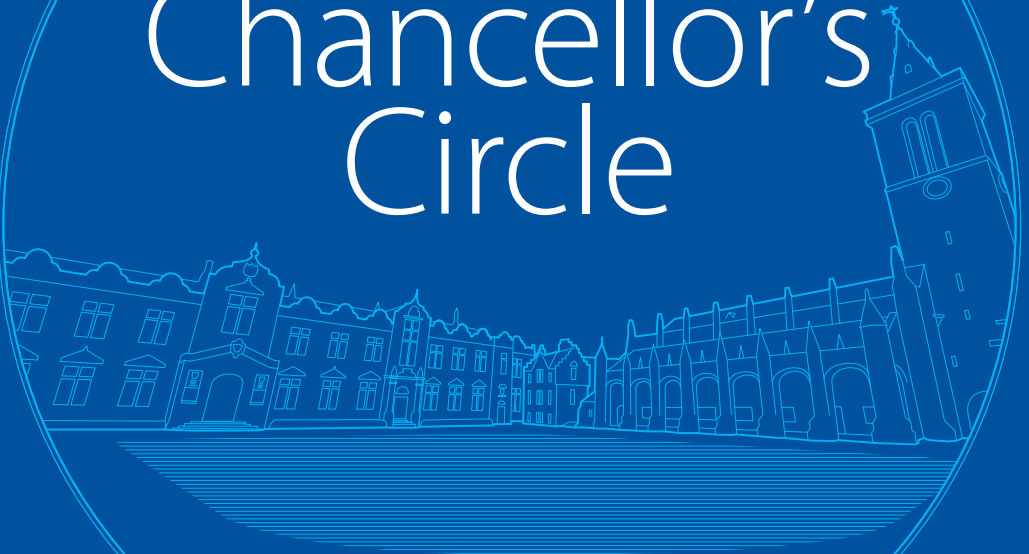




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# The Chancellor's Circle



Newsletter  
Summer 2024

The Legacy Newsletter from the University of St Andrews

## Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of our Chancellor's Circle newsletter. We established the Chancellor's Circle in 2011 to recognise and thank those generous alumni and friends who have chosen to remember the University in their will during their lifetime.

It is presided over by The Rt Hon Lord Campbell of Pittenweem CH CBE PC KC FRSE, Chancellor of the University of St Andrews, and it is our pleasure to meet with members twice a year in the UK with further meetings in the US.

We hope that this newsletter will serve to keep members informed about events, University news, legal and tax changes, and that it will share inspiring stories of legacy donors.

To date, more than 500 alumni, staff and friends have notified us of their intention to leave us a gift in their will.

By leaving a gift to St Andrews, you have become part of the University story: its history and its future. Your generosity will create a lasting impact for generations to come.

**Every gift – large or small – helps us to transform lives.**

We are incredibly grateful to all those who have remembered the University in their will, or who are considering leaving a gift to St Andrews.

With warmest wishes,



Katrina Bell, Legacies Manager



## A message from the Chancellor

I am delighted to introduce the inaugural issue of The Chancellor's Circle Newsletter. This publication aims to celebrate the enduring impact of your generosity on the University and on its students – present and future.

As Chancellor, I have the privilege of witnessing the transformative power of your support – whether it has enabled us to buy equipment that is key to groundbreaking research (see the Dr Murray and Sylvia Fuhrman legacy detailed on p. 4) or has transformed lives through undergraduate or postgraduate scholarships (see pp. 5 and 6). Your support enables all of this. It propels us to new heights in education, enables our researchers to make discoveries, and changes lives for the better.

Our University has been a beacon of knowledge and progress since its foundation in 1413. You make it possible for us to continue this role.

Thank you for sharing in our vision for the University of St Andrews. I sincerely hope that you enjoy reading this first issue.

**The Rt Hon Lord Campbell of Pittenweem CH CBE PC KC FRSE**



## Leaving a legacy: Dr Murray and Sylvia Fuhrman



Dr Murray Fuhrman graduated from St Andrews in 1936 with a degree in Medicine. He was one of a group of Jewish Americans who were welcomed by the University in the 1920s and 1930s when they were barred from studying at medical schools in the United States.

Brooklyn-born Murray cherished his time here, where he trained as a radiologist, and was awarded a Full Blue in boxing, although he hung up his gloves after knocking out an opponent! His life post-graduation was nothing short of extraordinary. He organised British medical units to fight Fascists in Spain, dodged execution and lived to be 82 notwithstanding a diagnosis of acute malignant hypertension which – he was told – would kill him within six months at the age of 34.

