language. One colleague from the University of Turku, Finland, has described the site as 'a very important step forward for Greek studies' and a 'major breakthrough', while a teacher of the language at the University of Oxford (where Juan was teaching before coming to St Andrews) said that her undergraduate students were more excited at learning 'unconventional' material rather than the traditional set texts.

Some of Juan's recent memorable headlines include "Scotland beats England", "Sherlock Holmes, 120 years old" and "Latin Lovers needed".

As well as recent headlines, Juan provides free access to translations of texts, from Socrates' description of US football to Hamlet's famous 'to be or not to be' soliloquy. A further useful resource to new learners is a 'home-made' A-Z English-Greek and Greek-English dictionary of common

modern words (which have to be translated into Modern Greek before being translated to Ancient Greek). A quick glance at the listing provides an intriguing insight into 21st century issues, with words selected including alcoholism (oinopneumatías), cinema (kinematograficós), computer (hypologistés), football (podósfairon), glacier (pagetón), to smoke (kapnízein), terrorist (tromokrátēs) and unemployment (anergía). And for those of you who don't already know, Ancient Greek for university is panepistémion.

One of Juan's main reasons for establishing the site was to encourage the use of ancient languages around the world, and his website fills a gap caused by the fact that 'people translate from Greek, but not into Greek'. He said, "The growing interest for Latin language and its use worldwide is something known by everybody: congresses that are celebrated in Latin, cultural meetings, publications on several areas, news services (from Helsinki, Bremen and Warsaw), youths that communicate with each other through internet etc, all of this in the language of Cicero. I wondered, would anything similar in Ancient Greek be possible?

"I thought that by offering world news in this language I could maybe help many students lose their fear and make them more interested in its study. On the other side, for those more advanced in the language, this 'news service' may offer to them the novelty and the attraction of seeing Thucydides's and Plato's language used for present matters. I hope it is a new and refreshing experience that eliminates the sensation that Greek is a 'closed world'".

The website is open to contributors or comments from experts willing to provide further information on the derivation of historical translations sourced and posted online by Juan.

Juan joined the University in September last year from the University of Oxford, where he had been teaching both Greek and Latin. "I never talk about Latin and Greek as dead languages – they are immortal," he said.

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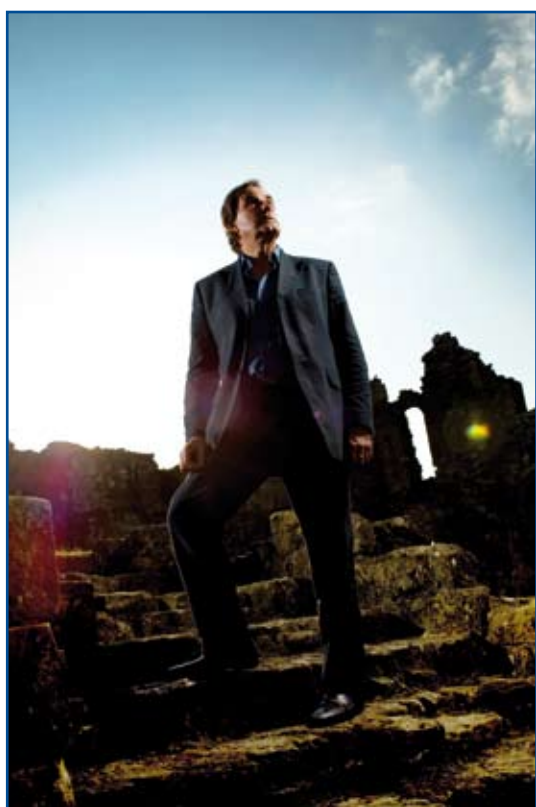
Broadcasting St Andrews

Medieval Minds

Professor Robert Bartlett, of the School of History, painted a fascinating portrait of medieval Britain in a new television series at the heart of BBC Four's season on the Middle Ages. 'Inside the Medieval Mind' delved into the intellectual landscape of the medieval world in four hour-long documentaries in an attempt to understand the mentality and the outlook of people who lived in the Middle Ages.

The series revealed medieval man's fascination with the supernatural, approach to sex and courtly romance, the stringent class system, and understanding of the world through four programmes entitled Knowledge, Sex, Belief and Power.

Professor Bartlett explained, "The period is important because it is the foundation of our world now and, because it's strange and different, it encourages us to use our imaginations.



Professor Bartlett (photo courtesy of the BBC)

"In many ways these were people very much like us, in terms of family, ambitions for children and the world of emotions. On the other hand, they inhabited a very different world, in which it was believed the dead visited the living, and where somewhere there lived a race of people with the heads of dogs."

As well as highlighting the birth of scientific inquiry by taking a trip into the medieval psyche, Professor Bartlett revealed how deep intellectual curiosity and the founding of Oxford (1096), Paris (1175) and Cambridge (1209) led directly to the higher education system of today.

He said, "Many people think of the Middle Ages as a period of ignorance, and we are really trying to redress that and to point out not simply how the area of knowledge at that time was different from the area of knowledge now, but also how dynamic and creative medieval thinkers were.

"The first universities grew slowly, but once they were in existence, others could be founded. Our university, St Andrews, is the oldest in Scotland, about to celebrate its 600-year anniversary. It has got a continuous history."

The series demonstrated not only the differences between medieval society and modern society, but also flagged up many of the similarities, particularly between people.

He continued, "I hoped viewers might get out of this a very strong sense that the Middle Ages was full of real people, in some ways like us and in some ways not like us, but they were real people and they can be encountered as best you can through their words and through their records."

For further information about the series visit: www.open2.net/medievalmind/index.html

Rwanda and Peacekeeping

Professor Jerry DeGroot from the Department of Modern History went to Rwanda in late March to speak to a UN conference on gender and peacekeeping. The following is a summary of his impressions.

Francine Murengezi Ingabire was a beautiful 12 year old girl who loved swimming and playing with her big sister Claudette. In April 1994, this ordinary, happy child was hacked to pieces with a bayonet. Her ordinariness makes her special, since she provides the perfect tragic symbol of the universality of suffering endured by the Tutsi population of Rwanda. In just 100 days, some 1.5 million Tutsis were murdered by Hutus intent upon a Rwandan version of the Final Solution.

Francine's story is told in a special room devoted to child victims at the genocide memorial in Kigali. Each of fourteen glass panels is devoted to the life and death of a single child. Dominating each panel is a huge photograph of a smiling boy or girl denied a future because of the circumstance of contrived ethnic difference. The panels are a gauntlet of tragedy which render the visitor an emotional wreck.

Emerging from the building, one encounters some huge concrete plinths which cover the mass graves of 237,000 individuals. The humid equatorial air is thick with the scent of memorial flowers - the odour of grief. The immensity of the graves is overwhelming, but it is smiling Francine that tyrannizes one's emotions. It is impossible to forget those beautiful brown eyes. As Josef Stalin once said (rather too cynically): a single death is a tragedy, a million deaths a statistic.

The statistics are nevertheless devastating: 85 per cent of the Tutsi population of Rwanda was killed in the genocide. A high percentage of the survivors carry terrible scars - physical and mental - or, in the case of women, are still coping with the trauma of rape. Many women were intentionally infected with HIV, itself a weapon of genocide.



To those unfamiliar with the current state of Africa, Rwanda remains synonymous with genocide. Though the killings occurred fourteen years ago, ethnic slaughter still dominates impressions. That is a shame, since Rwanda is a proud nation that seeks admiration, not pity. The Rwandan people want to be seen as an example of the resilience of the human spirit, not of the despair that defines Africa. That spirit is apparent everywhere. In the immediate aftermath of the genocide, the constitution was re-written. In talking to Rwandans, one is struck by the belief shown in government - not just in politicians, but also in the military, the judiciary and the police. One prominent component of reform was the share of authority given to women - by law. At present, women constitute 47 per cent of the

legislature - the highest proportion of female representation of any country in the world. When I asked an Army colonel how he had adjusted to surrendering such a large share of power to women, he replied: "What's the problem? Rwanda has always been a matriarchal society. We've just given legal recognition to that fact".

