



VOICE

CONVERSATION & NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

SUMMER/AUTUMN 2013

FROM ABERDEEN TO THE WORLD

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creator toasts more
success

BRAND NEW FESTIVAL

First May Festival
brings out the blossom
on campus

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successful career in
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DESIGNED & PRODUCED BY
HAMPTON ASSOCIATES
Aberdeen, Tel: 01224 620562
www.hamptonassociates.com

PRINTED BY
Polestar, Bicester
Paper sourced from sustainable forests

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A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the Summer 2013 edition of *Voice*. As alumni of the University, I want to particularly draw your attention to the news inside this issue of *Voice* of Lord Wilson of Tillyorn's retirement as Chancellor of the University and the election of his successor Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Rothesay. Lord Wilson has been an absolutely outstanding ambassador for the University and its alumni over the past fifteen years. We are hugely grateful to him for all that he has done for Aberdeen during that time both at home and abroad.

While we are sad to see Lord Wilson step down, we are nonetheless delighted that Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Rothesay has succeeded him as Chancellor. Her Royal Highness has visited the University on a number of occasions in recent years and has taken a keen interest in the achievements of our staff and students. She will be a wonderful international ambassador for the University in keeping with our status as a global centre of teaching and research and she is warmly welcomed to the University family. I am also delighted that Professor Iain Torrance will return to the University as Pro-Chancellor to support Her Royal Highness. Iain is a highly respected figure as an academic, a former Dean here at Aberdeen and as immediate past President of Princeton Theological Seminary. In addition he is a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. He too will be a wonderful ambassador for the University.

This issue celebrates another milestone in the history of the University with a number of stories linked to the celebration this year of the centenary of the Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health. Over the past century, the Institute has been at the forefront of advancing our understanding of both animal and human nutritional health and has recorded an impressive number of achievements. The Institute played a key role in establishing the link between diet and health in the early part

of the 20th century from which it has gone on to establish a worldwide reputation as a centre of excellence in nutritional health research, with three Nobel Prize winners to its name. Researchers at the Institute have significantly influenced the development of public health policy in the UK and beyond, and there is no doubt that the work of the Institute and its staff has had a major impact on the prevention of illness from poor diet and nutrition.

These are all achievements that should be proudly celebrated. The Centenary is also, however, an occasion to look ahead at the exciting and important future that the Rowett Institute has as part of the University. The research agenda of the Rowett remains a hugely important one, particularly given the rising rates of obesity. The merger with the University in 2008 has opened up new opportunities for the Institute to work with academics in other areas and to forge multi-disciplinary approaches. In 2014/15, the Rowett will begin its second century by relocating to a new purpose built research facility at the centre of our Foresterhill health campus. Being located next to scientists, clinicians and patients in one of the biggest biomedical campuses in Europe, will help the Institute to expand its research capacity and to undertake more of the world-leading work it has become known for throughout its history.

Finally, in the pages that follow you can learn about the May Festival – a new and diverse Festival that the University was proud to launch. The University has taken great pride over recent years in organising events that have proved hugely popular with a range of audiences across the North-East and beyond. The May Festival builds on our record of success in organising the Word Festival and as host of the hugely popular 2012 British Science Festival. Over the 10-12 of May, the Festival showcased the many strengths of the University with events spanning science, music, literature, film, Gaelic, and food and nutrition.

The Festival offered something for everyone, for all ages and interests, and with events taking place in a range of venues across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire it was accessible to everyone. The University is proud of the role it has in enhancing the cultural and intellectual life of its region and beyond. We continue to do that with this exciting new addition to the North-East's calendar of events. ■

Professor Sir Ian Diamond
FBA FRSE AcSS
Principal and
Vice-Chancellor



OVER THE 10-12 OF MAY, THE FESTIVAL SHOWCASED THE MANY STRENGTHS OF THE UNIVERSITY WITH EVENTS SPANNING SCIENCE, MUSIC, LITERATURE, FILM, GAELIC, AND FOOD AND NUTRITION.



■ 4 Photos: A young festival-goer proudly shows off his new look after a visit to the May Festival face painter Kilted Chef Craig Wilson, of the Eat on the Green restaurant, rustled up some treats for festival goers Aberdeen graduate Gordon Cameron returned to campus to give an insight into what it is like to work at DisneyPixar

FIRST MAY FESTIVAL BRINGS OUT THE BLOSSOM ON CAMPUS



Over a (mostly) sunny weekend in May, festival fever was back on campus with the University's first ever May Festival.

Building on the well-loved and long-running *Word* writers festival – and the hugely successful *British Science Festival* visit in 2012 – this year's May event aimed to offer both serious and light-hearted events to suit all tastes – quite literally!

In this Rowett Centenary year, the annual Boyd Orr lecture in a packed King's auditorium heard Dr Francesco Branco, Director of Nutrition at WHO, considering how close the world is now to achieving the Rowett founder's dream of feeding the globe. Food proved a tasty theme throughout the weekend – from demonstrations and top tips from some of Scotland's leading chefs to the enticing waft of the BBQ on King's Lawn beside the busy festival marquees. A popular 'first' was the local Produce Market which filled Elphinstone Hall with tempting samples of delicious baking, chocolate, chutneys and much more, all produced here in North-East Scotland, while on the Sunday a Hack 'n Make showcased clever ideas, projects, crafts, inventions, products and hacks in a vibrant fair-style event.

With over 100 events on seven different themes – word, food, discover, music, science, Gaelic, and film – the weekend aimed to provide something for everyone, from the young to the slightly more mature (but still young at heart!)

With the support of principal sponsor energy giant Saudi Aramco, Marathon Oil supporting yet again the Children's Festival, and Talisman Energy, the King's campus welcomed the likes of TV presenter and scientist Dr James Logan, Word favourites Alasdair Gray and Liz Lochhead, Chapel concerts featuring the exquisite singing of Dame Emma Kirkby and Jeremy Huw Williams, Gaelic singer Julie Fowlis, and new talent including Aberdeen graduate Gordon Cameron recounting his career in bringing to 'life' much loved characters including Nemo, Ratatouille, Woody and Buzz Lightyear.

The weekend drew to a close with a thought-provoking Question-Time debate on some of the greatest global challenges of our time, and the presentation of awards to University researchers who are breaking new ground in engaging the public in their research, following which an all-singing-all-dancing Variety Show saw some of the University's finest talent take to the stage before bringing the curtain down on the festival. ■

If you are interested in finding out more about the May Festival, visit:

www.abdn.ac.uk/mayfestival or for more photos visit www.facebook.com/universityofaberdeen



PLAQUE TO THE FUTURE

The focus may be on things that happened in the past but there is always something new and exciting happening in the University of Aberdeen's archaeology department that is relevant to modern society.

The obesity epidemic continues to dominate news headlines and public health policy

in the UK and abroad but work carried out by archaeologists at the University has revealed a previously hidden cache of information about how our changing diet – from the Stone Age to current day – has affected our health.

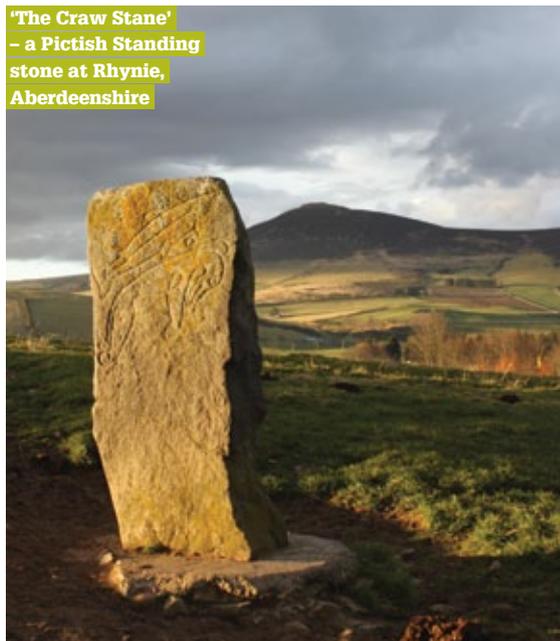
The project, co-led by Professor Keith Dobney in collaboration with the University of Adelaide, extracted and analysed

DNA from tartar found on the teeth of ancient skeletons. The investigation revealed how the evolution of humans from hunter-gatherers to farmers and the more recent move to eating processed flours and sugars has had a massive impact on the bacteria that live inside our mouths. The results have provided a timeline of how disease and illnesses have evolved over 7,500 years.

