



University of  
St Andrews

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1413



# LINK

*The newsletter for families  
of undergraduate students*

SEMESTER 2 ISSUE  
Summer 2024

# Welcome

Welcome to the summer issue of *LINK* magazine.

It's hard to believe that another semester has passed and it's almost time for the Class of 2024 to graduate. We are looking forward to catching up with many of you during the graduation week celebrations and are hoping for plenty of sunshine after far too many April (and May) showers.

Semester 2 has been filled with online and in-person events including our Global Burns Night in January, Saints Talks, concerts live-streamed from the Laidlaw Music Centre and receptions for our alumni, families and friends in China, India, the UAE, the USA, Canada and London.

We also hosted the third edition of the Sands International Film Festival in St Andrews in April, featuring Hollywood stars, and independent directors and producers from the industry.

In this issue, you can read about the upcoming launch of our new philanthropic campaign, the academic achievements of our University colleagues, highlights from Saints Sport and how to connect with the Kaleidoscope Alumni Network. We also highlight some of the top news stories from St Andrews (our front cover image refers to the return of clinical training in Fife for our medical students), hear from alumni who have shared their experiences post-graduation, and feature a message from the Annual Giving team.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest issue and if you're in town during the summer, please do pop in and say hello.



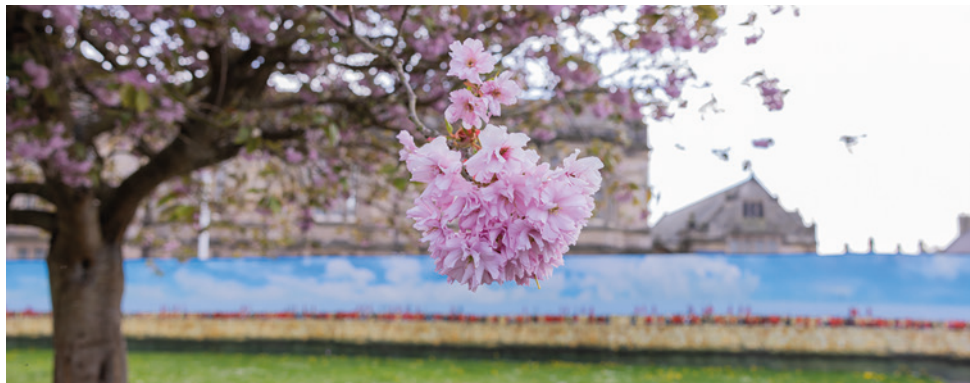
Robert Fleming, Director of Development



Gaudie 2024 took a different route to the lower cross pier due to storm damage on the main pier

# Launch of the new campaign

26-29 September 2024



Cherry blossom outside 'New College'

The University of St Andrews is launching a new, comprehensive philanthropic campaign between Thursday 26 and Sunday 29 September. The weekend will feature a range of events across the town, and we hope that many of our Family Programme members will be able to join us.

At the heart of the campaign is the £100m redevelopment of a 'New College' for St Andrews on the central location formerly occupied by the town's state secondary school.

The 'New College' – the University's first in three centuries – will:

- host the highly-rated School of International Relations and create a world-leading Business School by bringing together the Schools of Management and Economics and Finance (ranked first and second in the UK respectively by the *Guardian University Guide 2024*)
- enable our internationally renowned educators across the social sciences to collaborate and respond to rapidly evolving global challenges – including the climate crisis
- inspire and equip the next generation of leaders to understand the geopolitical framework in which they operate, and to be socially responsible and ethical.

Demolition on the 'New College' site has been completed and work is already under way to deliver the vision created by award-winning architects [WilkinsonEyre](#).

Consideration has been given to the careful preservation of the historically important site and its existing heritage buildings, while integrating new architecture and digital infrastructure to meet the needs of our students and academics. We will install state-of-the-art technology and will ensure that the building conforms to the very highest environmental standards, in line with the University's commitment to achieving net zero by 2035.

