I am delighted to have this opportunity to thank you for your support of the University of Aberdeen.

We are extremely grateful to all our wonderful donors, some of whom live in the communities of North East Scotland and many others who come from every corner of the globe. We are very proud to be a University with both strong local roots and a global outlook and reach.

During my tenure as Principal and Vice-Chancellor your help has greatly contributed to the advancement of Aberdeen and has had an impact across all aspects of University life – supporting our students through scholarships, providing excellent teaching and learning facilities, as well as broadening the student experience through extra-curricular activities. You have also assisted our talented researchers in fields from archaeology to zoology, and across a broad range of medical research and supported the enhancement of our unique cultural heritage, giving greater access to the treasures in our collections not just for scholars, but for the wider public too.

I would like to record my thanks to Sandy Manson for his excellent chairmanship of the Development Trust and to Anne Minto for taking on this important role.

Thank you again for your support. You make the difference and we could not do it without you.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Our Research

Gifts in Wills
Throughout the University’s 522 year history, gifts in wills have been crucial to enable our ongoing development. We would like to thank every single person who has pledged to make such a significant commitment as well as those who support them including family and executors.

Among the hugely generous gifts in wills we received this year was one from Sheila Ferres, MBE. Sheila was an extraordinary woman who spent her entire career practicing physiotherapy, right up until her death at the age of 93. Her husband Dr Gordon Ferres was an alumnus of Aberdeen and upon his retirement they moved to his native North East Scotland where she established a practice. Widowed in 1993 and made an MBE in 1999 she established a charity supporting local organisations in 2000.

Her support of the University started in 2009 when she gave a substantial sum to buy a brain scanner after her sister died of vascular dementia. The gift in her will has now enabled the endowment of the Dr Gordon Ferres Medical Research Fund and the Sheila Ferres, MBE Bone Research Fund.

Sheila Ferres lived an incredibly full life and her enormous generosity will enhance the University’s research for generations to come.

Community Fundraising
As always, the generosity of our dedicated community fundraisers continues to provide tremendous support for world-class research and facilities. In April, 70 individuals and corporate fundraisers, including team mascot Steven Seagull, took part in the annual Run Balmoral raising £11,500 for the University’s dementia research and GASTROCAN. A team of 20 from A2+B took part raising £2,337.50 and 11 members of the University’s Confucius Institute raised £625. We are so grateful to all our community fundraisers.

1: Sheila Ferres, MBE
2: A2+B at Run Balmoral
Benefactor to the University Award

Dr James S Milne CBE, DL, Hon DBA, DHC received the Benefactor to the University Award at the summer 2017 graduations. This was in recognition of his long-term support of the University. Dr Milne is Chairman of Friends of ANCHOR, a charity which supports cancer care and research. To celebrate its 20th year, Friends of ANCHOR pledged £1 million towards the University’s ambition to establish a world-class cancer research centre in Aberdeen which will recruit experts in their field. The support of Dr Milne and Friends of ANCHOR will greatly benefit cancer patients and ultimately save lives.

Ladies’ Lunch for Breast Cancer Research

In September 2016, the University held its annual Ladies’ Lunch at the Marcliffe Hotel and Spa. Professor Margaret Ross hosted and we were joined by Professor Steve Heys and Professor Paul Haggarty both of whom spoke about breast cancer research at the University. Thanks to the generosity of guests we raised £5,250 to support breast cancer research.

The University recently launched a £4.5 million fundraising campaign to build a world-class centre for cancer research. The recruitment of more leading experts will accelerate vital research to improve how cancer is diagnosed and treated – and, critically, how it can be prevented. It will also enable Aberdeen to develop further as a hub for vital clinical trials.

Transforming Women’s Health Research

The University of Aberdeen is aiming to help women live healthier and longer lives by enhancing our research capability in women’s health. Pioneer Professor Sir Dugald Baird established the University’s strong reputation in this field but there are still significant risks to women’s health and the health of their children, from fertility through pregnancy to motherhood and beyond. The new Baird Family Hospital will provide fantastic facilities to help us advance our pioneering research, ultimately transforming the care of women around the world. Also within this field, recent graduate Saffi Labram, recipient of three scholarships which enabled her to complete her studies, played a significant role in a high profile project with global impact. Working with a team led by Dr Sohinee Bhattacharya, she helped overturn a long-held view, and World Health Organisation advice, in the area of miscarriage. It is anticipated that the WHO will amend its advice based on the team’s findings.

