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LINK

Issue 1
2019-2020

*The newsletter for families
of undergraduate students*

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of *Link* in the 2019-2020 academic year. It is fantastic to keep in touch with members of our Family Programme and I hope you enjoy keeping up to date with everything that's happening at the University. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the many events we host across the world, but in the meantime I hope that *Link* allows you a flavour of what is happening in St Andrews.

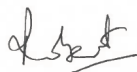
This issue features the launch of the Scottish Oceans Institute on the East Sands by the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon. This state-of-the-art marine science hub will provide our scientists with the resources and space they need to find answers to some of the most serious challenges that our planet is currently facing.

There is also an update on our exciting plans and projects, along with a summary of our recent success in the league tables.

Please do contact alumni@st-andrews.ac.uk if you have any comments or suggestions for future issues.

You should already have received a letter from the Principal and Vice-Chancellor – Professor Sally Mapstone – welcoming you to the University community and encouraging you to develop your relationship with us and to support us financially if you can. If you have already made a gift, then thank you so much. If you haven't yet done so, then I would ask you to consider filling in the enclosed gift form now: your gift – no matter what size – will help to support the work of St Andrews.

With best wishes,



Robert Fleming, Director of Development



Strike update

We are aware of the possibility of strike action by some lecturers in St Andrews in late November and early December. This is part of a national UK dispute over pay and pensions. We will be keeping students fully updated as this fluid situation develops via dedicated online resources, face to face support and regular briefings. Our aim is to avoid or at the very least minimise disruption to our students, and we'll keep our friends, supporters and families closely informed of any key developments.

For further guidance about the planned industrial action please visit our website: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/strike>

Launch of the Scottish Oceans Institute



Professor Lorna Milne, Master and Deputy Principal; Professor Ailsa Hall, Director, Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU); Professor Sally Mapstone, Principal and Vice-Chancellor; First Minister Nicola Sturgeon; Professor Vincent Janik, Director, Scottish Oceans Institute (SOI)

On 30 September 2019 First Minister Nicola Sturgeon officially opened the new Scottish Oceans Institute (SOI) building at the University of St Andrews.

The SOI is renowned internationally for its research in the marine sciences. It is involved in projects ranging from the first ship-based research expedition to Thwaites Glacier in West Antarctica to integrating genomics and development to help us understand animal evolution.

Director of the Scottish Oceans Institute Professor Vincent Janik said: "The new SOI building has brought all our marine scientists under one roof, facilitating daily interactions that will lead to innovative and new research. The new aquarium is a research facility of the highest standard and we are very excited about using it to expand our work on how human activities affect our oceans."

The First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, reinforced the University's excellent reputation for world-class research and developing international collaborations and said that the SOI's "work on marine science will help ensure that our marine environment continues to be well managed while sharing learning and best practice."

Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sally Mapstone said: "The Scottish Oceans Institute enjoys a global reputation as a leader in the study of the marine environment. The facilities at the new centre of excellence will further enhance St Andrews' world standing in the field of marine sciences research and advanced teaching, and will provide wonderful opportunities, too, for our local community and our visitors."

This new state-of-the-art aquarium, research and teaching building will provide our scientists with the resources and space they need to tackle some of the most pressing issues of our time. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the new SOI building a reality.

Visit our website to find out more about the story of the SOI: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/development/support/projects/soi

An update on our exciting plans

Younger Hall



A comprehensive refurbishment of the Younger Hall is now underway. The £12 million programme of restoration works will give this

iconic building a new lease of life for another century and will be completed in time for June graduation in 2021. The hall will remain open for winter Graduation 2019 and for summer Graduation 2020.

'New College'



Madras College's South Street site will provide the University with the opportunity to build its first new college in St Andrews in

three centuries. We are currently developing ambitious plans to enhance the existing architecture to make a fit-for-purpose collaborative facility in the centre of the town.

Mackenzie Institute



The Sir James Mackenzie Institute for Early Diagnosis is an international collaboration that includes institutions and

researchers from Ireland, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, the United States and sub-Saharan Africa. Its aim is to share knowledge, skills and ideas to enable earlier diagnosis and more successful treatment of diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, mental health and infection. The Institute launched in September 2019.

Laidlaw Music Centre



The state-of-the-art music centre close to the Byre Theatre in the heart of the town is nearing completion.

The new building will offer a full range of soundproofed, acoustically-appropriate practice, rehearsal, teaching, recording and performance spaces that everyone in our thriving musical community can use.

Wardlaw Museum



Previously called the Museum of the University of St Andrews (MUSA), this award-winning museum was renamed in

2019 by the Principal and Vice-Chancellor to reflect the step-change in its scope and ambition. The new extension, currently under construction, will help us cope with the huge demand for community outreach facilities and will develop temporary exhibition space to showcase its collections of some of the University's many thousands of artefacts.

Scholarships



Over £27.5 million has been raised for scholarships and student support by more than 8,000 donors over the past ten years. As a

result, the University has been able to set up over 500 new scholarships for disadvantaged students. As well as our flagship Wardlaw Scholarship programme, we have been able to support students who excel in extracurricular activities, who come from particular geographic locations and who choose to study specific subject areas.

SaintsFunder news

SaintsFunder (<https://saintsfunder.st-andrews.ac.uk>) is the University's crowdfunding platform – set up in response to students and staff wishing to fundraise for their specific societies, clubs and projects.