Granted, it is easy to get carried away by Rwandan optimism. One suspects that, under the surface, demons still lurk. But, at the same time, cynicism seems churlish in a country trying desperately to succeed. Rwanda wants to be a model for the rest of Africa, and huge strides have already been made toward that goal. Kigali, for instance, is arguably the safest capital city on the continent. The safety of the country, when combined with its

immense beauty, make it the perfect destination for tourists keen to experience Africa. The government also hopes that safety and stability will attract foreign investment.

The desire to be a model is not confined to matters economic. One noble goal of the nation is to provide an example to the rest of Africa in terms of the professionalism of its military. This is particularly important in the peacekeeping context, since it is imperative that peacekeeping forces sent to trouble spots in Africa contain a high percentage of African soldiers. In common with stable, peace-loving countries like Norway, Sweden and Canada, Rwanda has recently decided that the primary purpose of its military forces will henceforth be peacekeeping, and has invested an immense amount of effort in training soldiers for that purpose.



Dag Hammarskjöld, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and second Secretary-General of the United Nations, once said that 'peacekeeping is too important to be undertaken by soldiers'. But, he added, 'soldiers are the only ones who can do it'. Because peacekeeping can be violent, combat training is essential. But the peacekeeper must also be conciliatory and patient. Few conventionally trained male military personnel combine the qualities of soldier and conciliator essential to the job. As a result, UN operations have been marred by aggressive behaviour that exacerbates tensions. Donning a blue helmet does not transform a soldier into a saint. Virtually every UN operation has been marred by instances of peacekeepers committing violence against the local population. Rape is especially prevalent. On some operations, UN peacekeepers have set up prostitution rackets, using local women as sex slaves.

In recognition of these problems, the Rwandan Defence Force has launched a programme of gender training for soldiers, in co-operation with the regional office of UNIFEM - the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

The aim is not just to eradicate the scourge of gender-based violence, but also to recognise the importance of women to the peacekeeping process.

My own involvement came as a result of being invited to a conference in Kigali on engendering the peace process, sponsored by UNIFEM and the Rwandan Defence Force. I was invited because of my expertise on women in peacekeeping and because I am an advocate of their increased participation in all aspects of military affairs. The evidence from various UN missions suggests that the presence of women in UN missions improves the overall chances of success. Women succeed for the simple reason that they are not men--since gender stereotypes encourage the belief that females are less aggressive, the female soldier is less likely to inflame a tense situation. The presence of females also has a moderating effect upon the behaviour of male soldiers, rendering them less likely to engage in gender based violence against local women.

I have attended many conferences of this type, each time appealing for the greater participation of women. But

this was my first time in Africa. What struck me was how receptive male officers in the Rwandan army were to my message, in stark contrast to what I have experienced at NATO headquarters and elsewhere. The Army Chief of General Staff, General James Kabarebe, has publicly stated that violence against women is a security threat that breeds a severely negative impact on socio-economic development in general, and human rights in particular. As he recognises, this is not simply a matter of being nice to women. It is a matter of ensuring a more effective peace.

It remains to be seen how successful Rwanda will be in its goal of providing a model for the rest of Africa. The same hopes that are now invested in Rwanda were once assigned to Kenya, and we are all familiar with how abruptly promise can turn into despair. But the Rwandan people deserve our help and encouragement. They recognise that the best way to ensure the stability of their own country is to export professionalism and peace to their neighbours. Hope, not pity, is what Africa needs most.

City of hope and fear

Professor Oliver Richmond (International Relations) and Research Fellow Richard Franks launched the first MLitt in Peace and Conflict Studies recently with a groundbreaking field trip to Sarajevo. Student Stefanie Kappler shared her experience with The StAndard.

Sarajevo - city of hope and fear, East and West, dreams and nightmares - and we found ourselves in the middle of this! We, all nine students of Peace and Conflict Studies, were really lucky to get sent away from St Andrews for eleven days to do research "on the ground" in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After an adventurous flight to snow-covered Sarajevo, we were facing a long weekend to get to know the city, which fascinated us by its variety of people and influences: half-destroyed apartment blocks from the communist era facing modern office towers, interspersed with mosques all over the place.

Mustafa, our local guide, took us on a tour to show us the famous tunnel through which the Sarajevans got food and weapons during the siege – it was shocking to see how much people's lives were dependent on outside supplies. Very different, but no less interesting, was our tour to the Olympic Mountains: getting stuck in the snow and identifying fields of landmines right next to the street, we got an idea of how the past still impacts on the overall atmosphere in the country.

Thanks to Jasmin, a former St Andrews student from Sarajevo, we discovered the nightlife of Sarajevo from a 'local' perspective. Indeed, nightlife seems to



play an important role in Sarajevo, and as with Bosnian music, it is very clear how much the city has been influenced by both East and West, developing a style which brings this together in a very creative way.

'Work' started on Monday with the arrival of Professor Oliver Richmond and Dr Jason Franks. Nejra Čengić, our local researcher, had organised meetings with numerous actors of the development and peacebuilding scene. These meetings allowed us to get interesting insights into the approaches of various organisations and institutions working on different levels of society.

It particularly surprised us to see how disillusioned the international key actors are often sitting in their ivory-towers or over-securitised barracks and frankly admitting that peacebuilding is in a stalemate they do not know how to get Bosnia out of. This was palpable in the meetings with the World Bank, the EU Commission and the United Nations Development Programme, but much more clearly articulated in

the Office of the High Representative, where the tense situation was literally in the air. Yet, a more positive assessment was made by actors closer to the people. Having met with various NGOs, we felt slightly more optimistic for Bosnia and Herzegovina – at least on the small-scale, things seem to be moving forward, even though there are persistent grievances. In general, most attribute the lack of progress in Bosnia to local politicians and their tendency to exploit the tense situation for their personal benefit. Thanks again to Nejra, we got the chance to meet three politicians, representative of the respective 'constituent peoples' (ethnic groups) of Bosnia. Despite their factual interests, it was interesting to see how much they agreed on the fact that politics is not a dirty business at all. Rather they put emphasis on the value of democracy and their engagement with (civil) society – in contrast to the criticism voiced by the people and organisations we had met before.

One of the highlights of the week certainly was our trip to Mostar and



Trebinje. Escaping from snowy Sarajevo to sunny Mostar, we visited the famous bridge of reconciliation. At first glance, Mostar is a beautiful place to be; very idyllic and touristy. However, moving out from the very centre of town, we were faced with numerous buildings destroyed by the war and reminders that the town is ethnically divided. This showed us again that reconstruction has worked on the surface – a reconstructed bridge, an old town enjoyable for tourists – whereas deeper divisions in the backyard of the town and of people's minds are still struggling with the memory of war.

Moving on to Trebinje, a town in the Republika Srpska at the border to Montenegro and Croatia, we met a Serbian politician, who – to our surprise – started to introduce himself and his ideas by referring back to the sixth century. After he had told us that people in Trebinje had tried to assassinate him eleven times, it felt a bit odd to be shown around by him in the town where he was 'not very popular'.

The last working day of the week gave us the opportunity to arrange our own meetings according to our personal interests, which had clearly evolved throughout the entire week.

This also helped us to think about how to get in touch with people independently from the group and gave us the opportunity to make important contacts for potential future research. In the afternoon, we took part in a workshop with students of the University of Sarajevo. Oliver and Jason had organised this to discuss issues of peacebuilding in the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was particularly interesting against the background that most of the students were working for international organisations and hence took a middle position between the tensions we discussed, namely between local and international ideas. We could observe that during the process of lecture and discussion, many students came to be more open about their resentments against the liberal peacebuilding model they are themselves part of and expressed their frustrations about Bosnians being treated like 'guinea-pigs in an experimental laboratory' by the international key actors.

