

# RGU: NEWS

THE INTERNAL MAGAZINE OF THE ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 2005



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Amy Clark, Ross Hayworth and Jim Fiddes with one of the pieces in the exhibition

## GRAY'S SCHOOL OF ART CELEBRATES 120<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Gray's School of Art celebrated its 120th anniversary with a special exhibition held at RGU from 12 - 25 November. The official opening of the exhibition took place on Wednesday 16 November at the Scott Sutherland School.

The opening began with a welcome by Professor Mike Pittilo, Principal of RGU. Then Professor Mike Press, Head of School, Gray's School of Art introduced guest speaker Dr Stuart MacDonald, Director of The Lighthouse. Guests were then invited to view the exhibition, which included paintings

and drawings from graduates as well as photographs and historical documents, some dating back to the 1880s. In addition, a commemorative booklet celebrating Gray's long history has been published to coincide with the event.

Jim Fiddes, of RGU's Library Service, was the co-curator of the exhibition with Ross Hayworth. He said, "Gray's has been a cornerstone of the arts scene in Aberdeen and the north of Scotland for many years, and we believe the exhibition was a fitting tribute to both our benefactor and the many top artists that Gray's has produced."

The official opening of the Gray's School of Art building, next to the Art Gallery in Schoolhill, was on 16 November 1885. The event drew a large crowd of invited guests including the great and the good of Victorian Aberdeen.

Professor Mike Press, Head of Gray's School of Art said, "Gray's 120th anniversary presents us with an opportunity to consider the art school's considerable achievements, not least the unique and highly valuable contribution that Gray's has made to the economy and culture of North East Scotland. The exhibition showed how Gray's commitment to developing drawing skills has continued to this day, something that appears unfashionable in much of British art and design education today."

The family connection with John Gray continues to this day. Amy Clark, lecturer in social work at RGU, is a relative of the university's benefactor, while other relatives have also graduated from RGU. John Gray would no doubt have been delighted that his family had benefited from his legacy to the University.

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS FOR ABERDEEN BUSINESS SCHOOL

The Aberdeen Business School celebrated 40 years of educating students at an Anniversary Gala event on 28 October.

The School welcomed business leaders, present and past staff including Heads of School, Governors, students and some of the first alumni from the School, as well as the Lord Provosts from Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeen City Council, to a gala event to mark the anniversary of the prestigious institution.

The event celebrated the successes of the Business School and its growth to become a highly respected centre for undergraduate, postgraduate and corporate management education.

When the School opened forty years ago there were approximately 100 full time and part time students and seven academic staff. Today there are over 3,000 students studying a comprehensive range of full time, part time and distance learning courses and 150 full time and part time academic staff.

The Gala lunch, held at The Marcliffe at Pitfodels, included a welcome from Professor Mike Pittilo, Principal and Vice Chancellor of RGU, words on The Business School in the Community from Sir Ian Wood, Managing Director of John Wood Group PLC and Chancellor of RGU, a talk on 40 Years of Business Excellence from Honorary Research Fellow Douglas Gourlay and closing remarks from Professor Rita Marcella, Dean of Aberdeen Business School.

Commenting afterwards, Professor Marcella said, 'I'm delighted at the success of the anniversary celebrations. It has been a great opportunity for current and former staff, alumni, student

representatives, industry partners and colleagues from across the University to come together both to celebrate success and to share happy memories of the School. It has also given us the chance to look forward to the next ten years and our ambitions for the future.'



Sir Ian Wood, Chancellor of RGU, Professor Mike Pittilo, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of RGU, and Professor Rita Marcella, Dean of Aberdeen Business School.

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to December's edition of RGU News. If you have any stories you would like included in next month's issue or if you would like copies of any photos included in this magazine, please contact me on [newsdesk@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:newsdesk@rgu.ac.uk) or on ext. 2206. Due to holidays over the festive period, the January edition has already gone to press. The deadline for articles to be included in the February edition is 23 December.

Pauline Smith  
Media Assistant

## NEW ATTACHÉ SEEKS TO IMPROVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING LINKS BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE UK

**As part of the ongoing efforts to promote constructive exchanges between Venezuela and the United Kingdom in the area of education and training, a new temporary position has been created within the British Embassy in Caracas. Graeme A Slaven, MA (Psych) has been seconded as First Secretary, Trade & Investment - Education and Training, from RGU to undertake this cooperation project.**

The appointment is intended to last for 6 months, and should ensure that a sustainable framework is created to help promote the transfer of knowledge and skills in several key areas connected with the energy sector in Venezuela.

## DEDICATED NURSING LECTURER RETIRES FROM RGU AFTER 42 YEARS

**Elizabeth Clark, a lecturer at RGU's School of Nursing and Midwifery, retired after 42 years of service on 28 October.**

Elizabeth, a qualified general nurse, midwife and district nurse, began her nursing career in 1963 and entered nurse education in 1980. Following success in gaining teaching qualifications, Elizabeth completed a BA in Nursing Studies at RGU in 1995.

Since then she has developed expertise and knowledge in a range of important areas and at different academic levels. She worked in the pupil nurse team, specialised in the care of the elderly and was pathway leader for the degree course in District Nursing from 1999 to the present day.

