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Connecting the University community



Miley joins Team GB for London 2012

Robert Gordon University student and RGU: SPORT scholar, Hannah Miley, has secured her place in Team GB for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

On Saturday 3 March, the Sports and Exercise Science student took pole position in her signature event – the 400m Individual Medley - coming in at 4 minutes 32.67 seconds. She will be joined in the British Olympic squad by Aimee Wilmott who completed in 4 minutes 37.48 seconds. Swindon born Miley then went on to secure her second Team GB Olympic berth with victory in the Womens' 200m Individual Medley, setting the fastest time in the world this year with an impressive 2min 10.77sec.

One of the nation's brightest hopes for gold at the 2012 Olympics, Hannah benefits from the RGU: SPORT Scholar programme which provides a package of tailor-made programmes devised to support her needs, sports discipline and academic course requirements. Hannah trains at the state-of-the-art swimming pool at RGU: SPORT, which enables her to successfully combine her training schedule with her lectures at Garthdee.

The 22-year old hopes to inspire others in the North-east through 'MileySwim', a 10-week programme designed for both children and adults who missed out on learning to swim earlier in life. The scheme, devised by Miley and her father and coach, Patrick, made its debut at RGU:SPORT on Monday, April 16.

The British Gas Swimming Championships took place in the Olympic Aquatics Centre in Stratford from 3-10 March.

The 400m Individual Medley will be the first Olympic final held inside the venue, on July 28.

For the full swim report, the BBC Sport article can be **found here**.

RGU Triumphs at 17th Aberdeen Asset Management Universities' Boat Race

On Saturday 10 March Robert Gordon University won the 2012 Aberdeen Asset Management Boat Race for only the third time in seventeen years, after taking an early lead. They won in a time of 8 minutes 13.9 seconds, beating rival Aberdeen University team by four and a half lengths. Aberdeen University's time was 8 minutes 28.1 seconds.

(Read more on page 4).

WELCOME

Welcome to Nexus online, which is issued electronically every second month. Please get in touch if you have any suggestions for stories or features for the magazine. Email your ideas to **Nexus online Editor**. The cut-off date for articles to be included in the July/August edition is Friday 8th June. Can managers please ensure that staff without regular university email access are informed that Nexus online can be viewed from home, or in libraries and IT labs at any university site at **Nexus online**.



IDEAS conference materials donated to South African children

A charity for vulnerable orphans in South Africa recently received a surprise donation of schoolbags from RGU academics.

In August 2011, the University's Institute for Innovation, Design & Sustainability Research (IDEAS) hosted the Ninth International Water Association Symposium which brought together international experts in the safety of drinking water and the aquatic environment.

Following the conference, which focused on sustainability and the environment, the team at IDEAS had surplus conference rucksacks left over and decided to donate them to an appropriate charity. 'Bana ba Hloakang' (Children in Need) is an initiative of a network of churches in Clarens, South Africa. The charity's main aims are to ensure that no child in the community goes hungry and to encourage hope, dignity and a sense of belonging to families in the area.

Professor Linda Lawton explains: "My parents visit family in the South African town of Clarens every year and had heard about a charity that supports vulnerable children and orphans and we thought the rucksacks would make great schoolbags."

"I'm delighted that the rucksacks have been well received and that our water conference made a difference to a very worthwhile cause thousands of miles away!"

PDVSA Graduation

On 29 February the third PDVSA graduation ceremony for RGU students was held at La Tohona, Caracas, Venezuela.

RGU provides Venezuela's national oil company, PDVSA, with professional education and training. The 28 graduates received their specialist degrees in MSc Drilling and Well Engineering or MSc Petroleum Production Engineering.

During the ceremony, Laurie Power, senior lecturer from the School of Engineering, addressed the new graduates: "This ceremony brings the total number of PDVSA graduates from Robert Gordon University to about one hundred. I have worked with postgraduate students from many countries, but I continue to be most impressed by those from Venezuela. The academic performance of all PDVSA students continues to be outstanding – as you can see by the number of Distinctions and Merits today."

Dr Argenis Rodriguez, Rector of the Hydrocarbon University of Venezuela expressed a strong wish to continue working with RGU.

Also in attendance were:

Duncan Stephen, manager of the RGU Energy Centre.
Ian Mason, First Secretary, British Embassy, Caracas.
Caracas Special Guests from the Hydrocarbon University.
PDVSA families and friends of graduates.



