



## Welcome to Voic:E

Welcome to the August 2016 edition of our alumni ezine. We love to hear from our alumni to find out what you are doing now so if you have any news or stories you think would interest the rest of the Aberdeen family, please let us know.

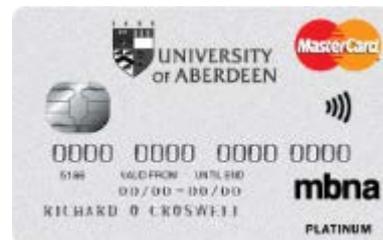
Read the latest news from the University [here](#).



Stay in touch and update your details on the [alumni hub](#).

## Benefit of the month

Alumni and friends of the University of Aberdeen can apply for an affinity credit card.



The University of Aberdeen credit card is issued by MBNA Limited. Please visit the Alumni Discounts area of the Benefits section in our secure [Alumni Hub](#) to find the code that you will need to quote when applying for this card.

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## Alumni Focus



### Alumna empowering women in Sub-Saharan Africa

Lucky Okudo (MSc Oil and Gas Enterprise Management 2015) is the founder and CEO of WEX ([Women in Energy & Extractives](#)), an organisation committed to creating awareness and empowering women and girls directly/indirectly affected by the energy and extractive industries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Everyday women and young girls around the world encounter complex traditional, cultural, physical and socio-economic barriers in accessing education at all levels. By investing in these women, WEX helps them develop their skills and break the cycle of poverty.



### British Council Alumni Awards 2017 – get ready to apply!

The Alumni Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of alumni and showcase the impact and value of a UK higher education. Award winners and finalists are leaders in their fields who have used their experience of studying at a UK university to make a positive contribution to their communities, professions and countries.

If you studied in the UK and have gone on to achieve exceptional success, [get ready to apply](#) from 7th September 2016. Applications close on 31st October 2016. You must be currently residing in one of the 14 countries participating in the Alumni Awards 2017: Egypt, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey or USA.



### 35 year old alumnus owns Nigeria's second largest rice farm

Rotimi Williams (MA Economics 2006), speaks to [Forbes magazine](#) about his unconventional path from his education at the University of Aberdeen to owning a 45,000 hectare farm, situated in Nasarawa state in northern Nigeria. The farm currently employs more than 600 natives of Nasarawa and is the second largest rice farm in Nigeria by land size.



### **MSc IT alumnus wins prestigious international competition**

Udon Okoh (MSc Information Technology 2015), who had been supported by [Enterprise Campus](#) and was an occupant of ABventure Zone until January of this year, recently returned to Nigeria where he and his team (DLVR) won the [Ideas for Action Competition](#) organised by the World Bank and Wharton Business School. They won first place out of 490 participating teams from 125 different countries.

Team DLVR developed a novel solution for the lack of proper addressing systems and inefficient postal infrastructure in developing countries. The team developed a low-cost peer-to-peer delivery system that connects senders with local transporters to carry out scheduled or on-demand deliveries. The enormous potential economic impact and scalability helped this outstanding idea to prevail against a wide array of extremely innovative, high-quality proposals from around the world.



### **Enter by the Narrow Gate**

*Enter by the Narrow Gate* is a new mystery/thriller featuring a cerebral and troubled Detroit police detective and his friend, a garrulous Orthodox monk. The author, David Carlson, earned a PhD in New Testament Exegesis from the University of Aberdeen in 1977 and is currently an expert on religious extremism.

His first work of nonfiction was selected as one of the Best Books of 2011 by *Library Journal*. His insights into how faith can enhance existence but also be lost and distorted give this story a delicious psychological complexity.



### **Aberdeen alumnus appointed to leading seminary role**

A University of Aberdeen alumnus has been [appointed to a prestigious role](#) with a prominent US theological institution. Joel Green, who was a postgraduate student at the University's School of Divinity in the 1980s, has been appointed Provost of Fuller Seminary in California.

Professor Green was awarded a PhD in New Testament Studies from Aberdeen in 1985.

**Well done to all our alumni on their fantastic achievements!**

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## University Focus



### Launch of Beijing Alumni Chapter

Join Professor Sir Ian Diamond, Principal and Vice-Chancellor for an alumni reception to launch the Beijing Alumni Chapter at the British Embassy Residence, 11 Guanghua Road, Chaoyang in Beijing on Tuesday 20th September from 6.30pm.

