

LINK

*The newsletter for families
of undergraduate students*



University of
St Andrews

600
YEARS



Candlemas
2016



Welcome

Welcome to the Candlemas edition of *Link*, the newsletter for families of undergraduate students. For those families whose students graduate in the summer, we hope you have enjoyed participating in the Family Programme and hope that you will maintain your links with the University and with St Andrews. We also look forward to keeping you up to date with University news and developments throughout the year in our regular e-newsletter, *St Andrews in the News*.

We are always pleased to receive feedback and suggestions of stories for future editions of *Link*, via alumni@st-andrews.ac.uk.

Robert Fleming, Director of Development

New Principal announced



Professor Sally Mapstone will be joining St Andrews as the new Principal and Vice-Chancellor. Professor Mapstone has held a number of senior positions at the University of Oxford where she is currently the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education.

Professor Mapstone said: "I am thrilled to be coming to the University of St Andrews as its next Principal. Its focus on quality in education and student experience, its commitment to outreach, and its emphasis on independent-minded research all speak strongly to my own values. I have known the University for many years as a scholar of Scottish culture, and it will be an honour to be part of building its future."

In her leadership roles at Oxford, Professor Mapstone was the architect of the University's current strategic plan and led on diversification of the University's student body and of its curriculum. She also launched and remains the main sponsor of Oxford's mentoring scheme for senior women and is currently staging a major new series of Oxford lectures on the theme of "Women of Achievement."

Professor Mapstone is Professor of Older Scots Literature in the Faculty of English at Oxford and a Fellow of St Hilda's College. She will join St Andrews in September of this year.

Declaration on a Shared Humanity

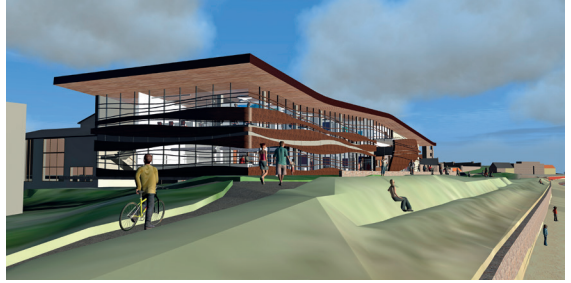
In September 2016, representatives from the world's major faiths will come to St Andrews for a landmark event to sign the St Andrews Declaration on a Shared Humanity. Professor of Divinity Mario Aguilar wrote the Declaration, which incorporates the teachings of different faiths and embraces the basic principles of humanity, equality, diversity and freedom.

The signing of the Declaration will be attended by a representative from the Vatican, members of Christian churches, Hindu communities from the UK and India, ambassadors of Muslim nations, leaders of the UK Jewish community and a representative of the Dalai Lama.



A global hub for marine research

To maintain its position as an internationally renowned centre for marine research, the University is to build a multi-school aquarium, experimental facility and research building at East Sands to replace the existing facilities. The New Gatty Marine Centre will create one of the most advanced research aquaria in Europe, support world-class research now and in the future and enable visitors and members of the community to access and better understand the science taking place here.



The aquarium will contain specialist rooms in which cutting edge electronic and optical equipment will be used to conduct research into hypotheses on impacts of climate change. The facilities will accommodate current and future research and teaching needs, and will bring scientists from around the University into a marine research hub where they can work collaboratively.

The New Gatty will also incorporate a Visitor Centre and Collaboration Zone on the ground floor to house interactive information displays, enabling children and adults to connect with the science taking place here and promoting public understanding of the world's oceans and the unique ecosystem of the North Sea.

A step in the right direction

The best way for a student to learn about whether a potential career path might be the right one for them is by observing someone who knows from experience. The Careers Centre runs a world-wide Shadowing Programme to help our students do just that. With support from parents, alumni and employers around the world, over 130 students were able to take part in our winter 2016 programme across a wide variety of industries, gaining valuable workplace experience as a result. In previous years, the Programme has led to offers of internships or even future employment for some participants.



The Careers Centre is now looking towards an even bigger Shadowing Programme for this coming summer, with parents being invited once again to host a student at their place of work for a day. Opportunities are welcomed from all around the world and the timeframe can be flexible to suit your summer schedule. If you would like to know more, or volunteer to help with the Summer Shadowing Programme, please visit: <http://bit.ly/StAShadow> or email careers@st-andrews.ac.uk

Fibre-optic healing technology

Researchers at the University of St Andrews and Harvard Medical School have developed a new technique which delivers light deeper into human tissue than previously possible. The new method, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, could help heal wounds faster and treat tumours more efficiently.

The technique works through a process called photochemical tissue bonding, where light is applied to a wound to stimulate healing. The new technology allows this method to be applied deeper in the human body.

The international team found a way to make biodegradable optical fibres, which can be inserted into the body to deliver light to heal internal wounds locally, for example after surgery. The research could also be applied to a variety of other areas, such as long-term photodynamic therapy (PDT) in the treatment of cancer.