RGU announces MBA joint venture with German institution

RGU is embarking on a joint venture with the Hochschule Fresenius University of Applied Sciences (HSF) in Idstein, Germany, for the delivery of its MBA Transport Strategy and Management course.

The collaboration between the two universities will further enhance RGU's successful MBA programme, which is the only AMBA accredited course of its kind available in the UK, by engaging a wider consortium of students. The venture requires HSF to recruit students for RGU's MBA Transport Strategy and Management course, which will be delivered by a combination of face-to face workshops in Germany and via distance learning.

Professor Rita Marcella, Dean of ABS, who signed the contract on behalf of RGU said: "The joint venture between RGU and HSF marks a significant day for both universities and another avenue through which our respected MBAs can be delivered, further defining RGU as a university with an international reputation."

The collaboration has been developed by Professor David Gray, Course Leader from RGU's ABS and Professor Helen Bicknell of HSF in Germany. The first cohort of students is expected to start in the next academic year.

(l-r): Mark Griffiths MD of Codify, students Alexandru Ghitescu-Hrin, Alin Rohnean, Computing lecturer Daniel C Doolan, student Alexandru Faur.



Computing students take second place in international programming competition

A team of students from the School of Computing recently achieved a top position in the Irish Collegiate Programming Contest.

Working to solve eight complex programming problems over the course of a four-hour timed period, BSc (Hons) Computer Science students, Alin Rohnean, Alexandru Faur, and Alexandru Ghitescu-Hrin, along with Team Coach and Lecturer Dr Daniel Doolan, battled it out against 30 other university teams, coming in second place just behind Dublin Institute of Technology after leading the competition for the first half.

Hosted by University College Cork's Association for Computing Machinery Student Chapter, the competition was designed to foster a passion for computer programming by bringing together students from across the UK to put their knowledge of algorithms, problem solving and computer programming to the test.

The RGU team, who were the only Scottish competitors in the contest, were sponsored in the competition by Aberdeen-based IT firm, Codify, specialists in developing software for business. Codify's Managing Director, Mark Griffiths, is a graduate from RGU's School of Computing and several of his staff are fellow RGU alumni. A member of staff also currently sits on the School's Industrial Advisory Board.

Mark Griffiths commented: "I would like to congratulate the team on this fantastic achievement - to come second out of 30 teams speaks volumes about the calibre of talent. I look forward to Codify continuing to support RGU's students and this important industry in the future."

Pharmacy Professor appointed to Head of School

Professor Donald Cairns, an eminent researcher and academic in the field of pharmacy, has been appointed to the position of Head of School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences.



Professor Donald Cairns

Professor Cairns, who has taken over from Professor Terry Healey, stepped up to his new post in January 2012. The position includes responsibility for planning, coordination, development and supervision of academic work in the areas of pharmacy, biomedical sciences, forensic and analytical science plus nutrition and dietetics.

He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy from the University of Strathclyde in 1980, and after a pre-registration year spent in hospital pharmacy, he returned to Strathclyde to undertake a PhD on the synthesis and properties of benzylimidazolines.

Following a year as a post-doctoral research fellow in the department of pharmacy at Sunderland Polytechnic (now the University of Sunderland), Prof Cairns moved to Leicester Polytechnic (now De Montfort University) where he lectured in Pharmacy for five years.

Professor Cairns was made senior lecturer in medicinal chemistry in Sunderland School of Pharmacy in 1992. From here he moved to the position of Associate Head of the School of Pharmacy at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen in 2003, and in 2006, was promoted to Professor of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry.

Since his arrival at RGU in 2003, Prof Cairns has attracted over £500,000 in external research funding. His research interests include the design and synthesis of selective anticancer agents, the molecular modelling of drug / DNA interactions and the design of prodrugs for the treatment of nephropathic cystinosis.

On his recent appointment, Professor Cairns comments "I am very pleased to be appointed Head of School and would like to thank all my friends and colleagues for their help, support, advice, encouragement and good wishes. I think it is a huge privilege to be asked."

Offshore Measurement and Control Summit 2012 hailed a success

The School of Engineering's LabVIEW Academy hosted the National Instruments' Offshore Measurement and Control Summit 2012 on Wednesday 21 March.

Over 80 delegates attended the Summit which saw industry experts present on the latest technologies in oil and gas industry for upstream, midstream and downstream applications and wind turbines.

