Our supporters include, of course, alumni, but also staff, past and present, partners, companies, or collective groups of family, friends and colleagues. You all have a connection with the work we do, if not as a student or graduate, perhaps through clinical contact with our excellent doctors through the treatment or loss of a loved one. You are all part of the global Aberdeen family.

Philanthropy is a truly special kind of support, and often great care and time is taken by individuals, trustees or professional representatives to ensure the support you give to us is right both for you, and the advancement of the University.

Your gifts allow talent of all kinds – academic, sporting, artistic and cultural to flourish at the University of Aberdeen.

We continue to focus our fundraising efforts around three overarching themes – patronage of our students, progress of our innovation, and preservation of our heritage. And highlighted within this report, are some of the wonderful projects you have funded.

As we continue to expand our reach beyond the North East, we are in the process of establishing our first international campus in South Korea, and a new partnership with Curtin University in Western Australia. Internationalisation runs throughout our new strategic plan. Our history is long and esteemed, however I believe there has never been a more exciting time to be involved with our work and your foresight, as a benefactor today, is as valuable as it was at the time when our University was first founded.

Thank you again for your wonderful contribution to Aberdeen.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Patronage of our students

YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR STUDENTS ENABLES THEM TO FULFIL THEIR DREAMS.

Student Perspective

“Aberdeen University Students’ Association would like to send a massive thank you to the Development Trust and all its donors for your contributions to improving the student experience. It has been a successful year for us and the Development Trust grants have played a prominent role in this. The funding has supported a wide range of student groups and social enterprises, run by students to improve the university experience and to help the wider community. One service that benefited was Nightline which is a phone support service run for students by students. For many it’s a lifeline. Funding helped support the volunteers who take the calls, the provision of in-depth training and an increase in the promotion of the service. It’s had a direct impact with a massive increase in calls to Nightline. We have also introduced an online instant messaging service, enabling us to reach even more students. This is just one example of how you make a difference to our students every day.”

Genna Clarke, Student President
Aberdeen University Students’ Association

Ladies’ Lunch

Hosted by Professor Paul Mealor, over 300 guests gathered for the 20th Anniversary Ladies’ Lunch in September 2014 at the Marcliffe at Pitfodels to raise over £6,000 for the Dr Mary Esslemont Scholarship which provides support to students who would not be able to attend Aberdeen without financial assistance. The first student to benefit, Lucy Cowpland, joined the guests and said “If it were not for the Scholarship I would struggle to study at Aberdeen. I can’t express enough my deep gratitude and I hope you know how much I value and appreciate your help.”

Guests were treated to a talk by medieval art historian Professor Jane Geddes and musical performances by the University’s Chapel Choir led by Professor David Smith. The money raised this year will enable another student to come to Aberdeen.

Above: Genna Clarke  Right: Lucy Cowpland, Professor Paul Mealor, Professor Jane Geddes
Music
Music continues to play a prominent role in the cultural life of the University thanks to wonderful support from a number of donors.

Professor Derek Ogston and Margaret Carlaw remain amongst the University’s most notable music benefactors, continuing to support a number of wonderful opportunities for students. The importance of their contribution was highlighted this year by world-renowned cellist and conductor Julian Lloyd Webber agreeing to chair the judging panel for the Ogston Music Prize. This year’s winners, fiddler Alison Ewan and percussionist Ellen Smith, both performed at the Ogston Music Prize recital during May Festival which showcased the abilities of a number of the University’s exceptionally talented young musicians.

The Craig Group’s ongoing support enables the music department to continue developing their Concert Series which brings leading international artists to Aberdeen to perform alongside students and staff.

Support from our own esteemed Professor of Composition Paul Mealor also provides fantastic opportunities for students. His Scholarship for Composition enables outstanding musicians to undertake the postgraduate composition course.

Alumni Volunteering
The Career Mentoring Programme continued to grow in 2014/2015, with over 180 current students being matched with graduates over a six-month period. Over 500 students have now benefited since the Programme’s launch in 2011.

Alumni continue to volunteer in a number of ways, from providing a profile that will help inspire the next generation of Aberdeen graduates to coming back on campus to speak to students in person about their careers since graduation.

“The work I did with my mentor was invaluable and was essentially the final piece of the puzzle in finding my career. Although a simple feat, actually having someone sit down with you for three hours and critiquing every sentence of every answer is not a luxury many people have or are willing to do.”

Alex Kersey, MSc Petroleum, Energy Economics & Finance

“For any student who is willing to actively engage with it, and who can accept constructive criticism, this programme is a unique opportunity to learn about their chosen field from an insider, to understand what employers are looking for in an employee, and to receive career coaching or interview advice.”

