

# LINK

*The newsletter for families  
of undergraduate students*



University of  
St Andrews

600  
YEARS



Candlemas  
2014



This new statue of University founder, Bishop Henry Wardlaw, was created by sculptor David Annand and sits proudly in St Mary's Quadrangle – the site of the first university building 600 years ago

## Welcome

We are delighted to bring you this semester's selection of news from the University. For those families whose students graduate in the summer, we trust you have enjoyed participating in the Family Programme and we hope you will maintain your links with the University and with St Andrews. We look forward to keeping you up to date with University news and developments through our regular e-newsletter.

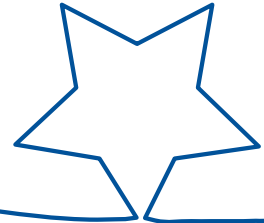
## Sustainable St Andrews

For many years, the University has been at the forefront of the sustainable development movement, through practice within the university estate, and research and teaching interests. Two major, recent developments have underlined the University's continuing commitment to sustainability and support a strategic drive to become the UK's first carbon-neutral university.



The disused paper mill at Guardbridge, purchased in 2010, is set to become a biomass facility to create clean energy for use by the University. Hot water will be pumped four miles underground from Guardbridge to St Andrews to heat and cool laboratories and halls of residence. The £25m investment in Guardbridge – including a £10m grant from the Scottish Funding Council – will also help to establish a Knowledge Exchange Hub to allow research and discoveries made in university labs to be translated into working prototypes, with the aim of attracting businesses and skills linked to the renewables sector.

Plans have also been approved for a six-turbine wind power development at Kenly, to the east of St Andrews. Kenly will reduce the University's carbon emissions by 19,000 tonnes per annum, and generate an inward investment of more than £20m and a community benefit of £1.2m over the life of the project.



## Committed to Caring

The University has been recognised for its commitment in providing education to young people in and leaving care. The prestigious Buttle UK Quality Mark is awarded to colleges and universities committed to supporting a young person who has been in care to access further and higher education, successfully complete their studies and to achieve their ambitions.

Young people in and leaving care are one of the most under-represented groups in education in the UK and the challenges facing this group are enormous. Often lacking family support, suffering financial disadvantage and struggling to find somewhere to live, applying for and being accepted for further and higher education is a real achievement.

In order to receive the Quality Mark, the University had to demonstrate that it has a robust strategy in place to ensure that students from a care background can access a package of support which is financial, pastoral and educational, achieved through its outreach work, admissions policy and bursaries.

Mike Johnson, the University's Director of Access and Scottish/EU Admissions said, "We are delighted that Buttle UK have recognised the work we do in the area of Looked After Children and we fully intend to make good the commitments we have made in this area."

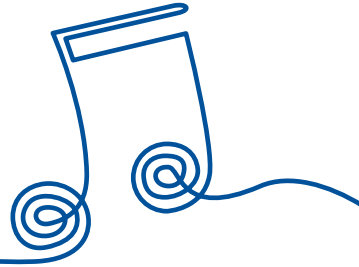
## Hitting the Right Notes

Music has always been a big part of life in St Andrews. A recent addition to the wide programme of musical activities has been the St Andrews Voices festival ([www.standrewsvoices.com](http://www.standrewsvoices.com)), which began in 2012 and goes from strength to strength. The festival showcases talented student and alumni musicians alongside an outstanding line-up of professional performers, all with an expertise in vocal performance. 2013's festival welcomed tenor Edmund Hastings, pianist Iain Burnside accompanying mezzo-soprano Susan Bickley, and renowned composer Sally Beamish.



The University Music Centre (based within Younger Hall) runs a wide and varied programme of musical tuition, both vocal and instrumental, and offers students the opportunity to study elements of music as part of their degree. In their free time, students can also be a part of one of the University orchestras and choirs.

