Back on Campus

MA(Hons) Graduates
12 November 2014

Room 706,
Sir Duncan Rice Library
Back on Campus
MA(Hons) Graduates
Wednesday 12 November 2014

10.00 – 11.00  You Always Have a Choice
Moria Forsyth
Moira is an author and publisher. Using her own experiences of the workplace, and of running projects for more than fifteen years with a range of businesses, she will speak about what having a career – or not - means, and what I now think is important for young graduates as they join the job market. She will give some information and advice that relates to working for local government (particularly in the kind of job she had in the Education Department). The main part of the talk will focus on two aspects of what she does now – running her own business, and working in publishing. The focus throughout will be on what makes work enjoyable, how to change direction if you want to, and what the current idea of ‘transferable skills’ really means.

11.00 – 12.00  Landing your Dream Job - Luck or Career Ladder?
Grant Moir
Grant is CEO of the Cairngorms National Park Authority. He graduated from Aberdeen in 1999 with an MA(Hons) in Geography and History. Grant will talk about his career to date, the ups and downs and how he ended up as one of the youngest CEOs in the public sector in Scotland. He will also discuss some of the challenges of his current role and whether a beard really is needed to get a job in conservation!

12.00 – 13.00  Break

13.00 – 14.00  Making the most of your CV
Careers Service
For those of you who are preparing to apply for summer internships and graduate roles, come along to find out how to make the most of your experiences when creating a CV.

14.00 – 15.00  Procurement and Supply Chain - a global challenge – buying a great opportunity
Karen Bowman
Did you know the CEO of Apple began in procurement? Remember ‘horsemeat’ scandal – who bought what from whom?
It is a global career with many opportunities for graduates of all disciplines. Come and learn about a career that offers variety and is in all industries as successful businesses do know that driving out every ounce of additional value from money spent is critical and are relying on their Procurement and Supply Chain Teams. Every organisation has to buy and global supply chains offer commercial opportunity and have technical challenges as well as issues around ethics and sustainability. Karen Bowman’s buying career started a few years after graduating and led to roles in procurement leadership on £multi-million purchases in health and higher education - everything from syringes to robots, new buildings to bananas (working with students on fair trade); fastest computer contract in Europe at the time, and people skills procuring recruitment agents (!), ‘influencing’ government policy and laws.

www.abdn.ac.uk/backoncampus
Karen Bowman, MA(Hons), FCIPS, SRN
With 30 years of experience in high value public procurement, Karen Bowman has led the team at the University of Edinburgh, since 1998, from transactional to strategic, recognised in awards such as the GO Government Opportunities Public Procurement Individual Excellence UK Award in 2004, Principal’s Medal for Outstanding Service in 2011, and Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Outstanding Procurement Team in 2013. The award winning team including Printing Services achieved Investors in People Bronze in 2014 and aims to improve people skills, social responsibility and sustainability, as well as influencing over 80% of University non-pay ~ £200m p.a., including estates and research projects (and three mergers with high profile institutes). Achievements include savings and efficiencies of over £80+ million to date. The team share their services with Queen Margaret University and both scored highly in the independently assessed Procurement Capability Assessment, Edinburgh being ‘superior’ rated. Karen’s previous roles in health included large IS/IT and Private Finance Initiative projects as well as high value and volume medical and scientific and services procurements. She has served on global Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) governing Council 2008-11, is a Fellow of CIPS, Trustee of HE/FE Procurement Development Fund Scottish Charity no. SCO43317, sits on Scottish government strategy and university sector procurement policy groups, and is active in fair trade. Karen is married to Athol and their son Blair, both Aberdeen alumni, founded worldwhiskyday.com

Moira Forsyth, MA(Hons) English (1973)
Moira is the author of three novels, the latest of which, Tell Me Where You Are, was published in 2010; a fourth novel, The Treacle Well, will appear in May 2015. She is also a published poet and short story writer. She is now Editorial Director of Sandstone Press Limited. This involves contributing to the strategic direction of the company; dealing with submissions from authors; planning the publishing programme; liaison with designers, typesetters, copy editors, the sales team and other professionals. She has also edited a range of fiction and non-fiction books, the biography of Edwin Morgan, Beyond the Last Dragon, and a Booker long-listed novel, The Marrying of Chani Kaufmann. She lives in the Highlands and worked in education for many years, initially teaching, then managing education-business partnership in Ross & Cromarty. She worked for Highland Council for over nine years, latterly in a post with strategic responsibility for implementing government initiatives in Highland. These related to support for young people to assist them to move on from school successfully.

Grant Moir, MA(Hons) Geography & History (1999)
Grant joined the Cairngorms National Park Authority as Chief Executive in March 2014. He is a graduate of Aberdeen University and worked with the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority for seven years where he held the post of Director of Conservation and Visitor Experience. Prior to that he was in the Rural Affairs Department of the Scottish Executive. Grant hails from Perthshire.

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The Co-Curriculum

What is it, and how can it work for you?
The co-curriculum is, in essence, an enhancement of your student experience. It’s about providing you with opportunities, such as work placements and study abroad that will enhance your transferable skills and give you an edge in the graduate market.

STAR Award
The STAR (Students Taking Active Roles) Award is organised by the University’s Careers Service. This initiative rewards the contribution that many students make to the wider University community by recognising the transferable skills and competencies that you develop during a volunteering role. These skills can really enhance your employability.

Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/skills-attributes/star-award

Work Experience Placements
The Careers Service’s Work Placement Team sources a range of placements for penultimate year undergraduates. In 2013 we were named “Placement of the Year [Public Sector]” by the National Council for Work Experience. We aim to help you find and apply for positions that will benefit your degree studies. We also provide support while you are in your placement.

Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/jobs-work-experience/vacation-work-internships-placements

Study Abroad
The University actively encourages students to undertake a period of study abroad as part of their degree programme, and a wide range of opportunities exist within our Erasmus programme, which boasts 150+ links with universities across Europe, and our International Exchange Programme where partnerships exist with universities in North America and Asia.

Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/study-abroad-and-exchanges

Career Mentoring
The University’s Career Mentoring Programme is offered jointly by the Careers Service and the Alumni Relations Team. All current undergraduate and taught postgraduate students are welcome to apply. Mentoring is a great way to receive relevant careers advice and support by meeting with a working professional, who can offer a fresh perspective on your talents and how you can build on them. Your mentor is able to provide you with the benefit of their experience in a particular profession or employment area, giving you an insight into the wider knowledge and skills you will need to succeed.

Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/skills-attributes/career-mentoring

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
The Careers Service is aware of the importance to graduate employers of an enterprising attitude within business and the additional desire of many students to create their own businesses. We work closely with external agencies, such as the Scottish Institute for Enterprise (SIE) and Scotland UnLtd, to promote opportunities for all students across the campus.

Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/skills-attributes/enterprise-entrepreneurship

BP Student Tutoring
The BP Student Tutoring Scheme is a volunteering initiative that lets you try something you might not otherwise have the opportunity to do. Students volunteer in local primary and secondary schools in Aberdeen city and shire, working alongside the class teacher for one half-day per week for eight weeks. Student tutoring demonstrates to employers that you are keen to take the initiative, to contribute to the next generation and to work with the wider community outside University.

Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/skills-attributes/bp-student-tutoring-scheme