Message from the Student Editor
Ryan Owen Gibson

I first became involved with Diffusion as an undergraduate member of the Editorial Team (2008-9) and a contributor to the second issue in Volume 1 (December 2008); so now, whilst studying for an MA by research in English Literature, I feel very honoured to be Diffusion’s first Student Editor. However, doing the job well is not to be taken lightly. My role is not only to bring a student perspective to co-editing the journal; I am also involved in marketing and publicity activities on campus, I liaise with the undergraduate community, trying to increase student participation, and I act as a general go-between for enquiries which are mostly student-related. The aim overall is to achieve a greater sense of Diffusion being run by students as well as staff. This has also been achieved by additional student numbers on the Editorial Team, some undergraduate and some postgraduate, each representing their respective subjects and all interested and excited by what the journal is trying to achieve: to establish Diffusion as the standard bearer of student excellence at UCLan and to provide outstanding examples for other students to emulate.

Since becoming Student Editor in February, I have undertaken a number of important tasks. During my interview, I highlighted a number of areas where we might improve the marketing of Diffusion, especially online; so in February I set up Diffusion pages on the social networking sites Facebook and Twitter, enabling us to keep people updated regarding the progress of the journal, and also encouraging student interaction. In March and April I worked, with the Journal Editor, Carol Banks, communicating with Authors, Readers and the Print & Design Team, helping to prepare Volume 2 Issues 1 & 2 for publication in print. The print version of Volume 2 is currently at press and will be available shortly. At the same time, I have been in touch with previous contributors in an attempt to gather their thoughts on the whole process of being involved with the journal, collecting valuable insights into the benefits of being published in Diffusion. The results will be published online soon in the form of interviews and short updated biographies, which I hope will inspire more students to become involved. If any previous contributors want to offer something, please get in touch:

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May was taken up preparing this issue for publication online, corresponding with the Authors as they revise their work in response to feedback from Readers and the Editorial Team, and I am now arranging promotional events in conjunction with the release of Volume 2 in print.

All of the work I have done so far has provided me with invaluable experience that will undoubtedly serve me well in my future career. I hope that the prospect of becoming Student Editor of such an exciting and groundbreaking journal will inspire other students to become involved.