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# LINK

Issue 2  
2018-2019

*The newsletter for families  
of undergraduate students*

## Welcome

Welcome to this semester's issue of *Link* – our bi-annual newsletter for the families of undergraduate students.

Reaching the 600th Anniversary Campaign target of £100m in June last year was a significant milestone in the long history of philanthropy at St Andrews, and I am delighted so many family programme members contributed over the course of the Campaign. We are proud to be ranked first in the UK for family giving to universities, and the impact of the Campaign can be seen around the town with the expanded Sports Centre, refurbished Students' Association building, new postgraduate library, refurbished main library, and with over £27 million raised for scholarships, so many students are already benefiting. Thank you for your continued support!



In October the Principal launched our new Strategic Plan 2018-2023. The Strategy expresses our ambitions across four distinct themes: World-leading St Andrews; Diverse St Andrews; Global St Andrews and Entrepreneurial St Andrews, with a commitment to Social Responsibility underpinning all of these priorities. I hope you will enjoy reading about the strategy and about the exciting and ambitious projects at its heart.

We also have a fascinating three-generations perspective on student life and traditions at St Andrews ranging from the 1960s to 2019. Although many things have changed, the core ethos of the University remains the same.

Finally, we have our usual round-up of University news and events and an update on the exciting research projects taking place here.

Please contact [alumni@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@st-andrews.ac.uk) if you have any comments or suggestions for future issues.

Robert Fleming, Director of Development

## Strategy for 2018-2023



Principal Professor Sally Mapstone launched the Strategic Plan 2018-2023 – her vision for the University in the next five years – in October 2018:

“Our fundamental goal is to attract and nurture the best staff and the most promising students from around the world and provide an environment in which they can produce their best work for maximum societal benefit.

“In this five-year Strategy we set out how we will act on our core qualities and key ambitions to grow in size, scale, and impact, and to consolidate our strengths. We will do this in ways which respect and support our people, our values, and our environment. This Strategy expresses our ambitions across four distinct but equally important themes: World-leading St Andrews, Diverse St Andrews, Global St Andrews, Entrepreneurial St Andrews.

“It takes full account of the geo-political context in which we now operate – the dismantling of traditional alliances, Brexit, the pace and scale of growth in international competition in higher education, the advancement of technology, and the requirement for successful global institutions to focus on quality, sustainability, and partnership.”

You can access the digital version of the full Strategy at:  
[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/about/governance/university-strategy](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/about/governance/university-strategy)

The new Strategy provides the context for our exciting and ambitious plans for the future:

### Scottish Oceans Institute and the Laidlaw Music Centre



Construction is well underway on these buildings, and both are due to be completed in 2019.

### Younger Hall



Since it was inaugurated in 1929, the Younger Hall has been at the heart of the University's ceremonial occasions.

After nearly a century of constant use, the hall now requires to be refurbished and upgraded. We have therefore planned a £12 million programme of restoration to give this iconic building a new lease of life. Works are scheduled to be carried out over two phases between 2019 and 2021, so summer graduations will not be affected.

### 'New College'



Madras College on South Street is a distinctive and well-loved landmark in the centre of St Andrews. This eight-acre site will provide the University with the opportunity to build its first new college in three centuries, which will focus on Social Science subjects.

### A new building for STEM



The promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects is a national strategic priority.

We plan to construct a new STEM building on the North Haugh to reinforce our commitment to advancing science and technology and enhancing interdisciplinary possibilities.

### Scholarships

Both undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships will continue to be one of our main priorities. As well as our flagship Wardlaw Scholarship

Programme, we have been able to set up new scholarships to support students who excel in extracurricular activities, who come from specific geographical locations or who choose to study specific subject areas.





## Following in the family tradition

The fact that her grandmother and her father both graduated from St Andrews made Jacqui Kelly determined to follow in the family tradition and apply to study here. Jacqui was delighted when she was accepted to study Social Anthropology.

Grandmother Isobel (who graduated in 1961 in Physics) and father Neil (who graduated in 1990 in Management) travelled with Jacqui from Vancouver in September last year to help her settle into student life at St Andrews.

