University of St Andrews

The St Andard

Issue 3, Staff Magazine, November, 2004

The Flying Scotsman

Keeping It In The Family
The Changing Face Of Wardens

Scotland's first university

Contents

Page 1: Welcome

Pages 2-11: PEOPLE

Pages 12-14: TOWN

Page 15-20: OPINION

Page 21-26: GOWN

Page 27-37: NEWS

The StAndard is funded by the University and edited by the Press Office under the direction of an independent Editorial Board comprising staff from every corner of the institution. The Editorial Board welcomes all suggestions, letters, articles, news and photography from staff, students and members of the wider St Andrews community. Please contact us at magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk or via the Press Office, 82 North Street, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AL, telephone 01334 462529.

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Dawn Waddell is Secretary for the School of Art History.

Charles Warren is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography & Geosciences.

Sandy Wilkie works as Staff Development Manager within Human Resources, co-ordinating the work of a team of three staff who support personal and management development activities for all University staff.

Welcome

Welcome to the third issue of *The StAndard*.

Thanks to those who have emailed, phoned and harassed us in the street with comments, ideas and input into this edition, our last of 2004.

Your views on what should, and should not, be included make *The StAndard* what it is – your staff magazine - so keep your opinions coming.

Issue Three includes a look at three of many staff couples who live and work together – do they get any work done? - and a personal insight on relocating from one ancient university to another.

We also provide a glimpse into the newly opened Gateway and speak to eco-friendly staff who share their journeys to work - and make those who don't feel thoroughly ashamed of themselves!

There's also a tribute to some familiar faces retiring from the University and a number of significant staff achievements including our very own cover star, the tartan-clad fundraising marathon man.

But it's not all warm and friendly inside.

Despite its pleasant and polite exterior, the Red Lion is a veiled attack on rudeness – and you thought you'd got away with it – and there's a similar bashing for some of the town's lukewarm coffee shops. Let us know if you disagree and we'll happily consider your views for our new year edition.

We also take a look at the role of University wardens – they may look a scary bunch but look at their predecessors – and sift through the complexities of league tables – it's a jungle out there.

In the meantime, *The StAndard* editorial board wish you a good and restful Christmas.

We'll be back with more offerings in 2005.

May we also take the opportunity to thank Charles Warren who is bowing out of *The StAndard* editorial board after being elected to University Court.

The StAndard **thanks all contributors and acknowledges the use of images supplied by the University's Publications Unit, Peter Adamson, Alan Richardson; Pix-AR, Ian Carradice, Library and Information Services, Bruce Pert, Bill Flett and Sean Earnshaw.**

KEEPING IT IN

Living and working with your spouse – a marriage made in heaven or an accident waiting to happen?

The StAndard **approached three well-known staff couples after noting that the University seems to be a breeding ground for professional pairs.**

Although no hard statistics are available, a large number of couples work for the University, but these three see more of each other than the average married pair and one duo even work side by side! For the other two couples, if it wasn't for the University, they would never have met.

Left-to-right -
Alex and Derek Woolins.

Derek Woolins (a Professor of synthetic chemistry) and his wife Alex Slawin (a new Professor of chemical crystallography) work together in the School of Chemistry's Purdie building. They have both been here for five years, having relocated together 'as a package' from Loughborough University. They first met and got married while at Imperial College. They have relocated twice as a couple and, on both occasions, describe it as 'straightforward as any move can be'.

"Some of the funniest moments are probably not repeatable…but it is always amusing when someone visits who doesn't appreciate that we are married since Alex retained her maiden name in the workplace – often they drop comments about one of us, which they wouldn't if they realised we were married.." — Derek Woolins.

They work in adjoining offices and adjacent labs, so are rarely apart. Working together does have its advantages for the Woollins, who have a busy home life with three children. Derek explained, "We try to have coffee together but only occasionally manage to have an uninterrupted ten minutes. We do make time to go home for lunch together and this brief period is often the only time in the whole day when we are on our own. We have three sons, Philip 14, Robert 12, and Timothy 10, who keep us pretty busy the rest of the time."

"It is good to have a common interest and our chemistry interests are complementary so we have had a scientific collaboration for longer than our marriage. Working together also means you recognise the strains and stresses of your partner."

If there is one disadvantage, the pair say that sometimes it is hard to get a breather from work with both having busy schedules but, if there were major problems, they would change jobs.

While they agree that working with a spouse is 'not everyone's cup of tea', the circumstances work so well for the Woollins that they describe the crossover of work and home life as 'fairly seamless'. So happy are they in their current setup that they would go as so far as recommend other couples work together and would be happy to work together again in another workplace!

THE FAMILY

Eileen and Jim Drummond work together in Estates – Eileen is Office Manager and Jim is an Assistant Director. Eileen has been here for 21 years while Jim worked here between 1970-78 and spent 12 years in Aberdeen before returning in 1990. However, their paths never crossed until 1991 when Jim was introduced to Eileen as the new Head of Grounds.

Though both recently divorced and neither looking for a new relationship, Jim and Eileen gradually got to know each other before Eileen took the bull by the horns and set up their first date. Appropriately, it was to a University event!

Eileen explained, "Our first "date" was attending the presentation of prizes which the University had won for the window boxes outside the Buchanan! I had noticed Jim's invitation come in to the office and It was addressed "and partner" so I was really forward and put a post-it note on it saying that if he needed anyone to go with him I would be glad to go. I think he got the message then!"

The pair have been married for 11 years and Jim shares a son and two grandchildren with Eileen from her first marriage.

Though they both work for Estates, Jim is based with Grounds at the North Haugh and Eileen is based at Woodburn, meaning the pair don't see too much of each other at work. Because of differences in working hours, Jim and Eileen travel to work separately and take lunch breaks at different times but, occasionally, their paths will cross when Jim attends meetings at Woodburn. Even so, there are advantages to working for the same institution and having the same work issues in common.

Eileen explains, "The main benefit is being able at the end of the day to talk about work and knowing your partner really understands what you are talking about and that it is another shared interest we have."

"I don't think we have found too many disadvantages in being a couple at work because we have always been able to support each other in whatever we are trying to do. We always have had a rule that, although we do talk about work at home, it is not our main topic of conversation and if we find we are disagreeing about anything in particular we quickly change the subject. And of course you have to maintain a professional approach to certain subjects."

Eileen admits that when they do meet up occasionally, they find the conversation easily slips into the tea time menu but, since they've been together for 12 years, their colleagues are quite used to it!

"I must admit that if Jim is in the office our conversation sometimes slips into the more mundane areas of "what's for tea tonight?" or "I forgot to take the chicken breasts out of the freezer this morning". — Eileen Drummond.

Left-to-right – Jim and Eileen.

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY (continued)

Alison and Graeme Sandeman both work for the School of Geography and Geosciences – Graeme is School Cartographer and Honorary Teaching Fellow at the Irvine, while Alison's position as Research Centre Manager for the JCSHR (Joint Centre for Housing Research) is based at the Observatory.

Graeme has been here since 1978 and met Alison when she arrived in St Andrews as a postgraduate student in 1985. Alison left the University and, during her time away, they married and had a daughter, Lauren. Alison rejoined us in 1994 as a Teaching and Research Fellow. Initially Graeme and Alison worked in the same building and even taught some classes together, something the students quickly adapted to!

Left-to-right - Graeme and Alison.

The dynamics of the partnership shifted during Junior Honours field trips - on trips to Turkey, Alison acted as a field assistant for Graeme's MPhil research project, which involved surveying one of Turkey's most beautiful National Park beaches. Graeme was much less enthusiastic when he was asked to be Alison's field assistant - mapping rock glaciers in torrential downpours in the Cairngorms!

In the early days, the pair spent lunch hours at the Sports Centre playing squash or five-a-side football and regularly met for coffee and lunch. Nowadays, since Alison's transfer to the Observatory, this is a less frequent occurrence and meet-ups are more often than not restricted to lunchtime shopping trips.

One rule the Sandemans have made is to restrict 'talking shop' to the journey to and from work – indeed, they chose to live outside St Andrews for that reason. It allows them time to catch up and, by the time they arrive home, they leave their University hats on the doorstep.

Working for the same institution though is something that the Sandemans feel is beneficial for a number of practical and personal reasons.

They explained, "The advantages certainly outweigh the disadvantages. We share transport to and from work and we can usually agree on who picks up the kids. We find that working in the same department makes it a little easier to juggle work and family life, as we can plan round each other's timetables – it helps to understand what the other is facing at work and vice-versa. It's also reassuring to know that we can contact one another at short notice."

Disadvantages are practical – mix ups with mail and students arranging appointments with the wrong Sandeman. One colleague (you know who you are) still emails the wrong Sandeman after a number of years practice! Otherwise, they feel it's a seamless existence with colleagues not treating them any differently.

They would heartily recommend working together and – because of the established nature of an ancient University – they feel it brings no additional worry of 'what if something happened and we were both out of jobs?'

They said, "We've found that working together is positive, particularly as our jobs are now quite distinct. Our roles generate different problems and solutions and we can discuss these without a conflict of interest. We don't feel that we have taken a risk working for the same employer – after all, the University of St Andrews has been around for a very long time! We would be more cautious if we both worked for one commercial company – the risk factor would be considerably higher."

"In the 1980's, Geography parties were legendary which may explain why the geography department has more than its fair sharing of University couples!" — Alison Sandeman

CHARLES FOR PRESIDENT!

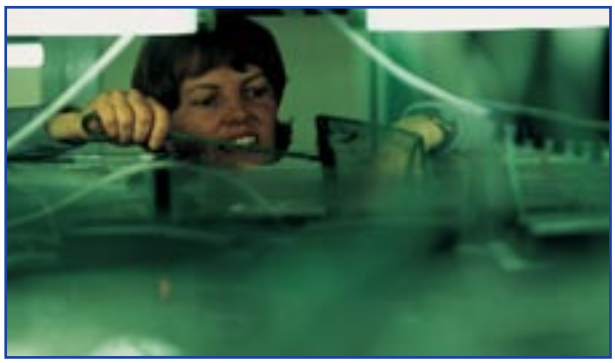
Dr Charles Warren, senior lecturer in environmental management and glaciology in the School of Geography and Geosciences, has been awarded the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's President's Award.

Dr Warren's book, *Managing Scotland's Environment* (2002), received outstanding reviews and has been described as a "masterly and balanced synthesis that deals informatively and even-handedly with numerous contentious issues".

According to the RSGS, "This work represents one of the finest contributions ever made by a geographer to land management issues in Scotland".

A modest Dr Warren, who collected his award last month, said, "This came completely out of the blue and was the last thing that I was expecting. I've never picked up a "gong" before, so it had high novelty value as well as boosting my confidence in the quality of my work".

POSING WITH PIRANHAS



Professor Magurran at work.

Anne Magurran from the School of Biology will swap her labcoat for lightweight waterproofs when she appears in a catalogue for a specialist travel clothing company.

The biologist entered a competition run by outdoor clothing giant Rohan who were on the hunt for adventurers doing the most 'interesting' work while wearing their clothing. Anne – a Professor of Ecology and Evolution who regularly spends time investigating freshwater fish communities in the Amazon – sent a photo of herself holding a 9 inch long LIVE piranha.

The judges deemed Anne's entry amongst the most exciting and, as well as appearing in this autumn's catalogue, Anne will be able to splash out on some new togs, having won clothing vouchers for her efforts.

Rohan explained, "We were looking for someone who really put Rohan clothing through its paces and had an interesting career to match. Anne fitted the bill perfectly encountering all sorts of conditions form the cold winds of the East coast of Scotland to the hot humid conditions of the Amazon and, all the while, researching one of the most infamous species of fish there is."

THE CHANGING FACE OF WARDENS

Want to be involved? Contact Joe Carson on 01334 463641 (email jsoc@st-andrews.ac.uk) or Isobel Clifford on 01334 462508 (email imc@st-andrews.ac.uk) for more information.

St Andrews provides a range of catered and self-catered student accommodation from the ancient, traditional town centre residences to the brand new David Russell Apartments complex, to perhaps the least architecturally favoured, "carbuncle-like" Gannochy House.

The University's halls of residence house over half our students, feed over one third of them and each is a community with its own sense of identity.

But what is the role of the wardenry in the system?

The StAndard spoke to Joe Carson, the University's longest-serving live-in warden, who lives and works in University Hall, to hear the highs and lows of the 24-hour challenge of wardennial life.

Joe has been involved in the system for 14 years – two as a Sub-Warden at the University of Liverpool, five as Deputy Warden of St Regulus, two as Warden of St Salvator's and now five as Warden of University Hall. Here, he lives in the warden's flat with his wife Alison and their two cats, and has responsibility for almost 300 students.

As the University's Senior Warden, he's also responsible, among other things, for convening the Wardens' Committee, liaising between the wardens and the Deputy Principal responsible for student services, sitting on appointment committees for new wardens and deputy wardens and writing and contributing to policy documents relating to the residence system.

As well as providing beds for over half of St Andrews' student population, Joe feels that halls of residence are the very heart of student life.

