



Welcome to Voic:E

Welcome to the February 2017 edition of our alumni ezine. We love to hear from our alumni to find out what you are doing now so if you have any news or stories you think would interest the rest of the Aberdeen family, please let us know.

Read the latest news from the University [here](#).

Included in this issue:

- **Alumni carol concert raises thousands for dementia research**
- **University alumni elected as Fellows of the RSE**
- **University Chamber Choir CD reaches #3 in classical chart**
- **Elphinstone PhD scholarships now open**
- **Upcoming Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology reunions**
- **Research Stars of Aberdeen event to be streamed**

Appointment of Senior Governor

The University of Aberdeen is pleased to announce the appointment of Martin Gilbert as Senior Governor to lead its governing body, the University Court.

Martin is a graduate of the University of Aberdeen and has become one of the UK's most prominent business leaders. He co-founded Aberdeen Asset Management, was previously Chairman of FirstGroup and has been Deputy Chairman of Sky plc since 2011. Alongside these commercial roles, Martin has undertaken non-executive roles within government at home and abroad and has recently become a Patron of the Aberdeen Law Project.



Accepting the appointment, Martin Gilbert said, "I am honoured that the Court has appointed me to this role. I have always valued the part the University played in my education and it is wonderful to have this opportunity to help it achieve its strategy and its global ambition. The University is one of Scotland's great institutions and I am passionate about ensuring it continues to thrive and extending its reputation as a university that is competing with the very best in the world."

The appointment is for a three year term of office with effect from 1 January 2017. Martin succeeds Sir Moir Lockhead, who retired from the role at the end of December having made a valuable contribution to the life, work and governance of the University for 14 years.

Alumni Focus



Alumni Celebration of Carols raises thousands for dementia research

The third annual Alumni Celebration of Carols on the 21st of December 2016 was a huge success, attracting over 500 attendees and raising thousands of pounds for the University's research into dementia.

Featuring readings from Sir Tony Robinson, Laura Main, Classic FM's Anne-Marie Minhall and University Principal Professor Sir Ian Diamond and hosted by Bill Turnbull in his usual professional manner, the event featured the spectacular University of Aberdeen Chamber Choir under the expert guidance of Professor Paul Mealor. A particular highlight was a re-working of In The Bleak Midwinter, about which Sir Tony tweeted his praise shortly before the event was broadcast on Classic FM on December 23rd. The 17-year old French trumpet player Lucienne Renaudin Vary, a rising star in the trumpet world, also played a pair of extremely impressive pieces. Feedback from the audience was hugely positive, many of whom donated afterwards and helped bring the total raised for dementia research to over £11,000.

Enormous thanks are due to the vast number of people who attended the event and made it possible, especially the Reverend Canon Stephen Evans who continues to offer us the use of the fantastic St Marylebone Parish Church for the event. This year's concert is already scheduled to take place on the 21st of December 2017 so mark it in your diaries!



Inaugural Burns supper for Jakarta alumni chapter

Members of the University of Aberdeen Jakarta alumni chapter attended the Java St Andrew's Society Burns Supper on 4 February 2017. Earlier in the day, the outgoing chapter committee passed on the reins to the incoming chapter leadership during a transition meeting and training session and the Burns supper represented an opportunity to celebrate the successes of the chapter over the past two years while toasting the ambitions of the incoming chapter leaders.

A particular highlight of the evening was the delivery of the Selkirk Grace by Professor Richard Wells in Doric, followed by the translation in Bahasa by Manda Perwitasari. Over 120 Scottish expats and university alumni attended the supper and we discovered some lost Aberdeen alumni at the event, with whom we were delighted to reconnect. Please be sure to send us your up-to-date contact details as we'd love to keep you informed of alumni events like this one, wherever you are in the world. You can update your details through the alumni hub or [by email](#).



Aberdeen alumnus publishes proof of famous mathematical puzzle

Aberdeen mathematics graduate Christopher Garvie has recently had a paper published containing a proof of the famous Twin Prime Conjecture, a mathematical conundrum which has baffled mathematicians for decades. A twin prime is a prime number (i.e. a number divisible only by itself or by one) that is either two less or two more than another prime number, for example the twin prime pair 41 and 43. Twin primes become increasingly rare as the range of examination is increased but it is a longstanding conjecture that there are infinitely many twin primes. Many mathematicians have published papers attempting to prove the theory but until now all have turned out to be flawed or short of definitive proof.