“This provides us with a completely new window on how people lived and died in the past. Knowing the real genetic history of diseases we still suffer from today will help us better understand and even treat them,” Professor Dobney said.

“BEING ABLE TO TRACK THROUGH TIME HAS HUGE IMPLICATIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING THE ORIGINS AND HISTORY OF HUMAN HEALTH – MAKING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD EXTREMELY RELEVANT AND IMPORTANT TO MODERN-DAY MEDICS AND GENETICISTS.”

**"The Crow Stane"
- a Pictish Standing
stone at Rhynie,
Aberdeenshire**



Urgency isn't something one would necessarily associate with archaeology but when the inhabitants of a frozen Alaskan village on the shores of the Bering Sea called for assistance over fears their heritage would eventually be lost to coastal erosion - speed was of the essence.

Residents of the Yup'ik village of Quinhagak in western Alaska called in archaeologists from the University of Aberdeen to carry out a rescue dig after observing their coastline being washed away as a consequence of global warming. Within hours of beginning the dig, the team, working alongside local archaeologists and villagers, located a prehistoric settlement site which was falling into the sea.

The site was named 'Nunalleg' (the old village) by village elders and was a winter village dating from 1350-1650AD. Within, the team uncovered tens of thousands of rarely seen artefacts made from wood and other organic

materials preserved by permafrost. The collection is one of the biggest and best-preserved ever recovered from the Arctic.

The exhibition's curator and director of the archaeological excavation, Dr Rick Knecht, said: "This is an opportunity to break some new ground in terms of museum partnerships and outreach with indigenous communities in the north. We began this project at the village's request because rising sea levels are eroding the sites and objects like entire masks were washing up on area beaches."

Standout objects from Nunalleq include Yup'ik masks, intricately carved wooden dolls, and ivory carvings such as a tiny figurine of a palraiuyuk - a monster from Yup'ik legend which was said to have lurked in rivers and lakes in ancient times.

The material from Nunalleq is owned by the Qanirtuuq Corporation (owned and operated by the people of Quinhagak) and is on temporary loan to the University of Aberdeen until the end of September 2013. ■

Ivory carving of a palraiuyuk - a monster from Yup'ik legend



If you are interested in finding out more contact Professor Keith Dobney: k.dobney@abdn.ac.uk
www.abdn.ac.uk/archaeology

The introduction of processed foods has resulted in the bacteria in our mouths being far less diverse, which has allowed cavity-causing strains to thrive. Ironically, the introduction of sugar and carbohydrates contributed to the increase in dental plaque that now holds the vital information the scientists are studying.

Professor Dobney added: "Until now we've had to rely mainly on indirect evidence or historical documents to tell us what people ate and what kind of illnesses they suffered from in the past. But now we can directly extract genetic information on diet and health from the tartar on teeth - which is very abundant and well-preserved in the archaeological record - we have a totally new source of unique information stretching back thousands of years."

From ancient teeth to medieval kingdoms - another archaeology project aims to track the rise and fall of the Pictish kingdoms in the North and North-East of Scotland that were important political players in post-Roman Europe.

During the first millennium AD, the Pictish Kingdoms that emerged in northern Scotland stretched from North-East Scotland to Shetland and Orkney, until the late 9th and 10th centuries when pressure from Viking incursions and the political rise of Gaelic kingship and identity led to the absorption of the Picts into the political entity known as Alba.

The Northern Picts project will examine the evolution of three key landscapes of power in Northern Pictland - the landscape context of the Pictish monastery at Portmahomack in Easter Ross; the largest identified, but poorly

understood Pictish stronghold at Burghead in Moray, and a 'royal' palisade and 'villa' at Rhynie, Aberdeenshire.

Dr Gordon Noble (leader of the project) said: "The major legacies of the Picts include some of the most spectacular archaeological sites and artistic achievements of Early Medieval European society.

"We have teams at three sites in northern Scotland including a 6th-9th century monastery at Portmahomack which was destroyed by Viking raids between 780 and 830 AD and was the subject of Scotland's biggest ever excavation in 1996.

"We also have teams at Burghead, which is known as 'the capital of the Picts' due to the fort which is over three times the size of other known early medieval forts from Scotland. And we are examining the Pictish stones at Rhynie, where there's evidence the stones were once part of an important royal site."

ROYAL COMPOSER HOPES TO INSPIRE NEW CHORAL MAESTROS

CHOIRS HAVE SUDDENLY FOUND THEMSELVES BACK IN FASHION AND TAKING CENTRE STAGE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY – INCLUDING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.



Choral composer and University Professor, Paul Mealor has achieved mainstream success beyond his wildest dreams. Having seen his work featured in the Royal Wedding, as well as reaching the top of the charts with his piece sung by the Military Wives choir, Professor Mealor is now hoping to inspire a whole new generation of choral musicians.

An innovative Masters Degree in Vocal Music is now part of the postgraduate prospectus at the University. One of only a handful in the country, the course offers exciting prospects for composers, performers and musicologists with a passion for choral music.

Under the expert guidance of Professor Mealor and other choral specialists, students will be immersed in the technical, historical and cultural aspects of

choral music and will be guided and helped in the finding of their own distinctive voice through the study of the great choral masters, past and present. With the opportunity to work with a professional choir in residence, as well as learning valuable practical skills in choral orchestration, conducting and choir training, and hear their compositions or editions performed in concert, students really will be able to flourish on this exciting new course.

Explaining a bit more about the opportunity which students accepted onto the MMus in Vocal Music will enjoy, Professor Mealor says: “This course ultimately provides students with the opportunity to learn from some of the most tremendous names in choral music.

“I am absolutely overwhelmed and delighted to be able to say that among our visiting fellows we will be welcoming Professor James O'Donnell KCSG, Organist and Master of the Choirists at Westminster Abbey; Dr Ralph Allwood MBE, Director of the Eton Choral Course; Lady Susie Digby, Director of Music at Queens College Cambridge, Professor of Choral Music at the University of Southern California and Director of the London Youth Choir; and world renowned composer, Dr James MacMillan CBE. I am sure any potential students who have a passion for choral music will be absolutely staggered at the prospect of learning from these greats.”

Professor Mealor is thrilled that the University of Aberdeen is able to offer such a course at this

level and with The Gramophone Award-winning, Dunedin Consort conducted by John Butt OBE on-hand to perform, rehearse students' compositions, go through editions and offer help with performance issues, he believes the high calibre of the course is unquestionable.

“I really can't emphasise enough just what an exciting course this is, and graduates looking to further enhance their career prospects and gain more experience in the field will undoubtedly take a lot from it. As well as the core content, the programme allows the students to input massively into what they study, with a range of choices that will allow them to really strengthen their skills in their particular area of interest.”



A resurgence of public interest in choirs and vocal music has been seen across the country on the back of projects like the Military Wives choir, which has struck a chord with many. Professor Mealor hopes that this will continue and help to create a new generation of composers and performers.

“Interest in choirs and this type of vocal music has surged in a way not seen for generations as a result of success stories like the Military Wives.

“I have many young people writing to me saying that they would like to write choral songs and choirs have enjoyed a real resurgence with many people who have never sung in this way before wanting to get involved.

“But these choirs need music – and particularly new work – to

perform so it would be wonderful to see a new generation embrace choral music both through singing and writing.

“Since *Ubi Caritas* was performed at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge I have been overwhelmed by the public’s enthusiasm for my music and I feel privileged to have been involved in projects like the Military Wives choir.

“It demonstrates the wide appeal of choral music and I’m delighted that we’re able to offer this opportunity to budding composers and musicologists here at Aberdeen.