He credited his recovery to his wife Sylvia (née Horowitz), who had been warned not to marry him because of this disease. A strong and inspirational woman, she took no heed and embarked upon a full life with Murray, cooking his three meals a day based on a strict 'rice diet' which severely restricted salt and animal fat.

Sylvia had a life no less extraordinary. By the time she met Murray, she had already made a name for herself in the world of fabric design. One of her creations was made into a gown for Eleanor Roosevelt. Sylvia had first met her aged 15 during the Depression when she won a poster competition advertising the Brooklyn Free Milk Fund. They remained friends for the rest of the First Lady's life.

Her family changed their name to Howard in the hope of flying under the radar of Father Coughlin (the Canadian-American Catholic priest and radio personality who widely promoted anti-semitic views) and Sylvia travelled the world as a designer and stylist, even creating the packaging for Fabergé's Tigress perfume. Her then fiancé was lost at sea at the age of 23 after trying to fly solo across the Atlantic to aid Jewish refugees in Palestine, and she later rejected a wealthy suitor in favour of the fearless Murray Fuhrman.



The rest – as they say – was history. The couple continued to excel in their respective spheres. Whilst Sylvia reluctantly quit her job to be a housewife, she also became Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations – a role which she held until the age of 91 – and threw herself into fundraising and lobbying, all for a salary of \$1 per year because Murray hadn't wanted his wife to have to 'work'.

They had a daughter – Leni – who designed the Messenger of Peace pin that Kofi Annan awarded to prominent individuals for their contributions to world peace. Kofi and his wife Nane had an enduring friendship with Sylvia and Murray, and Kofi flew to New York from Geneva to celebrate her 90th birthday.

Sylvia accompanied Murray on his return visits to St Andrews and understood the impact and influence that his university years had on his life and work. His career in radiology would simply not have been possible without that warm welcome from the University's School of Medicine at a time when Jews faced barriers at every turn. When Murray died in 1994, his ashes were scattered by the sea in St Andrews.

When Sylvia died in 2020, she left a bequest in her will in memory of her husband and to thank the School of Medicine for providing him with the opportunity to study and succeed in his chosen field.



Thanks to her generous bequest, the School was able to purchase a Jess Simple Western System (JESS) which enables scientists to identify proteins, analyse their expression levels and understand their role in kidney cancer, amongst other diseases. This will help – in combination with other methodologies – to provide biomarker signatures to further stratify regimens for patients with kidney cancer.

Dr Murray and Sylvia Fuhrman were grateful for all that the University gave to them and we, in turn, are thankful for their generous donation and the impact it will have on the future of medical research at St Andrews.

*Our thanks to Murray and Sylvia's daughter, Leni, and son-in-law Charles DeFanti, for sharing an insight into their fascinating lives.*



## Scholars' stories: thanks to you



'I am 19 years old and from Kilmarnock in East Ayrshire. I have completed my second – very fulfilling – year of study in Biology.

'Being the first in my family to attend university, I feel incredibly lucky to be here, especially considering the prestige of St Andrews. This is in no small part thanks to the kindness of legacy donor Dr Gordon H Carruthers, who funded my Wardlaw Scholarship.

'In addition to my studies, I have been very fortunate to make a couple of very good friends this year who are extremely supportive and accommodating of my cerebral palsy. During first year, my disability meant that I was not able to participate in as many social activities as I would have liked, so it was harder to make meaningful friendships.

'This year has been very different. I have been on trips, attended balls and society events, and enjoyed far more freedom than I have ever experienced before. Small moments like these may be taken for granted by some, but to me they mean the world.

'University has allowed me to grow both academically and socially, and I believe both have been equally life changing.'

**Ellie Finlayson**  
2nd year BSc (Hons) Biology  
Dr Gordon H Carruthers Wardlaw Scholar



'It was an honour to attend the Chancellor's Circle event in autumn last year, and to meet some of you there. It gave me an opportunity to speak with St Andrews alumni and fellow students who have encountered challenges similar to myself.

'Through the generosity of the Dr Lawrence M Wodehouse Undergraduate Scholarship I have been able to focus on my studies in Management without additional financial stress. I particularly enjoyed the topic 'Analysis of Financial Data'. Despite my initial reservations about this area of study, I found myself enjoying and understanding it thanks to the exceptional teaching of Dr Lori Davis.