Not to be messed with! – a selection of this year's wardens. Left-to-right – Mickey Klink – Hamilton Hall, Brad McKay – John Burnett Hall, Jennifer Franz – McIntosh Hall, Steve Yorkstone – Andrew Melville Hall, Ian Munro – St Salvator's Hall, Joe Carson – University Hall (seated), Jim Brown – David Russell Hall and Fife Park and Vicky Cameron – St Regulus.

"For the majority of students who live in our halls, the first few weeks at St Andrews are heavily influenced by their residence. Halls are communities within the community and having a positive experience in them can have a huge impact on a student's studies and the friends they make. It's my view that St Andrews' extremely low drop-out rate can partly be attributed to its successful residential system."

So, what do wardennial teams do, and who are they?

Working at the interface between the residents, the Residence Managers and the University itself, wardens help to foster a spirit of community in their residence, which means close involvement in hall activities, from sports to hall balls. They also have welfare and disciplinary remits. In most cases, wardens live in-hall and have teams of a Deputy and sub-wardens (Resident Assistants in New Hall and DRA). They work closely with the residence managers who are responsible, with their teams, for the day-to-day running of a residence.

Depending on their day job and commitments, wardens try to attend as many meals as possible, either sitting as a

Wardens at the opening of new wing, University Hall. Left-to-right – Miss Frances Melville (warden, 1900-1909), Mrs Edwin Neave (warden, 1909-11), Dame Louisa Lumsden (warden, University Hall, 1896-1900), Miss Edwina Dobson (warden, 1911-1936).

team or mingling with the students. All food is ordered in and cooked on the premises, and the chefs provide an excellent choice of good quality food ..."on a rather tight budget," Joe adds.

At least once a week, wardens also have a surgery, where confidentiality is paramount. Joe said, "This is where our role can take on that of a social worker. It can range from "I don't like my room-mate" to a more serious study, health or relationship worry. It's rewarding to see once-shy, tearful undergraduates find their feet and, finally, graduate. Being invited to a student's wedding has to be one of the best compliments a warden can get!"

But, like any other job, the life of a warden can be stressful, with Raisin Sunday one of the most demanding and taxing days of the year. "All leave is cancelled on Raisin weekend, during which we are in permanent contact with the other residences, and, crucially, Student Support Services. Preparation and organisation are crucial but you never know what's going to happen. We're used to phone calls and bangs on the door at 3am but, on Raisin weekend, you have to be prepared for the unexpected."

The day students arrive is also a tough one, with wardens routinely facing tearful students ... and their parents.

"In my 12 years here, I've had students come to me in at their wit's end after just three or four days and dealing with that, encouraging them to hang in there and reassuring them is a tricky task. But, when it works, which it almost always does, it's extremely rewarding," said Joe.

Wardennial teams are also involved in the hall's social activities ranging from sports competitions to drinks receptions with university staff. Different halls also have their own, specific traditions, including gunking (not of the warden!) at St Regulus, or St Salvator's wardenry providing coffee and home baking on a Sunday afternoon.

However, during his time in the system, Joe has noticed a change in some traditions, and the complete end of others.

"I suppose that the most obvious change in the last 10 years would be hall balls moving from the residences themselves to other locations ranging from the Younger Hall to out-of-town venues. However, other "traditions" are in danger of disappearing, or have gone. Formal dinners are not as commonplace as they used to be, the Latin grace is rarely sung these days and sherry with the warden in McIntosh before Sunday lunch has disappeared. However, new "traditions" are starting up and hopefully they'll continue for years to come."

Outside hall life, all wardens have "day jobs" at the University and Joe is keen for more staff to come forward as possible new recruits.

Joe said, "There's a perception that only academics can become wardens but we're open to staff from all areas as long as they have student welfare at heart and genuinely want to contribute to, and enhance, the lives of students. We don't expect them to commit themselves to 30 years service but continuity is valuable and wardens who remain in post for several years are more likely to help foster a sense of community and identity in their hall. This can, in turn, encourage students to return to a residence year after year, helping to continue the identity of the different residences. This being said, there's a fear that the allegedly necessary recent rent rises could force more and more returning students into the private sector, yet these are the students we're keen to hang on to because they contribute so much to our communities."

Concerns and stress aside, when the doors close on the last day of a session, there's always something to remember the more adventurous residents by – in one case, an inflatable sheep, carefully disposed of with the help of a pair of rubber gloves. The life of a warden is never dull.

RETIRALS

Four of our longest-serving members of staff have retired – with a combined length of service of 154 years!

Professor Malcolm Scott

Professor Scott's staggering 41-year career to St Andrews began with his appointment as Assistant Lecturer in French in 1963, followed by promotion to Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and eventually Professor.

For over half of that career, he was Head of his department or School - a dozen years as the chairman of French (the first elected chairman of any department under the revised scheme of departmental government in the 1970s) and a similar period as the inaugural Head of the School of Modern Languages.

Professor Scott was committed in the latter role to the creation of an integral School in which, he said, "The education of students would benefit from a united approach to the teaching of languages and cultures, rather than a cluster of separate departments with disparate rules and methodologies".

He continued, "My greatest hope, on retirement, is that this vision will not be lost or abandoned. One of my initiatives – namely, the introduction of Italian to the St Andrews programme – will prove lasting. I hope that others (degrees in Science with Languages and the resurrection of degrees in Linguistics) will be equally so".

Professor Scott's teaching, from beginners' level to PhD, covered the full range of modern French literature as well as language, and was focused in the latter years on the concept of national and cultural identity, embracing history, politics, philosophy and religion. Meanwhile, his research centred on the pivotal figure of François Mauriac, novelist, political writer and Christian intellectual - his work on him (books in French and English) led to the conferment by the French government of the Palmes Académiques "for services to French culture".

Professor Scott said, "I enter my misnamed "retirement" as a member of a team working to restore and republish his entire journalistic opus. St Andrews and Mauriac have been my twin universities, and I wish to go on serving them both in whatever ways the future might offer".

Professor Scott exploring the Mississippi during his recent spell as visiting Professor in the USA.

Ann Kettle.

Ann Kettle

Former Dean of Arts, Ann Kettle has retired after 40 years service to the University.

Ann arrived in St Andrews in 1964 as lecturer in the Department of Mediaeval History. Promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1980, she has held many offices, including Hebdomodar (1991-1994) and Dean of Arts (1998-2002). She was a senate assessor on the University Court for eight years and has chaired the Board of the Students' Association for 10 years.

In addition, she has held many important positions outside the University. She was President of the Association of University Teachers (Scotland) between 1994 and 1996, and from 1996-7, was a member of the Scottish ('Garrick') Committee of the National ('Dearing') Committee of Inquiry into Higher Education. She was a member of the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council between 1997 and 2000, has been a member of the Academic Board of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and is a Trustee of the Arts and Humanities Research Board. She was appointed OBE for services to higher education in the 2002 New Year Honours list.

In "retirement", Ann plans to continue her work with the AHRB and Quality Assurance Agency as an institutional auditor. Ann will also be involved in projects within the University, such as marking the 50th anniversary of the Department of Mediaeval History with a reunion of graduates in June 2005 and the endowment of undergraduate scholarships. She also hopes to find time to realise an ambition to write the history of women in the University of St Andrews.

RETIRALS

Jack Daniels

After 38 years of talking to our students first hand about what they want to do with their degree, Director of the Careers Service, Jack Daniels, has retired.

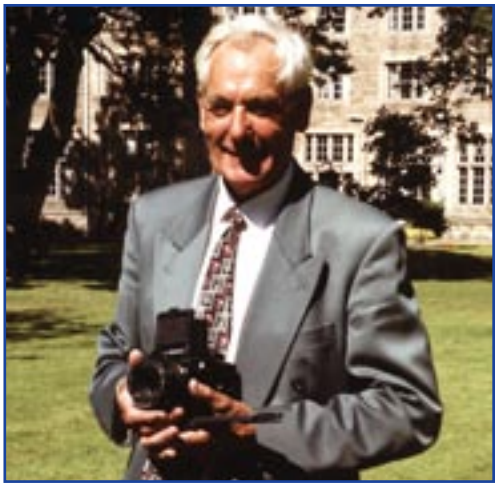
Jack arrived in St Andrews in 1966 and, during his time here, estimates that approximately 20,000 graduates have used the Careers Service in some way. Director of the Service since 1981, Jack estimates that he alone has personally interviewed some 10,000 students.

In addition to Jack's involvement with national professional bodies and local organisations, Jack was involved in almost every aspect of University life including the Students' Association, the Staff Club, the St Andrews Prize and SASOL.

In September, the University officially honoured Jack with a formal reception and presentation.

Jack is succeeded by Paul Brown, former Assistant Director of Oxford University's Careers Service, who joined us late last month.

Jack Daniels at his official retiral presentation, with Principal and Vice-Chancellor Dr Brian Lang.



A familiar sight to many – Peter behind the lens.

Peter Adamson – Life Through A Lens

From local weddings to graduation, Peter Adamson is well known as the face behind the lens - to town and gown folk alike.

Peter served the University as official photographer from 1969 until his retiral last month. In those 35 years, Peter has photographed every major University occasion, ensuring that vital images from official events are kept alive in University archives for generations to come. From new Principals to new buildings, Peter has been there to capture it all. He estimates that he has – in the past 20 years - watched over 20,000 students graduate and at least 2,000 couples walking to the altar.

Officially recognised by the University with a reception in October, Peter will still be available for hire to University staff by private arrangement.

Peter's photography will be celebrated in public later this year with the launch of his first book, entitled *St Andrews: Portrait of a City*. The coffee table book will contain images taken by Peter throughout the town and University, with accompanying words by writer and journalist Lorn Macintyre.

The StAndard **pays tribute to Peter with a back page dedicated to his skills as a photographer. We asked him to select a favourite image taken during his time here and he selected a stunning winter wonderland shot of St Salvator's Quad and the chapel. The image - taken from a window in the Development building – captured a passing young student through the cloisters. According the Peter, it is an image which sums up "the moment".**

THE FLYING SCOTSMAN

Kenneth Stewart (Financial Accounts) has raised £600 for Macmillan Cancer Relief after running almost non-stop for 24 hours.

Kenneth, who deals with the University's insurance, clocked up 84 miles by running 56 laps of Perth's North Inch and, just half an hour later, donned his running shoes again to take part in the Perth 10 kilometre race, finishing in 88:30 minutes.

Accustomed to life on the run, Kenneth has completed more than 60 marathons, cycled the length of New Zealand, completed a 46-day cycle from the west to east coast of Australia and cycled from John O'Groats to Land's End and back.

Never one to make life easy, he dons the kilt for all his "away" runs and a "See You Jimmy" wig - "Wearing the kilt always gets a good reception wherever you go and makes running that bit tougher!" Kenneth said.

Kenneth on West Sands, St Andrews

Dr Eleanor Burt

REGULATING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Management lecturer Dr Eleanor Burt visited the Cabinet Office recently to advise the Government on regulating, nourishing and improving public confidence in the voluntary sector.

During the summer, Dr Burt gave presentations to both the Better Regulation Task Force (BRTF) and the Whitehall Regulatory Network.

Dr Burt was joined by her colleague Professor John Taylor, Visiting Scholar at the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford and Professor of Government and Information Management at Caledonian Business School, Glasgow Caledonian University.

Dr Burt said, "Our presentations sparked lively discussions and looked at the need for public policy-makers and regulators to be sensitive to the scope, character, and values that make the UK voluntary sector of special significance within our society, economy, and polity.

"The main messages were that regulation which is appropriate and that takes account of the features that make this sector unique will be beneficial in enhancing both the contribution of, and public confidence in, voluntary sector organisations (VSOs). On the other hand, regulation that fails to take account of the sector's essential characteristics will stifle spontaneity, vitality, and the voluntaristic spirit which is the driving force of the UK voluntary sector."

The presentation to the BRTF also outlined the case for a high-level independent inquiry into the regulation of the voluntary sector, similar to the Hampton review of the impact of regulation on the business sector, but sensitive to the particular challenges faced by VSOs.

Members of the BRTF were also invited to consider how the provision by the UK Government of an internet-portal modelled along the lines of www.firstgov.gov, the website of the Government of the United States of America, could significantly enhance access to relevant regulatory instruments, information and advice on the part of VSOs.

For more information, please contact Dr Eleanor Burt, email eb19@st-andrews.ac.uk or Professor John Taylor, email jta@gcal.ac.uk or john.taylor@oii.ox.ac.uk.

ONE FOR THE ROAD!

How do you travel to work? Chances are, you drive, complain about parking and whinge about the amount you spend on petrol.

According to the Environment Team, 55% of University staff drive to work alone – with no passengers - 27% of whom live in St Andrews.

Driving solo puts enormous pressure on the University and town's parking facilities, your bank balance, and does little to cut pollution levels.

But did you know there is now a car-sharing scheme allowing staff to find a perfect match to get to, and from, work?

Operated through Liftshare.com, a company experienced in setting up secure car-sharing initiatives for similar organisations across the UK, the scheme gives you the option of "seeking a lift", — "offering a lift" or "wanting to share a journey". Ten percent of University staff are now car sharing.

The StAndard tracked down two couples, to find out the pros and cons of sharing the burden.

The first was Environment Officer Yvonne Charras and Italian Lecturer Claudia Rossignoli. Both "new faces" at the University, they took up their posts over the summer.