“The course is unique in bringing together such recognised talent and will offer students an exceptional experience to learn and develop their skills in choral composition.

“When you write this type of music, it is also vitally important to have a choir to perform it to the highest standard so we are delighted to bring the Dunedin Consort on board as choir in residence.”

Such is his passion for the new course, Professor Mealor is providing a scholarship which will cover tuition costs for an outstanding student.

“I want those who have the passion, drive and talent to really benefit from this course to do so, and so I am delighted to offer a scholarship to an outstanding student, who I can only hope will go on and do something great with what they have learned from the MMus in Vocal Music.”

A second scholarship, provided by Derek Ogston and Margaret Carlaw, is also available.

Professor Mealor is looking forward to welcoming tomorrow’s choral maestros to the University of Aberdeen.

He added: “I am proud that we are offering this MMus in Vocal Music which is of course one of only a small number of its kind in the country. I really believe that true greatness will be uncovered as a result of this programme, placing us at the forefront of what could potentially be an extremely exciting period of time for the future of choral music.” ■

If you are interested in finding out more contact Professor Paul Mealor: p.mealor@abdn.ac.uk

www.abdn.ac.uk/vocalmusic

Follow Paul on twitter: [@PaulMealor](https://twitter.com/PaulMealor)

THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN DEVELOPMENT TRUST

A New Phase



ABERDEEN BUSINESSMAN SANDY MANSON APPOINTED NEW CHAIR OF THE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

As the University of Aberdeen Development Trust enters an exciting new phase, a family connection to the University going back to the 19th century has been reintroduced with the appointment of Aberdeen businessman Sandy Manson as Chair of the Trust. The cousin of Sandy's great grandfather was Sir Patrick Manson, an Aberdeen graduate who went on to become 'the father of tropical medicine'.

Sandy is the CEO of Johnston Carmichael, Scotland's largest independent accountancy firm. We asked him to tell us about his new role and how he sees the Development Trust building on past successes.

"I am honoured and delighted to be appointed as Chairman of the University of Aberdeen Development Trust as it enters an exciting and ambitious new phase. The recent £150 million Sixth Century Campaign was an astonishing success and the whole team at the Trust have a renewed vigour to build on this considerable achievement in the period ahead. Our aim is to raise funds in order to add value to university life while supporting its commitment to excellence and innovation, and under the Principal, Professor Sir Ian Diamond, there are many ambitious plans and projects to keep enhancing its reputation as one of the leading universities of the world.

"I have been involved with the Development Trust as a Trustee since July 2012 and have taken over the role of Chair from Lord Wilson who helped the Trust to achieve so much success in recent years. From a personal point of view I'd like to thank him for leading the Trust so effectively as this gives me such a strong position from which to start my tenure.

"The University currently has a number of key priorities to deliver including developing and supporting students through scholarships and student societies, enabling global research in many fields including medicine and food and nutrition as well as working in



THE DEVELOPMENT TRUST HAS HAD TREMENDOUS SUPPORT FROM SO MANY GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS AND £35.7 MILLION HAS ALREADY BEEN RAISED TOWARDS A £60M FUNDRAISING TARGET

partnership with Aberdeen City Council and **sportscotland** to provide the new Aquatics Centre which will open in 2014. At the Development Trust, we will be supporting these priorities while enabling the University to preserve its unique heritage, strengthen its links with the community of North Scotland and support the University's commitment to internationalisation. I'll be working closely with my fellow Trustees, the Development Trust staff and the Principal to ensure that our priorities relate specifically to those of the University for the benefit of all concerned.

"I believe that students are the lifeblood of the University and at the Development Trust we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that they receive not only the best education but a fuller transformational experience that will set them up for life. With the support of our worldwide family of alumni, friends and benefactors we are able to widen access to higher education and provide students with opportunities which greatly enhance their studies and learning experiences. The talent we are all helping to nurture and develop will have the potential to go anywhere and fulfil their dreams.

"Also, a number of the projects we will be raising funds for will not only benefit our students but the whole community. The development of the Aquatics Centre alongside Aberdeen Sports Village, for example, is going to provide a sporting centre of excellence which will place Aberdeen firmly on the international sporting map. The Centre is going to provide a fully flexible venue which will not only cater for world-class elite athletes and students who have the potential to compete at top-ranking events but for absolutely anybody within the community, whatever their experience, age or ability. The venue and the facilities within it are going to enable Aberdeen to host national and international competitions at the highest level which will provide superb opportunities for the city and the North-East.

"Over £1million has already been pledged for the Centre, including corporate support from Saltire Energy and FirstGroup as well as donations from alumni and friends in the UK and beyond. There are, however, still excellent opportunities for supporters to come on board and help create one of the best facilities in the world.

"The Development Trust has had tremendous support from so many generous individuals and organisations and £35.7 million has already been raised towards a £60 million fundraising target. With continued support I am confident that we can make our vision become a reality for the benefit of both the University and the City of Aberdeen. Support



from alumni, friends and benefactors as well as companies, trusts and foundations ensures that many activities that benefit students are made possible which otherwise would not be achievable. All the support received whether it is a £10 regular donation or a larger gift helps our students as well as contributing to the huge amount of research that is undertaken at the University."

University of Aberdeen Principal, Professor Sir Ian Diamond, is delighted with the new appointment and added "It is fantastic for the University that Mr Manson has been appointed Chairman of the Development Trust. He brings with him a wealth of expertise and experience, and I am sure he will be a tremendous asset." ■

If you are interested in finding out more about supporting the University of Aberdeen please contact Vicki Corbett, Development Manager: + 44 (0)1224 274111 or email v.corbett@abdn.ac.uk

www.abdn.ac.uk/giving



THE HONG KONG CONNECTION

The appointment of Sandy Manson as Chair of the Development Trust Trustees continues a family association with the University that dates back to the mid 19th century. Sir Patrick Manson was an Aberdeen graduate who went on to become known as “the father of tropical medicine” during an illustrious career, much of which was spent in Hong Kong and China.

Born in Oldmeldrum outside Aberdeen in 1844, where Sandy Manson and his family stay to this day, Patrick was said to have carried out his first dissection on a neighbour’s cat, within which he found a tapeworm, at the age of 14. It was clear even at that age that he had an avid interest in biological science which eventually went on to reap tremendous global benefits, including the discovery that malaria is spread via mosquitoes.

His initial interest in mechanics led to an apprenticeship as a blacksmith at the age of 15 but health problems forced him to give up engineering and he switched to medicine – a fortunate twist of fate for the millions of people whose lives he has helped to save over the past 150 years.

In 1860 he started studying medicine at the University of Aberdeen, graduating in 1865. The following year he took his elder brother’s advice and accepted a medical officer post in the Customs Service of Formosa (now Taiwan) where he started his life-long career in the research of tropical diseases and how to prevent and treat them. While there he also treated Chinese patients in a local missionary hospital where he was exposed to a wide variety of tropical illnesses. He took time to befriend the locals and learned the languages which helped to break down the mistrust of western medics and medicine prevalent at that time.

In 1871 he moved to Amoy (Xiamen) where alongside his role as medical officer for the local Imperial Maritime Customs, he again treated the local Chinese patients at the Baptist Missionary Society’s Hospital. Taking into account local superstition and cultural differences, he modified his operating theatre so that people could watch his operations.

After a brief stay in London he returned to Amoy with his new wife in 1876 and it was during this period of his career, and through his indepth research, that he started to discover the link between mosquitoes and malaria. His research and theory in this area was verified by Ronald Ross who was mentored by Manson and who went on to win a Nobel Prize.

In 1883 Manson moved to Hong Kong where he set up a successful private medical practice and his career flourished. Not only did he found the Hong Kong College of Medicine, which was incorporated into the University of Hong Kong in 1912, he also founded the Hong Kong Medical Society, the Alice Memorial Hospital and the Hong Kong Dairy Farm which supplied affordable hygienic milk to pregnant women, children and patients.

