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UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN

VOICE

CONVERSATION & NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

AUTUMN/WINTER 2012

ENERGISED MINDS

British Science Festival returns to Aberdeen for the first time in 50 years

ROYAL OPENING

HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh open Sir Duncan Rice Library

PIXAR'S 'BRAVE' SCOT

Aberdeen graduate Gordon Cameron makes his childhood dreams a reality at Pixar

REACHING NEW DEPTHS

More fantastic voyages lie ahead for the University of Aberdeen's Oceanlab

ALUMNI AND CAMPUS NEWS



FEATURES

- 3**
A Word From The Principal
- 4/5**
British Science Festival
A Roaring Success
- 6/7**
Professor Brian Cox
on The Importance of
Communicating Science
- 7**
Plaque Unveiled to
Aberdeen Nobel-Prize
Winner
- 8/9**
Reaching New Depths
with Oceanlab
- 10/11**
Royal Opening for Sir
Duncan Rice Library
- 12/13**
Development Trust:
An International Focus
- 14/15**
Campus News
- 16**
A Mutual Honour
- 17**
Events and Exhibitions

ALUMNI NEWS

- 18-23**
Alumni Profiles
Gordon Cameron
Raj Jutley
Michelle Watt
- 24/25**
Alumni News
- 26**
Alumni Paralympic Success
Inspires at Aberdeen Sports
Village



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A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Professor Ian Diamond
FBA FRSE AcSS
Principal and
Vice-Chancellor

Welcome to the Winter edition of Voice. I say “Winter edition” but as I write this it is early Autumn here in Aberdeen and the month of September was dominated by two of the biggest events in the University’s recent history.

The British Science Festival in Aberdeen took place early in the month and proved to be a huge success. We were blessed with great weather and I’m delighted to report that the Festival was widely regarded as having been one of the best attended and most successful ever. That is a huge compliment to the many staff of the University who were involved but also the strength and effectiveness of the partnership working with several organisations across the North-East of Scotland that were key to the success of the week. You can read more about the Festival on page 4.

Then towards the end of the month, and as you can read more about on page 10, the University had the huge honour of welcoming HM The Queen to officially open the Sir Duncan Rice Library. Large numbers of the University and local communities turned out to welcome Her Majesty. It was also an opportunity for us to welcome many alumni and donors to the Library for what was a true day of celebration.

On one level it was a chance to celebrate the creation of a magnificent and inspirational building which will benefit students, scholars and our communities for decades to come, and which represents a striking statement of the intellectual and cultural strength of our university, city and region.

On another level it was also a celebration of the strength of our global University community, which has been crucial to our fundraising in support of the Library. It’s important to remember the difference that alumni and supporters of the University have made to the institution over the years, the Library being just the latest example. Major new buildings such as the Institute of Medical Sciences and the

ON ONE LEVEL IT WAS A CHANCE TO CELEBRATE THE CREATION OF A MAGNIFICENT AND INSPIRATIONAL BUILDING WHICH WILL BENEFIT STUDENTS, SCHOLARS AND OUR COMMUNITIES FOR DECADES TO COME, AND WHICH REPRESENTS A STRIKING STATEMENT OF THE INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL STRENGTH OF OUR UNIVERSITY, CITY AND REGION.

Suttie Centre for Teaching and Learning in Healthcare have been made possible with the help of philanthropic giving to the University. It’s also the case that many academic positions and scholarships for students have been supported through the generosity of donors. Whatever the purpose of a donation, whatever the size, the collective impact has been to make the University ever stronger.

The challenge ahead is a constant one. We are all committed to making your University an ever greater seat of learning, one that you will feel even more proud of your association with. Equally, the environment in which we operate becomes ever more challenging, particularly for a university such as Aberdeen which is competing on a world stage but in increasingly stringent financial times. In this context, the support of our alumni community becomes all the more important because it can give us the competitive edge we need to succeed, to make the investment in the great facilities, scholars and students that distinguish a world-class university from the rest.

The Library is a great example of what we can achieve with your support. We have many more exciting plans for our beautiful campus, for new investment in staff and in supporting our students that you will hear more about in the years to come and which, with the support of the University family, will help us to take Aberdeen to even higher levels of success. ■



A ROARING SUCCESS



Photo: It was a dinosaur invasion as a giant T-Rex roamed campus on the penultimate day of the Festival.



King's Campus and venues across Aberdeen city and shire were transformed in September as the British Science Festival returned for the first time in almost 50 years.

Tens of thousands of visitors attended more than 250 events ranging from debates and discussions to hand-on workshops and events for children during the week-long celebration, which ran from September 4 to 9 and was supported by principal sponsors BP and Shell UK alongside a host of others including the Scottish Government, Aberdeen City Council, The Society for Petroleum Engineers and Marathon Oil.

The famous Spiegeltent used at the Edinburgh Festival was erected on King's Lawn, creating a festival vibe with science themed cabaret, stand-up comedy and speed dating all taking place against its ornate backdrop.

Big name speakers including the physicist Professor Brian Cox and author Bill Bryson addressed capacity audiences, with Cox making a surprise appearance at the lunchtime X-change – a 'best-of-the-fest' showcase held in the Spiegeltent.

Other highlights included a giant T-Rex, which intrigued gathered crowds with its life-like appearance, prowling around the academic square outside the University library as part of the British Science Association's 2012 Charles Darwin Award Lecture.

The festival also saw the largest number of returning alumni since the Quincentenary celebrations of 1995 with more than 300 attending exclusive Festival events, some travelling from as far afield as Europe, Canada and the USA.

The parallel alumni programme, which included a dolphin watching trip, special 'trace your roots' event, food lab experiments and campus tours, was the largest initiative of its type in the British Science Festival's history.

Dr Ken Skeldon, Head of Public Engagement with Research at the University and local chair of the Festival Programming Group describes the British Science Festival, which was co-organised with the British Science Association and TechFest-SetPoint, as a "fantastic success not only for the institution but for Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire."

He adds: "We couldn't have asked for any more – even the Aberdeen weather was on side for the full six days. Given that the 'grapevine' is usually an honest reflection of peoples' views post an event like this, we are delighted to have gathered extremely positive reflections from across the UK. We are confident that the Aberdeen experience was second to none in the Festival's recent history.

"Over the course of the week we had more than 250 events spanning the complete range of sciences and crossing with many other subjects. The attendances have set a new standard for the Festival with many events booked out and a significant proportion of audience members coming from outside the north-east and Scotland.



"OVER THE COURSE OF THE WEEK WE HAD MORE THAN 250 EVENTS SPANNING THE COMPLETE RANGE OF SCIENCES AND CROSSING WITH MANY OTHER SUBJECTS. THE ATTENDANCES HAVE SET A NEW STANDARD FOR THE FESTIVAL WITH MANY EVENTS BOOKED OUT AND A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS COMING FROM OUTSIDE THE NORTH-EAST AND SCOTLAND."

"We were overwhelmed by the support shown by the University, our alumni and wider communities as well as our sponsors and supporters, without which the Festival would not have been the great success that it was."

Dr Skeldon says that the success and legacy of the British Science Festival will further energise public engagement in the region.

"Moving forward the University is one of eight Research Councils UK (RCUK) centres of excellence for public engagement with research, allowing us to drive forward an innovative set of initiatives. This includes diversifying our community café engagement programme, already the biggest of its kind in the UK.

"The British Science Festival has also helped achieve a step change in our audience reach and increased the depth and extent of our relationship with partners, which we can use to help expand our sector-leading public engagement programme." ■



**PROFESSOR
BRIAN COX
ON THE IMPORTANCE OF
COMMUNICATING
SCIENCE**





The physicist Professor Brian Cox, best-known for his hit television series *Wonders of the Solar System*, launched his own career in public engagement at the British Science Festival when he was selected to deliver the 2006 Lord Kelvin Award Lecture.

His presentation on the Quantum Universe delivered with fellow particle physicist Professor Jeff Forshaw was one of the hits of the 2012 Festival, selling out within days.

Cox, who works on the Large Hadron Collider in CERN, explains the importance of communicating science to the public.

“I won the Kelvin Award Lecture in 2006 and it was one of the first big public engagement events that I had undertaken,” he says.