Yvonne, who lives in Cellardyke, meets Claudia, who lives in St Monans, in the centre of Anstruther each day and each take turns to be the driver.

Yvonne, who helped set up the scheme, believes car sharing has environmental, financial and social benefits - "The scheme offers a way for staff to reduce their environmental impacts without giving up the convenience of the car. For us, it's great too for catching up on news and gossip and easing into the working day.

"Plus, it's astonishing how quickly you need to fill up with petrol when you're not car sharing, even with our short journeys. I'm also hopeful of learning a few words of Italian during the daily commute which would be an added bonus to car sharing!"

Although they already knew each other, Claudia said, "Car sharing could be an excellent way of meeting new people. As a busy academic institution, there aren't many opportunities to meet staff in other departments so the car share scheme could be a really productive way of establishing new contacts".

Any downsides? Yvonne said, "You obviously both need to be ready to leave at pretty much the same time which requires a bit of planning and flexibility. If one of us wants to do food shopping on the way back from work or have a jog on the beach it may be that we do our own thing that day.

Left-to-right – Claudia and Yvonne

But sometimes, it can go wrong. "A couple of weeks ago, we decided that, while I headed up to Safeway for my weekly shop, Claudia would stay a little later in the office, working on her thesis. However, when the time came to meet up at 6.15pm, Claudia was nowhere to be seen – she'd been locked in!"

Meanwhile, Susan Kernahan, Personal Assistant to the Director of Development is the daily driver of Shona Millard, Payroll and Pensions Manager; Elaine Irons, Deputy Payroll Manager; and Helen Davidson, Payroll Assistant.

Susan, who lives in Broughty Ferry, has been sharing for two years and joins one of her passengers near to her home, and the other two at Dundee bus station.

Susan said, "We generally talk during the journey, with Terry Wogan on in the morning! We tend to be quieter in the morning - not quite awake! - with more conversations in the evening after the day's events".

A fan of the new scheme, Susan is keen for others to sign up, even if just to solve the town's parking problem, the subject of last edition's Red Lion.

Susan said, "It would make so much sense for other people driving to work to travel together and alleviate the pressure on spaces".

Information, joining instructions and guidelines on sharing expenses can be found at – www.st-andrews.ac.uk/estates/environment

If you have any problems using the site or any queries, please email the Environment team – environment@st-andrews.ac.uk.

THE DAILY GRIND

By Miss S Presso

"Anyone willing to carry out a coffee review?" was the question put to the group meeting. (My mental interpretation - "Something for free!")

Body went into subconscious reflex mode. With all the natural decorum and poise I possess, I leapt forward denying any other participant the chance. I volunteered with a dignified burst of jumping up and down, waving, quivering in anticipation alongside a strong "nodding dog" impression.

There was a dim recollection in a small distant part of my brain which acknowledged the fact that I was, in fact, allergic to coffee and hadn't tasted it for years. A minor disadvantage. (It was, after all, free. And I do come from a household where everyone keeps silent at mealtimes, given the danger of exposing a tongue lest someone else sticks a fork in it.)

I had to do this. Who knows where it might lead? Free wine tasting? Restaurant critic? Food for free and giving up the day job? Opportunities have to be grabbed. (I did not remind myself that, a few years, ago the Students Association did a Toilet review in town – people can go down as well as up!)

So off I went, seeking decaff but taking with me a different member of staff to each establishment to taste the real thing. If a job is to be done, it will be done properly. And Student Support will always answer to a crisis. Coffee needs to be drunk.

Now, first point, there are LOADS of places that sell coffee in this town. There is a new one opening up as we speak (or read) in Bell Street. My advice to the sparkling business minds behind this initiative would be to try to carry out a similar review exercise first! I just simply can't believe we need more coffee houses. So we only did a few. Someone can do the next lot - this could be a series!

In summary – it was a challenge which, although starting off fun, became unbelievably boring. I am "decaffed out". (Now when I invite anybody in the department to go for a cup, there's an audible groan while some poor sucker gets nominated to have a turn.)

Out there are many ordinary, uneventful cups of brown – not quite, but almost, gravy. There are many Italian names, hard biscuits and nobody, but nobody, seems to have an old fashioned spoon nowadays. Lollipop sticks are everywhere to dip in your gravy and wiggle about. And it takes forever to get a cup from these machines. One advantage, however, is that we did find that, if we told people we were doing a coffee review to go in a magazine being distributed round over 2,000 people, suddenly we had free biscuits, free wraps, free refills and happy smiley people serving us. May I take this opportunity to acknowledge those who responded in such an appropriate fashion. And to thank them. No need to name them…..they know who they are……

Unfortunately, WE ARE UNCORRUPTIBLE – so, sorry. Your biscuits were lovely but your coffee was mud. Even if it was free. And we're going to tell people.

In summary –I would have to say that the Coffee House had the best choice, the settees in the Vic are the most comfortable, the staff in Costas were the quickest but the take away Buzz was by far the coldest. And in terms of speed – I shan't be going back to the North Point unless I have the afternoon off.

Categories –
(Where appropriate, marks out of 5)

1. **Comfortable surroundings (takes into account the toilets, the cushioned seats, ambience).**
2. **Price (based on a similar size – all very scientific).**
3. **Speed of Delivery (from the point the order is accepted to the first sip).**
4. **Variety of Choice.**
5. **Flavour.**
6. **Comments.**

Cherries

1. 2/5 – only tall, hard chairs – as I dangle I, realise my legs are very, very short.
2. £1.75 – high side of average.
3. 4 minutes, 20 seconds. We thought we would die. Our tongues had stuck to the roofs. And that wasn't only of our mouths. Our scones had been eaten, digested and become distant memories before the coffee showed.
4. 3/5 – all usual coffees but also replicated in DECAFF.
5. 3/5 - tasted quite ordinary, but cappuccino creamy it has to be said.
6. 2 swearie words from the waiter, once when he spilled the milk and the other tripping on the way back to the till. Nice lads, though. It's not as if our ears are delicate.

Java Junction

1. 3/5 – chairs quite hard, but nice smiley people serving.
2. £1.95 – dear oh dear.
3. 2 minutes, 50 seconds – not bad.
4. 0/5 – NO DECAFF !!! Astonishing.
5. Don't know – NO DECAFF. But for Americano – colleague says 2/5.
6. Comments – when we asked for decaff, they said, "sorry, none left today". But they also said that when we went back a week later.

The Coffee House

1. 1/5 – chairs sore. Very cramped. Art on walls not very good in my opinion. (HUGE preponderance of Swilken Bridge).
2. £1.40 (£2.25 for a speciality coffee).
3. 2 minutes, 10 seconds – quick and cheery.
4. 5/5 – over 60 coffees and 120 teas – can't beat that!
5. "Kenyan Thiriru" – I am told – tastes of smoky/dark chocolate, with a hint of berry … sounds great. (although it reminds me of bears for some reason). Decaff not instant either.
6. The sort of place you could have an affair in. Or sad memories. A hint of "Brief Encounter". And you'll never meet any students there. Pro or Con?

North Point Café

1. 1/5 (it was 3 but then I went to the toilet - down to 1) Also very, very noisy….back to delicate ears again.
2. £1.80 (but they have a £1.00 happy hour).
3. 5 minutes, 15 seconds. Worse than Cherries! And staff not as nice about it. No excuses – they just seemed to take forever to process the information before they started working on it. Like they were working in a time warp. Getting the bill took longer than making a three course meal at home (including pre-heating the oven).
4. 4/5 – usual selections but did have Fair Trade.
5. 3/5 – not much to be said. I am told that the coffee was definitely coffee flavoured (as opposed to some which tastes distinctly tea-like) and might have a bit of an "aroma", but was far from the "mellow moment" that got these people going on the advert.
6. Lovely menu for eating……but drinking coffee was a boring experience. And wood everywhere – were the babies in the corner to cry? Oh dear – shouldn't have tempted fate. They did. It echoed and bounced. The volume of conversation on all tables rose to compensate. The noise was deafening. We left 15 minutes later. It would have been 5 but it took another 10 to get the bill.

The Victoria Café

1. 4 – lovely, leather settees, loos under modernisation, sweet staff.
2. £1.50 - cheap.
3. 1 minute, 50 seconds – sharp.
4. 2.5/5 (no skimmed milk) – Costa Coffee – fairly boring.
5. 3/5 – quite weak – or peely-wally as my mother would have said.
6. Recent modernisation is toning down the previous "barn" element of the surroundings. Nice little cinnamon biscuit. Dries the mouth nicely ready for the next coffee. Tell me this isn't a trap? I am not the type to be had … believe me.

Costa Coffee

1. 3 – spacious – comfortable bit for the horrid smokers amongst us.
2. £1.95.
3. 1 minute, 45 seconds. Very, very sharp.
4. 3/5– usual selection – and all in decaff.
5. 3/5 – a little chilly? I was told it was 140-160 degrees to avoid burning. Mr Costa – burn me. I would rather.
6. Sometimes you can feel as if you're abroad. The staff member spoke Spanish. That might have been it. Certainly I'm not sure the coffee tasted Italian at all. Ashtrays horrid. Loos a bit smelly (I got caught sneeking a look at the male loo).

Buzz

1. Bit of a cheat – take away only. But pleasant enough.
2. £1.75 (for a takeaway??)
3. 2 minutes, 20 seconds.
4. 3/5 - Usual choices – and decaff.
5. 3/5 – nothing unusual.
6. TEPID!!! In fact, I've had warmer salad. Mr Buzz – try heating the water?

This review is anonymous and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of *The StAndard* editorial board or University.

ST ANDREW'S WEEK – THE RIGHT PLACE, THE RIGHT TIME

From fairy lights to fireworks, St Andrews will come alive in the month of November with a feast of events to celebrate St Andrew's Week.

This year's annual St Andrew's Week festival takes place from 21st November to 2nd December. In addition to the usual multitude of musical concerts, exhibitions, dance and drama, this year includes a host of attractions for all the family including a "hunt the teddy" competition, battle of the bands, candle-lit carol service and the St Andrew's Day Gala Ball. The week will also see the town light up for Christmas as Santa officially switches on the Christmas lights at 3pm on Saturday 27th!

In sharp contrast to twinkling fairy lights, one of the week's undoubted highlights will be the Velux International Kite Festival on Sunday 28th (11am - 3.30pm – admission free). The West Sands will be awash with a sea of kites from around the world and the event includes beach polo and a teddy bears' parachute drop!

The celebrations during St Andrew's Week originate from the town's traditional commemoration of the feast day of our namesake Saint Andrew, but the actual festival – led by a steering committee consisting of representatives from local businesses, the council and Fife Tourist Board - has been going for nine years.

The StAndard has selected some highlights from this year's festival, which officially kicks off at the Old Course Hotel on Tuesday 23rd and climaxes with a spectacular firework display at the St Andrews Bay on Saturday 27th and our own Graduation ceremonies on Tuesday 30th.

Both town and gown are involved, with the

University involved with six events running during the week:

The University's Students' Association is hosting two events: the 'Battle of the Bands' on Wednesday 24th from 9pm (contact doserv@st-and.ac.uk or call 01334 462700) and 'Movie Fest', a selection of films shot by students, on Monday 22nd at 8pm (free tickets from the Tourist Information Centre, call 01334 472021).

The University's Charities Campaign is hosting two events: a Fun Run on Sunday 28th and a Santa's Grotto at the Old Union Coffee Bar on Saturday 27th (see www.usacc.org.uk or call 01334 462777 for details.)

The University Music Society will host a concert on Sunday 28th featuring the University Symphony Orchestra conducted by Gillian Craig and lead by Vladislav Steinberg. Call the Music Centre to book on 01334 462226.

Finally, the festival will be closed on Thursday 2nd December with the University's Gilbert & Sullivan Society production 'Of Ballads, Songs And Snatches' (Younger Hall, 7.30pm).

One unusual event with a gown link is 'Kaleidoscope Kapers' – an opportunity to see the colourful instruments being made at Loot in Market Street (Saturday 27th – 11am-3pm). The historians among you will know that Sir David Brewster, one-time Principal of the University, invented the kaleidoscope in the early 19th century.

Other highlights include: the St Andrews Merchants Association 'Hunt the Teddy' Competition – a prize-winning hunt to find 10 St Andrews teddies in shop windows throughout town. The competition lasts from 20th-30th November. Entry forms from Papa Growlers, Bonkers and J & G Innes. Note that this event is for children only!

On the 27th, archaeologist Sarah Winlow will give a talk the Carpow Logboat – a Bronze Age logboat discovered in the Tay Estuary in 2001, and one of very few Scottish logboats to be recorded. The illustrated talk will be given at 2pm at the St Andrews Museum (01334 412690) and is free.

In the evening, locals can witness or join in a torchlit procession from Church Square to the harbour, which will end with the St Andrews Day Beacon being be lit and a grandstand view of the spectacular St Andrews Bay fireworks display. The procession begins at 6pm, entry is free and refreshments and music will be provided.

Lastly, the Crawford Arts Centre will give visitors a sneak preview of the design of the new Maggie's Centre in Kirkcaldy. The exhibition will showcase the work of the acclaimed international architect Zaha Hadid from Friday 29th October - Sunday 19th December (01334 474610).