Manson returned to London in 1889 where he championed the need for specialist education into tropical diseases, their treatments and prevention. He founded the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in 1899. He was knighted in 1903 and died in 1922, leaving behind a legacy that continues to save millions of lives.

The work Manson did in the area of tropical medicine was ground-breaking and provided a solid foundation for much of the ongoing modern research undertaken. Even to this day he is regarded as one of the most highly respected figures in his field and will be known forever as “the father of tropical medicine”. ■



CONTINUING STRONG LINKS WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

THE LORD WILSON SCHOLARSHIP



If you are interested in finding out more about supporting the University of Aberdeen please contact Vicki Corbett, Development Manager: + 44 (0)1224 274111 or email v.corbett@abdn.ac.uk

www.abdn.ac.uk/giving.

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

The Hong Kong College of Medicine which was founded by Sir Patrick Manson became part of the University of Hong Kong (HKU) when it opened in March 1912.

The University of Aberdeen has maintained strong links with HKU throughout its history and in October 2012 gifted the University a specially commissioned tartan which was presented at a ceremony to mark HKU's centenary. The gift, which embodies Scottish tradition, celebrates the strong historic links between the two Universities and the collaborations that will continue into the next century. Chancellor Lord Wilson of Tillyorn and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Ian Diamond of the University of Aberdeen as well as HKU Vice-Chancellor Professor Lap-Chee Tsui officiated at the ceremony.

During the event the establishment of a new fund was announced, named in honour of Lord Wilson who stepped down as Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen at the end of 2012. Lord Wilson was installed as Chancellor in 1997 following a career which saw him appointed as 27th Governor of Hong Kong from 1987 until 1992. The Lord

Wilson Scholarship has been established to recognise both his remarkable career and his fundamental role in the leadership of the University of Aberdeen.

The University of Aberdeen operates an International Exchange Programme with some of the world's most distinguished institutions, including The University of Hong Kong. Today, both institutions continue to share a special relationship through academic collaborations and exchanges.

The Lord Wilson Scholarship is available to University of Aberdeen students who have been selected as part of the International Exchange Programme to study at the University of Hong Kong. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic merit and covers the cost of travel, accommodation and subsistence for the exchange year up to £10,000.

If it were not for Sir Patrick Manson's vision, this special collaboration is unlikely to have been developed. His legacy therefore resonates even further today as students begin to benefit from this significant new exchange opportunity. ■

CAMPUS NEWS

A ROYAL CHOICE FOR NEW CHANCELLOR



Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Rothesay will be the next Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen.

The Duchess succeeds Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, who stepped down from the role at the end of December, having served as Chancellor since 1997.

HRH will be the University's eleventh Chancellor, in a role which dates back to the merging in 1860 of King's and Marischal Colleges to create today's University.

The Duchess – who was elected unopposed by General Council members – has been a frequent visitor to the University, most recently in spring 2012 when she visited the School of Education to meet teachers and students engaged in innovative learning programmes. The Duchess also met music students and lecturers,

including Professor Paul Mealor who composed the choral motet *Ubi Caritas* for the 2011 Royal Wedding.

Welcoming his successor, Lord Wilson said: "I feel privileged to have held office as Chancellor during a time of important transformation at the University. I am delighted that the Duchess of Rothesay will be my successor. I pass on my very best wishes to her for her new role which I am certain she will enjoy just as much as I did."

The University also announced that Professor Iain Torrance will assist Her Royal Highness by accepting the role of Pro-Chancellor. Aberdeen-born Iain Torrance has a long association with the University, becoming Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Divinity in 2001 and serving subsequently as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and President of Princeton Theological Seminary.

LIBRARY SHORTLISTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

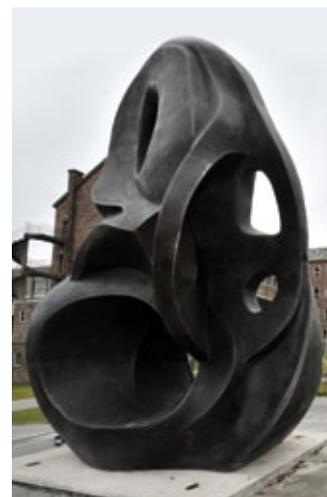
The stunning new Sir Duncan Rice Library is one of 25 projects to make it to the finals of The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) 2013 Awards, with the winner announced early summer.

Chris Banks, University Librarian and Director of Library, Special Collections and Museums said: "The building has been a magnet for researchers, students and the public since we first opened the doors late in 2011. It has enabled us to showcase some of the University's finest treasures and to attract visitors from around the world to see the state of the art facility and the unique collections it now holds. It has inspired art and creativity and, above all, it is a wonderfully inspiring building in which to work."

Meanwhile, the staff of the library were recognised for their hard work and dedication, and were shortlisted in the Outstanding Library Team category of the *Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards*.



EVOLUTIONARY LOOP 517



A new resident took up position in February this year at the entrance to the academic square on the west side of King's campus.

The six metre bronze sculpture was created by artist Nasser Azam and gifted to the University by Dr John Sievwright.

Despite having the working title *Eclectic Grace*, staff and students were given the task of coming up with a name more resonant with its new home.

The final choice was 'Evolutionary Loop 517', explained by proposer Professor Marcel Jaspars as reflecting how students, academics and staff are constantly evolving in their experiences and connections at the University, the organic nature of the sculpture in symbiosis with the research carried out around it, and also a reminder of the age of the University today.



TEAM AU TRIUMPH IN GRANITE CITY CHALLENGE



Despite snow playing havoc with the schedule – the University eventually came up trumps in Britain’s biggest varsity event which sees Aberdeen go head-to-head with local rivals Robert Gordon University (RGU) over 30 sports.

Heavy snow on the original date in March resulted in all outdoor events being postponed.

The rearranged fixtures took place in the middle of April with Aberdeen eventually triumphing 19-12 overall.

University of Aberdeen Sports President Clare McWilliams said: “The snow caused the biggest disruption to the event in 16 years but our teams kept their composure in both parts of the competition and ran out convincing winners yet again.”

GILDED BEASTS UNCAGED

The University hosted a celebration of Scottish and Gaelic culture at the Sir Duncan Rice Library in April.

The half day event gave members of the public the opportunity to learn more about the Gaelic language and culture with exhibitions and information stands from organisations like Scottish Culture & Traditions, Cli, Learngaelic.net, The Gaelic Books Council, and more. There were also a number of fun workshops and a free Gaelic language taster session.

As part of the celebration, the University also launched its Gaelic Language Plan, which highlights how the University will assist the national effort to increase the use, acquisition and status of Gaelic and contribute to the language’s development.

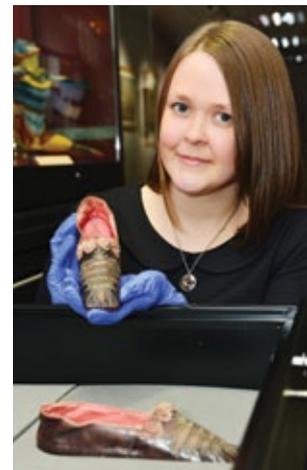
CABINET SECRETARY VISITS TO ANNOUNCE NEW TEACHER PLACES

A boost in teacher training places was announced by Scotland’s Education Secretary Michael Russell on a visit to the University in February.

An extra 370 places for student teachers will be available at Scottish universities for 2013/14, and the University of Aberdeen is one of eight training providers in Scotland that will benefit from the additional places.

Mr Russell spoke to students on the BEd (Honours) Primary Education course taking part in creativity workshops, and was shown work underway in an art and design class led by Alan Paterson and in a drama workshop led by Jackie Stewart.

TINY SILK SLIPPERS TELL A ROYAL TALE



A pair of tiny silk and leather slippers have been unearthed, having lain undiscovered in the vast collections of the University for more than 140 years.

Thanks to the detective work of curator Louise Wilkie, the embroidered shoes were revealed as having belonged to Napoleon Bonaparte’s sister, Princess Pauline Borghese.