“I hadn’t been, as far as I can remember, on television or radio at that point so it was a real stepping stone in that the Festival is a major event and there’s a lot of focus on it.

“I think the fact the British Science Association awarded me the Kelvin lecture at the time, as someone relatively unknown and who had just started giving public lectures, was very important.”

Professor Cox adds that events like the British Science Festival have helped to promote the importance of researchers communicating their work to the public.

“PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT NOW MORE THAN EVER BEFORE AS IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY RECOGNISED THAT ACADEMICS AND RESEARCHERS, WHEREVER THEY ARE IN THEIR CAREERS, HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO EXPLAIN THEIR WORK, TO INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE AND TO GENERATE AND MAINTAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC.”

“Public engagement is vitally important now more than ever before as it becomes increasingly recognised that academics and researchers, wherever they are in their careers, have a responsibility to explain their work, to inspire young people and to generate and maintain the support of the public.

“After all the public are the people who pay our wages - they have right to know what we are doing.

“For too long it was considered some sort of side line activity that academics did in their spare time while really they should be getting on with teaching, administration or research.

“Now I think at last there are four components to being academic – there’s the teaching, administration and research but there’s also public engagement.” ■



PLAQUE UNVEILED TO ABERDEEN NOBEL PRIZE-WINNER

A plaque in honour of an Aberdeen Nobel Prize winner was unveiled by one of the world’s best-known physicists at the British Science Festival.

It recognises the work of the late George Paget Thomson and is situated on the site of laboratories he worked in at Marischal College.

Thomson, son of the famous physicist JJ Thomson, joined the University of Aberdeen as a Professor of Natural Philosophy in 1922, at the age of just 30.

It was a post he held for eight years and during that time he carried out extensive work at Marischal College on the behaviour of electrons travelling through very thin films of metals. The experiments showed electrons to behave as waves, despite being particles with known mass.

For this work he later shared the Nobel Prize in Physics of 1937 with the American physicist C.J. Davisson, who had arrived at the same conclusions by a different kind of experiment.

The process of electron diffraction which these experiments demonstrated has since been widely used, for example in the investigation of the surfaces of solids.

As well as acknowledging the work of Thomson, the plaque also commemorates Aberdonian Charles Fraser, chief laboratory technician whom Thomson credited with playing a pivotal role in designing and building the ground-breaking experiments. Members of Fraser’s family still living in the area, including his grand-son and grand-daughter attended the ceremony to mark the unveiling.

Dr John S. Reid, Honorary Curator of the University’s historical scientific instrument collection, said: “Thomson’s work showed that the new ideas of quantum physics really were confirmed by experiment, and his results quickly appeared in all books setting out to explain the new fundamental physics of his era.” ■

REACHING NEW DEPTHS



It's already internationally recognised for its fascinating discoveries from the deepest, darkest points of our oceans.

Now even more fantastic voyages lie ahead for the University of Aberdeen's Oceanlab with a new piece of kit that can descend to the deepest places on Earth. In fact the new lander – an autonomous deep-submergence vehicle with a baited-trap and camera attached – is one of just two or three in the world that can plummet to depths of 11,000 metres.

Earlier this year Dr Alan Jamieson from Oceanlab made headlines across the globe when he was part of a research expedition that discovered one of the most enigmatic creatures of the deep sea – the 'supergiant' amphipod.

Usually deep sea amphipods are two to three centimetres long, but the specimens captured by scientists in waters north of New Zealand measured 28cm – nearly 10 times that of 'normal' amphipods.

The discovery came during a joint UK and New Zealand expedition to the Kermadec Trench, north of New Zealand, led by the University of Aberdeen and National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA).

"It was incredibly exciting when the trap came up and we found these amphipods bigger than I ever thought possible," says Dr Jamieson who led the research trip.

"Now what's really intriguing is that we discovered the supergiants using an older Oceanlab lander at depths of 7,000m. With the new lander we are aiming to explore deeper depths in other previously unexplored areas, so who knows what we'll find there."

The marine biologist heads back to the Kermadec Trench with the new lander and his NIWA colleagues in January. However this particular cruise is not about plunging to the maximum depth of the Trench.

"New Zealand has done a lot of work in the shallower end looking at fisheries impacts and local biodiversity and the University of Aberdeen has been involved in a lot of research that has explored depths of between 6,000 and 10,000m," says Dr Jamieson, who'll be accompanied by PhD students Niki Lacey and Thom Linley.

"THERE IS A 3,000M VOID BETWEEN THE DEEP AND SHALLOWER WORK AND THIS RESEARCH CRUISE HOPES TO BRIDGE THAT GAP. WE'LL BE LOOKING AT DEEP SEA SCAVENGING FISH COMMUNITIES AND EXAMINING HOW THEIR BODIES EVOLVE TO WITHSTAND THE INCREDIBLE PRESSURES THAT EXIST IN THE DEEP SEA ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS THE EQUIVALENT OF HAVING A TON WEIGHT SITTING ON TOP OF YOUR FINGERNAIL."

"There is a 3,000m void between the deep and shallower work and this research cruise hopes to bridge that gap. We'll be looking at deep sea scavenging fish communities and examining how their bodies evolve to withstand the incredible pressures that exist in the deep sea environment which is the equivalent of having a ton weight sitting on top of your fingernail."

Dr Jamieson designed and built the lander which was funded by the Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS). The aluminium piece of kit is also bound for three other research trips next year and the year after. "In March we're back to the Kermadec Trench with the HADES project – a major international research collaboration – where we'll be conducting the first systematic study of life in depths ranging from 6,000 to 11,000m.

"Then around autumn we're taking the lander off to look at fish populations all the way from New Zealand across the South Fiji Basin to New Caledonia. There, we'll be deploying the lander in the New Hebrides trench which has not been explored before.

"And then in 2014 we're off to the deepest point on Earth – the Mariana Trench – in the Pacific Ocean which goes all the way down to around 11,000m.

"However while we will indeed explore the deepest point, we'll be focusing our efforts of the slightly shallower slopes – between 6,000 and 8,000 metres deep – to investigate the biology and physiology of animals as they progress from the shallow to extreme depths.

"Who knows if we'll find another supergiant but we'll make every effort!" ■





ROYAL OPENING FOR SIR DUNCAN RICE LIBRARY



Hundreds of guests and many more staff and students turned out to welcome HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh for the formal opening of the Sir Duncan Rice Library on Monday 24 September.

Guests joining Chancellor Lord Wilson of Tillyorn and Principal, Professor Ian Diamond, for the opening ceremony included former Principal Sir Duncan Rice, in whose honour the iconic new University library has been named.

Hundreds of alumni and donors to the University arrived on campus for a day of celebration which also included a talk on the University's treasures, an organ recital in the historic Chapel, tours of the library, and a dinner for over 300 friends and supporters of the

University – many of whom had flown in from the USA and Hong Kong to be part of the historic occasion.

A new choral piece by Royal Wedding composer Paul Meall and a unique 'soundscape' of library life by fellow University composer Pete Stollery featured during the formal opening.

Her Majesty also viewed the original Papal Bull of 1495 which founded the University, and was presented with a posy of unusual flowers from the University's own Cruickshank Botanic Gardens by two scholarship students from China. ■





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH MEETING ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION SABBATICAL OFFICERS WHILE CHRIS BANKS (LIBRARY DIRECTOR) AND ARCHITECT MORTEN SCHMIDT EXPLAIN TO LORD WILSON AND HM THE QUEEN THE VISION BEHIND THE STUNNING INTERIOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN DEVELOPMENT TRUST

An International Focus

AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The University of Aberdeen Development Trust is pleased to announce the launch of the International Scholarship Programme aimed at enabling and encouraging many more international students to study in Aberdeen. From next year, students from anywhere in the world looking to undertake postgraduate study at the University of Aberdeen will be able to apply for a scholarship worth £3,000 to support them with their tuition fees.

The University has been able to provide scholarships for international students for many years, often thanks to the generosity of supporters. However, this is the first time that the Development Trust has embarked on a dedicated International Scholarship Programme to gain support for a fund which will benefit students from all over the world.



