

SHARON CAMLEY who had been secretary of External Facilities for 5 years left in September for a new job in the University Estates office and was replaced by **GRACE SMITH** who had previously worked in Sports Studies. Having already worked for the university Grace has settled into her new job quickly and efficiently. Grace is keen on sports and has managed to cut down her commuting time by living close to the farm. She is the first point of contact for the 120 or so brown trout customers, for all enquiries regarding smolt sales for Machrihanish Marine Farm and also for any visitors to Howietoun.

PAUL BULCOCK

Time has flown living in Thailand for ten months so much that it only feels like two weeks since I touched down here. Happily enough I've been kept busy both by work and Bangkok itself, as you're never really stuck for entertainment here and got myself a great apartment, with a 22nd storey view of the main highway?

I'm now a research assistant for the STREAM (Support to Regional Aquatic Resource Management) Initiative www.streaminitiative.org reviewing and disseminating the latest news on aquatic resources to our partners through the STREAM Media Monitor and working on projects addressing a range of issues such as coral reef conservation in SE Asia and policy change in India.

I have managed to escape the city and have journeyed up to ancient temples and out to the islands and have done the typical full moon rave and coral diving and loved it. Through work I've been to the north and to India, so not surprisingly I hope to hang around here longer....Hello to everyone at Stirling, see most of you soon.

LIANNE MUIRHEAD who started as an office junior in March 1999 left in May 2002 to join the Institute of Sport. After completing her HNC she worked for a further year before gaining promotion to her new post. She has gone to her perfect job as she is very keen on sports as even during her time in the Institute she went to Australia to the Olympic Games. At the moment she is on 6 months leave of absence to visit Australia once again and this time instead of being a spectator is enjoying participating in sport. She has been sailing, kayaking and has even enjoyed a spot of sky diving!



The MSc Aquaculture Graduation was held in March this year. Maria Sefteli received the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland Medal, for best overall student within her year, Maria also collected the External Examiner's prize of a £100 book token for her outstanding research project. Maria was presented with the prizes by Professor Lindsay Ross, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Maria's project supervisor. Congratulations to Maria for her excellent achievements, and to all our MSc students.

JOANNA MACINTOSH who was a part time technician left in May for a complete change of job to work in a family firm running an electrical shop.

LYNN MORE

I joined the Institute in June 2002 as a member of the Secretarial staff working in the Departmental Office. However, I'm no stranger to the University as I previously worked as a Junior Secretary in the Division of Academic Innovation & Continuing Education (DAICE), in Airthrey Castle, from December 2000 up until my move to the Institute last year.

My work here is very varied dealing with all types of enquiries that come into the office. I work closely with Hazel with regards to our MSc and PhD students, new postgraduate applications and the day-to-day running of the office. I am enjoying working in the Institute with such a vast number of friendly staff!

ANTON IMMINK

It feels like I have never been away. After graduating MSc Aquaculture in 1996 I worked for FAO for a few years

and for the last couple of years I have been working for the Institute on DFID-funded research in India and Bangladesh. Now I am officially sitting in the Institute and working on dissemination and impact assessment of the DFID-funded Aquaculture and Fish Genetics Research Programme. Amongst my many varied tasks, I am responsible for building and updating the Programme website at www.dfid.stir.ac.uk, but I should still get a bit of travel in too. It is nice to be back amongst a few old faces, but also many new ones. I will be here for the next two years at least and hope to work towards a part-time PhD as well. Look forward to a drink with any of the old crowd passing through.

DR POLLY DOUGLAS (nee Armstrong) left the Aquaculture Technology Centre in October. After finishing her PhD in parasitology, Polly was working on the DFID programme and on some Stirling Aquaculture projects. She has made use of the knowledge she gained whilst working with us and has moved on to the technology transfer office for the National Health Service known as Scottish Health Innovations, based in Edinburgh. She works with doctors and other NHS staff to protect new ideas and bring the latest thinking to the market place. We wish her all the best, briefcase in-hand.