LEFT: Dr James S Milne & Mrs Gillian Milne
Supporting Cultural Research

The University has received an exceptionally generous legacy to be used in support of the study of Chinese culture and civilisation. It has enabled the University to fund a lectureship post in Chinese Archaeology held by Dr Joshua Wright. Dr Wright, who received his PhD in Anthropology from Harvard University and MPhil from Cambridge University, was one of the directors of the first intensive archaeological surveys in Eastern Eurasia, the Egiin Gol Survey. His current research focuses on the economic and political landscapes of the Liao Dynasty and the Eurasian Bronze Age. The bequest also included more than 70 volumes on Asian art and archaeology now held in the Sir Duncan Rice Library.

TV Stars Lend Support to University’s Research

Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, University archaeologists attempted to unlock one of the hidden secrets of King’s College campus, with help from students, members of the public, school children and a TV star very well known for his archaeological exploits.

During the extremely popular May Festival, Sir Tony Robinson took a keen interest as researchers excavated at the heart of King’s College campus. They were attempting to uncover a grammar school which once stood next to the Chapel and is believed to have educated young scholars between 1533 and 1754.

Sir Tony’s involvement with the University started in 2016 when he agreed to do a reading at our London Celebration of Carols which was raising money for our dementia research, an area close to Sir Tony’s heart. The event raised over £11,000 and was also attended by TV stars Laura Main, an alumna of the University, and former breakfast TV presenter Bill Turnbull.

The University is developing new methods for early diagnosis of dementia and a better understanding of the causes and progression of this distressing condition with the aim transforming how dementia is diagnosed and treated.
Our Heritage and Culture

The King’s (Black) Paintings
Thanks to the support of an alumna and friend of the University, we have been able to embark on the restoration and improved display of the University’s King’s Paintings – commonly known as the Black Paintings. Painted for King Charles II and dating from the Reformation, these paintings are currently protected by static curtains in Elphinstone Hall and are relatively unknown throughout the University community. However, a donation of £60,000 is enabling the full restoration and reframing of these politically significant artworks. It will also enable the purchase of a new lighting and fitting system to re-hang the paintings in the busy atrium of the Sir Duncan Rice Library, making them fully accessible to students, staff and visitors.

Aberdeen Burgh Records – Tales of Piracy, Rebellion and Royalty
Initiated within the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies (RIISS) at the University of Aberdeen, the Aberdeen Burgh Records Project seeks to make Aberdeen’s first eight council register volumes, covering 1398–1511, available for both scholarly and public access. It is Scotland’s oldest run of civic records and tells tales of piracy, rebellion and royalty all of which lie waiting to be shared. A wonderful example is the career of Sir Robert Davidson, merchant, tavern-owner and Provost who was also a notorious North Sea pirate and who was killed in action leading men of the burgh at the battle of Harlaw in 1411. With the support of the Burgesses of Guild, the Development Trust is assisting with the summary translation and interpretation of these registers from the original languages of Latin and Middle Scots making these fascinating records and stories accessible to much wider audiences.

King’s College Chapel Musician in Residence
A generous anonymous donation has enabled the University to establish a new King’s College Chapel Musician in Residence position. Dr John Frederick Hudson took up his post on 31st August 2017. Dr Hudson is a postgraduate alumnus and scholar and we are delighted that he will continue to build on the exceptionally high standard of music at the University and particularly in the Chapel. Dr Hudson’s role will include organist and conductor for the Chapel Choir.
Celebrating a Magnificent Building

Five years on from its official opening by Her Majesty The Queen, the Sir Duncan Rice Library continues to stand as a striking statement of the intellectual and cultural strength of our University, city and region.

The fundraising support from our global university community was and continues to be crucial to the success of this magnificent structure which has benefitted students, scholars, staff, visitors and the communities of North East Scotland.

An unprecedented number of students and other visitors have chosen to make good use of the Library since it opened with approaching 4.5 million people accessing its state-of-the-art facilities.

The Special Collections Centre (SCC) is home to the University’s vast historic collections of books, manuscripts, archives and photographs. The collections comprise over 230,000 rare printed books, including more than 4,000 16th century items as well as 5,000 archival collections with material dating as far back as the 3rd century BC.

The collections cover all aspects of the history and culture of the University, the City of Aberdeen, the region and the relationship they enjoy with the wider world.

Since opening the SCC has been able to present 14 exhibitions based on our collections in the ground floor gallery space which is accessible to all. During this time 80,000 visitors have enjoyed the fascinating displays. They have included the first exhibition, ‘Rebels with a Cause’ which gave an insight into the turbulent Jacobite era, ‘Gilded Beasts’ which showcased the
exquisite illuminated 12th century manuscript The Aberdeen Bestiary and ‘Dickens’ which celebrated one of the most distinguished collections of books by and about Charles Dickens.