Several months into the first semester, we asked the three generations about their different perspectives of student life and traditions here:

First, grandmother and granddaughter compared their different experiences of Raisin Weekend:

Isobel remembers that “in my day, it was customary for the senior man [academic father] to give a receipt written in Latin to his bejantine after she had presented him with a pound of raisins or a bottle of wine. (In my case, I gave him a bottle of wine!) On Raisin Monday I was obliged to carry this receipt and could be accosted by any senior student, who would either examine the receipt for mistakes or make me produce a flawless rendition of *Gaudeamus igitur*.” (Any mistakes in either usually incurred a fine or forfeit.)

Jacqui’s experience in October last year was an altogether different affair. “My academic parents dressed me and my siblings as superheroes, and we had to carry a pumpkin as a receipt.” And, of course, the Raisin Monday foam fight in the lawn behind Lower College has now become a tradition in its own right.

Mother and son shared their memories of the town itself:



Neil particularly remembers the Old Course, the R&A Clubhouse (he was a keen golfer and played in the University team), the Dunvegan, the Vic and – of course – Fisher & Donaldson. And although the town of St Andrews is somewhat different now compared to what it was in 1990, he thinks its friendly spirit has remained: “The fact that St Andrews is small means that you can bump into people on a regular basis. There was – and is – a real sense of community.”

For Isobel, “The old part of the town is just as I remember, and I still avoid stepping on the PH stone! However, the Students’ Union is now unrecognisable! My gown was very important to me, and I was proud that Jacqui was able to wear it on her first pier walk.”

For Jacqui, it was poignant to think that she was literally walking in her family’s footsteps along the pier – wearing her grandmother’s gown – at the beginning of her own St Andrews experience.

You can read the whole blog at: [bit.ly/sta-three-generations](http://bit.ly/sta-three-generations)



## SaintsFunder

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.

## Project Zambia

We are delighted to announce the launch of a new project: Rachel Nixon has been selected to take part in Project Zambia this summer and is crowdfunding to raise money for her travel and subsistence costs. Rachel is already preparing for her six-week stay in the village of Kazemba in rural Zambia, where she will be supporting teachers and students in the local school, accompanied by our University staff team.



## Arclight Tandem Africa

Meanwhile, R&A International Scholars Alex McMaster and Merlin Heatherington are halfway along their journey from Egypt to South Africa and have distributed Arclight devices to a range of medical training facilities along the way. Most recently they had a fantastic session with 100 students at KCMC Hospital in Moshi, Tanzania.

Alex and Merlin are currently having to explore some alternative modes of transport: cycling for such an extended time and distance has led to medical issues. However, they are determined to continue their journey under their own steam and are problem-solving as they go.

### This just in!

We’ve just heard that Alex and Merlin have raised £12,145 – an inspiring figure! However, the boys are continuing their travels on foot across Africa to train more health workers and deliver more Arclights. Every £1 donated helps this ongoing quest. You can be part of it by donating at: [bit.ly/sta-donations](http://bit.ly/sta-donations)

Please visit SaintsFunder to find out more about these and other projects: <https://saintsfunder.st-andrews.ac.uk>

## Class Gift 2019

If your son or daughter is graduating this year, please check out SaintsFunder during graduation week when we will be crowdfunding to raise funds towards the Students’ Association Bursary Fund. This provides awards worth £500 each to students from any country who need help with emergency costs.



## University news

Here is a round-up of the latest news from the University.

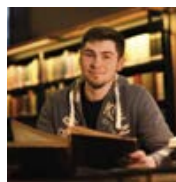
- The fire that broke out recently in the Biomedical Sciences Building in North Haugh was dealt with effectively by teams of local firefighters. The Principal says that: "Our priority is to support all the staff and students affected by the fire, and to do everything feasible to allow them to continue or re-start their work as quickly as possible. We aim to achieve that for the majority by temporarily relocating them in labs and accommodation kindly offered by other Schools. Our best estimate at present is that BMS will be out of action for at least 18 months."

