

Autumn/Winter 2008

# CLLarion

Newsletter for the Centre for Lifelong Learning



University of  
Strathclyde  
Glasgow

Welcome to the 2008-2009 CLL Programme of classes. A special welcome if you are a new student. Classes are now well underway and I very much hope that you are finding your learning both enjoyable and challenging. Some of you will be based in our new suite of rooms on level 2 which is almost completely finished. Some changes are still, however, to be made to the wheelchair lift and inconsistent heating levels are still being monitored. Now that we have these new rooms, other parts of the Centre are beginning to appear a little shabby and we hope to refurbish level 7 rooms next summer.

In a separate article in the newsletter, I describe the Excellence Review of the Centre which has recently been published. Staff are looking forward to closer relationships with the Faculty of Education and we believe that such a move will be mutually beneficial.

Within a few weeks Christmas will be upon us and your first term of learning will be completed. What better Christmas gift can you give to a friend (or to yourself) other than another class at the Centre!



*Lesley A. Hart*

Lesley A Hart  
Director of Lifelong Learning

## More Successful Students

Our Certificate of Professional Development in Adult Teaching and Learning continues to attract many interested (and interesting) participants. At a recent award ceremony, five certificates were awarded. The certificate gives a theoretical foundation in how adults learn, classroom dynamics and learning styles, as well as practical insights into lesson planning, group organisation, and the use of the Internet as a teaching resource.



The successful candidates with tutors Raymond Thomson, Lesley Hart and Val Bissland.

## Excellence Review of the Centre for Lifelong Learning

An Excellence Review of the Centre took place between April and June 2008 which had the overall aim of defining the strategic direction of lifelong learning and continuing professional development in the University. The Review Panel consisted of representatives from the senior management of the University, two Heads of Department, a lay member of the University Court and two external advisers. Meetings were convened with a wide range of stakeholders from within and outwith the University. The Panel reported at the end of June and their recommendations were approved by the University's senior management in July.

Overall the Review was positive about the work of the Centre and was impressed with the dedication and enthusiasm of both the Centre's staff and students. The Panel also recognised the contribution made by the Centre to lifelong learning, both nationally and internationally. Key strengths identified included- a strong community engagement profile, an entrepreneurial and innovative ethos, a strong identity and brand and a clear customer/student focus.

A series of recommendations which recognised the hybrid academic/administrative nature of the Centre and aimed at building on identified strengths were included in the final Review document. One of the main recommendations, to embed the Centre in the Faculty of Education, is welcomed by Centre staff. All recommended changes contained in the Review are currently being addressed by a newly-formed Implementation Group and it is hoped that the change process will be completed over the next year.

# SSI News



**Generations Working Together**

The Scottish Centre for Intergenerational Practice

## Generations Working Together

The Scottish Government has recently approved a new initiative to build stronger links between people of different generations. The Centre for Lifelong Learning has been commissioned to run the new Scottish Centre for Intergenerational

Practice, with Brian McKechnie acting as the national Director of the programme, in addition to his work in the Senior Studies Institute.

This new Centre supports and works with public, private and voluntary sector organisations throughout Scotland, as well as individuals and families, to gather and share best practice, provide information and support, and develop new opportunities for intergenerational working in communities. Over 1,000 organisations are currently involved with the Centre, with many joining each day. If you would like to know more about what the Scottish Centre for Intergenerational Practice is doing, check out the web site at:

<http://www.scotcip.org.uk> or contact Brian McKechnie on 0141 548 2492.

## An International Perspective

It's often been said that 'travel broadens the mind'. On this basis, I should be very broad-minded, given that an important part of my job is to represent the Centre for Lifelong Learning at events all over the world. Recently, it was my privilege to attend, with Lesley Hart, the International Federation of Ageing Conference held in Montreal, Canada in September 2008. This global conference is perhaps the biggest and most important of its kind, covering every aspect of ageing, with topics such as environment, health, finance, spirituality, etc. There were so many interesting presentations, it was hard to decide which to attend. Most noticeable was the large number of presentations focused on learning in later life. It was exciting to hear from delegates from the Far East, North and South America, Europe and the Pacific rim, each sharing their experience of establishing learning programmes for older adults. Only a few years ago, this would have barely been mentioned, but learning for older people has moved up the political agenda, and has become increasingly recognised as a key component in active ageing globally. Many of these programmes have been directly influenced by the pioneering work of the last 20 years at the Senior Studies Institute, using our experience and replicating our programmes. I came away from the conference with some good ideas I had gleaned from presentations, but also an increased appreciation for what we have here at Strathclyde. Of course, the next IFA conference will be in Australia in 2010, and by then I will surely be in need of broadening my mind, just a little more.