Elizabeth was also the School's first CPD (continued professional development) advisor. In that post she worked extremely hard to develop the role, publicise the portfolio of courses, advise clinical colleagues about possible development opportunities and set the standard for her successor in this important position.

Now she is moving on, not to a life of leisure, but one of energetic activity. She is planning to start a local lunch club, and undertake a counselling course.

Dr Tony Wilson, Senior Lecturer at the School said "Elizabeth has made an exceptional contribution to the work of the School during her time here. We thank her on behalf of students and School staff, and wish her a very happy retirement."



Elizabeth receiving her retirement gift from Tony Wilson.

## PROFESSOR IAN BRYDEN LEAVES RGU

Professor Ian Bryden, Dean of Postgraduate Studies, will be leaving the University on 23 December to take up a new position at the University of Edinburgh. Professor Bryden has been at RGU since 1996 and has made a significant contribution to the University during his time, initially as Head of School of Mechanical & Offshore Engineering, and latterly as Dean of Postgraduate Studies. In addition, he has gained an international reputation for his research in tidal energy and has established RGU as a world leader in this crucial research area.



Kellie McDonald of Grampian Police, Lewis Baird, Development Officer, Dr Adrian Graves, University Secretary, Angus the bull, and Filippo Antoniazzi, Director of Sports at RGU.

## STREETFOOTBALL COMES TO ABERDEEN

**The next big thing in sport for young people was launched by RGU, in conjunction with Grampian Police, on 25 October.**

The innovative Streetfootball project, which is played using a portable sports pitch that can be erected on any surface, aims to engage young people and encourage socially acceptable behaviour.

The Streetfootball project provides an alternative activity for young people during the evenings, when other facilities are not available. It takes sport to young people, within their own communities, promoting healthier lifestyles and alternatives to alcohol, drugs and antisocial behaviour.

RGU is managing a full-time development officer as well as a team of volunteers. Lewis Baird, Streetfootball development officer, said "The streetfootball project is a great opportunity for young people in Aberdeen, as it will enable them to become much more active. A lot of young people stay in and play computers or watch television, but this gives them a chance to show off their skills and play football the way it used to be played."

Gray's School of Art graduate, Iain McGill, was responsible for creating the Streetfootball website on behalf of Grampian Police, to help raise awareness for the Street Football project. Recognising how important projects like these are for youngsters in Aberdeen, Iain said, "The site aims to offer a supplementary information resource to a wide audience in the Grampian area, a place to post news and images of how the project is going and where it will be next."

RGU has collaborated with a variety of companies and organisations to launch and run the project. Grampian Police have funded the pitch. Petrofac Facilities Management Ltd have sponsored the project with a contribution of £15,000 per year for three years, and Communities Scotland and the Big Lottery Fund, funded through the Aberdeen City Council's Sport's Development Office, have each donated £15,000 over two years. ADT Fire and Security have provided the Development Officer with a vehicle to tow the pitch and trailer, whilst Aberdeen Safer Communities Trust will host the project, and maintain and administer all finances generated. Aberdeen Football Club has also supported the development of this project and will continue with this support over the next three years. First are storing the pitch and trailer, and have also continually supported the development of this project.

For more information go to [www.streetfootball.net](http://www.streetfootball.net).

## CAREERS FAIR BREAKS ATTENDANCE RECORDS

**The 12<sup>th</sup> RGU Autumn Graduate Careers Fair, which was held at the Aberdeen Music Hall on 19 October, has been hailed an unprecedented success. This year 1706 people attended the annual recruitment event in the hope of finding out about career opportunities, and meeting prospective employers.**

RGU's Student Services Department has established an excellent reputation amongst employers for hosting a top quality event, and exhibition places were quickly filled by companies wishing to participate, to the extent that there was insufficient space.

This year's event attracted an even wider range of top companies including Diageo, KPMG, Shell International, Petrofac and BAA.

Christine Buchanan, Student Services Manager, explained the continued success of the event, "RGU has developed a reputation for producing highly employable graduates. This is reflected in the University having one of the best graduate employment records in the UK."



Levi's Kenny Wilson with Professor Rita Marcella

## LEVI'S EUROPEAN BRAND PRESIDENT GIVES LECTURE AT RGU

**Kenny Wilson, European Brand President of denim giant Levi Strauss Europe, delivered a presentation at the Aberdeen Business School on Monday 31 October.**

The lunchtime marketing seminar focused on the future of branding and the impact of new media. Kenny Wilson gave a presentation entitled 'A future marketing model in a changing market', in which he demonstrated how Levi's has differentiated its brand and built loyalty for its product in today's crowded and sophisticated marketplace.

Aberdonian, Kenny Wilson, joined Levi Strauss Europe in 1990, starting his career as a Territory Sales Manager in the UK. Having progressed to the position of Retail Marketing Director for Europe, he led the successful launch of Levi's Engineered Jeans. He now holds the position of Levi's European Brand President and is responsible for the strategic planning of the Levi's brand.

## ABERDEEN BUSINESS SCHOOL LAUNCHES NEW BUSINESS PUBLICATION

**A new business publication has been launched by the Aberdeen Business School, in conjunction with the School's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.**

The new publication, Aberdeen Business Journal, aims to bridge the gap in the market between the worlds of academia and local business. It will be read by directors, executives, managers and other professionals in commercial organisations located primarily in Aberdeen and its surrounding environment.

