I want to begin by thanking every single one of you who has supported the University this year, either with your time, your talent, or your treasure, or indeed all three.

A wonderful example of this is the beautiful and thought-provoking artworks by artists Will Maclean and Marian Leven, given to the University and currently available for sale in the Sir Duncan Rice Library.

I cannot name you all here, but I have been touched by the stories I have heard from those who have sky-dived, run, “boogie bounced” or performed to support our work. I wish to acknowledge all the individuals, groups, companies, trusts and foundations who have joined with us, and given their financial support across a broad range of subjects.

I have been delighted to present Benefactor to the University awards to three exceptional individuals, Dr Ronnie Scott Brown, Margaret Carlaw and Professor Derek Ogston. Most recently I presented the award to the ladies of the Moonlight Prowl Committee from Fraserburgh, who established one of the most incredibly successful community fundraising initiatives.

Your support has funded many important University projects during the year. This includes a wide array of medical research such as ophthalmology, breast cancer and spinal injury along with many other research areas. You have also funded anthropology, divinity, entrance scholarships and a number of research staff and student posts including a clinical scientist in the School of Medicine and Dentistry. As in previous years, your gifts have funded student-focused projects; in particular, scholarships at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The funds raised at the Ladies’ Lunch will support breast cancer research and the Music department has received wide-ranging and essential support for individual students, ensembles and societies.

I hope this report gives you a flavour of the past year, and the amazing range of developments supported by you. I wish you a happy and healthy new year.

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

“We at Aberdeen University Students’ Association would like to express our greatest thanks to the Development Trust for its continued support of our student body and further gratitude to every donor for the positive impact towards enhancing the student experience. From arts to the sciences, funding has supported a diverse range of student activities. Treading The Boards, an incredibly successful student-run musical theatre group benefited greatly; their production of ‘Our House’ was one of their best yet. Funding also supported the Ogston Surgical Society who held the 4th Annual Ogston Surgical Conference. The Politics and International Relations Society enjoyed a phenomenal trip to Hong Kong experiencing the benefits of engaging with International Relations students from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. These are just a few of the ways in which your continued support enhances the Aberdeen experience.”

Chubbe Anucha, Student President
Aberdeen University Students’ Association

Graduation Week & Prizes

This year’s graduations saw over 3,000 students graduate. During summer graduations mature student and Development Trust scholar, Nicola Robertson, graduated with an MA first class honours degree in Film and Visual Culture/History of Art. Nicola was awarded the highest dissertation mark, for which she received the Film 16 prize. She also won the Derek Ogston Prize for History of Art. Nicola could not have undertaken this course without the support of our generous regular givers who support scholarships every year.

Impact of Scholarships

We are delighted that almost 300 scholarships and prizes were awarded this year across all schools and degree levels. 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 donors.
“I do not have enough words to express my deepest gratitude and thankfulness to the donors of the scholarship I receive. This scholarship has not only given me the opportunity to pursue a degree in something I am incredibly passionate about and enjoy studying, but it has also drastically changed my life and rerouted me on a course I was not prepared for, but that has been infinitely better than I would have imagined.”

Hannah Waite, MacLeod Scholar and 2nd year PhD Philosophy in Divinity student

Corporate Scholars’ Reception
The Corporate Scholars’ Reception in March provided an opportunity to thank corporate donors who support scholarships, acknowledge the University’s scholars and to celebrate the success of the scholarship programme.

Student Experience
Life as a student is about so much more than just studying. The generosity and kindness of our donors helps support a wide variety of student activities and experiences. Annual funding applications are reviewed by the University Disbursement Committee, a sub-group of Trustees. This year the Student Experience Fund enabled a group of six Aberdeen delegates to attend the G200 Youth Forum 2016 which was held in Germany. One of the largest international events organized for young leaders, the G200 Youth Forum brought together over 200 students, academics, young members of parliament, and representatives of the business world and governments from nearly 200 countries.

