



University of
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Annual Review

2019



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“I congratulate the University of St Andrews on being named UK University of the Year by the prestigious Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020.”

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon



Introduction by the Principal

The University of St Andrews exists to enable our students and researchers to question the world about them, to seek answers, and to relay their findings for the good of wider society. Our fundamental goal is to attract and nurture the best staff and the most promising students, and to provide an environment in which they can produce their best work for maximum societal benefit.

In the 2019 calendar year, we have proven why we are uniquely suited to this challenge: our world-class staff and students propelled us into an unprecedented second place in the *Guardian University Guide 2020*, second only to Cambridge; we were named UK University of the Year by the prestigious Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020; we once again received the highest ranking for student satisfaction in the *National Student Survey*; our commitment to gender equality has delivered 13 Athena SWAN awards; we won a total of £48.8 million in research grants; and we graduated more than 2,800 students from across 80 countries. 2019 was also a breakthrough year in terms of our ambitions to grow and create 500 new jobs, with confirmation of £26.5 million of Scottish Government investment in our new Eden Campus under the Tay Cities Deal.

Our international outlook has been strengthened with the launch of the Global Office to further our international partnerships. We were also proud to be awarded Sanctuary status by Universities of Sanctuary, acknowledging our desire to provide an academic environment which is safe for those fleeing violence and persecution.

I must also remark on our community's collective ability to withstand extraordinary events. In February 2019, our Biomolecular Sciences building on the North Haugh was severely damaged by fire. Thankfully no-one was injured, and temporary facilities are now in operation, but what must also be recognised is the substantial stress and practical difficulty that this single event has caused for research, teaching, and professional services staff. What is most remarkable is the extent to which colleagues across the University, and other institutions, brought moral and practical support. An institution that stands for more than 600 years is clearly supported by an impressive network.

I was honoured to have the opportunity to make a personal commitment to realising the potential of all these strengths when invited by Court to extend my contract until September 2026. I am committed to the opportunities and obligations this presents, and to continuing to work with the dedicated colleagues who have made 2019 so successful.

*Professor Sally Mapstone FRSE
Principal and Vice-Chancellor*



Strategy and Themes

Essential to maintaining our successes is intelligent and ambitious planning for our future, which is informed by the University Strategy 2018-2023. The Strategy highlights four key themes – World-leading St Andrews, Diverse St Andrews, Global St Andrews and Entrepreneurial St Andrews – all of which are underscored by a social responsibility statement.

In the past year this Strategy has received the highest form of endorsement – an unprecedented US\$10 million gift from friends and advocates within our academic family. Frank and Beverley MacInnis, whose son Robert graduated from St Andrews with a PhD in 2010, made their pledge on condition it is used to help realise the vision in the University's new strategic plan.

Our international partners have also been attracted to our vision for St Andrews as part of a worldwide network of excellent universities. A memorandum of understanding with the University of Bonn has provided new and far-reaching collaborations in research, study and administration and ensures a continual exchange of people and ideas between Scotland and Europe.

“When we spoke to Principal Mapstone about her vision for St Andrews, we had an immediate sense of engagement with her plans for the University.”

Frank MacInnis



Education

Our research-led teaching and enquiry is high quality, distinctive and collegial.

In the **2017 Teaching Excellence Framework**, St Andrews was awarded a Gold rating, with the panel judging that the University “delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK”.

We have also achieved global recognition in the following league tables:

- **Guardian University Guide 2020**
1st in Scotland; 2nd in UK
- **The Times and The Sunday Times University Guide 2020**
1st in Scotland; 3rd in UK
- **Complete University Guide 2020**
1st in Scotland; 3rd in UK
- **QS World University Rankings 2020**
100th in the world
In 2019:
43rd in the world for Arts and Humanities
18th in the world for Classics and Ancient History
8th in the world for Philosophy
18th in the world for Divinity
- **THE World Ranking 2020**
198th in the world; 54th in the world for Arts and Humanities



Professor Moira Jardine received a Suffrage Science award in recognition of her inspiring research into the evolutionary history of our solar system, as well as her ability to encourage other women to follow in her footsteps. She was commended for the creativity, rigour and candour of an inspirational scientist, along with the kindness and good humour of an excellent teacher.



Research Achievements

In 2019 the University of St Andrews was determined to enhance UK research, particularly in the face of uncertainty about the future of European grants.