A major upgrade to the facilities is currently planned to enhance the student experience through music. For further information, please contact Alex Hayes: E: [afh6@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:afh6@st-andrews.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1334 461918



## A Visit from the Northern Lights



On Thursday 27 February 2014, the lights of the *aurora borealis* lit up the skies over St Andrews and Steven Thomson, PhD student in the School of Physics & Astronomy and Condensed Matter Doctoral Training Centre, captured this stunning image. More commonly known as the "Northern Lights", the *aurora* occurs when charged particles from the sun collide with the earth's atmosphere. While Scandinavia, Iceland and Canada are the most popular locations from which to take in the phenomenon, St Andrews has been treated to spectacular green light shows many times over recent decades.

## Elephants Get the Point

New research by scientists from the University's School of Psychology & Neuroscience has revealed that elephants are the only wild animals to understand human pointing without any training.

Pointing is the most immediate and direct way that humans have for controlling others' attention. Most other animals do not point, nor do they understand pointing when others do it. Even our closest relatives, the great apes, typically fail to understand pointing when it is done for them by human carers.

The findings help explain how, for thousands of years, humans have been able to rely on wild-caught elephants as work animals, for logging, transport or in times of war.



## Life of Pi

This year saw the fifth anniversary of the University's link with The Booker Prize Foundation, a programme which provides every new entrant undergraduate with a copy of a novel recently shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize for Fiction.



The book chosen for this year won the prize in 2002 and has since been made into a hit motion picture. Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* tells the story of a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger as survivors from the tragic sinking of a cargo ship. Yann Martel visited St Andrews in December to give a public reading and take questions from students on his book. He also conducted a masterclass session for Creative Writing students from the University's School of English.

## Class Gift 2014

*"St Andrews has helped me to achieve more than I could ever have imagined. This is the best way to give back to St Andrews, to encourage others to do so and to ensure that future students have an equally amazing experience."*

Elizabeth Stone,  
Secretary of Class Gift 2014

2013 was a fantastic year for Class Gift, with approximately 180 students taking part in the combined Your600th and Class Gift efforts and raising £15,000 in support of the Students' Association Bursary.

The 2014 Committee, led by Convener Rachel Coleman, will split donations between the Students' Association Bursary Fund and resources in the Library (as voted for by students).



You can find out more about Class Gift and support student fundraising at: <https://sparc.st-andrews.ac.uk/giving/current-projects/students>

## On the Rocks

Now in its sixth year, having been established in 2009 by three students, *On the Rocks* is Scotland's biggest student arts festival and brings together theatre, dance, music and comedy into a week-long celebration of student creativity.

Highlights for this year taking place from 4-13 April include a production of the musical *Cabaret*, the Big Top Ball featuring circus acts, *Sitara\**, the Asian-inspired fashion show, and a number of community projects such as organ and clay workshops.

Entirely student-run, a committee of over thirty students is working together under the leadership of Festival Director, Emily Rogers. Previous participants in *On the Rocks* have gone on to form professional production companies (Patch of Blue Theatre, Waste of Paint), win playwriting/literary awards (Tim Foley & Jonathan Durie) and even win a Scottish BAFTA (Naysun Alae-Carew, Haphazard Media).

# The Gift of Education

## London Scholarship



18-year-old Sherlock Cruz has been awarded the inaugural London Scholarship, allowing him to start the first year of a degree in Economics. The scholarship was established from funds raised by the 2012 Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, organised by

the University of St Andrews Alumni Club London. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage young students from the Greater London area to study at St Andrews by equipping them with a scholarship towards their accommodation and living costs.



## 600th Finale

The University's 600th Anniversary celebrations drew to a close with events in St Andrews, London and New York at the end of 2013. St Andrew's Day was celebrated here in St Andrews with the November Graduation, an outdoor ceilidh and a 600th Finale Ball in St Salvator's Quadrangle. The University film, *Ever to Excel*, was also shown on BBC2 Scotland.

## 600th Anniversary Scholarship

Almost 300 friends of the University attended a fundraising dinner in November 2012, in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, in support of the 600th Anniversary campaign. This event and related fundraising efforts have so far secured over £500,000 to establish the 600th Anniversary Scholarship Fund which provides support for deserving young students to study at St Andrews.