It informs readers of current research into business related issues undertaken at the Business School, and provides an insight into theoretical analysis and practical techniques which can assist management with improving the performance of their business.

The Journal also provides an in-depth statistical profile of the Aberdeen economy, together with information on the range of facilities and courses available to the wider business community delivered by ABS.

The first issue includes articles on cash management, project management, e-business applications, the concept of entrepreneurship and the impact of tourism in the North East. The Journal also includes contributions from business leaders including Sir Ian Wood, Managing Director of John Wood Group PLC, and Charles Skene, Chairman of The Skene Group. Duncan Skinner, Finance Director of the local operation of Kellogg Brown Root, a subsidiary of the global US giant Halliburton, explores the philosophy of, and approach to, local business development by a major, multinational company.

Offered in conjunction with the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce, the first issue is free to members of the local business community.

## RGU AT TECHFEST

As part of Techfest, the School of Computing at RGU ran a competition to solve graph colouring problems used in algorithms. Hundreds of children entered and one winner was chosen from the primary age-group - Layla Suliman, and one from the secondary age group - Liesl Rowe. They were each presented with a book token and goody bag by Professor Susan Craw, Head of School, at Smartweb, RGU's St Andrew's Street building.

## WEDDING BELLS RING BUSINESS SUCCESS FOR RGU STUDENT

**Kirsty Duff (30), a pharmacy student at RGU, has now taken her award-winning wedding dress business idea on the road.**

Kirsty won the local level of the Scottish Institute for Enterprise (SIE) Business Plan Competition for her business idea, 'The Wedding Gown Extravaganza'.

Kirsty's innovative business idea was for a wedding roadshow. Her business will tour around venues in Scotland, such as function suites in hotels, and hold wedding exhibitions. Wedding dresses and accessories will be available in stock so that people can take their purchases with them straight away.

Kirsty said, "One problem a lot of new businesses face is that they have a high initial outlay and expensive overheads and this is why many run into difficulties. With this business idea, apart from the cost of stock, the initial spend is relatively low. Function rooms in hotels can be booked inexpensively at times when they would not otherwise be in use - called dead time. The hotel benefits because people who would not otherwise be there are coming through the doors for the roadshow, and they may also stay for lunch or drinks."



Kirsty Duff, with one of her dresses

## BUSINESS AND ART COMBINE FORCES IN CREATIVE CAULDRON

**The Scottish Institute for Enterprise (SIE) 2005 Business Plan Competition, for students at RGU and the University of Aberdeen, was launched on 31 October at Aberdeen Art Gallery.**

The launch event was a champagne reception showcasing the work of Aberdeen's most talented art and design students, including fashion, painting and textiles. Aberdeen University's Photography Society exhibited the finest examples of their work, while Design students from Aberdeen FE College modelled their innovative and exciting outfits on the catwalk. In addition, guests had the opportunity to view artwork from Gray's School of Art.

Guest speaker, Nicky Walker, gave budding entrepreneurs the benefit of her experience, by talking about her floristry and home design business.

Kirsty Duff of RGU, one of the organisers of the launch event said, "Representatives of small businesses from all spheres of the local economy attended the event and mingled with the students, giving them the benefit of their experience in producing a business plan and running a small company."

The Business Plan Competition has been designed to give students the know-how and access to resources to transform their concept into a new business. It aims to help develop practical entrepreneurial skills, and provide knowledge on starting and growing a new business from experienced entrepreneurs and business professionals.



## PHARMACY STAFF VISIT BELGRADE

**Four staff from the School of Pharmacy recently visited Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro to deliver teaching on Health Services Research Methods to postgraduate students.**

Scott Cunningham, Derek Stewart, Dorothy McCaig and Ruth Edwards are pictured here with the students along with Dr Branislava Miljkovic, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Belgrade, who is acting as a local mentor to the students.

Also present are representatives of Crown Agents, an international development company which funded the students to study the School's MSc in Clinical Pharmacy, as part of an European Agency for Reconstruction initiative.

## BRYDEN TAKES KEY ROLE IN SCOTTISH RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH POLICY

**Professor Ian Bryden has accepted an invitation from the Scottish Executive to chair a task group which is to investigate the state of research into renewable energy in Scotland's Universities and other research establishments.**

The Scottish Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland (FREDS), of which Ian is a member, has already identified the renewable energy sector as being of vital importance to Scotland's long term economic security, but has expressed concern about the comparatively small research community which must underpin the necessary industrial and commercial development.

The new task group has been established to investigate how the community can be enhanced and supported in its development.

## STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM SHELL SUPPORT

**Aberdeen students rank among the top in the UK according to recent results of an innovative attraction scheme by leading energy and petrochemicals giant Shell.**

RGU and the University of Aberdeen have been the subject of joint attention from the company as part of the European Shell Campus Ambassador Scheme, which has been running since 2001.

The efforts of the RGU and Aberdeen team, led by Shell's European Exploration & Production's Technical Director, Kieron McFadyen were recognised by the Group's Attraction and Recruitment leaders for their efforts over the last 12 months and their contribution to raising the visibility of Shell as an employer at the two universities, significantly increasing application numbers and bringing talented graduates into the organisation.