For up-to-date programme listings and contact details see the official website at www.standrewsweek.co.uk or contact Jo Aitken or Fiona Calder on 01334 412674 or email info@standrewsweek.co.uk

WHAT WE DO … IN ST ANDREWS

By Dr Brian Lang, Principal and Vice-Chancellor

Given the currently high profile of the University, the increasing diversity of the student body and, not least, the number of building projects presently underway or in the planning, the relationship between the town and the University is a subject that is much discussed.

Anyone can see the effect of the University on the townscape of St Andrews. What I suspect we are all less aware of, whether as members of the University's staff or as residents of St Andrews, is the scale of the economic contribution to the town, and to East Fife in general. This contribution is additional to the role staff and students play in giving St Andrews an environment of intellectual and social stimulus that probably no other town in Britain of similar size could ever experience.

The University is a significant 'business' and a major employer. Last year, the University spent over £86 million. The salary bill alone is well over £50 million, and even after tax and payments to out-of-Fife banks and building societies, then the local spend by staff is massive. The University's directly employed payroll is almost 1900, of which fewer than 500 are academics recruited on an international market. Employment specialists reckon on one additional job being created for every three people directly employed by a Scottish university so, on that basis, the University of St Andrews, in addition to its own staff, generates another 600 or so local jobs, in restaurants, shops and offices.

Our students, too, spend money in St Andrews other than on university accommodation. A recent estimate is that students spend, on average, £5000 each every year in St Andrews of which £3500 is on accommodation, and 45% of our students live in private housing rather than that owned by the University. We have around 6500 students. The consequence is many millions of student pounds spent in restaurants, bars, supermarkets, bookshops and outfitters.

And then there is the money brought in by visitors, for where better to spend a long weekend visiting sons, daughters, friends, girlfriends and boyfriends, but St Andrews. This spending group is difficult to quantify whereas the amount brought into town by a University conference is easier to compute. Take the School of Management's two recent conferences, EURAM and BAM – those brought in at least £940,000 for a stay by the thousand or so delegates of only a few days, spending in local bars and restaurants, taxis and hotel rooms, souvenir shops and on rounds of golf.

All this is only money. We would prefer the University's contribution to be valued in terms of a much broader set of considerations, which might include the role we play in providing East Fife with a cultural and recreational hub. The Sports Centre and Music Centre, the annual STANZA poetry festival of which the university is such a substantial sponsor – all that and more we are proud to make available to the local community.

There is more to St Andrews than the University, but the University means that St Andrews is so much more than the average Scottish town.

"Yes, can do" and the art of the polite "no"

Over the last 50 years there has been a massive swing to a service based economy in the UK as evidenced by the fact that over 40% of UK economic activity occurs in the service sector.

In Scotland, a quarter of all jobs are in the public sector (universities, government, local authorities, NHS, councils etc). There are now more "service" and "support" posts and units in HEIs than ever before. Many are in response to stakeholder and sponsors requirements for management information, reporting and regulation. Regulatory creep within the HEI sector has resulted in an increased administrative burden on every facet of university endeavour.

However, who are service and support units and staff there to serve? Who are their clients and what value do they add? Within an extremely complex organisation clients of the support services range from students, staff and laypeople to corporate sponsors, public bodies and many other groups; a range so diverse that it is unlikely that anyone can satisfy all their individual needs easily.

Service unit activities fall into two generic categories –

(i) those that are customer/client focussed and responsive "the customer is always right"; these support client driven activities, normally say "yes, I/we'll do that…"
(ii) those acting from a position of authority and responsibility that direct, regulate and oversee activity. These request individuals and groups to act and can say "no" when a client requests their action.

The quality of relationships between academic and university support staff is closely associated with the generally held perception that service units are there to service an academic's needs before any others, eg. type (i) actions. However other drivers (including institutional policy, strategy and regulation and sponsors instructions) may actually determine the roles of staff in support units and how these act in any situation. Consequently academic staff may be regularly challenged by their colleagues with services or support that does not meet their specific needs, or is unable to (re)act in what is regarded as a timely manner (i.e. now).

Although everyone likes to give and receive the positive answer "yes", the polite "no" often does not compute with individuals with sharp minds born to query everything and resist operating procedures and organised decision processes. This imbues a degree of constructive tension between academics and staff supporting them - a "no" decision provided from a service unit or individual to an academic is often resisted, contested, can be referred further up the management chain for a further, second consideration ("I'm taking this to my Head of School/College Gate" etc.) and often takes a substantial level of commitment and effort to confirm, all of which costs time and money.

Support services should provide value, be professionally staffed, deliver well-informed authoritative decisions, work hard to support their users needs and seek to gain the respect and trust of their clients. The ability of any organisation to debate and reconsider contested decisions is dependent on its resources; too many contested no's and a logjam of reconsideration takes over to the detriment of considering new opportunities. Unless additional resources become available no new service decisions or actions can proceed. Through a downward spiral scenario, where additional resources lead to more contested decisions, it is possible to envisage organisational stagnation.

Since in the short term it is highly unlikely that additional resources will be invested in support units and staff a simple cure for the malaise of decision logjam and stagnation are (i) for services to increase the proportion of positive support and answer "Yes ...", and (ii) for academics and other users to be more accepting of the polite, but firm "no".

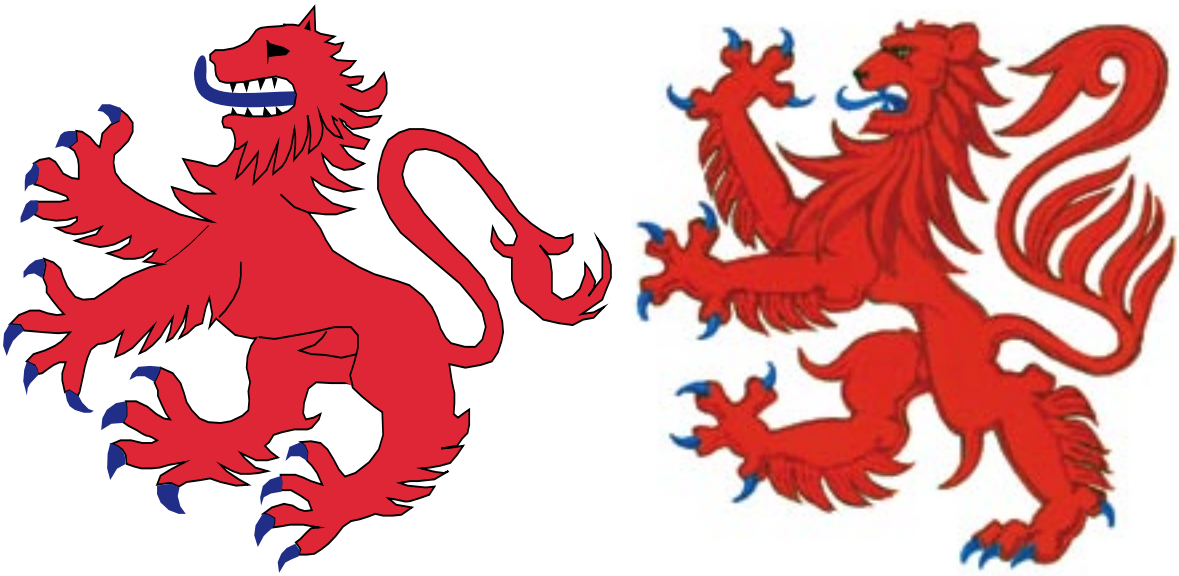
This therapy is not dependent on your role, nor on where you work in the University. With everyone's support we can build a "can do" culture that would ensure that the university remains in good health and enriched by every opportunity that the future brings.

The Red Lion is an anonymous viewpoint from a member of the University community – if you would like to contribute to a future RL, email: magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk

service – the doing of work for another or for a community etc.; the work done; assistance or benefit given to someone; readiness to perform this.

authority – the power or right to enforce obedience; personal influence arising from knowledge or position; a person to whom knowledge or influence is attributed; an expert.

value – the amount of money, goods or services considered to be equivalent to a thing or for which it can be exchanged; desirability, usefulness, importance; one's principles or standards.



***The StAndard* Red Lion was initially created to give University staff the chance to let off steam on a burning issue, with complete anonymity.**

We never expected it to lead to a heated debate on the intricacies of the beast itself, a larger version of which takes pride of place on our official University arms.

But, thanks to an eagle-eyed heraldry expert, it has.

As a result, above stand two lions - the new *StAndard* Red Lion, an angrier, more rampant version of his small eared, long fingered predecessor (yes, "he" is definitely a "he", as a member of *the StAndard* editorial board pointed out!) with sharper claws, a prouder tail and devil-like eyes.

Red Lion no. 2 is the creation of Mark Dennis, Advocate, Fellow of the Heraldry Society of Scotland, author and husband of our very own biochemist Dr Rona Ramsay. He is also the man who painted the new versions of the arms of the town of St Andrews as used by the Community Council.

While browsing through his wife's copy of *The StAndard*, Mr Dennis was "disappointed" to see the original Red Lion which he tactfully described as "unfortunate" and set about creating a new one.

As if that wasn't enough, Mr Dennis has offered, on behalf of the Society, to paint (and correct in some cases) certain coats of arms within the University including the crest above the Parliament Hall fireplace. Mr Dennis also plans to gild the beautiful carved Royal Arms on the wall of St Mary's Quadrangle.

Mr Dennis has clarified the common misconception that there can only be one correct style or form of a coat of arms. In fact, arms are "a silent name" and any name may be written, drawn and painted in any way or style as long as all the letters (elements of the design) are present and in the right order.

The University uses a single, standard version of its arms which, says Mr Dennis, is "fine for consistency and even authentication".

But, he points out, "The lion rampant Gules which works on a tiny letterhead may seem quite alarming when enlarged too much – like a magnified insect!"

He has therefore painted the same image - a rearing red lion – in a scale appropriate for a masthead illustration.

The School of History administers the St Andrews Fund for Scots Heraldry and the University will host a major, week long heraldry conference in August 2006 when the XXVII Congrès International des Sciences Généalogique et Héraldique convenes for the first time in Scotland since 1962.

The Congress will present the University with a great heraldic processional banner or "gonfannon". Look out for the best in heraldry – a tradition two centuries older than the University itself!

FROM CAMBRIDGE TO CRAIL

By Professor Jagjit S Chadha, School of Economics and Finance

The drive to the Scores from Crail reminds me daily, like some rare tonic, that it has all been quite worthwhile.

As I speed away from this fishing village (ranked in the top ten places to live in the UK by Country Life – I often wonder if that is a recommendation or not?), I can see both an abundance of joyous children walking to school in their Crab sweaters and the Isle of May in the rear view mirror. Soon I am passing Cambo Estate, where the Spring carpet of snowdrops evokes my increasingly distant childhood, and Kingsbarns, which I am reliably told as a non-golfer is the best golf course in this area. The sharp chicane just before Boarhills leads up to what has become my favourite church: a stone set in near perfect shape and space. A climb past the new hotel, I suppose it would still be called that in 50 years' time, leads shortly to a view of the crescent of St Andrews: looking very much like a crown with the ruins of ancient battles acting as jewels. I then remind myself that it must certainly be worth a host of problems to be able to call this little piece of Scotland my home.

Move back one year and I moved from crowded and rowdy Cambridge to 'twee and perfectly formed' St Andrews. With hindsight my information on Scotland was far from perfect. I moved from England, where I had lived my whole life, to another country, where I had holidayed, in Loch Inver and Ardnamurchan, for a mere 23 and a half days during that life. My other dalliances included a debating competition trip in 1988, which as well as early elimination involved a serious car crash on the way back on a murky A1, and papers given, in empty lecture halls, in the not quite so distant past in Strathclyde and Glasgow. Very quickly, though, I learned to look at the horizon, breath in deep, drink the water, greet people in passing and let my children wander about unchaperoned. We are the better for that.

Professor Chadha with CDMA research associates

What about my knowledge of the Economics department? "The department has a good reputation", colleagues in the large rambling Faculty at Cambridge said, "with many good and interesting colleagues". That view turned out to be largely correct but I would take issue with the word 'many' because, on arrival, we only had a Faculty of sixteen which may be many, no doubt, by the standards of some important subjects but tiny as an Economics department with international ambitions. The Department in comparison to others with such ambitions and those who have fulfilled them is small – the average Faculty size of an international rated economics department in the UK was 25 at RAE2001 and will almost certainly rise as this decade progresses. The arithmetic of such low numbers makes undergraduate teaching and administrative loads highly sensitive to flows and would act to cap the ability of the department to develop post-graduate programmes and a genuine culture of team-based research. But it was for this challenge I was appointed and the new School of Economics and Finance, under the leadership of Chris Jensen-Butler was created – so better perhaps not to think like the plumber who complains long and hard about the Victorian drains.

With the generous help of the Principal, the nascent School of Economics and Finance established the Centre for Dynamic Macroeconomic Analysis (CDMA), which now houses six PhD students at the top of Castlecliffe. With them Professor Charles Nolan and myself work on projects such as why we continue to use money as opposed to, say, sea-shells to measure and value our activities, what is the contribution of financial development to economic growth and to further our understanding of the correct role

of monetary and fiscal policies in stabilising the business cycle. This September we hosted a very lively inaugural conference that unleashed the Centre on the academic conscience and my Inaugural Lecture to the University awaits its reception. The new School has also launched an exciting set of Masters programmes under the expert guidance of Professor Gavin Reid and Dr David Cobham. So there seems to be activity, energy, progress and much to be excited about.