After a last hiking day in Sarajevo's intense sun – spring was clearly announcing its power – the trip was approaching its end. We all agree that we had a great time and are more than grateful to Oliver, Jason and Nejra for



organising this and supporting us in diverse ways. The trip allowed us to learn about professional aspects of conducting fieldwork by making us think about practical concerns, such as to ask people whether and how we could quote them. Apart from that, we learned which language to use to ask questions, how to structure meetings and how to get access to 'subjugated discourses' by listening to ordinary people, which goes far beyond the experience of reading books or articles. Beyond revealing major strengths and weaknesses of the peacebuilding model in the country, the trip also helped our class to get to know each other much better and to have a great time together.

Mexicanists gather in St Andrews for major new project

Last summer Professor Will Fowler (Department of Spanish) was the recipient of a major AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) research grant worth £610,000. The grant, the largest awarded to the School of Modern Languages to date, is funding a three-year project on “The *Pronunciamiento* in Independent Mexico, 1821-1876” (2008-2010). Professor Fowler describes the project's importance to *The StAndard*.

Often translated as 'revolt', the *pronunciamiento* was a written protest/petition, often drafted as a list of grievances or demands, signed by a group of individuals and/or corporate body (high-ranking officers, town council officials, villagers, members of a particular garrison, Indian pueblo, etc.) that could result in an armed rebellion if the government did not attend to them. As early as the 1820s, the *pronunciamiento* had already acquired in Spain and in Mexico the particularly distinctive set of norms, procedures, and use of discursive strategies that set it apart from a common revolt or military uprising. The actual *pronunciamiento* texts or *Actas* which became an integral part of the proceedings, acquired a formal, even legalistic register and style of their own, which together with the expected preamble, numbered petition of demands, call for negotiation or to arms, and essential list of signatories, developed into, for want of a better term, a *genre* in its own right.

It was these norms and procedures of the *pronunciamiento*, together with its bureaucratic components that made it into such a distinctive practice – one that would, interestingly, become significantly prevalent only in Spain and Mexico. Although the *pronunciamiento* is still defined in most dictionaries and encyclopaedias as a military uprising or coup, in reality it was not always a military action, it was generally *not* concerned with overthrowing the government, and, quite frequently, it was *not* a response to a development in national politics. In other words, the *pronunciamiento*, with its distinctive and culturally unique expectations, formulistic and formulaic procedures, and easily recognizable generic-driven texts, was a nineteenth-century Hispano-Mexican extra-constitutional political practice that was used by soldiers and civilians to forcefully lobby, negotiate, or petition for political change, both at a national and at a local level.

The generous AHRC award has allowed us to put together a vibrant team made up of two research fellows (Dr Germán Martínez Martínez [Essex] and Dr Natasha Picôt [Nottingham]), two PhD students (Rosie Doyle and Kerry McDonald), and a database developer (Sean Dooley). A further four PhD students have also started their doctoral programmes on related topics under my supervision (Shara Ali, Melissa Boyd, Leticia Neria and Ana Romero Valderrama – the last two funded by the Mexican grant-awarding body Conacyt) allowing for the emergence of a lively community of Mexicanists in the School of Modern Languages.

The aim of this project is to develop a better understanding of the civil conflicts that broke out with remarkable and tragic consistency following the achievement of independence. Over 2,000 so-called *pronunciamientos* erupted in Mexico between 1821 and 1876, in some cases leading to bloody civil wars (e.g. the Civil War of 1832, the Revolution of Ayutla [1854–55], the Civil War of the Reforma [1858–60]), in others to a peaceful change of government, the removal of controversial ministers, or a shift in policy.

We are interested in exploring the political culture that appears to have legitimised the threat of armed rebellion as a means of effecting political change during this period. It is with this aim in mind that we are bringing together a formidable group of high profile scholars to study together the origins, levels and nature of participation and development, outcomes, representation, and memory of the experience of the *pronunciamiento* in Independent Mexico.



Professor Will Fowler (front right) with his team. Back row (left to right): Dr Natasha Picot, Dr German Martinez, Ana Romero Valderrama, Shara Ali and Kerry McDonald; front row (left-right): Sean Dooley, Rosie Doyle and Melissa Boyd.

Three conferences will be held in St Andrews, based around three different yet interrelated cycles, namely:

Forceful Negotiations (20-22 June 2008)

Politics, Conflict and Insurrection (19-21 June 2009)

The Damned and the Venerated (18-20 June 2010)

This is a project that will significantly improve our understanding of Independent Mexico, the nature and dynamics of the *pronunciamiento* in a postcolonial Spanish American society, test mainstream theories of revolutionary activity in the case of Mexico 1821–76, enhance trans-Atlantic British-Mexican-American collaborative scholarship, assist four young scholars develop their careers as people and academics, and produce an extremely helpful database, three important edited volumes and a monograph.

The ultimate goals of the team are:

1. To produce a major online relational database that includes transcriptions of over 2,000 *pronunciamientos*;
2. To publish three edited volumes on the origins, experience and memory of these forceful petitions;
3. To enable the PhD students to complete their dissertations successfully;
4. To assist me in collating the data that will then be analysed in my monograph on the subject.

To find out more about the Project go to:
arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/pronunciamientos/

Graduation June 2008 – Honorary degrees

Figures from the worlds of academia, acting and golf will be awarded honorary degrees by the University of St Andrews this month (Tuesday 24 - Friday 27 June 2008).

They include actress Dame Judi Dench, lady golfer Renee Powell, philosopher René Girard and environmentalist George Monbiot.

The ceremonies, to take place in the Younger Hall, are detailed as follows –

Tuesday 24 June 2.30pm

Dame Judi Dench, Actress – Hon DLitt (Doctor of Letters)

Dr Simon Campbell, Leading British Pharmaceutical Scientist and Chemist – Hon DSc (Doctor of Science)

Wednesday 25 June 10.30am

Professor Sir Nicholas Wright, Warden of Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry – Hon MD (Doctor of Medicine)

Professor Angus Deaton, Dwight D. Eisenhower Professor of International Affairs, Princeton University – Hon DLitt (Doctor of Letters)

Wednesday 25 June 2.30pm

Baroness Helena Kennedy, Distinguished Lawyer – Hon LLD (Doctor of Laws)

Renee Powell, Professional Golfer – Hon LLD (Doctor of Laws)

Thursday 26 June 10.30am

Henning Mankell, Swedish Novelist, Playwright, Director – Hon DLitt (Doctor of Letters)

Dame Nancy Rothwell, Vice-President of Research, Manchester University – Hon DSC (Doctor of Science)

Thursday 26 June 2.30pm

Adam Hochschild, Author and Journalist – Hon DLitt (Doctor of Letters)

Friday 27 June 10.30am

Major General George Cowan, Distinguished career in the Royal Medical Army Corps – Hon MD (Doctor of Medicine)

George Monbiot, Environmentalist – Hon DSc (Doctor of Science)

Professor Sir Kenneth Murray, Emeritus Professor of Molecular Biology, University of Edinburgh – Hon DSc (Doctor of Science)



Dame Judi Dench

Friday 27 June 2.30pm

René Girard, Critic and Culture Theorist and Philosopher – DLitt (Doctor of Letters)



Renee Powell

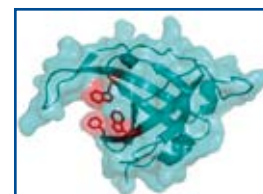
Research highlights

New discovery linked to DNA repair and cancer

Scientists at the University of St Andrews have discovered a new protein in humans that plays an important role in repairing DNA damage that could lead to cancer.