Bringing together engineers and managers from industry with University academics, topics examined included building off-the-shelf measurement and control systems, machine condition monitoring for predictive maintenance, automated pipeline welding, embedded data logging and controlling ROVs (Remotely Operated Vehicles).

In-depth case studies were presented from BPP-TECH, Pipeline Technique Ltd, Staristall Monitoring, National Instruments and the University of Limerick, and delegates were given hands-on training using LabVIEW technology. Visitors also received a tour of the University's LabVIEW Academy and Centre for Excellence for Industrial Instrumentation.

Dr Gunti Gurnarathne, Reader and Technology Consultant at the School of Engineering, and the leading force behind the University's LabVIEW Academy, commented:

"We're delighted with the success of the summit which brought forward some excellent discussions from those in industry and provided a platform for an exchange of knowledge and ideas."



On Saturday 10 March Robert Gordon University won the 2012 Aberdeen Asset Management Boat Race in a time of 8 minutes 13.9 seconds.

The 2012 race had one of the most competitive build ups in its 17 year history, with students from Aberdeen and Robert Gordon Universities actively involved in supporting their crews on Facebook and Twitter.

The Alumni boat race was also won by Robert Gordon University by five lengths in a time of 9 minutes 0.3 seconds.

Hugh Little, Head of Acquisitions for Aberdeen Asset Management, who was among the hundreds of race spectators, said, "Our congratulations go to both teams for their sportsmanship and showing what great sporting talent exists in both universities. Aberdeen Asset Management is proud to support an event which brings the two universities together in such a spirited sporting event."

Study reveals prevalence of dangerous horse jockey weight loss methods

Despite receiving expert advice on nutrition and weight management strategies, UK horse jockeys continue to use rapid, and often dangerous, weight loss methods.

This was one of the findings revealed in a research study presented on Wednesday 29 February at the British Dietetic Association Research Symposia for Dietitians New to Research in London.

Carried out by Nóra Ní Fhlannagáin as part of her nutrition and dietetics undergraduate project at RGU, the study titled 'Involvement of nutrition experts with UK jockeys' weight management' was presented in scientific poster form at the symposium held in De Morgan House, London.

"This study reveals the prevalence of dangerous weight loss methods utilised by horse jockeys, despite the advice of nutrition experts," explains Nóra who is currently undertaking an MSc in Applied Sports and Exercise Nutrition at Oxford Brookes University. "This may indicate that jockeys are not being advised of, or fully understanding, the negative health and performance effects of rapid weight loss."

The research revealed that almost 82 percent of participants utilised rapid weight loss methods (RWLMs) such as missing one to two meals a day, limiting fluid intake, exercising whilst wearing a sweat suit or vomiting after meals.

Obesity exhibition chosen among Best of Scottish Science

An interactive obesity research exhibition designed and led by a team of academics from RGU has been showcased as one of Scotland's most exciting scientific advances.



Representatives from each exhibit gather at a reception

Fat Body Slim: Shape Matters! – RGU's interactive exhibition investigating the science behind obesity, body shape and health – was featured in the Best of Scottish Science exhibition at Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh.

'Fat Body Slim' was one of only seven to be showcased at the annual international exhibition. It was designed by the University team to showcase its obesity research through a series of interactive displays. Quizzes, videos and hands-on activities help explore the link between obesity and chronic health problems like heart disease, cancer and diabetes.

The exhibiting team of academics was led by Dr Giovanna Bermano, leader of the Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease research theme within the University's Institute for Health and Welfare Research. The team comprised of fellow members of the Institute and the School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences.

To read more click here

Dr Arthur Stewart presents at the 2012 Oil & Gas UK Examining Doctors' Conference.



CORE present at Oil and Gas Conference

Dr Arthur Stewart, deputy director of the University's Centre for Obesity Research and Epidemiology (CORE) was invited to present at the annual Oil & Gas UK Examining Doctors' Conference on Wednesday 7 March.

Dr Stewart joined a prestigious roster of industry medical advisers, union representatives and academics who were brought together to explore the central topic of 'research in practice' within the Oil and Gas industry.

His presentation focused on the applications of morphological assessment by 3D scanning. He provided an overview of CORE's current research in this area, and outlined the justification for it. A central factor, he identified, is that the biology of the 'human animal' is not fit for purpose for 21st century lifestyles.

He went on to describe a selection of the Centre's proposed future research projects, including an investigation into the space requirements for working offshore. The current standards, he argued, are based on outdated data and guesswork which have significant impacts upon safety risk.