But much of life here moves at an imperceptible pace, like some tectonic plate. I remember having to chase up a joiner to send me a bill for work he had completed some three months earlier. Credit on supply apart, little can prepare a newcomer for the loneliness and isolation of life in Fife: the shops shut at 5pm, people go home early and do not come out again, there is no real forum or avenue for colleagues, or their newly transplanted families, to meet on a regular basis, any nightlife is often swamped by that part of the student body that finds Evelyn Waugh too plebeian and the sparse population means making new friends can be quite difficult. Lunch is a constant problem. Not that I really miss the updates on the experiences of 1940s and 1950s life, which High Table can educate you in remarkably well. But finding a good haunt at which to meet colleagues, who in general do not lunch, and where we can socialise is quite difficult. I have thought of offering to plug one of the many excellent short-order restaurants in return for a guaranteed table but decided that the resulting 'Plugs-for-Lunch' scandal would be one which the University could do without. None of these issues are by themselves of any great importance but stand together as a large and obstructive barrier to an arriving academic feeling at home quickly. For example, since arrival, a year ago, I have been invited inside the houses of just two other new colleagues.

Actually, other Scottish departments have been just as welcoming. I have only one trip, to Aberdeen, scheduled but precious little else from the land of Adam Smith, David Hume and the Scottish Enlightenment: where is that famous Scottish hospitality? It could be that no one seems especially interested in my brand of economics, or perhaps they are nervous? We are flooded with talk of pooling in our subject for the next RAE and the arrival of the new CDMA kids may have disrupted some rather cosy preconceptions about the Scottish Economics Pool. And so we are now inclined to build a life raft with the best materials to save my department rather than relying on others to let me onto their unstable vessel.

Professor Chadha

One overwhelmingly important issue for me are the costs in time and finances of travel. The work of teams of economic researchers gets discussed in conferences and workshops around the world. We have no train stop at Edinburgh airport and taxis are close to exorbitant in price. (Note: I may encourage my Head of School, an eminent scholar of transport systems, to work out why minicabs are more expensive in St Andrews than in London.) It is important to test our ideas out on wider stages but when I go to a conference now I am regularly separated from my family for an extra couple of days. I suspect that it will not be long before I may start to wonder whether I should bother to go to these costly occasions and then, in a small but significant way, my work will start to disengage from a fast moving frontier. This is a trap that somehow must be avoided.

Economists are in the business of building meaningful simplifications of reality called models. Often these models allow us to think about the implications of a particular building block of that model for its overall relevance. Moving from one City to another, is quite a good way of testing the robustness of your own model. Much is the same, family, work, hobbies – my football team still languishes, for example – but many external influences change, both subtly and profoundly, and these turn out to be sufficient to cause some fundamental re-appraisal of the existing relationships within the model. We shall see how that model performs and whether it might need replacing. I leave you with one thought: on arrival my St Andrean optician, in funereal tones (think Fraser in Dad's Army), described St Andrews as the 'graveyard of ambition', he could not have been more wrong and he certainly did not mean the School of Economics and Finance.

Jagjit S. Chadha is Professor of Economics and Director of the Centre for Dynamic Macroeconomic Analysis at the University of St Andrews. He writes here in a personal capacity. **He thanks Gayle Cook, Christopher Jensen-Butler and Charles Warren for comments.**

JEEPERS PEEPERS, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CREEPERS?

This autumn saw the removal of the Virginia Creeper from 9 The Scores, home to the School of Art History.

The creeper had been facing the chop for seven years but Estates bosses had to wait until the building's refurbishment before wielding the axe.

The creeper finally stopped creeping in August, much to the upset of some Art History staff.

Here, *The StAndard* outlines the arguments for and against its removal.

FOR

"Estates has, through Grounds Services, identified several areas where damage has been inflicted to structural fixtures around the estate.

"The creeper was identified as attracting damp to the building fabric and causing damage to stonework, window frames, paintwork and roof.

"The front facade of School 2 in the Quad is a good example of the severity of damage that can be inflicted by these creepers.

"I can appreciate the usefulness and attractiveness of climbing species in the correct circumstances - non-building walls, rustic frames and trellises. We have some fine specimens in other areas, however removal is undertaken where instances of damage are noted."

Jim Drummond, Assistant Director (Grounds Services), Estates.

Before.

After.

AGAINST

"My objection is almost entirely on aesthetic grounds. I was delighted when we moved into 9 The Scores two years ago. Not only had I left behind in College Street the wafting smell of burgers from nearby restaurants, but my new office looks on to St Salvator's Quad and the stately trees on The Scores. The stone façade of our new Scots Baronial home was dressed in lovely green and flourishing leaves which turned a glorious red over the next few months. My only regret was that, while colleagues had windows fringed with foliage, the creeper had not yet ventured far enough east to reach mine. This year I noticed that it was moving ever closer and I looked forward to the day when I too could look out on leaves.

"Imagine then my distress when I arrived at the office one day to find the building stripped bare by the gardeners, no longer veiled in shimmering red but naked as the day it was built.

"Newer universities all over the world would pride themselves on the aura of antiquity given by an established plant of this nature, but the oldest university in Scotland has a policy of removing them. Can they really be so dangerous to a solid stone-built Victorian house that total removal is the only answer?"

Annette Carruthers, Senior Lecturer, Art History and Museum and Gallery Studies.

Life saving role of car exhausts

St Andrews scientists have found that technology used in car exhaust catalysts and washing powders could produce new materials for medicine, saving hundreds of lives in the process.

Taking inspiration from porous solids used in car exhaust catalysts, Professor Russell Morris and Drs Tony Butler and Paul Wheatley from the School of Chemistry are preparing new materials to prevent life-threatening blood clotting and thrombosis in patients undergoing surgery and other interventional procedures.

Professor Morris and the team have been awarded grants totalling £300,000 from the Leverhulme Trust and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to pursue the studies, involving collaboration with cardiovascular scientists Drs Ian Megson and Adriano Rossi from the University of Edinburgh.

Can food choice dictate tumour characteristics?

After last issue's focus on Dr Margaret Ritchie's research into the effect of diet on cancer, the Bute Medical School researcher has made more dietary revelations.

Dr Ritchie believes that the size, strain and seriousness of tumours could be dictated by what you eat. In a two-year project – the first of its kind in the world – Margaret is investigating a possible link between exposure to certain foods and a breast cancer tumour's characteristics, ranging from its aggressiveness to its reaction to cancer treatments. The research may also establish whether phyto-oestrogen exposure reduces the risk of breast cancer recurring.

Dr Ritchie has been awarded a Melville Trust Research Fellowship to carry out the work which may eventually lead to phyto-oestrogen supplements being given to women most likely to develop the disease – women with BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations or those in socially deprived groups. Foods containing high levels of phyto- oestrogens include wholemeal bread, soya yoghurt, raisins and other fruit.

The original David Beckham

Dr Jason König's research into a sporting legend from the second century AD hit the headlines during the launch of the Athens Olympics in August. The character from ancient times apparently enjoyed so much success and celebrity he was the 'David Beckham of his day'.

During research for a book on the history of sport in ancient Greece, Dr König of the School of Classics has shed new light on little-known athlete Marcus Aurelius Asklepiades. The athlete's conquests are recorded on a series of inscribed stones, discovered in Rome over 100 years ago, in which his sporting triumphs and a glimpse of his popularity come alive. Unlike ancient stories about semi-mythical early athletes, the inscriptions reflect reliable evidence from a period which has often been neglected in history.

Through recent detailed study of the tablets, Dr König has reconstructed a legend of the Roman Empire, victorious at the Olympics in AD 181 and honoured by city fathers throughout the Empire. The stones, created in the athlete's lifetime, recount a career which saw him win every contest he entered before finally retiring early at 25 after experiencing the more fickle side of fame. Dr König's study is the first in-depth analysis of the neglected Roman sporting hero for many decades.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Anything you can do!

A Costa-Rican wren, a species well-known for duetting

Biologists at St Andrews have found that birds join together in song to threaten incomers away from their territory.

Dr Lorraine Marshall-Ball and Professor Peter Slater found birds who formed defensive duos and enacted a battle of singing skills by singing louder and better than potential intruders, as a way to intimidate them. The threatening behaviour demonstrated in wrens shows that duetting in birds is used to signal aggression and, for the first time, this co-operative trait has been shown to conceal more selfish behaviour.

The researchers studied wrens in Costa Rica, which are well known for their co-operative duetting behaviour. It is common for males and females of this species to duet with each other, often in complex songs, and signal devotion within pairs. They looked for clues which might demonstrate that the act of duetting is used for any other purpose. By simulating territorial intruders using playback devices, they found that subsequent duets were used as a definite sign of intimidation.

Imagine . . . John Lennon at 64

Psychologists from the Perception Lab have created an image of how John Lennon would have looked today if he were still alive, using the latest in computer technology.

The facial perception experts have created the computer-generated image, which shows the ex-Beatle as he might have looked on his 64th birthday last month (9th October). The singer died aged 40 when he was shot in New York by Mark Chapman on December 8th, 1980.

Elisabeth Cornwell from the University's Perception Lab used 'ageing' software developed by Dr Bernard Tiddeman (School of Computer Science) to reproduce the natural effects of ageing, taking into account changes in skin texture, hairline and hair colour. They used the cover image from the retrospective 1982 album *The John Lennon Collection*, in which he was aged 40, as a starting point. The process of ageing was mimicked by changing the texture and shape of the original image to simulate the changes in the skin that would occur between the ages of 40 and 60.

The team have previously created aged images of Hollywood stars Marilyn Monroe and James Dean, who both suddenly died at a young age, and more recently of Elvis Presley aged 68.

John Lennon, as he might have looked at 64.

Those interested in seeing how they will look in the future, can use simplified software to transform their own image at the Perception Lab's webpage: **www.perceptionlab.com**

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Remember the Alamo?

Head of Spanish Dr Will Fowler grabbed the headlines in not one but two Sunday newspapers recently with his controversial claims that the men that folk-hero Davy Crocket fought with were nothing more than 'land-grabbing slave-owners'.

Will is an expert on Mexican General Santa Anna, who led his army to victory at the Alamo in 1836. He has spent the last 14 years working on a biography of the vilified General, who he claims has been misrepresented by history and was actually an intelligent, courageous and principled leader.

Both the *Scotland on Sunday* and *The Sunday Times* carried large news pieces on Dr Fowler's views on the weekend that the modern remake of The Alamo (made famous by the John Wayne original) opened in cinemas nationwide. As a result of the coverage, Will's views were reported as far as Canada!

History and Hollywood has carved the thirteen-day battle of the Alamo as a heroic tale of brave Texans who lost their lives to the Mexicans in the name of independence. However, Will's research has led him to the conclusion that the Americans were only interested in protecting their practice of slavery, which the Mexicans were trying to abolish.

Using evidence generated from forgotten historical documents and primary sources, Will's book *Santa Anna* – due out next year – sets out to rewrite America's history books and explode the myth of the Alamo.

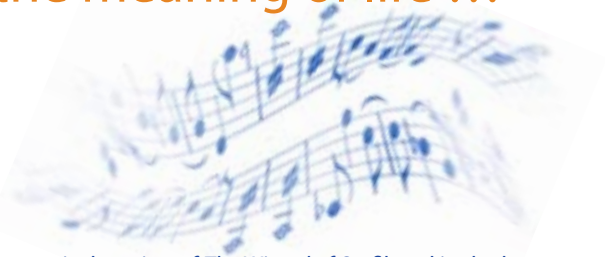
Santa Anna - courtesy of the Nettie Lee Benson Library, University of Texas, Austin.

Why following the yellow brick road or climbing every mountain will show you the meaning of life …

Musicals including *Les Miserables* and *The Lion King* provide their audiences with a distinct philosophy of life, as well as entertainment, according to theology lecturer, Dr Ian Bradley.

Dr Bradley, from the School of Divinity, believes that churches have lots to learn from modern musicals and could usefully incorporate their spiritual and theological values, and the pastoral care they offer, into their services.

Dr Bradley's new book - *You've Got to Have a Dream: The Message of the Musical* - explains that musicals have often focused on serious social issues as far back as Showboat in the 1920s which dealt with racial prejudice and family breakdown.



The musical version of *The Wizard of Oz*, filmed in the late 1930s as the US emerged from the depression, offered the following clear message "Believe in yourself, stick by your friends, fight for what's right and things will get better" and, during the cold war, seeking something to reassure the public in the event of a nuclear attack, the BBC lined up *The Sound of Music* as the first film that would be broadcast after the bomb dropped.

Top of the Polls - who are the real chart toppers?

By Marion Gibson, External Relations Manager

Feeling confused about university league tables and subject ratings? Wondering which claims about our status are correct?

This article delves behind the headlines and soundbites to assess the substance of some of the main rankings.

In September, St Andrews was named *The Sunday Times* Best University in Scotland for the third successive year, having previously also been the paper's UK University of the Year in 2002.

Earlier this year, the University community was also delighted when *The Times* published its 2004 league tables, ranking St Andrews ninth in the UK.