In September 2013, the first 600th Anniversary Scholarship was awarded to Joseph McKinney from Kirriemuir in Angus. Joseph is studying for a BSc (Hons) degree in Mathematics.



Saturday 7 December saw the New York 600th Anniversary Gala in the Down Town Association, one of Manhattan's oldest private clubs. The Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Louise Richardson, was in attendance as around 200 alumni, parents and friends came together for the dinner and dance.

The Alumni Club London hosted their annual Service of Thanksgiving at the iconic Westminster Cathedral on Tuesday 10 December as over 1800 people gathered to mark the end of the 600th Anniversary celebrations. The Service, conducted by The Very Rev'd Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, was followed by a reception and dance in the QEII Centre.

Visit the club websites to find out more on future events in London ([www.usacl.org.uk](http://www.usacl.org.uk)) and New York ([www.alumniclubny.com](http://www.alumniclubny.com))

## Online Shop

A 10% discount is available to all alumni and friends at our online retail store, which sells official University-branded merchandise. The discount is available in-store and online and is valid across the entire shop, excluding shipping charges. All purchases made on our online store directly support teaching and research at the University of St Andrews.



To receive your 10% discount add the discount voucher code – SPARC600 – when prompted to do so. [www.standrewsuniversitystore.com](http://www.standrewsuniversitystore.com)

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:donate@st-andrews.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1334 461900.

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# Music and Memory

Gifts made in memory of loved ones are among the most personal ways in which donors can support the University. One such prize is The C J Low Award, established by alumna Christina Cameron in memory of her grandmother.

Mrs Cameron explains: "I'd like to think that the award might encourage students to work hard and play hard, and to take up new things which might not be directly relevant to their study or work but which can bring huge enjoyment and satisfaction throughout their lives."



The prize is awarded to the most improved student across three modules taught within the Music Department. The inaugural winner Eva Scholz (pictured), MA (Hons) Psychology, said: "Music has always played a major part in my life... Being awarded the prize has encouraged me to believe in my potential – both academically and musically – and to continue working hard."

For more information on memorial giving, please contact Varan Houghton, Legacy & Memorial Giving Officer E: [varan.houghton@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:varan.houghton@st-andrews.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1334 462030

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



## Saints March On

The oldest Scottish university sporting fixture – the annual varsity game between the University of St Andrews RFC and close rivals University of Edinburgh RFC – took place on Saturday 28 September 2013 at Richmond Athletic Ground, Surrey, in front of a crowd of thousands. In an exciting and hard-fought game, St Andrews triumphed 24-15 and took home the trophy, demonstrating that a major, seven-year investment in sport at St Andrews is already bringing rewards. The team has subsequently gone on to claim their first British Universities Championship in 17 years, going unbeaten in the process. If you would like to support sport at St Andrews, please contact Caroline Wallard: E: [clw1@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:clw1@st-andrews.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1334 462105

## Semester Dates 2014

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

**Candlemas Semester:** Monday 27 January – Friday 20 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

### Martinmas Semester:

**Orientation:** Week commencing Monday 8 September 2014  
**Graduation:** Monday 1 December 2014  
**Revision Period:** Week commencing Monday 1 December 2014  
**Examinations:** Monday 8 December 2014 – Friday 19 December 2014  
**Christmas Vacation:** Saturday 20 December 2014 – Sunday 25 January 2015

**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)

A forum for US parents of current students can be accessed on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/StAUSParents](http://www.facebook.com/StAUSParents)

Latest news and other information about the University can be viewed at:  
[www.st-andrews.ac.uk](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk)

Produced by Print & Design, University of St Andrews, March 2014

Photographs: Thomas Alexander Photography, Sophie Mackenzie, Yan Martel, Eva Scholz, Steven Thomson, Lawrence Winram  
Printed by Winter and Simpson Print on Revive Pure Uncoated, 100% recycled paper  
The University of St Andrews is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC013532