In recent months we have promoted specific ways to support the International Scholarship Programme and thanks to the generosity of our Canadian and American alumni, we have already raised a fantastic £12,000!

With your help, we can help people from all over the globe to study at the University of Aberdeen and share the same great Aberdeen experience that you were able to benefit from.

The International Scholarship Programme will:

- Create life-changing opportunities for individuals from all over the world
- Help those who have the potential to overcome barriers to participation
- Promote cultural and ethnic diversity at the University of Aberdeen
- Ensure your University remains a truly global institution
- Create equal opportunities for those who would like to study overseas
- Share the unique and special University of Aberdeen student experience with the world
- Help the University to recruit the most promising students from around the world
- Enrich the intellectual and social community in Aberdeen

To support the International Scholarship Programme today, please contact **Stephanie Miller** on **01224 273595**, email **s.a.miller@abdn.ac.uk** or visit **www.abdn.ac.uk/giving**.

LIVING OUTSIDE THE UK BUT WOULD STILL LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

Not a problem. If you are living overseas then you can still support any of our current priorities including the International Scholarship Programme.

Making a donation from overseas is quick and easy. To make a gift either online or by post, please visit **www.abdn.ac.uk/giving/giving/ways-to-give**, where you will be able to select your preferred method of giving and then select the appropriate link for your country.



THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The University of Aberdeen has strong links with Hong Kong and China thanks, in part, to generous donations which fund various international scholarships. These scholarships enable a number of students to come to Aberdeen to study and two such students were thrilled to be presented to Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh during the opening of the Sir Duncan Rice Library. Yang Li from China benefited greatly from the Hong Kong Fong Scholarship and has now been awarded the Chevron MSc Subsea Engineering Scholarship while Sarah Keung is currently receiving support from the James Henry Scott Scholarship, which is supported by the Swire Educational Trust.

“The James Henry Scott Scholarship is crucial for me to further my studies,” says Sarah. “I gave up a job to study abroad and the scholarship relieves the financial burden for me. My encounter with the Queen was more than enjoyment – it was one of the most honourable experiences of my life.”

However, the University of Aberdeen Development Trust currently has an urgent need for funding to develop its International Scholarship Programme. This will provide life-changing experiences while helping the University to recruit the most promising students from around the world.



RETURNING STATESIDE WITH RENEWED VIGOUR

The opening of the Sir Duncan Rice Library provided the opportunity for a number of our international supporters to visit Aberdeen including members of our University of Aberdeen Development Trust USA Board. The Board is made up of seven high-profile members of the American alumni community who give their time and expertise. These alumni help the University by contributing financially, soliciting gifts, encouraging connections among alumni, and by helping to recruit students.

The visit also coincided with a Board meeting at which members discussed future strategy and building further support from the United States. The meeting also provided the opportunity to announce that Honorary Graduate and President Jonathan Daube will be stepping down as President in January with Rhod Sharp taking up the post. All members agreed that the visit had been an excellent opportunity to refocus and return stateside with a renewed vigour and enthusiasm.



REMEMBERING A UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN STALWART

Dr Alistair Smith who died in July, was the first Director of the University of Aberdeen Development Trust from 1982 until 1990 but his ties to the University started much earlier and continued until 2002 when he retired. He came to the University as a student in 1957, completing both an MA and PhD. In 1963 he was appointed lecturer in Geography, a position he held for 25 years and during this time he was appointed Director of the newly established Development Trust. He built the Trust up to a highly successful organisation, not only securing local support but also raising funds internationally. As a lecturer he was popular with students and in 1990 he became Director of the University's International Office until his retirement in 2002. He made a significant contribution to the University while also establishing a political career and in 1982 was awarded a CBE.

RECOGNISING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

Throughout its long history, the University of Aberdeen has produced individuals who have reached the top of their chosen careers and many have travelled and settled abroad. However, ties to the University often remain as strong as ever with many alumni giving substantial support through the University of Aberdeen Development Trust, proving that distance is no barrier to generosity.

However, the need for this worldwide support is more important today than ever as we aim to support the University's students, teaching and research while preserving its unique heritage. Within this we are committed to supporting the University's commitment to internationalisation.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

ANNOUNCING THE 1ST CORPORATE SCHOLARS' RECEPTION

On Wednesday 28th November the University of Aberdeen Development Trust will host the first Corporate Scholars' Reception to which many of our current international donors and scholars will be invited. We will highlight the life-changing impact that scholarships can have on students while providing information about employer engagement opportunities on offer at the University.

We are delighted that University of Aberdeen Chancellor Lord Wilson and Principal Ian Diamond will be attending and if you would like to join them to hear how you can make a difference, please contact Vicki Corbett on +44 (0) 1224 274111 or e-mail v.corbett@abdn.ac.uk. For information about corporate and individual giving opportunities visit www.abdn.ac.uk/giving.

JOIN OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

The University of Aberdeen Development Trust is a charity registered in Scotland no. SC002938.

CAMPUS NEWS

WORK STARTS FOR NEW ROWETT BUILDING



Preparatory work has begun for construction of the research facility that will confirm Aberdeen as a world leader in the study of food and health.

The new building for the Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health will be a state-of-the-art research building and a centre of excellence capitalising on its location adjacent to the University's Foresterhill research facilities and expertise, and the close partnership with clinicians in the site.

The £23 million new building will be funded partly by the Scottish Government and by proceeds from the sale of the current Rowett estate in Bucksburn which will become surplus to requirements when staff relocate to the new facility.

It also offers many opportunities for private donations, to ensure that the facility is truly world-class.

BIG READ FOR NEW FRESHERS

The story of the hunt for one of the world's most wanted fugitives was the topic for the University's first common reading programme – The Big Read.

All new arts and social sciences students were sent a free copy of Matthew Green's book *The Wizard of the Nile* in which he seeks to track down the reviled Ugandan warlord Joseph Kony.

Students were encouraged to read the book before arriving, and the text was then used for a series of discussions, debates and lectures in Freshers' Week.

Common reading programmes are popular in the US as a way to introduce students to university level thinking but Aberdeen is one of the first in the UK to combine this with a wider programme of events.

THOUSANDS FLOCK TO OPEN DAY

Thousands of prospective students from across the globe descended on campus for this August's Open Day.

Potential students and their families were keen to hear and see the range of opportunities and facilities offered at Aberdeen, which was ranked in the top 10 in 6 categories of the UK's What Uni? Student Choice Awards – including Overall Rating, Job Prospects and University Facilities.

Exhibitions, presentations and demonstrations took place throughout the day, alongside live entertainment and campus tours including the opportunity to view the new Sir Duncan Rice Library.



FRESH TAKE ON GANGNAM

It was a welcome no Fresher will forget! 250 students gathered at Elphinstone Lawn for a flash-mob dance inspired by this summer's internet sensation.

South Korean pop star Psy's Gangnam Style music hit has attracted more than 220 million hits on YouTube and by October was at the top of the UK charts.

Not to be outdone, the Aberdeen University Students' Association organised their own spoof of the catchy routine for students old and new to show off their Gangnam moves at September's Freshers' Week (pictured).

WARM WELCOME FOR STUDENTS FROM AFAR

Over 600 new international students thronged Aberdeen's Cowdray Hall for an Experience Aberdeen Culture Fair designed to make them feel quickly at home and get a taste of what the Granite City has to offer.

The event - the first of its kind and a joint initiative by the University of Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University - was a huge success, with visitors representing a rich variety of nationalities coming along to try out Scottish culture from food and drink to traditional performances of music, poetry and dance.

The International Aberdeen Welcome Project is part of a Scottish Government funded project run by the STRATOS Group to create a truly 'National Welcome' for international students when they arrive in Scotland.

GEORGIAN GLORY RESTORED

With completion of sensitive renovation, staff moved in September into the beautifully restored elegant houses of 50/52 College Bounds, now home to administration for the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy, and academic staff in History of Art and Scandinavian Studies.

The Georgian semi-detached granite houses have served a variety of purposes during the history of the University, most recently for the Students' Association, and stretching back to their role as Professorial Manses over a century ago.