Principal Dr Brian Lang highlighted the fact that "as well as once again being the top university in Scotland it was the only Scottish University consistently in the U K top ten for both research and teaching.

"The University's first-rate performance was a result of diligence, application and loyalty at all levels," remarked the Principal in a congratulatory email to staff.

However, the eagle-eyed among you will also have noted that, in this year's *Sunday Times* tables, the University is down one place from the paper's 2003 ranking to 10th in the UK - one place below the ranking currently given by the paper's stablemate The Times.

In *The Guardian* league tables, the University again has a different position –14th in the UK. Additionally, if looking chronologically, St Andrews appears to be slipping down *The Sunday Times* League Table from sixth position in the UK table in 2002, yet it still merits the prestigious title Best in Scotland and in two categories 'Best Degrees' and 'A/AS level/Higher Entry Points' outperforms Dundee and University College, London – respectively the paper's Scottish University of the Year (a new award this year) and the UK University of the year.*

So how does all this happen and what does all the number–crunching mean in real terms?

Looking at the number of key performance areas assessed (*The Guardian* 7, *The Sunday Times* 7, *The Times* 9) it might appear that it is a fairly simple matter to evaluate the importance of the differences but, digging deeper into the mechanics of the compilation, a much more complex picture emerges as the categories are not harmonious and some methodologies extremely complex. *The Guardian*, for example, states that 100,000 calculations are involved.

The three newspapers tables all contain data on:

Teaching Quality Assessment
Entry Standards
Student/ Staff Ratio
Graduate Employment

The Sunday Times and *The Times* also have data on:

Research Ratings
Degree Classifications
Efficiency/Drop out Rates

Additionally *The Times* has two extra categories which evaluate Library and Computer Spending and Facilities Spending (sports, recreation, health and counselling) expressed as an average per student.

Although *The Guardian* also includes a 'spend per student' measure, the construction of *The Guardian* league tables is fundamentally different as the paper's tables are geared to undergraduates and critically do not include data on Research Assessments.
The Guardian tables include a complex value-added component with a measure which seeks to assess conversion rates - for example

whether students with low grades go on to get good degrees.

The 2004 *Guardian* tables also include a new indicator: Inclusiveness, which records the ability of an institution at subject level to attract students from under-represented groups.

Thus we can see why, although the tables strive to arrive at robust calculations which are professionally verified, the results inevitably produce hot debate – particularly when it comes to dissecting the individual subject rankings.

However, even if elements some may challenge are removed, the name of the University of St Andrews remains synonymous with world-class teaching and research.

Turning to the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) and Teaching Quality measures, the prowess of the University can be clearly seen.

In the latest UK-wide Research Assessment Exercise in December 2001, the University achieved the best results in Scotland and was placed among the top ten universities in the UK for research. All of the academic schools ranked as being of international status. English language and literature and psychology were awarded the top 5* grade. A total of 72% of academic staff were placed in the highest category.

On teaching quality, the University of St Andrews gained the highest commendation in all five subjects reviewed for teaching and learning in the latest subject reviews of the Quality Assurance Agency.

The University was also the only institution in Scotland to achieve the top rating of Excellent or Highly Satisfactory for every unit in the Scottish Higher Education Council's Teaching Quality Assessments. In terms of the average rating given to units, the University outperformed all other Scottish institutions.

Subjects rated Excellent were: cellular and molecular biology, chemistry, economics, geography, history, mathematics and statistics, modern languages, organismal biology, physics (including astronomy) and psychology.

Subjects rated Highly Satisfactory were: business and management, computer studies, english, geoscience, history of art, medicine, philosophy, theology and religious studies.

These details, coupled with the successive awards of the Best University in Scotland title, justify our brand statements that the University of St Andrews is the First University in Scotland in terms of both its early foundation in 1413, academic excellence and teaching quality, plus Universally Acknowledged attracting students from over 70 countries.

Moving away from the newspaper league tables and assessment exercises, the University can also draw kudos from various other studies and guides commenting on the status and attractions of universities.

Did you know, for example, that researchers at Warwick University found that the University of St Andrews has produced more directors of FTSE 100 companies in proportion to our size than any other educational institution in Britain?

And whisper it softly… St Andrews is said to have more public houses per square mile than any other university town in the UK and the most societies ranging from the acclaimed Debating Society to the Tunnock's Caramel Wafer Appreciation Society.

Interestingly, a large number of people in politics, the media and public life have studied at the University of St Andrews.

Clearly, whatever the precise detail of the rankings, the University of St Andrews has great magnetism, attracting and producing world-class minds across many disciplines.

When the University was first awarded the 'Best in Scotland' accolade, the Principal was quoted in *The Sunday Times* as saying "There is nowhere quite like it…the unique location breeds good relationships between staff and students, three quarters of whom go on to gain a first or upper second class degree".

The Principal went on to draw comparisons between the University of St Andrews and Princeton University in the United States.

Princeton has recently been placed seventh in a new worldwide league table of higher education institutions produced by the Institute of Higher Education at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

How wonderful it would be if one day the University of St Andrews could sit alongside its unofficial 'Twin' in the worldwide league.

*The two categories in which St Andrews outperforms *The Sunday Times* UK University of the Year - University College, London - and *The Sunday Times* University of the Year – Dundee University – are:
Best Degrees:
St Andrews is number 5 in the UK list of Best Degrees with 78.3 % of students awarded Firsts or 2:1s, ahead of UCL's 75% and Dundee's 64%.
A/AS Level/Higher Entry Points:
St Andrews: 209; University College, London: 192; Dundee: 159.

More information on university rankings referenced in this article and additional subject-by-subject detail is available on the following websites:

The Guardian:
www.education.guardian.co.uk
SundayTimes:
www.sunday-times.co.uk
The Times: www.timesonline.co.uk
The Times Higher Education Supplement
(Research shared with The Times)
www.thes.co.uk

Plant talks at Botanics Exhibition!

The 'talking plant cell', as created by Biology technicians Henry Rae and Murray Coutts.

Green-fingered botanists have often argued that talking to their plants helps create healthy blooms, but visitors to a recent Botanic Garden exhibition must have been shocked to hear a 'plant' talk back!

Even more shocking when the voice was somehow familiar…

The talking plant cell was the brainchild of biologist Alyson Tobin, who wanted to come up with something different for the St Andrews leg of the 'DNA in the Garden' exhibition.

Alyson came up with the idea of making a giant model of a plant cell and – after securing BBSRC community award funding for the project - enlisted the help of School technicians Murray Coutts and Henry Rae. Together they produced a striking interactive model which would form a centre piece to the exhibition.

Henry spent over six months working during the weekend at home building the cell out of resin and fibre glass, while Murray created the electronics. Between them they produced a plant cell model that talks – with a different voice explaining what each part of the cell does. The voices are triggered when part of the cell is touched and, at around a metre across, it is 10,000 times larger than the real thing.

Voices for the talking cell were provided by staff, individually hand-picked from across the campus. Alyson Tobin wrote the script and Murray Coutts and Gareth Taylor recorded the sound in a specially-equipped laboratory in the Sir Harold Mitchell Building. Voices of the cell were Dr Brian Lang (nucleus), Dr Jeff Graves (the voice of the cell), Professor Peter Slater (cell wall), Dr Stephen Magee (vacuole) Dr Morvern Shearer (chloroplast), Dr Roger Griffiths (endoplasmic reticulum), Dr Clare Peddie (microbody) and Dr David Logan (mitochondrion). So professional were the participants, the voice-overs were done in a single take!

Principal Dr Brian Lang, the nucleus, said, "I've not voiced-over for a plant cell before but, at least, unlike for many of those who study plant cells, it didn't talk back. The project is, seriously, ingenious and enjoyable and will be an excellent means to enthuse young people about the life sciences."

The cell made its debut as the focal point of 'DNA in the Garden', a BBSRC-funded touring exhibition which ran at St Andrews Botanic Garden throughout the summer and autumn. The event was successful in attracting around 1000 members of the public and over 200 primary and secondary school pupils and visitors were given the opportunity to talk to postgrads, postdocs and members of academic staff in the School of Biology. And the life of the talking cell has only just begun - now that the event has closed, the model will be used for future public events such as St Andrews Day, National Science Week as well as visits from schools and members of the public.

Alyson explained, "The beauty of the design is that it is easy to modify the explanations, according to the intended audience. At the moment the voice-overs are aimed at the general public and Standard Grade pupils. The team will soon be working on other versions, including a Gaelic version, and one pitched at a younger audience.The model is designed so that blind or partially-sighted visitors can feel the 3-D shape of the cell components, so bringing to life a structure that can not easily be visualised from text-book images."

DOORS TO THE GATEWAY UNLOCKED AT LAST

Professor Peter McKiernan

After almost four years of mothballed status, the doors to the Gateway building – surely the most impressive contemporary building in St Andrews – have finally been opened.

The end result of a refurbishment programme taken on since the University purchased the striking building in January is a bright, contemporary and state-of-the-art home of the new School of Management.

Now that the former Department of Management and the Centre for Business Education (CBE) have merged, the new school offers some of the best teaching and learning facilities in the UK. With a stunning location and unrivalled views across the world-famous Old Course hotel and sea views, the school will provide first class accommodation for the University's internationally renowned undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in business and management.

Since the last issue of *The StAndard*, which outlined future uses for the building, Management staff have relocated from The Scores and North Street into their new home. The School now houses 25 full-time staff (double the staff population of two years ago) and a 'parallel faculty' - consisting of staff from other international universities - of 25. The number of staff is expected to grow over the next two years in response to demand for existing and new courses.

In addition to the existing Masters degree in International Business and Management – which has seen numbers increase from 80 to 125 students in one year – this semester will see the launch of a new MRes in Management Studies. A third Masters Degree will be added next September in Strategy and Leadership, which will draw on the expertise of other schools across the University.

Several new academic appointments have been made in recent months, including the movement of a whole research team from Aberdeen, Glasgow and Dundee Universities. The Centre for Social and Environmental Accounting Research (CSEAR) team – Rob Gray, Jan Bebbington, David Collison and Sue Gray – will be housed in the Gateway. They are joined by new staff Professor Frank Muller, former Director of Research at the University of Leicester's School of Management; Ignatio Canales from the IESE in Barcelona and Dr Tim Scott from the University of York. Two new teaching fellows complete the lineup: Diane McGoldrick and Shih-wei Hsu.

DOORS TO THE GATEWAY UNLOCKED AT LAST (continued)

The StAndard took a tour of the newly-refurbished circular glass-fronted building and – as the images demonstrate – found it to be a bright, open and contemporary space with some stunning and unusual detail such as innovative lighting to suit different areas, a steel staircase linking each floor and an ornate glass ceiling. The impressive wood-panelled boardroom on the top floor, with balconies overlooking the Old Course, completes the picture.

Thanks to the superb efforts of the Estates Department, the building has been completed on time, on budget and to a very high standard. In what has been very much a team effort between Estates, the School and Residential and Business Services, the development of the Gateway has also resulted in the building of excellent working relationships between teams. Now that the building project is complete, founding Head of School Professor Peter McKiernan is keen to see all members of the University community use the facilities of the new building and welcomes visitors from the North Haugh and town.

Professor McKiernan said, "In the Gateway, we have an arts building in the heart of the scientific area of the University. One of the School's distinguishing features is the way in which we are rooted with other University Schools and Departments and this location gives us a chance to explore collaboration in the science faculty. We wish to dispel the enigma of the Gateway and work towards a School of Management that is differentiated by its multidisciplinary activity in teaching and research. We welcome the exploration of future collaborations with other University units."

A series of open sessions for tours of the newly-refurbished Gateway will be launched shortly – contact Barbara Lessels on 01334 462800 for information.

The impressive glass ceiling is just one of the unusual features of the Gateway.

Did you know?

- For the first time ever, Registry and Finance went 'on tour' in September with matriculation for Postgraduate Management students taking place at the Gateway.
- Receptionists for the main entrance to the Gateway were recruited jointly by the School of Management and Residential and Business Services.
- Ongoing discussions with the Museums Collections unit for the development of displays for the ground floor of the Gateway include: areas for temporary exhibitions, possibly including audio-visual programmes; past and present displays on the University and 'signposts' to other sites of interest within the University. Watch this space for developments.
- The University is in talks with Kingdom of Fife Tourist Board, Fife Council and Scottish Enterprise Fife over the creation of a Tourist Orientation Centre on the ground floor of the Gateway. Developments will hopefully occur in the Spring.

"Conversations @ the Gateway"

In a further innovative collaboration of the School of Management with other University Schools, last month saw the launch of a monthly series of 'novel' events.

`Conversations @ the Gateway', lead by new writer in residence Meaghan Delahunt, brings top fiction writers and poets together with Management academics on areas of common interest.

The first event was held last month featuring poet and novelist Professor Alan Spence from Aberdeen University with Professor Robert Chia from the School of Management. Together they discussed `The Tao, Basho and the sense of spiritual.'

On 18 November, Kirsty Gunn, acclaimed New Zealand-born novelist and short story writer will team up with Dr Ian Robson, head of the Graduate Business School on the subject of 'Telling stories'.

Meanwhile, on 27 January 2005, Chris Carter and Meaghan will discuss 'Identity'.