*Brian McKechnie, Head of the Senior Studies Institute*

# CPD UPDATE

## New developments in the Scottish Centre for Safety and Health (SCOSH)

Safety and Risk Management is one of the most important areas in which we operate, and SCOSH has been very busy offering new courses for the Safety and Risk Management profession.

## Certificate of Professional Development in Workplace Health

This new course has been developed and introduced in association with the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives (SCHWL) as part of our joint commitment to continuing professional development. The aim of the course is to increase participants' knowledge and critical understanding of workplace health matters. It is unique in that it integrates health and safety, occupational health and health promotion and has a major objective of promoting collaboration between different disciplines. The course has been designed primarily for people working in a range of jobs, and participants are able to study by distance learning with tutor support. On successful completion of the course assessment elements, students will receive a Certificate of Professional Development in Workplace Health.

## Health and Safety in Construction

Accidents and work-related ill-health affect all types of workplaces and occupations. One high-risk sector which continues to contribute significantly to the level of recorded accidents in Britain is the Construction Industry which accounted for 28% of all fatalities during 2005/06. With this background, the Scottish Centre for Occupational Safety and Health (SCOSH) has introduced the NEBOSH National Certificate in Construction Health and Safety. This will provide non-specialists in occupational safety and health with an appropriate level of knowledge which will enable them to discharge their construction health and safety responsibilities more effectively. The present level of construction and refurbishment work in progress on the John Anderson campus provides the course with ideal facilities for the practical assessment which is an essential part of the course!

*Colin Thorne, Director of Continuing Professional Development*

## Thanks to the Tuesday Club

Did you know that, every Tuesday, a dedicated group of volunteers meets to fold letters, stack envelopes, and generally make sure that large scale postal activities by the University are undertaken efficiently and effectively? One of their main efforts of the year is posting out our programme booklets. Everyone who attends a class will receive a booklet, and that is why around 10,000 are printed! Just prior to the booklets arriving from the printers, we print thousands of labels. The Tuesday Club sticks the labels onto envelopes, puts the booklets into the envelopes, and puts them into mail sacks. That is how your booklet arrives on your doormat. You can see that we really rely on their dedication and good humour.

# Genealogy

new additions to  
the family



This year we have spent some time consolidating and integrating our genealogy offerings to make a more coherent pathway through the nest of courses from the very basic to the ultra-specialised (or as genealogists say, from Lust to Dust).

## Daytime and Evening programme

We now run three main courses: Introduction To Family History Research, Genealogy: Beyond The Basics and Family History, The Internet And More. These are currently being credit-rated by the Faculty of Education. The courses have been re-scheduled so that an identical Lecture runs during the day and on the same evening, one course per term. Each of these has been expanded to cover 6 teaching sessions across 10 weeks, which additional self-guided study, and each now has or will have soon a formal Assessment for Credit. This way, within one academic year, a student could take all three at a suitable time, and use the Assessments towards evidence of fitness to join the Postgraduate programme if desired. Our plan is to produce online versions of these courses, so that they can be taught at a distance.

## Postgraduate programme

The Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in Genealogical Studies remain the only professional postgraduate university qualifications in the field. They are rapidly gaining a reputation as the qualification to have. From a standing start with 16 students on-campus in 2006-07, last year saw 47 Certificate and Diploma students. The online students come for all over the globe – USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, England, Ireland and even Rutherglen!

This move towards all-online teaching is purposeful, and we are looking for ways to make the international reach even greater next year.



## Bruce Durie goes professional!

Genealogical Studies Course Director Bruce Durie has just been accepted into the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG). Presumably, before this he was UNprofessional?

## The Homecoming



Did you know that, for every single Scot in their native land, there are thought to be at least five more overseas who can claim Scottish ancestry? During Homecoming Scotland 2009 Scotland will be celebrating with a year-long programme of events to highlight Scotland's great contributions to the world: Robert Burns (the 250th anniversary of his birth is in 2009), golf, whisky, great minds & innovations and Scotland's rich ancestry and culture, and the Centre will be participating! We will be running an International Genealogy Festival 21 to 24 July 2009, as part of Homecoming Scotland 2009, enabling visitors and home Scots to bring their past to life by retracing the footsteps of their ancestors. Tracing your family history can be a journey of discovery that leads you to explore the lives and times of ancestors who lived hundreds of years ago - and perhaps even thousands of miles away - in circumstances which are all but unimaginable today.