Celebration of Philanthropy
In May, the Development Trust was joined by supporters of the University for an afternoon tea party in celebration of philanthropy, during the May Festival. Professor Alison Murray gave a presentation about her dementia research and the 1950s birth cohort while student Jasper Ip spoke about his scholarship. Professor Marcel Jaspars and Dr Marco Thiel were on hand to discuss their work as well as University groups TAU Racing and LEVEL–UP! Conference. A follow up tour of the Marine Biodiscovery Centre Laboratory and an interactive session on health monitoring took place in August.

Innes Will Scholarships
Innes Will Scholarships enable medical students to spend a summer vacation working alongside the University’s leading research scientists in their cutting-edge laboratories. This hands-on experience is a wonderful opportunity for them to develop practical skills in lab conditions.

“I am thoroughly grateful for the Innes Will Scholarship. This was an unparalleled opportunity to gain more research skills and work with the leaders in the field of immunology. Furthermore, it has reinforced my aspirations to pursue a career in academic vascular surgery.”

Aleksandra Staniszewska, 4th year medical student
“The Innes Will Scholarship has benefited me immensely. The research allowed me to meet with many like-minded students, as well as providing me with networking opportunities with dentists, doctors and consultant surgeons who all work together.”

Caoimhin O’Higgins,
3rd year dental surgery student

Joy Welch Educational Charitable Trust

In 2016, the Joy Welch Educational Charitable Trust supported the University’s Career Mentoring Scheme, enabling two students, through financial support, to travel to meet with their mentors. Among those supported was 3rd year Law with English Law student Max Roper, who travelled to London to visit his mentor, Aberdeen alumnus Scott Von Poulton, at the legal department of Amazon UK.

Anthropology – Strengthening our Expertise

The University is proud of its strength in Anthropology and was delighted to receive a substantial donation from the Galloway Trust in July. Anthropology is the comparative study of human societies in all their diversity and seeks to understand cultural life in a wide range of social activities throughout the world. This extremely generous donation will help fund PhD studentships and student fieldwork which is such a crucial part of this type of research.

1: G200 Youth Forum delegates
2: Max Roper with mentors
3: Celebration of Philanthropy
4: Scholars’ Reception
5: Scholars’ Reception
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.

Breast Cancer Research
The MACBI Community Hub in Mintlaw has been a hive of activity in aid of breast cancer research. Led by local residents ‘Think Pink Day’ in October 2015 featured fun activities including a boogie bounce, a netball tournament, children’s yoga, crafts, a raffle and tombola. In total £6,000 was raised for Professor Steve Heys’ research into breast cancer. ‘Think Pink Day’ 2016 was even bigger and included Clubbercise, 5-a-side football and a 60 mile bike ride in addition to the main event. Astonishingly, last year’s magnificent total has been surpassed.

Run Balmoral
In April, 70 brave supporters descended upon the Queen’s estate putting their best foot forward and helping to raise over £14,000 in aid of GASTROCAN at Run Balmoral. The iconic running festival returns for its 20th year on 22nd April 2017 and the University of Aberdeen Development Trust is once again a nominated charity, this year supporting dementia research.

Engineering – Support for a New Generation
The School of Engineering has been able to purchase significant pieces of research equipment thanks to an anonymous donation of £125,000. Sixth Century Chair and Head of School of Engineering Professor Igor Guz said “We are so lucky to have such a generous donor funding the research of our new generation of lecturers and students.” while Lecturer Panagiotis Kechagiopoulos said “This equipment has provided the vital infrastructure needed to initiate experimental activities in our field. Many PhD students will have access to it for their research. My sincere thanks to the donor.”

Gifts in Wills
During the University’s 500 year history, gifts in wills have played a vital part in our development. 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 recently including one from alumnus Roy Scott Lamb for silviculture/forestry. Thanks to this gift, 2nd year PhD student Dagmar Henner was able to speak at the European Geosciences Union General Assembly
2016 in Vienna. She was also able to travel to Ispra in Italy and said “This trip was so important because colleagues in Ispra are working in the same field. The trip significantly enhanced my research and I am very grateful for the opportunities this bursary opened up for me.” The gift also benefited a large number of undergraduates by contributing to the cost of four field trips, providing vital experience of forestry and plant science fieldwork.

Our sincere thanks go to all those who have made or pledged a gift in their will, together with those who kindly support them in making their gift – particularly family and the executors of their will.