'My scholarship has enabled me to balance my work and study commitments with extracurricular activities. I joined the University's Yoga Society and have found great support from club members. I also unwind with the Knitting Club and plan to join the Women in Business Society next year.

'My scholarship has been instrumental in allowing me to participate fully in university life and pursue academic excellence. I could not be more honoured to attend St Andrews.'

**Ava Holmes**  
2nd year MA (Hons) Management  
Dr Lawrence M Wodehouse Undergraduate Scholar



'I can hardly believe I'm halfway through my time at St Andrews already! I have had so many opportunities to develop as a person and the experience has allowed me to see the potential in longer-term career goals.

'I have volunteered with Zero Gravity, an online portal to support school pupils from under-resourced backgrounds through the UCAS process. I have also mentored new students coming to St Andrews, was promoted to Senior Student Ambassador, and have been elected as a student representative on hall and academic committees.

'In addition, I'm part of the First Chances Fife Summer Schools team, encouraging school pupils from under-resourced areas to consider higher education. My hope is that I can inspire young people and show them that they, too, can access a university education.

'I am very grateful to have been offered a place back in catered halls for the coming academic year. In halls you know help is always at hand from the wardens if you need it.

'There is no doubt in my mind that without the support of the Barbara Bennett Ure Scholarship, I would not have been able to stay at university through the current financial crisis.'

**Donald Campbell**  
2nd year MMath (Hons) Mathematics  
Barbara Bennett Ure Scholar



'I grew up in Romania and moved to the UK for my studies and work, following my passion for environmental science and technology. This is what motivated me to develop my own research project, which I hope will contribute to solving humanity's greatest challenge – climate change.

'My scholarship has enabled me to expand my research through a PhD at St Andrews. I am investigating how virtual reality (VR) can improve climate change communication and influence ecological attitudes and behaviour.

'Although climate change threatens many aspects of our lives, these are often perceived as distant because they are communicated in abstract ways. VR has the potential to address this psychological barrier by enabling people to experience and visualise the future impacts of global warming in concrete ways.

'My scholarship has helped me immensely in realising these academic pursuits and making a difference in the world. It has enabled me to travel on research trips and connect with experts in my field. It is also helping me through the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis. I am extremely grateful for the support, which has allowed me to pursue my passion.'

**Maria Andrei**  
2nd year PhD Computer Science  
Spragge Conservation Scholarship

## A 'New College' for St Andrews

The University is in the quiet phase of a new comprehensive fundraising campaign to raise £300 million. At its heart is the £120m redevelopment of a 'New College' for St Andrews on a site formerly occupied by the town's state secondary school and acquired by the University in 2021.

The 'New College' will be home to the School of International Relations and to a world-leading Business School, comprising the Schools of Economics and Finance, and Management.

It will not only create a world-class facility for our leading academics and attract the highest calibre of students from around the world but will also provide for the future physical and digital needs of a globally-focused university preparing for the challenges of the twenty-first century.

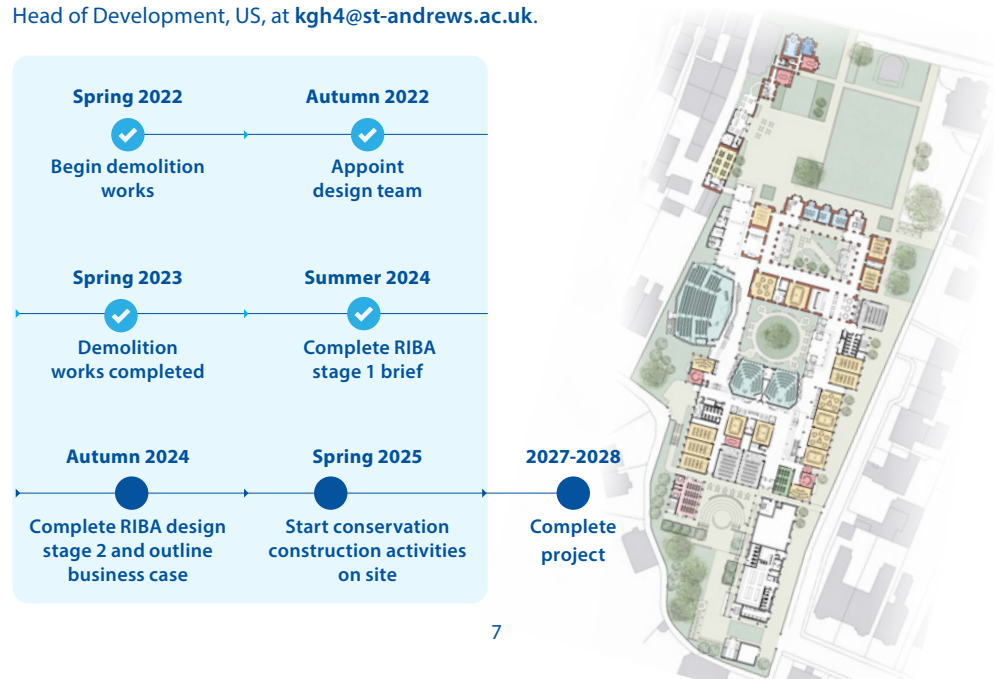
WilkinsonEyre – who have transformed heritage sites such as Battersea Power Station and the Weston Library, Oxford – have been appointed to design 'New College'. Demolition of the buildings previously on the site has now been completed and the project is entering an exciting and dynamic phase.