Aberdeen graduate Michail Tzouvelekis, Regional Segment Manager, Oil & Gas at Dräger
Scholarships and Prizes
An outstanding number of over 300 scholarships and prizes were awarded this year across all schools and degree levels to recognise the talent and potential of our students. Each scholarship provides much-needed, wide-ranging financial support to ease access to higher education and encourage exceptional talent. This would not be possible without the generosity and kindness of our donors.

“The scholarship has allowed me to upgrade my music notation software on my computer which has helped tremendously with my university work.”
Matthew Burns, 2nd year Music student

“The scholarship the Association has awarded me has proved invaluable this year, most of all helping me with the costs of books, which being a Law student as you know is very expensive.”
Mirshad Ahani, 1st year Law and English Law student

Scholars’ Reception
In March 2015 the University invited our corporate guests and scholarship students to the third annual Scholars’ Reception. This provided an opportunity to thank donors who support scholarships, acknowledge the University’s scholars and celebrate the success of our growing programme. 4th year BP Scholarship recipient, Adam Zalewski spoke about the invaluable experience, whilst Andrew Davis from Talisman discussed the importance of corporate support which provides unique opportunities for the students to engage with industry and prepare them for their future careers.

Summer Graduations – June 2015
Summer graduation week this year invited hundreds of students and their families to celebrate the accomplishments and culmination of their studies. A remarkable 80% of graduates achieved a First Class or Upper Second Class degree.
Regular Giving

The University of Aberdeen has been holding student-led phone campaigns for a number of years and we are delighted to report that the 2014/15 phone campaign was one of our most successful to date, raising almost £200,000.

The donations have gone towards creating scholarships and bursaries to help students in need, as well as supporting vital research into, for example, cardiovascular disease and dementia. We have also put funding aside for specialised projects like the Transition Programme which supports students on the Autistic Spectrum and the AUSA Student Experience Fund.

“My favourite thing about talking to alumni is hearing about all of their experiences. I spoke to a graduate who met his wife in the old library – you could tell he hadn’t thought about it for a while and it made him really happy!”

Ysabelle McGuire,
Student caller and 4th year English & International Relations student

The Development Trust received a lovely message this year from a student who received support in 2007 to enable his undergraduate expedition Orang-utan ’08. He was delighted to tell us that the core research component of the expedition had finally been completed and has now been published in the journal, Behavioural Ecology and Sociobiology and his research received widespread coverage in the press.

“What was initiated as a short research expedition has now become a seven-year longitudinal study of wild orang-utans, from which I was able to earn M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Cambridge. I very much appreciate the Development Trust’s support, and we are pleased to acknowledge the Development Trust in forthcoming publications.”

Graham L Banes,
BSc Zoology 2009

Robertson Trust Bursary Scheme

The Robertson Trust Bursary Scheme was set up to support students from deprived backgrounds anywhere in Scotland. The scheme aims to make sure that talented young people have a chance to attend university even if their personal financial circumstances might otherwise make this impossible. The Robertson Trust Scholarships have now been awarded for the first time.
Progress of our innovation

INNOVATION NEEDS INSPIRATION AND THAT MEANS INVESTMENT IN BRILLIANT PEOPLE AND WORLD-CLASS FACILITIES

Community Fundraising
The generosity and hard work of our loyal community fundraisers continues to provide tremendous support for world-class research and facilities. The University could not be more thankful for their dedication.

Run Balmoral
Over £12,500 was raised this year at the Run Balmoral event by 60 incredibly dedicated fundraisers to support the University’s GASTROCAN researchers. We are grateful to them all, including the Technip team who raised over £3,160. All funds help provide essential research to develop better treatments for gastro-oesophageal cancer.

Friends of ANCHOR
In September 2014 the University was delighted to host a Friends of ANCHOR reception to acknowledge their ongoing invaluable support of the University’s cancer research. The University is extremely grateful for their commitment to support Cyclotron which is a vital component in the medical imaging of cancer patients.

Breast Cancer Research
Many committed fundraisers enable the University’s breast cancer researchers to work on crucial medical projects to help us find ways to fight the disease in more effective ways.

This year in June over 1,500 ladies participated in the Moonlight Prowl in Fraserburgh to raise funds for breast cancer research, taking the total they have given to the University to over £500,000 since 2008.

In October 2014 enthusiastic theatre group Limelights raised £10,000 for Aberdeen’s breast cancer research in their ‘One Night Only’ show, bringing their gift total to £22,000.

Also, local charity Bosies donated £20,000 after setting up a charity shop in Aberdeen dedicated to raising funds for breast cancer research.

To every single person involved in community fundraising, thank you.

Developing scientists
The University is delighted that the Developing Scientists Fund, kindly supported by our donors, provided two talented Psychology students with an opportunity to undertake crucial research experience during their eight week summer placements. Two prizes of £1,000 were awarded to exceptional students Jess Kerr Gaffney and Plamen Antonov. Your generous donations enable the University to provide our students with essential experience and to develop our future leaders in research and teaching. For that, we thank you.

