

International Symposium on Trends in Functional Programming (TFP 2012): St Andrews, June 12-14, 2012

For a week in June, the scenic town of St Andrews was invaded by functional programmers as the International Symposium on Trends in Functional Programming (TFP 2012) returned to its Scottish roots. The three-day symposium formed the centrepiece of an eight day event focusing on advanced programming language research, including a SICSA-sponsored summer school on types in programming, a one-day workshop celebrating 75 years of the Lambda Calculus that brought key researchers to St Andrews, plus three other workshops covering educational trends, manycore computing, and the Erlang language. The keynote address was given by Prof. David Turner (University of Kent) who gave a fascinating talk about the history of lazy functional languages, including his own pioneering work whilst he was at St Andrews in the early 1970s (video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MHOgyd-1lc>).

In all, over 150 students and researchers visited St Andrews for TFP and the associated events. The symposium itself attracted a record 86 participants from seventeen countries and three continents, including the USA, Canada, India, China and Japan. 35 of these participants were research students (or undergraduates) and there was strong SICSA participation. The functional languages on show were equally diverse, including Haskell, Erlang, OCAML, F#, SaC, Hume and R. Although the technical programme was highly intensive with 41 presentations plus research posters over three days covering trendy topics ranging from refactoring multi-processor programs, through new execution replay techniques for debugging Haskell programs, to building formally verifiable supercompilers, ample time was also provided for informal discussion and networking, with many new and fruitful discussions taking place. We are grateful to SICSA for helping us to showcase Scotland's leading role in this exciting and growing research community.