



Welcome to Voic:E

Welcome to the May 2017 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](#).

Included in this issue:

- Whisky aficionado publishes book
- Centre for Healthcare Education and Innovation launch
- Alumni Athletics Club looking for members
- Steven SeGull makes an appearance at Run Balmoral
- Hong Kong alumni due to travel to Aberdeen for reunion

May Festival is back with a bang!

Tickets are on sale for the University of Aberdeen May Festival taking place 26 – 28 May. There's a packed programme on offer once again with headliners [Sir Tony Robinson](#) and Call the Midwife star and University alumna [Laura Main](#). Don't miss Edinburgh fringe favourites the [Scottish Falsetto Socks](#), Man Booker Prize nominated author [Wyl Menmuir](#) and treasure hunter and ex-oil smuggler [Robert Stone](#).



As always, University staff and students have put together a fantastic range of events as part of the [Discover](#) strand and will be showcasing their musical talent through a range of [concerts](#). There is even a live archaeological dig on campus to mark Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. The full programme is available [here](#). **Don't forget alumni can get concession rates on all priced tickets with the code MAY17.**

Alumni Focus



Law alumna named Dean of Hofstra Law

The Honorable A. Gail Prudenti (Class of 1978) has been appointed [10th Dean of Hofstra Law](#). Prudenti joined the law school 18 months ago as executive director of the Center for Children, Families and the Law and senior associate dean of operations. She became interim dean on 1 January. In her previous role as Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts of New York State from 2011 to 2015, Prudenti supervised the administration and operation of the statewide court system with a budget of over \$2.7 billion, 3,600 judges and 15,000 non-judicial employees in more than 350 facilities. She earned her law degree from the University of Aberdeen in 1978. In 2004, she was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Laws and an honorary appointment as Professor in the School of Law.



Stars lend their voices to Aberdeen teaching graduate's new single

As a renowned bagpiper who has performed with Queen, the Bay City Rollers, The Libertines and the Kaiser Chiefs as well as playing for the Dalai Lama, Arnold Schwarzenegger and the MOBO Awards in Glasgow, University of Aberdeen PGDE graduate (Class of 2016) and Dundee primary school teacher Craig Weir is used to mixing with big names. And the 23-year-old has called in the favours from a few of his celebrity friends for the recording of his new band's first single, roping in the likes of Brian May of Queen and Les McKeown of The Bay City Rollers as well as Kyle Falconer of The View, Pete Doherty, Lorraine Kelly and Alan Cumming, among others. You can find out more about Craig Weir & The Cabalistic Cavalry [here](#) and on our [alumni blog](#).



Award-winning whisky aficionado to release new book

Blair Bowman, a Hispanic Studies graduate (Class of 2013), has carved quite a career for himself in the field of whisky journalism. Having founded [World Whisky Day](#) in 2012, an annual event in which hundreds of thousands of people have since participated worldwide, Blair was recently recognised as one of the JCI Scotland 'Ten Outstanding Young Persons' for Entrepreneurial Accomplishments and having bagged one of the Scottish awards will now go forward as a finalist for the global JCI 'Ten Outstanding Young Persons' award. As well as this, Blair also recently announced [plans to release his first book](#), featuring the WhiskyTubeMap, a unique map that links world whiskies by flavour. The book will be published on this year's World Whisky Day, which falls on the 20th of May. The Pocket Guide to Whisky is available for pre-order from all major bookshops and Amazon for £7.99. You can read more about Blair on [his website](#).



University alumnus wins £90,000 NERC Enterprise Fellowship award

A University of Aberdeen graduate who has turned his PhD into a business idea has been awarded a prestigious NERC Enterprise Fellowship by the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The Fellowship, worth £90,000, will provide Rotimi Alabi with support to develop RAB-Microfluidics, a company he formed with support from the University. The start-up offers oil analysis to businesses through 'lab-on-a-chip' technology that aims to dramatically reduce maintenance and repair costs for heavy equipment.

Rotimi, who is from Nigeria, developed the idea while working on his PhD alongside Dr Stephen Bowden and Professor John Parnell, from the University's School of Geosciences.



Swiss premiere for double music graduate

Joe Stollery (BMus 2014, MMus 2015), recently had a piece of music specially commissioned by Harmonie Nautique, a wind band from Geneva, which was premiered there in April 2017.

Harmonie Nautique will visit Aberdeen in September this year when they will again perform Joe's piece, Prometheus Icebound, which uses Lac Léman as its stimulus.

Performances take place on Friday 8 September in The Citadel, Aberdeen and on Saturday 9 September at Mackie Academy. Save the date!



BBC star supports Aberdeen alumna's wildlife film

An award-winning graduate of the University of Aberdeen is celebrating the success of her crowdfunding campaign after receiving an endorsement from BBC wildlife personality Chris Packham.