Senior Shell Geologist / Petroleum Engineer and Campus Ambassador, Iain Percival, is delighted at the continuing links between Shell and the two Aberdeen universities and the opportunity to share with students and academic staff in Aberdeen the experience of a rewarding and satisfying career in the industry with Shell. Since becoming a Campus Ambassador in 2001, he has seen an improvement within the two universities and is pleased that they have a stronger position in recruiting talent into the organisation.

"I am delighted to be involved in the European Shell Campus Ambassador team. This year, to compete with other UK universities in terms of the number of graduates Shell is recruiting, is very rewarding and clearly demonstrates that the Aberdeen tertiary education product is well and truly on the Shell map."

## RGU GRADUATE TRIUMPHS IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

**RGU graduate, Susi Olsen, has won a national competition and a £25,000 prize.**

Susi (26) is the managing director of RGU spin-out company Clear Process, which triumphed in Edinburgh at the first UK Science Enterprise Centres' (UKSEC) national business plan contest on 14 November.

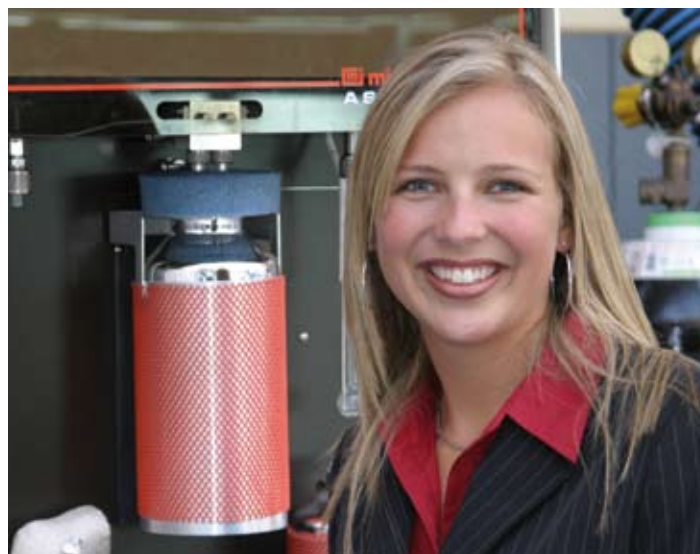
Susi, who is originally from Brazil and finished her PhD at RGU, was selected out of 21 finalists from leading entrepreneurial universities throughout Britain. She was awarded the top prize for entrepreneurial business of the year.

The company has developed a technology which aims to tackle the global problem of climate change by separating the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, from other gases. Susi's invention is set to assist in tackling climate change and aid in the development of a low carbon economy.

Susi will receive £25,000 of investment from NESTA (the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) to develop her business concept, plus additional support including access to professional services and expertise from mentors.

With Dragon's Den expert and entrepreneur, Doug Richard, as one of the judges, the competition is co-ordinated by the Scottish Institute for Enterprise (SIE), which aims to stimulate entrepreneurship in higher education institutions. Supported by NESTA and UKSEC, the competition is open to all higher education institutions in the UK. It encourages young people to show entrepreneurial spirit by coming up with cutting edge ideas and developing these into workable business plans.

Sharon Bamford, chief executive of SIE, said: "Susi's business plan was extremely well thought out, viable and inventive. Competitions such as this are a great way to inspire the entrepreneurs of tomorrow and give them the confidence and skills to succeed."



Susi Olsen of Clear Process Ltd

## GRAY'S GRADUATES EXHIBIT AT BRAVEART

**Graduates from Gray's School of Art were selected to exhibit at this year's prestigious BraveArt 2005 exhibition, sponsored by Standard Life.**

Debbi Beeson, Christine Hilditch, Graham Robertson, Jaki Sinclair, Claire Duffield, Mohammed Qasim Ashfaq and Debby Forsyth exhibited a selection of their work at the Atlantis Gallery, Brick Lane, near the heart of London's thriving east-end art scene from 13 - 17 October.

BraveArt is now in its third year, and since its inception in 2003, has received much acclaim and support from the art world. Each year, members of an expert selection panel tour the Scottish art schools' degree shows to select a broad, multi-disciplinary body of work. It provides the cream of graduating students from Scotland's four art schools with a unique platform to exhibit their work and establish contact with influential London gallerists, critics and art enthusiasts in order to launch their careers.

