Introducing our new University Librarian

By Diane Bruxvoort

“Hello everyone, my name is Diane Bruxvoort and I am excited to say that I’m the incoming University Librarian at the University of Aberdeen. I’ve been asked to introduce myself (briefly), so I’ll try to hit the highlights. I’ve been an Associate Dean at the University of Florida (UF) since 2010 with responsibility for public services and collections at two large and two small libraries. I also oversee special collections, exhibits, digital services, acquisitions, and cataloging, and serve as the Dean’s deputy.”

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This exhibition in the Gallery of the Sir Duncan Rice Library uses items from the Special Collections Centre to review stories of emigration from Aberdeen and Scotland to Canada.

Scotland’s population has been its most enduring and consistent export. Scotland’s diaspora is of global dimensions, but Canada is the destination that was for long periods closest to the hearts of many emigrants. Until 1847 and after 1909, Canada was the primary transatlantic destination for emigrating Scots.

The story of emigration from Scotland is never a single journey. Some emigrants put down permanent roots in their adopted lands. Others crossed further oceans and continents, and
Introducing our new University Librarian

(Continued from pg. 1)

“Before UF I worked at the University of Houston (UH) for ten years moving up from Head of Access Services to Associate Dean. At UH I was deeply and happily involved with the addition and renovation of the main library.

In my pre-academic library career I worked at the Harris County and Houston City Public Library systems for seventeen years combined. These years serving the community from the cradle to old age gave me an appreciation for lifelong learning that continues today. I have a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Texas at Austin and earned a bachelor’s degree from Northwestern College in Iowa. I am currently working on a doctorate in Higher Education Administration and will reach the dissertation stage this year.

“I look forward to getting to know the Aberdeen library community and being able to say that I have friends around the world.”

On a personal note, I have a son, a daughter-in-law, a daughter and a grandson (Mike, Kelly, Cassandra, and Xavier), no pets, an extended family in Iowa (farmers, of course) and friends across the country. I look forward to getting to know the Aberdeen library community and being able to say that I have friends around the world. See you soon! Diane.

By Diane Bruxvoort, University Librarian, and Director of Library Special Collections and Museums.

approximately a third returned to Scotland following the outcome of their venture.

Scottish emigration to Canada began an enduring process of cultural exchange that continues to reveal a shared culture.

The early development of this collective cultural identity is explored through the letters and archives of individual voices and independent migrants in this exhibition, revealing the reality of emigration and the movement of people around the globe.

For more details contact scc.events@abdn.ac.uk or 01224 274505
Stories from the Roll of Honour

James Mathewson Stuart, was born in Macduff in 1884 and was a former pupil of Banff Academy. His records detail how he joined the 6th Battalion Gordon Highlanders as a Private in September 1914. He was wounded and invalided home in February 1915, but rejoined the Battalion in time to take part in an attack on 25th September 1915 when he fell in action.

At the time of his death Stuart was acting as field messenger during the advance, and the Roll of Honour states: "in this responsible and dangerous post he showed himself not only fearless and daring but full of cool steadiness and determination. It was the same in everything - in his work, on the football field, on the battlefield, Stuart was one to be relied on always."

Roll of Honour

A new online resource developed by staff at the Special Collections Centre tells the stories of thousands of University of Aberdeen staff and students who served in the First World War.

The Roll of Honour is a publically available and searchable database containing the war records of some 2,852 members of the University community from the World War One.

Over the course of a year, staff have uploaded the records not only of those who died in the conflict but all those who enlisted to serve across all branches of the Armed Forces. A wealth of new additional resources have also been created, including an image gallery, a factsheet guide, oral history recordings and a changing collection highlights section which tell the stories of staff, students, and alumni, and the impact of the war on the University community.

Many enlisted in the University’s U Company of the 4th Gordons. Others served with the Argyll & Sutherland, Seaforth, Cameron Highlanders - as well as other army regiments and corps - the Royal Navy, Royal Army Medical Service, and the fledgling Royal Flying Corps.