The Wolfson Reading Room within the SCC, which is a silent space for study, research and enjoying our amazing collections – which also incorporates a listening room for accessing oral history and audio collections – has seen over 10,000 visitors.

Connecting with our communities and making our collections accessible to the public has been a significant priority over the years as we have sought to build relationships and increase engagement with schools and community groups. Through our learning and outreach programme approaching 350 events, including over 200 school events, have seen over 12,000 visitors and almost 6,000 school pupils interact directly with our collections through craft workshops, storytelling, book binding and other creative activities.

This inspirational space for learning is further enhanced with meeting and event spaces on the ground floor and on the Craig Group floor. In particular the David Craig Suite has hosted a wide range of events including the hugely popular family bonfire night party where guests can enjoy the best view in town of the city’s fireworks display from the 7th floor.

The Sir Duncan Rice Library truly is a world-class resource and none of this would have been possible without your support.
Our Students

Student Perspective

“The Aberdeen University Students’ Association (AUSA), on behalf of our students, heartily wishes to express deep appreciation to the donors who support us through the University of Aberdeen Development Trust. Your tremendous generosity is offering relentless support and empowerment to our students and our records eloquently detail the enormous benefits the different AUSA-affiliated societies have received. The range of societies supported includes the Archaeology Society, British Red Cross Group Society, Celtic Society, Conservation Society, Comedy Society and Wilderness Medicine Society and this is to mention but a few. They have received not only student experience-improving support from donors but in certain circumstances, life-saving support. I will not forget to mention that other students groups such Aberdeen Nightline and Aberdeen Student Radio are also beneficiaries of donor support. It is definitely worth mentioning that by supporting these societies, student groups and many other individual students, you have helped the Association greatly enhance student experience, which is dear not just to our hearts but vital to the University’s strategic goals. In two words, THANK YOU.”

Lawson Ogubie, Student President
Aberdeen University Students’ Association

Life-changing Scholarships

The University is committed to widening access to education. We are therefore so thankful for the amazing support that we receive towards scholarships from individuals and businesses across the world. These scholarships ensure that students have the opportunity to reach their full potential whatever their background.

The University continues to receive support from organisations in the energy sector despite challenging conditions. At this year’s Corporate Scholars’ Reception, where we thank donors and celebrate the success of scholarships, we were delighted to be joined by Ms Greta Lydecker, Managing Director of Chevron Upstream Europe. In a personal and heartfelt speech, Greta highlighted the importance of scholarships and the relationship between Chevron and the University which is helping to shape the future generation of experts in the ever-changing energy sector.

“Receiving this scholarship motivates me to continue to work hard and perform to the best of my ability.”

Shweta Velankar, Chevron Scholar and 5th year Chemical Engineering student

Hamilton Scholarship for Medicine

In 2017 we welcomed many international students to Aberdeen including Max Pak Lok Yeung who has started his MBChB. He is supported by long-term benefactors Jean and Sandy Hamilton through the Hamilton Scholarship for Medicine which enables students from Hong Kong to attend the University.
Sporting Achievements

Donor support allows the University to offer fantastic scholarships and sports bursaries to students – including one remarkable sportswoman who has medalled on the world stage. Zoey Clark won silver in the 4x400m relay at the IAAF World Championships in London in August and has been supported by the prestigious John Robertson Sports Scholarship throughout her time as an undergraduate and aspiring athlete. She also graduated in June with first class honours in Chemical Engineering. The Quita Shivas Athletics Scholarship is currently held by final year English student Daniel Rees who picked up silver in the 400m hurdles with a personal best time at the British Universities and Colleges (BUCS) track and field championships while Kelsey Stewart, a BSc Exercise and Health Science student and sports bursar, also excelled taking bronze in the women’s 400m. These scholars and bursary holders are terrific ambassadors for their sport and for the University. The financial and coaching support afforded them by your generosity is key to their continued success and to that of future talented students.

Student Experience – Cultivating Future Leaders

Students at the University of Aberdeen have the seeds of knowledge and determination to succeed within themselves but when the University nourishes them and provides the best possible opportunity to grow, thanks to your support, future leaders flourish.

Postgraduate student Shakwa Nyambe from Namibia, who recently completed a Degree of Master of Laws in Oil & Gas Law with Professional Skills, was able to attend and present at the prestigious International Student Energy Summit in Mexico in June thanks to support from regular donors. The biennial event is an internationally-recognised global forum that focuses on sustainable resource management and the role that students will play in defining the future of energy development.