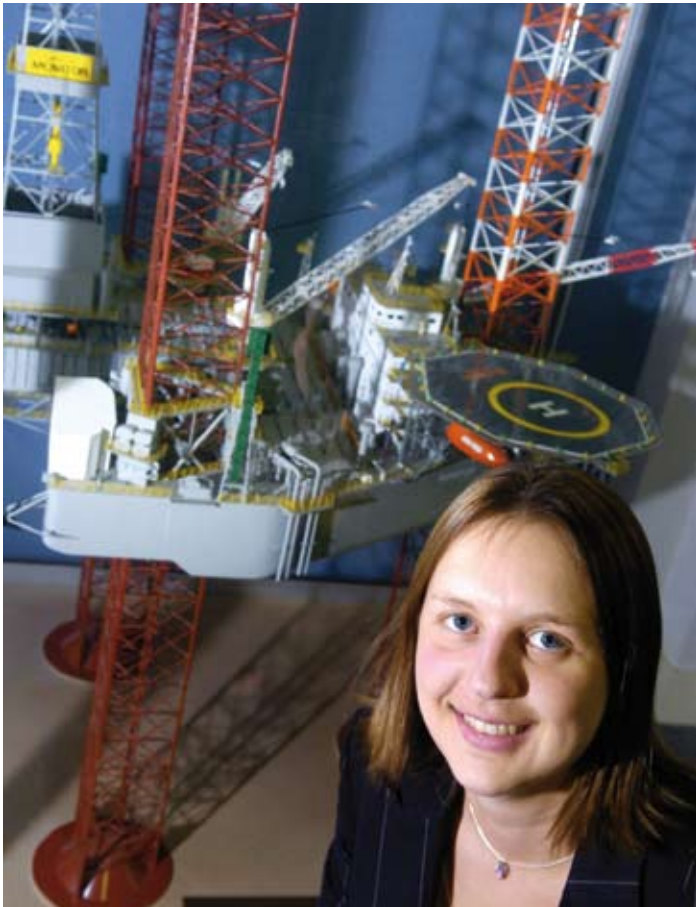
## RGU GRADUATE BECOMES FIRST FEMALE RIG MANAGER

**A graduate of RGU's School of Engineering has become the first female rig manager with one of the world's biggest drilling companies. Thirty year old Melissa Clare is believed to be the first woman to hold such a post in the North Sea, and also one of the youngest in the global industry.**

Graduating from RGU with honours in mechanical offshore engineering, she began her oil industry career with GlobalSantafe, the second largest drilling company in the world.

Earlier this year, Melissa, a chartered engineer, became rig manager for the jack-up GSF Labrador based in Aberdeen. She now manages every aspect of the Southern North Sea rig and its 96-strong workforce.

Melissa said: "Engineering has always fascinated me, right from my schooldays." She added, "Taking responsibility for a multimillion-dollar operation is always extremely challenging and rewarding."



Melissa Clare Photo courtesy of The Press & Journal

## SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING ACHIEVES TOP RANKING

**The School of Engineering at RGU has recently received top professional accreditation for both its B.Eng and M.Eng courses. The School's courses have been re-accredited for the maximum of five years by both the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) and the Institute of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), thus allowing graduates to become Chartered Engineers.**

The School of Engineering has a long history of quality, accredited engineering courses and it is hoped that this latest professional recognition will encourage more school leavers to consider engineering as a career.

Professor John Watson, Head of RGU's School of Engineering said, "At present we cannot produce enough engineering graduates to satisfy the job market in the North East of Scotland. Many of our graduates are getting four or five job offers and are walking into highly paid jobs straight from university."

Such is the demand for engineering graduates that a number of local companies including Sparrows Offshore, Petrofac, KCA Deutag and TOTAL are offering RGU students scholarships worth thousands of pounds to train for a career in engineering.



Karan Rait, in her shop, Libby Ives

## SKY DOCUMENTARY FEATURES GRAY'S GRADUATE

**An Aberdeen businesswoman featured in a Sky Television documentary series about female entrepreneurs, which aired from November.**

Karan Raitt (39), a graduate of RGU's Gray's School of Art, opened her successful furniture boutique in May. Her shop, which is unique to Scotland, produces bespoke, personalised pieces of furniture in an 18<sup>th</sup> century style with a contemporary twist.

Karan, who is married with two daughters Rhiannon (14) and Tasmin (10), featured in the documentary, 'Ladies Who Launch', which follows 15 female entrepreneurs who have chosen to set up their own businesses. The series gives insight and inspiration into the highs and lows of going it alone, including how these women manage their work / life balance.

Karan's shop, called Libby Ives, is based on Claremont Street and offers hand made pieces of county chic painted furniture for the kitchen, bedroom, lounge and bathroom as well as a range of fabrics and accessories. Karan supplies quality, unique pieces and customers are free to choose the colour and specifications for their chosen furniture. Karan also personalises individual pieces.

## GRAY'S STUDENTS HONE THEIR BUSINESS SKILLS AT CRAFT FAIR

**Textile students from Gray's School of Art took their first steps in the business world when they participated in the American Woman's Association (AWA) Holiday Fair at the Hilton Treetops Hotel on 16 November.**

The students sold their work, including their own designs of affordable Christmas card, in order to raise money for a national design event for new graduates held in London every year. The AWA gave their support to the students by sponsoring a table for them at the event.

The event comes at a time when Gray's is trying to encourage its students to

adopt a more commercial approach to their work, particularly on the textiles course, where the plan is to develop the fashion strand of their studies.

Fashion designer Isobel Mowat, ex-head of knitwear with Alexander McQueen, Givenchy, and Hussein Chalayan, has recently joined Gray's Textile Department as a lecturer to help the students develop their fashion design skills and entrepreneurial flair.

She said, "Being a good designer is only part of the overall package. Students have to be able to produce work that their clients want, and participating in craft fairs is a good first step in learning about selling their work."

## LEADING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT DESIGN ACADEMIC TALKS AT RGU

**Dr Stuart Walker, a leading expert in the field of sustainable product design, spoke at a lunchtime lecture hosted by Gray's School of Art on 1 November.**

Dr Walker brought together apparently diverse and disparate events to provide a historical overview and insight into our current focus on sustainability. The lecture traced the

initial developments in sustainable product design and brought the debate up to the present day. Included in the talk were examples of Dr Walker's own research and sustainable design concepts.