The records reveal the youngest member of the University community to die in action was just 18 years old and the oldest was 66.

They also provide personal insights into the characters behind the names with tributes and photographs included in many records.

Siobhán Convery, Head of Special Collections at the University of Aberdeen, said: “The records in the Roll of Honour show that staff and students who came from all walks of life, all professions and ages volunteered to serve their country.

In the early 1920s a Roll of Service was compiled and parts of this were made available online around 10 years ago but in the Centenary year of World War One we felt it was important
“...in the Centenary year of World War One we felt it was important to open up this important resource to the public. “ Siobhán Convery, Head of Special Collections

to open up this important resource to the public.

It has now been uploaded online so it can be easily searched using criteria such as surname or location. Many of the records include personal details about education, careers and character traits which really help to give a sense of the person behind the name.”

The Roll of Honour includes entries for service personnel drawn from across the north-east and beyond.

One particularly detailed entry is for Alexander Thomson Adam who was born in Alford in 1881 and served as a Pioneer in the Special Gas Section of the Royal Engineers. Before enlisting he was a Science Master and following his death in 1917 in hospital in Arras an officer wrote:

"Life under Army conditions he seemed to detest, but, being the man he was, he rose superior to every difficulty and did his duty ungrudgingly and manfully."

The Roll of Honour can be viewed online at:

www.abdn.ac.uk/roll-of-honour

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Stories from the Roll of Honour

Walter Inkster, son of a shipmaster from Aberdeen, returned to Scotland from Austria to answer the call in March 1915 and joined the 4th Battalion Gordon Highlanders before gaining his commission as 2nd Lieutenant.

He fell at Hooge, in the terrible days of fighting of September 1915. At first reported "wounded and missing," there was little doubt that he had died of wounds received in action on or about the 25th of the month.

The record notes he was “Full of spirit and gaiety, cheerfully ready for any contingency and any adventure, with a humour as quick of expression in the art of caricature as in speech, courageous and lovable, he was a friend whose place can never be filled to the many who cared for and counted upon him.”
Sports Medicine: Desideratum images and poems

Jame Mackay Hall upper gallery, King’s Conference Centre
An exhibition of photographs and poems inspired by sports medicine.

The display shows seven Desideratum images produced by Scottish photographer Louise Blamire, accompanied by poems from the Australian-born poet Kona MacPhee.

The exhibition, which was a ‘Human Race’ project commission, runs until August 2014.

Fiji, Scotland and the Making of Empire

An exploration of the surprising connections between Northern Scotland and the South Pacific, from the nineteenth century to the present day.

This exhibition in King’s Museum displays some of the items in the University of Aberdeen’s internationally important Pacific collections for the first time in decades, and reveals new research conducted by the Fijian Arts Project of the University of East Anglia and University of Cambridge. A reminder of the complexities of the North-East of Scotland’s contribution to the British Empire and continuing international politics, Fiji, Scotland and the Making of Empire also shows the complexity and beauty of Fijian culture as it has developed over the past few hundred years as part of the network that links the Pacific Islands and the wider world.

Student volunteers are offering free Lunchtime Talks about the exhibition, ‘Fiji, Scotland and the Making of Empire’.

Talks will be held 3 times a week at 1pm at King’s Museum, and will last approximately 15 minutes.

Lunchtime talk dates in May
Fri 9th, Mon 12th, Wed 14th, Thu 15th, Tue 20th, Wed 21st, Fri 23rd, Mon 26th, Tue 27th, Fri 30th.
Museum Evening Lectures in May

The Printed Image in Shakespeare’s London
20th May, 2014, 7:30 - 9pm
New King’s, room 10

A free lecture by Dr Helen Pierce of the University of Aberdeen, organised as part of the King's Museum lecture series. Dr Pierce will look at ways in which printed images circulated, and were encountered, in late Elizabethan and Jacobean London.

From the ‘particular ballad else, with mine own picture on the top’ imagined by Shakespeare’s Falstaff, to the ‘bawdy pictures’ of the friar and the nun mentioned in Jonson’s The Alchemist, such artworks were a feature of cultural and social life to persuade and entertain a broad urban audience along moral, political and religious lines.