This will be a great opportunity to meet and network with fellow Aberdeen graduates and to find out more about the alumni chapter. During the event we will treat you to a small taste of Scotland! If you happen to be in Beijing and would like to attend please email us at [alumni@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@abdn.ac.uk). To find out whether there is an alumni chapter near you visit the [website](#).



### Alumni Relations move to new building

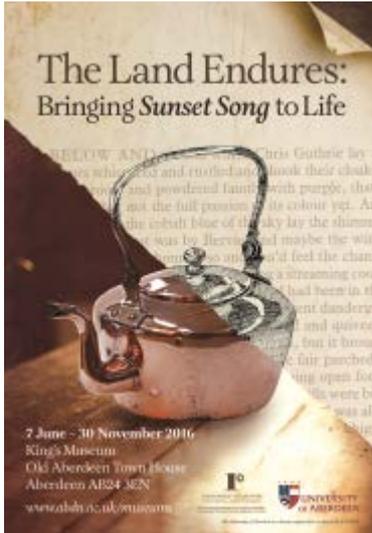
The Alumni Relations department has moved! If you want to visit you can find us in our new home at [Powis Gate](#), a lovely building just through the big tower-like gates on the High Street in Old Aberdeen. We're very happy with our new surroundings so feel free to come and say hello!



### Save the Date - London Celebration of Carols

The University is delighted to be staging its third Celebration of Carols in St Marylebone Parish Church on Wednesday 21st December 2016 at 7pm. This year, our flagship alumni event will be recorded by Classic FM and broadcast to around six million listeners on Christmas Day.

As part of the service we will also be taking the opportunity to highlight and to raise funds for the University's ground breaking research in the fight against dementia, a subject we know is close to the hearts of our alumni community and for which the University has an outstanding international reputation. For more information, please email us at [alumni@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@abdn.ac.uk).



### The Land Endures: Bringing Sunset Song to Life

A new [student-curated exhibition](#) at the University of Aberdeen's King's Museum will explore the local heritage of north east Scotland through interpretation of themes highlighted in Lewis Grassie Gibbon's *Sunset Song*. *The Land Endures: Bringing Sunset Song to Life* follows the stories of the main characters of Lewis Grassie Gibbon's iconic novel and explores realities of early 20<sup>th</sup> century north east Scotland.

Objects from the University of Aberdeen Museums collections are used to link the fictional Kinraddie with historic north east Scotland and musical compositions by local artist Paul Anderson enhance the atmosphere, bringing *Sunset Song* to life. **Open Tues-Sat 11.30am – 4.30pm 7th June – 3rd December 2016**



### Lagos alumni chapter activity

There will be two events for alumni living in and around Lagos later in the year. The first event will be an inaugural student vs alumni sports day, which shall be held at Pitch and Court in Lekki from 11-4pm on Saturday 15th October.

The second is an afternoon tea event on Saturday 5th November, hosted by Professor Dame Anne Glover, Vice-Principal for External Affairs and Dean for Europe. Further details shall be sent in separate communications, in the meantime please save the date in your diary.

The University of Aberdeen Alumni Chapter in Lagos invites you to like their [Facebook page](#).

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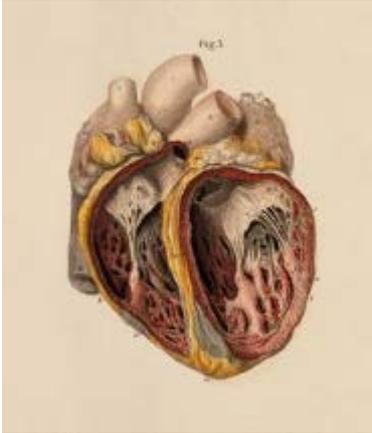
## Opportunities for Alumni



### Annual Ladies' Lunch to help fund vital research

This year's Annual Ladies' Lunch will take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at the Marcliffe at Pitfodells. Join us from 12 noon for a bucks fizz reception followed by a two course lunch and an inspiring talk from Professor Steven Heys and Professor Paul Haggarty. Professor Heys and Professor Haggarty will discuss the latest research on how diet, lifestyle and life-history can influence genes in ways that predispose us to, and protect us against, cancer.

We would be delighted to see you at this year's Ladies' Lunch for an afternoon of good food, good company, music, and inspirational talks. [Click here](#) for more information.



