Since *Diffusion: the UCLan Journal of Undergraduate Research* was first launched in June 2008, submissions have not only increased in number, they have also diversified in terms of the range of subjects represented, the origins and the nature of the work itself. So, for example, in this issue, the first in Volume 4, in addition to the usual academic articles and literature reviews which originated as course work at the University of Central Lancashire, we include for the first time two pieces of research carried out by undergraduate students following their participation in UCLan’s summer Research Internship Scheme: Rebecca Harris and Claire Roper (Psychology) provide an evaluation, from a student perspective, of the intern scheme itself and Timothy Morozgalski’s article on Life Cycle Assessment and its relevance to the bamboo ecosystem in Vietnam, is based on research carried out whilst a summer intern in Built & Natural Environment. Both these articles were produced in addition to the required course work at UCLan and demonstrate the authors’ ability to both think and write independently.

As to the nature of contributions, this has expanded from purely written accounts, to include a poster (published in Volume 3, issue 1) and now, in this issue, a short audio-video of an art installation: David Howarth’s ‘Ceremony’. This work, like the short story and the poems previously published in Volume 3, is an example of the creative element in research, a reminder that the purpose of research is to push out the boundaries of knowledge and reach for new ideas, inventions and discoveries.

In addition to these new directions, this issue includes outstanding course work from Music Practice (the first in this field), Law, Linguistics and Physiotherapy. These were all selected for their excellence within their respective subject areas, but I hope that the topics they focus on will also be of wider interest to readers outside these specialist fields. James Bell (Music Practice) reviews the work of famous jazz musician Miles Davis and provides a detailed analysis of his trumpet solo on ‘So What’; Rahela Akhter (Law) offers a critique of ‘directives’ and the public / private divide in EU law; Elisavet Prinou (Linguistics) examines language use, code-switching practices and feelings of ethnic belongingness amongst Greek-Brazilian returnee migrants; Sebastian Koźbiał’ (Linguistics) presents a detailed investigation and analysis of the transfer of certain phonological rules from Polish to English; and Ryan Pope (Physiotherapy) reviews the literature pertaining to the effect of exercise on patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. As evident from the above, one of the notable
aspects of this issue is its international scope, circling the globe from American jazz to European law, English-Polish phonology, the bamboo ecosystem in Vietnam and the language of Greek-Brazilians, a reminder in itself that undergraduate study and research is now global in this age of the world wide web.

In preparing this issue of *Diffusion* for publication I am most grateful to the Readers, for their excellent recommendations and for their supervision of the editing process of those contributions which began life as much longer dissertations and have subsequently been reduced in length. I should also like to thank members of the Editorial Team and Student Editors – Ryan Owen Gibson, Claire Roper and Suzanne Scholz. Finally, my thanks go to the authors themselves for their varied and interesting contributions – outstanding undergraduate work from six different Schools in the University of Central Lancashire, presented here to demonstrate the level of excellence achieved in these fields and to inspire other students who read them.