- The winner of the twenty-first St Andrews Prize for the Environment has been announced: Saathi has developed a sanitary product for girls and women in rural Jharkhand that is biodegradable and compostable, using agricultural waste from banana tree farmers. Read more at [bit.ly/sta-saathi-wins](http://bit.ly/sta-saathi-wins)



- On 22 January the Principal, Professor Sally Mapstone, welcomed representatives from more than 100 local societies, clubs and groups to an event to celebrate the relationship between the University and the town.

- Jonny Woods, a third-year Divinity undergraduate, has decoded previously impenetrable religious documents, becoming the first person in the world to read some of the hundreds of pages of shorthand notes left by the famous Baptist leader Andrew Fuller.



- A periodic table discovered in the University's School of Chemistry in 2014 is now believed to be the oldest in the world, dating from 1885. Dr Alan Aitken came across the chart of elements while clearing out a storage area in 2014.
- On the eve of Brexit, the University of St Andrews has signed a partnership agreement with the University of Bonn, one of Europe's leading universities. The agreement provides for new and far-reaching collaborations in research, study and administration, alongside promises of increased opportunity for student and staff exchanges. The University's Brexit Preparedness Group continues to meet to review contingency arrangements for the short, medium and longer term.
- The St Andrews Institute for Gender Studies was launched on 4 December 2018, bringing together academics from across the University with research interests in gender. The inaugural event was introduced by Principal Professor Sally Mapstone.



You can see more University news at: <https://news.st-andrews.ac.uk>

## Research and awards

Our academics regularly win awards for their outstanding work and their research is often influential and applicable at national and international level:

- Seal behaviour is to inform St Andrews academics on rising sea levels. In January 2019 Dr Lars Boehme and Guilherme Bortolotto De Oliveira from the Sea Mammal Research Unit boarded the first ship-based research expedition to Thwaites Glacier in West Antarctica, from which they will monitor seals which live near the ice front of the glacier.



- Professor Steve Buckland, Director of the Centre for Research into Ecological and Environmental Modelling, is the 2019 recipient of the Guy Medal in Gold from the Royal Statistical Society, awarded for his significant and sustained contributions to the development of statistical methods for ecological applications over a period of more than 40 years.

- New research in mapping baboon genomes, conducted by an international team of scientists, including researchers from the University, has demonstrated how this work in sequencing could help to unravel the evolutionary history of modern humans.



(Left to right: Dr Allan Watson and Professor Derek Duncan)

- Two Leverhulme awards have been granted to academics at the University. The Leverhulme Trust has awarded the prestigious Research Fellowships to Professor Derek Duncan of the School of Modern Languages and Dr Allan Watson of the School of Chemistry.
- Leading St Andrews academics Professor James Harris (Head of Philosophy), Dr Silvia Paracchini (Royal Society University Research Fellow) and Professor Kate Rudy (School of Art History) join Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sally Mapstone as new Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.



## Love from Home

Our *Love from Home* service offers you the chance to send cakes, chocolates and gift baskets to your students as a little bit of encouragement or on special occasions. Order online at: <http://bit.ly/sta-love-from-home>



Please see online for terms and conditions.



# 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 thousands 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](mailto:enquiries@theedenresidenceclub.com) or visit [www.theedenresidenceclub.org](http://www.theedenresidenceclub.org) quoting offer code **UOS19** to find out more about your exclusive invitation.



## Forthcoming semester dates 2019

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

**Candlemas Semester:** Monday 28 January 2019 – Friday 31 May 2019

**Spring Vacation:** Monday 18 March 2019 – Sunday 31 March 2019

**Revision Period:** Commences Monday 29 April 2019

**Examinations:** Saturday 11 May 2019 – Friday 24 May 2019

**Graduation:** Monday 24 June 2019 – Friday 28 June 2019

**Orientation Week:** Monday 9 September 2019

**Martinmas Semester:** Monday 16 September 2019 –  
Friday 20 December 2019

**Christmas Vacation:** Monday 23 December 2019 – Friday 24 January 2020

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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)