Professor Malcolm White, Centre for Biomolecular Sciences, led the discovery alongside an international team from the Queensland Institute for Medical Research in Brisbane, Australia.

Professor White and Dr Kum Kum Khanna in Brisbane discovered the protein, named hSSB1, when searching the human genome for ancient classes of proteins. They found a small gene, which had previously gone unnoticed, encoding a novel DNA binding protein that bore a strong resemblance to proteins from a group of microbes called Archaea.



Stereotyping success

Women doing badly at maths or English footballers missing penalties could all be down to historical stereotyping, according to St Andrews researchers.

A report by psychologist Steve Reicher at St Andrews and Alex Haslam of the University of Exeter argues that success or failure at work, school or in sport is not always down to lack of ability or incompetence.

Instead, they suggest that the power of stereotypes can cause poor performance when a person believes they should do badly.

A good innings

A high number of test match appearances is linked to a longer life in English cricketers, according to St Andrews' research.

In the new study, Professor Paul Boyle examined whether occupational success influenced longevity among England test cricketers.

He found that while higher numbers of appearances were associated with a longer life, captaining the team did not extend their lifespan.

Discovery may assist future treatment of Alzheimer's

A St Andrews' researcher has identified a new protein associated with the progression of Alzheimer's disease. The discovery may assist in developing future treatments for the disease, which currently affects around 700,000 people in the UK.

Neurobiologist Dr Frank Gunn-Moore found that increased amounts of a protein called endophilin I are linked to increased stress in the brain, which subsequently leads to brain cell death.

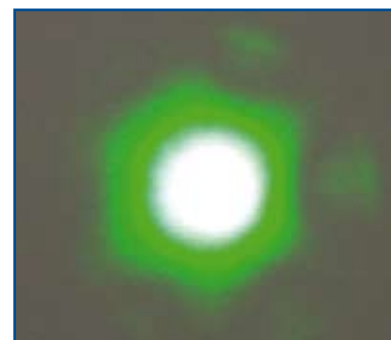
Black Holes made of light

Scientists at the University of St Andrews have used lasers to simulate a black hole in their laboratory.

Professor Ulf Leonhardt and Dr Friedrich König used intense light pulses to create an artificial 'event horizon' - the defining feature of a black hole known as 'the point of no return'. The development may allow researchers to test Professor Stephen Hawking's theory that black holes are not black at all but in fact radiate light.

It is the first time that scientists have successfully simulated an event horizon using light. There is no danger however of the scientists being sucked into deep space by an intense pull of gravity, since the tabletop device only acts on light in optical fibres and is perfectly harmless.

The researchers hope that by using sophisticated laser systems and advanced optical fibres, their horizon will eventually be strong enough to observe Hawking's radiation theory.



Why the dating game is taken at face value

Suitors can tell a young person's attitude to sexual relationships by the look on their face, according to new research which gives deeper insight into mate attractiveness.

Researchers at the Universities of St Andrews and Aberdeen collaborated with Durham University in a study which also found that young men and women look for complete opposites when it comes to relationships. The study found that men generally prefer women they perceive are open to short-term sexual relationships, whilst women are usually interested in men who appear to have potential to be long-term relationship material.

The scientists say the research shows people can use their perceptions to make more informed partner selection depending on the type of relationship they are after. The study is a significant step in further understanding the evolution of partner choice.

For more information and to take part in web-based experiments, log onto www.perceptionlab.com



The face on the right is more likely to be interested in a short-term sexual relationship



Meaningful monkey calls

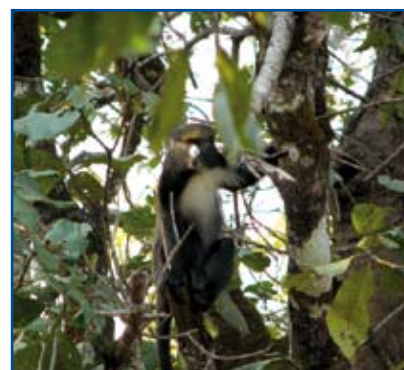
Researchers at St Andrews have found that monkeys combine calls to make them meaningful in the same way that humans do.

The new study may provide fresh insights into the evolution of human language.

St Andrews' researchers Dr Klaus Zuberbühler and Kate Arnold studied putty-nosed monkeys in Nigeria, where they recorded monkeys combining

distinct alarm calls in particular ways to convey different meanings.

The new findings challenge the notion that combining signals was an essential step in the evolution of human language.

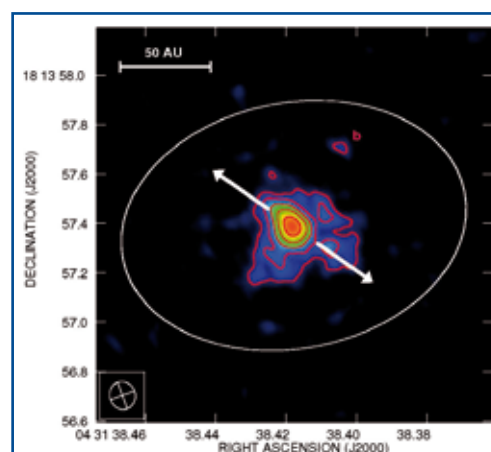


Astronomers find baby planet

St Andrews' astronomers have found a baby planet still in the stages of forming and encased within a 'womb' of gas.

The embryonic planet, thought to be the youngest ever seen, was discovered by Dr Jane Greaves and colleagues from across the UK and the US.

The finding provides a unique view of how planets take shape, because the supporting images also shows the womb-like parent disk material from which the new planet formed. The 'protoplanet', called HL Tau b after its parent star HL Tau, could be as young as a few hundred years old.



Researchers offer a whale of a time

Young conservationists with an interest in marine life are being given the opportunity of a lifetime by researchers at the University of St Andrews.

The University is offering the chance for a budding David Attenborough to join them on a whale research project around Madeira. The youngster will sail with scientists on a week-long trip around Madeira on the International Fund for Animal Welfare's unique vessel Song of the Whale.

The innovative method of engaging young people in conservation issues is the brainchild of St Andrews' researcher Dr David Borchers, who has been working on the project for several years.

Young people aged between 16 and 21 who reside in the UK can take part in the online competition, which is based on a scientific aerial survey of whales.

The purpose of the September trip is to study the acoustic behaviour of beaked whales in the Atlantic Ocean, and the young observer is likely to catch sight of these rare animals and sperm whales.

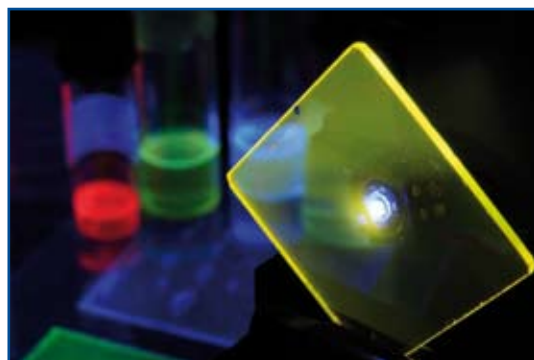


Rainbow lasers light up the future

University scientists have created the next generation of low cost light sources - lasers which can be tuned to every colour of the rainbow.

The new technology can be used for a wide range of applications, from medical treatment to light-emitting clothing. Because of their ability to be powered by a simple light-emitting diode (LED) rather than another laser, the compact new visible lasers can be created at a fraction of the cost of existing technologies.

The breakthrough by physicists Professor Ifor Samuel and Dr Graham Turnbull uses remarkable plastic-like semiconducting materials.