Dr Stewart commented: "I was very pleased to be invited to attend the conference and to present on the applications of our research within the Oil and Gas industry, which continues to be a challenging environment for health and wellbeing. By working closely with industry partners, researchers can offer important guidance on those challenges and how to work towards their improvement."

Absoft Seminar held at RGU

The chief executive of one of Scotland's leading health and social care charities provided the next generation of budding entrepreneurs and carers with inspirational advice on March 15.

Edel Harris, chief executive of Cornerstone, a social care provider which helps people with disabilities and other support needs lead independent lives, addressed a packed audience at the Absoft entrepreneurship lecture at RGU.

Mrs Harris spoke to a group of around 200 students from ABS as well as those studying health and social care, during the annual event, which has been sponsored by leading independent SAP software consultancy Absoft since 2002.

The session was introduced by Dr Heather Fulford, academic director of the University's Centre for Entrepreneurship who was followed by Ian Mechie, managing director of Absoft.

Mr Mechie updated students on the sustained growth Absoft recorded in 2011. He also shared Absoft's ambitious growth strategy, including details of the company's recent acquisition of specialist performance management and business intelligence solutions provider Hexarus Consulting, which was in direct response to rising customer demand for leading-edge expertise in delivering organisational reporting and business planning and forecasting capabilities.

For further information [click here](#).

Qatar University Dean of Pharmacy visits RGU

The Dean of the College of Pharmacy at Qatar University visited the University on 23 and 24 February, to discuss the potential of future collaboration between the institutions.

During his two day visit, Dr Peter Jewesson met Professor Donald Cairns, Head of the School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences and Professor Cherry Wainwright, Director of the Institute for Health and Welfare Research, as well as key staff from throughout the School.

The purpose of the visit was to discuss the possibility of collaborations in research, faculty and student exchange, internships and online seminars between the Schools of Pharmacy at both Universities.

Dr Jewesson observed a basic life support session from the Inter-Professional Education (IPE) programme at Garthdee. Facilitated by IPE lecturer Dr Sundari Joseph, the session saw medical and nursing senior students teach their colleagues from other years and different Schools in the Faculty about basic life support.

To read more [click here](#).

(From left) Dr Peter Jewesson, Professor Don Cairns (Head of School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences) and Dr Lesley Diack.





(From left): Professor Brian Webster (Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery), Professor Tracy Humphrey and Elinor Smith (Director of Nursing & Quality at NHS Grampian/Associate Senior Lecturer at RGU)

RGU and NHS Grampian establish joint midwifery professorship

The School of Nursing and Midwifery and NHS Grampian have announced the appointment of the region's first joint Clinical Professor of Midwifery.

Tracy Humphrey, former Consultant Midwife for NHS Grampian and honorary research fellow within Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Aberdeen, took up her post on 30 January 2012.

A new role for both organisations and the first of its kind in the North of Scotland, the clinical academic professorial post encompasses leadership of midwifery education, research and practice both within the School and NHS Grampian.

To read more [click here](#).

Exploring a new model of Scottish public health

Scotland's public health services can no longer provide the solutions to tackle the health challenges of the 21st century.

This is the central argument of an innovative text that has been authored by some of Scotland's top thinkers in the field of public health.

Published by the Open University Press, 'The Future Public Health' sets out the reasons why Scotland needs a fundamentally new approach to public health and explores how this might be achieved.

The book:

- Establishes the links between public health problems and emerging threats such as global warming and resource depletion
- Investigates the true nature of modern and emerging threats to health
- Creates a new model for the 'future public health'
- Explores what these changes will mean for the future public health practitioner

With acclaim among prominent scholars and public health figures, it has been selected as a core text by RGU for mid-May 2012.

The launch comes at a time when the core theory - Fifth Wave thinking - is gaining momentum and prominence in academic, governmental and public health spheres.

A keen advocate of the Fifth Wave movement, RGU has developed a new module for health practitioners that will allow explanation of the practical applications of this theoretical model.

The eight-week module, titled 'Integrating Fifth Wave Thinking into Professional Practice', has been designed by academics within RGU's School of Health Sciences. It will be delivered in a flexible distance learning mode through the University's online learning platform to allow public health practitioners from across the UK and internationally the opportunity to study it while maintaining full-time working hours.

For further information [click here](#)

RGU staff join Transition Extreme board

Aberdeen-based award winning social enterprise, Transition Extreme, has announced the appointment of two RGU staff members to its board of non-executive directors.