The new campaign will be launched this September with a programme of special events. In addition to 'New College', other key projects will include the creation of a Digital Nexus building at the heart of the Science and Medicine Campus; the promotion of a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the University, and an increase in the number of postgraduate scholarships available to ensure that we can compete globally to attract the best researchers and therefore the thought leaders of the future.

If you are interested in more information, please contact Gavin Rennie, Alumni Relations Manager, at [gagr1@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:gagr1@st-andrews.ac.uk)

## Family Programme – your stories – Professor Ian Baxter

As Family Programme members you are a key part of our global University community. As such, we would love to hear about your experience of your student's journey from Freshers' Week through to graduation. In this issue, Ian Baxter – Professor of Historic Environment Management at Heriot-Watt University – reflects on how St Andrews has helped his son Thomas to gain independence and make the most of every opportunity.



Thomas and Ian Baxter

### **Our St Andrews journey**

I've gone from having a teenager to having a really well turned out adult and I think the University experience has been a key part of that. Thomas had a rocky start at St Andrews, matriculating during the pandemic. Despite missing out on the typical student first year, he has had fantastic opportunities and has made the most of the educational, social and sporting experiences on offer. He has been really privileged to study in a small, collaborative and friendly institution and has made what will clearly be lifelong friends and a network of connections.

As I have watched Thomas embrace his journey into adulthood, I, too, have gone on a journey from nervousness at drop off to quickly realising that he has made himself thoroughly at home in St Andrews. He is independent and has the ability to succeed. I've also been on a journey of intellectual discovery through him. Thomas studied marine biology – a subject about which I know little – and I have taken every opportunity to learn from him.

As he prepares to graduate, there are two anecdotes that have kept us amused about his time in St Andrews. Firstly, the grumbles about the distance from his accommodation to the Scottish Oceans Institute which has ranged from a 90-second walk from East Shore to a 'lengthy' six-minute walk from the Kinness Burn. He received no sympathy from us. Compared to our experience of studying in Edinburgh, Nottingham, Leicester and Cambridge, St Andrews is a big village!

The second plays to all the St Andrews stereotypes – with much good humour, of course. On one occasion we were in the area and offered to treat our "poor student offspring" to lunch. As it turned out, Thomas was far too busy cooking beer-battered fish with mango salsa salad with his girlfriend. I suppose we were reassured he was enjoying a balanced diet!

Good or bad, he has been influenced subliminally by parents who have both worked in academia. I'm delighted that he has been awarded a PhD studentship at St Andrews, starting in September, to continue with marine biology. We'll have a few more years of vicariously enjoying the St Andrews experience!

Speaking as an academic who has worked in a number of larger institutions around the UK – don't underestimate the power, pleasure and potential of the small. The global reach, diversity of subjects, academic excellence, smaller class sizes, access to world-class teachers and networking opportunities for St Andrews students is huge – bigger than they probably realise – and is just there to be tapped into. As parents we should encourage them to do this as it will open up all kinds of opportunities. On the practical – buy them a woolly hat and if you're feeling really nice, a wetsuit too – what's not to love about student life by the seaside!



## 1413 Teaching Excellence Awards

Outstanding lecturers, supervisors and other colleagues were recently recognised for their achievements as part of the newly rebranded 1413 Teaching Excellence Awards.

The awards ceremony – held in April in Parliament Hall – also recognised those who have received a category of **Advance HE Fellowship** this academic year, either through direct application to Advance HE or through the University's internal St Andrews Recognition Scheme (STARS). Those who have graduated from the University's Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PGCAP) were also congratulated.

The awards comprise University Teaching Awards (nominated by Heads of Schools) and Students' Association Teaching Awards (nominated by students) and acknowledge staff who have gone above and beyond to support students through their studies.