The European Research Council endorsed our ambitions with a 2.5 million Euro award, recognising Professor Hill Kulu, of the School of Geography & Sustainable Development, as an outstanding researcher. This funding will support his work to study the lives of immigrants and their descendants. His project will help us to understand how employment, housing and family trajectories evolve and interact across the UK, France, Germany and Sweden and how factors related to a societal context, an early life context and critical transitions shape family histories.

Our reputation as a centre for marine research was strengthened by the opening of our new Scottish Oceans Institute (SOI) in September and our commitment to scholarship, commercialisation of research and advanced-level teaching to support the blue economy. In the same month, we launched the Sir James Mackenzie Institute for Early Diagnosis, to help improve earlier diagnosis of cancer, cardiovascular disease, mental health and infection. Then in December, research led by Dr Katherine Ellsworth-Krebs at the School of Geography & Sustainable Development, delivered crucial insights for energy policy – warning of the need to consider lifestyle expectations and demographic trends, generally seen as outside the remit of energy policy, if we are to meet global climate change targets.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of our Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence provided a platform to showcase our research strengths in terms of peace, conflict, and security. We were honoured that some of the biggest names in counter terrorism and academia travelled to join us for a symposium, and an opportunity to reflect and collaborate on what is an urgent moral and policy challenge.

We also believe in the importance to societies of the Arts – including philosophy, literature, history and music. In a year in which societies were increasingly challenged to think about gender and representation.



Professor Zinnie Harris championed female representation in theatre with her new version of *The Duchess of Malfi*, which opened at the Royal Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh. To wide acclaim she rewrote and cleverly directed the seventeenth-century story of revenge to celebrate a defiant, fiercely independent Duchess and explore how men react to female empowerment. This bold reinterpretation provides a pertinent contribution to the ongoing reevaluation of gender dynamics.

Meanwhile, Hannah Dean in the School of Management used the power of research to encourage female entrepreneurship, by placing inspiring stories of female business owners at the heart of the British Academy Summer Showcase 2019.

Our academic leadership was also given recognition when Professor James Harris, Head of Philosophy in the School of Philosophical, Anthropological & Film Studies; Dr Silvia Paracchini, Royal Society University Research Fellow; and Professor Kate Rudy from the School of Art History joined Professor Mapstone as new Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Professor Josep Call, world-leading primatologist, was also appointed as a Fellow of the British Academy. The University was also proud that Professor Ali Watson, expert in international relations and co-founder of The Third Generation Project, was awarded an OBE; Professor Sir Ian Boyd, founder of the Scottish Oceans Institute, was awarded a knighthood; and Professor Sarah Broadie, the world's foremost expert on Aristotle, was awarded an OBE.

Student Life and Achievements

The *National Student Survey (NSS)* named St Andrews the UK's top mainstream university for the eleventh time in 13 years. Among the strengths that make St Andrews special are our international and diverse community, unique traditions, and a wide range of extracurricular activities.

Last year we took great strides towards increasing the diversity of our student body, with 49% of Scottish entrants to St Andrews coming from a widening access background – from a deprived area, in receipt of free school meals, from a low progression school, or with a background in care. That figure grew from 39% to 49% in the space of a year, making us the most improved mainstream institution in Scotland in terms of widening access.

International diversity is also recognised as a crucial aspect of our demographic profile. In January 2019, we revealed a series of 60 student portraits to celebrate the unique characters from different backgrounds to be found across our student community. The Internationally Scottish exhibition provided a starting point for wider discussions about inclusivity, and how we can find new and creative ways to relate the experiences of students of different nationalities, faiths and philosophies.

In 2019, we were also reminded of the emergent leadership to be found across our student body. Our students made an undeniable statement of their capacity to motivate and guide decision-making when student organiser and activist Léa Weimann, who is in her third year studying International Relations and Sustainable Development, led 1,200 people on strike for Climate Action in St Andrews. The event saw students stand side-by-side with staff, schoolchildren and local residents in a line that stretched out of sight along the West Sands beach.

Students and staff stand side-by-side with school children, activists and local residents to form a line stretching out of sight, along the West Sands beach, as part of international climate strikes.

In June, **Tashi Tahir** proudly graduated with an MA degree in Management.

Persecuted for her religion, Tashi fled from Pakistan to Scotland with her mother in 2004 but was not granted discretionary 'leave to remain' in the UK for another ten years. With her mother suffering mental health problems, she was taken into foster care, detained at Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre and was in the asylum process for a decade.