Special Event, 'The Turra Coo Centenary'
27th May, 2014, 7:30 - 9pm
MacRobert, room 055

A lecture by Graeme Cruikshank and others, as part of the King's Museum lecture programme, and organised by the Elphinstone Institute. £3 entry.
01224 274330
kingsmuseum@abdn.ac.uk

A Musical Uni

Piano and fish
by Rosie Long, oil on canvas
(1960-1985)

On display until 22nd Aug, MacRobert Building Foyer

A small exhibition providing insights into the University of Aberdeen’s past and present musical activities, featuring paintings and other items from the University's museum collections.

Night at the Museums 2014: Pirates!

17th May, 5-9pm
King’s Museum, Old Aberdeen Town House, AB24 3EN

This swash-buckling evening will have a treasure trail to see five of Aberdeen University’s amazing locations at night. All the venues will host different activities, all pirate themed. There will be storytelling, ‘Mr Bug’ animal handling, and Satrosphere’s science team creepy crawlies, plus lots of craft activities. Make a treasure map, eye patch, pirate flag, telescope, and much more. There will also be an opportunity to hold some of the Museum’s real objects, that are considered to be treasure. Come and explore!
On an early spring evening 6th March, as some of us thought about “getting out into the garden again”, an audience of Friends of the Library and Friends of the Cruickshank Botanic Garden heard Mark Paterson, Curator of the Garden, give a fascinating illustrated talk which encompassed the history and background of botanical gardens in general, and the Cruickshank Garden in particular.

Botanical gardens have many purposes. They offer beauty and aesthetics as well as having scientific research and conservation purposes. The University of Oxford Botanic Garden was the first in Britain, founded in 1621. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, is Britain’s second oldest botanic garden founded in 1670 as a physic garden near Holyrood Palace to grow medicinal plants. The garden moved to its present site at Inverleith in 1820.

The Cruickshank Botanic Garden, founded in 1898, is the most northerly university garden in the UK.

Botanical gardens and herbariums are of important to organisations working to ensure that species continue and do not become extinct.

Mark touched on taxonomy, systematics and plant classification. The system used today dates back to the eighteenth century when Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus created the binomial system of assigning a generic and specific name to over 9,000 plant species in his *Species Plantarum* (1753).

The Herbarium at the University of Aberdeen is a collection of over 120,000 preserved plant specimens. 22,000 of the specimens in the Herbarium in Aberdeen are Thai flora collected by James William Helenus Trail, the original keeper of the Cruickshank Garden over 100 years ago. The Herbarium collection is not under Mark’s curatorship but is one of the scientific collections managed by Museums. The Herbarium at Kew has specimens dating back to Egyptian times.

Herbariums and botanic gardens are important in working towards the preservation of rare species, enabling us to recognise what is out there by classifying and studying specimens, and making us more aware of which species we may be in danger of losing.

For more information on the Cruickshank Botanic Gardens go to [www.abdn.ac.uk/botanic-garden](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/botanic-garden) or call Curator Mark Paterson on 01224 273638.

By Sheona Farquhar
The Rose Garden in bloom, courtesy of George McKay

Becoming a Friend of Aberdeen University Library

The library has been collecting since 1495 when the University of Aberdeen was founded. The work of the Friends supports the Sir Duncan Rice Library and Special Collections Centre, opened in September 2012 by Her Majesty the Queen. For details on how to join, visit www.abdn.ac.uk/library/about/friends-of-the-library/ or write to us at the address on pg. 10.

As a Friend you will:

- receive priority invitations to regular talks, exhibitions and more;
- access exceptional collections at the Sir Duncan Rice Library and Special Collections Centre, and other University of Aberdeen library sites
- receive biannual copies of The Friends' News, with updates on activities
- claim 10% discount on prints from the George Washington Wilson Collection of historic photographs
- contribute to the educational, research, and community outreach mission of the library.
Woolmanhill Hospital

New home for NHS Grampian Archives in Special Collections Centre

The University of Aberdeen, and NHS Grampian Archives (formerly Northern Health Services Archives) are pleased to announce that the NHS archive material is now available to readers in a new home at the Special Collections Centre at the Sir Duncan Rice Library, following the closure of the NHS Grampian Archives service early last year.

