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St Andrews

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LINK

*The newsletter for families
of undergraduate students*

SEMESTER 2 ISSUE
Summer 2023

Welcome

Welcome to the second issue of *LINK* magazine in the 2022-2023 academic year.

This semester has been jam-packed with all sorts of events from online Saints Talks and live-streamed music from the Laidlaw Centre to our Global Burns Night, which has now become a regular fixture in our calendar. We were also delighted to host the second Sands International Film Festival in April, with key supporter Joe Russo and Hollywood legend Stanley Tucci both appearing at events.

We are looking forward to welcoming and meeting many of you at the Class of 2023 graduation in the refurbished Younger Hall this month.

In this issue we look at some of the Saints Sport success stories this year. There's an update on 'New College' – the first new college in St Andrews in three centuries. Work is continuing apace, with demolition of the buildings to the rear of the facade and the 19th-century building now complete. There's also an update about the Kaleidoscope Alumni Network, with some exciting events to look forward to during graduation week. In addition you can read about a recent visit by some of our academics to Kyiv to meet with members of the Ukrainian government.

I hope you enjoy this latest issue and look forward to welcoming you back to St Andrews soon!



Robert Fleming, Director of Development



St Andrews top in new university rankings



The Complete University Guide 2024 has ranked the University of St Andrews as the top university in Scotland, and fourth in the UK.

The Guide has placed St Andrews top in the UK for student satisfaction for the fifth year running.

Success in the Guide includes Mathematics, which is now ranked in the top five in the UK – five places up from last year. There has also been a 14% increase in the number of maths students who take up graduate level employment or further study after completing their studies.

A total of 24 of the 27 subjects that are studied at St Andrews were ranked within the top ten.

Juan Pablo Rodriguez, President of the Students' Association, welcomed the news:

“Consistency of excellence in the ever-changing world of higher education is a rare gem. However, St Andrews has shown that this is possible. Remaining number one in Scotland for another year is an incredible achievement. I am proud of these results, which are a testament to the collaborative approach of the University, the Students' Association, staff and students to ensure the very best learning and teaching environment on offer.”

[Read more about the university rankings](#)

A successful year for Saints Sport



Sport is an integral part of the student experience at St Andrews. The University's understanding of the importance of sport and its investment in the development of sport have been key factors in the achievements of many sports clubs this year. Here are just a few of these success stories.

The University of St Andrews Performance Golf Team recently won the 2023 British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) National Final for the second year in succession. Saints Sport provides a supported programme for its performance golfers through golf scholarships. These provide student players with the resources they need to compete in the BUCS tournaments, in the R&A Elite Student Tour and, by invitation, in high-level tournaments in North and South America.

Meanwhile, the University's Women's Football 1s and Women's Hockey 1s have both been promoted from Scottish 1A to Premier North League. In addition, the Women's Football retained their She Can She Will Cup title for a second year in a row, while the Women's Hockey 1s won the Scottish Hockey Women's National League.

Tennis is also going from strength to strength, with the University recently being named Tennis Scotland University of the Year for the second time by the Tennis Scotland Awards. This was in recognition of the quality of the Saints Sport students' club and its record achievements, which included two promotions, a Scottish Student Sport champion title and two players reaching BUCS individual finals.

In rugby, the University has developed a new partnership with global technology company Emtelle, who have become the official partner of Saints Rugby. Through this partnership, Emtelle will support the development of the whole rugby programme at St Andrews – from grassroots to performance level – to enhance the rugby experience for all students.

Finally, the Boat Club's 60th Anniversary fundraiser raised almost £39,000 – an amazing achievement – to help them buy a new, top-end racing boat so they can compete at the highest level of UK university rowing.

[Find out more about Saints Sport success this year](#)

Teaching Excellence Awards 2023

Outstanding lecturers, supervisors and other staff were recently recognised by both colleagues and students as part of the annual **Teaching Excellence Awards**.

These awards – comprising University Teaching Awards (nominated by Heads of Schools) and Students' Association Teaching Awards (nominated by students) – are an acknowledgement of staff who have gone above and beyond in supporting students through their studies.

The awards were presented on Thursday 11 April by Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Sally Mapstone FRSE.

