Editorial

Carol Banks (Consultant Editor)

When *Diffusion* was launched in 2008 it broke new ground for undergraduate research journals, in that its aim is multi-disciplinary: to publish articles selected from across the various Schools of the University of Central Lancashire, both Arts and Sciences. I am therefore very pleased to point out that this second issue in Volume 5 brings together eight pieces of undergraduate coursework from eight different Schools:

- Built and Natural Environment
- Health
- Art, Design and Performance
- The Lancashire Business School
- Forensic and Investigative Sciences
- Language, Literature and International Studies
- The Lancashire Law School
- Education and Social Science

In so doing, 5:2 further extends the range of subjects previously published in *Diffusion*. For here we have a first from the Lancashire Business School, Michael Brightman’s analysis of ‘The function of Government in times of financial crisis’, a first from Psychoanalysis and Culture in UCLan’s School of Health: Michael James’s ‘A Jungian analysis of the 1957 film 3:10 to Yuma’, and a first from Dance in Art, Design and Performance: Charlotte Louise Thompson’s ‘Personal expression: discovering the origins of creativity through Authentic Movement’.

Together with these new directions, 5:2 continues to demonstrate the high standard of work produced in subject areas already represented in past issues of *Diffusion*. A very topical article from Jane Friis, ‘Addressing the energy gap: a review of UK energy policy 2009-2010’, which adds to two articles from the School of Built and Natural Environment published in 5:1. Analysing a different topic of current interest we have an excellent contribution from the well-represented Lancashire Law School, Adam Rainsbury’s ‘Scottish Independence and the European Union’; whilst Daniel Threader’s research into miracles, ‘Can the “miracles” of Lourdes be classed as miraculous?’ provides another interesting read from Religion, Culture and Society.
Two further articles in this issue serve as a reminder that research cannot always be limited within a particular subject specific field, for it often crosses disciplinary boundaries. Rebecca Crankshaw applies her linguistic knowledge to forensic science to question ‘The validity of the Linguistic Fingerprint in forensic investigation’, and Stephanie Benz combines forensic studies with Law in order to examine the question of civil liberties and public security in the light of ‘The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984’.

All the articles published here originated as undergraduate coursework and were recommended by members of UCLan’s academic staff as outstanding examples in their class. Since undergraduates have little opportunity to examine work produced by their peers, these publications will, I hope, provide students, currently studying in these subject areas, with a standard to emulate, both in terms of the range of sources examined and in the ability to tease out significant and pertinent points and assemble these in a clearly expressed argument.

The exciting thing about research, whether actively participating in it, or simply reading about it, is that invariably research is at the cutting edge of something new. It shakes the ground beneath old theories and so called ‘truths’ and sometimes overturns them, to establish more advanced thinking and greater knowledge. Whilst very few individuals will ever compare with Einstein, everyone in Higher Education is part of this process of advancement, this reaching forward for the undiscovered.

In these times of concern over the ‘dumbing down’ of examination grades and the merits of ‘widening participation’, *Diffusion* is evidence that students at the University of Central Lancashire, which actively promotes wider access to excellence, are committed to the advancement of knowledge by research and achieving outstanding results across the disciplines.

In preparing 5:2 for publication, I am once more indebted to the Student Editor, Jennifer Lane, for her hard work and careful attention to detail on this final issue during her term of office. Jennifer’s ‘Afterword’ completes Volume 5 and a new Student Editor will replace her in January 2013.