Louise had only joined the museum team last June and was working on one of her first major assignments to clean and sort a collection belonging to the Banff-born medical graduate and extensive traveller Robert Wilson (1787 – 1871).

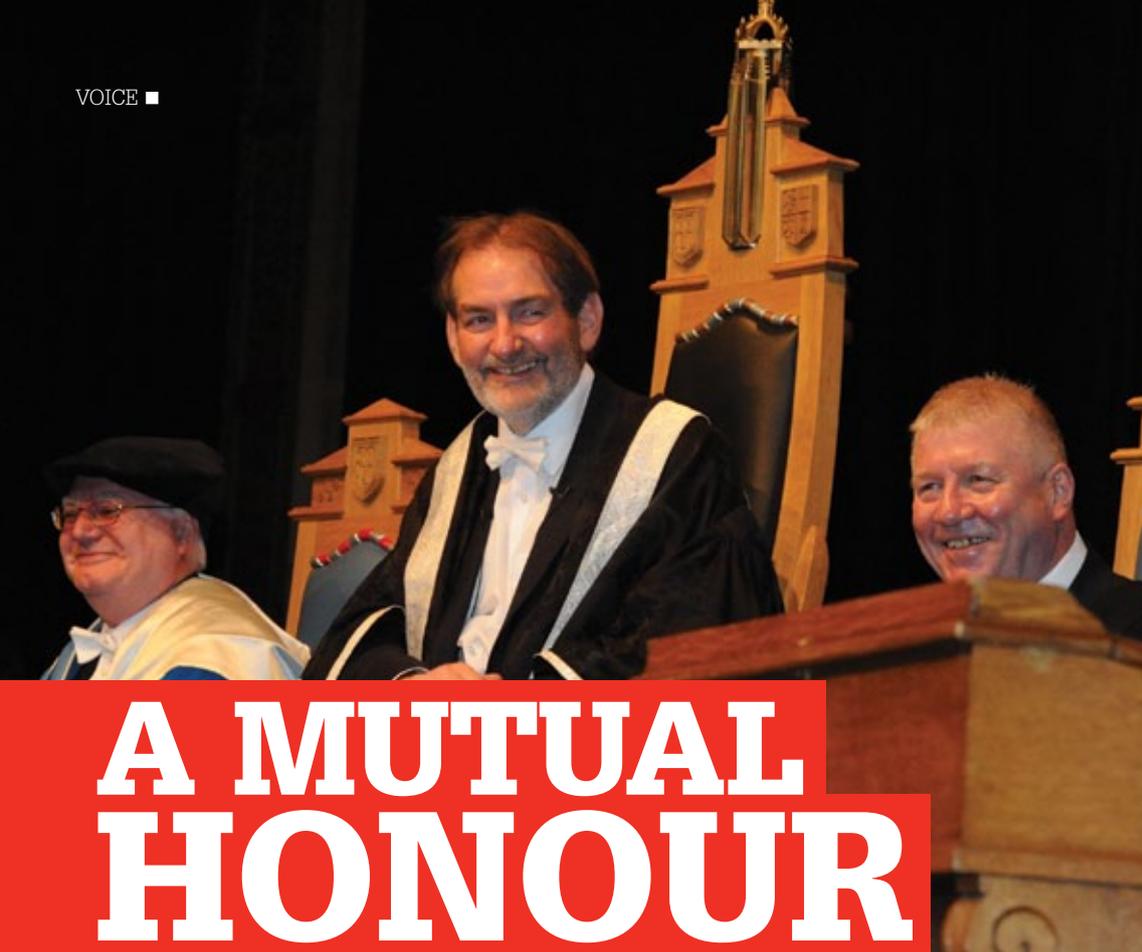
The decorative shoes, which are equivalent to a UK children’s size two and measure just 40mm across the toes, were concealed in a chest of clothes and were simply marked on the sole ‘Pauline Rome’.

To keep up-to-date with the latest news from campus:

Add us on facebook:
www.facebook.com/AberdeenUniversityAlumni
 or www.facebook.com/universityofaberdeen



Follow us on twitter:
 @aberdeenuni



A MUTUAL HONOUR

The achievements of nine individuals will be recognised with the award of honorary doctorates in July 2013.

Professor Dominic Houlihan retired in September 2012 following a distinguished career spanning some forty years with the University of Aberdeen. An eminent fish biologist, he was also one of the longest serving Vice Principals in recent times. An enthusiastic champion of entrepreneurial activity, he also forged international links with China, Hong Kong and the Middle East. His long-standing advocacy of public engagement in science was recognised with an OBE in 2010.

Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell is a renowned British astrophysicist. Dame Jocelyn made one of the greatest astronomical discoveries of the twentieth century. As a postgraduate student, she discovered the first radio pulsars – the by-products of supernova explosions which make all life in the universe possible – with her thesis supervisor Antony Hewish. Dame Jocelyn is a champion of women in science and has campaigned to improve the status and number of women in the fields of physics and astronomy.

Professor Emmanuel Adwo Obeng is a prominent African scholar and university leader. A graduate of the University of Aberdeen, Professor Obeng was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, from 2001 to 2008. A Professor in New Testament Studies at Cape Coast since 1997, Professor Obeng was awarded Order of the Volta of the Republic of Ghana for his contribution to higher education in 2007.

Professor Terence Daintith, a distinguished academic lawyer, specialises in public law – maintaining a career-long interest in economic regulation, and pioneering the study of oil and gas law in the United Kingdom. He has held posts at leading universities in the UK, Europe and the United States and currently holds visiting professorial appointments at the University of Western Australia and the Universities of Melbourne and Sydney.

David N Livingstone is Professor of Geography and Intellectual History at Queen's University, Belfast. He has served as a Visiting Professor at Calvin College in Michigan and the

University of Notre Dame in Indiana, and as a Visiting Noted Scholar at the University of British Columbia. A Fellow of the British Academy, he has received the Admiral Back Award of the Royal Geographical Society, the Centenary Medal of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, the Templeton Foundation Lecture Award, the Gold Medal of the Royal Irish Academy, and the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society. He was awarded an OBE in 2002.

James O'Donnell is Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey. He has developed an international reputation as an organist, giving recitals in Britain, Europe, the United States and Australasia, as well as having made solo appearances at the Proms and broadcast many times on BBC Radio 3. Between 1997 and 2004 he was Professor of Organ at the Royal Academy of Music, where he is now Visiting Professor of both Organ and Choral Conducting. A long-term member of the Council of the Royal College of Organists, he has just completed a two-year term as its President.

Ralph Allwood is a renowned conductor and champion of choral music. He left Eton College in 2011, where he had been Precentor and Director of Music for 26 years, to co-found Inner Voices, a choir for young people from ten Inner London state schools. He has made 35 live broadcasts on Radio 3 and appeared as a choral consultant and judge in BBC2's *The Choir: Sing While You Work*. In 2002 he was made Honorary Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music and an MBE in the 2012 New Years Honours.

Albert Sachs, a former Judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, is an eminent lawyer and a courageous human rights activist. As a young advocate at the Cape Bar, the bulk of his work involved defending people charged under racist statutes and repressive security laws. He himself was subjected to banning orders restricting his movement and eventually placed in solitary confinement without trial for two prolonged spells of detention and, in 1966, went into exile. In 1988 he was blown up by a bomb placed in his car in Maputo by South African security agents. Returning home in 1990, he took an active part in the negotiations which led to South Africa becoming a constitutional democracy. In 1994 he was appointed by President Nelson Mandela to serve on the newly established Constitutional Court.

Karen Darke, an Aberdeen graduate, has led an extraordinary life and been an inspiration to many. Paralysed in a traumatic rock-climbing at the age of twenty-one, she has overcome many physical and mental barriers – completing many trips others believed impossible; from marathons and triathlons, to kayaking, sit-skiing and hand-cycling in some of the most inhospitable places on the planet. As a competing hand cyclist, her sporting achievements to date include winning two Silver Medals at the 2011 Para-Cycling World Cup in Sydney, Australia, in both the women's H2 Road Race and Time Trial events and a Silver Medal at the London 2012 Paralympic Games in the women's H1-2 time trial. ■

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

The University website is always the most up-to-date source of information about events taking place at the University. Visit www.abdn.ac.uk/events for further details or call +44 (0) 1224 273233. We also promote events on our twitter account @aberdeenuni.