Tashi, who was President of Refugee Action St Andrews during her time here, is now determined to use her education to fight for human rights.



In 2019, an R&A Scholarship enabled **Elizabeth Barnes** to undertake a journey, visiting refugee centres from Greece to Uganda, to teach trauma-informed yoga as a safe route to recovery and overall mental health management. Yoga is effective for alleviating mental, physical and emotional stress. By working with volunteers and aid organisations, Elizabeth was able to help promote community-led leadership by offering refugee communities the capacity to teach themselves.



In May, **Alex McMaster** and **Merlin Hetherington** completed a 10,000km cycling expedition through Africa to help in the fight against preventable blindness and deafness.

Around 285 million people in the world are estimated to be visually impaired, with 360 million hearing impaired. The majority of cases are preventable or treatable if diagnosed promptly. Alex and Marlin undertook their eight-month expedition from Cairo to Cape Town, enduring 13 punctures, several instances of debilitating illness and travelling through some of the world's most remote areas, to distribute over 1,000 Arclight diagnostic devices to healthcare workers in the region. Developed by the University's School of Medicine, the Arclight is a low-cost, solar-powered ophthalmoscope-otoscope designed specifically as an easy-to-use tool for outreach or screening programmes in low-income countries.



Staff Endeavour

In 2019 we began consulting on our People Strategy to ensure we develop a culture that supports staff and students to be their very best. The foundations for this strategy are already laid by over 2,800 staff who continuously expand our horizons, and contribute to the University's world-leading reputation.

Colleagues have been working hard to provide sustainable employment opportunities for the local community. In the past year the Estates Department took on seven new apprentices in trade disciplines including: slating/roofing, joinery, painting, electrical, gas maintenance, plumbing and sports surfaces. The IT Services team also appointed its twenty-fifth IT Apprentice, Nathan Beattie, as part of a programme which maintains a 100% employment success rate.

Staff have also been supporting inter-community activities, such as the We Matter project launched in November. The project connects researchers from the School of Physics & Astronomy with homeless and vulnerable people in Perth. Researchers facilitate hands-on workshops based on their research in partnership with Churches Action for the Homeless (CATH), a charity that runs a homeless shelter in the city. The sessions engage vulnerable audiences, but also develop the public engagement skills of the researchers who take part.

Staff have also been encouraging people to consider the environmental impact of their activities and find innovating ways to work, study and live sustainably. In June, the University's Environment Team joined up with local partners to launch Plastic Free St Andrews, aiming to bring people together to move towards making St Andrews completely free from single-use plastics.

These are just some of the creative and innovative ways our people have risen to the challenge of supporting and developing others. Our community is made stronger by their efforts, but we also recognise that wellbeing challenges exist. We are committed to ensuring that kindness and our capacity for support remains central to our culture. In 2019, a year after the University achieved NHS Scotland's Healthy Working Lives Gold Award, the University completed its first annual review and successfully retained its Gold Award status. The Gold Award recognises the University's continuing long-term commitment to the improvement of health, safety and wellbeing in the workplace and in the wider community.

The contribution of our colleagues will be vital to the University's future success. They are the true expression of our values, and in 2019 we hosted three fora for staff to express concerns, put forward suggestions, and raise issues in open and positive contexts. The development of our People Strategy will provide a wide-ranging framework of activities to build on these discussions and strengthen our commitment to inclusivity.



Gemma McNicoll-Brown, Delivered Catering Assistant Manager, launched a glass bottling system to provide bottled water for the delivered catering across the University. This will reduce the reliance on single-use plastic bottled water by 19,000 units annually.



The Admissions team took part in the local Toy Drive to help children and families in Fife celebrate the Festive Season. The Toy Drive aims to ensure that every child in North East Fife receives at least one gift, one stocking filler and one book to open at Christmas.



Students recognised **Gail Reid**, postgraduate secretary in the School of International Relations, with an award for Commitment by a Support Staff Member. They wanted to give thanks for the support she had shown class representatives, her compassion and dedication to the School.

Alumni Engagement

The University of St Andrews continues to be home to every graduate, wherever they may travel in the world. They form our international community, in which we embrace and welcome all our connections, and hold consideration for others and a desire to change the world for the better as central values. 2019 gave clear evidence of this, with alumni finding innovative ways to collaborate in the University's mission to make a difference.