The B-listed houses have been renovated as one building, upgrading their interiors into modern offices and meeting rooms while retaining the historic fabric of the building and many of the internal features, including the original decorative plasterwork and fireplaces.

GILDED BEASTS UNCAGED



The Aberdeen Bestiary - created in England around 1200 and once owned by King Henry VIII - went on display for the very first time this summer in the University's new library, for a Gilded Beasts exhibition seen by over 4,000 visitors.

Renowned for its exquisite illustrations and covered in gold leaf, it is one of the best preserved books of its kind still in existence and offers an unrivalled insight into medieval manuscript production methods.

The Bestiary first came to Aberdeen in 1625 when it was bequeathed to the University's Marischal College by Thomas Reid, a former regent of the College and the founder of the first public reference library in Scotland.





A MUTUAL HONOUR

November 2012

Contributions to science, theology, law and civic leadership are recognised in the award of honorary degrees in November 2012.

Sir Roland Jackson, Chief Executive of British Science Association, played a central role in the British Science Festival hosted by the University and Aberdeen in 2012. He has a long interest and experience in science education and public engagement with science, in particular promoting initiatives that enable science to be seen and discussed in its wider social context. Sir Roland was previously Head of Learning and acting Head of Museum at the Science Museum, London, following earlier roles as a science teacher and as education adviser for ICI.

Sir John Beddington, Government Chief Scientific Adviser and Head of the UK Government office for Science since 2008, is awarded a DSc. Since being in post, the GCSA has led on providing scientific advice to Government during the 2009 swine flu outbreak, the 2010 volcanic ash incident, and the emergency at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in 2011. The GCSA has also been responsible for increasing the scientific capacity across Whitehall by encouraging all major departments of state to recruit a Chief Scientific Adviser. Building on his earlier work on the Perfect Storm of food, energy and water security, he has continued to raise the significant issues of population growth and resource scarcity in the context of climate change.

A distinguished academic, Sir John was Professor of Applied Population Biology at Imperial College and, prior to his appointment, he was Head

of the main Departments for Environmental Sciences. Sir John has also acted as a senior adviser to several government and international bodies, including the Australian, New Zealand and US Governments, the European Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

The Rev Dr Alan Falconer was minister of Aberdeen's Cathedral Church of St Machar from 2004 to 2011. Dr Falconer's work has been in the theology and practice of ecumenical reconciliation. An Aberdeen graduate, Alan Falconer joined the Irish School of Ecumenics, progressing to become senior lecturer and, in 1990, Director of the School. He has also been a member of bodies such as the Irish Council of Churches Forum on Human Rights, and the Irish Council of Christians and Jews; and from 1988-90 he was Moderator of the Human Rights Advisory Committee of the British Council of Churches. From 1995 to 2004 Dr Falconer was based in Geneva as Director of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. Dr Falconer is currently the Convener of the Church of Scotland Ecumenical Relations Committee and co-chair of the Joint Commission on Doctrine of the Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic Church, the body which proposed the conference to mark the Scottish Reformation.

A founding member of the University of Aberdeen Hong Kong Association, **Mrs Jean Hamilton** is recognised as a long-term friend and supporter of the University and its Hong Kong alumni for over two decades. In this time she helped in creating scholarships for

Hong Kong students and, with her husband, became "Scottish parents" to these students while they were away from home. The active and caring role she played reflected the importance she attached to giving back to Hong Kong, a region which her family has been closely associated with.

The Hon Lord Bracadale, a Judge of the Supreme Courts in Scotland since 2003, becomes a Doctor of Laws. A graduate of the University of Aberdeen, he initially worked as an English teacher before embarking on a law degree at the University of Strathclyde.

Lord Bracadale was admitted as a solicitor in 1979 and, before being called to the bar, served as a Procurator Fiscal Depute. He was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in 1985 and served as an Advocate Depute from 1990 to 1993. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1995 and served as Home Advocate Depute from 1997 to 1998.

Aberdeen's former 'first citizen' **Peter Stephen** is awarded the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa. As Lord Provost, and as an Aberdeen City Councillor, Peter Stephen made a major contribution to civic life over a number of years. He was born in Aberdeen and educated at the City's Sunnybank Primary School and Robert Gordon's College. On leaving school, he joined the Union Bank of Scotland Ltd, holding various managerial roles in Scotland, ultimately retiring in 1991 as a Corporate Banker. Peter Stephen actively promoted Aberdeen's commercial strengths to industry at home and abroad. In this ambassadorial role, he also regularly supported higher education in the City and was a recognised champion for several local charities. ■

Among those being recognised at our graduation ceremonies in November 2012 are:

Professor Sir John Beddington
Doctor of Science

The Hon Lord Bracadale
Doctor of Laws

The Rev Dr Alan Falconer
Doctor of Divinity

Jean Hamilton
Master of the University

Sir Roland Jackson
Doctor Honoris Causa

Peter Stephen
Doctor Honoris Causa

In July 2012 the University awarded honorary degrees to: Christopher Bones, Professor of Creativity and Leadership, Manchester Business School; Dr Jonathan M Daube, President of the University of Aberdeen Development Trust USA and President Emeritus, Manchester Community College, Connecticut; The Hon Lady Dorrian, Judge of the Supreme Courts in Scotland; Professor Lisa Jardine CBE, academic, writer and broadcaster; Dame Emma Kirkby, soprano and renowned early music specialist; Duncan Macniven, former Registrar General of Scotland; Sir Adam Roberts, President of the British Academy in 2009; David Sweeney, Director for Research, Innovation & Skills, Higher Education Funding Council for England; The Hon Lord Woolman, Judge of the Supreme Courts in Scotland; Colin McKerracher; Chief Constable of Grampian Police; Ian Suttie, Chairman & Chief Executive of First Oil Plc.

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

The University website is always the most up-to-date source of information for events taking place at the University. Visit www.abdn.ac.uk/events for further details or call: +44 (0)1224 273233.

The events detailed below are correct as of October 2012.

Café Scientifique Series	Throughout the year	www.engagingaberdeen.co.uk
University of Aberdeen Autumn/Winter Concert Series	October to December	www.abdn.ac.uk/music/events
CSID: African Film Series	October to December	www.abdn.ac.uk/events
University of Aberdeen Christmas Tree Lights	4 December 2012	www.abdn.ac.uk/events
Scots Philosophical Association Meeting	7 - 8 December 2012	www.scotphil.org.uk
University of Aberdeen Spring Concert Series	February to May	www.abdn.ac.uk/music/events
Young Coastal Engineers Conference	25 - 26 March 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/cpd
Energy Industries Overview	9 - 11 April 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/energyoverview
Grampian Children's Book Awards	May 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/events
Philosophy with Children	7 May 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/cpd
University of Aberdeen May Festival	10 - 12 May 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/events
Advanced Course on Dietary Methods	14 - 16 May 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/acdam
Microbiology for Teachers	15 May 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/cpd
Physics for Teachers	17 May 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/cpd

EXCLUSIVE EVENTS FOR ALUMNI

For further details visit www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni or call +44 (0)1224 273234

Informal Gathering in London	November 2012	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events
Statutory Meeting of the General Council in Aberdeen	1 December 2012	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events
Graduate Winter Lunch in Aberdeen	1 December 2012	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events
Informal Gathering in British Embassy in Paris	Spring 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events
Alumni Event in Edinburgh	March 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events
Communicating with Confidence, London	March 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events
Alumni Event in Moray	April 2012	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events

EXHIBITIONS

The Sir Duncan Rice Library

1 Sep 2012 – 4 Dec 2012

Pharmacopoeia – An exhibition of printed and manuscript material from our Special Collections exploring a history of health.

All exhibitions and events at the University Library are free of charge.

Email: scc.events@abdn.ac.uk

www.abdn.ac.uk/library/about/special/exhibitions

Old Town House

4 Sep 2012 – 15 Jan 2013

World in your Kitchen – An exhibition in the Old Townhouse by illustrator Jonathan Williams helps bring the world to your kitchen in aid of Amnesty, Traidcraft and CAFOD.

For further information on exhibitions contact:

Tel: +44 (0) 1224 274330 Email: museum@abdn.ac.uk www.abdn.ac.uk/kingsmuseum

King's Museum

4 Sep 2012 – 26 Jan 2013

Food Stories – The latest exhibition at King's Museum exploring what we eat and why.