Dr Walker is Professor of Industrial Design and Associate Dean at the graduate Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary, Canada. His research focuses on environmental and sustainable aspects of product design and production, in particular the implications for aesthetics and issues of meaning.



Jacky Banks (TGWU), David Briggs, RGU's Director of Human Resources, Julie Yackiminie (UNISON) and Forbes McCallum (EIS) sign the first agreement on pay modernisation

## PAY MODERNISATION MOVES ON

**On Tuesday 1 November the University and 3 recognised campus trade unions (EIS, UNISON and TGWU) signed the first major agreement which allows the next phase of work - the analysis and evaluation of more than 150 benchmark roles - to proceed over the next 3 months. Two earlier agreements - one with the TGWU and UNISON and the other with the EIS - were also formally signed off.**

David Briggs, RGU's Director of Human Resources said: "This is the culmination of a year's planning and preparation involving managers, staff and trade unions. Whilst there have been differences along the way, these have been resolved by proactive and responsible consultation and negotiation. We are indebted to the time everyone has given to this important phase. We now have the important building blocks in place."

The benchmark role analysis and evaluation process will continue into December 2005 / January 2006, the negotiations on future pay structures will take most of February, March and April 2006 and RGU expects to then publish the intended new pay system, and any other changes, around May.

## RGU GOES GREEN ON PAPER

**Corporate Affairs, in conjunction with the Graphics and Printing Department, are continuing to introduce more recycled paper stock in the production of products and publications. As a result, those who use the letterhead/continuation paper will soon see a change in its shade from high white to a brilliant white containing 25% recycled fibre.**

The University business stationery carries a unique personalised watermark which not only looks prestigious but also offers security and authenticity to all business letters. The recycled stocks presently being used by The Gatehouse are of excellent quality and difficult to distinguish from virgin grades, one example being this publication.

The new headed paper stock will also be Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) approved, thus gaining public recognition of RGU's environmental and corporate social responsibility. FSC principles and criteria for forest management ensure far more than just re-planting trees. Requirements include compliance with national legislation, respect of indigenous people's rights, ecological integrity and the need for adequate planning and monitoring of operations.

## EXPERTS LECTURE AT RGU

**A globally renowned artist and a leading authority on architecture recently spoke to students and members of the public at RGU.**

Isi Metzstein, a key figure within modern Scottish architecture, gave a lecture at the Scott Sutherland School on 10 November.

He has had a significant influence on the education of generations through his role within the Mackintosh School of Architecture, and latterly as Professor at Edinburgh University.

In his presentation, sponsored by Mackie Ramsay Taylor Architects, Isi Metzstein talked about the role of plan drawing in architecture.

On 11 November, Gray's School of Art was the location for a lunchtime lecture by Suzanne Lacy. Lacy holds the Chair of Fine Art at Otis College of Art and Design, Oakland, Los Angeles and is an Honorary Professor at Gray's.

In the lecture, she showed a selection of her work, four pieces from different decades that explore issues of scale, public processes, strategies, media and critique in public art.

## RGU HOSTS SECOND OIL & GAS ALUMNI DINNER

**Following the success of last year's event, RGU hosted the second alumni dinner for graduates of the University working within the oil and gas industry. The event was held on Monday 14 November at RGU's Faculty of Health & Social Care Building.**

The keynote address was delivered by Michel Contie, Managing Director of Total E&P UK and Duncan Skinner, Director of Accounting and Finance with KBR.

Professor Mike Pittilo, University Principal said, "RGU has an excellent track record for producing career-ready graduates, and we are very proud of the success which many of our alumni have gone on to achieve within the oil and gas field. This dinner was an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments both of the university and of our former students."

The two-course dinner provided an ideal opportunity for University graduates to network with fellow alumni and key industry professionals.

## POSTGRADUATE LAW PROVISION AT RGU



Paul Arnell

**There has, once again, been very positive recruitment to the postgraduate courses offered by the Department of Law, Aberdeen Business School. There are now over 50 full-time and 130 online and part-time LLM or MSc students studying within the department.**

The department's LLM/MSc Construction Law and Arbitration in particular has seen rapid positive development, with regard to both student recruitment and professional accreditation.

Dr Paul Arnell, Departmental Postgraduate Manager, said "There is no doubt that RGU is the leading modern provider of postgraduate law courses in Scotland. Indeed, with over 180 current students I believe we are the leading provider of these courses in Scotland bar none. While a large number of people have contributed to this success, worthy of particular mention are Derek Auchie and Alan Reid, course leaders who have very effectively overseen student recruitment and course management."

In addition, the department has had its first intake of students on the Diploma in Legal Practice. This follows its successful accreditation by the Law Society of Scotland, the first Diploma to be so approved. The Diploma is a necessary qualification for all those wishing to practice as a lawyer in Scotland.

## DATA PROTECTION UPDATE

The Data Protection Act 1998 has placed upon the University a number of statutory obligations relating to the collection, management and disclosure of individuals' personal information. It is vital that the University complies to ensure that individuals' personal information is kept secure and is handled in an appropriate way.

There are 8 principles of data protection that we must adhere to including: ensuring that personal information be 'processed fairly and lawfully; be adequate and relevant; be accurate, and kept for no longer than is necessary.'