NHS Grampian’s archives contain the historic records of more than 100 hospitals and health organisations from across the Grampian region. These cover the period from 1739, when the Infirmary at Aberdeen was founded, to the late 20th century. This will open up these significant resources to the public and researchers alike and will complement the existing collections relating to the history of medicine already held by the University.

Details of the collections and information on access are available on the website

www.abdn.ac.uk/library/about/special/nhs-grampian-archives.

Please note that this service is currently available by appointment only, and that all enquirers and prospective readers should contact:

Fiona Watson, Archivist

01224 274912
grampian.archives@nhs.net

NHS Grampian Archives
Special Collections Centre
The Sir Duncan Rice Library
Bedford Road,
Aberdeen
AB24 3AA
On Thursday 7th November Dr Iain Beavan, formerly Head of Special Collections at the University of Aberdeen, treated an audience of Friends to a fascinating account of the life and contribution of one of the University of Aberdeen’s most important benefactors, Thomas Reid and his bequest.

In his retirement Iain has been working on identifying the various elements of Thomas Reid’s collection to compile an electronic database of his Collection. Thomas Reid’s collection is the second of three collections that laid the foundations of Marischal College Library. It holds many important scholarly texts but because of its daunting size the collection has not previously been closely studied.

Early in his talk Iain cleared up an obvious question: where does Thomas Reid the famous 18th century philosopher of the same name, fit in? It is a (regular) source of (regular) confusion, but easily sorted out.

Thomas Reid, the philosopher, writer and teacher at Aberdeen and Glasgow, who died in 1796, is very distantly related to this Thomas Reid, as he is a descendant of his eldest brother, Robert.

“The Reid family contributed much to both King’s and Marischal Colleges in teaching and bequests of books and money.”

This Thomas Reid was born in about 1583 just outside Aberdeen where his father was minister of Banchory-Ternan Church. He was one of a family of ten that figured amongst the educated groups of Aberdeen and the north-east of Scotland. The Reid family contributed much to both King’s and Marischal Colleges in teaching and bequests of books and money.

Thomas was educated at Aberdeen Grammar School, after which he moved on to one of the Aberdeen colleges, graduating about 1601.

Tradition has it he went to Marischal College, though recent research has swung strongly the other way in that he followed the family tradition, and was a graduate of King’s College, along with brothers Robert and Alexander,
and possibly his father, too. After graduating he was appointed joint rector of Aberdeen Grammar School and within a year took up a teaching post at Marischal College. Within a short time, like other aspiring scholars, he went to the Continent, first to the Scots College at Douai in northern France and then to University of Leiden in Germany and to the Baltic city of Rostock where he taught philosophy for six years.

Thomas’s reasons for returning to Britain in 1614 are unknown. He settled in London working in the service of James VI. Within a few years he was made Latin Secretary to the King, an appointment that required command of languages and communication skills and combined the roles of diplomat, foreign office official and passport officer.

Thanks to Thomas’ surviving draft letters (now in the British Library) to his family in Aberdeen we know that he maintained an interest in Marischal and King’s college politics although he had been away from Aberdeen since 1605. His letters also show a continuing concern and responsibility for his relatives in Aberdeen.

The arrangements for Thomas’s books when he died in 1624 were another concern. He was reluctant to make any commitment in favour of Marischal College as he had been unimpressed by the Town Council’s handling of Duncan Liddel’s bequests. There is a reliable account that it was only when he was terminally ill that he finally came to a settled decision in favour of Marischal College. His gift of nearly 1,200 separate titles and 25 medieval and early modern manuscripts was overwhelming. At the time the bequest was bigger than any other to a Scottish University.
“His gift of nearly 1,200 separate titles and 25 medieval and early modern manuscripts was overwhelming. At the time the bequest was bigger than any other to a Scottish University.”

