

LINK

*The newsletter for families
of undergraduate students*



University of
St Andrews

600
YEARS



Martinmas
2013



“This is where things begin, teaching that opens the world, research that improves the world... a place not only so rich in tradition but also in potential.”

The Honorable Hillary Clinton, Graduation Address
St Andrews, September 2013

Welcome

Welcome to the Martinmas edition of *Link*, the newsletter for families of undergraduate students. We are delighted, in particular, to welcome new parents to the St Andrews community and hope you enjoy reading this news from around the University.

Top of the Class



The University has recently received a number of endorsements recognising our commitment to excellence. The newly combined *Times* and *Sunday Times University Guide 2014* has named St Andrews 'Scottish University of the Year' and ranked us 4th in the United Kingdom, equalling our highest ever ranking by either *The Times* or *The Sunday Times*.

The 2013 *National Student Survey* rated St Andrews as joint second in the UK and the top multi-faculty university in Scotland for student satisfaction. Voted for by students,

93% declared themselves 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with their university education and experience. Five subjects – Physics and Astronomy, Computer Science, Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry – also came out top in the UK.

These results came on the back of a report stating St Andrews graduates are amongst those who have the 'highest chance' of securing graduate-level jobs. In the 2013 *High Fliers* report, surveying 20,000 students across 30 universities, St Andrews is the only Scottish institution listed. The report shows 62% of St Andrews students have gained internship experience by the time they graduate. This experience is becoming ever more essential as our talented graduates enter the competitive world of work.

In other league tables this year, St Andrews was placed 4th overall in the *Guardian University Guide*, with 16 Schools ranked in the top 10. *The Complete University Guide* placed St Andrews 6th, whilst the prestigious *Leiden Ranking 2013* names St Andrews as top in Scotland for scientific performance. St Andrews was one of the highest climbers, at 83, in the *QS World University Rankings 2013-2014*, our highest ever placing in the table.

Charities Hit New Heights

The University of St Andrews Students' Association's Charities Campaign has been celebrating a record-breaking year. The entirely student-led campaign last year raised over £120,000 for a variety of good causes through a range of events, challenges and collection days. The Campaign's marquee events – RAG (*Raising and Giving*) Week, Hitch and Race to... all generated significant funds which were split between the six nominated charities – three local, two national and one international. In all, more than forty charitable causes benefited from the Campaign in 2012-2013.

The campaign had a second reason to celebrate as the amount raised by the students in the last twenty years has passed the £1 million mark. Well done to all!



University on Course

Over the past 18 months, the University has been working with the world of golf to bring together the two ancient institutions of St Andrews.

Thanks to a £500,000 donation from The R&A, the body responsible for administering the Rules of Golf, a new scholarship opportunity has been established. The R&A International Scholarship is designed to encourage students to travel to new and challenging environments, broadening their minds as part of the 'Better Chance' initiative. With this scholarship endowed in perpetuity, the first recipient of the award is third-year Philosophy and International Relations student, Shelley Talbot (pictured with Hamish Ritchie, Chairman of The R&A Foundation). Shelley plans to use her award to travel in the Far East, America and Europe for a year, volunteering at various local community projects for the disabled and investigating the experiences of disability in different cultures. Shelley aims to use these experiences to help her work towards postgraduate study of disability and social policy.



We are also delighted that other golf-related scholarships are currently being established. The Alfred Dunhill Links Foundation has recently made a generous contribution to the St Andrews Wardlaw Scholarship programme and more than £160,000 has been raised to date for the newly established Arnold Palmer Scholarship.

A Sporting Chance



It is often said that a healthy body equates to a healthy mind and this certainly seems to be the case at St Andrews. Our high ratings in university league tables have been matched in recent years by excellent results in the sporting arena with no less than eight of our teams, from men's water polo to women's lacrosse, crowned champions in the 2012-2013 season. To build on this success, the University has committed to a major five-phase redevelopment of the University Sports Centre.

The first two phases of the £14 million project have now been completed: the sand dressed pitch and the outdoor tennis courts have been resurfaced and a new 3G synthetic pitch for rugby, football and lacrosse has been laid. We are now turning our attention to the indoor facilities with the planned installation of a new sports hall, upgrading of the gym and strength and conditioning suites, and the creation of a four-court indoor tennis centre. Off-site, the Boat Club will benefit from a new boathouse on the River Tay.

According to Stephen Stewart, Director of Sport and Exercise, "these new facilities will not only allow many more students to take part in sporting activity, but provide the opportunity for our elite athletes to compete at the very highest levels, both nationally and internationally. While the University is making a significant investment in sport, we are reliant on the help and financial support of our friends and extended alumni community to ensure that we can achieve our goal of making St Andrews a beacon of sporting excellence."