Assistant Vice-Principal Professor Frank Lorenz Müller, Dean of Learning and Teaching (the project sponsor) says:

'We are currently in the middle of an intensive process of consulting with all the future users of the New College, teasing out their ambitions and requirements for the building. This will ensure that the New College will be a perfect fit for the future needs of the University as well as a source of pride for the town and the wider St Andrews community.'

'As the first designs are being developed and refined, the New College is taking shape in front of our eyes.'

To hear more about our exciting plans, or to support New College, contact Robert Fleming, Director of Development, at [director.development@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:director.development@st-andrews.ac.uk) or Kathryn Humphreys, Head of Development, US, at [kgh4@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:kgh4@st-andrews.ac.uk).



## Tax tips for legacy donors

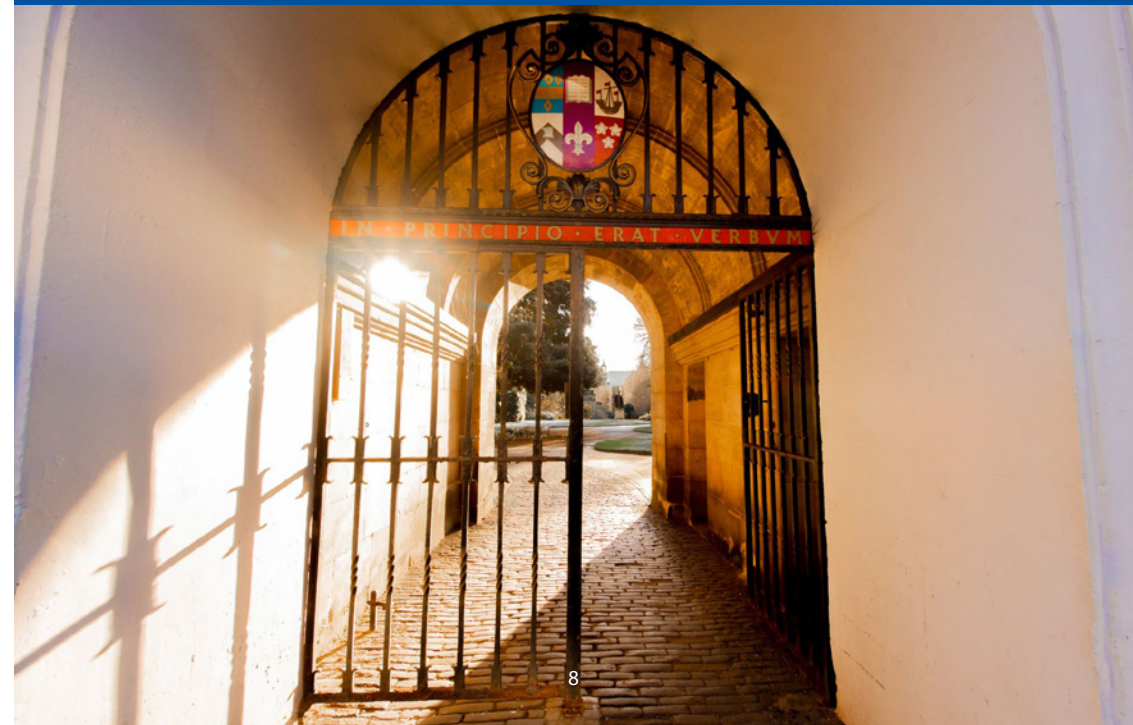
A gift in your will to a registered charity is a tax-effective way for you to support causes that you are passionate about, without affecting your finances during your lifetime.