Music

Long-term supporters of the University, Margaret Carlaw and Professor Derek Ogston have made extremely generous donations to enable the purchase and repair of the Music Department’s percussion instruments. The University’s Professor of Composition, Paul Mealor, said that they have made an amazing difference to the department. Music is embedded in the history and culture of the University and this dedicated support helps maintain our world-class facilities.

Spinal Injury Research

Spinal cord injury can cause paralysis with devastating personal consequences for individuals, their families and friends. Worldwide 2.5 million people live with the effects of spinal cord injury. No effective treatment currently exists but a team of leading experts at the University are developing a unique combination of nerve growth promoting strategies with the potential to become an innovative clinical therapy for people with spinal cord injuries. During 2015 both the Scottish Rugby Union and London Scottish helped raise awareness of and funds for the University’s research at prestigious events held in Glasgow and London and we are extremely grateful to all concerned.

1: Run Balmoral
2: Scottish Rugby team doctor James Robson, Spinal Injury Research Team’s Dr Wenlong Huang, Scotland rugby team captain Greig Laidlaw
3: Think Pink
TRANSIT OF VENUS

When I wake, I'm more wind than flesh,
If only when I turn and slip away
From this wide bed under the roof
Of the ferryman's house.

A smooth wind came from the sea
And caught me out between a shelf of books
And a window filled with black eggs
And salt-swept prides.

The town has a mist of illuminating
Sailors' tales and faded uniforms,
Field guides in Dutch,
Biographies, graphic novels,

But yesterday I found the Laws of Storms:
With dreams of paper thin
With elm and peppermint leaves
Printed flat between the pages, dry as the sand

On the sill stood with sandpipers' eggs
That someone blew, decades ago, with the shell of a child
Who is clever and honest
And learns to believe in forever.

I was asked for constancy in love:
Oh, me, but bind me not, and let me go,
I longed for slumber and sway, for indifferent's view
In the wake of the wind, in ripple, in lack Away

or else, like the boy in the story
the stones this house
Will come to an actual space - I hoped
To be clever and lonely enough to pilot a sky

that veers in through a storm of sand and gale
And cannot tell the living from the dead
An egg from a sparrow
This anxious body from tinder.
Inspiring work supports
Special Collections Centre

Artists Will Maclean and Marian Leven are continuing to support the University with the conclusion of the Waterlines project. The Waterlines sculpture was generously supported with a major donation to the Library fundraising campaign. It is situated in the Academic Plaza at the Sir Duncan Rice Library and was installed in 2012. To mark the final stage of the Waterlines project, Will and Marian present two further works – Will’s collaboration with John Burnside, *A Catechism of the Laws of Storms*, and *Cloud North*, a screen print by Marian. They have been generously donated by Will and Marian to the University with proceeds supporting the Special Collections Centre. Limited editions of both works are available for sale. For information about how to purchase, please contact Laura McQueen on +44 (0) 1224 274111 or email l.mcqueen@abdn.ac.uk.

Stunning addition to King’s College Chapel

In May a new missal stand was installed in King’s College Chapel thanks to a generous donation from alumna Helen Dark. Helen commissioned the piece in memory of her mother who visited the Chapel many times during Helen’s studies. Originally from Glasgow, Helen moved to Aberdeen in the 70s to study at the University. Her mother travelled up regularly and a very special part of their weekend was attending services in the Chapel, usually going for a cup of tea afterwards with Dr Alan Main. Helen has great fondness for her time at University and very much appreciated the support she received from academic and Chaplaincy staff. Her mother sadly died two years ago and Helen wanted to recognise the great significance the Chapel had for the two of them by commissioning this stunning addition to the building.
University of Aberdeen Foundation

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).

Ways to Give

There are many ways to give back to your University through the Foundation including by check made payable to the ‘University of Aberdeen Foundation’, a gift in your will and charitable remainder trusts.

There are many more ways and to discuss your options please contact our US Administrator Nancy Bikson Esq at nancy.bikson@chapel-york.com. While the Foundation is happy to discuss your gift with you, we strongly urge you to contact your tax advisor.