MacRobert Building

Sep 2012 – mid Jan 2013

Journey of a Lifetime – The first showing in Scotland of photographs of Saudi Arabia taken by Queen Victoria's granddaughter Princess Alice Countess Alice of Athlone in 1938, the year oil was discovered in the kingdom. The pictures and film footage on view in MacRobert Foyer until the New Year beautifully capture personalities, customs, traditions and a way of life which was about to change for ever.

FEATURED EVENT: Save the Dates!

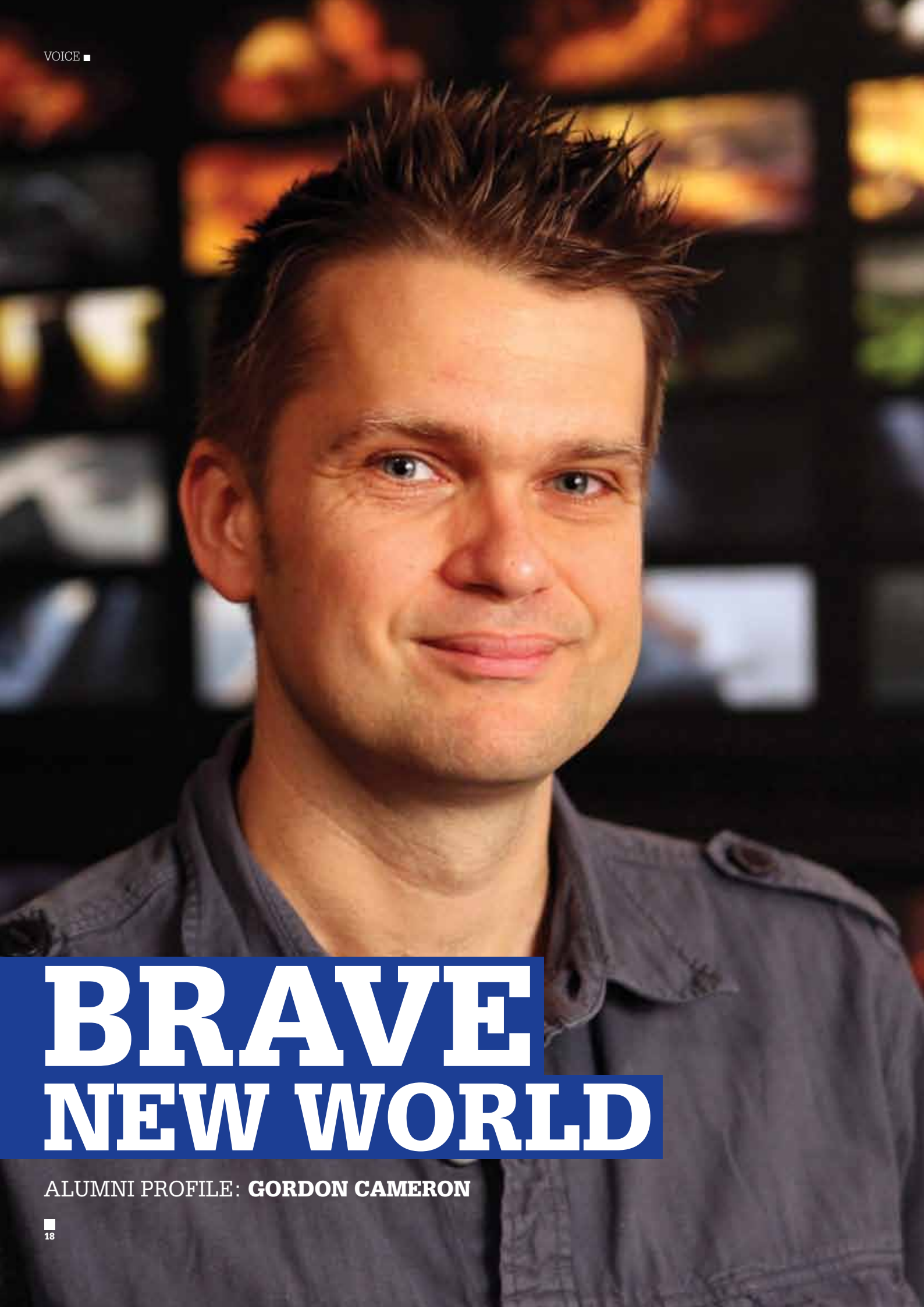
The University of Aberdeen May Festival

10-12 May 2013

The University will be holding a brand new festival in 2013 to celebrate and showcase the very best of what it has to offer. It will be like no other Festival, offering events in music, film, science, Gaelic, literature, and more. It will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Rowett Institute for Nutrition and Health with food-related events, and our Children's Festival will allow families to enjoy workshops and fun activities together. Keep an eye out for further information, coming soon. www.abdn.ac.uk/events



may
festival



BRAVE NEW WORLD

ALUMNI PROFILE: **GORDON CAMERON**



Brave © Disney•Pixar

It's the blockbuster movie that Scots tourism bosses hope will indeed set the heather on fire. Brave - the Scotland-based tale of a warrior princess - is the latest animation from Disney•Pixar. It is also one of the most recent films worked on by Aberdeen graduate Gordon Cameron - the only Scot working for Pixar Animation Studios in California.

Science fiction movies of the time seized the imagination of a young Gordon Cameron as he grew up in a small Aberdeenshire coastal community.

"When I was much younger I harboured this fantasy that I'd love to get into film effects after watching films like Star Wars, Buck Rogers, Battle Beyond The Stars and Alien," says Gordon, now 44. "When I lived in Banff I used to read about that world by ordering magazines from the States and imagining what that world might be like."

"I was so young and naive back then but the upside was that I had no fear of learning and firing off letters to enquire about the possibilities," he says. "At 16 or so I wrote to Industrial Light and Magic to ask how I'd go about working in the industry, and they were gracious enough to send back an advice-packed letter that I still keep. But as I got older it seemed so unlikely that there'd be a way to break into that film world although of course it is always something I wanted."

But today those childhood dreams are reality as Gordon is a technical supervisor in production at Pixar - one of the most successful hit-movie-making studios in the world.

"To cut a long story short - I owe my entire work history to a procession of people taking a chance on me," says the married father-of-one, who graduated from the University

of Aberdeen in 1990 with a BSc (Hons) in Computing Sciences.

"I moved to Edinburgh to work, doing Computer Vision research and then parallel computing and visualisation. While in Edinburgh I got a call from Montreal asking me to come out for an interview as what I was working on right then was close enough to what they were looking for. I flew out the next week, got the job and started soon after. That was my first step directly in the FX and animation business."

After seeing Pixar family favourite Toy Story Gordon knew he wanted to work for the studio "because it was such a perfect film". By the time Pixar's Finding Nemo hit the silver screen he had successfully made the move to California.

"When I joined Pixar it was to work on developing the in-house animation software we use for all our projects. I'd got that job by working in a similar area in Montreal for an animation software company. I managed to get that job by working on vision and visualisation in Edinburgh, and I got those positions in Edinburgh by gaining tremendous technical and practical experience studying for my degree in Aberdeen with some wonderful professors."

Gordon remembers fondly his years at Aberdeen. "There was so much to enjoy coming from a small town - a lot of open-minded people from around the world gathered together on an inspiring campus.

"I used to love walking from Hillhead down to King's before classes; playing basketball, badly!, with the second team; cycling everywhere; the friends I made in halls and shared flats; the opportunity and space to learn, and the fact that although a relatively large university, it was always possible to escape and find somewhere alone. It was an enlightening time for me. Graduating and having my dad gesticulating

wildly after I picked up my degree was something I'll never forget."

Gordon's work at Pixar involves overseeing, planning and collaborating with technical artists working on individual film projects

It's a fantastic place to come to each morning and I am incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to work here," he says.

Being the only Scot at Pixar meant working on Brave was particularly special: "Such is the attention to detail that Pixar puts into everything, there were a crew of people that were probably more knowledgeable on Scotland than I - many of whom would wander around in kilts each Friday!

