

# LINK

*The newsletter for families  
of undergraduate students*



University of  
St Andrews

600  
YEARS

Martinmas  
2011-2012



# Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to Link, our newsletter for families of undergraduate students. As the Martinmas semester draws to an end, we can reflect on a successful and exciting period which has seen the university recognised on the international stage for the quality of our research and teaching. Our 600th Anniversary celebrations, and accompanying fundraising campaign, will allow us to build on this considerable achievement with a major investment in facilities, ideas and, most importantly, people. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the initiatives already under way and look forward to reporting on further major developments in the coming months.

**Patrick Degg**

Director of Development



Photo: Ben Goulter



## Orientation Week 2011

This year's Orientation Week was once again a busy but exciting time for students, staff and parents. In addition to the bejant receptions in St Andrews and Glasgow, hosted by two of our alumni clubs, receptions were also held in Boston, New York and Washington DC and were generously hosted by current St Andrews parents. These receptions provided incoming students with the chance to meet fellow bejants before the start of term and make important social and academic connections. At the beginning of Orientation Week, parents' receptions were held in the new, state-of-the-art Medical and Biological Sciences Building where parents had the chance to hear addresses from the Principal and the Deans before mingling over a glass of wine. The receptions were a great success with over 800 parents in attendance.

Following the success of last year's freshers' gift initiative, we once again set up our gazebo in the courtyard outside Development to welcome new students to the university and offer them a special 600th Anniversary-branded travel mug. The freshers' gift initiative proved very popular with all 1350 travel mugs being distributed by Tuesday afternoon of Orientation Week. We were delighted to have the opportunity to meet the new students in person to welcome them to St Andrews and wish them all the best for a happy and successful time here!



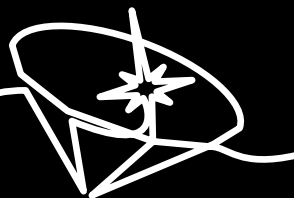
## Diamonds in the flames

Professor Wuzong Zhou, Professor of Chemistry at St Andrews has discovered that tiny diamond particles exist in candle flames. His research has made a scientific leap towards solving a mystery which has confounded people for thousands of years.

Since the first candle was invented in ancient China more than 2,000 years ago, many have longed to know what hidden secrets its flames contained. Professor Zhou's investigation revealed around 1.5 million diamond nanoparticles are created every second in a candle flame as it burns.

Using a new sampling technique he invented himself, and assisted by his student Mr Zixue Su, Professor Zhou was able to remove particles from the centre of the flame – something never successfully achieved before – and found to his surprise that a candle flame contains all four known forms of carbon.

The discovery could lead to future research into how diamonds, a key substance in industry, could be created more cheaply, and in a more environmentally friendly way.



## 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 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/develop/donate](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/develop/donate)

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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 will reclaim on your donation(s) in the relevant tax year (6 April one year to 5 April the next).	
Signature.....	Date.....

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**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](mailto:donate@st-andrews.ac.uk))*

## Booker Prize

The book chosen for 2011 entrant undergraduates as part of the university's collaboration with The Booker Prize Foundation was 'The Clothes on their Backs' by Linda Grant, which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2008, and won the South Bank Show Award for Literature in the same year.

This is the third year of the initiative, developed by the Principal, through which the university provides every new entrant undergraduate with a copy of a novel recently shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize for Fiction. Incoming students are sent a copy of the book during the summer and then invited to sign up for an informal Orientation Week book group meeting in their hall of residence. This provides an excellent opportunity for new students to meet one another, and university staff, and engage in lively discussion. The author, Linda Grant, visited St Andrews in November to discuss her work and answer questions from students.



## Introducing the student sabbaticals

At the Students' Association, there are four elected sabbatical officers who have taken a year out to work for the student body and make the student experience in St Andrews the best it can be. The Association, or 'the Union' as it is known, has three main spheres of activity: campaigning and representation, development and activity, and events management.

As President, Patrick O'Hare is the ultimate spokesperson for students and works with the Student Representative Council (SRC) on accommodation, ethics and environment, equal opportunities and community relations strategies. Nationally, he works with other student leaders in making sure students are heard and internally he is involved in preparing the multimillion pound redevelopment of the Union.