Christopher's paper is sure to be a hot topic of debate in the world of mathematics. You can read the article in [Notes on Number Theory and Discrete Mathematics, Vol. 22, no. 4.](#)



University alumni elected as Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

Several alumni and current staff of the University of Aberdeen have been honoured this week with RSE Fellowship, celebrating those whose varied expertise supports the advancement of learning and useful knowledge in Scottish public life. Alumni and current staff Peter Duff, Phil Hannaford and new University Senior Governor Martin Gilbert are all on the list, as is alumnus and long-time BBC broadcaster James Naughtie.

The strength of the RSE lies in the breadth of disciplines represented by its Fellowship. This range of expertise enables the RSE to take part in a host of activities such as providing independent and expert advice to Government and Parliament, supporting aspiring entrepreneurs through mentorship, facilitating education programmes for young people and engaging the general public through educational events.

Congratulations to all our alumni on this well-deserved recognition!



Bangkok alumni chapter lecture series

Alumni in the Bangkok chapter have embarked on teaching a series of lectures at the University of Bangkok. The lecture series kicked off on 31 January and will run every Monday until 11 April 2017. Topics include everything from 'The Thai legal system and energy law' to 'The Thai Stock Exchange Market and energy investment'. Bangkok chapter chair, Piti Eiamchamroonlarp, remarked that "this is a good chance for our alumni who did their Masters in oil and gas law and other relevant topics to team up and do co-teaching on behalf of the

Bangkok chapter." To find out more about the lecture series and the Bangkok alumni chapter, please visit [the chapter's Facebook page](#) or email alumni@abdn.ac.uk.



University of Aberdeen alumna finalist in British Council Alumni of the Year Awards

We are delighted to announce that one of our graduates, Timipre (Timi) Wolo is a finalist in the British Council Alumni of the Year Awards, the result of which will be known on the 4th of March 2017. Timi is the CEO of TFN Energy Limited. A lawyer by training, she holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law and a Masters degree in Oil and Gas Law from the University of Aberdeen. Growing up in the oil rich

but highly impoverished Niger Delta region of Nigeria, Ms Wolo developed an early interest in finding lasting solutions to the development issues in the region. The picture above shows Timi filming a video for the British Council. The purpose of these videos is to promote UK higher education to prospective international students and influencers.

Timi will be speaking at the [International Women's Day Conference](#) at the University on the 8th of March.



Hong Kong Alumnus Association Scotland Night

The 2017 Aberdeen University Hong Kong Alumnus Association Scotland Night was hailed a massive success as over one hundred attendees enjoyed an evening of piping, dancing, Burns' poetry, songs and haggis on a chilly evening in Kowloon. Dr Laurence Hou was the gold sponsor of the event and along with the support of the Hong Kong Highlanders, the Red Tartan Pipe Band and the University of Aberdeen, it was truly a night to cherish for all the members of the

Aberdeen family in attendance. Guest of honour was Mrs Jean Hamilton, 'mother of the Granite Pearls' – the Hong Kong students who come to study at the University through the AUHKA scholarship programme. An ode to 'Bonnie Jean' was delivered by Professor Richard Wells, who had travelled all the way from Aberdeen for the event for the third year in a row. Special thanks must go to Edward Lam, Kalmond Ma and all the members of the AUHKA committee who made the evening such a successful one.

The AUHKA is travelling to Aberdeen this summer! A reunion event is planned for Friday 28 July 2017 at Elphinstone Hall, where another great night of Scottish music and dancing is anticipated. If you would like to attend, please email alumni@abdn.ac.uk to register your interest.



Got an interesting story? Share it on the alumni blog

You can find out more about what some of your fellow alumni have been up to since graduating on our alumni blog. We have members of the University of Aberdeen family across the globe and many are now industry leaders, ground-breaking researchers or have other fascinating tales to tell. If you have recollections of your time at the University or an interesting life story you'd like to share with the wider alumni community, then get in touch with us at alumni@abdn.ac.uk.

Our latest post is a very brief history of the Aberdeen University Air Squadron, members of whom were called up for active service by the RAF in the Second World War. The history was kindly provided by Rob Christie who co-ordinates the AUAS Former Members' Association. You can find the alumni blog [here](#).

Well done to all our alumni on their fantastic achievements!