The 1972 Medical Club wanted to find a way to back the University's efforts to widen access to education, and sought to make its own contribution. They decided to set up a class medical scholarship as part of the Wardlaw Scholarship scheme. The Club fund is supported by small annual contributions allowing a student an annual scholarship of £4,000. The University was proud to welcome the first recipient of the 1972 Club Wardlaw Scholarship in 2019.

History graduate Louis Supple (MA 2011) has also found new ways of keeping the University's history alive. In 2019, he skied across the Arctic island of Svalbard in preparation for fulfilling a long-held ambition to follow in the footsteps of former Rector Fridtjof Nansen. In 1888 Nansen, Norwegian explorer, scientist, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, skied 550kms to make the first crossing of the Greenland interior. Training to do the same, Supple overcame polar bear encounters, arctic storms and crevasses, and skied 200km. His message is: "if you want something badly enough and are willing to work for it, then anything is possible."

Meanwhile, Susie Carr was cheered on by our Saints Sport family when she was selected for the Great Britain women's squad in the Australian Football (AFL) European Championships in London in October 2019. Susie graduated with a degree in Philosophy in 2014, but considers her best times at St Andrews were spent playing hockey. It was in London in 2018 that Susie took her strength and skills to her first Aussie rules training session, and her passion grew from there. Her team made it all the way to the final of the AFL Championships.

We know that St Andrews graduates are special, and when they come together extraordinary things are possible. That is why in 2019 the University launched a new resource for alumni – Saint Connect. It is designed to provide a platform for keeping in touch with friends, connecting with mentors, and keeping up to date with alumni events. We are excited to see what our creative alumni do with it.



Kate Howatson (MA 1982) arrived as an undergraduate in 1978 and, in the finest St Andrews tradition, met her future husband **Kevin (MBChB 1980)** during first semester. Kevin died of Motor Neurone Disease (MND) in 2015, and Kate and her daughter Olivia decided to walk the North Coast 500, in the summer of 2019, in his memory and to support vital research into MND at St Andrews and beyond.



Louis Supple (MA 2011) on the Arctic island of Svalbard.

Helen Hwang came to study at the University of St Andrews in 1986 as part of a Junior Year Abroad (JYA) while she was an undergraduate at the University of Virginia. When her daughter decided to attend a summer programme here in June 2019, Helen took the opportunity to come back for a mothers' and daughters' reunion with Caroline Jeffs (BSc 1990) – the roommate with whom she has kept in touch for 33 years. "I think it's so important for alumni to continue to stay involved. As I get older, St Andrews friendships become more and more meaningful."



Fundraising

Supporting the ambitions of our Strategy, and ensuring the future success of the University, necessitates a programme of investments into our University estate. In March, we marked the topping out of the new Laidlaw Music Centre, a £12.5 million music building that will act as a creative catalyst for our vibrant, global community, while also drawing us closer to our local community. Work has also begun to develop the Younger Hall, which requires to be upgraded to provide a fitting space for the University's key ceremonial events and for significant concerts. These new developments, together with the opening of the new SOI and the Sir James Mackenzie Institute, are the final estate projects that were enabled by our 600th Anniversary Campaign, which was completed last year after exceeding its £100 million target.

To follow up on this tremendous success, we have launched a feasibility study in anticipation of the launch of a new fundraising campaign, the centrepiece of which will be fundraising for the creation of a new University college, on the Madras site on South Street, committed to the social sciences. It will bring together three of our outstanding Schools: Economics & Finance, International Relations, and Management. By co-locating our exemplary researchers we hope to foster further interdisciplinary research, while state-of-the-art facilities with increased capacity will sustain St Andrews' reputation as one of the world's foremost educational institutions for the teaching of social science subjects.

Fundraising to make this site a transformative and inspirational space for the University of St Andrews in the twenty-first century will be a major focus of our activities from now on.

We are also proud that in 2019 donor contributions helped support over 2,500 scholarships, providing bright students with educational opportunities.

Lorna Jamieson
First year undergraduate MMath (Hons) Mathematics
St Andrews Wardlaw Scholar

The Wardlaw Scholarship has helped me endlessly with my studies, and also, as I am a blind student, it has helped me overcome certain specific difficulties which arise from this.

I hope to use my degree to work in science, particularly in the fields of physics involving fusion, and in the study of the sun, which are both topics I am very enthralled by and would adore working with.

Additionally, I have begun to dance and have attended a pointe class as well as practising ballet in my spare time. I attended many ceilidhs to continue learning and improving.