ROWENA HOARE

My experience of the world of Aquaculture began in 1996 at the Aquaculture Development Centre, University College Cork as a Research Assistant to Janet O'Flynn working on PKD. This led to the offer to begin a PhD in 1998 working on measuring immunocompetence of different populations of commercially cultured turbot and halibut. I was extremely lucky as this project was funded by the EU FAIR programme which meant I wasn't as starved of cash as most of my fellow students!

I also had the opportunity to spend 4 months working at the Large Scale Facility at the High Technology Centre in Bergen, Norway.

Since finishing my PhD in early 2001, I have mainly worked in various offices in Dublin and Stirling. I moved to Scotland in May 2001 and live in Callander with my husband Chris Mitchell. I have just started working as a technician in the Aquatic Vaccine Unit and look forward to working with both staff and students.

HERVE MIGAUD

Dr Migaud was appointed in October 2002 and joined the staff of the Reproduction and Genetics group after successfully completing his PhD entitled "Influence of temperature and photoperiod variations on the reproductive cycle and spawning quality of Eurasian perch, *Perca fluviatilis*". His PhD was conducted at the University of Nancy in the Department of Animal Sciences, in the Laboratory of Freshwater Aquaculture and involved collaborations with several other laboratories, especially Pr. P. Kestemont from a Belgian laboratory, FUNDP in Namur, and A. Fostier from a French group, INRA in Rennes. Herve is specialized in environmental control of fish reproduction, and especially in hormones RIA, endocrinological *in vitro* studies and histology. His postdoctoral research fellow is funded by a 3 year European project entitled "Photoperiod control of puberty in farmed fish: development of new techniques and research into underlying physiological mechanisms". Herve is working with Prof. Niall Bromage and will be mainly involved in the identification of the pineal sensitivity through melatonin release to light of different intensities and spectral compositions to determine threshold values for artificial light to control puberty in salmon and sea bass in outdoor fish farms/ sea cages. Herve also contributes to the supervision of PhD students and management of the laboratory.

DR AMER DIAB

I obtained my PhD at Leeds University (2002), studying the degradation of heterocyclic aromatic compounds by *Rhodococcus* isolates. Heterocyclic compounds are widely used in a variety of industrial products and processes; they are of concern for aquatic environments due to their limited biodegradability and potential toxicity

My main research interest is aquatic toxicology. I am currently working in the Toxicology Group, Institute of Aquaculture as a post doctoral research assistant on a project entitled Genomic tools for bio-monitoring of pollutant coastal impact (GENIPOL). This project is aimed to develop new versatile comprehensive tools that will identify adverse biological effects of environmental pollutants in coastal and estuarine environments, applying the latest technologies of functional genomic and proteomic expression procedures for routine monitoring of fish health in coastal habitats. This is an EU 5th framework project in collaboration with Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research, University of Southern Denmark, Odense University and the University of Birmingham.

NIGEL WILLBY

I joined the Environment Group within the Institute as a lecturer almost a year ago, 'crossing the pond' from the Department of Environmental Science where I had held a NERC Fellowship for 3 years. This narrowly maintains my northerly migration in search of work or education having previously spent 10 years at Liverpool and then 5 years at Glasgow Universities. I am an aquatic ecologist specialising in freshwater plants (you know, green, slimy and occasionally eaten by fish and indeed humans), with periodic, and usually ill advised excursions into riverine invertebrates. In the dim and distant past I have been known to enthuse about fish gut content analysis, growth rates of roach and the taste of barbecued gwyniad but thankfully those days are behind me.