His fellow sabbaticals are Sam Fowles, Director of Representation, David Graves, Director of Student Development and Activities, and Rollo Strickland, Director of Events and Services.

## League tables

The university has been named as one of the world's leading centres for scientific research in a new league table. St Andrews is placed 71st in the Leiden Ranking 2012. The new ranking uses a sophisticated set of indicators to assess the quality and importance of scientific research at 500 of the world's top universities.

Publication of the Leiden Ranking is the third time in the past six months that St Andrews has been named as one of the world's top 100 universities. It was placed 85th in the Times Higher World Rankings 2012 and 97th in the QS World University Rankings 2012, both announced late last year. St Andrews' strong showing on international research collaborations – 25th in the world and top in the UK – reflects a drive to raise the profile of Scottish research overseas and help Scotland remain internationally competitive.

In other tables, St Andrews has been named as third best in the UK (behind Oxford and Cambridge) in The Guardian University Guide 2012 and 6th in the UK by The Sunday Times. The university also came joint second in the UK for student satisfaction in the 2011 National Student Survey.



## Library refurbishment

Students starting the new academic year in September were welcomed back by new state-of-the-art-facilities that are part of a £14m investment in the library. Improvements include additional study spaces, smart self-service, new, late-night opening hours, a café and new furniture chosen by students. The project is the first phase of a long-term comprehensive programme to modernise the library and its collections.

In a further major development, plans are in the pipeline to create a purpose-built home for the priceless books, manuscripts, archives and photographs that constitute the university library's special collections. The creation of a new £10m Centre for Special Collections forms one of the most important projects in our 600th Anniversary fundraising campaign and is intended to provide a secure and environmentally appropriate setting where these treasures can be conserved for the benefit of current and future generations of scholars.



## School of English accolades



Photo: Helmut Fricke

Professor John Burnside of the university's renowned School of English has won the highest accolade in British poetry – the TS Eliot Prize – for his collection 'Black Cat Bone'. Professor Burnside was presented with the Prize by Valerie Eliot, widow of the poet, who has funded the prize since it was launched 18 years ago. 'Black Cat Bone' had previously won the prestigious Forward Prize for Poetry.

The School of English is also celebrating the election of Professor Robert Crawford as a Fellow of the British Academy, the UK's national academy for the promotion of the humanities and social sciences.

## St Salvator's Quadrangle improvement project

St Salvator's Quadrangle lies at the physical and spiritual heart of university life in St Andrews. It is, however, in urgent need of a major refurbishment. To ensure that future generations of students, alumni and visitors can also benefit from the enduring charms of the Quad, plans have been drawn up to enhance its environmental appeal through the replacement of the worn-out and frequently patched tarmac with new flagstones, sensitive planting, the extension of the lawn area, improved drainage channels and the introduction of hidden infrastructure, such as power, water and lighting, that will allow the Quad to operate more effectively as a venue for major events. A key element of the refurbishment is the provision of greatly improved disabled access, with new ramps serving the Chapel, Upper and Lower College Halls, and Butts Wynd.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 2011 North American telephone appeal which achieved the hugely successful total of \$100,000 (£64,000) in gifts and pledges to support the 600th Anniversary Quad improvement project.

For more information about the Quad improvement project please visit: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/alumni/giving/quad](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/alumni/giving/quad)



## Graduation week 2011



Students of the Class of 2011 were the first to graduate within the period of the university's 600th Anniversary. A series of celebratory events was organised during graduation week including a special **600th Anniversary concert** in St Salvator's Chapel, **lectures** by honorary graduates Sir David Attenborough and Justice Richard Goldstone and **graduation garden parties** on Lower College lawn.

At the garden parties, Alumni Relations once again offered a graduation gift to all graduating students, consisting of an enamel pin badge and a 600th Anniversary-branded cotton bag. The gift was intended to congratulate our newest alumni on their graduation and to welcome them to the alumni community.

This year, parents were invited to a **graduation celebration dinner** on the Friday of graduation week, while their students were dancing the night away at the Graduation Ball. This event was open to all family members and took place in a wonderfully dressed marquee at Castlecliffe, where families enjoyed a drinks reception on the lawn overlooking St Andrews Bay and a three-course dinner, as well as an address from the Principal and talks from two of the university's most celebrated academics.