Legacy gifts to the University of St Andrews will cost you nothing today but will be of tremendous value to the University for years to come. There is no minimum amount, and any gifts can be left either to a specific area of the University or its research, or to St Andrews more generally to be used where it will be of most benefit.

Key considerations for reducing your exposure to Inheritance Tax (IHT):

- Estates of a deceased person are subject to IHT at a rate of 40% on the amount over the 'nil rate band' (NRB) of £325,000.
- Assets which are passed to a spouse or civil partner benefit from a 100% exemption.
- NRBs are transferable between spouses, which means a surviving spouse would have an exemption of £650,000 on their own death.
- There is also a 'Residence Nil Rate Band' to relieve IHT on a residence if it passes outright to children or other descendants. This could mean overall allowances for a married couple of £850,000.
- If you choose to leave a gift in your will of 10% of your net estate to support a charity you are passionate about, the IHT rate will be reduced from 40% to 36%.
- You can gift up to £3,000 per year free from IHT or carry it forward by one year to £6,000.
- Gifts made to a couple as a wedding gift may be exempt from IHT – up to £5,000 for parents of the bride or groom, £2,500 for grandparents and up to £1,000 for other individuals.
- If you have life assurance, the policies can be written in trust to ensure that death benefits are exempt from your estate when it comes to IHT calculations.

We recommend using a solicitor or professional will-writer to ensure your will is legal and valid.



## Chancellor's Circle events

### November 2023

Our thanks to all those who joined us in St Andrews in November for our Chancellor's Circle event in Lower College Hall.

It was a pleasure to welcome so many members for a sit-down afternoon tea and updates from the Chancellor, The Rt Hon Lord Campbell of Pittenweem and from the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dame Sally Mapstone. The Chancellor and Principal shared insights into the importance of legacy giving and developments at the University.

We were also joined by Dr Katie Eagleton, Director of Libraries and Museums at the University, who gave an insight into the history of artefacts and museums at St Andrews. Dr Eagleton shared photographs from the University Collections.



### May 2024

Members gathered at London's Inner Temple in May for the second of our events this academic year. It was fantastic to see so many guests in attendance to hear from Dr James Rae of the University of St Andrews on the subject of climate change.

Dr Rae is Director of Impact in the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences. In his talk, he referred to a recently published piece of work on changes in carbon dioxide over the last 50,000 years. Members are welcome to contact Dr Rae by email at [jwbr@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:jwbr@st-andrews.ac.uk) with any follow-up questions.

Robert Fleming, Director of Development, took the opportunity at our London event to announce the milestone of reaching 500 members of the Chancellor's Circle this year. We are incredibly grateful for your support and commitment to St Andrews.

### Dates for your diary

We are looking forward to hosting the following events in the months ahead, to which all are warmly invited:

#### **AIG Women's Open** 21-25 August 2024

The famous Old Course will play host to the AIG Women's Open for the third time this summer. The Development Office is looking forward to catching up with any alumni, parents and friends who are visiting town for this prestigious golf championship. More information will follow.

#### **Chancellor's Circle and Campaign launch** 26 September 2024

Our next Chancellor's Circle event will be Diva Opera's exclusive performance of Rossini's comedic masterpiece *The Barber of Seville* at the Laidlaw Music Centre. The event forms part of the launch weekend for the University's new philanthropic campaign.

#### **Alumni Carol Services** 9 and 18 December 2024

Our Alumni Carol Services are always a highlight. Join us in St Salvator's Chapel, St Andrews on Monday 9 December, or at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London on Wednesday 18 December, for this year's festive celebrations. We hope to see many of you at these occasions.



## Keep in touch

We will be in touch with our Chancellor's Circle members throughout the year. To speak to a member of the Development Office, contact:

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Legacies Manager

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[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/development/your-data-and-privacy](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/development/your-data-and-privacy)

Here is a copy of our gift acceptance policy:  
[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/policy/external-relations-fundraising-fundraising-campaigns/gift-acceptance-policy.pdf](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/policy/external-relations-fundraising-fundraising-campaigns/gift-acceptance-policy.pdf)

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