"It was also the first film I was supervising on which meant I was able to watch it evolve from the start and stay with it until completion. Taking my parents to the premiere in Edinburgh was also remarkably special to me."

Gordon hopes Brave will indeed help bolster tourism in Scotland: "If only to try and help engage people in their own history," he adds. "Scotland is such a beautiful country with so much to give, and the filmmakers used that inspiration to create something that hopefully is visually respectful of the source.

"It would be great to think that in some small way people might see the film and perhaps become more curious about investigating their own wonderful outdoors. Not just read about the history but actually live and inhabit it. My colleagues who have visited Scotland have been much more adventurous and curious than I was when I lived there!"

Gordon adds that his career has been helped by advice given to him which he is keen to pass on: "Try hard to do what you love, and in doing so see if there are ways to help other people do the same." ■

OPENING NEW FRONTIERS IN HEART SURGERY

ALUMNI PROFILE: RAJ JUTLEY

A medical degree from the University of Aberdeen set Raj Jutley, who arrived in the Granite City from Kenya, on the path to becoming a cardiac surgeon.

The consultant is now set to give up a comfortable family life in Nottingham to return to Nairobi in order to run the first open heart surgery unit in the sub-Saharan Africa region between South Africa and Sudan. The unit will be affiliated with Pan Africa Heart Foundation (PANAHF) - a registered charity in UK and Kenya.

Mr Jutley founded the Pan African Heart Foundation, which makes it possible for patients with little or no funding to have access to cardiac care, in 2008 and leads the charity's surgical team. He makes regular visits to Africa but in December he will move to run the organisation on the ground.

He says it is thanks to the University of Aberdeen that he has 'the skills in his hands and the knowledge in his mind' to make a difference in his home country.

However he describes his arrival in the Granite City, where he lived for 11 years, as a 'happy accident of the alphabet'.

Mr Jutley said: "I was in Nairobi choosing the medical school I wanted to go to. I had made four choices and realised I needed to add a fifth - Aberdeen was the first alphabetically to offer medicine so down it went on the form. I'm very glad it was as I was accepted and didn't look back.

"The city is just the right size for studentship and you are also on the doorstep of some pretty unique scenery.



"I had a fantastic experience at Aberdeen and I'll never forget my first winter as I lined up with all the other international students with my nose pressed to the window looking at snow for the very first time.

"I have four children now and if they want to study at university when they are older I'll certainly be recommending Aberdeen."

After graduating with an MB ChB in 1996, Mr Jutley completed his basic surgical training rotating between Aberdeen and Inverness and undertook a Doctorate of Medicine (DM) at the University, for which he invented a new device to strengthen closure of the chest following heart surgery.

In 2001 he left Aberdeen to work in Glasgow and then moved down to England. From 2002 to 2009 Mr Jutley trained in cardiac surgery and became consultant in 2009.

He added: "If I was ever going to be a consultant there were only two places I wanted to do it - Aberdeen or Nottingham.

"In the end I settled in Nottingham and have enjoyed family life there with my wife Anita and my four children, the latest addition only 4 months old."

But all that is about to change as he prepares to move the family back to the country of his origin

to commit himself full-time to his charity work.

"The Pan African Heart Foundation was established to address the problem of rheumatic and ischaemic (coronary) heart disease in sub-Saharan Africa," Mr Jutley added.

"North of South Africa and south of Sudan there are no specialist heart centres and no surgeons that carry out these operations to international standards with benchmarking.

"As a result a disease that can be treated is claiming the lives of many in their prime. One of the biggest problems is a 'brain drain' from the area and there's no better place to run the charity than on the ground so I'll be moving in December."

Mr Jutley will eventually act as sectional lead for the new heart surgery centre established by the Aga Khan University Hospital.

"This is a unique opportunity to make a difference in that part of Africa and I owe the University a debt of gratitude for the fact I have the highest level of training to take back with me.

"I come from a Sikh culture and as a Sikh you have a duty you must fulfil at some time in your life known as 'seva' meaning service to mankind.

"THIS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THAT PART OF AFRICA AND I OWE THE UNIVERSITY A DEBT OF GRATITUDE FOR THE FACT I HAVE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF TRAINING TO TAKE BACK WITH ME."

"I feel now is the right time. I've given my service to the NHS and will continue to work closely with colleagues in Nottingham as our associated centre of excellence.

"However it will be quite a shock to return to the country I left for Aberdeen 22 years ago."

Mr Jutley is scheduled to meet with the presidents of Kenya and Uganda in the coming months to discuss establishing cardiac care centres in the region.

"For 400 million people the service they need to treat heart disease simply doesn't exist so there is big interest being shown in the area for the project," he added.

"The University of Aberdeen gave me my education and foundation and I hope now to use that to make a real difference in the place of my birth." ■



STEEL AND MAGNOLIAS

ALUMNI PROFILE: MICHELLE WATT

When it comes to determination, ambition and passion, Aberdeen graduate Michelle Watt is far from run of the mill.

She is at the forefront of a new revolution at the heart of the industry – and the region – which fuelled Britain's industrial revolution nearly 200 years ago. High quality steel made in Scunthorpe in North Lincolnshire is the foundation of many products that modern society relies on, such as cars, domestic appliances and electricity.

Michelle, who works as an Asset Improvement Engineer with global steel producer Tata Steel in Scunthorpe, is currently the only female chartered engineer with the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) on the 2,000-acre Scunthorpe site. Her success has delighted Tata Steel bosses, who believe she may be the first in the 120-year history of steel-making in Scunthorpe.

Michelle, 28, graduated from the University of Aberdeen with a Masters degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering in 2005. She became one of the youngest female chartered engineers in the country when she achieved her professional registration in 2010 at the age of just 26.

“MY UNIVERSITY DEGREE OBVIOUSLY GAVE ME THE ABILITY TO LEARN A COMPLEX SUBJECT AREA, UNDERSTAND THE THEORY BEHIND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING – AND ALSO ALLOW ME TO MEET GREAT PEOPLE AND MAKE SOME FRIENDS FOR LIFE.”

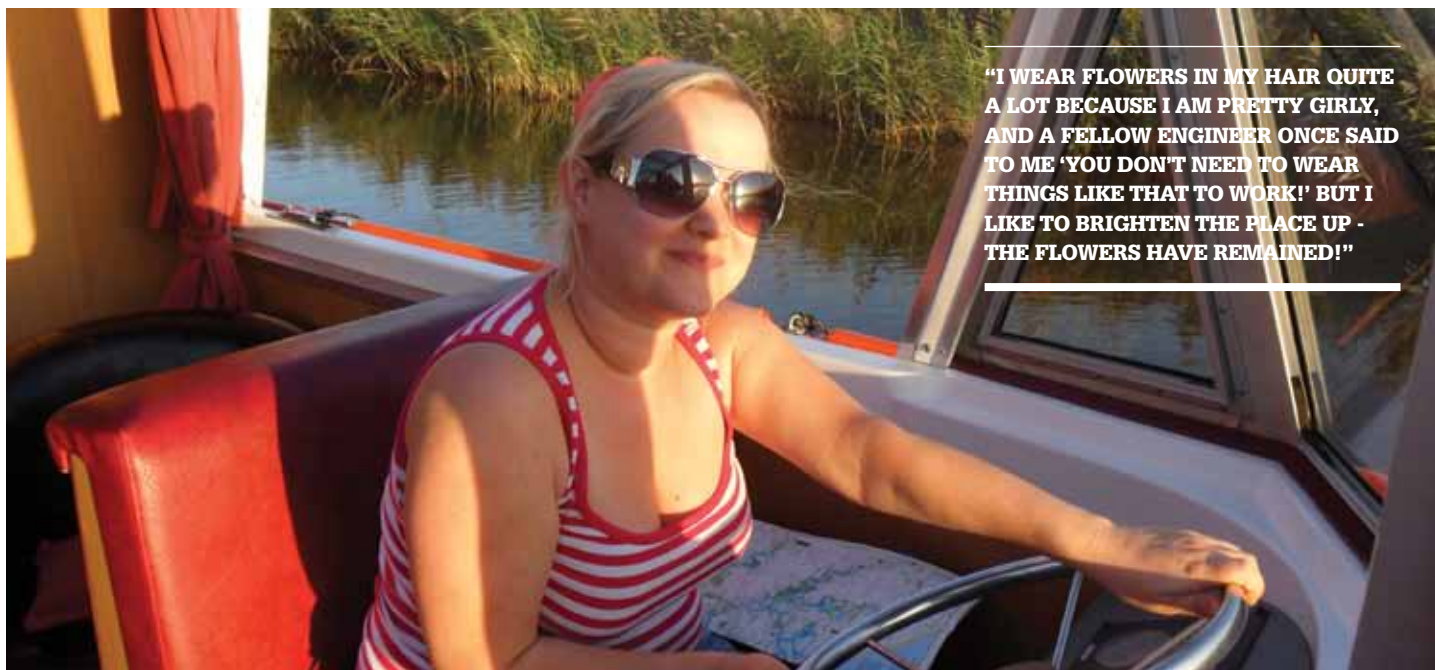
Born in Aberdeen, Michelle already had her career in her sights when she sat her Higher exams in 5th year at Portlethen Academy. “I knew that I wanted to do electrical engineering, and I started at the University of Aberdeen in 2000 when I was 16,” recalls Michelle. “I suppose I was quite fortunate in knowing what I wanted to do at such a young age. I'd always enjoyed physics, maths and computing at school – although I did consider architecture for a while, as I loved my graphics communication classes too.