Academic Celebration

Over two days in September, the University celebrated six hundred years of intellectual ambition and discovery with a special Academic Celebration, bringing together some of the greatest minds of this generation to debate the ideas and issues that will shape the world of the future. On Friday 13 September 2013, a 600th Anniversary Honorary Graduation Ceremony was held in Younger Hall. Among the distinguished guests was former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who was awarded an honorary degree alongside 16 other international scholars and thinkers, including former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, classicist Professor Mary Beard, Dr Jane Goodall DBE, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace, and inventor of the world wide web Sir Tim Berners-Lee.

On the morning of Saturday 14 September, the University hosted three open fora to debate pressing contemporary issues and concerns for the future. In the afternoon, panellists taking part in the Academic Summit debated the challenges facing universities, including globalisation and the growth of information technology. The festivities concluded with a torch-lit procession from St Salvator's Quadrangle and a fireworks display on the Pier.

While the 600th Anniversary celebrations come to an end later in the year, our fundraising campaign to ensure that the University remains a centre of intellectual excellence and opportunity continues apace. Please contact us for further details on how you can lend your support. You can now enjoy a flavour of these celebrations in our Highlights video, which can be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/19FQqre>



On Your Bike

Students, staff and alumni have been retracing the route of the original Papal Bulls of Foundation, which left Peñíscola in southern Spain in 1413 with the Pope's seal enabling St Andrews to confer degrees upon its students. The recreation took place in the form of a cycle relay, with six teams of intrepid two-wheelers travelling the 1,600 miles in stages. In all, 36 cyclists took part as the route travelled through Paris, London, Canterbury and Durham, crossing four countries over the month-long journey. The Principal and colleagues from the Principal's Office led by example undertaking the first leg, carrying with them a replica of the Bull, and the final leg arrived in St Andrews to be greeted by a crowd and a fanfare in St Salvator's Quadrangle as part of the 600th Anniversary Academic Celebrations on Saturday 14 September.

Martyrs Kirk

Last year the University purchased the historic Martyrs Kirk in North Street, situated opposite St Salvator's Chapel. Built in the early twentieth century, the former church has been refurbished to a very high standard to provide bespoke accommodation for our growing postgraduate community and for scholars wishing to consult our priceless special collections of manuscripts, documents and photographs.



The Arts Postgraduate Research Reading Room, opened in September 2013, occupies the nave. Consisting of 40 study spaces, the space is tailored to the demands of our PhD students and members of the academic community, giving readers greater access to a selection of specialist reference materials. The Special Collections Reading Room, located in the former church hall, will open in December 2013 and can be used by all students, staff and members of the public. Users will have access to the University's collections in a dedicated space specifically designed for the proper handling of delicate materials.

With its central location, magnificent architectural presence, original stained glass windows, and state-of-the-art study facilities, Martyrs Kirk promises to be a landmark addition to the University's research provision.

Conference Central

St Andrews has recently hosted a raft of prestigious conferences, enhancing the University's reputation for academic excellence.

The four-day 'The Middle Ages in the Modern World' conference took place in Graduation Week, bringing together over 150 delegates from the fields of History, Art History, Economics, Music, Philosophy, Theology and Literature. Honorary graduates – former Monty Python star, Terry Jones (DLitt 2013) and the late poet Seamus Heaney (DLitt 2005) – delivered lectures as part of the conference which focused on the invention, use, abuse and meaning of the medieval and the Middle Ages from the Renaissance to the present day, fitting perfectly into our 600th Anniversary celebrations.

The Royal Astronomical Society's National Astronomy Meeting (NAM) 2013 brought together over 500 astronomers and space scientists to explore Mars, meteors and fireballs. St Andrews has a strong history in the world of astronomy, with James Gregory (1638-1675) having worked here, establishing the UK's first meridian line and first astronomical university observatory. The NAM conference took place alongside the UK Solar Physics and the Magnetosphere Ionosphere Solar-Terrestrial Physics meetings.

The Society of Biblical Literature held their International Meeting in St Andrews in July. One of the biggest conferences of its type, the meeting boosted the local economy by £1.7m and was visiting Scotland for only the second time in its 133-year history. The Imperial Cosmopolitans Symposium (Classics), 20th EUChEMS conference on Organometallic Chemistry and an emergency summit on the state of The Congo also used St Andrews as a base over the summer period.