[Read more about the Teaching Excellence Awards 2024](#)



1413 Teaching Excellence Awards recipients with Vice-Principal Education (Proctor) Professor Clare Peddie, and Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Sally Mapstone FRSE

## Creating kaleidoscopic connections

Since the launch of the Kaleidoscope Alumni Network in November 2022, we've been on a journey to strengthen relationships with our global community of alumni, current students, friends and families. The warmth of the welcome we have received has been immense and we are so grateful for that. So many people have been able to relate to our shared mission to create a network that is built in alignment with **our values of inclusivity and diversity**.

In the inaugural issue of the **Kaleidoscope Alumni Network newsletter** – published to mark our first anniversary – one of our current parents, Julie Barry, shared the words and motivation that inspire her to make a difference. Part of her reflection is on the world in which her daughter is living and learning – you can **read Julie Barry's piece here**.

Earlier this year we partnered with the University's Persian Society and the Wardlaw Museum to celebrate Nowruz – Iranian New Year. We supported the Chinese Hongpao Society who staged a spectacular Lunar New Year performance in the Laidlaw Music Centre complete with a tea ceremony and traditional foods. We are building a calendar of festivals to honour the range of cultural celebrations throughout the year and to acknowledge the events that are special to us by making them visible to all.

Our alumni receptions in Beijing and Shanghai in April generated new opportunities to connect. Speaking with our guardians, alumni and friends in China, we're reassured that the value that comes from creating connections and enabling the sharing of information, knowledge and experiences is as important to us as it is to everyone in our community.

We want to hear your thoughts – as members of the **Family Programme** – about the world around us, about your family's world at home and about how you view the world that is St Andrews. We want to understand your lived experiences, shared and unique: there will always be someone who can relate to or benefit from hearing them.

Whether you would like to be directly involved with Kaleidoscope or support those who are, our community is stronger for your participation and insights. Whether it's writing an article, sharing a perspective, a memory, or exploring and explaining cultural and religious events, your voice matters. If you would like to connect with likeminded guardians and friends – anywhere in the world – we would love to support and enable those connections.

If you would like to be involved in discussions, help to shape events, share traditions and connect through your thoughts and ideas, we would love to start those conversations. Let's build our network together and work to represent the vibrant kaleidoscope that is our St Andrews community.

For more information and for articles from the Kaleidoscope Alumni Network **visit the KAN website** or **connect with Kaleidoscope Alumni Network on LinkedIn**.



Alumni reception in Beijing



# St Andrews in the News

Read about what's been happening this semester in and around the University

## Medicine comes home to St Andrews

A major new partnership between the University of St Andrews and NHS Fife has followed a key decision by the Scottish Parliament in 2021 to remove a historic prohibition that prevented the University from awarding its own medical qualifications.

This means that after years of having to undertake their clinical training elsewhere in the UK, St Andrews medical students can now do all their training and complete their primary medical qualification in Fife.

[Read more about the new five-year medical degree](#)



## Silver Athena Swan award for St Andrews

The University of St Andrews has received a prestigious institutional Silver Athena Swan Award in recognition of its continued efforts to advance gender equality across the University.

This achievement marks a further step toward the University's strategic vision to become a beacon of inclusivity, placing diversity and equality at the heart of everything we do.

[Read more about the Athena Swan award](#)



## Arts and Humanities ranked in global top 50

Arts and Humanities subjects at the University of St Andrews are among the strongest in the world for teaching and research, according to a new international ranking published in April.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024 place St Andrews 56th in the world for Arts and Humanities study and research, with five schools and departments featuring in the world's top 50. A further eight subject areas were ranked in the world's top 100.

The [QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024](#) rank 1,559 institutions across 55 individual subjects within five broad subject areas.

[Read more about the Arts and Humanities world ranking](#)



## St Andrews in the News – continued

### Sands: International Film Festival, April 2024

A dazzling array of international talent attended the third edition of the Festival, including Joe and Anthony Russo, Harry and Tom Holland, Steven Soderbergh, Alan Silvestri, Debra Zane and Donald Mustard.