Lisa Marley, who graduated from the University of Aberdeen with an MA in Film and Anthropology (Class of 2013), is crowdfunding the film - Project Wolf - which will follow charity Trees for Life's experimental 'human wolf pack' through the Scottish Highlands. The wolf pack will examine how mimicking the disturbance effects of missing large predators would affect red deer populations in the Caledonian Forest, in an effort to limit their impact on new growth while grazing. Find out more [here](#).

Well done to all our alumni on their fantastic achievements!

University Focus



Centre for Healthcare Education Research and Innovation (CHERI) launch

The new Centre for Healthcare Education Research and Innovation (CHERI) will launch on Wednesday 31 May, Suttie Centre, Foresterhill. CHERI is led by Professor Jennifer Cleland, who holds the John Simpson Chair of Medical Education Research, the only endowed chair in medical education research in the UK.

The driver for CHERI's research is the understanding that effective healthcare education depends wholly on rigorous educational research, research which identifies and addresses the key issues and needs for today's – and tomorrow's – healthcare delivery.

[More >>](#)



Get a weekly fix of news from the University of Aberdeen

Each Friday we post all the news from Aberdeen in a 1-2 minute long video. It's a great way to catch up on everything newsworthy that's happened at your University in the preceding week. Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) so you don't miss a single update.



The Facebook page for the Aberdeen family

Have you seen our [Facebook page](#) recently? With content tailored specifically for alumni of the University of Aberdeen, it is the perfect place to find out about events local to you, to view a nostalgic picture of the campus or to find out the latest news from your alma mater. It's also the perfect place to share your memories or to reconnect with class mates.

There will be a special prize for our 6,000th like, which is a milestone we should reach in the next few weeks.

Opportunities for Alumni



Granite City Harriers – University of Aberdeen Alumni Athletics Club

Newly graduated members of Aberdeen University Athletics Club are looking to begin a new chapter as alumni, taking part in similar race and social events under an alumni club banner; The Granite City Harriers, a name borrowed from the original University Athletics Harriers of the 1920s. Fearghas Thomson states, "With many of us coming to the end of our journey with AUAC and the University, we are looking to start up a club whereby we can continue to keep in touch and stay involved in running and racing as a team, be it by way of weekly social runs or competing at such events as the famous Braids Hill Race, Isle of Man Running Festival and several local park runs. [Fearghas Thomson](#) is looking to gauge interest from alumni and current members in this new venture and would love any old members to get in touch.



Calling all University of Aberdeen Business School alumni!

Are you a graduate of our Business School? We are always delighted to hear from our graduates, to hear about your careers, your experience of studying at our Business School, how this has helped you progress professionally and in life in general. Many of our alumni have even come back to become mentors and speak with prospective students who are thinking about joining the University of Aberdeen Business School.

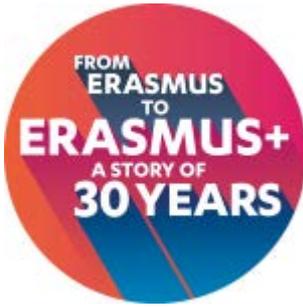
We would love to hear from more of our Business School graduates and to let you know our latest news. If you have a moment to complete a [profile](#) that we could use on our social media channels and online prospectus, that would be great!



University league tables – do rankings matter to you?

The University of Aberdeen has risen two places in the latest The Complete University Guide league table. At number 40, out of 129 UK universities, the position is the highest the University has held in recent years.

The University also holds high rankings in the Times Higher Education (THE) and QS world university rankings. But do these league tables matter in the way we think they do? If the University's ranking in any of these tables directly influenced your decision to come to Aberdeen, we'd like to hear from you. Please email alumni@abdn.ac.uk with your name and year of graduation.



30 years of Erasmus

Erasmus began in 1987 as an exchange programme that gave higher education students a taste of life and learning abroad. In 30 years an estimated 9 million people will have taken part, including 600,000 from the UK. We are looking to get in touch with alumni who went on Erasmus exchange as part of their Aberdeen degree, as there are a number of exciting opportunities for you in this anniversary year. To be kept up-to-date regarding events, competitions and ways to get involved, please register your details [here](#).

Reunion Focus



Psychology Class of 1977 reunion

Remember this? The Psychology class of 1977 is organising a 40 year reunion over the weekend of 28/29 October, with a walk around Old Aberdeen, a look around the Psychology Department and a celebration dinner on the Saturday evening. Please get in touch with [Will Smail](#) for more details.



Upcoming Class of Medicine reunions

Several classes of Medicine will be holding reunions in 2017 so if you're a medical graduate of the University of Aberdeen, have a look and see if your year has organised an event.

So far reunions are planned for the classes of **1957, 1977, 1982, 1992 and 1997**. You can find details of upcoming meet-ups on the reunions tab of the alumni events page [here](#), or you can email alumni@abdn.ac.uk for further information or to get in touch about organising a reunion for your own class!