Staff and students as well as member of the public are welcome to attend.

For further details contact Meaghan Delahunt, Writer-in-residence for the School of Management on 01334 461 970 or email md50@st-andrews.ac.uk

Open all hours – the new University Brasserie

Fed up of the queues in Tescos or the same old restaurants in town? The opening of the Gateway has an added attraction with far wider interest to the University and local community – food and drink!

Café open and ready for business

Now housed within the building is a new fully licensed brasserie, "café@gateway" specialising in delicious cakes, salads, paninis and drinks, with an emphasis on home-baking, gm-free, organic and Fair Trade goods.

The Gateway location makes it ideal for North Haugh workers with no eateries on their doorstep but also for town staff trying to get away from the madness of town lunch hour!

Any member of the University community, townspeople or visiting tourists can dine in the café, which is open 7 days a week, Monday – Friday (9am to 7.30pm) and Saturday/ Sunday (10am to 5.30pm). One special bonus to staff and students is the 20% discount (on production of staff/matriculation card) on all food and drink.

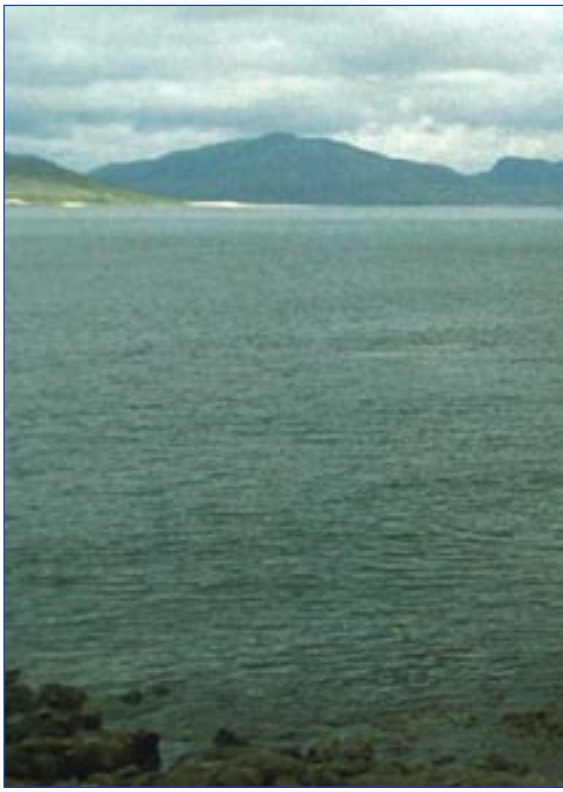
The brasserie was brought together by the University's Hospitality Manager Cath Dyce who, along with Residential and Business Services, has spent tireless months choosing the right food, furnishings and fittings.

She said, "We developed the café with the aim of creating something different for the University and local community – with an emphasis on lots of choice, fresh food and home-baking. We are especially customer-focused and have created the menu with their needs in mind, but are keen for feedback or suggestions for future additions."

The eatery has a range of goodies available from home-made cakes and soup to a salad bar for the healthier among us. Each day will see a different type of fish or meat on the menu, which also offers paninis and toasties individually made to order. Each day will see two different choices of soup and sandwich fillings will change daily. Delicious home-made bread is baked on the premises every day. A comprehensive range of drinks from smoothies to alcoholic beverages (beer, wine and alcopops) to speciality Fair Trade coffees and teas are also available. The average cost of a snack or lunch range from £1.80 for home-made soup and bread to £1.85 for a latte and 90p for a home-made scone.

Housed on the ground-floor of the Gateway building, the brasserie is housed in a wide open space with seating for 80. When the weather improves, visitors will be able to enjoy a coffee in the crisp morning air when the outdoor terrace opens. The terrace enjoys views over the North Haugh to the rear of the building.

THE FUTURE IN OUR HANDS



Putting health and wealth aside, everyone wants a better quality of life – now and for generations to come.

It's a tall order.

We want clean air but efficient transport systems. . . we want to visit the countryside in droves but ensure that its wildlife and natural beauty are preserved for our children and grandchildren … we want long-term economic growth and employment in a world with a growing population and threatened resources.

Put simply, we want the world around us to be SUSTAINABLE.

A new, rare undergraduate degree course spanning staff in every corner of the University - from ethics and housing specialists to biologists and renewable energy experts - will generate sharp graduates who can turn buzz words like "sustainability" into reality.

So what is sustainable development and what can our university do to contribute to it?

According to the Government's website on the subject, at the heart of the idea is a simple concept – "ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come".

The Sustainable Development degree will be taught by staff from Geography and Geosciences, Biology, Maths and Statistics, Chemistry, Economics, History, Management, Divinity and International Relations - reflecting the breadth and relevance of sustainability concepts in today's world. The degree will receive its first batch of students in September 2005.

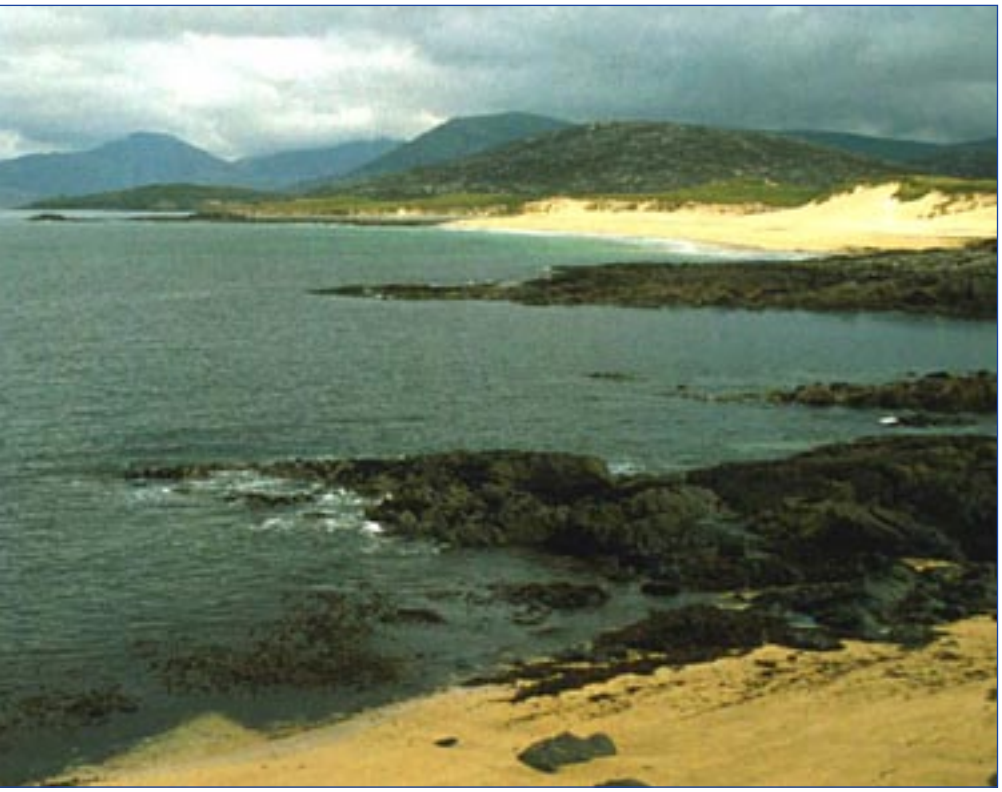
The degree will explore the diverse interpretations of sustainability and its applications at local, national and global levels, using a wide range of case studies illustrating sustainable solutions to pressing global issues including water and sanitation, transport, food production and distribution, loss of biodiversity, land use, energy and health issues such as HIV/AIDS.

Housing, South Africa – an indicator of social justice (or lack of it).

Coordinated by newly-appointed Senior Teaching Fellow Dr Colin Macgregor in the School of Geography and Geosciences, the degree follows the success of the first year interdisciplinary module in sustainability, run by Dr Charles Warren since 2002/03.

Charles believes that there is genuine demand for the new course - "In recent years, there has been a marked shift in the direction of society with more emphasis on protection of the environment and social justice.

"As a result, sustainability has a higher international profile than ever. Every international treaty talks about it and every government policy is underpinned by it. Even schools are placing more emphasis on environmental and sustainability concepts, generating more school leavers wishing to pursue opportunities in sustainable development and, in turn, more demand for associated university degrees. However, most of the degree programmes available are at Masters level



Pristine Harris beaches: ecological protection is a vital part of sustainable development.

and undergraduate programmes offering a fully-integrated approach like ours are very thin on the ground. We hope to fill that niche. Many of the students who have taken the existing module have been tremendously enthusiastic and have specifically requested a full degree programme".

The degree launch is especially timely, given that the United Nations will be launching the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in January 2005. The University has also participated in a number of funded projects including the Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability (HEPS) run by Forum for the Future and the Scottish University Network for Sustainability (SUNS), and is currently exploring new relationships with the Sustainable Development Research Centre in Forres, partly funded by the Scottish Executive.

The University is also a member of the Environment Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) and the newly formed EAUC Scotland Branch, which focuses on highlighting the differences in Scottish legislation and curriculum. Further information on some of these projects can be found at www.heps.org.uk, www.suns.org.uk and www.eauc.org.uk.

Given the emphasis on thinking critically across ecological, environmental, socio-economic and cultural dimensions, graduates are expected to be in demand from a diverse range of organisations within government, quangos, planning departments and the private sector – everywhere from local authorities to Scottish Natural Heritage to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Students will learn how sustainability is measured across three dimensions – environment, society and economy - and the degree will cover issues such as ecosystem management, technology and the environment, social justice, environmental law, population and health, climate change and the production and distribution of food and water.

Students will also develop skills allowing them to undertake, report on and present research using a range of statistical and IT tools including Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

In addition to the degrees we offer, the University is also making significant progress on making our workplace and daily activities more environmentally friendly.

As part of its environment strategy, the University has now introduced a full recycling programme in partnership with Waste Aware Fife and the Fife Environment Network. Recycling bins for paper, cardboard, plastic, cans and glass can now be found in, or around, every school, unit and hall of residence.

Since the scheme's launch, staff have diverted over 60 tonnes of waste from landfill (equivalent to 10 elephants!), leading to considerable environmental and financial savings.

Individual units have also put their own stamp on the programme with sharp-thinking staff in the Development office discussing the system with their cleaner. They have since set up a collection point on the ground floor where staff take their full paper sacks to help the cleaner, and intend to buy a food waste bin to reduce the number of office bins further.

Staff are also joining the University's new car sharing scheme in their droves (see page 11) which allows colleagues to find an ideal match to share their journey to/from work, cutting pollution levels, petrol costs and money.

For further information on the degree, please contact Dr Colin Macgregor on 01334 462022 or email cjm27@st-andrews.ac.uk or Dr Charles Warren on 01334 463693 or email charles.warren@st-andrews.ac.uk.

More general information on the University's contribution to sustainable development can be found on the Environment Management website at www.st-andrews.ac.uk/estates/environment or by contacting the environment team on 01334 463986.

MAKE AN EXHIBITION OF YOURSELF!

Are you thinking about showcasing your research to the public?

If so, can you visualise how it might look, what it might cost or, more importantly, are you confident that your audience will make sense of it all?

This duo can design, build and help you achieve exactly what you need for the perfect exhibit, regardless of the budget, theme or venue.

And, better still, they're award-winning University of St Andrews graduates working a stone's throw from your office or lab.

Together, Craig Harvey (24) and Kenneth Boyd (23) form FifeX, a spin-out company of the School of Physics and Astronomy, specialising in the design and manufacture of high-tech, thought-provoking, interactive exhibits.

Left-to-right, Craig Harvey, Kenneth Boyd.

Based in the Photonics Innovation Centre, Craig and Kenneth graduated in Physics and Mathematics in 2002 and launched FifeX shortly after.

Months of hard work paid off earlier this year when they won the 'Best Business Demonstrating Sustainability' Award at the Scottish National Finals of the Shell LiveWIRE 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award' 2004.

They have also recently won the 2004 regional final of the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust/Royal Bank of Scotland Business Awards and are through to the last six of the national final, which will be held in Glasgow later this month.

As well as being the main exhibit contacts for the Royal Society and working closely with the Scottish Schools Equipment Research Council (SSERC), FifeX boasts an impressive client list including the National Museum of Science and Industry (London), the University of Oxford and Thinktank science centre in Birmingham. They are also in the process of designing an interactive measurement station to take height, weight and waist readings as part of a pilot scheme for the Government obesity programme.

The team are now keen to highlight the services they can provide closer to home.

Within the University, they have worked closely with the School of Psychology's Perception Lab to develop "Face Morph". Based on Professor David Perrett's research, the impressive photo-booth style structure houses fascinating software which takes a photograph of the user before morphing their face - users can visualise themselves as if they were a different race, different age …or even a chimp! The Face Morph was originally designed for the 2004 Royal Society summer exhibition but FifeX have since received numerous notes of interest from museums and galleries for hire and purchase of the exhibit.

They are also developing a high-tech, interactive exhibition for another colleague, physicist Professor Kishan Dholakia, who secured a Partnerships for Public Awareness (PPA) grant from the Engineering Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). The exhibition is touring UK schools and science festivals illustrating the role of light in everything from non-invasive medical procedures to

the next generation of space travel.