“It was a very positive experience. It allowed me to get immersed within a contemporary academic environment and provided me with an opportunity to be part of a committed team. I feel that the new skills, knowledge and acquaintances are going to be extremely beneficial in my future development.”

Plamen Antonov,
3rd year Psychology student
**Hotstarts Programme**

Our Hotstarts Programme, funded through generous donations, continues to support undergraduate Medicine and Biomedical Sciences students by enhancing their research experience during summer placements. This year the funding enabled the students to work on a number of projects varying from studying birth defects caused by thalidomide to investigating medical students’ engagement with their studies.

“Being a Hotstarts student was one of the best experiences I have ever had. I had the chance to work in a microbiology lab with some of the best scientists in that field. I learned new techniques that will be useful for me in future as I am planning to undertake a PhD in Molecular Microbiology.”

Mariya Ovanezova, 3rd year Biotechnology student

**CRANES**

In April a donation from local charity CRANES of £210,000 split between four University of Aberdeen cancer projects took the amount they have raised for cancer research in the North East of Scotland to over £2million. Chair Gladys Sangster and fellow CRANES board member Lorraine Hunter visited the University’s Foresterhill medical and life sciences campus in May.

The support of CRANES and all donors to our varied cancer research programmes makes a huge difference to the brave men, women and children battling illness, enabling so many to live a healthier, happier life.

**Gifts in Wills**

During the University’s 500 year history, gifts in wills have played a vital part in our development. They have created an enduring foundation and are one of the best ways to give for the future. We are delighted to thank every single person who has pledged to make such a significant commitment.

We have received hugely generous gifts in wills over the past year including one from alumna Mrs Isabel Macinnes in memory of her husband Dr Angus Macinnes, also an alumnus of Aberdeen. This will support two innovative projects within our College of Life Sciences & Medicine and will make a significant difference to our research.

The first project involves the infection, immunity and inflammation group where the gift will fund PhD studentships and fellowships and will support the group’s infection and disease research in developing countries.

The second project will develop the Aberdeen Clinical Academic Training scheme which allows students to develop their laboratory skills and offers first-hand experience of a professional research environment as part of their studies, offering them a well-rounded degree and nurturing tomorrow’s leading scientists.

Our sincere thanks go to all individuals and families involved in gifts in wills to the University.

The Development Trust would also like to recognise and thank all donors who support the University and wish to remain anonymous.
Aberdeen Humanities Fund
Since it was established in 2012 the Aberdeen Humanities Fund has been enabling innovative and creative research in the humanities thanks to generous funding. Over five centuries the University of Aberdeen has been very fortunate to have inherited stunning historic collections and funding is helping us to understand them more fully than ever before while also sharing them with new audiences. Researchers are being provided with unique opportunities to delve much deeper into our priceless collections.

Library Learning & Outreach
The Special Collections Centre runs a dedicated Learning & Outreach programme of school workshops, family activities, children’s summer schools and interactive events for adults thanks to significant funding. In addition to the core programme, they are able to put on special events for national celebrations such as ‘Book Week Scotland’.

During 2014/15 there were 56 school visits with 1,525 participants and they were also able to collaborate with a dance specialist which resulted in the workshop ‘Big Book of Beasts’ where children used creative movement to interpret the Aberdeen Bestiary. The family fun events are now well-established and they ran 12 individual family events with 685 participants. Other events included an adult bookbinding workshop and a series of activities relating to our ‘New Found Land’ exhibition. The Library’s social media activities also soared with extensive discussion about our collections on Facebook.

Archaeology
Exciting work is being carried out in the University’s archaeology department, much of which is supported by donors from around the world.

Dr Gordon Noble and his team have been able to uncover a highly significant Pictish fort on a sea stack off the Aberdeenshire coast, which has been dated as the oldest Pictish fort in Scotland from the 3rd or 4th century AD. The team also discovered a significant portion of a major Pictish silver hoard at Gaulcross in Aberdeenshire and they have been working in partnership with the National Museum of Scotland through the Glenmorangie Research Project to further investigate the importance of the find.
Supporters based in the United States are able to give to the University through the University of Aberdeen Foundation. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation (EIN# 52-1970587) dedicated to charitable and educational purposes. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law (US).

The University of Aberdeen Foundation (formerly known as the University of Aberdeen Development Trust – USA) comprises a Board of Directors who are seven experienced and high-profile members of the American community who freely give their time and expertise in support of the Foundation. They help encourage prospective students to study at Aberdeen, bring graduates of the University together for events and activities and are involved in the establishment of Alumni Chapters in key hub cities.