1: Daniel Rees
2: Greta Lydecker with Chevron Scholars
3: Shakwa Nyambe
Of his experience, Shakwa said: "I am very thankful to the Development Trust and its donors for making it possible for me to attend the most globally diverse event available to students around the world studying energy-related subjects. As well as presenting and listening to presentations, I was able to take part in workshops tackling sustainable energy perspectives through innovations. I was able to network with delegates from different countries and leaders in the industry. My knowledge on ways to secure a sustainable energy future has been broadened and, as a future leader, I am now part of the movement to help transition the world towards a sustainable future."

Jazz Afternoon Tea Supports Scholarship

In February, the University of Aberdeen Alumnus Association held a Jazz Afternoon Tea in Elphinstone Hall to celebrate their continuing support of the University and its students, in particular through the Alumnus Association Scholarship. Established in 2012, this annual scholarship for undergraduates has benefited four students so far, the first of whom graduated in June 2017. A group of 180 enthusiastic alumni and guests enjoyed entertainment from a student jazz quartet as well as a speech from a current Alumnus Association scholar, Mirshad Ahani, who spoke about the impact the scholarship has had on his university experience. It was a wonderful afternoon enjoyed by all and the group raised over £2,000 to continue support of the scholarship.

Summer Celebration and Tagging Day

During May Festival weekend the Development Trust held a Summer Celebration of Philanthropy to thank donors for their generous support, as well as giving guests the opportunity to find out more about the University’s current research and exciting new developments. Professor Steve Heys spoke about the launch of the £4.5 million fundraising campaign to create a world-class centre for cancer research in Aberdeen and guests were entertained by a number of talented student musicians. There was also the opportunity for VIP visits to the King’s Dig and the Archaeology Alaska Conservation Lab. On the same day we launched our first ever Thank A Giver (TAG) Day to raise awareness of the donor-backed projects across the University and to say thank you to all those who have contributed to University life through their generosity. Buildings, objects and people were ‘tagged’ across both campuses and visitors were encouraged to follow the tag trail. An online competition saw enthusiastic participants upload ‘selfie’ photographs using #AberDonors.

Celebrating Bursary Success

Annually since 2004 local firm Johnston Carmichael has been awarding a third year accountancy student with a hugely beneficial bursary. A lunch hosted by the firm’s Chief Executive Sandy Manson was held in February to celebrate the success of current and former recipients. The bursary consists of an award of £1,000 plus up to 12 weeks of paid work experience and it has emerged that a third of recipients have secured jobs with the firm. Dedicated support such as this can make a life-changing difference to the early careers of students.
and graduates. In a gratifying example of coming full circle, the member of staff who currently runs the bursary programme, Rae Jappy, is a former recipient himself.

The Sir Thomas Sutherland HSBC Scholarship

Corporate donors can make a world of difference to the life chances of young people. The Sir Thomas Sutherland HSBC Scholarship, established in honour of alumnus and founder of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, enables talented students from Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and India to study at the University when they would not otherwise be in a position to do so. This ground-breaking scholarship was inspired by Sutherland’s work in Asia to help finance growing trade between China and Europe. It has allowed Haniel Rameshbabu from Chennai in India, the first scholar, to pursue a BSc in Computing Science whilst the second scholar, Bayu Prasetya Andresta from Indonesia, has just commenced his studies in Chemical Engineering. Motivated by conditions in their home countries the scholars are ambitious to make their education count.

As Haniel puts it, “Others go to College to get a job, I go to College to learn how to provide jobs for others.”

Santander Mobility Awards and Scholarships

As part of the Santander Universities network, the University of Aberdeen benefits from funding which stimulates collaborations and partnerships with universities and organisations within the worldwide network. In the past year, a total of 17 Santander Mobility Awards were made to 11 members of staff and 6 students allowing beneficiaries to undertake short-term study or research at a range of institutions in countries around the world including Mexico and China. In addition, Santander scholarships have enabled 4 students from the USA, China and Colombia to study at Aberdeen. We very much appreciate Santander’s commitment to higher education which greatly benefits students and university staff.
University of Aberdeen Foundation

Supporters based in the United States are able to give to the University through the University of Aberdeen Foundation which 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).

Aberdeen in America

Aberdeen is committed to a special relationship with the US, one that continues to reflect and celebrate our deep and historic ties. Recent events in Washington DC and New York sought to engage further with our US alumni while also highlighting the need for funding for our women’s health research.