All Change at the Students' Association

Visitors to St Andrews will no doubt see that the Students' Association is currently undergoing a much-needed, multi-million pound redevelopment. Tasked with looking after the Association for the next 12 months are the four new student sabbatical officers. The sabbs, elected each year in a cross-campus ballot, are responsible for representing all aspects of student life to the University, town, and wider community. This year's team (pictured): Scott Schorr (Postgraduate President), Daniel Palmer (Director of Events & Services), Teddy Woodhouse (Director of Representation), Chloe Hill (Association President), Kelsey Gold (Director of Student Development & Activities) and Jess Walker (Athletic Union President).

Love from Home

Run in cooperation with local baker and confectioner Fisher & Donaldson, our *Love from Home* service allows you to send loved ones cakes, chocolates and gift baskets on special occasions with a personalised message. Make your order online at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/lovefromhome

Please note, deliveries are made to addresses in St Andrews during term-time, Monday to Saturday, 8am–6pm. Please allow at least five working days between placing your order and the delivery date to guarantee delivery on the requested date.



Gift form

US donors only

I would like to support the University of St Andrews American Foundation Inc. by making a gift towards:

- Student scholarships
- Area of greatest need
- Please send me information on legacies
- Please do NOT publicly acknowledge my gift *(For Family Book Fund donations, please use the enclosed form)*

I have enclosed a check (made payable to **University of St Andrews American Foundation Inc.**) for \$

You can also help the University meet its sustainability goals by making a gift online at:

<https://sparc.st-andrews.ac.uk/giving/makeyourgift/us>

Your details

Name.....	Telephone
Home address	City and state
Zip code.....	Email

Please return your completed gift form and check to: **University of St Andrews American Foundation Inc., c/o Development, Crawford Building, 91 North Street, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ, Scotland, UK**
(If you wish to make a regular donation please contact us at +44 (0)1334 461900 or by email to donate@st-andrews.ac.uk)

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A Lasting Legacy

Gifts of legacies are perhaps the most personally significant way in which donors choose to benefit the University, and can have a transformative effect on a student's life. One such example is that of the late Mrs Dorothy B Miller, *née* Menzies, who left a percentage of her estate to the School of Medicine and the School of History.

Part of Mrs Miller's bequest is helping to fund travel awards for medical undergraduates, enabling them to journey to Blantyre, Malawi, and learn important skills as part of St Andrews' ongoing collaboration with the College of Medicine at the University of Malawi. As Emma Ridings, BSc (Hons) Medicine 2013 explains, "I had the chance to observe rare diseases such as malaria, typhoid, TB and rabies, which are now virtually extinct in the UK, and learnt how to diagnose and treat these... The trip proved to be an invaluable learning experience and has fuelled my interest in global health and tropical medicine, a career I am now seriously considering. Without the funding I simply would not have been able to take part, so I am truly grateful."



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 Please send me information on legacies Please do NOT publicly acknowledge my gift

(For Family Book Fund donations, please use the enclosed form)

I have enclosed a cheque (made payable to **University of St Andrews**) for £

You can also help the University meet its sustainability goals by making a gift online at:
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/alumni/giving/makeyourgift/

Your details

Name Telephone

Home address

Postcode Email

Gift Aid Declaration (UK Taxpayers Only)

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made today and in the past 4 years in the future (from the date of this declaration). Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Signature Date

Please return your completed gift form and cheque to:

Development, University of St Andrews, Crawford Building, 91 North Street, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ, Scotland

(If you wish to make a regular donation please contact us on +44 (0)1334 461900 or by email to donate@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Westminster Abbey Service

Following on from the hugely successful event at St Paul's Cathedral last year, the London Alumni Club are hosting their annual Service of Thanksgiving on Tuesday 10 December. This time, the event will take place at Westminster Abbey – scene of the wedding of our recent royal graduates. Last year's event raised over £100,000 to establish a London Scholarship at the University and funds generated from this year's event will help to evolve this scholarship.

For further information and to book your ticket(s) please visit the Club's website: www.usaac.org.uk



Semester Dates 2013

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/semesterdates

Martinmas Semester: Monday 16 September 2013 – Friday 20 December 2013

Graduation: Friday 29 and Saturday 30 November 2013

Revision Period: Commences Monday 2 December 2013

Examinations: Weeks beginning Monday 9 and Monday 16 December 2013

Christmas Vacation: Saturday 21 December 2013 to Sunday 26 January 2014

Candlemas Semester: Monday 27 January 2014 - Friday 30 May 2014

Spring Vacation: Saturday 15 March 2014 – Sunday 30 March 2014

Revision Period: Commences Saturday 26 April 2014

Examinations: Monday 12 May – Friday 23 May 2014

Graduation: Week commencing Monday 23 June 2014

Resits: Week commencing Monday 18 August 2014

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Further information for families of current students can be found at:

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/parents

A forum for US Parents of current students can be accessed on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/StAUSParents

Latest news and other information about the University can be viewed at:

www.st-andrews.ac.uk