“I just thought that electrical engineering would be a fascinating subject to study. But I think all the excitement got the better of me though, because I fainted on my first day! That was a bit of a shock to my new-found Uni friends!

“My University degree obviously gave me the ability to learn a complex subject area, understand the theory behind electrical engineering – and also allow me to meet great people and make some friends for life. Our final year was the best, especially our outward bounds trip to Fort William at the start of the year – it really brought the class together despite a few disputes over the raft race!”

On leaving University with her MEng, Michelle started her working life on the graduate programme at what was then Corus and is now Tata Steel's steelworks in Scunthorpe. “I'd always envisaged myself working in the power industry,” she remembers, “but somehow I ended up on a steelworks miles away from Aberdeen.

“But I made a great choice. Tata Steel is at the forefront of innovation – helping to create safer and more fuel efficient cars, producing steel to make trains run more quietly, and helping to create buildings which generate their own electricity.



"I WEAR FLOWERS IN MY HAIR QUITE A LOT BECAUSE I AM PRETTY GIRLY, AND A FELLOW ENGINEER ONCE SAID TO ME 'YOU DON'T NEED TO WEAR THINGS LIKE THAT TO WORK!' BUT I LIKE TO BRIGHTEN THE PLACE UP - THE FLOWERS HAVE REMAINED!"

"Looking back, I had no idea how challenging the transition from university to work would be - but also how interesting and exciting. I've been very lucky to be exposed to so much within the steelworks - and I must be doing something right as I've managed to move up the management ladder to my current role as Asset Improvement Engineer. In this job I don't focus so much on electrical engineering in terms of design and fault rectification in a practical sense, but now drive the development of maintenance strategies to increase reliability of equipment.

"My main role is to improve and drive Asset Management within the business. It's a subject area that I really enjoy and it's imperative in manufacturing to ensure a sustainable future."

Michelle's main goal after leaving Aberdeen was to achieve her professional registration as a chartered engineer, which she did in an astonishing five years. "I wanted to prove that I am a professional and competent engineer. I wasn't sure that I had enough experience, but I was surprised how much I'd learned and achieved at work in five years."

But the day of her interview will be one Michelle will not forget in a hurry. "I'd been so nervous before my interview that I planned to relax by meeting a friend in London for a coffee before catching my train. And then guess what happened - the sole of my shoe came off in the middle of London! What a nightmare - I was just thankful that it happened after my interview and not before!"

Gaining her chartership also made Michelle something of a local celebrity across North Lincolnshire. "I remember doing a radio interview for BBC Radio Humberside, which was quite fun," she says. "All my family and

friends told me they'd listened to it over the radio and internet. I'm not sure how well the North Lincolnshire listeners understood my accent though!

"Now that I'm chartered I'm concentrating on developing my skills in terms of reliability centred maintenance and best practice in maintenance excellence. I'd like to become a member of the Institute of Asset Management and focus my career on asset management. I also hope to become an IET mentor so that I can help others achieve their professional registration."

Bur Michelle still finds time to have fun and catch up with friends across the UK and also spend time with her fiancé who also works at Tata Steel, although her passion for travelling has been curbed temporarily, with a wedding to save for!

Her rapid career rise presents other challenges too, as she says: "Since I came off shifts in 2010 I don't get nearly as much exercise as I used to, so I try and get to the gym a few times a week too!"

One topic Michelle is regularly asked about is her view on being a woman in what many still regard as a man's world. She has a ready answer: "There will always be stereotypes of women in engineering," she says, smiling. "But they are just unnecessary, and so far from reality that it's quite funny.

"I wear flowers in my hair quite a lot because I am pretty girly, and a fellow engineer once said to me, 'you don't need to wear things like that to work!' But I like to brighten the place up, so the flowers have remained. And I also have fairy lights around my desk!

"My message for young female engineering students is - just go for it! If you are passionate about your career and interested in engineering, then pursue it. Engineering and technology is continually evolving and has many different career paths to offer.

"There are some unexpected bonuses too. I am the only female electrical engineer on our site, so no-one ever forgets my name. I do have colleagues who are female mechanical engineers, and it's great how we all just fit in like anyone else.

"I have to admit however that sometimes some female action is required. Some of the facilities on a mucky steelworks are not designed for ladies and I once got a project to install my own ladies toilets and showers!"

When it comes to looking ahead, Michelle is still keeping her options open. "I'm not sure what my ambitions are for the future. I'd certainly like to be involved a bit more with graduates and apprentices coming into the business. I've done a lot of work with schools through initiatives like the F1 challenge and STEM activities. Some young people still have a distorted view of what engineering entails in the working world, so I try to relate it to the things they know and are current. Everything we use on a daily basis has been designed and manufactured, and engineering is vital throughout these processes.

"Our business is so diverse and gives me the opportunity to gain exposure in so many aspects of engineering. So we'll just see where that takes me in the next few years." ■

ALUMNI NEWS



ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND, 7-9 SEPTEMBER

With over 300 graduates joining us from Canada, USA and many parts of Europe, the Alumni Reunion weekend was a huge success.

During the weekend, participants were able to soak up the buzz of the British Science Festival on the University's King's College campus and attend festival events with an exclusive discount. The weekend also offered graduates the opportunity to compare their memories of the campus with today and attend special alumni-oriented events. Alumni events included a bus trip to Baxters Highland Village, a family-friendly science event at the Aberdeen Arts Centre and a session about tracing ancestry at the new Sir Duncan Rice Library.

One of the highlights of the weekend was Doors Open Day, where buildings on campus were opened for tours and special events, including lectures on the Witchcraft Panic of 1597 in Aberdeen and the Aurora Borealis.

Dr Ken Skeldon, Head of Public Engagement with Research commented: "The dedicated Festival alumni programme represents the most ambitious initiative of its type in the British Science Festival's history. It is a perfect example of how to boost the number of visitors travelling to Aberdeen from further afield while strengthening our vitally important alumni relations."



CALLING ALL ALUMNI...CURRENT STUDENTS ARE LOOKING FOR MENTORS.

Students are back on campus and we are accepting applications to the Career Mentoring Programme. We now have a General stream and separate Law stream and are looking for even more alumni to join our existing volunteer alumni mentors. Graduates have found it to be a worthwhile and valuable way to 'give back' to the University.

You don't need to have prior mentoring experience. We are looking for alumni with good communications skills and a non-judgmental manner.

More information and an online application form can be found at www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/mentoring

In addition to the Career Mentoring Programme, there are other ways to engage with current students:

- Employability Courses
- Guest Speakers
- Presentations & Workshops
- Work Placements & Work-based Projects

For more information about any of these opportunities, please contact Julie Bakewell, Alumni Development Executive (j.bakewell@abdn.ac.uk)

SOCIAL NETWORKING: CONNECT WITH US



Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/AberdeenUniversityAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/AberdeenUniversityAlumni)



or join our group on LinkedIn: [University of Aberdeen - Alumni Relations \(Official Page\)](https://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=11111111)

ALUMNI EVENT ROUND-UP

BOSTON



Alumni gathering with Professor Bill Naphy, Director of the Graduate School.