The Act also gives people the right of access to their own personal information held by the University. Such a request for personal information is known as a Subject Access Request and it must be made in writing. A request form can be found at the University's Data Protection webpage.

### What is Personal Information?

- The information must relate to a living individual.
- Information relates to an individual if it 'is information that affects [a person's] privacy, whether in his personal or family life, business or professional capacity'.
- The information must be biographical in a significant sense.
- The information must have the individual as its focus.

### University Policy

The University has a new Data Protection policy which can be found on the data protection web pages at [www.rgu.ac.uk/dp](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/dp). If you receive a request for someone's personal information, please pass the request on to the Records Manager immediately as there are only 40 working days in which to retrieve and supply the information to the applicant.

### Notification

The University, as a data controller, has to inform the Information Commissioner's Office of the information it processes and the reasons for doing so. We are legally obligated to ensure that this is maintained and accurate. If the personal information you process changes for different reasons then please contact the Records Manager immediately.

To see the University's notification details, please go to:  
[www.esd.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/esd/DoSearch.asp?reg=2612432](http://www.esd.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/esd/DoSearch.asp?reg=2612432)

### Further Information

The Data Protection Act 1998 is enforced by the Information Commissioner's Office. Guidance and information can be found online at: [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk).

If you have any questions regarding data protection then please do not hesitate to contact the University's Records Manager, Gordon Brown, on ext. 2098 or at [g.e.brown@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:g.e.brown@rgu.ac.uk).

## EXCHANGE STUDENT AWARDED WEAVERS' BURSARY



Ritta receiving her award from Ian Dale, on behalf of the Aberdeen Weavers Incorporation

**On Monday 7 November exchange student, Ritta Nikkonen, who studied at Gray's School of Art last year, was awarded a Development Bursary Award from Ian Dale, on behalf of the Aberdeen Weavers Incorporation.**

The Aberdeen Weavers Incorporation has supported Gray's students on an annual basis, by running an award scheme which offers financial support of £450.

This year's winner, Ritta, flew over from Finland to receive her award, and to present her body of woven and digital samples to the board.

Staff and students from the Textile and Surface Design Department, were shown through the extensive collection of artefacts dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, and given a detailed account of the role and historical influence that the Weavers Incorporation has had on Aberdeen.

Commenting on the evening, Ritta said, "I am very much looking forward to the opportunity of sharing my experiences with colleagues in Finland. However, my aim is to return to Gray's for my postgraduate studies, as I feel the staff there give me the support to develop my work in an individual, and challenging direction."



Left to right front row:- Amber Price, Academic Affairs, Jill Adam, HR Department, Ruth Maxwell, Lecturer, Gray's School of Art Back Row:- Alison Cameron, MSc Student, David Henderson, Teaching Fellow, Gray's School of Art

## ROWERS EDGE AHEAD OF COMPETITORS

**In September, a mixed eight crew from Aberdeen Boat Club comprising five members of staff from RGU, participated in the FISA World Masters Regatta, the largest rowing event in the world.**

The crew was made up of Amber Price, Jill Adam, Ruth Maxwell, David Henderson, Alison Cameron, Stuart Pressage, Douglas Cormack and Richard Mathieson.

Although they were beaten in the regatta by the German crew, who went on to win the category, they did beat their club competitors by 10 seconds.

Amber Price, Senior Secretary in the Academic Affairs Department, said "It was a fantastic event and a good experience. We are all now hoping to race at the Masters in Croatia in 2007."

## JAKKI DRAWS RESEARCH SUCCESS

**Jakki Seed has been awarded a PhD research studentship from RGU. Jakki, from Cove Bay, is a graduate of Gray's School of Art, and secured the BP Design Award when she graduated in 2004.**

For the next three years Jakki will be investigating the educational value of drawing. The project, which is based at Gray's School of Art, will contribute to the School's internationally recognised research in the field of drawing. Jakki will be exploring the changing role and nature of drawing as a design and visualisation tool in creative disciplines such as textile design, printmaking, and three-dimensional design.

The project will build on research strengths within the school and the distinctive approaches developed for the teaching of drawing skills. It is expected that the project will inform future developments in drawing.

## CANCER PROJECT RESULTS LAUNCHED IN EDINBURGH

**Audrey Stephen and Professor Rosemary Chesson of The Health Services Research Group celebrated the success of joint work with Macmillan Cancer Relief at a recent conference in Edinburgh.**

The event, on 1 November, was devoted entirely to a project concerning the Macmillan funded Carer Support Schemes, and was opened by Peter Cardy, the Chief Executive of Macmillan.

The project included development of a database for the evaluation of the Macmillan Carer Support Schemes, as well as the production of materials for the education and development of staff.

During the day delegates had the opportunity to view an electronic database, developed with Philip Gourlay of IT Services at RGU, for data collection by schemes. This will facilitate schemes to be evaluated and reviewed.

The database and staff development materials will be rolled out to Macmillan funded Carer Support Schemes across the UK in 2006.

## HRM STUDENTS MATCHED WITH MENTORS

A 'Meet the Mentor' evening kick-started this year's RGU mentoring scheme for post-graduate HRM students, by matching them up with suitable mentors. Now in its third year, this innovative scheme aims to pair students with an industry mentor, thereby providing a valuable source of guidance on how the theory learned at university translates into contemporary work situations. Mentors also benefit in a number of ways, not least of which is having access to new practices being studied by students.

