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LINK

Issue 2
2017-2018

*The newsletter for families
of undergraduate students*

Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of *Link* for 2017-2018, our bi-annual newsletter for the families of undergraduate students. If this is your final edition of *Link* then we hope you have enjoyed your time in the Family Programme and look forward to seeing you at graduation. This is not goodbye, however, as we continue to keep you up to date with news and events via *St Andrews in the News*.

As I write, we are approaching the successful conclusion of our 600th Anniversary fundraising campaign. The support of our parent community has helped us to achieve so much: from turning Martyrs Kirk into an award-winning postgraduate research library; refurbishing St Salvator's Quadrangle and the Students' Association; developing the new Scottish Oceans Institute; creating a custom-built Music Centre; redeveloping the Sports Centre; and increasing scholarship funding. Thank you so much – with just a little more help, we will reach our £100m target.



Please do contact alumni@st-andrews.ac.uk should you have any comments or suggestions for future editions of *Link*.

Robert Fleming, Director of Development

Research

Read some of the latest research stories from around the University:

- A team of researchers from the University of St Andrews and Cornell University, led by Dr Sarah Rugheimer of the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences, has discovered that studying how the Earth's atmosphere evolved over time could hold the key to detecting life on exoplanets.
- A breakthrough in catalysis research by a team of chemists from St Andrews and Newcastle, led by St Andrews Professor John Irvine, could lead to the development of clean diesel engine technology and help combat air pollution.
- The impact of Brexit on small and medium sized enterprises may be negative, because of reduced levels of capital investment attributed to uncertainty caused by Brexit, according to researchers from the University's Centre for Responsible Banking and Finance (School of Management).
- Researchers at the University of St Andrews and the University of Tokyo have developed an understanding of how to create a new type of electronic state in solids that could fuel the development of improved materials for use in fast and energy efficient electronic devices. This could lead to new, more powerful types of computer chips.



- Academics at the University have found that a killer whale has the ability to mimic human speech, learning words such as "hello" and "one, two, three".



Meet the President

For the past year Lewis Wood (pictured left) has been the Students' Association President and the senior Sabbatical Officer.

Lewis represents students at the highest levels of the University and on the national stage, on issues such as student accommodation, tuition fees, widening access and our environment. His role is to be a student advocate, championing students' causes individually and collectively.

Every March, the students elect six sabbatical officers to lead the Students' Association for the next academic year. The positions that are held reflect the Association's role as a key part of the student experience, both in terms of the events, societies and sports clubs that are administered, and in terms of the academic support and influence of wellbeing that help students to improve their university experiences.

A quick word

Joe McKinney (BSc 2017) decided to come to St Andrews partly because of the financial safety net of a scholarship. He is now working for the University's Admissions team, supporting school pupils following in his footsteps.

What was your scholarship and how did you hear about it?

I was the first lucky recipient of the 600th Anniversary Scholarship in 2013. It's a generous maintenance award that supports students with living and accommodation costs.

What did your scholarship enable you to do at university?

The award meant that I could concentrate on my studies and that I didn't have to worry about the cost of living and accommodation in St Andrews. I also used some of the scholarship funds to travel round Europe and to meet up with the new friends I made at university.

What are you doing now?

I currently work for the Admissions department for the University and am loving every minute. My main role is to talk to prospective students around the country, provide guidance about applying to the University and ensure that St Andrews is the right university for them. I also support school pupils from the same background as me.

What advice would you give anybody who is thinking of applying for a scholarship?

I promise it is the best thing that will happen to you! A scholarship helps you to do so much more and feel like a normal student without the worry of where money is going to come from.