LONDON



Alumni attending a wine tasting event at Vinopolis in London.

NEW YORK



An informal reception for alumni with Professor Bill Naphy, Director of the College of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate School.

HONG KONG



Friends and alumni at a lunch in Hong Kong to honour our Chancellor, Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, and celebrate the contribution of Mrs Jean Hamilton to the University and the Granite Pearl scholars.

X'IAN



Alumni attending a dinner in X'ian with Professor Dominic Houlihan, former Vice-Principal.

BEIJING



Alumni meet Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Diamond, at a gathering in Beijing.

ALUMNI BENEFITS



BENEFIT CARD

We launched our new benefit card in the summer, offering you a wide variety of benefits on and off campus. With the card, you will be entitled to benefits such as: discounted venue hire at the University, discounted magazine subscriptions, reduced hotel rates and much more. If you would like to receive a copy of the card, please email alumni@abdn.ac.uk. For a full list of benefits, go to www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni.



JSTOR

We are delighted to announce, that we have extended our subscription to JSTOR. As a graduate of the University of Aberdeen, our subscription gives you access to more than 1000 academic journals across all disciplines and dating from the 17th Century to the present day. This material has previously only been available to our current staff and students, but will now be available to you 24/7. We have been able to continue offering this benefit thanks to contributions from the Friends of the Library. To access this benefit, visit, www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/benefits

Credit Where it's Due.



The University's Affinity Credit Card is available to any UK resident over the age of 18. Since it became available to alumni and friends many years ago it has helped to generate tens of thousands of pounds in commission in support of University projects. We wish to thank everyone who has supported the University in this way. The credit card is issued by MBNA Europe Bank Limited and offers all the features you would expect from a premium service credit card.

To apply for this card, please call: **0800 028 2440** and quote **31CVQKJY**.



ALUMNI PARALYMPIC SUCCESS

INSPIRES AT ABERDEEN SPORTS VILLAGE

Aberdeen alumni brought home Gold and Silver from the London Paralympic Games.

Their achievements – and the success of both the Olympics and Paralympics – are now inspiring sports enthusiasts of all ages and abilities in Aberdeen.

Neil Fachie, who graduated with a degree in Physics in 2006 took Scotland's first Gold in the Paralympic Games, alongside Barney Storey, with a scintillating display in the tandem one-kilometre time-trial at the Velodrome.

Karen Darke, who holds a PhD in geography after graduating from Aberdeen in 1997, won a cycling Silver in the women's H1-2 time trial.

Since London 2012, attendance at Aberdeen Sports Village (ASV), run by the University, Aberdeen City Council and sportscotland, has soared.

Sports Development Executive Emma Hunter says turn out at drop-in athletics sessions, which allow youngsters to sample different sports for just £2, has trebled.

“Our ‘Kids@ASV’ club was attended regularly by around 100 children but since the London Games we’re regularly been attracting 300 over the course of a week.

“Kids@ASV, supported by Hydrasun, allows youngsters to come along and try different activities such as athletics and table tennis without the pressure of signing up long term.

“We know many parents don’t want to pay for blocks of classes for sports their children might not enjoy. By doing things this way we allow them to come along and try out a full range of activities and new sports on a drop-in basis.”

Another Sports Village success story is the disability hub,



which has also seen a boost in membership following the success of Team GB at the Paralympics.

It was established in summer 2011 as a partnership between ASV and Sport Aberdeen, which manages leisure facilities and services on behalf of Aberdeen City Council.

The hub forms part of a community sports initiative run by sportscotland to increase opportunities for people with physical, learning and sensory disabilities to get active and improve their performance in sport.

“Aberdeen Sports Village is a fully accessible facility and we wanted to make the most of the great resources we have here,” Emma adds.

“The disability hub is proving really popular and we’ve certainly benefitted from the inspirational impact of the London Games and the achievements of former Aberdeen students.

“As part of the disability hub we’re now running fully inclusive fitness sessions, table tennis, trampolining and athletics clubs.

“We also have teenage gym sessions for those with learning disabilities and a specialist Multi Sports Club for people with disabilities, which are both growing rapidly.

“It is wonderful to see the impact both the Olympic and Paralympic games have had at ground level and we hope that by making available opportunities to all we can continue that ‘feel good’ feeling.

“With the new Aberdeen Aquatics Centre set to open as an extension to the Sports Village in 2014, the future is looking very bright for sport in the city.” ■

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAMME 2013



Provence & The Camargue

Luxury Barge Cruise from Avignon Aigues Mortes
28 July – 3 August 2013
with Professor Rosamund McKitterick

Price: £2680 pp sharing, full board inc. flights from London

We have exclusive use of Le Phenicien, a deluxe, air-conditioned barge taking just 18 passengers in comfort, with private en-suite cabins and an on-board chef to prepare wonderful Provencal cuisine complemented by selected local wines. Meander along the Rhone River through stunning scenery of the Provence and Languedoc-Roussillon regions in style and comfort.

NB. This is a joint trip with Oxford and Cambridge University



An archaeological cruise along the Turquoise Coast

Halicarnassus and Knidos to Loryma and Caunos
7-21 September 2013
with Professor Geoff Horrocks

Price: £2950 pp sharing, full board inc. flights from London

The shores of Turkey have the finest scenery and the purest seas in the Mediterranean. The mountainous landscape has been sculpted into long peninsulas and deep inlets whose remoteness creates an ideal coast to cruise. In Classical times, these waters saw Roman galleys and Greek triremes sailing to the most famous cities of the ancient world.

NB. This is a joint trip with Cambridge University

For a full brochure contact Temple World Ltd., 13 The Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2AL
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KEEP IN TOUCH

We are sending more and more of our updates and communications by email, this will include future editions of the VOICE.

To ensure you receive future editions and to help us to keep you updated with all of the news, events and alumni benefits on offer please provide us with your email address and inform us of any other changes in your contact details.

Please contact the Alumni Relations office by post:

Alumni Relations
University of Aberdeen
Alumni Relations
FREEPOST AB600
Aberdeen, AB24 3ZQ

Or email: alumni@abdn.ac.uk

Alternatively, you can complete an online update by joining our online community at: www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni



AQUATICS CENTRE

Coming in 2014 - the £22 million Aberdeen Sports Village Aquatics Centre is a wonderful opportunity to help create one of the best aquatic facilities in Europe.

The new Aquatics Centre, funded by the University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen City Council and sportscotland, will offer exciting new opportunities for elite athletes, students, and communities throughout north-east Scotland, including:

- a 10 lane 50 metre pool, a 25 metre pool and full international standard diving facilities to grow local talent and help create future Olympic champions
- plans to be the first UK facility equipped with a camera system under and above water to provide vital playback for competitive swimmers in training
- promoting swimming as a healthy and enjoyable lifetime sport for everyone, with a full programme of public, senior and family swimming lessons, exercise classes, and swimming sessions for local primary schools

The funding partnership will create an excellent new facility. However, your support can help make the Aberdeen Sports Village Aquatics Centre truly world-class.

Over a million pounds has already been pledged to help create the very best facilities and opportunities for our students and communities, including corporate support from Saltire Energy and FirstGroup, as well as donations from many individuals in the UK and beyond.

In addition to individual donations, there are lots of opportunities for people to group together and organise fun community fundraising events. Gifts of any amount are very much appreciated and will take us a step closer to realising our ambition to create a world-class facility.

To discuss how you can support the Aquatics Centre contact **Liz Bowie**, Director of Development – University of Aberdeen Development Trust, on **+44 (0)1224 274198** e.bowie@abdn.ac.uk

For information about organising a community fundraising event contact **Cara Baird**, Development Executive – Regular Giving, University of Aberdeen Development Trust, on **+44 (0)1224 273278** c.baird@abdn.ac.uk

Or to donate online go to www.abdn.ac.uk/giving



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