Towards a better diagnosis

The University has been awarded a €400,000 “twende” project funded by the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership. “Twende” is a word in Swahili that is used to encourage one another to move forward.



Dr Wilber Sabiiti

The programme, supported by the European Union, aims to understand and overcome the barriers to the implementation of better tuberculosis diagnostics. The study is being led by two St Andrews researchers and professors in collaboration with partners in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

The impact of the study is expected to be far-reaching, with findings applying not only to TB but to the entire health care system.

Let the games begin

A crowd of over 300 spectators at the new Sports Arena at the University Sports Centre was treated to a thrilling opening match as the Women’s Basketball team defeated Robert Gordon University by 51-49, courtesy of a last-minute basket.



This is just one of many successes for the 2015 Saints Sport ‘Team of the Year’ as they defended their British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) Division 1 title and began competing in the National League. Now recognised as a high performance sport, the club has benefited from a new development programme and increased volunteer coaching opportunities within local primary schools.

The new Sports Arena is phase one of the £14 million redevelopment of the University’s sporting facilities and illustrates the efforts being made to promote high performance sport. If you would like more information on the fundraising efforts for the new sports facilities including naming a seat in the new Sports Arena, please visit <http://bit.ly/StABLEacher> or email Alex Hayes at afh6@st-andrews.ac.uk

An entrepreneurial spirit

Since graduating from St Andrews with a degree in International Business in 2010, Veda Tirumalareddy has enjoyed success in India with her niche travel company which promotes sustainable holidays. In recognition of the strong growth prospects of her business and her entrepreneurial spirit, Veda has been named as a finalist in the India Entrepreneurial category at the British Council Education UK Alumni Awards 2016.

Veda's company has recently expanded into Australia and South Africa. She believes studying in a diverse academic environment in the UK to be a key component of her success in terms of being able to apply the skills learned through her course at the University directly into her start-up company.

Love from Home

Run in cooperation with local baker and confectioner Fisher & Donaldson, our online *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.



The Charities Campaign

The University of St Andrews Charities Campaign is the official charitable sub-committee of the St Andrews Students' Association (the Union). Every Spring, students vote on which three charities (one local, one national, and one international) the Charities Campaign will actively support that year. Through a range of activities that includes Raising and Giving (RAG) Week and Race2, there are endless opportunities for students to get involved. For the 2015–2016 academic year, the three selected charities are Nightline, Maggie's Cancer Centres and UNICEF.

In the final week of the inter-semester break, 175 students set off from St Andrews in the early hours of 14 January to hitch-hike all the way to Budapest for one of the Charities Campaign's most popular projects: Race2. In teams of two or three, students rely on the kindness of other travellers to make their way across Europe and racers must check in regularly with a round-the-clock team of volunteers to ensure they are safe. This year, the winning team made it to Budapest in less than 48 hours! Race2Budapest raised £30,000 and the Charities Campaign is well on its way to smashing its previous fundraising records.



Two of the successful racers in Budapest

The Student Activities Fund

Established to help our student clubs and societies to expand their offerings and meet the growing demand from their members, the Student Activities Fund is providing some major benefits to student life at St Andrews. Recognising the need to support student groups in their extra-curricular activities, generous donations from parents and alumni have provided new opportunities to participate in engaging and stimulating projects. Awards from the Fund have supported a wide range of groups, including our now top-ranked ice hockey team, the St Andrews Typhoons (pictured). Team member Jacob Ware thanked supporters of the Fund, saying of their upcoming season that “[the Typhoons] are excited to have a chance to prove we are the best team in the country” courtesy of a Student Activities Fund grant.



The popular comedy troupe Blind Mirth, has been able to travel and perform across Scotland and beyond also thanks to support from the Fund. Describing their time at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Blind Mirth said the experience created, “... a platform from which [we could] showcase the talent and skill that St Andrews has to offer. Our greatest thanks goes to all who contributed to make this [award] possible.”

To expand the reach of the Student Activities Fund even further, we are hoping to gather support from our tight-knit St Andrews community of alumni and parents. Making a gift to the Student Activities Fund will continue to enable other students like Jacob to benefit from a wide range of experiences during their time in St Andrews.

If you have any questions about the Fund or how to contribute, please contact Lynsey Kerr at lynsey.kerr@st-andrews.ac.uk or go online to <https://sparc.st-andrews.ac.uk/giving/makeyourgift>

An exchange in academic excellence

The Robert T Jones Memorial Trust Scholarship was established in 1976 by friends and family of the late Robert T Jones, Jr. The scholarship seeks students who exemplify the legacy of Bobby Jones through intellectual excellence, significant leadership, and exemplary character, integrity and citizenship. Since its inception, more than two hundred students from the United States and Scotland have enjoyed the opportunities provided by this unique scholarship.



The Bobby Jones Scholars and Fellow 2015-2016 currently studying at Emory from St Andrews

The Bobby Jones Scholarship enhances the relationship between the University of St Andrews and Emory University by annually selecting four students from each university to undertake a fully paid year of study at the other university. The students have the opportunity to supplement their education at a top-ranking institution abroad, to become integrated members of their local communities and to experience the best local and national cultural offerings in their new surroundings.