Apart from teaching on Aquatic Sciences courses most of my work at present involves research on species and trait-environment relationships in rivers and lakes for the purpose of testing and developing biomonitoring tools for ecological assessment of freshwaters that will be required under the European Water Framework Directive. A diverse range of other research projects or contracts have recently been completed or are in progress. These include: modelling the effects of increased boat traffic on canal vegetation, writing monitoring plans for endangered plants, assessing biodiversity value of sustainable urban drainage systems, predicting potential impacts of beaver on stream hydrology, measuring palatability of aquatic plants to snails, studying vegetation dynamics in riverine backwaters, and monitoring reed die back in Lake Balaton. These projects have been supported by organisations including NERC, British Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scottish Water, English Nature, British Waterways, Environment Agency and CNRS and have provided opportunities for work in France in particular, as well as the Czech Republic, Hungary and Denmark. I am also currently co-supervising PhD projects on biotic recovery of a newly engineered river channel, the ecological impacts of beavers and the potential consequences of their reintroduction, and the application of remote sensing to large scale mapping of wetland vegetation. Items of a fishier flavour might even begin to appear again before too long!

BOOK REVIEW

"Cantor's Dilemma" by Carl Djerassi

A short review by Jorge Fonseca-Madrigal, PhD Student.

In this novel, Carl Djerassi – professor of the University of Stanford, internationally recognized to have synthesized, in Mexico, the first oral contraceptive – relates the story of Isidore Cantor, a cell biologist that discovered the mechanism of tumour genesis, which gave him a Nobel Prize.

In a fictional way, the author shows some aspects of the scientific environment, like the rivalry between different research groups and the political issues that come with being accredited a Nobel Prize.

"This night, however, he was in unfamiliar territory: the Sheraton Commander in Cambridge, across Harvard Square, and he had really banged his knee. He was still rubbing it while sitting on the toilet. The pain had fully wakened him, and he began to think of the lecture. Suddenly it struck him. My God, he thought as he reached for the light switch, that's it! How could I've missed it? The light blinded him momentarily as he stretched for the robe hanging on the back of the door.

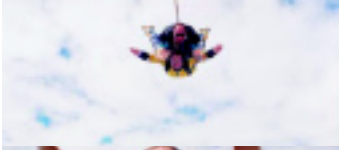
It was 3:14 A.M. when Professor I. Cantor sat at the small desk and started scribbling on the only piece of paper he could find in the desk drawer. It may have been the first time in history that a Nobel Prize-winning idea was set down on the back of a laundry list."

-from page 1 of *Cantor's Dilemma*.

That 3am moment when the thesis comes together ...

GRUDGE





LIANNE MUIRHEAD



NIGEL WILLBY



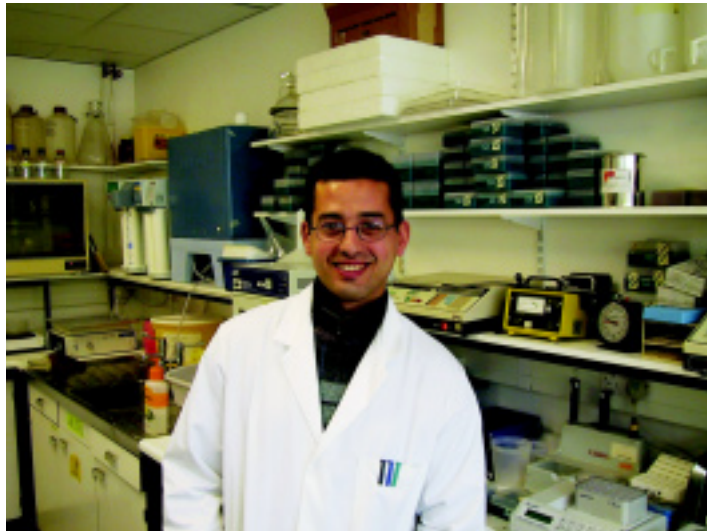
JOANNA MACINTOSH



POLLY DOUGLAS



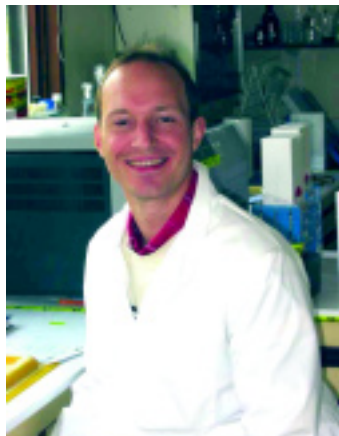
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