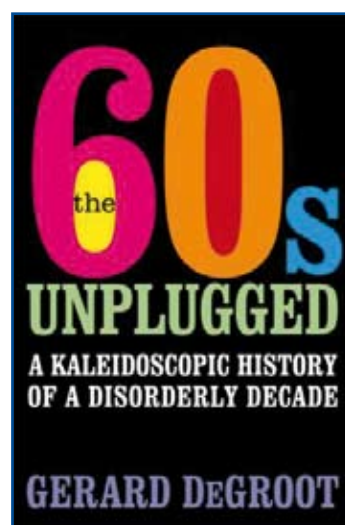
How good were the sixties for you?

New research by a St Andrews' historian suggests that the sixties was not really the decade of peace, love and understanding that people generally remember.

Instead, Jerry DeGroot claims that the decade was as much marked by 'mindless mayhem, shallow commercialism and unbridled cruelty' as it was by wearing flowers in your hair and loving your fellow man.

In his new book, Jerry attempts to rewrite the history books and capture 'the real spirit of the sixties' that is

generally lost in the mists of nostalgia. *The Sixties Unplugged: A Kaleidoscopic History of a Disorderly Decade*, suggests an alternative view of the decade best known as a time for free love. The new research restores to the hippy era the 'prevalent disorder and inconvenient truths that longing, wistfulness, and distance have obscured from memory'.

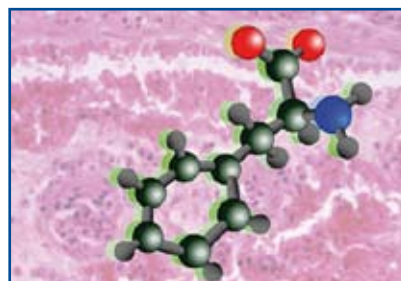


Switching on the cancer killer gene

St Andrews' scientists have discovered how to control a major anti-tumour gene that could lead to more effective chemotherapy.

Research conducted by Nick Westwood (Chemistry) and colleagues at the University of Dundee may eventually lead to the development of new cancer drugs.

The gene, called p53 and known as "the guardian of the genome", is damaged or switched off in most cancers. But the researchers found that they could reboot it using two new biological compounds called "tenovins".



Astronomer sheds light on 'dusty' Universe

The Universe is actually twice as bright than was previously thought, according to research conducted by St Andrews' astronomers.

As part of an international study, Dr Simon Driver discovered that dust is obscuring approximately half of the light that the Universe is generating.

While astronomers have known for some time that the Universe contains small grains of dust, they had not realised the extent to which this is restricting the amount of light that we can see. The dust absorbs starlight and re-emits it, making it glow.



Shopping for food in the ocean

A St Andrews' scientist is part of an international study into how marine animals 'shop' for food deep within the ocean.

Dr Andrew Brierley, of the University's School of Biology (Gatty Marine Lab) took part in the new study which has revealed fresh insights into the hunting strategies of predator behaviour in the ocean. The largest project of its kind, the research suggests sharks and other marine animals find food using similar search patterns that humans employ.

The international study, involving the analysis of marine predators such as sharks, tuna, cod, sea turtles and

penguins, examined the distribution patterns of prey and found that predators evolved a search 'rule' to get the best possible results from foraging expeditions.

As well as contributing to the new study, the St Andrews' data will be used in new fishery management plans in South Georgia aimed at minimising the impact of commercial fishing activities for krill on predators including penguins and seals that depend on krill for food.



To read the full news releases visit www.st-andrews.ac.uk/news

Picturing St Andrews

Do you have any extraordinary or distinctive images suitable for greetings cards, notelets or similar merchandise? Would you mind if we added our own amusing captions?

Recently retired from the Library's Special Collections Department, Cilla Jackson describes working with the University's photographic collections, and chooses a few of her favourites.

The wealth and breadth of the photographic collections mean that, on a daily basis, the photographic team is endeavouring to fulfil the requests of a wide range of enquirers. There are over 400,000 photographs, valued collectively in the region of several million pounds, with individual items worth in excess of £10,000. All are invaluable as unique resources for teaching and research, especially into the early photographic processes.

The photographic website already has approximately 55,000 images and is added to and updated on a daily basis. The imagebase forms the electronic hub of the photographic archive's academic and commercial activity and is an invaluable resource for our customers at many levels. We receive regular complimentary correspondence about

the website's usefulness from those carrying out research or engaged in publishing work in a variety of areas.

We also receive extra information on the content of some of the photographs, and warmly welcome emails relating to the 'relatively few' inevitable errors that occur, for some of which we are entirely responsible. Other mistakes have been made by the photographers, publishers or indexers, sometimes more than 100 years earlier.



Old Tom Morris addressing the ball. A much used portrait of the popular character taken c.1905.

Most photographic enquirers receive an informative initial response within 24 hours, a service level of which we are justly proud. Enquiries come from all over the world and high resolution images can, when required, be supplied within minutes via the web or FTP.

The chemical nature of the photographic process makes it intrinsically vulnerable to degradation. The aim of the curatorial aspect of the work, which takes place alongside the enquiries, is to minimise and slow this down in order to maintain the integrity of the historic collections for the

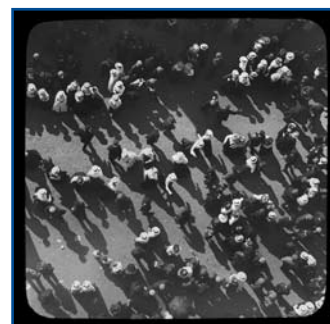


Winter sky, birch and snow, Loch Insh, 1945. This atmospheric image of a tree silhouetted against the evening sky, overhanging the snowbound shore, is characteristic of the work Robert Moyes Adam.

academic community. We are currently undertaking a project involving the long-term storage of nitrate and acetate negatives. Film negatives are highly susceptible to deterioration, including the possible spontaneous combustion of badly decayed nitrate and the 'vinegar syndrome' tendency of acetates (gassing-off of acetic acid). These effects can be significantly delayed and the life-span of the negatives radically increased by freezing them at a temperature of minus 18°C.



East Sands, St Andrews. With a softness of tone reminiscent of a 'wet in wet' watercolour, this attractive study of the town by Peter Adamson in about 1980 is very appealing.



Dancing in the street. Taken from the tower of the Town Kirk (Holy Trinity Church) during the Lammas Fair in August 1902, this unusual lantern slide was taken by John Hardie Wilson, founder of the St Andrews Botanic Garden (see page 20).

To answer the specific questions posed at the beginning of this article, I have selected a number of my favourite photographs which I hope will be of general interest. The choice was difficult because it inevitably had to be restricted. However, we do tend to respond to any enquiry by giving a flavour of what we hold that is relevant, and then react appropriately to the feedback given. So far we have resisted the amusing captions, feeling protective towards the collections and sensitive both to the feelings of the many who have so generously gifted their photographs over the years, and to the image that we wish to promote of the University and its collections.

I have written the above in the present tense but, as indicated in the last issue of *The StAndard*, it is with mixed feelings that I am no longer a member of the team. I look forward to handing over the baton to Marc Boulay, who takes up his position as Photographic Archivist at the beginning of June. I wish him well. I should also like to take this opportunity to thank my departmental heads: Bob Smart, Christine Gascoigne and Norman Reid, for the great privilege of being able to work with them over the years, and, not least, my immediate colleagues, Pam Cranston and Jane Campbell for all their help and support. The photographic collections are left in very able hands.

(The photographic database can be accessed from the Special Collections pages of the Library's website, or directly at www.special.st-andrews.ac.uk/saspecial/)



Snow in the United College Quadrangle
An unusual view of the Quad by Peter Adamson from a window in the Development Office in February 2001. This is a favourite photograph of mine which has already been used as the University Christmas card.



Going on holiday. The subject of this 1/4 plate glass negative of an unidentified young child taken by George Middlemass Cowie c.1935 made a popular greetings card a number of years ago.



'The shadow walkers'. This fascinating study is by Hamish Brown, photographer, climber, writer, lecturer and Honorary Graduate of the University.

