

LINK

The newsletter for families
of undergraduate students



University of
St Andrews

600
YEARS



Martinmas
2012



Welcome

Welcome to the Martinmas edition of *Link*, the newsletter for families of undergraduate students. We are delighted to have this opportunity to share with you news from around the University.

New Director of Development

The University is delighted to welcome Robert Fleming as our new Director of Development. An experienced professional fundraiser, Robert comes to St Andrews from a career as a Development specialist in higher education, the arts and consultancy. He was previously Director of Development at both Glasgow Caledonian University and the University of Edinburgh where he planned and launched the largest capital campaign in Scotland's history. Robert has also been Director of Development at Trinity College of Music, London, and has held posts with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the City of London Festival. As a fundraising consultant with Grenzebach Glier and Associates he has worked with over 15 universities and academic causes.



As well as directing our alumni programme, Robert will oversee the delivery of St Andrews' 600th Anniversary campaign, which will support new scholarships, research and teaching facilities across the University.

Commenting on his first engagements in his new role, Robert said "I was very pleased to welcome the latest Family Programme members to the St Andrews community at this autumn's parents' receptions and look forward to keeping in touch during this special 600th Anniversary year and throughout your student's time here."

St Andrews at London 2012

The University's presence has been felt at this summer's Olympics and Paralympics in London. A worldwide audience of billions witnessed the opening ceremony which included a sequence with Mr Bean running along the famous West Sands at St Andrews with a number of our current students.



This was not the only recreation of the opening sequence from *Chariots of Fire* this summer. In June, the Olympic Torch Relay came to St Andrews and pupils from Madras College carried the Torch along the beach. Earlier that day, the Torch had been ceremonially relit and carried around St Salvator's Quadrangle by award-winning cyclist Mark Beaumont (pictured).

In the sporting arena, honorary graduate and former St Andrews student Sir Chris Hoy won a further two gold medals to take his Olympic gold tally to six. Chris studied Mathematics and Physics between 1994 and 1996 and received University Blues in his first year. He was voted Sportsman of the Year in 1996. At the Paralympics, Gemma Prescott, who graduated in 2006 with a Masters of Mathematics degree, clinched a bronze medal with a European record throw of 20.50 metres in the F31/32/51 Women's Club Throw event. In 2005, while still a student at St Andrews, she entered the Paralympic World Cup taking gold in the F32 discus and silver in the F32 shot.

Congratulations are also due to those St Andrews students, past and present, who contributed to the efficient running of London 2012 as volunteer Games Makers.

Become a citizen archaeologist

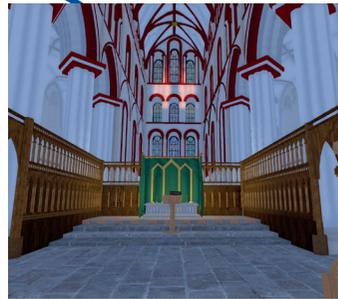
Public-spirited volunteers are being sought to help protect Scotland's endangered coastal heritage. Led by archaeologists from the University of St Andrews and SCAPE (Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion), Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk Project is looking for 'citizen archaeologists' to record information about over 940 threatened coastal sites from Shetland to the Solway. Members of the public are being asked to upload current images of these sites to the web or directly via a free mobile phone app, which will also log the location of sites via GPS. Those without a smartphone can also take part by recording the information via the project's interactive website (www.scharp.co.uk). Training sessions, as well as online resources, will be provided to volunteers around the country.



Tom Dawson

St Andrews Cathedral virtually rebuilt

A unique collaboration between University computer scientists, 3D designers, art historians and archaeologists has resulted in a virtual reconstruction of St Andrews Cathedral as it looked in its heyday some 700 years ago. Visitors will be able to create their own avatars and navigate their way around the online reconstruction, exploring the cloisters, the internal choir section, the chapter-house, and the nave. They will also be able to chat (using headphones and a microphone) with Robert the Bruce, an Augustinian Friar and perhaps 'The Old Grey Lady', a ghost reputed to haunt the building. The reconstruction can be accessed at <http://virtualworlds.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/cathedral/>



The healing power of the sea

The purple sea urchin could help develop cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's and cancer, according to discoveries made by biologists at St Andrews. Creatures such as the sea urchin and sponge have been shown to possess a special genetic sequence previously only thought to be used by certain viruses. Now these sea creatures could show scientists how to produce a therapeutic response in our own cells. This latest finding builds on the earlier discovery of a short genetic sequence ('2A') caused by viruses which can be used to return cells to a stem cell-like state, allowing them to be manipulated and used for special treatments.



Originally the research team thought the sequence was a trick played on the host cell by viruses. However, its discovery in some sea creatures indicates that it is used by cells themselves, and in many different types of animal.