[www.homecomingscotland2009.com](http://www.homecomingscotland2009.com)



Lesley Hart receives her Life Changers Award from the University and College Union at a recent awards ceremony in London. She was one of 13 award nominees from throughout the UK. Life Changer Awards celebrate those who champion and lead education- further and higher education staff who make a difference to student lives and show a lifelong commitment to learning. Lesley's award recognised the work she has undertaken over the last twenty years to promote learning in later life and the support she has given to the Learning in Later Life Students Association.

## Val's retirement



The Centre was sorry to say goodbye to Val Bissland, who has been with the centre for many years. Val was a project officer, but did much more besides, teaching on our Adult Teaching and Learning Certificate, working with our

part-time tutors on teaching methods, organising conferences, and much other valuable work. Val is not leaving for good, however, as she is still teaching on the 3 L's programme.

## Summer Programme as popular as ever

The 2008 Summer Programme proved to be a hit once again, providing some interesting and unusual subject choices and attracting more than 1300 enrolments between July and August. The new look programme included some specialised seminars for artists, an expanded genealogy section encouraged students to delve onto their ancestry and we were treated to a number of classes in association with partner organisations such as Glasgow Science Centre, Cappella Nova and the Botanic Gardens.

There were 87 classes and seminars offered in total, an increase on the previous year. For the first time, students were able to use their Individual Learning Accounts (ILAs) towards the language classes within the programme and over 100 people took advantage of this.

We hope the Summer Programme will continue to go from strength to strength and ideas are already developing for the 2009 programme.

## Additional Classes for January

**Conversational Italian**, Giovanna Vignati  
**Monday 12 January, 6.30pm-8.30pm**, 10 weeks, £75  
(ILA eligible)

This class is suitable for those who have completed Italian 3 or equivalent and those who wish to build on their spoken Italian.

**Kings, Heroes and Monsters: The Anglo-Saxon World**  
Patrick Parsons

**Tuesday 13 January, 12pm-2pm**, 10 weeks, £75  
If you ever wanted to know where J.R.R. Tolkien found his inspiration for The Lord of the Rings, this is the class for you.

**Ancient Greece at War**, Patrick Parsons  
**Friday 16 January, 9.45am-11.45am**, 10 weeks, £75  
The recent Hollywood epics of Troy, The 300 and Alexander have brought the warriors and wars of ancient Greece to a modern cinema audience. This class will explore the real stories behind such heroic tales and look at the reality of warfare in the Ancient Greek world.

**For more information on these classes contact us on 0141 548 4803**



.....and finally, everyone at the Centre would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students and teaching staff an enjoyable festive season.

# Winter Quiz

This is a difficult quiz for you to try during the long winter evenings. The two winners will receive a voucher for a free class of their choice (up to a value of £75). All potential winning entries will be drawn from a hat on Friday 9 January. Answers should be handed in at, or sent to the Centre.

- Over which latitude is the sun shining during the winter solstice?
  - Tropic of Capricorn
  - Tropic of Cancer
  - Equator
- In Norse mythology, Balder, the god of the summer sun, was killed by an arrow made from a popular Christmas leaf. It was:
  - Poinsettia
  - Mistletoe
  - Pine needle
- Who created the story of Rudolph, the reindeer with a shiny red nose?
  - Charles Dickens
  - Residents of rural Sweden
  - An ad writer for the Montgomery Ward Company
- What happens north of the Arctic Circle on the first day of summer in the Northern hemisphere?
  - 24 hours of darkness
  - 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness
  - 24 hours of daylight
- According to Greek mythology, Demeter, the goddess of grain and the harvest, caused the first winter when she:
  - Was transfixed by her beautiful reflection in a pond
  - Neglected the land in grief after her daughter was abducted
  - Fell into a long sleep after an enormous harvest
- What food is traditionally served during Christmas festivities in Japan?
  - Salmon roe
  - Miso soup
  - A decorated cake
- Who is the month of January named after?
  - Jan Hus, an important religious reformer
  - Janus, the Roman god of doors and gateways
  - Jan Viers, a French knight who saved Charlemagne
- The Romans honoured the Winter solstice with a festival called Saturnalia. During this celebration:
  - Slaves ate with their masters
  - People gave one another presents
  - Animals were sacrificed to Saturn, the god of light

Name .....

Contact Telephone Number .....