Do you have a historical question or challenge for the Special Collections team?
Email us at magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk

Medicine moves forward

Work starts this month (June) on building a New School of Medicine and the Sciences at the heart of the University's science campus on the North Haugh, alongside the School of Physics & Astronomy with which it will be physically linked, and opposite The Gateway building.

The development, costing £45 million, represents the most important investment undertaken by the University in recent times. In addition to training doctors the new School will house the newly constituted interdisciplinary Medical Research Institute which will lead collaborative research in areas such as cancer, health, psychology and infectious disease.

The School will be home to one of the first UK Medical Schools whose research facilities will be fully integrated with the other sciences and key University disciplines including physics, chemistry, biology and psychology, providing an important new dimension to the training of new doctors by fostering true collaboration.

It is anticipated this integration will help enable the University to expand its leading edge medical research capacity four-fold over five years.

The new School is being made possible in part by a donation of £8 million from the Sekhar Foundation, the charitable arm of the Malaysian based Petra Group, and will be named after the late Dr BC Sekhar, an iconic figure in Malaysia's history and the father of the country's rubber and palm oil industries. The donation is one of the largest to be received by a Scottish university.

The development of the new School will be one of the most important components of the University's 600th anniversary celebrations and the fundraising campaign which supports this initiative is the biggest and most ambitious the University has undertaken, with a target of £20 million.

The first physical sign of the start of this ambitious project, which is expected



**Artists impression of the new building
(Image Copyright: Reich and Hall Architects)**

to see all medical research staff and medical students moved into the new building by Autumn 2010, came with the commencement of 'enabling works.' This stage was reached after almost six years of planning and revisions of design.

Several attributes make the project stand out: Firstly its size - with almost 11,000 square metres of floor space over three-storeys, the new building will provide a fully integrated centre for medicine and the sciences including laboratories for teaching and research, write-up space for researchers, offices for academic and research staff and ground floor facilities which will be attractive for conferences, comprising a 300 seat lecture theatre, seminar rooms, poster presentation area and a café.

Secondly, in a departure from the model employed by most medical schools, the building will not be used solely for medical teaching. Biology and Chemistry will have their own large teaching laboratories within the building and interdisciplinary research will be a core activity.

In line with the University's sustainable development agenda, the building will be as green as possible - not an easy challenge for the designers as laboratories generally require high levels of servicing for fume cupboards, air conditioning and extraction. The UK scheme for rating buildings according to their sustainability - known as BREEAM - has been addressed as part of the design process. Currently the building is on track to receive an 'excellent' rating - the highest available.

The construction process will inevitably cause some noise disturbances to other North Haugh users and in order to seek to mitigate problems as much as possible representatives from the various Schools and Units have been briefed by the design team on the build schedule.

Extensive liaison has been carried out with the School of Physics & Astronomy due to the proximity of laboratories to the construction site. In one case this has necessitated the acquisition of specialist vibration damping to avoid interference.

Although there will be construction traffic entering the area from the A91 this traffic should not have an impact on the town. A contractor's compound will be formed across the road from the construction site in the area to the south and west of The Gateway. This will mean some loss of parking however parking numbers on the North Haugh have been monitored and spare capacity identified at New Hall.

The construction will be managed by one of the UK's largest contractors - Bovis Lend Lease. Experienced in constructing in sensitive areas the company is also a member of the 'Considerate Constructors' programme which lays out standards for managing inconvenience to neighbours.

Mitigation measures will include: solid hoardings around work sites to minimize visual impact, tyre-washing of construction vehicles and the sweeping of the North Haugh access road on a regular basis.

However some aspects of the building process will cause noise and other temporary inconvenience which is simply unavoidable in constructing a facility of this size.

To keep town and gown informed of building activities details of construction are being made available on the University website www.st-andrews.ac.uk/about/Newdevelopments. These pages show plans of the construction site and compound as well as floorplans and images of the new building. Also featured are contact details for Bovis's site management team.

Members of the University community should be aware that Bovis are unable to cease activities on request - the construction programme follows a carefully defined path and delays to it are likely to have a cost to the University.

An animated feature has been included on the web pages to show the sequence



Vinod Sekhar makes the first cut with the Principal looking on

of the build. Following the link to 'Construction of Medical Science Building' will bring up a presentation showing the sequence of events which will occur as this exciting new building takes shape.

Marion Gibson

Caption fantastic!

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



Last issue's image was taken during a visit to the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The best captions are:

"I enjoy these functions so much more since you became my food taster."

"Look at them. They actually think I LIKE eating this stuff!"

"Come on. Take a bite. It won't hurt you."



This issue's image was taken during the official launch of the Records of the Parliaments of Scotland.

Suggested captions (anonymous or otherwise) can be sent to 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.

University Strategic Plan

The process of finalising the University's Strategic Plan for the next ten years is nearing completion.

Following circulation of the draft plan 2008-18 for comment by staff and the Students' Association, two open meetings were held in May to provide an opportunity for discussion with members of the Principal's Office.

All feedback from responses is being considered for incorporation in a final draft which is due to go to Academic Council this month and to Court for ratification in early July.

Once this stage is reached an abridged plan will be produced which will aid Schools and Units as they start work on plans for implementation.

The staff meetings were opened by the Principal Dr Brian Lang who said the University, although extremely successful, faced challenges ahead as it sought to remain competitive.

Vice-Principal for Governance and Planning Professor Ron Piper thanked all who had contributed to the development of the plan either at the compilation stage or in commenting on the published draft.

Professor Piper explained that the strategic plan is designed to capture the aspirations of the organisation. There are nine strategic aims detailing objectives within specific areas:

- Research
- Learning and Teaching
- The Student Experience
- Partnerships and Collaborations
- Staff
- Organisational Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Infrastructure and Estate
- Financial Health
- Institutional Project - the 600th Anniversary

The delivery of objectives in these areas will be underpinned by supporting strategies, some aspects of which will evolve over time. Central to all the strategies are the cross-cutting themes of 'Academic Excellence and Distinctiveness' and 'Financial Security', 'Growth' and 'Internationalisation'. Key Programme Indicators linked to targets are also introduced for each strategic aim.

The 600th anniversary as an institutional project will provide an opportunity for fundraising and for engaging staff, students and alumni in a series of special activities to enhance the profile of the University, explained Professor Piper.

Deputy Principal and Master Professor Keith Brown emphasised that excellence in research and teaching was at the heart of the University's mission.

"Every member of staff is employed to assist in the delivery of this mission and crucial to our continued success is the need to ensure that all we do contributes to academic excellence.

"To help facilitate this the new strategic plan seeks to remove barriers and promote interdisciplinary collaboration.

"However none of our aims will be achieved without a healthy financial base and the active engagement of all the University community", said Professor Brown.

Marion Gibson

Barca to return to St Andrews

Footballing giants FC Barcelona will arrive back in St Andrews this summer to train at the University's 'first class training facilities'.

The club will arrive in Scotland on Monday 21 and depart on Saturday 26 July. During their stay, they will train at the University's playing fields and play two friendly fixtures against Dundee United and Hibernian FC (26 and 24 July respectively).

More information will be announced nearer the time of the visit.



SportRelief a 'runaway success' in St Andrews

By John Scott, Operations Manager, Sports Centre

One of the strands of the University's Strategy for Sport is to exceed national participation figures pro rata at a local University level. As a means to encourage people to take up and maintain walking and jogging as a form of regular and beneficial exercise, it was timely to receive an invitation last October from SportRelief to host a St Andrews SportRelief Mile event as part of a one-day national participation event and sponsorship appeal.

The ideology of SportRelief is to harness people to help change their lives for the better by using the power and passion of sport. The sponsorship and donation money raised is spent by Comic Relief to transform the lives of some of the most vulnerable people here in the UK and in the poorest countries of the world.