The company's unique relationship with the University allows direct access to expert knowledge and experience in all areas of science and technology.

Craig said, "More often than not, the technical expertise, abilities and facilities to transform an initial concept into a physical structure exist on our doorstep, ranging from high-tech lasers to metalwork. Researchers may not realise that they can access our advice on-tap and on-site. Whatever shape, size, theme or cost they have in mind, we can produce attention-grabbing exhibits which provide the correct balance of education and fun, depending on the target audience."

FifeX can also be involved in all phases of design and build.

Kenneth explained, "We can get involved at any stage of a project, from developing initial ideas and discussing requirements to producing graphics and animation, right through to the final manufacture and installation, regardless of where the exhibition is taking place. We're also happy to work with technicians and other members of staff within the various Schools of the University, making the most of the talent that is on offer within our own institution. Put simply, we can be involved as little, or as much, as you want. We would encourage people simply to phone us to discuss any ideas or thoughts they might have. There is so much exciting research in this University and the public want to see it – that's what we're here for."

The team can be contacted at:

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Photonics Innovation Centre
North Haugh
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FIFE, KY16 9SS

Telephone 01334 467312
Fax 01334 467313
Email interactive@fifex.co.uk
Website www.fifex.co.uk

Antibody exhibit designed for University of Oxford

"I have found FifeX extremely professional and accomplished to work with. Both Kenneth and Craig have been innovative and supportive and I have found the interaction a real pleasure. FifeX have formed a core part of this proposal and I am enthused to be working with them in the months to come to ensure our project is a success. I think they are an outstanding young company in this field and give them my highest recommendation".

Professor Kishan Dholakia
School of Physics and Astronomy

'Face Morph'

"At last year's Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition, the exhibit, allowing visitors to see their face changed in apparent age and species, was singled out for praise by Lord May, President of the Royal Society. The public and media were also enthusiastically engaged. In all, we are very happy with the partnership established with FifeX since it is facilitating public understanding of science and is helping to raise the profile of the University".

Professor David Perrett
Perception Lab, School of Psychology

FAKES TANNED

The StAndard Investigates . . .

It is possibly the first time (and most will trust the last) that a scalpel has been flourished in anger amongst the University's senior management in St Andrews.

If eyebrows were raised as the blade was produced, the expressions of concern around the meeting table only deepened when it was used in a single stroke to excise an unfortunate Honours graduate from his degree certificate.

Lorraine Fraser had made her point. The Academic Registrar had proved that anyone with a sharp knife and a steady hand could quickly and simply remove or alter the most important detail of a University degree certificate.

An explanation of the potential for alarmingly widespread fraud (there may be upwards of 50,000 St Andrews certificates in active circulation) was not required. Those attending the meeting had done the maths and seen enough. Lorraine and her team left the room clutching scalpel and paper, charged with finding a more secure solution to an increasingly complex and pressing problem.

Lorraine Fraser with degree certificates.

That was two years ago. Since then, St Andrews has become one of the first UK universities to deploy the latest technology to ensure degree certificates meet exacting security standards.

Lorraine and her staff have worked with specialists to design and produce a new St Andrews certificate in which inks are chemically bonded to paper and a specially holograme crest, which will defeat all but the most persistent counterfeiter, adorns the lower right corner. On the back, a simple bar code provides a unique reference to the graduate.

The days of lifting ink from the surface of paper with a couple of swipes of a Stanley knife - an old counterfeiter's trick - have gone.

"I'm not saying it can't be copied or altered - I'm sure there will be someone somewhere who given enough time, the right technology and effort would be able to come up with something approximate," she said.

"Even then, we have specified some deliberate idiosyncrasies and micro flaws in design which would allow us to rapidly distinguish an original from a copy.

"It has been a complex and not inexpensive process but an absolutely necessary one. Our students work hard and our staff invest their lives in giving young people a first class university education. The least we can do is ensure that the mark of that degree is a unique and secure record."

But why bother?

Google the phrase "fake degree" and Lorraine's efforts take on more significance. Of the 28,000 web sites that pop-up, hundreds offer degrees from any university in the world for the price of a round of drinks.

The web has transformed the mail order degree business from back street oddity to world wide boom industry. Instant high quality qualifications are available for a fistful of dollars and a few minutes work with a mouse. Why sweat for four years at uni when you can download your future passport to wealth and status in an afternoon?

China gave birth to the fake degree industry a decade ago and the effects in that country are already measurable. In one province a recent Census revealed 600,000 more people with college or graduate degrees than had attended university in the first place.

This year, the *Yangzi Evening News* reported the case of a young Anhui farmer who bought a fake master's degree from Beijing University, then secured a job as a lecturer at an equally learned institution impressed by his credentials. He taught philosophy to several dozen students for a year before the fraud was uncovered.

In Kenya, a respected financial expert who was paid millions of dollars to train bank workers and government officials how to spot fraud was charged with multiple counts of deception after his Economics degree turned out to be a fake. *The Nairobi Times* noted that he was arrested by a squad of anti-fraud officers whom he had helped train.

Further west, the civic authorities in Rome are still wondering what to do with 111 of the state's top education officials whose qualifications transpired not to be worth the counterfeit paper they were written on.

Could it happen here?

"Yes. It's inconceivable that people have not already talked themselves into good jobs on the strength of claiming degree qualifications from St Andrews and other leading universities when they have never been near the place," continued Lorraine.

"We get a fairly regular flow of inquiries from prospective employers asking us to validate applicants' claims and certificates - but it's nowhere near the number of inquiries we should get, given the number of graduates we produce every year.

"A degree from St Andrews is a much sought after commodity. It is impossible to place an exact monetary value on it, but we know that it opens doors, catches the eye of employers and in its basest sense offers the prospect of cash reward, status and advancement to the bearer.

"We have an international reputation for academic excellence - it should not be a surprise to anyone that the fake degree business and its customers should seek to profit from that reputation."

Lorraine's department expect to weed out the occasional fake. In June, a golfer seeking membership of the PGA in the States falsely claimed he had studied at St Andrews while in Australia a serial fraudster in police custody was found to have claimed St Andrews graduate status in furtherance of his many deceptions. That's a typical month.

"The only reason we know about these two cases is because the authorities involved took the time to lift the `phone to ask us to verify the claims," continued Lorraine.

"That is the system working. It is those we don't know about that ought to concern us.

"The issue of fake degrees and qualifications is now attracting more media and political attention than ever before and there is talk of toughening the law to punish businesses trading in fake certificates.

"That's to be welcomed in as much as it demonstrates a consensus and a willingness to tackle this issue - but going after the fraudsters and counterfeiters will not solve the problem.

"The only effective means of preventing this type of fraud is to change the culture among employers - especially in this country.

"It should be second nature to them to check every qualification claimed by a job applicant. Employers in the States are much more geared up to this culture than we are in the UK and many will routinely ask universities and colleges to verify applicants' claimed qualifications.

"The widespread availability of faked certificates should put employers in this country on their guard more than ever.

"For the number of graduates that leave St Andrews every year, my department should be employing a full-time member of staff to do nothing else but respond to employers' requests to validate applicants' claims.

"I could not justify anything like that resource for the number of inquiries we receive at present.

"We felt it important to keep our side of the bargain to produce a degree certificate which cannot be easily copied or faked - now we need employers to keep theirs."

Staff Survey – What Now?

By Sandy Wilkie, Staff Development Manager

Since the 2003 Staff Survey high-level results were published in Issue 1 of The StAndard, has anything been happening? Have your opinions and views been listened to? Well, yes they have.

The full results of the Survey were made available to all staff via the University website (see www.st-andrews.ac.uk/hr/staff-development/staff-survey-2003).

During the spring, a number of local discussion sessions were held around the University. Detailed survey results were taken to a number of Schools and Units to prompt debate on the key issues that really matter to staff. Over 200 staff took the opportunity to engage in debate about what could be done differently within St Andrews. We hosted a number of lively discussions on how things could be improved, ranging from opinions about car parking to ideas on how to enable a better changeover between students and summer conference guests in the residences. Suggestions from all these local sessions were compiled and presented to senior managers in June.

As a result of this consultation exercise, the Principal's Office has developed a high-level action plan as a response to the Survey. This comprises five commitments:

1. **Making senior management more visible**.
   The Principal and members of the Principal's Office will visit all Schools and Units during 2004-5. The Master will continue the monthly meetings with Heads of Schools. The Vice-Principals for Research and for Learning and Teaching will visit School management teams and will be available to meet Schools as a whole. The Quaestor will continue with his open meetings to explain the University's financial position. This will be part of our commitment to listen to the issues and challenges that different areas face, and also be available to help explain University strategy and decision-making.

2. **Communicating plans in advance.**
   We will find more effective ways, involving our Press Office, of communicating internally to all staff about significant initiatives and decisions before these are communicated externally. We will aim to inform staff about key issues before these reach the press.

3. **Alleviating pressure on car parking.**
   We acknowledge the car parking problems that staff face, particularly in the centre of St Andrews. We will continue to work with Fife Council to look at ways of minimise the problems. As part of our Environment Strategy, we have launched a Car Sharing Scheme and we are looking at the feasibility of extending park and ride facilities within the town.

4. **Provision of social space.**
   The recent purchase of the Gateway has created an opportunity to provide space for informal staff meetings. The Gateway includes a subsidised cafe/bar which is available to all staff. This space will also be available for discussion sessions or other staff social events.

5. **Flexible working.**
   Some staff have expressed an interest in working more flexibly - either to manage better the care of dependents or to provide a better service coverage across the working day. We will investigate the possibility of introducing flexible working where this is practical around core service hours and operational requirements in particular areas.

Next Steps

To complement these University-wide actions, all Units and Schools will now be asked to develop their own specific action plans in response to local issues arising from the Staff Survey. The Unit management teams began the process in early September, with the Schools following after. So if you have further ideas on what local improvements could be made, please make your suggestion known to your Head of School/Unit.

It is only by acting on the results on the 2003 Staff Survey, that the University can make progress in developing an effective working environment for all.
We remain committed to listening to our staff and consulting on the key issues that matter.

To help us do this, we are planning further Staff Survey exercises in 2005 and beyond.

St Andrews Poet Wins UK's Biggest Poetry Prize

Kathleen Jamie, poet and lecturer in Creative Writing at St Andrews, has won the prestigious Forward Prize for poetry.

The £10,000 Forward Prize is the nation's biggest poetry prize and was awarded to Kathleen in October for her new collection, *The Tree House*.

Kathleen, who has gained a reputation as one of the leading poets of her generation with her previous books, including 'The Queen of *Sheba*, *Jizzen,* and *Mr and Mrs Scotland are Dead*, is a previous winner of a Somerset Maugham Award and has twice won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Award. She has also been winner of the Forward prize for best individual poem, and a previous nominee for best collection.

World-beating poetry website

Meanwhile, the School of English has launched the English-speaking world's most authoritative poetry website.

The website - **www.thepoetryhouse.org** - was developed by poetry experts at St Andrews and other leading international institutions from Sussex to Hong Kong. It offers anyone with an interest in verse a guide to poetry in English across all historical periods and throughout the many different regions of the English-speaking world. Unmatched by any other site on the web, it includes contributions from leading British poets including our own Don Paterson and John Burnside as well as material from poetry experts around the globe.

The site launch was marked by a cake-cutting ceremony to coincide with the theme of this year's National Poetry Day – food.

Did you know?

The new academic year is well and truly underway but – casting stereotypes aside – did you know we have one of the most cosmopolitan student communities in the UK?

This year's intake includes students aged from 16 to 82, with the still predominantly young student community joining more worldly-wise, mature students including a mental health nurse, mountain rescue worker and a citizens advice manager.

This year, new students, both undergraduates and postgraduates, have travelled Portree to Pasadena and from Stirling to Shanghai, with about 30% from Scotland, another 30% from England, over 10% from the rest of the EU and the remainder from countries as diverse as America and Zimbabwe.

Juggling home life, work and study, eight part-time students gave birth to babies last year!

And the route to the University is far from routine – we give transferred credit for previous qualifications and even have a student boasting a Diploma from the Wine and Spirit Education Trust.

Vice Principal Stephen Magee said, "Our geographical and social mix is a tribute to our international and local appeal. We're proud to be one of the UK's least local institutions."

Archaeology project awarded an oscar!

A project aimed at recording crumbling archaeological sites in Scotland has been awarded a coveted prize for being the 'greatest initiative in British archaeology'.

The Shorewatch project – jointly managed by the University of St Andrews and the SCAPE (Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion) Trust – is an initiative that trains and encourages members of local communities to record eroding archaeological sites around the coast of Scotland.

The project received the top prize (the 'Silver Trowel') at the prestigious British Archaeological Awards – the 'Oscars' of British Archaeology – at a ceremony in Belfast last month.

The project is co-ordinated by Tom Dawson of the Department of Environmental History, who was also responsible for organising the national SCAPE conference at St Andrews in October.

Back Cover by Peter Adamson — "I have always been fascinated by the ability of the photograph to freeze a moment in time, refered to by Cartier Bresson as the decisive moment. The shutter movement in this picture has caught for all time the figure moving through the cloisters." – Peter Adamson, University Photographer (1969-2004).

University
of
St Andrews