Academic awards

A number of St Andrews academics have recently received awards. A selection of these are listed below:

Professor of Poetry Don Paterson (pictured) is the recipient of one of the most prestigious awards on the literary calendar. Professor Paterson won the 2015 Costa Poetry Award for his latest collection, *40 Sonnets*. Judges described *40 Sonnets* as, "The stand-out collection of the year."



Dr Rebecca Sweetman of the School of Classics has received the prestigious Philip Leverhulme Trust Major Fellowship which will enable her to undertake two years research leave to pursue the study of the Cyclades in the Roman and Late Antique Period.

Dr Karen Spencer from the School of Psychology & Neuroscience and Dr Nicola Allison from the School of Geography & Geosciences have each received grants of over £100,000 from the Philip Leverhulme Trust.

Professor David Tregar Ulph from the School of Economics & Finance, has been awarded a CBE in the New Years Honours 2016, for services to economics and social sciences.

Five academics have been awarded Fellowships of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE).

They are: poet and Professor of Creative Writing John Burnside; Professor of Iranian History Ali Ansari; Professor in Physical Chemistry Sharon Ashbrook; Professor of Philosophy Katherine Hawley; and Professor of Marine Mammal Biology Peter Tyack.

University of St Andrews Shop

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Personalised gifts and beautiful homeware; quality clothing including our University tartan range; and timeless St Andrews souvenirs.

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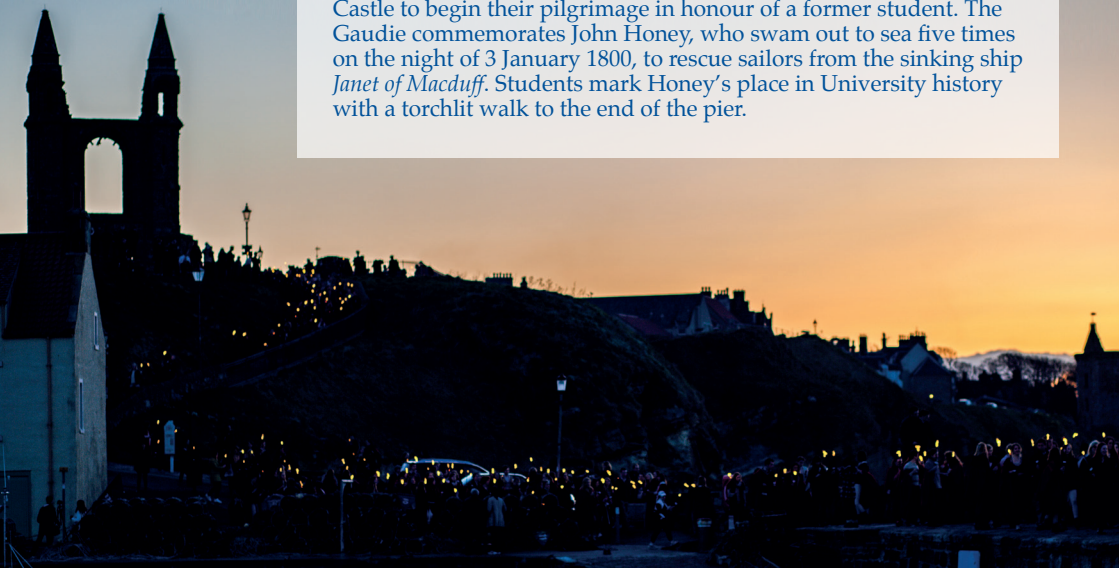
All purchases support teaching and research at the University of St Andrews. International shipping available.

**Discount is not valid on sale or made-to-order items. Terms and conditions apply.*



The Gaudie

Every year, on the evening of 30 April, students gather at St Andrews Castle to begin their pilgrimage in honour of a former student. The Gaudie commemorates John Honey, who swam out to sea five times on the night of 3 January 1800, to rescue sailors from the sinking ship *Janet of Macduff*. Students mark Honey's place in University history with a torchlit walk to the end of the pier.



Semester Dates 2015-2016

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/semesterdates

Candlemas Semester: Monday 25 January 2016 – Friday 27 May 2016

Spring Vacation: Saturday 12 March 2016 – Sunday 27 March 2016

Revision Period: Commences Monday 25 April 2016

Examinations: Monday 9 May 2016 – Friday 27 May 2016

Graduation: Week commencing 20 June 2016

Resits: Week commencing 15 August 2016

Martinmas Semester: Monday 12 September – Friday 16 December 2016

Graduation: Wednesday 30 November 2016 and Thursday 1 December 2016

Revision Period: Week Commencing Monday 28 November 2016

Examinations: Monday 5 December – Friday 16 December 2016

Christmas Vacation: Saturday 17 December – Sunday 23 January 2017

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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

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