

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. 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

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.

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.

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 14th 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.