Development Focus



Dedicated supporters run their way to supporting University

Funds raised by participants taking part in two recent running events will benefit, not only research carried out at the University, but refugee students wishing to come to Aberdeen. On Saturday 22 April, 70 hardy fundraisers, including mystery runner Steven SeGull, took part in Run Balmoral to raise funds and awareness for our dementia and stomach and oesophageal cancer research. On Sunday 30 April participants organised by the University's Amnesty International Society took part in Run for Refugees to raise funds for our 'Shining Lights' Scholarships which enable students with refugee status to further their education at the University.

To find out more about our dementia research [click here](#) and to read more about our 'Shining Lights' Scholarships [click here](#).



Award established in memory of Professor Debra Gimlin

The University of Aberdeen is honoured to announce the establishment of a new award in memory of Professor Debra Gimlin. The award recognises the enormous contribution she made to the University over 13 years, during which time she inspired hundreds of students.

Professor Gimlin's husband, parents and family were touched by the support and warmth shown by the University community at Debra's memorial service at King's College Chapel in March, and they are delighted to support this award which will benefit students in the School of Social Sciences.

[Click here](#) to find out more, including how to support the award.



University's inaugural Tagging Day to thank and recognise all donors

From Friday 26 until Sunday 28 May, during the University's May Festival, items and buildings around Aberdeen will be physically tagged to thank our donors and highlight the huge difference they make to the University, its students and staff as well as the wider Aberdeen family. A tagging trail is being produced which will include Old Aberdeen, Foresterhill and Aberdeen Sport Village and visitors during May Festival are being invited to follow the trail, enter a photo competition and learn more about the incredible impact our donors make. Follow us

at #ABERDONORS to find out more about Tagging Day.

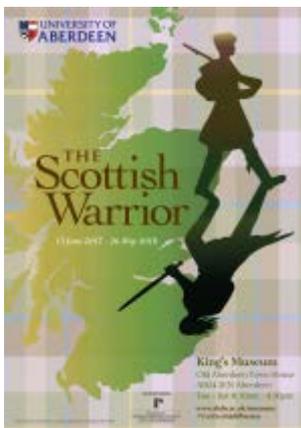


Putting Aberdeen on the global map for cancer research

Aberdeen is aiming to become a world-class centre for cancer research with the launch of a major fundraising campaign. The University is seeking to attract the world's brightest minds to lead pioneering research in this area. The project has already attracted the support of Friends of ANCHOR which has committed to raise £1 million of the £4.5 million required. The University of Aberdeen Development Trust has now launched a major appeal and donations, however large or small, will play a key role in bringing this ambitious project to fruition. To find out more, including how you can support cancer

research, email [Cara Baird](mailto:Cara.Baird@abdn.ac.uk) or call +44 (0) 1224 273278.

Events Focus



The Scottish Warrior

13 June 2017 - 26 May 2018

In the year of History, Heritage and Archaeology a new student-curated exhibition in King's Museum invites visitors to challenge their perceptions of the 'Scottish Warrior'.

The exhibition will explore interpretations of the 'Scottish Warrior' and seek to discover how the popular idea of the warrior was created.

Please visit the [event page](#) for more information.



Alumni Garden Party

Wednesday 28 June, 2:00-4:00pm, Cruickshank Garden

Join us for an afternoon filled with music at the beautiful Cruickshank Botanic Garden where you will be able to explore the surroundings and find out more about current activities there from curator Mark Paterson. Whilst enjoying the music, alumni will have the chance to catch up with fellow graduates and relax in this stunning setting over delicious summer refreshments.

Tickets priced at £5, to book please [click here](#). Places are limited so register early to avoid disappointment.

For other upcoming alumni events, please visit our [Events page](#).



Hong Kong alumni visit to Aberdeen

28 July 2017, 6:30pm

Professor Sir Ian Diamond and Mr Edward Lam, Chairman of the Aberdeen University Hong Kong Association, cordially invite you to a night of Scottish food and dancing to celebrate the long-standing relationship between Aberdeen and Hong Kong. Join over 30 guests from Hong Kong led by Dr Laurence Hou, as well as the Senior Vice-Principal, Professor Jeremy Kilburn, the Dean for SE Asia, Professor Richard Wells, and many more as we honour this unique connection

between the University and its Hong Kong alumni.

Ticket price: £40 per person, £400 for a table (10 per table)

To purchase tickets, book [online](#) or email alumni@abdn.ac.uk or call 01224 274114.



Ladies' Lunch - a date for your diary

On Thursday 21 September the University will hold its annual Ladies' Lunch at the Marcliffe at Pitfodels.

We are delighted that Professor Siladitya Bhattacharya, our Chair in Obstetrics & Gynaecology, will talk about the University's women's health research and how exciting plans for the new Baird Family Hospital will provide fantastic opportunities and facilities to help us advance this pioneering research.

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



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