Executive Director of Human Resources, David Briggs and Development Manager, Kay Marshall, took up their posts in March. Both will provide oversight and governance for Transition Extreme, and bring their particular expertise to help the business develop.

Ken Milroy, Chairman of Transition commented "We are delighted to welcome people of David and Kay's calibre onto the Board. They come with excellent track records in their particular areas of business expertise and will ensure the company continues to develop and make a really positive impact to communities in the north-east."

Computing academic addresses IT educators at Oxford University



(l-r): Fred Reynolds Director of IT and Learning Technologies (Apple), Dr John Park (ABS), Professor Ian Allison (Head of School of Computing), Gordon Shukwit Director, World Wide Education (Apple), Gordon Eccleston (Computing)

Gordon Eccleston, a Senior Lecturer and Teaching Fellow at the School of Computing addressed over 100 teachers and academics at Apple Inc's Education IT Summit 2012 at the University of Oxford on Wednesday 21 March.

Representatives from Apple Worldwide Education in the US also visited the School of Computing ahead of the Summit to meet with academics and students, view the teaching facilities and tour the Apple labs at the School where the work of students in iPhone development was showcased. Gordon delivered a lecture at the Summit on the use of iPhone and iOS programming technology in the Higher Education curriculum.

In his current role, Gordon is responsible for teaching iOS development to undergraduate and postgraduate students. At the Summit he discussed how this has been incorporated into degree programmes at the School and how this can be further developed as the technology moves on.

He explains: "The teaching at the School of Computing reflects the growing industry need for app programming skills in new graduates and has been integrated into our degree courses via modules and practical projects. We aim to further the education process by helping our students gain expertise in using these apps and learning technologies to ensure they are skilled in these systems going into the workplace."

RGU hosts Sylvia Wishart exhibition

Gray's School of Art and Georgina Scott Sutherland Library were delighted to host the first complete survey of the work of Orcadian artist, Sylvia Wishart RSA (1936-2008) in an exhibition titled 'The Art of Sylvia Wishart: The Lamp In The Seaward Window', from 26 March to 20 April.

From one of her earliest drawings to the later large-scale paintings, the exhibition allowed Sylvia Wishart's work to be seen in a context that charts her artistic achievement over more than fifty years, and establishes her place as an important and influential Scottish artist. The range of her work was reflected through some 40 major pieces which were curated by the Pier Art Centre, Stromness, an institution which she was instrumental in founding.

Sylvia Wishart taught for many years at Gray's School of Art where she was an adored teacher, friend and inspiration to many students in the 1970s and 80s. Retiring to her beloved Orkney in 1987, she continued to paint dramatic landscapes and seascapes, exploring the subtle changes in the seasons, the nuances of light and the textures of the land.



Emerging artists from Gray's School of Art scoop prestigious national awards

Six graduates from Gray's School of Art have been recognised in the Royal Scottish Academy (RSA) New Contemporaries Exhibition Awards.

The Exhibition showcased 56 of Scotland's finest emerging artists and architects at the Royal Scottish Academy Galleries.

Chosen by the RSA, graduates are given the opportunity to launch their careers at the prestigious galleries at The Mound in Edinburgh by displaying a selection of new work including painting, sculpture, film making, photography, printmaking, architecture and installation.

BA (Hons) Printmaking graduate Marion Leiper received the Edinburgh Printmakers Award for her work. Leiper was awarded a free printmaking course, 3 months associate membership of the group and 1 month's free use of a studio. Christopher Wells, who graduated in July 2011 with a BA (Hons) Painting, was awarded the David & June Gordon Memorial Trust Award top prize of £500 'For Works by an Artist Born or Studying in the Grampian Region'.

Professor Paul Harris, Head of Gray's School of Art, comments:

"This is a real tribute to the quality of the courses and teaching that Gray's delivers, and the excellent support that my colleagues provide to our students in their creative and professional development. I look forward to watching the future careers of all the winners with anticipation of more great things to come."
For further information [click here](#).



Academic and fashion industry insider publishes book on textile design

Josie Steed, Head of Fashion & Textiles at Gray's School of Art, who previously designed costumes in London's West End and for clothing brands including Chloe and Gap, has co-authored a book on textile design for budding fashionistas.

The book, entitled Basic Textile Design 01: Sourcing Ideas, aims to help readers take inspiration from their environment and translate this into textile design.