Matched Giving

If you give a gift to the University of Aberdeen Foundation, you may be able to increase the value of your donation by asking the company you work for if they have a matched giving charitable scheme.

Recently we received a significant donation from telecommunications company Qualcomm which matched the generous gift of an anonymous donor. Researchers within our Archaeology department will be able to take their groundbreaking discoveries to new levels with this combined total which will also benefit generations of students as well as the wider North of Scotland community.

US Support for Medical Research

A further significant donation benefitted the University’s ophthalmology research. The ophthalmology team led by Professor John Forrester has been at the forefront of research in this area for many years which would have been impossible without support from a number of individuals and organisations.

Findlay Walker Scholars Arrive

The Findlay Walker American Scholarship scheme was set up in memory of Dr J Findlay Walker (MBChB 1967) to assist American students looking to study at Aberdeen.

The very first Findlay Walker scholars have now arrived to enjoy and thrive on the Aberdeen experience thanks to this award. Blake Hermann from Minnesota is studying for an MEng in Mechanical Engineering and Maxwell Swenson from Connecticut is studying for a BSc in Marine Biology. We look forward to hearing more about their experiences over the coming years.
I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Trustees, and to the Alumni Relations and Development Trust team for their tremendous effort and commitment during the past year.

Most importantly, we are enormously grateful to the many supporters of the University of Aberdeen. It is only through your generosity – whether offering your time and expertise, making a gift, or taking part in a sponsored event in support of one of our projects – that we can help the University fulfil its vision and valuable work.

During the 2015–16 financial year the University of Aberdeen Development Trust saw donation and legacy income increase to over £5.85M. This is testament to the high regard in which the Trust is held amongst its supporters and the warm affection they hold for the University of Aberdeen.

Major donations were secured towards projects in a range of areas across the University. As this report demonstrates, your donations supported a variety of innovative and valuable projects this year. These included medical research, projects to improve the student experience at the University and research in the Humanities – including local history and culture and Divinity.

We were very saddened this year by the passing of Dr Iain Fraser, whom many of you will know as the Chairman of Saving Sight in Grampian. Dr Fraser founded this charitable organisation in 1988 alongside Professor John Forrester, a committee of ten and sponsorship from A C Yule & Son and also the John Clark Motor Group. The charity has raised over £3.5 million. The University of Aberdeen has received over £1.8 million of this remarkable total, to support research at the University. Mr Michael Hastie, a SSIG committee member has been elected to the Chairmanship of the charity, and we wish Mike and the committee much success in their future work.

Thank you very much again for your exceptional and valued generosity which helps the University of Aberdeen continue to deliver and pursue world-class excellence in both student experience and research. I look forward to updating you on the positive impact of your support in the coming year.

Alexander Manson DL BCom CA
Chairman, University of Aberdeen Development Trust
2015/2016 Quick Quotes

"Helping to maintain our student community’s physical and mental wellbeing through participation in sport is vital and our participants are very grateful."

Gillian Kerr, Healthy Body Healthy Mind Assistant

"I’ve never been more satisfied with volunteer work until I joined the Aberdeen University Conservation Society. This has definitely enhanced my university career and the money we were awarded has given me one of the best memories of my student life."

Paulina Lopez Salinas, 2016 BSc Conservation Biology graduate

"Thanks to the money we received for the LEVEL-UP! Conference we were able to provide student delegates with a huge array of workshops including mindfulness, motivation, pitching, written communication, intercultural communication and body language."

Melissa Matos Gomes Estima & Anastasia Christopoulou, Committee Members

"CNR’s scholarship has enabled me to buy textbooks, participate in societies and has helped fund my study abroad in the USA as part of the University’s international exchange programme. I am also very grateful to have a mentor with such a wealth of knowledge and experience."

Emma Barclay, 2nd year Accountancy-Finance student

"To pay for the Archaeology of the North Orkney fieldtrip by myself would have meant bread rolls as my staple food for months. I am incredibly grateful and honoured to be deemed worthy by the Development Trust of these funds to experience this trip for my personal development."

Jamie Lawson, MSc Archaeology of the North student

WAYS TO GIVE

The University of Aberdeen has ambitious plans for 2016/17 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 your 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
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.