### **Donate your body for the benefit of medical education and research**

The training of young doctors and science students is immeasurably enhanced when they have the opportunity to study human anatomy first hand.

If you would like to learn more about contributing to medical education and research through [body bequeathal](#), please contact Jane Patterson at [jane.patterson@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:jane.patterson@abdn.ac.uk).



### **Still time to sign up for free four week nutrition course**

People with a thirst for knowledge can still [sign up](#) to take part in the University of Aberdeen's free online Nutrition and Wellbeing course which begins on 5th September 2016. The course aims to help make sense of the complex and conflicting messages we often hear about diet, health and lifestyle.

Those who take part will follow a series of video based modules by lead educator Dr Alexandra Johnstone from the University's Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health who will present the scientific basics of nutrition and outline current nutrition concepts and controversies.



### **Tour of Cruickshank Gardens**

Join Mark Paterson, curator of the Cruickshank Botanic Garden, for a tour of the UK's northernmost botanic garden on 3rd September 2016, 12:00 - 13:00.

This incredible 4.5 hectare property has over 2,500 species grown in picturesque settings, including an arboretum, a sunken garden and a stunning herbaceous border.

Following the tour alumni are invited to join us for refreshments at the 'Welcome to Aberdeen event' in the James MacKay Hall. This will be a lovely opportunity to catch up with fellow graduates and to meet with our new students and share your experiences of studying at the University of Aberdeen.

Please email us at [alumni@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@abdn.ac.uk) to book your place.



### Call for career mentors

Since 2011, over 700 University of Aberdeen current students have been matched with mentors.

The Career Mentoring Programme links working professionals with current students. The programme enables mentors to share their professional experience and expertise and to support students in developing their own career ideas.

Over a 6-month period, mentors usually spend 1-2 hours per month in contact with their mentees. If you would like more information about mentoring a University of Aberdeen student, please email us at [mentor@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:mentor@abdn.ac.uk) or visit the career mentoring [website](#).



### Aberdeen Connect business networking event - Strategy

The next Aberdeen Connect business networking event will be on Tuesday 20th September. The guest speaker will be Dr Glenn Corr, Director at Maersk, who will focus on Strategy. This will be a fantastic opportunity to hear from an industry expert and to network, debate issues and share experience and best practice with your peers. To register please visit the [event booking page](#).



### Save the date! 31st March to 2nd April 2017 – Music Reunion Weekend

Calling all music and music education graduates. We are organising a reunion weekend – there will be the chance to take part in gamelan, steel pan, samba, electroacoustic, choral and instrumental workshops, as well as catch up with old friends and find out more about what's happening in music at Aberdeen now.

Please register interest by dropping an email to Music Administrator Euan Crabb at [escrabb@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:escrabb@abdn.ac.uk), including your name (including maiden name where appropriate) and year of graduation. More information in the next couple of months! We're really looking forward to seeing everyone again!



### Business School launches new online distance learning programmes

**Digital Marketing Leadership** - Digital might change every five minutes but some things don't change - like smart business. The Business School and its collaborative partner, Jump Digital, have developed a flexible online programme with a very clear

objective – to meet a rapidly growing, and as yet largely unfulfilled, commercial requirement for individuals who can evidence high academic achievement, combined with demonstrable consultative skills, in the discipline of Digital Marketing.

Whether you are looking for a Professional Certificate to give formal recognition of existing knowledge and skills, or an MSc to progress your career there is a study option for you. [More>>](#)

**Online MBA** - The Business School is delighted to announce the launch of a new Online MBA Programme commencing early 2017. [Click here](#) for more information or to register your interest.

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## Development Focus



### Generous gift enables new scholarships for Divinity students

The University of Aberdeen's Pro-Chancellor, The Very Reverend Professor Iain Torrance, has set up a new scholarship in honour of his father who was a leading theologian and former minister of Aberdeen's Beechgrove Church.

The Thomas F. Torrance Scholarship will be awarded to gifted postgraduate Divinity students for years to come thanks to this generous support. [More >>](#)



### New online volunteer fundraising guide launched

The University of Aberdeen Development Trust receives hugely generous support from volunteer fundraisers who raise money for a number of our medical research themes including dementia, cancer and our fertility centre. If you are interested in organising or taking part in events to raise funds for the University's medical research, a new essential guide is now available to support you with handy tips, legal requirements and stories from current fundraisers. To read more about fundraising for the University and to access the guide [click here](#).



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