Fantastic creatures

For the past six years the University's Museum (MUSA) has been running an annual art competition for schoolchildren across Fife. This year's theme was 'Fantastic Creatures', inspired by the Edwardian natural history collection of the University's Bell Pettigrew Museum.



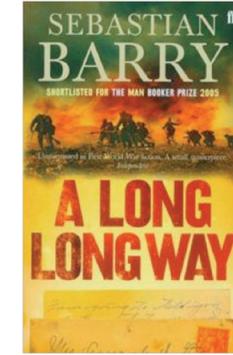
Nathan Kermode, S4,
Madras College

Museum Collections,
University of St Andrews

A record 682 entries were received and the winning artworks were displayed over the summer in the Gateway Galleries on the North Haugh. They can also be viewed online at www.st-andrews.ac.uk/museum/art-competition/

The Fife branch of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Society (NADFAS) has agreed to part-fund next year's competition in celebration of the University's 600th Anniversary.

Between the lines



A Long Long Way by Sebastian Barry was the book chosen for this year's Man Booker Prize Project. This initiative allows a Booker Prize short-listed novel to be sent to our entire new undergraduate intake. The Project was established to encourage intellectual exchange amongst

our new students and to provide them with a shared interest during their first few days in St Andrews. Sebastian Barry, whose novel tells the story of Willie Dunne, a young Irishman who signs up to fight for the Allied cause at the start of the First World War, visited the University in early October for a public lecture and discussion of his work.

Unlocking our secret garden

Green-fingered students and members of the public are invited to come along and volunteer at the University Community Garden. The garden is run by student and staff volunteers, with support from Transition University of St Andrews, and is open to all students, staff and the local community. There are weekly gardening sessions as well as monthly educational workshops on various garden-related topics, suitable for beginners as well as seasoned gardeners. During term-time, gardening sessions take place on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons from 2pm-4pm. Further information is available at www.transitionuniversityofst-andrews.com/community-garden/



Introducing the student sabbatical officers

Each year our students elect four sabbatical officers to represent their interests both within the University and beyond. Freddie fforde, President (pictured second from the left) introduces this year's officers.



St Andrews Students' Association

As President of the Students' Association, I take a year out from my studies in order to represent and improve the student experience at St Andrews. I am the ultimate spokesperson for students and work with the Student Representative Council (SRC) on strategies affecting every element of the student experience and welfare. I am also involved in preparing the multimillion-pound redevelopment of the Union as well as leading student-run activity to celebrate our 600th Anniversary.

Amanda Litherland is the Director of Representation. She works alongside me in representing student views to the highest levels at the University and to the outside world. A key part of Amanda's role is improvement of the academic experience with regards to advising, feedback and employment skills.

Jules Findlay is our Director of Events and Services, responsible for organising everything from Orientation Week to the Graduation Ball. A keen musician, he'll be bringing a range of live music, comedy and other events to St Andrews.

Meg Platt is Director of Student Development and Activities. She oversees our many vibrant student societies. This ranges from the oldest university debating club in Britain to Mermaids, the centre of St Andrews' thriving thespian scene.

More information on the varied work of the Students' Association is available on the blog: www.yourpres.net

Principal's Medals

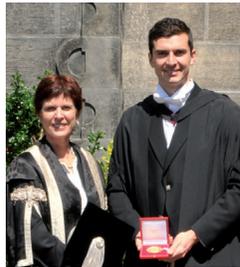
Two outstanding students were honoured by the University during the June Graduation week when they were awarded the Principal's Medal. Lorcan Morgan and Aria Danesh were recognised for their "outstanding endeavour and achievement" exhibited during their time as students at St Andrews.

Mathematics student Lorcan was recognised for his "stellar" academic record in his pursuit of an MMath fast-track degree, as well as his gold and silver medal-winning sporting achievements. Lorcan has pursued a full athletic schedule in both swimming and water polo, twice being selected for the prestigious Celtic Nations team. Outside of St Andrews, Lorcan volunteered to participate in the Chase Africa programme, addressing health and environmental issues including HIV/AIDS, nutrition and the importance of education.



Principal Louise Richardson and Lorcan Morgan

Aria Danesh, who graduated with a degree in Psychology, was singled out as an "exceptional student with an outstanding track record", who has made a real difference to the lives and well-being of his fellow students. A keen supporter of the University's support network for students, SupNet, Aria has dedicated much of his time to the group, offering practical and emotional guidance to students in need. Outside of the University, Aria took part in 'More Than Pennies', serving food to homeless people in Philadelphia. He was also a student ambassador, a 'buddy' and the lead student co-ordinating the University's first student-led Mindfulness Group, with the aim of helping students learn how to deal effectively with problems.



