Message from the Student Editor

Jennifer Lane

_Diffusion_ has been publishing outstanding work by UCLan students for four years now, both online and in print, and I am thrilled to be a part of this process. The print version of the journal has become particularly popular on campus, as copies are freely available in the library, the student union, as well as the recently established UCLan Book Exchange, which has raised our profile and paved the way for success.

I have been a part of the journal’s Editorial Team since May 2011, when I was still studying for my BA (Hons) in English Literature; I was approached to become Student Editor in September, having by this time enrolled for the MA in Writing for Children. I previously had a piece of work published in _Diffusion_ 3:2 (‘Rewriting fairy tales’) and was unsure how my not-so-saintly poems would be received! However, _Diffusion_ publishes enterprising articles, adding to its range, and I think my work has been generally well-received.

As an English Literature with Creative Writing graduate, the duty of editing has been a vital process, and I am used to proof-reading my own writing, a skill I hope to transfer to my work on _Diffusion_. Now that I am studying my MA here at UCLan, I think that the journal is providing me with a valuable experience in writing, editing, and working closely with our experienced Consultant Editor, Carol Banks.

At _Diffusion_ we receive many high-quality submissions, recommended by members of UCLan’s academic staff, and it is my role to keep abreast of the latest submissions, as well as liaising with other members of the team, both staff and students. Additionally, we are in the process of collating articles by UCLan students who presented their work at the recent British Conference of Undergraduate Research (BCUR 2011), and we are now preparing a publication dedicated to this event.

This year, _Diffusion_ really wishes to reach out to the student body, in the hope that undergraduates will become more involved with the journal, and aware that the publication of their hard work is indeed possible. I have recently re-established _Diffusion_ on social networking sites (Facebook and Twitter), which I hope will provide students with quick and accessible information to keep them up to date on our efforts. If you would like any information about these pages or about _Diffusion_ in
general, please do not hesitate to email me at: JALane1@uclan.ac.uk. We are also planning to set up several peer-review groups within various subject areas, which will closely involve students and help them to investigate and examine excellent work within their departments.

Diffusion was the first multi-disciplinary university journal in the UK, and is run by a dedicated Editorial Team, comprising of staff and students from UCLan’s varied range of disciplines. Although there are students on our current Editorial Team, ultimately we hope to produce publications which are entirely student-generated. With the recent fee-increases and the promise of tough times ahead for higher education, it is important to show ourselves, as students, as a force of solidarity. Diffusion is a distinguished, student-focused journal that showcases UCLan as a centre for excellence.

In this edition of Diffusion, we have a collection of varied and extremely topical articles which celebrate the university’s clear focus on current issues and thoughts for the future. If you would like to comment on any of the material published in Diffusion (past or present), please do not hesitate to contact me, as I would love to hear the student response.