The story of the University is woven into the history of the United States. As the young American republic took its first steps, Aberdeen doctors, clergy, scientists and philosophers were a rich source of inspiration and ideas. This included William Thornton who graduated MD from Aberdeen in 1784 and went on to design the US Capitol Building in Washington DC.

US Support of the University of Aberdeen

Thanks to our many US supporters, the Foundation has been able to donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to the University over the past year.

This has included in memoriam giving. The Professor Debra Gimlin Award, set up in her memory, will benefit students in the School of Social Sciences and has been established to recognise her enormous contribution to the University. The David Carey Miller Scholarship was set up in memory of Professor Carey Miller who was widely recognised as one of Scotland’s leading experts in property law. The Findlay Walker Scholarship continues to provide exciting opportunities for US students wishing to study in Aberdeen and recognises Dr Walker as a passionate supporter of the University until his death in 2013.

Students were also supported through a range of scholarships including the Chevron University Partnership Programme and the Donald Withrington Scholarship. Funds were given to our uveitis research and to a project researching the challenges of aging to contemporary bioethics. Archaeology research led by Dr Gordon Noble was supported while King’s College Chapel and the Sir Duncan Rice Library were also recipients of US donor generosity.

There are many ways to give in the US and to discuss your options please contact Nancy Bikson Esq at nancy.bikson@chapel-york.com
At the end of our financial year, I was delighted to have been appointed as the new Chairman of the Development Trust. The Development Trust has a long and proud history of providing support to the University of Aberdeen and I look forward to building upon our successes in the years to come.

The Trust’s donation income in 2016-17 was £4.1M compared with £5.9M in 2015-16. During the year the Trust provided charitable grants to the University of Aberdeen of £2.3M supporting a broad range of projects to enhance the student experience; scholarships and studentships; excellence in research and cultural projects. The Trust is delighted to have secured a significant pledge of £1.0M from Friends of ANCHOR, which will be used to support the establishment of a world-class oncology research programme for research and teaching at the University of Aberdeen.

I would also like to take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to my predecessor as Chairman – Mr Sandy Manson – for his excellent work as Chair of the Trust. The Trustees are very pleased that he has agreed to remain as a member of the Board after stepping down as Chairman and I look forward to his continuing support. Throughout the year the Trustees have given consideration to the Board’s composition. I am very pleased to announce that we are joined by two new trustees, Mr Paul Hauser and Professor Sir Lewis Ritchie. Both alumni of the University of Aberdeen, Mr Hauser brings his considerable international legal skills to the Trust, whilst Sir Lewis augments the Board with his extensive medical experience.

Most importantly, I am delighted to take this opportunity to offer grateful thanks to the thousands of supporters of the University of Aberdeen Development Trust. Your exceptional generosity – whether offering your time and expertise as a gift-in-kind, making a gift of any size or taking part in a fundraising event in support of one of our projects – is vital in enabling the University of Aberdeen to fulfil its ambitious aims. Thank you for your continued generosity in helping us to fund so many exciting projects.

Ms Anne Minto OBE
Chairman, University of Aberdeen Development Trust
FOR YOUR DIARY

Healthy Lifestyle with FoodStory
21st January 2018, Aberdeen
Learn more about living a healthy life through cooking nutritious food.

Fungal Disease – Tackling Hidden Killers
15th February 2018, Aberdeen
Learn about the innovative research and training happening at our MRC Centre for Medical Mycology.

Aberdeen Treasure Hub Tour
8th March 2018, Aberdeen
Join us for a tour of the Aberdeen Treasure Hub, home to the city’s unique collection of art history.

New York Tartan Day Parade
7th April 2018, New York
Join the New York Alumni Chapter to parade through the streets of the Big Apple.

Berlin’s Bunkers
April 2018 (date to be announced), Berlin
For an intriguing look into Germany’s history, join Professor Thomas Weber as he gives a tour of a Berlin wartime bunker.

Celebration of Carols
19th December 2018, London
One of our festive highlights will be held once again in St Marylebone Parish Church.

For more information about any of the above visit www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni or email alumni@abdn.ac.uk

Run Balmoral
21st April 2018, Aberdeenshire
Join Team Aberdeen in either the 5K or 10K races in the stunning grounds of Balmoral Castle to raise funds for cancer research.

Contact Darren Hill at darren.hill@abdn.ac.uk to find out more or to register.

We would like to thank the University’s Media Services team and the Special Collections Centre for many of the images in this report as well as Kate Sutherland for the image of Dr James and Mrs Gillian Milne.

WAYS TO GIVE

The University of Aberdeen has ambitious plans for 2017/18 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
e-mail giving@abdn.ac.uk

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

Looking Forward Giving Back