PLASTIC: Unwrapped



Beach clean in Veracruz, Panama

PLASTIC: Unwrapped – the latest SaintsFunder project – involves a global investigation into plastic pollution solutions. With support from an R&A International Scholarship and the School of Biology, Milly Clover and Sophie-Dorothe Lieke (two Biology students who graduated in June 2019) are currently travelling through six continents within nine months to find solutions to the international plastic problem.

Milly and Sophie-Dorothe are using their R&A International travel grant to research as many innovative solutions to the plastic pandemic by as many different groups and individuals as possible. Their long-term goal is then to create a global network and showcase these ideas and solutions so they can be shared and used in different countries.

They are documenting their travels and discoveries on social media and are regularly updating their blog. Follow and support them on their journey to combat the world's plastic problem:

 plasticunwrapped.wixsite.com/network

 [plasticunwrapped](#)

 [plasticunwrapped](#)

Two boys on a bike for sight



Alex McMaster and Merlin Hetherington – the recipients of the 2018-2019 R&A International Scholarship – have returned to the UK after they cycled from Cairo to Cape Town, delivering the Arlight device and training health workers how to use this low cost diagnostic tool. We are delighted to confirm that they raised a massive £24,572. Thanks to everyone who supported them!

Autumn telephone campaign



Our student callers have been in touch with alumni, friends and parents this month to tell them about all the wonderful projects that are currently taking place in St Andrews – from the first new college in 300 years to the state-of-the-art Laidlaw Music Centre.

They have had some wonderful conversations with you already. Thank you for taking the time to talk to them, and for your support! The experience and advice they gain as a result of these campaigns is invaluable.



Meet the Sabbaticals

Here are this year's Sabbatical Officers – six students who have been elected by their peers to represent them until July 2020. The 'Sabbs' can be found at the Students' Association building and at the Sports Centre, and are available to help with all manner of student queries.

Jamie Rodney

Jamie is the Students' Association President. His role is to represent all students. His particular focus is on issues such as student accommodation and tuition fees, widening access and outreach, sustainability and alumni engagement.



Flora Smith

Flora is the Director of Wellbeing and represents students on matters relating to Student Wellbeing and Equal Opportunities. She works closely with student groups including StAnd Together, Nightline and Saints LGBT+.



Leah Allcock

Leah is the Athletic Union President. She represents the student body across all sporting platforms – from recreational and competitive to wellbeing within sport and its role within the University's strategy.



Shaina Sullivan

Shaina is Director of Student Development and Activities. She oversees all extracurricular activities, including the many and varied student societies.



Amy Bretherton

Amy is Director of Education. Her remit covers education, postgraduate studies and employability.



Mika Schmeling

Mika is the Director of Events and Services. Her role is to manage the venues, commercial spaces and entertainment schedule of the Students' Association.



Awards

We have had an extremely good year in the league tables, but we were particularly thrilled when the *Guardian University Guide 2020* ranked us top university in Scotland and second only to Cambridge in the UK: the award is based on high scores for student satisfaction, graduate employment and the quality of our academic programmes. This achievement was unprecedented and broke the traditional Oxford-Cambridge duopoly at the top of all UK University league tables.

TOP IN SCOTLAND FOR 12 YEARS

The Complete University Guide 2020

TOP 100 WORLD UNIVERSITY

QS World University Rankings 2020

UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR

The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020



BEST IN SCOTLAND 2ND IN THE UK

Guardian University Guide 2020

1ST IN THE UK FOR STUDENT SATISFACTION

National Student Survey 2019

Student accommodation wins award

One of our newly-built student residences has also won an award! Whitehorn Hall recently won the 2019 prize in the residential category of the Scottish Design Awards. The hall was opened in 2018 within the grounds of the existing University Hall Old Wing, and was named after Katharine Whitehorn, the first female Rector of the University (1982-1985). The design was commended because it was sympathetic to the qualities and features of the existing listed structure.



The Eden Residence Club



The Eden Residence Club is an invitation-only private members vacation club and, as a proud supporter of the University of St Andrews, we are 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 one-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.

As a member, you will have access to hundreds of luxury residences in the world's finest destinations, exclusive events and once in a lifetime adventures. You can stay and enjoy world-class amenities at the finest private residence clubs, destination clubs and luxury branded resort developments all at special members rates.

Call +1-646-968-0648, email enquiries@theedenresidenceclub.com or visit www.theedenresidenceclub.org quoting offer code **UOS19** to find out more about your exclusive invitation.



Forthcoming semester dates 2019-2020

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/semesterdates

Martinmas Semester: Monday 16 September – Friday 20 December 2019

Graduation: Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 December

Revision Period: Week commencing Monday 2 December 2019

Examinations: Saturday 7 December – Friday 20 December 2019

Christmas vacation: Saturday 21 December – Sunday 26 January 2020

Candlemas Semester: Monday 27 January – Friday 29 May 2020

Spring vacation: Saturday 14 March – Sunday 29 March 2020

Revision period: Week commencing Monday 27 April 2020

Examinations: Saturday 9 May – Friday 22 May 2020

Graduation: Week commencing Monday 22 June 2020

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If you would like to support St Andrews you can find more information on how to donate at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/development/support or contact: develop@st-andrews.ac.uk



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A printed copy is available on request.

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Facebook: @ustaalumni
Twitter: @ustaalumni
Wordpress: IncomparaBubble
Instagram: @ustaalumni

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