The 'Meet the Mentor' evening provided the opportunity for potential mentors and mentees to meet on a one to one basis.

Sean Reddy, from The Craig Group, the main sponsors of the evening, said, "It provides the opportunity to reaffirm and grow our links with the RGU Business School." He added, "We are pleased to support any initiative that encourages and develops closer, meaningful ties between students and industry practitioners in the field of HRM."

Anne Stevenson, scheme co-ordinator, highlighted the importance of industry support: "We have had a phenomenal interest from HR professionals in the area and we now have over 60 trained mentors, with a further 10 due to be trained this year. We really appreciate this support from individuals and sponsorship of the Meet the Mentor event by the Craig Group is a very important indicator of how highly the scheme is regarded in industry."

## RGU REPRESENTED AT TOP DIABETES CONFERENCE

**Richard Butler of the School of Engineering, attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual 'Take Control Peaks and Valley' Global Medical Conference in October 2005 at the invitation of the event organisers, Lilly.**

The event is one of the top diabetes events held in the world, attracting 120 leading consultants specialising in diabetes care from 20 countries, and hosting representatives from all five continents.

Richard's work with Librae (a personalised diabetes simulator that acts as a 'body double', allowing the individual to experiment with diet, exercise and other lifestyle choices) had been noted by the organisers and he was invited to participate in a three person patient panel discussing how advancing technology could impact on diabetes care.

Richard said, "The conference provided a number of new contacts that could build on existing expertise at RGU. In particular there could be applications for our work in the development of a mobile device which helps people with diabetes gain and maintain control of their condition."



Liam MacLachlan, who won the bike donated by RGU as part of the Cornerstone Cycle Challenge, pictured with Filippo Antoniazzi, Director of Sports at RGU: SPORT.

## DUBLIN MARATHON SUCCESS

**Steven Peddie, an accountant with Univation Ltd, recently completed the Dublin Marathon, in aid of Cash for Kids, a charity that provides funds for various children's charities in the North East of Scotland.**

He finished 166th in a time of 2 hours, 57 minutes and 32 seconds, and raised approximately £500 for the charity.

## COMPUTING STUDENTS IN COMPETITION SUCCESS

**Research students from The School of Computing came second in a computer controlled car racing contest in September, which was held as part of the IEEE Congress of Evolutionary Computing in Edinburgh.**

A team of six computing research students worked on the project: Muhammed Basharu, Siddhartha Shakya, Stewart Massie, Ganesan Bathumalai, Rahman Mukras, and Sutanu Chakraborti.

The team created an autonomous racing vehicle for the contest. The vehicle was powered by an Artificial Neural Network, which is a form of Artificial Intelligence that tries to imitate the human brain.

Head of School Susan Craw said "The staff of the School are delighted with this activity because it is a very positive outcome of our research student community which has built up in the open plan Computing Technologies Research Centre. Each of the students had a part of the project for which they were responsible, and there was friendly competition about which approaches were most successful. They also sought some advice from a staff member and a few research students in Engineering."

## RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY TREE? KATE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

**Tracking down the ancestors on the internet has become a major pastime for families all around the world. Indeed e-genealogy is now the second biggest use of the internet.**

Kate Friday, a researcher at RGU, is investigating the genealogical material available on the web and how it is being used to research family history. As part of her work she is looking for anyone who has investigated their family tree on the internet to share their experiences by completing a 5-minute online survey.

Kate said, "The remarkable growth and development of the internet has made our pasts quick and simple to research. Through my research I want to build up a profile of who is using which online services and how they are using them. I also want to promote local studies libraries within the online research community as they frequently hold far more information on how our ancestors lived."

Dr Nick Barratt, the genealogist on BBC's "Who Do You Think You Are?" is acting as an advisor to Kate's research project.

Kate's online survey can be found at [www.researchingegenealogy.co.uk](http://www.researchingegenealogy.co.uk).

## RGU STUDENTS AT GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY EVENT

**Abed Nego-Bandim and Blair Buchanan, students at RGU, were selected to assist at The Carnegie Trust Medals of Philanthropy award ceremony on 4 October.**

The awards ceremony was held in Scotland, Carnegie's birthplace, for the first time ever. The new Scottish Parliament Building in Edinburgh hosted a gathering of the world's foremost business figures, philanthropists and international commentators to witness the presentation of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy 2005.

Abed and Blair acted as 'gophers' for winners of the 'Nobel Prize' of philanthropy including the Aga Khan, Sir Tom Farmer and the Cadbury family.

## EVENTS DIARY 2005

### DECEMBER

1 Dec Scott Sutherland Lecture Series - Inaugural Lecture  
9 Dec Graduation Ceremonies  
15 Dec Christmas Carol Service

### FEBRUARY 2006

9 Feb Absoft Entrepreneurship Lecture  
15 Feb RGU/RSA Lecture

### MAY 2006

24/25 May All-Energy Conference & Exhibition

### JUNE 2006

22 June Simulation in Interprofessional Education Conference

### JULY 2006

12/13/14 July Graduation Ceremonies  
16 - 21 July Carbon 2006 Conference