Come the day, Sunday 16 March, participants could choose to walk, jog or run one, three or six miles around two different loops of the playing fields culminating in a track finish. In a jamboree-type spirit with the Brothers Band performing, tempting smells of barbecued food wafting through the air, sidestalls and beat-the-goalie, each wave start time contained about 125 people. Almost 500 runners/joggers/walkers in various guises completed their goal of 1/3/6 miles. Participants came from as far afield as Newcastle, Edinburgh, Perth and Erroll and included a number of teams: St Andrews Kendo Club, University Canoe Club, Erroll Guides, Chemistry Top Hats and a scantily-clad water polo duo.

Some completed the course running backwards, some walked as a trio bound by the feet, others pushed prams and shopping, and some carried canoe paddles. The youngest runner was three years old and his day was made even more memorable by starting the third wave.

The Provost of Fife, Councillor Frances Melville, started waves one and two, with Paul Samson of *River City*, the BBC Scotland TV series, lowering the flag on the last wave, having completed his run. The wackiest-dressed team award went to the University's Canoe Club who donned wet suits et al for their run.



At the time of going to press, it is not known how much sponsorship money was raised as individual sponsorship was sent direct to SportRelief and money is still being sent. On the day, fundraising realised £305 from a variety of stalls.

Thanks go to the local businesses who supported the event with tombola and auction prizes.

On behalf of the University Sports Centre, I would like to thank a number of people who generously gave of their time to make the St Andrews SportRelief Mile a run-away success. Grateful thanks go to all the many helpers on the day and beforehand without whom the St Andrews SportRelief Mile

would not have been possible; the First Aid team, administrators, stall-sellers, photographers, press, course marshalls, the Brothers Band, University Estates and Grounds.

Above all it was extremely pleasing to see the number of students, local families and young children who entered the event. Thank you for supporting the event with such enthusiasm. Keep on running and put the date in the diary for next year!

**Photographs of the event
can be seen at:**
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/sport

Rugby 150

Celebrations will be held in St Andrews this September to mark the 150th anniversary of the University's oldest sports society.

The University of St Andrews Rugby Football Club, one of the oldest clubs in Scotland, was founded in 1858. A programme of events is planned to mark this important milestone including an international match at University Park and an Alumni weekend.

"Old Boys" are invited to return to St Andrews and take part in the special activities. One of the highlights will take place in September when The South African Rugby Legends will travel to St Andrews to challenge the Scottish Legends. Both teams will be made up of ex-internationalists.

A game between the University's 1st XV and the St Andrews Legends will take place during the alumni weekend. Celebrations will culminate in a large fundraising Sportsman's Dinner at The Fairmont St Andrews Hotel. Guests will include South African and Scottish Rugby Legends as well as St Andrews Old Boys.

Sesquicentennial co-ordinator Fergus Knight was captain of the club from 2003-2004 and has been planning celebrations for around two years. He said, "My two brothers were also heavily involved in St Andrews University Rugby Football Club and together our involvement spans about 25 years. We have all had many good times with the club and I wanted to give something back. Nothing was done to mark the centenary so we are hoping that lots of alumni and Old Boys will return for this event to mark the occasion in an extra-special way."

Present club members also hope to be able to reconstruct a detailed history of the club, updating archives with player details, newspaper cuttings and photographs. Although a fairly comprehensive history appears from 1890-1988, the rugby club are keen to fill in the gaps for future generations and compile a hall of fame.



1932 - 1933 Team photo

Anyone interested in supporting the club should contact Fergus at fergus_knight@hotmail.com or consult the website www.standrewsrugby.com for more information.

The Alumni weekend, including the 150th Celebration Dinner, South Africa Legends v Scotland Legends game and a Sesquicentennial Magnum Golf Challenge will take place from 11-14 September.



Participants in the Ma Bells 7s tournament in 2007

Red gown given green makeover

The distinctive red gown synonymous with student life at the University of St Andrews was given a 'green' makeover for a charity student fashion show.

Student designer Camden Hauge's collection of recycled woollen gowns formed the centrepiece of the St Andrews Charity Fashion Show 2008, which aimed to be the most environmentally friendly student fashion show in the country.

The new collection included customised versions of the gown in garments including skirts, shorts and even a kilt!



Fife: The Home of Economics

The prestigious appointment of a St Andrews' academic will bring the UK's Learned Society for Economics to Scotland for the first time in its history.

Professor John Beath has been named the Royal Economic Society's new Secretary-General, making him just the ninth post-holder in over 100 years.

The Secretary-General is responsible for running the affairs of the RES which includes the publication of two leading international journals (*The Economic Journal* and *The Econometrics Journal*) as well as other scholarly works, overseeing an annual international conference, authorising the provision of grants and fellowships, and organising an annual public lecture and a national competition for schools.

Professor Beath, from the University's School of Economics & Finance, will formally take over the post this month.

He said, "I am greatly honoured to become only the ninth Secretary-General in the Society's 118-year life, especially when I reflect on the names of those who have previously held the post such as Lord Keynes, for example, who was the third post-holder.

"Equally important, I feel, is the heightened international profile this will give to Economics in Scotland as the Society will be based in St Andrews. This will be the first time since the Society's founding that its office will be outwith London.

"Following on from the recent major investment in Economics by the Scottish Funding Council (SIRE, The Scottish Institute for Research in Economics), this is a further step to help move the centre of gravity in the discipline back towards Scotland and to Fife, the country and the county that through Adam Smith have had such a profound effect on the development of economic thought."

Founded in 1890, the Royal Economic Society is the UK's learned society for Economics. The major driving force behind the Society was the great 19th century economist Alfred Marshall and the meeting to found it was held at University College London on November 21, 1890.



One of its founder members was James Bonar, an economist and senior civil servant and a native of Perth. The founding meeting was chaired by Viscount Goschen, subsequently Chancellor of the Exchequer, who became its first President.

School of English eco-garden

Creative output in the University of St Andrews is expected to blossom when poetry and nature are combined in the development of a new eco-garden.

Following the renovation of its building and grounds over the past year, the School of English is planning to create an eco-garden around its two buildings on The Scores.

It is hoped that the garden will benefit staff, postgraduates and undergraduates alike, attracting birds, bees and those in need of a peaceful space.

Since the existing lawn and beds of shrubs were partly destroyed during recent work, the School has taken the opportunity to design and plant a new 'greener' garden that reflects its commitment to the environment.

Members of staff in the School of English have contributed to the planning stage of the project, which is still in the early stages of authorisation and development. Several others have indicated their willingness to dig when the time comes.

Dr Susan Manly, a lecturer in English and one of the project's architects said that the aims of the garden are threefold.

She explained, "We want the garden to be educational, introducing students and other visitors to native and 'heritage' species and the threat to diversity that industrial monocultures and environmental degradation present; we want it to be wildlife-friendly, encouraging birds, bees and butterflies; and we want it to be a tranquil space, where students, staff, and visitors can rest and contemplate

nature, taking a break, however brief, from the stresses of the working day."

John Burnside, Reader in creative writing and lecturer of the Literature and Ecology course, welcomed the garden as a resource for the department.

He said, "I look forward to seeing how it grows and develops - both as a space for getting away from it all and as a work space. I think the garden is a great idea - to paraphrase Voltaire, 'We must all cultivate our gardens'.

"Apart from being a creative writer, I teach a course called Literature and Ecology, which seeks to introduce students to ecocritical approaches to literature and to think about what we mean when we talk about 'Nature', both in a literary and a more general context. I can see the garden being a real resource for this work, especially given the nature of the design and those contributing ideas to the development."

The architects hope to plant trees, including apple trees, shrubs, hedging and vegetables, with an emphasis on plants that will encourage birds and beneficial insects into the garden (though they'll try to keep some of the vegetables for human consumption!), plants that reflect the local flora, and heritage varieties.