You can find out more about supporting scholarships at St Andrews here: <http://bit.ly/StAScholarships>

Sporting times



Athletic Union President, Tom Abbott (pictured left), brings us the latest Saints Sport news:

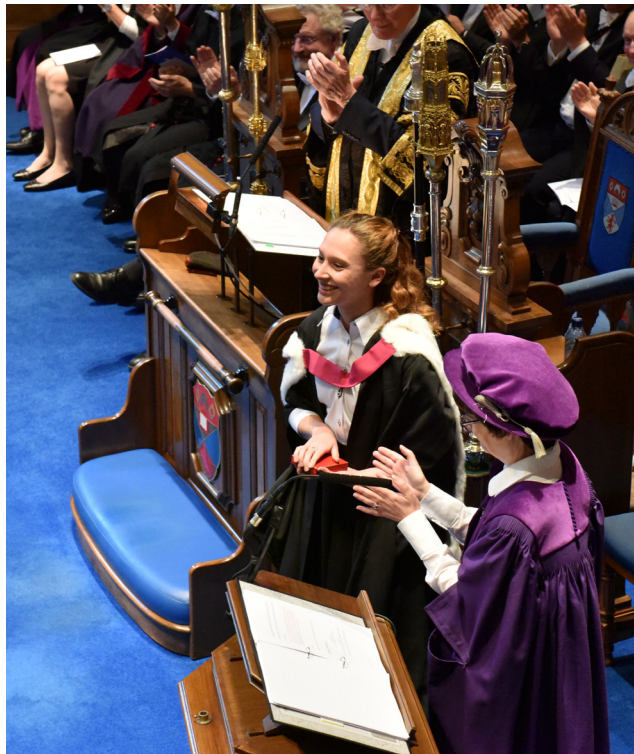
- The indoor tennis courts were completed in March, bringing to an end a four-year, £14 million redevelopment of the Sports Centre. The impact the new facilities have had on students has been remarkable.
- We are having our best ever competitive season in British Universities and Colleges Sports competition (BUCS) and Scottish Student Sport (SSS) – we currently sit eighteenth in the BUCS league table, with our best ever finish being twenty-fifth! Much of this has been down to the incredible motivation and discipline our teams have had.
- Netball reached a national semi-final in March and beat several teams in the leagues above them en route.
- We hosted Scottish Student Sport's annual conference cup finals day, an event which sees several hundred students involved as nine sports play their respective cup finals.



National success for undergraduate

Lindsey Karmen (BSc 2017) won the *Scotland Degree Award* at the 2018 British Education Awards in Manchester. This national award acknowledges that success in education requires immense personal endeavour and application.

As one of the 2017 Principal's Medal winners, Lindsey was recognised for her academic excellence, medical outreach work, contributions to the cultural life of the community and for representing St Andrews and Scotland at dance competitions, including winning the 2015 International Federation of Dance World Championships. Lindsey, originally from Calgary, Canada is part of the Scottish-Canadian medical programme.



A new lease of life for the Younger Hall

The Younger Hall has been at the heart of the University's ceremonial occasions since being opened on 28 April 1929 by the Duchess of York (later the Queen Mother). Generations of graduates have shared the experience of crossing its stage at graduation, while the hall is also home to the Music Centre, exams, balls and concerts.



The relocation of the Music Centre to a new state-of-the-art music building will allow the Younger Hall to undergo a £12 million refurbishment between July 2019 and graduation 2020, restoring and maintaining its iconic features while upgrading the interior.

The work to improve disabled access, IT, windows, roofing, ventilation, heating and soundproofing will enable the building to continue to host ceremonial events and concerts but also to become a teaching hub for the Faculty of Arts, with the installation of a 500-seat lecture theatre and a variety of smaller classrooms.

Once completed, the Younger Hall will have much greater flexibility, giving it a new lease of life.

Two questions

We asked Jonathan May, Head of Vocal Studies at the University, about the new Music Centre due to open in 2020:



1. What is your favourite feature of the new building?

It will be *purpose-designed* for music making, rehearsing and teaching. The spaces within the Younger Hall for performance, practice and instrumental and vocal teaching are stretched to capacity, and beyond, as more students become involved in an increasingly broad range of musical activities. We need facilities to provide the best opportunities for student musicians to hone and share their skills.