The events detailed below are correct as of June 2013.

Community Café Discussion Series	Throughout the year	www.engagingaberdeen.co.uk
King's Museum Evening Lectures	Throughout the year	www.abdn.ac.uk/library/news-events/events
Second Sight & Prophecy Conference	14 - 16 June	www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone
Peterhead Boaties Project	5 July - 15 August	www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone
Sea, Sangs and Saatie Tales, Peterhead	24 July	www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone
Traditional Singing Weekend at Cullerlie	26 - 28 July	www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone
TechFest	13 September - 2 October	www.techfestsetpoint.org.uk
The Elphinstone Institute Fiddle Bus	21 September	www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone
Sound Festival	23 October - 18 November	www.sound-scotland.co.uk
University of Aberdeen Autumn/ Winter Concert Series	October - December	www.abdn.ac.uk/music/events

EXCLUSIVE EVENTS FOR ALUMNI

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

Cromarty Dolphin Watching	5 September 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events
Informal Alumni Gathering in London	September 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events
Informal Alumni Gathering in Edinburgh	September 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events
Informal Alumni Gathering in New York	Autumn 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events
Informal Alumni Gathering in Hong Kong	October 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events
Bonfire Night in Aberdeen	5 November 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events
Statutory Meeting of the General Council	7 December 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events
Graduate Winter Lunch in Aberdeen	7 December 2013	www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events

EXHIBITIONS

For further information on exhibitions, please visit, www.abdn.ac.uk/library/news-events/events or call +44(0)1224 274330

THE SIR DUNCAN RICE LIBRARY

27 April - 7 September

Wanderlust:
Travel Journals and Explorers' Notes

Wanderlust describes a yearning for distant places: an irrepressible compulsion to discover the unknown. The exhibition features vivid writing contained in some of the travel journals and explorers' notebooks held with the University's Special Collections.

KING'S MUSEUM

11 March - 7 September

Nunalleg:
The Yupit and the Arctic World

An exhibition of recent archaeological discoveries from western Alaska, excavated by a team from the University of Aberdeen in partnership with the Yup'ik Eskimo village of Quinhagak.

JAMES MACKAY HALL

24 April - 31 July

'Útiseta' by Nicola Moss

'Útiseta', meaning sitting out for wisdom, is associated with an ancient Nordic practice of divining knowledge. Moss's works are inspired from sitting out in the Scottish landscape to see numinous images in her mind's eye.

TOASTING CONTINUED SUCCESS

STUDENT PROFILE:
BLAIR BOWMAN



“LAST YEAR I WAS WRITING UP MY CV IN PREPARATION FOR JOB HUNTING AND THIS YEAR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SENDING ME THEIR CVS WANTING TO COME AND WORK FOR ME AND WORLD WHISKY DAY!”

Whisky has had University of Aberdeen student Blair Bowman in something of a daze over the last year – but not in a negative sense.

Since the 23-year-old came up with the idea of creating a designated day of celebration last year to toast Scotland’s national drink, the event has proven so popular it now dominates the majority of his time.

“Last year I might have been dismissed by some in the whisky business as just some young guy with no clue but now distributors and distilleries are seeing the potential that the event has and they’re keen to be involved,” he said.

“I’ve had guys from Hong Kong and Australia getting in touch asking if there are job opportunities. It’s just been mad.”

The second annual World Whisky Day was held on May 18 (it will be held on every third Saturday in May from now on) and, as promised by its founder, was even bigger and better than the inaugural event.

“This year there were official World Whisky Day events in around 40 countries and the website was visited by people from over 100 countries all over the world so it’s definitely growing in stature.

“Arran distillery had representatives in every hotel in the island offering free ‘mini taster’ sessions to celebrate the day and their visitor centre manager was on the ferry all day wearing a World Whisky Day t-shirt and telling everyone about it, which was just fantastic.

“We also had great link ups with Brewdog and the Scotch Malt Whisky Society in Edinburgh and London, who opened up their members-only clubs to the public for the day.”

Like all good businessmen though, Blair is already planning his next move.

“Ahead of World Whisky Day I commented in the media that Antarctica was the only continent that wouldn’t be hosting an event, and since then I’ve been inundated with tweets from people saying they know people at some of the scientific base camps there and they’re going to do something next year – so we will literally be worldwide in 2014.

“I THINK DISTILLERIES ARE SEEING IT AS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO COME TOGETHER UNDER AN INDEPENDENT UMBRELLA GROUP WHICH CAN BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL FOR EVERYBODY.”

“After I finish my studies World Whisky Day is going to be my full-time job. I really believe it has such massive potential that it will be a viable business and I’m so excited about it.

The Hispanic Studies student has had to balance his brainchild with the demands of finishing his degree but his is no amateur operation. Whilst he may have been begging and borrowing to get the event off the ground last year, this time around established firms came to him to offer support and discuss joint promotional opportunities.

A slick and regularly updated website offers news from the whisky world as well as promotional deals. Visitors are even invited to purchase official World Whisky Day merchandise.

“Last year the website couldn’t cope with the traffic it received on the day but this year cloud computing firm iomart got in touch to offer a dedicated server so the site didn’t go down.

“I’ve been overwhelmed by support and interest from the business world and from politicians who think it’s a great idea. Most pleasing though is how passionate people have been to get involved and to celebrate Scotland’s national drink – whether or not they have any connection to the country at all. It’s just about getting together and enjoying a dram with friends – that’s all I ever wanted it to be about and the fact it’s become that and so much more is a bonus.

“I think distilleries are seeing it as a good opportunity to come together under an independent umbrella group which can be mutually beneficial for everybody. And as they get join up, they’ll be able to influence and decide the direction of how the event should evolve.”

With his studies completed Blair is looking to celebrate World Whisky Day 2014 in style.

“We’re now officially part of Homecoming 2014 and we’re looking to commemorate that with some exciting events – maybe a series of gatherings across the country. I haven’t nailed down the details yet, but it’s going to be big!” ■

To keep up-to-date with the latest news about World Whisky Day visit: www.worldwhiskyday.com



Follow World Whisky Day on twitter: @WorldWhiskyDay

A SOCIABLE SUCCESS STORY



ALUMNI PROFILE: JAMES WITHERS

FOOD AND DRINK AND CONVIVIALITY ARE NATURAL PARTNERS, AND THEY HAVE COME TOGETHER TO GREAT EFFECT IN THE CAREER OF JAMES WITHERS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF SCOTLAND FOOD AND DRINK.

James Withers says his time at the University was phenomenal and four of the best years of his life. “The one word that sums up my time at Aberdeen is social. I played rugby for the University and for Aberdeenshire and I was very aware that my course allowed me to enjoy all aspects of University life to the full.”

Despite having unconditional offers from Edinburgh and St Andrews, James’ visit to Aberdeen on a glorious sunny day, when Kings College looked so inviting, and the students were all enjoying themselves lounging on the grass, sealed his choice of Aberdeen as the University for him.

James has definitely been the right person in the right place at the right time as far as his career is concerned. He graduated in 1999, (MA Politics), just as the Scottish Parliament was established, and joined the National Farmers’ Union for Scotland (NFUS) graduate trainee scheme as their Parliamentary Adviser. “It didn’t matter to NFUS that up until that point I’d never been on a farm, as they of course have a large number of farmers to talk to. What they didn’t have was any idea how to engage with the new Parliament, and of course, neither did anyone else! I was able to bring a very fresh (aged 22) pair of eyes to the way NFUS engaged with a range of audiences and will always be grateful for the fantastic opportunity and support they gave me.” Undertaking a number of roles for the NFUS, James was appointed Deputy Chief Executive in November 2005 and Chief Executive in 2008.