Professor Clare Peddie, Vice-Principal Education (Proctor) said:

"I am always hugely impressed with the creativity and pedagogical excellence of our academic staff and am immensely happy to be involved in this event, celebrating the achievements of all the nominees and the award winners."

A K Schott, Students' Association Director of Education said:

"Our 11 winners embody some of the best teaching, supervision, and student partnership the University has to offer, and exemplify the excellent learning experience we strive to provide for every student. The student-led teaching awards are a personal thank you from the students who are impacted by incredible educators, and we echo their thanks for our educators' efforts.

"Everyone who was nominated demonstrated their care for and commitment to their students, and we are honoured to be able to recognise this through the Teaching Awards."

[Find out more about the Teaching Excellence Awards](#)



'New College' progress update



Architects' aerial sketch – early concepts



'New College' – with the demolition work complete.

Work is progressing apace with the development of the first 'New College' in St Andrews in three centuries. Now that the dilapidated modern buildings to the rear of the neo-Jacobean façade and 19th-century building have been completely demolished, the site represents a rare opportunity to enhance and develop the built environment in the medieval heart of the town.

The international practice WilkinsonEyre has recently been appointed to lead the creation of 'New College' because of their unparalleled experience in transforming other heritage sites such as Battersea Power Station and the University of Oxford's Weston Library.

Their design brief is to preserve this historically important site while creating the architecture and digital infrastructure that will meet the specific needs of our students and academics. State-of-the-art technology will also ensure that the space and its environmental conditions conform to post-pandemic sensibilities and to the University's commitment to sustainability and becoming net zero by 2035.

The aerial sketch above shows the creativity and vision that will make 'New College' a stunning and sympathetic addition to the centre of our ancient town.

[Visit our website to find out more about 'New College'](#)

Kaleidoscope Alumni Network update



Simply post your photos to Instagram or Twitter
and tag **#SantsKAN**

(remembering to make your profile public to enable us to access them for printing)
Then wait a few minutes and collect them!



Members of St Andrews Fusion will be playing live jazz and alumni and their guests can pick up instant free print-outs of all the photos taken at the reception – and elsewhere – that are posted to Twitter and Instagram using the hashtag #SantsKAN

Thank you to everyone – especially alumni who have been in contact and given us their advice, support and encouragement – and to all the staff and students who have helped us set up and grow the network.

Contact Dr Catherine Dunford, Alumni Relations and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Engagement Coordinator for further information.

E: stakan@st-andrews.ac.uk

Kaleidoscope



Alumni Network

The kaleidoscope provides a fitting metaphor for the many different and complex perspectives of our combined cultural and lived experiences. After the jubilation of the Kaleidoscope Alumni Network launch last November, we have been working with current and future alumni to develop activities and content to engage the network and the wider alumni community.

We are intentionally elevating the narratives in our alumni community that are present but have historically not been given the attention or focus that they deserve. We are opening doors that encourage positive dialogue in both the alumni and wider University community so that everyone has a chance to flourish and feel that they belong.

Graduation is a joyful occasion – a time to reflect on our achievements and triumphs and look forward to a future filled with possibility and many new adventures. We are delighted that so many of the Class of 2023 graduands pre-registered to hear about the Kaleidoscope Alumni Network and we are celebrating them this summer with short receptions in the courtyard in front of Development at 91 North Street.

Alumni stories

Each month we feature alumni and student stories on our [Alumni Stories](#) web pages and in our e-newsletter [St Andrews in the News](#).

We have had stories from many different graduates describing the impact that studying at St Andrews has had on their lives. In one of our most recent Ben Weber (MA 2004) explains how he graduated from St Andrews and spent the next 19 years living and working in China, Brazil and India before embarking on an expedition to the South Pole and then returning here to begin his PhD. We share an extract from his story here.



Journey to the ends of the earth – and back to St Andrews

On 13 January 2023, I managed to reach the South Pole. It was an exhausting journey, both physically and mentally. I skied alone across 700 miles of ice, pulling all my supplies in a sled that started off weighing 135kg, in one of the most hostile environments in the world. Winds frequently got up to gale force; temperatures on the Antarctic plateau reached down to -30C, with a windchill of -40C or worse; and even the rest days were – if I had to choose a word – intense.