Apart from his books Thomas also left 6,000 merks to be invested in land to generate £400 Scots annually for a librarian’s salary. It was said that Thomas had spent ‘nigh on £300’ on his collection, the equivalent of over £50,000 in current terms.

The major features of the collection are that there are few books in English. Most are written in Greek or Latin with a small number in Hebrew. Most are pitched at an advanced level rather than being basic texts for student use. Only just over a third was published in the seventeenth century. Thomas had not spent large sums buying new books but rather collected books from the earlier two centuries. The majority are in their original bindings of dark brown leather or limp vellum and those in smarter or bespoke bindings were bought in that state.

Identifying the books that Thomas Reid left to Marischal College has been difficult. Thomas was respectful of his books, few have his name inside them and only a minority are annotated. There is a series of catalogues and inventories of Reid’s bequest from the time. The problem has been identifying Reid’s copies from copies of the same book that were acquired by King’s College. However, the realisation that early in its existence Marischal College library had adopted a peculiar location mark for their books helped. The mark had not been recognised for what it was and the answer was on the title pages and preliminary pages of the books themselves.

Many of the books had previous owners, William Chark, Andrew Melville, Thomas Howard 4th Duke of Norfolk and Lord Lumley. The books are the tools of Thomas’ trade, first as a philosopher working and teaching on the Continent and later as Latin Secretary in London. Coverage includes dictionaries, classics, theology and philosophy. Two of the manuscripts that came with the bequest are internationally important in quality of execution and content – the Aberdeen Bestiary and the Hebrew Bible.

Despite the negligence of Robert Downy, a nephew of Thomas Reid, appointed to the post of Marischal College librarian in 1632, and a fire in 1639, over 85% of Thomas Reid’s bequest remains in the curatorship of the Special Collection Centre. In recent years it has been brought together again virtually, if not physically, by Iain’s work and that of the wider Special Collections team, on the Collection database.

By Sheona Farquhar

Stacks Alive Event:
The Hunter Caldwell Award

Thursday 15th May, 6-7pm, Lower Ground Floor Seminar Room, The Sir Duncan Rice Library

The Aberdeen Humanities Fund will review the outcomes of four initial pilot projects that were the recipients of support from the Hunter Caldwell Award. This instalment of the Stacks Alive series will feature presentations from the four award-holders - Professor Karin Friedrich, Dr Suk-Jun Kim, Dr Adelyne Wilson, and Dr Andrew Gordon - about their research using the Special Collections Centre’s extraordinary resources.
Can you tell us about one of your favourite items in the collection?

“This is really hard because I had to choose between archives and printed materials! [Jan works with both the archive and rare books collections.] I could actually write a huge list but if I have to drag it down to one item then it would be Andreas Vesalius’ book De humani corporis fabrica libri septem (On the Fabric of the Human Body in Seven Books). First published in Basle in 1543, it is one of the most important books in the history of anatomy and of printing.

Vesalius (1514-64) was Flemish, and his actual name was Andries van Wezel – Vesalius is his Latin name. He was a teacher of surgery and anatomy at the University of Padua. At fifteen he went to the University of Louvain to study liberal arts and then he went to Paris to study medicine and anatomy in the Galenic School [after Galen, ancient Roman physician, surgeon and philosopher]. Vesalius was the first person to say that you had to perform the dissection of a human body yourself in order to improve your understanding of surgery. He said “always challenge orthodoxy” because up until that point most medical teaching had been founded on Galen and other traditional authorities. You learned from those in authority and then practiced it. Furthermore, Galen had based his theories on the dissection of mammals because it was against Roman law to dissect humans. A lot of it he’d got right as he’d used apes for dissection but there were still many mistakes. In Vesalius’ time the person doing the dissection wasn’t even the anatomist—the professor would talk about the anatomy as their assistant performed the dissection. Vesalius used human bodies and he discovered they weren’t exactly as he had been taught. He then taught that you should always challenge and not just accept what you’ve learnt and what is the current belief. That is still the way it is taught now. Vesalius was probably the first person to come up with this method of teaching.