Pictured opposite (left to right) are Joe Russo, Tom Holland, Harry Holland, and Anthony Russo attending the Opening Night of the Sands: International Film Festival of St Andrews on 19 April 2024. Photo credit: (Photo by Euan Cherry/Getty Images for University of St Andrews)



We are grateful to AGBO, the Russo Brothers and the Murphy Family for their continued generous support, and to all the other donors who helped make Sands24 such a success.

### Read more about Sands: International Film Festival of St Andrews

### Leading St Andrews academics recognised as RSE Fellows

A mathematician, a sea mammal expert, a Professor of Greek, and a researcher in British culture were among 57 new Fellows who were elected in April to the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) – Scotland's National Academy.

Jonathan Fraser (Professor of Mathematics and Statistics); Professor Emeritus Ailsa Hall (formerly Director of the Scottish Sea Mammal Research Unit); Jason Konig (Professor of Greek and co-director of the Centre for Ancient Environmental Studies and Emma Sutton (Professor of English and Associate of the Centre for Pacific Studies) have joined an existing group of more than 1800 individuals who give their time and expertise for free to support the RSE in delivering its mission of 'knowledge made useful'.



Left to right: Professor Jason Konig, Professor Emma Sutton, Professor Emeritus Ailsa Hall and Professor Jonathan Fraser

### Read more about the new RSE Fellows

### St Andrews secures £2m green hydrogen funding

The University of St Andrews has been awarded a £2 million grant by the **Wolfson Foundation** to enable the development of green hydrogen technologies that will play a key role in decarbonising the energy and chemical industries.

The Green Hydrogen Accelerator will provide dedicated space for world-leading research into the efficient production of hydrogen from water and its use in energy storage and chemicals production. The 400 square metre research facility will be built on part of the University's **Eden Campus**.



### Read more about the Green Hydrogen Accelerator



## Saints Sport successes



The second semester has been a successful one across the board for our Saints Sport teams. Highlights include medals for the University of St Andrews Boat Club in the BUCS Head, Inverness Winter Head and Women's Head of the River competitions; great finishes for the Rifle Club in the BUCS and SSS tournaments; and a third consecutive victory for the Women's Football 1st team against the University of Edinburgh in the **She Can She Will Cup**. For the footballers, this win marked the end of a successful season in which they became **British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS)** Premier North League Champions for the first time.

St Andrews student golfer Ellie Monk won the 2024 Helen Holm Scottish Women's Open in April with a final round of 71 at the prestigious Royal Troon Golf Club. The new champion, however, had little time to celebrate her victory – she was straight back in the library studying for her 9.30am economics exam the following day!

The Men's 1st Football team won their third victory in the annual Conference Cup Finals in St Andrews, while the University's Snowsports placed third overall at the Scottish Alpine Student Championship (SASC) in the Cairngorms.

The Judo Club brought home 12 medals from the Scottish Student Judo Individual & Team Championships, and first year Management and German student Anderson Bull secured his first BUCS gold medal at the Fencing Championships in February.

In the BUCS Equestrian Leagues, the Riding Club had a very successful season with multiple wins across dressage and showjumping, and second year medicine student Ruaridh McIntyre represented Scotland in the U19 Cricket World Cup.

Amelia Peters – a fourth year student and captain of the Women's 1st team – competed for Great Britain at the European Water Polo Championships. Meanwhile back on dry land judo beginner Caitriona Hastings won a bronze medal at the Judo BUCS Nationals Championships in the women's U70kg category.

It is fantastic to see the continued success of our students who – despite their academic commitments – show true dedication to their sports. As another academic year draws to a close, we look forward to celebrating further achievements when the new semester begins in September.

[Read more news from Saints Sport here](#)

## Alumni stories

Each month we feature alumni and student stories on our [Alumni Stories](#) web pages and in our e-newsletter [St Andrews in the News](#).

Through these stories, our graduates describe the impact that studying at the University has had on their lives. They reflect on fond memories of student life in the 'Auld Grey Toon' and share their career journeys since graduation.

We recently heard from Joseph Reilly (MLitt 2022), who won the prestigious Trench Gascoigne essay prize in 2023, awarded by the Royal United Services Institute for the best original work on international defence and security issues.