I took 57 days and 10 hours to get to the Pole, and for 54 of those days I was skiing with a neck injury that I couldn't shake, which made progress much harder. I had to ski 40 miles in the final two days (with the injury becoming increasingly debilitating) or I would have missed the plane out of the continent and been stuck there for seven more days until the next scheduled flight. Not a great connection to miss! By the time I got to the Pole I was physically broken and exhausted, but absolutely elated, as this was something I had dreamed of doing since I was little. And while I graduated from St Andrews back in 2004, I am indebted to my time at the University for setting me on the path to the Pole, with all the experiences I have had during that journey.

[Read the whole of Ben's story](#)

St Andrews in the News

Read about what's been happening this semester in and around the University

Laidlaw Music Centre wins National Architecture Award

The University's Laidlaw Music Centre has been named by the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) as one of the winners of the 2023 RIAS Awards.

RIAS praised the building's range of music-making spaces, the unique acoustic and staging features of the McPherson Recital Room and the building's role both within its historic architectural context and in the cultural life of the town and University.

[Read more about the coverage of the awards on the BBC website](#)

[Read more about the coverage of the awards on the Scotsman website](#)



St Andrews in Ukraine

A team of academics from the University's School of International Relations recently visited Kyiv to meet with key members of the Ukrainian government.

Professor Phillips O'Brien (Head of School and Chair of Strategic Studies); Professor Sir Hew Strachan; Dr Marc De Vore; Dr Kristen Harkness and Professor Stephen Gethins travelled overland from Poland to Kyiv, where they learned more about Ukrainian strategic thinking, what Ukraine feels it needs to win the war, and how Ukrainians see the future of their own country.

[Read more about the St Andrews team in Kyiv](#)



Photograph courtesy of the National Security Council of Ukraine

Golf on Prescription

Professor Frank Sullivan of the School of Medicine recently appeared on the BBC One prime time TV programme The One Show to discuss the pioneering Golf for Health programme, where golf is 'prescribed' for individuals to encourage a more active lifestyle.

Researchers in the School of Medicine have developed this initiative in partnership with The R&A, Fife Golf Trust, NHS Fife, Scottish Golf, PGA Scotland, the European Tour Group and Ladies European Tour to enable primary care professionals and community link workers to prescribe golf for eligible patients. The programme is being piloted in Fife.

[Read more about Golf for Health](#)



Live photo printing at graduation 2023!

Is your student graduating this year? If so, stop off on your way to the graduation garden party and use our live photo printing facility. Every time you post a picture to Instagram and Twitter using **#SaintsGraduation** we will print it – live. It takes just 30 seconds. Prints are unlimited and are free for all graduation guests to take away as a unique souvenir.



FREE PHOTO PRINTING AT YOUR GRADUATION GARDEN PARTY

HOW DO I DO IT?

Post a photo to Instagram or Twitter and tag **#SaintsGraduation**
Make sure your profile is public

WHERE DO I GET THE PHOTO?

Photos will print instantly and be available to collect for FREE
from the Alumni Relations team at your graduation garden party



#SaintsGraduation



Patrons' Programme 2023

Since 2014 the University has invited parents, donors, alumni and friends to participate in the Patrons' Programme to take a 'behind-the-scenes' look at life in St Andrews. The Programme offers a chance to soak up the full St Andrews experience; meet and attend talks by some of our leading academics; receive exclusive updates on our many ongoing projects; and gain private access to local historic sites and residences.

Join us this year on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 September to explore our beautiful town and ancient University.

[Read more about the Patrons' Programme and book now](#)



Saint Connect

Saint Connect is the University's global online community for networking, career mentoring and keeping up to date with what's happening in St Andrews. After three years with Gravyty (formally Graduway), we have decided to go forward with Aluminati Community Builder – a new platform that is specifically designed to be more user friendly.

As members of our Family Programme, you have exclusive access to Saint Connect.

Join Saint Connect or scan the QR code below.



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Details of how the University makes use of your personal data and protects your privacy are available here in the **Development Privacy Notice**.

Here is a copy of our **Gift Acceptance Policy**.

If you would like to support our community you can find more information on how to **donate to St Andrews here**, or contact: develop@st-andrews.ac.uk

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