Principal Louise Richardson and Aria Danesh

Graduate of the Year

Leo Anthias, 22, who graduated in English and Modern History this summer, has been named 'Graduate of the Year' by UK job search engine Adzuna and the UK government-backed 'Entrepreneur First Scheme', a not-for-profit initiative designed to nurture entrepreneurial UK graduates.

The new competition seeks to recognise the country's finest academics, artists, entrepreneurs, athletes and social contributors from this year's cohort of graduating students.

Leo was rewarded for his efforts starting a number of successful tech and non-tech businesses at the University, including 'Stiff Collar', a vintage clothing company for university balls, and an online search engine which helps users find commonly misspelt eBay items.



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: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/alumni/giving/makeyourgift/

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)

The University of St Andrews American Foundation Inc. (EIN 58-1662222) has been determined by the United States Internal Revenue Service to qualify, under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, as a tax-exempt public charity to which tax-deductible contributions may be made. The American Foundation will send a receipt for any gifts it receives in a form acceptable to the IRS. If you have any questions, please contact us at donate@st-andrews.ac.uk or +44 (0)1334 461900.

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Perfect pitch

A very generous legacy from Miss Heather Higgins, MA (Hons) 1950, who had a keen interest in the St Salvator's Chapel choir while a student, has allowed for the establishment of the Heather Cadogan Higgins Choral Scholarship fund. It is intended that the endowment will provide choristers with an annual bursary of £250, a year's worth of singing lessons and two meals per week following each service. It is hoped that the opportunity to sing at international level will attract students of the very highest calibre.



Peter Adamson

A legacy bequest is one of the most personally significant gifts you can make to St Andrews. Such gifts from far-sighted benefactors have had a profound effect on generations of students, providing funding for research into Neural Sciences, the re-development of St Salvator's Quadrangle and many other key projects. Legacy gifts can support scholarships, academic posts, research programmes, our historic buildings or the University's designated area of greatest need.

Gift form

US donors – please use other side

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

- Student scholarships Area of greatest need Please send me a tax receipt
 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)

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and want the University of St Andrews to treat this donation, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations. You must be paying an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount that the University and any other charities you support reclaim on your donation(s) in the relevant tax year (6 April one year to 5 April the next).

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)

600th Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral

A special 600th Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving is being held in the spectacular surroundings of St Paul's Cathedral on Thursday 20 December 2012 at 7.30pm. Organised by the University's London Alumni Club, the Service will feature Christmas readings by well-known graduates and honorary graduates of the University. The Archbishop of York, The Rt Rev Dr John Sentamu, will give the Sermon, a specially commissioned piece of music, composed by Paul Mealor, will be given its world premiere and the State Trumpeters of the Life Guards will perform fanfares. A Reception will follow at The Grange St Paul's Hotel, opposite the Cathedral. Tickets can be purchased online at: www.st-a.org or by contacting Tel: + 44 (0)1334 461901. All proceeds will support the University's 600th Anniversary campaign and contribute to the creation of a London Scholarship.



Online Love from Home service

Our very popular online Love from Home service, run in co-operation with local baker and confectioner Fisher & Donaldson, allows families to send their loved ones cakes, chocolates and gift baskets on special occasions with a personalised message.

The service provides a great way to deliver an encouraging word, a good luck message or a birthday greeting to your absent student. To see the full selection of goodies which can be ordered and paid for online, please visit:

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/lovefromhome



Please note that deliveries are made to addresses in St Andrews during term-time, Monday to Saturday, between 8am and 6pm. It is important to allow at least five working days between placing your order and the delivery date to guarantee delivery on the requested date. In the interest of security, we are unable to take orders over the phone.

Semester Dates 2012/2013

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/semesterdates

Martinmas Semester: Monday 17 September 2012 – Friday 21 December 2012

Graduation: Friday 30 November 2012

Revision Period: Commences Monday 3 December 2012

Examinations: Monday 10 December 2012 – Thursday 20 December 2012

Christmas Vacation: Saturday 22 December 2012 – Sunday 6 January 2013

Inter-semester: Monday 7 January 2013 – Sunday 27 January 2013

Candlemas Semester: Monday 28 January 2013 – Friday 31 May 2013

Spring Vacation: Saturday 16 March 2013 – Sunday 31 March 2013

Revision Period: Commences Saturday 27 April 2013

Examinations: Monday 13 May 2013 onwards *tbc*

Graduation: Week commencing Monday 24 June 2013

Resits: Week commencing Monday 19 August 2013

LINK is published by

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Further information for families of current students can be found at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/parents
 Latest news and other information about the University can be viewed at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk

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