Ewen Lawrence
Third year undergraduate MPhys (Hons) Theoretical Physics

I have now completed my Junior Honours year, studying Theoretical Physics at St Andrews. I am extremely grateful for the financial support I receive, as it has allowed me to pursue my dreams and show what I can achieve. Probably the most significant thing this year is my decision to pursue a career in education.



Finance

Based on the latest report, **Economic Impact of the University of St Andrews, 2016/17**, for every £1 of public money received from the Scottish Funding Council, the University was able to leverage almost another £5 from other sources and deliver a positive return of £12 on the economy overall.



In 2018-2019 our **total income** increased by 2.2% to

£257.4 million

Donations and endowments in the year increased by £5.2 million to a total of

£9.3 million

The students' **Charities Campaign** raised

£65,420

which was split between three nominated charities: Fife Women's Aid, The Wave Project and Médecins Sans Frontières

Overall, the **Students' Association** raised

£117,220

for more than 40 different student supported charities

Research income was

up 2.9%

compared to the previous three-year average

Funding body grants totalled

£39 million

– an increase of £0.8 million (2.0%)

Investment income, which helps to support scholarships, bursaries and widening access initiatives, increased by 36% to

£3.7 million

Most recent figures identify a mean **gender pay gap** of

22.6%

(compared to 23.3% as at 31 March 2017)

“Gender pay is openly and regularly discussed within the University, and a working group has been established with the local Trade Unions to build a greater understanding of the drivers behind the pay gap and identify further actions to address it.”

Gender Pay Gap Report 2018

Community and Corporate Social Responsibility

Our social responsibility statement commits us to supporting local business and community wherever possible. A tangible outcome has been the appointment of the University's first Community Engagement and Social Responsibility Officer, now taking an overview of how we engage with the town and looking at how we can strengthen our relationships further.

Key to our community relationships is our ability to 'consume our own smoke'. In 2019 the University embarked on a £3.75 million energy conservation overhaul to reduce its carbon footprint by 950 tonnes a year. Among the energy saving measures being deployed are a new district heating network to supply heat and power to University buildings in the centre of St Andrews, installing new energy efficient LED lighting, and fitting solar power units at the University Sports Centre.

Progress has also been made towards developing our cultural assets in ways that can engage our local community. Last year we appointed new directors to lead the Byre Theatre and our new University Museums. They will build on the intensity and diversity of these multi-arts venues to open up our resources to the local community, as well as national and international visitors.

We are also working hard to use our research to deliver local benefit. World-renowned dementia expert Dr Maggie Ellis is spearheading efforts to make St Andrews a dementia friendly community. In October, she brought a Virtual Dementia Tour to St Andrews as an opportunity to heighten awareness of a condition that kills more people than heart disease or cancer. Dr Ellis' mission is to help local residents learn how they can contribute towards helping supporting individuals with dementia in the town.

Cultivating curiosity is at the heart of what our University does, and in July we hosted the University's first Adult Learning Day to encourage people to think about learning something new. The event provided a showcase for the range of learning opportunities in the local area, from volunteer training through to degree level study.

Hundreds of people have also participated in a wide range of our engagement opportunities, including talks, exhibitions, community theatre, comedy and family activities.



In January **Principal Professor Sally Mapstone** welcomed representatives from more than 100 local societies, clubs and groups to an event to celebrate the relationship between the University and the town.



Arran Beekeepers

Luke Woodford was the 2019 winner of the Collaboration Award at the University of St Andrews Public Engagement Conference and Awards Ceremony.

Luke is a PhD candidate in the School of Biology, researching a parasite deadly to honey bees called *Varroa*. The *Varroa* parasite attaches itself to honey bees and feeds on their haemolymph (blood) and body fat. This not only weakens the bee, but also results in the transmission of viruses and other diseases. Luke and his colleagues are investigating biological controls which are affordable to beekeepers, as this mite has caused many losses of honey bee colonies around the world.

This research is of particular interest to the Arran Beekeepers Group, whose bees were badly affected by the *Varroa* mite, losing all their colonies in 2013, and are keen to learn how best to save their bees. Luke and the Arran bee group are working together to coordinate beekeeping knowledge with the science. The beekeepers take an active role in collecting the data and field samples, which Luke can then analyse to inform his findings.

Both Luke and the Arran Beekeepers Group report this mutually beneficial relationship is working well.



University of
St Andrews



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