2. If you were able to invite any musician (living or dead) to play at the inaugural concert, who would it be – and why?

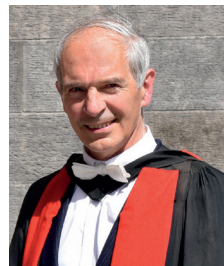
Living – violinist Nigel Kennedy. He would do a great gig and there would be Bach, Klezmer, jazz and rock. Dead – the Russian bass-baritone Fyodor Chaliapin – renowned as one of the greatest operatic singing actors of his age. I suspect with both those performers present it would be musically inspiring and quite a party!

The Younger Hall refurbishment and the new Music Centre will both be part-funded through philanthropic gifts. If you would like further information, please contact Caroline Wallard at E: clw1@st-andrews.ac.uk T: +44 (0)1334 462015

Academic awards

Our academics regularly win awards for their outstanding work. Here is a selection of those recognised recently:

- Professor Kenneth Falconer (pictured right) has been appointed St Andrews Regius Chair of Mathematics by Her Majesty the Queen. This position, one of the oldest and most prestigious chairs in the United Kingdom, was founded by Charles II in 1668 with the appointment of the celebrated mathematical pioneer and astronomer James Gregory.
- Three researchers have been awarded top research grants by the Leverhulme Trust for various projects:
 - Professor Kathryn Rudy (School of Art History) will develop techniques to investigate how medieval people used manuscripts.
 - Professor Malte Gather (School of Physics & Astronomy) will investigate using miniature technology – optical light emitting diodes – to activate and silence individual neural cells; this technique may help understand and, ultimately, manage neurological conditions and diseases such as dementia and Parkinson’s.
 - Dr James Palmer (School of History) will write a new cultural history of early medieval science and medicine by examining lost and forgotten manuscripts held in libraries across Europe.
- Professor Andrew Smith (School of Chemistry) has won the Royal Society of Chemistry Charles Rees Award 2018.
- Several academics (pictured below left to right) from the University have been elected Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, which was founded in 1783 as an educational charity to provide public benefit throughout Scotland. The 2018 Fellow’s list honours Professors Peter Cameron of the School of Mathematics & Statistics, Jessica Brown of the School of Philosophical, Anthropological & Film Studies, and Zinnie Harris of the School of English, arguably Scotland’s leading playwright.



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Our *Love from Home* service offers you the chance to send cakes, chocolates and gift baskets to your students as a little bit of encouragement or on special occasions. Terms and conditions apply. Order online at <http://bit.ly/sta-cake>

The Eden Residence Club

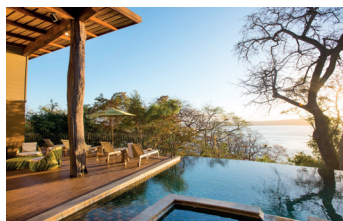
The Eden Residence Club is the world's most exclusive private residence club (and owner of Pittormie Castle and Residences, St Andrews), providing unprecedented access to thousands of exceptional private second-homes in hundreds of iconic locations – all of which are designed, furnished and managed by luxury five-star operators. Members can stay and enjoy world-class amenities at the finest Private Residence Clubs, Destination Clubs and luxury resort developments all over the world at special members rates.

As a proud supporter of the University of St Andrews, The Eden Residence Club is offering Family Programme members the opportunity to join the club at a special rate. As part of this offer, your membership will also include a complimentary night stay in a two bedroom residence at Pittormie Castle, St Andrews and the Club will make a donation to the University of St Andrews.

For further information on the club, visit:
www.theedenresidenceclub.org
entering the username UoSA and password UoSA123
or email enquiries@theedenresidenceclub.com



THE EDEN RESIDENCE CLUB



Forthcoming semester dates 2018

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/semesterdates

Graduation: Week commencing Monday 25 June 2018
Resits: Week commencing Monday 13 August 2018
Orientation: Week commencing Monday 10 September 2018
Martinmas Semester: Monday 17 September 2018 – Friday 21 December 2018
Revision Period: Commences Monday 3 December 2018
Graduation: Thursday 6 December 2018 and Friday 7 December 2018
Examinations: Monday 10 December 2018 – Friday 21 December 2018
Christmas Vacation: Saturday 22 December 2018 – Sunday 27 January 2019

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or contact develop@st-andrews.ac.uk



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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