To read more [click here](#).

Fashion In Motion

RGU Fashion Management students celebrated the evolving relationship between the motor and fashion industries, with a display of vintage vehicles and fashion trends through the years in an exhibition at Aberdeen Business School (ABS) (20-30 March 2012), to mark the opening of **Grampian Transport Museums** 30th season.

The glamorous worlds of fashion and cars have long been closely intertwined, with the motor industry often paying tribute to fashion through collaborations with big brand fashion houses.

In recognition of these close ties, final year Fashion Management students from ABS joined forces with the **Grampian Transport Museum** in Alford, which opened for its 30th season in April, to stage an exhibition to celebrate fashion through a styling project displaying trends ranging from the 1930s to 1970s fashion.

Fashion designers have traditionally assisted automobile manufacturers in making their cars more appealing and stylish to both couture-loving and working-class drivers. Recently, fashion brands such as Gucci have been designing versions of the Fiat 500 and fashion designer Victoria Beckham has collaborated with Range Rover on their new Evoque model.

In preparation of the exhibition, students visited the museum to adopt a vehicle which they then used as styling inspiration. The students researched the era, names, colours, textures and stories behind their chosen cars and motorbikes to come up with unique and stylish outfits.

In contrast to Henry Ford's famous quote from his 1923 autobiography: "You can have any color as long as it's black", the exhibition boasts an array of colorful outfits sourced from leading fashion brand outlets at the Bon Accord & St Nicholas shopping centre. Karen Cross, Fashion Management Course Leader explained: "The cars and motorbikes are a fascinating starting point for the Fashion Management students and they found their visit to Grampian Transport Museum extremely inspirational. Styling projects like this gives them a competitive edge as they head towards graduation in July."

The motorbikes and fashions styled by the students were displayed at ABS from 20-30 March.

Following on from the exhibition at ABS, the bikes and student work have been on show at Grampian Transport Museum, which opened on 1 April 2012 for a new season with new exhibits.

To read more **click here**.



Skye's the limit for aspiring model: Skye Evelyn for Miss Intercontinental Scotland

On Sunday 8 April eighteen-year old student and model Skye Evelyn competed in the UK finals of the Miss Intercontinental contest.

Skye, who is currently studying towards a degree in Fashion Management at RGU, entered the competition whilst visiting the Clothes Show Live at the NEC Birmingham in December last year but she never expected to make it as far as the UK finals.

The contest took place in the Palace Hotel, Manchester where Skye represented Aberdeen in rounds for fashion, bikini and evening wear in garments provided by her sponsor, Kemunto Fashions.

While Skye is excited to enhance her modelling career she knows that her success in her degree is equally as important: "I'd love for my name to be well known in the fashion industry but for now I'm just concentrating on doing well in university". Skye is coming to the end of her first year and is a member of the fashion society, UNI-Fashion, who are supporting her all the way.

Octogenarian student exhibits art after completing shortcourse alongside granddaughter

A grandmother and granddaughter displayed their art to the public together after both completing a figure drawing shortcourse at Gray's School of Art.

Ruth Lough (81) from Bucksburn, completed the evening course 'Foundation and Intermediate Figure Drawing' with her granddaughter Meg (17), and exhibited their work at the Gray's Shortcourses Exhibition. The course is designed to provide a drawing environment suitable for both beginners and those with experience in life drawing. Students are challenged to develop their drawing ability at their own pace in the studio. Ruth explains: "I was very apprehensive about joining a class at my age and almost didn't sign up, but Meg encouraged me to take part and it's been a great experience, learning and working side by side, having her support all the way."

Rebecca Westguard, Course Tutor for figure drawing at Gray's, adds:

"It's been wonderful to have Ruth and Meg in class together and I believe it's a first for Gray's. The two have a lovely relationship as family members and artists, and help to inspire each other with the knowledge and wisdom acquired from age, and the experiences of youth."

Gray's School of Art Shortcourses Exhibition launched to the public in March.



Ruth Lough with her granddaughter Meg and their work at the Gray's Shortcourses Exhibition

EVENTS DIARY 2012

For further information on all events, visit: www.rgu.ac.uk/news/eventsdiary

MAY

19 AHRA Research Student Symposium, Scott Sutherland School

23 Leadership Lecture, Maggie Morrison, CEO Hewlett Packard, FoHSC

JUNE

16-24 Gray's Degree Show

JULY

10-13 Summer Graduation Ceremonies, HMT