The Board members are Mr Rhod Sharp (President), Dr Jonathan M Daube, Dr Anna Ewins, Professor Roderick McDonald, Mr George T Patton Jnr, Mr John W Raley III and Mr Todd Wynne-Parry. The Board is served by Nancy Bikson, Esq, US Administrator.

For more information about the University of Aberdeen Foundation contact Nancy Bikson, Esq at nancy.bikson@chapel-york.com or visit www.abdn.ac.uk/giving for more details.

**Donald Withrington Scholarship**

Support from the US comes in many forms including through the Donald Withrington Scholarship which is funded anonymously. This award has enabled a number of students to undertake a PhD in Modern Scottish History over many years including Daliah Bond who is in the final stages of her PhD. She said “I am so grateful for the generosity of the Donald Withrington Scholarship. Without it a PhD would not have been feasible for me. Tuition fees, living costs and travel to archives are very real pressures that take away from the time that needs to be spent focused on research and writing. The scholarship has eased that burden greatly.”

**Findlay Walker American Scholarship**

The Findlay Walker American Scholarship scheme was set up in honour of Dr J Findlay Walker (MBChB 1967) to assist American students looking to study at the University of Aberdeen and allow them to benefit from the superb experience that Findlay himself received in the 1960s as he studied for his MBChB.

Dr J Findlay Walker, who passed away in September 2013, was a dedicated and passionate champion of his university in America as a member of the University of Aberdeen Foundation board. His friends and colleagues in the Foundation wanted to respect his memory appropriately and decided to establish a new scholarship programme for US students, named in his honour.

“Findlay was a great believer in supporting the University of Aberdeen. Through the years he encouraged so many young American students to consider a Scottish education, and I know he’d be pleased that his enthusiasm lives on through this scholarship.”

Mrs Yvonne Walker
During 2014/15 the University of Aberdeen Development Trust continued to fundraise successfully, in spite of a challenging economic backdrop, and made a significant impact on a range of high-quality projects in the University’s strategic plan. Overall, the Trust’s donation income in 2014/15 was £3.5million and charitable grants from the Trust to the University totalled £4.1million.

In August, my highly respected and extremely talented colleagues, Dr Ronnie Scott Brown and Mr Malcolm Hutton stepped down as Trustees. I would like to thank them for their immense contribution to the Development Trust and the University of Aberdeen over many years.

I am delighted that Dr Fiona Kennedy OBE, has joined the Trust, and Fiona is already very involved with the work of the University and assisting in our fundraising efforts. I would like to record my gratitude to my fellow Trustees, and to the Trust’s enthusiastic team for their efforts this year.

The remaining board of Trustees comprise of Anne Harper, Dr Alistair Mair MBE, Anne Minto OBE, Professor John Simpson and Ronald Wadsworth – who give valuable time, expertise and support – in aid of the Development’s Trust’s objectives. Two sub-groups of Trustees also serve on the Stewardship and Disbursement Committees, ensuring appropriate diligence is given to the acceptance of gifts and allocation of funds.

Finally, and most importantly, to the many donors and supporters of the University of Aberdeen Development Trust, I extend my most grateful thanks on behalf of everyone associated with the Trust. It is only with the support of our many donors that we can help the University of Aberdeen continue to grow and expand on the vision of Bishop Elphinstone to create a centre for learning for northern Scotland dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others. Thank you very much for your tremendous generosity.

Alexander Manson DL, BCom CA
Chairman, University of Aberdeen Development Trust
**2014/2015 Quick Facts**

| 11,712 | gifts received this year ranging in value from £1 to £1.5 million from alumni, individuals, companies, trusts, foundations and organisations |
| 2,211 | the number of Development Trust donors |
| £3.5m | the amount received by the Development Trust in donations and gifts in wills |
| £4.1m | total value of charitable grants disbursed to the University from the Development Trust |
| 1,000s | the number of volunteers who contribute in a variety of ways |
| 360 | funds managed by the Development Trust with a value in excess of £23.2 million |
| £800,000 | the value of scholarships and prizes awarded to over 300 students through the Development Trust |
| 87% | percentage of graduating scholars achieving a First Class or Upper second degree |
| 1,525 | number of school children visiting the Library and Special Collections Centre |
| 180 | students benefiting from the Career Mentoring Programme |
| £12,500 | amount provided for sports bursaries to elite athlete students, helping them realise both their academic and sporting potential |

**WAYS TO GIVE**

The University of Aberdeen has ambitious plans for 2015/16 and you are our way ahead. There are many ways to give including donating securely online, leaving a gift in your will or raising funds through the community.

We’d be delighted to speak with you about what you’d like to do or to give you more information about our ambitious plans so please contact us:

visit [www.abdn.ac.uk/giving](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/giving)
telephone +44 (0)1224 272281 or email giving@abdn.ac.uk.

Please look forward and give back to help shape the future of one of Scotland’s greatest pioneering institutions.