Not only that, but he got a great printer and skilled artist and he produced a fantastic book, one of THE books of the Renaissance, I would say.
I think I like it so much because it’s a medical book and my background is medical. I did my medical degree here at the University of Aberdeen and worked for two years afterwards in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary before I had my first child. Later I did part-time research posts and then a stint in Roxburgh House (a hospice). One of the reasons I like the book so much is the fact that when I look at it I recognise what I learned when I was studying anatomy.

Would the book have been used by students?
This copy of the book would have been very expensive and is probably the one that would be in the library and that the professor would have referred to. Vesalius produced another, cheaper synopsis for Fabrica at almost exactly the same time which is usually called the Epitome. It was sort of a key to the main book and it had a lot of the same illustrations. That was the book that students would use, maybe referring to this one in a library. It’s actually very rare to have a complete Epitome because the pictures were pulled out to be used in the dissection room. This copy of Fabrica would have been in the King’s College library. We actually have a few copies, one that is probably the original print, two that date from a few years later and Duncan Liddel’s copy of Anatomes Totius. They reprinted it and Vesalius revised it umpteen times. The original one was printed in Basle and then we also have copies printed in Venice. The best quality art is usually in the original print versions. It is thought the wood cuts were done by an artist of the Titian school and the publisher was a scholar/printer called Johannes Oporinus, who did a beautiful job of the typography. The artistry of the woodcuts is very skilled and some of the woodcuts were still around until WWII. They were in Munich and were lost in the bombing. It is such a shame for them to have lasted so long and then to have been lost. When I was reading about the book most authors rhapsodised about its being the peak of the Renaissance and such a great example of the combination of science, art and printing. Most subsequent anatomy books are based on it and I’ve even found a website called after Vesalius where you can go and look up anatomy today.

Another aspect of Vesalius’ achievement is that at that time anatomy and surgery were poorly regarded. The physician had status but the surgeon was also the barber who would cut your hair! They would do things like lance boils and take out your teeth. Anatomy didn’t have a great reputation and through Vesalius it became relevant and modern. He experienced a lot of resistance because he was challenging Galen and after a thousand years that was quite some challenge! Even his teachers said some outrageous things about him!

He was about 29 or 30 when he wrote De humani corporis fabrica. He had finished his training in Padua and the following year he was made professor of anatomy. He was teaching and his pupils kept copying what he’d drawn, so eventually he made up some plates. You can see from his earlier drawings that he hadn’t done the dissection he did later for De humani corporis fabrica, because some drawings are based on animal dissection. An example is the liver which has too many lobes – as a human liver it should only have two. He also later became physician to the Holy Roman Emperor Charles the Fifth. He published a second edition in 1555 and may have been working on a third. He went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and died on the way back in 1564 in Zakynthos, Greece.”
FAUL Executive Committee

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Emigrants on Stornoway quayside when Metagama set sail, April 1923

29th May 2014, 7-9pm,
Special Collections Centre Events Area
The Sir Duncan Rice Library

The Annual General Meeting for Friends members will take place 7-7:30pm, and be followed at 7:30pm by a talk from Professor Marjory Harper, to which members of the public are welcome.

At the heart of the Scottish diaspora is a multi-hued human story that is best told in the words of the individuals who constituted it. Until the mid-twentieth century emigrant testimony was confined largely to letters and diaries, but in recent decades oral evidence has become a key tool in the modern historian’s trade.

This talk uses personal testimony from Scottish emigrants and sojourners to highlight various themes from their own experiences: motives, recruitment practices, transitions, rhetoric and reality, return, and identity. It draws on a collection of over 70 interviews that Professor Harper has conducted since 2005, part of an ongoing databank which is currently being processed, preparatory to its deposit in the Sir Duncan Rice Library.

To book a place please contact FAUL Honorary Secretary, Emma Fowlie, at e.fowlie@abdn.ac.uk or 01224 273385.

www.abdn.ac.uk/library/about/friends-of-the-library/