He shared his story from the Indo-Pacific where, at the time of writing, he was posted aboard HMS Spey.



### **Anchored in excellence: a story from the seas**

Like many, I was thrilled, relieved, and just a tad nervous when I first received my offer to study at St Andrews. At the time I was in the final year of my undergraduate degree studying History at Queens University Belfast and I knew that, via the Institute for the Study of War and Strategy, St Andrews was increasingly becoming a world leader in strategic studies – the field I eventually hoped to enter.

My Masters application was a bit of a gamble – an ambitious attempt to work with and learn from some of the leading experts on history and international relations before I entered the world of work. Despite being sorely tempted by the MLitt in Strategic Studies, I settled on Modern History which, thanks to the interdisciplinary nature of St Andrews, allowed me to continue in my area of expertise whilst taking modules in other subjects. This approach led to so many fascinating conversations and opportunities.

To say that I loved my time at St Andrews would be an understatement. It was where I formed some of my closest friendships and had some of my most memorable experiences. I look back fondly on the many lazy summer afternoons spent in St Mary's Quad or drinking copious amounts of coffee from Zest, finished off with a generous scoop of ice cream from Jannettas. I'm genuinely convinced there isn't a more gorgeous, more historic town in the UK in which to study.

[Read the whole of Joseph's story](#)

# Thank you to our community of giving

Community is what defines St Andrews. It is our alumni, families, friends, students and staff that make our University so special, and all feel a unique, deep and life-long connection with St Andrews and with one another.

Since taking up the post of Annual Giving Manager here, I have not ceased to be amazed by the generosity shown by our community of giving. Parents, friends and alumni have supported scholarships and bursaries, hardship funds, telephone campaigns, cost of living appeals and new projects. That support also encompasses careers advice and mentoring, volunteering and sharing stories and experiences that help to grow those connections in our diverse St Andrews community. It is truly wonderful to see and to be a part of.

Since the start of the millennium, you have collectively raised over £16 million through annual giving initiatives, proving that every gift really does matter and has a lasting impact.

This year has been no different. The cost of living crisis continues to increase the financial pressures on students and for many, the cost of basic requirements is simply too high. In response, the University has worked with the Students' Association to launch initiatives such as **subsidised bus travel**, free food and essentials through the new **Campus Larder**, and access to warm spaces and hot showers.

Our strategic aims are to be diverse and internationally excellent. The key to achieving that is the ability to welcome students from all backgrounds to our University and to support the best academic minds with the potential to change the world.

Many of you have given to the University not only philanthropically, but in other ways. Everything you do supports our students – present and future – and helps to secure St Andrews' place at the forefront of higher education. This year, you have helped us to become the UK's number one university in both the *Guardian University Guide 2024* and *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024*.

Thank you. We couldn't have done this without you.

Dr Jackie Whalen, Annual Giving Manager



Students' Association President Barry Will at the Campus Larder

# Live photo printing at graduation 2024!

Is your student graduating this year? If so, stop off on your way to the graduation garden party and use our live photo printing booth. Send us your photos via WhatsApp along with the message 'SAINTS'. Your photos will be printed instantly and will be available to collect from the Alumni Relations team as a unique souvenir.



## FREE PHOTO PRINTING AT YOUR GRADUATION GARDEN PARTY VIA **WHATSAPP**

### HOW DO I DO IT?

Scan the QR code →  
Then message 'SAINTS' followed by your photos



### WHERE DO I GET THE PHOTO?

Photos will print instantly and be available to collect for FREE from the Alumni Relations team at your graduation garden party





# Saint Connect

Saint Connect is the University's global online community for networking, career mentoring and keeping up-to-date with what's happening at St Andrews.

As members of our Family Programme, you have exclusive access to Saint Connect.

Through this platform, you can connect with fellow parents and friends and volunteer through our Coffee Connect mentoring scheme, which is run in collaboration with the University's Careers Centre.

**Join Saint Connect** or scan the QR code below.



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