John continued, "I have worked as a college gardener in the past, and I am aware of all the pressures and conventions that tend towards making

gardens of that type fairly uniform - the need to ensure easy maintenance, the supply of specific 'ground cover' plantings etc.

"I think what is most interesting about this garden plan is that it reflects the interests and taste of people who are not normally involved in institutional garden design, and so will be a unique 'micro-garden' within the University's overall landscape scheme."

At one end of the garden, there will be a number of raised beds, edged with wood and surrounded by gooseberry and blackcurrant bushes and raspberry canes. There are also plans to grow 'heritage' varieties of vegetables, including potatoes and onions, chard, spinach beet, beetroot, radishes, and salad greens.

A mixed hedge will run the length of the garden, incorporating plants that will provide habitat and food for birds and beneficial insects, including hawthorn, hazel, elder, blackcurrant shrubs, berberis and pyracantha.

Against the walls of Kennedy Hall, the School hopes to grow rambling roses, lavender, ribes and forsythia; and around a sunken, paved seating area, the team will plant herbs.

Support for the project has been offered by Roddy Yarr, Environment and Energy Manager for the University, Estates Assistant Director of Grounds Services, Jim Drummond, and by the student-run St Andrews Permaculture Garden Society.

More league table success

St Andrews retained its top ten position in two leading newspaper league tables out in the last couple of months, with *The Guardian* and *The Good University Guide* (published by *The Independent*) placing St Andrews 5th and 7th in the UK (and top in Scotland) respectively.

Celebrating charitable efforts

An outstanding total of over £160,000 was raised by student fundraising efforts in St Andrews this year.

The University hosted a celebratory Charitable St Andrews event recently to recognise the work its students do for charity and to mark their achievements.

The special event, held in Lower College Hall, brought together University staff and students with local residents, community representatives and those involved with supported charities.

Fife Council Provost Frances Melville congratulated the students on their fundraising efforts and presented David Haines, Convenor of the Charities Campaign, with the Fife Shield marking civic appreciation of charitable achievements by the student community.

Director of Student Development and Activities Jenny Mackay said, "Of the 129 affiliated student societies of the Students' Association, most partake in fundraising events or activities throughout the academic year, bringing general awareness of worthy causes into the consciences of St Andrews students."

In total, student charity effort raised around £20 per student in St Andrews. Combined charity events in St Andrews have donated £162,244 between April 2007 and April 2008 to many local, national, and international charities such as Amnesty International, Habitat for Humanity, UNICEF and Macmillan Cancer Support.



Spotlight on Europe's Biophotonics

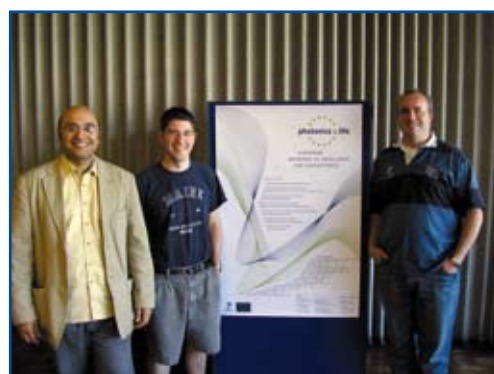
Professor Kishan Dholakia, Dr Tom Brown and Dr David Stevenson attended a "Kick Off" meeting for the first European network of excellence for Biophotonics in Jena, Germany.

More than 50 high-ranking scientists from nine EU countries and Russia gathered in Jena, Germany, on May 6 and 7 to officially launch "photonics4life" with a celebratory event and a first meeting.

The network is a consortium of 13 first-class research institutions embracing the challenge to develop the potentials of Biophotonics in Europe and is funded by the European Commission within the Seventh Framework Programme.

With the help of novel optical technologies health care can be optimised in the future in so far as the diagnosis and treatment of widespread diseases like cancer or infections could become tailored to the needs of the individual patient. Biophotonics research provides medicine and life sciences with the necessary tools, and allows highly efficient, though affordable, therapeutic methods. Biophotonics is a discipline and a market on the rise, in the scientific as well as in the economic sense. A real Biophotonics boom has been predicted in the forthcoming years.

Professor Kishan Dholakia, the project leader at the University of St Andrews said he considered it "very prestigious for the University of St Andrews to be a selected partner in such a high profile European Seventh Framework Programme."



(L to R) Kishan Dholakia, David Stevenson and Tom Brown who attended the recent kick-off meeting for this new European Initiative in Biophotonics.

'Magical piece of nature' Living Links opens

World leading primatologist Dr Jane Goodall has officially opened a unique University centre dedicated to understanding the origins of human behaviour.

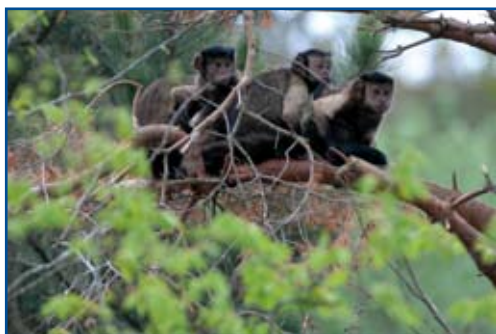
Dr Goodall, whose landmark research is credited with redefining the relationship between humans and animals, opened the pioneering Living Links to Human Evolution Centre, an innovative partnership between the University of St Andrews and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, last month.

During her address to an invited audience, which included Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Fiona Hyslop MSP, and the Chief Scientific Adviser for Scotland, Professor Anne Glover, Dr Goodall commented, 'You're in for a real treat, it's quite magical with imaginative design and the outside is a piece of nature. There are some amazing primates which are very satisfied. One really exciting aspect is to involve the public more, enabling people to understand and see for themselves that monkeys love to perform tasks. It's been a lot of hard work but this is a superb facility.'

The £1.6M state-of-the-art facility at Edinburgh Zoo will provide St Andrews' researchers, already internationally renowned for their studies of wild monkeys and apes, with the opportunity to observe more detailed aspects of the primates' behaviour closer to home.



Dr Jane Goodall at the opening



Capuchin infants

The purpose-built new centre is a unique combination of field station and research centre which has re-created mixed-species communities of capuchins and squirrel monkeys that are natural in the wild. This will allow the researchers to monitor interaction between the two South American species and ultimately will help researchers understand the cultural connections we share with our primate relatives.

Dr Goodall opened the new Centre jointly with Professor Sir Michael Atiyah, President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, who commented, "The link between scientific research and public perception at Living Links is exemplary."

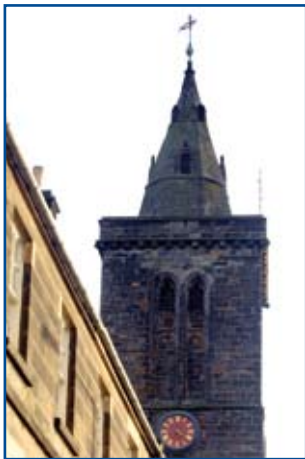
Graduate awarded a Brit

A graduate of the University of St Andrews who formed a band via Facebook has won a Classical Brit award.

Jules Knight - known as Julian Kaye during his student days and pictured far left - graduated in 2005 with an MA in Art History. In June 2007, he formed the classical-pop quartet Blake on the social networking site with Stephen Bowman, Dom Tighe and Ollie Baines. Last month - following a whirlwind promotional tour - the band beat off stiff competition to win the Brit for Album of the Year, following last year's winner Sir Paul McCartney.



Guess where? Answers



1. St Salvator's Chapel



2. Police Station,
North Street



3. The Scores



4. 'The End House', Gibson Place



5. Bike shelter,
Physics & Astronomy



6. The Royal & Ancient



7. Bandstand, The Scores



8. 'The Lions House', Hope Street



9. Lockers, School of Chemistry

Back cover: 'The Lions House', Hope Street
Credit: Alan Richardson, Pix-AR



University
of
St Andrews