## Class gift 2011

In 2009, a small group of students launched the class gift project, the first of its kind in the UK.

On the initiative of the Principal, the project has provided key support to the library refurbishment project, student scholarships and other important university programmes. In 2010-2011 students and parents raised funds for a new scholarship – a first for the class gift project. The Class of 2011 Scholarship will be available to a student, regardless of geography and subject, entering St Andrews in 2012.

The 2011-2012 campaign tripled student participation over the 2009-2010 campaign with a total of 28 parents and nearly 60 students making contributions to the Class of 2011 Scholarship.

The 2011-2012 committee, led by Brook Kohn (below, helping at Raisin Monday) hopes to raise even more, a portion of which will go to another scholarship. Activities will include an email and Facebook campaign, letters to parents of graduating students and a series of student-organised events. Brook is committed to giving back to the university and the next generation of students. "I have had some amazing opportunities at St Andrews, and I want other students to have the same opportunities I have had."

To follow the class gift campaign's progress, visit [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/classgift](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/classgift)



## Sustainability

The university has affirmed its considerable green credentials by being hailed as the leading public sector body in the UK in 2010-2011 for the value of projects designed to save energy and cut carbon emissions, according to Salix Finance, an offshoot of the Carbon Trust. St Andrews has undertaken 111 green projects in total, committing over £1.9 million to a variety of initiatives.

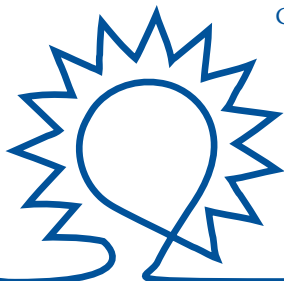
In a related development, Jamie Peters, project co-ordinator of Transition University of St Andrews has been awarded Best Green Campaigner / Activist at the Scottish

Green Awards. Jamie was recognised

for his work encouraging young people to get involved in climate change issues and volunteer their time. Transition University of St Andrews is a growing movement comprising students, staff and members of the St Andrews community whose aim is to work together to combat the global issues of climate change and falling oil supplies as well as to reduce carbon footprints.



Photo: Daily Mail



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*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 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 \$ .....

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### 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**  
*(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](mailto:donate@st-andrews.ac.uk))*

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## New appointments

Alistair Moffat, an author, former Director of the Edinburgh Fringe and former Director of Programmes at Scottish Television, has been appointed university **Rector** in a record student turnout. A St Andrews alumnus, Mr Moffat will undertake a three-year term of office, spanning the university's 600th Anniversary celebrations which continue until 2013.



The position of Rector is an important and unique role which exists only in the four Scottish ancient universities – St Andrews, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen – and in Dundee. The Rector represents the students of St Andrews and takes the Chair of Court, the supreme governing body of the university.

Following the retirement last year of Rev Dr Jamie Walker, the university has appointed a new **Chaplain**. Rev Dr Donald MacEwan comes to St Andrews after 10 years as Church of Scotland minister in Largoward and St Monans in the East Neuk. In his new appointment he is responsible for worship, pastoral care and managing an ecumenical and multi-faith chaplaincy for the whole university community, both students and staff.



## Online Love from Home service

Our very popular online Love from Home service, run in cooperation with local baker and confectioner Fisher & Donaldson, allows families to send their children cakes, chocolates and gift baskets on special occasions with a personalised message. To see the full selection of goodies which can be ordered and paid for online, please visit [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/parents/FamilyProgramme/LovefromHome](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/parents/FamilyProgramme/LovefromHome)

Please note that deliveries are made to addresses in St Andrews during term-time, Monday to Saturday, between 8am and 1pm. 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 2011/2012

[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/semesterdates/](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/semesterdates/)

**Candlemas Semester:** Monday 6 February 2012 – Friday 25 May 2012

**Spring Vacation:** Saturday 24 March 2012 – Sunday 8 April 2012

**Revision Period:** Commences Saturday 5 May 2012

**Examinations:** Saturday 12 May 2012 – Thursday 24 May 2012

**Graduation:** Tuesday 19 June 2012 – Friday 22 June 2012

**Resits:** Week beginning Monday 20 August 2012

**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](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/parents)

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