During his time at NFUS, James represented the organisation at round

table discussions about establishing an overarching body, supported by the Scottish Government, that would take the lead on the economic development of the food and drink industry. This body, subsequently known as Scotland Food and Drink, was born in 2007. When the post of Chief Executive became vacant in 2011, James was again in the ideal place to take it on. “I was ready for a change, having been at NFUS for 11 years, and I wanted to get beyond the farm gate. I also knew all the key players in the development of Scotland Food and Drink.”

“The most amazing thing about Scotland Food and Drink is that it exists at all! To get such a range of organisations round the table and working in partnership with Government to grow the sector had never been achieved before. Now, with a small backroom staff of 20, we have 330 member companies, partnerships with all the right organisations, and are well on our way to achieving that ambitious target of growing the industry to a value of £12.5 billion by 2017. The opportunities for Scottish food and drink in markets such as India, China and the Far East is enormous. We want to follow the whisky industry model – we are offering a high quality product, sustainably produced.

“The big challenge for our food producers is going to be how to produce more, with less inputs. Scotland is never going to be a low cost producer. For the home market we need to change the view of some people that ‘best value’ equals ‘cheapest’ and help them to think that ‘best value’ can also mean ‘produced to highest standards of welfare and lowest environmental footprint.’”

When Scotland Food and Drink was established it was clear that there just wasn’t enough research and development taking place to support the innovation that would drive the economic development of the sector. “Among the big trends in the industry are sustainability, innovation in healthier foods, and good quality convenient food. The University’s Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Research, which has a 100 year track record in nutrition research, is doing a great job in contributing to these areas and it is clear to me that the need for the type of research carried out by the Rowett is probably greater now than at any other time.”

If you want to find out more about the food and drink industry in Scotland, and about James in particular, then follow him on Twitter. An enthusiastic and entertaining tweeter, James manages to blend some more personal tweets with his role at SFD, in

“I FIND THAT TWITTER IS SIMPLY THE MOST TIME EFFICIENT SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM.”

a way that perhaps few without his background and experience would be able to do. “I find that Twitter is simply the most time efficient social media platform. I was originally really sceptical of it, but now I can’t remember the last time I picked-up on a major news story anywhere other than on Twitter. Of course, it can attract the loony fringe, and I know that there are some topics which if I tweet about will immediately produce a spat of replies, but by and large Twitter excels at the getting, and communicating of news.”

Finally, James has a message for academics wanting to engage with the policy and political audiences: “You really need to think about the clarity of your message – keep it short and sharp. Politicians everywhere are simply drowning in information. Academics are very good at churning out loads of information such that their message gets lost, and they aren’t always clear what they want from their MSP either.” ■



Follow James on twitter:
[@scotfoodjames](https://twitter.com/scotfoodjames)



A close-up portrait of a woman with short, straight blonde hair and bangs. She has blue eyes and is looking slightly off-camera with a neutral expression. She is wearing an orange jacket with a dark collar. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green grass and a building.

FROM STUDENT TO MENTOR

**ALUMNI PROFILE:
JULIA HARVIE-LIDDEL**

WHEN JULIA HARVIE-LIDDEL GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN IN 1991, SHE DIDN'T IMAGINE THAT SHE WOULD ONE DAY RETURN AS A MENTOR TO UP AND COMING TALENT.

With an MA in Social Sciences, majoring in Accountancy and Economics, Julia left Aberdeen and completed two further degrees – a MSc in Marketing and a MSc in HR – to enhance her CV further. In the years since, the Brighton-based business woman has carved out an extremely successful career. While on her journey up the career ladder, Julia has also become FCIPD qualified, which means she is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

As Global HRVP for Upstream Resourcing at BP, Julia has a wealth of experience, which she has chosen to share with current Aberdeen students by joining the University's Career Mentoring Programme.

Julia is responsible for all of BP's Upstream recruitment, and manages a team of 150 globally. Having spent a large amount of her career involved in graduate recruiting, mentoring seemed like a natural fit.

Julia explained: "I had such a wonderful time as a student at Aberdeen and have always reflected fondly on the time I spent at the University. When I heard about the mentoring programme, I didn't need to be asked twice to take part.

"The thought that I may be able to help students to map out their career paths, and advise or guide them along the way was extremely appealing. Being able to put my years of experience into context is hugely rewarding, but in my experience it definitely isn't only the students who gain a lot from the programme."

The Career Mentoring Programme was established by the University's Alumni Relations Office and the Careers Service. The programme aims to match students with Alumni who are willing to share their professional experience and expertise and support their mentee in developing their own career ideas.

Julia continued: "Today's job market is tough there is no doubt about that – we recruit 8000 personnel a year globally at all levels in the business – 1000 at the graduate entry level. Graduating into a job market where competition for positions is so fierce is a massive pressure and applicants have to really stand out to potential employers.

"Having spent my career in HR and resourcing, I feel excellently placed to help students with a range of processes, such as filling out applications forms, preparing their CVs and prepping for interviews.

"I have now worked with three students and I have been so impressed with each of them – they have been fantastic to work with. I've found each has different needs and therefore I tailor our programme to suit each of them and I think this has really benefitted us all.

"I HAVE GAINED SO MUCH FROM IT AND IT IS JUST WONDERFUL WHEN YOU HEAR ABOUT WHAT YOUR MENTEES HAVE GONE ON TO ACHIEVE AFTER YOUR TIME WITH THEM HAS COME TO AN END."

"From my mentoring work, I really feel I am giving something back – which for me is hugely important. If someone who is just starting out in their professional life can glean something from my skills and experience, then that is brilliant, and extremely satisfying."

Julia is quick to admit that she would never have expected to find herself working in the oil and gas industry when she left Aberdeen back in 1991, however she now can't imagine herself anywhere but BP for the foreseeable future.

"There is still a lot for me to achieve at BP, and I love working for the company. I am passionate about my role and indeed the business. Continuous improvement

can be imbedded in everything we do globally, and this is what I strive for."

When working with her mentees, Julia has discovered that although each individual has been extremely different, they all have vast amounts of ambition and determination.

"I have been so impressed by the students I worked with, who have all been so determined and clear about what they hope to achieve. I don't think when I was in their position I was as clued up about industry and as focussed on my goals!

"I think even working with a mentor shows that they are keen to do whatever they can to take that important first step on their career ladder and I admire each of them for that.

"I absolutely loved my time at the University of Aberdeen, it gave me my first taste of independence and you never forget that.

"If I can help, in even a small way, to help ensure others enjoy their experiences at Aberdeen then that is great. In the 18 months that I have been part of the mentoring programme, I have enjoyed the programme immensely and am delighted to continue in the role. I've been telling people who I graduated alongside in 1991 how much I would recommend it and I really believe any alumni that feel they can offer something should look into the programme.

"I have gained so much from it and it is just wonderful when you hear about what your mentees have gone on to achieve after your time with them has come to an end." ■

If you are interested in finding out more about the University Career Mentoring Programme, or how to get involved, go to **page 24** or contact Julie Bakewell: j.bakewell@abdn.ac.uk
www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni

ALUMNI NEWS

TIME TO GIVE BACK?

With a presence that extends across the globe, you, as our alumni community, remain an important part of the Aberdeen family, offering a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise.

The Aberdeen Alumni Engagement Programme offers you a range of ways to contribute to the support of current and future members of the Aberdeen family.

AMBASSADORS

We want to maintain close relationships with those of you living and working both within the UK and overseas. Our alumni ambassadors are at the core of this work. They plan and host events for fellow alumni, support our recruitment activities in their region/country, serve as contact points for students in their area interested in Aberdeen and assist faculty and students travelling or studying abroad.

ALUMNI PROFILES

What role has Aberdeen played in your life, either directly - in terms of skills and knowledge - or indirectly, via friends, experiences or chance encounters? By providing a profile you can share your personal story with current students and help raise awareness of the possibilities beyond university. In doing so you can inspire the next generation of Aberdeen graduates.

CAREER MENTORING PROGRAMME

For alumni who can commit to 1-2 hours a month over a 6-month period, the Career Mentoring Programme gives you the opportunity, as a working professional, to offer support to a current student in developing their career ideas. As a mentor you will be able to offer the student the benefit of your own experience in a particular profession or employment area, giving them an insight into the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in their chosen career.

'BACK ON CAMPUS'

We are developing a range of events across campus that will allow current students to gain first-hand access to Aberdeen alumni. These events will offer you the opportunity to share your experiences face-to-face. Current students will gain invaluable time with alumni who are established in their careers and this will help them develop and improve their Aberdeen Graduate Attributes, a wide-ranging set of qualities which they develop during their time at Aberdeen.

For more information, visit our website at www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni or contact Julie Bakewell: j.bakewell@abdn.ac.uk



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CLASSMATES

Are you approaching 10, 20, 30 or even 40 years since you graduated? Are you currently planning or considering planning a class reunion? If so we would love to hear from you.

Reunions are a great way of meeting up with old friends to reminisce about your days at the University of Aberdeen. These can be based on class anniversaries, club and society memberships, geographically, or with a specially selected group of friends.

We know that organising such an event can take a lot of time and effort so we have put together a useful guide to make things a little easier.

Visit www.abdn.ac.uk/reunions to download a copy of the guide or to view a list of forthcoming reunions. Alternatively please contact us on **+44(0)1224 272281** or email a.cairns@abdn.ac.uk. The Alumni Relations team will be happy to provide you with any additional information or advice.

HOME COMING AND BEYOND

In 2014 Scotland invites the world to celebrate the exciting Year of Homecoming. In addition to the Commonwealth Games and Ryder Cup, there will be a year-long programme of events and activities to showcase all that is great about Scotland.

To join in the celebrations the Alumni Relations team are planning a programme of activities and events across the world exclusively for alumni. Highlights will include an alumni sports day, opportunities to trace your routes, historical tours and Burns suppers.

Homecoming
Scotland
2014

For more information about what is happening please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni



PROFESSOR MICHAEL CHARLES MESTON MA LLB (ABERD) JD (CHIC) (1932-2013)

Emeritus Professor Michael C Meston who died in Aberdeen on 8 February 2013, aged 80, had a long and strong relationship with the University. A 1950s graduate in History and Law, he worked at Chicago and Glasgow universities, before returning to Aberdeen in 1965 as senior lecturer in comparative law. In 1968 he became Professor of Jurisprudence and in 1971 Professor of Scots Law, a post which he held until he retired in 1994. Mike was truly proud to occupy the original Aberdeen law chair and work in his area of primary interest – the private law of Scotland. Working in the initial era of a full-time university law degree, Mike played a major part in the development of legal education as a significant part of the Scottish university scene.

Mike Meston's contribution was much more than a purely legal – let alone, academic legal – one. He undertook an extensive range of university and public service work. As Vice-Principal to Sir Fraser Noble in the late 1970s and early 1980s Mike played a pivotal role in a demanding period for the University.

University colleagues and alumni will universally agree that, as a teacher, colleague and friend, Mike will be remembered as part of University history.

ALUMNI EVENT ROUND-UP



ABERDEEN

Channel 4's Simon Watt at the Alumni exclusive event as part of the General Council Statutory meeting.



PRINCETON

Alumni meeting Principal Sir Ian Diamond and Professor Paul Mealor at an informal reception prior to the American premiere of his choral masterwork *Crucifixus*.



LONDON

Alumni enjoying the recent Communicating with Confidence presentation hosted by Aberdeen Asset Management.



EDINBURGH

Lady Dorrian hosted a reception and an insightful tour of the Supreme Courts for Aberdeen Alumni.



AFRICA

Informal Alumni gatherings were held in Lagos and Abuja.



NIGERIA

Alumni attending a recent networking event in Nigeria.

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 NEWS

LIVE AND ONLINE!



We are delighted to announce the launch of the new Alumni website. Easy to navigate, the website is packed with information about alumni news, events and reunions, what's happening in your area, volunteering opportunities and much, much more. You will find lots of useful information, from guides on how to organise a reunion, to how to become a volunteer and support the current student community.

You can also check out the great alumni benefits and services available to you by registering your details with us on the website. By doing this you will also be automatically entered into a prize draw to win a brand new Kindle Fire (see competition details on the opposite page).

Through the new website you can also access your alumni networks on Facebook and LinkedIn. LinkedIn now has regional and industry specific subgroups to help you find fellow alumni in your area or line of work. If you have a large Alumni community where you are based and we do not yet have a subgroup for you, please feel free to let us know.

Subgroups include:

- UK
- USA
- Canada
- Singapore
- Hong Kong
- China
- Malaysia
- UAE
- Oil & Energy
- Legal Profession
- Gaelic speakers

We hope you will find the new website (www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni) informative and engaging, and would gladly welcome any feedback to alumni@abdn.ac.uk



LIKE US? GET CONNECTED!



'Like' us on Facebook, for regular updates and pictures from around campus, or find and keep in touch with old classmates and friends.
[Facebook.com/AberdeenUniversityAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/AberdeenUniversityAlumni)



'Connect' with us on LinkedIn to access a variety of alumni networking groups, including our new region and industry specific subgroups.
uk.linkedin.com/in/universityofaberdeenalumni

ALUMNI BENEFITS



BENEFIT CARD

The Alumni Privilege Card entitles you to a wide variety of benefits on and off campus, from discounted venue hire and hotel rates to accessing JSTOR online journals and much, much more. To find out more about the benefits and services available please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni to register and to request your very own card.

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAMME 2013



GALAPAGOS ISLANDS AND ECUADOR. THE ZOOLOGY, ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY OF THE PACIFIC.

19 - 21 October 2013 with Professor John Parker

Price: £4,850 pp sharing, full board including flights from London but excluding airline taxes.

Experience first-hand the astonishing ecology which contributed to Charles Darwin's pivotal theory of evolution by natural selection with a visit to the unique and endlessly fascinating Galapagos Islands. As well as visiting Quito this tour features a 7 night cruise aboard the exclusively chartered yacht *Coral 1*.

N.B. This is a joint trip with Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

For a full brochure contact: Temple World Ltd, 13 The Avenue, Richmond. Surrey. TW9 2AL. Tel: 020 8940 4114. info@templeworld.com / www.templeworld.com. ATOL 2903.

NORTH HARBOUR - BARBARA RAE



North Harbour is a screen print developed from a series of drawings and monotypes based on the harbour at Aberdeen.

We are delighted to be able to offer, at a special reduced alumni price of £650, a limited number of these beautiful prints for sale. All proceeds from the sale will go to the University Library's Learning and Outreach Programme. If you are interested in purchasing one of these prints please contact us at alumni@abdn.ac.uk or +44 (0)1224 273234 for more information.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Update your details with us to win a brand new Kindle Fire.

To make sure that you continue to receive the *Voice* magazine and to help us keep you updated with all of the news, events and services available to you, please provide us with your up-to-date contact details (postal and email).

Competition time!

By registering or updating your details before the end of September 2013, you will automatically be entered into our prize draw to win a brand new Kindle Fire!

The easiest way to do this is by registering or updating your details online at: www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni

Alternatively please contact the Alumni Relations Office by post or email: alumni@abdn.ac.uk

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





TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Students are the lifeblood of the University of Aberdeen. Through the generous contributions from our world-wide community of alumni and friends, we provide vital support to ensure that they receive not only the best education but a fuller transformational experience that will set them up for life.

Last year your generosity made such a difference to so many students and we would like to thank you very much.

This generosity has helped to fund:-

- A range of undergraduate scholarships
- Equipment for many of the student clubs and societies
- Sports bursaries
- Globally-important medical research
- The preservation of our historic collections of books and manuscripts

With your support we aim to continue improving the university experience for many more current and future students. If every graduate gave £20 we would raise an astonishing £1.3 million.



Please consider making a single or regular gift to ensure that many more students are able to fulfil their dreams.

Together we can make a real difference.

To donate online please go to www.abdn.ac.uk/giving and click give online.

Alternatively, please complete the enclosed donation form.

Thank You.

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



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