University Focus

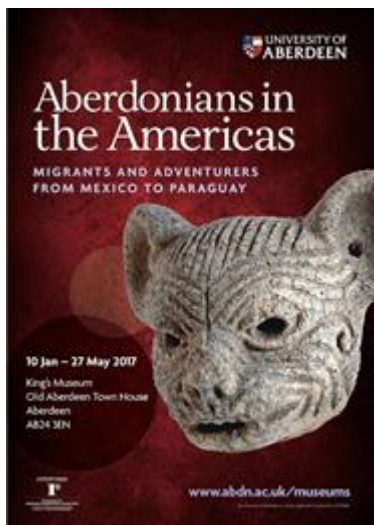


University of Aberdeen Rowett Institute officially opens superb new facility

The University of Aberdeen Rowett Institute is arguably the UK's leading research centre for food and nutrition and currently has the greatest concentration of nutrition researchers in the UK. Throughout its long and proud history it has made a significant impact on animal health and human nutrition.

The Institute recently entered an exciting new era with the completion of a new building on the University's health campus at Foresterhill, Aberdeen; after over 100 years on its original site, this represented a major change for all concerned. Spread over six floors and with a total floor space of around 10,000 square metres, the building was one of the most complex projects ever undertaken by the University. This fantastic new building was officially opened by HRH The Duchess of Rothesay, Chancellor of the University, on Wednesday 18th January 2017. Her Royal Highness was met by The Lord Provost of Aberdeen on arrival and then enjoyed a tour of the facilities hosted by Professor Sir Ian Diamond, Principal of the University and Professor Peter Morgan, Director of the Rowett. Her Royal Highness met several research staff and heard about some of the innovative research being undertaken and was also introduced to Ian Gourlay, one of the Rowett's longest-serving volunteers, who has taken part in fifteen studies to date. Volunteers are essential to the Rowett's research and it is important to recognise their contribution.

You can find out more about the new building [here](#) in an extended version of this article. If you are interested in finding out more about the work of the Rowett Institute, they also have three short videos available on [their web site](#) which give an insight into some of their work and facilities.



New exhibition opens at King's Museum: Aberdonians in the Americas

A new exhibition at the University of Aberdeen's King's Museum explores the lives of five local collectors who travelled to Latin America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They went to seek their fortunes for different reasons – as explorers, doctors, miners, or missionaries – and met cultures and experiences strikingly different from their lives at home.

Aberdonians in the Americas draws on the University of Aberdeen's rich South American collections to explore the hidden stories behind the donations that these collectors made to the University of Aberdeen of material relating to their work and travels. It includes objects whose connections with local collectors were re-discovered during the course of the exhibition, from a stalactite from a Bolivian tin mine to a 'diabolical' mata mata turtle that was fished out of the River Amazon.

Aberdonians in the Americas: Migrants and adventurers from Mexico to Paraguay is on display at King's Museum, Old Aberdeen Town House, High Street, Aberdeen, AB24 3EN. For more information, listen to [this BBC radio interview](#) about the exhibition or see [the museum website](#).

There is also an upcoming public lecture associated with the exhibition:

Adventuring Aberdonians: the lives, travels and collecting of James W. H. Trail and John McPherson, Professor Patience Schell, University of Aberdeen. Tuesday 14th March 7.30pm, Regent Building Lecture Theatre. Entry to the lecture is free.



University Chamber Choir CD reaches #3 in UK classical chart

On 12 January the University's Chamber Choir, along with the Pro-Chancellor, Principal and other staff at the University, found itself in Ballater Church in the company of the Chancellor, the Duchess of Rothesay and Prince Charles for the launch of a special CD on the University's Vox Regis label. The concert was a huge success, with the choir performing arrangements of Burns taken from *Immortal Memory*, which was released on 20 January. The choir was joined by traditional singer Robert Lovie and there was fiddle-playing by award-winning alumnus Raemond Jappy. Amazingly, and with not a little help from Classic FM, the CD rapidly climbed the charts, peaking at number three in the classical chart. All the University's recordings raise money for charitable causes, in this case the projects established in Ballater by HRH The Duke of Rothesay and The Dumfries House Trust following the 2016 floods.

A second CD, of Scottish contemporary bassoon music in a variety of styles played by Lesley Wilson, was released on the same day and is in aid of research into Parkinson's disease taking place here at the University of Aberdeen. Lesley was Principal Bassoon with the RSNO, and is now our bassoon tutor. The CD contains première recordings, including pieces by Aberdeen composers at the University.

The first CD in the series, *O Sacrum Convivium*, is a collection of choral works sung by the Choir of King's College, Aberdeen, interspersed with organ pieces by J.S. Bach played on the magnificent Aubertin organ in King's College Chapel; it has received glowing praise in both general and specialist media, including five stars in *Choir & Organ*. The CD includes pieces by Aberdeen staff (Phillip Cooke and Paul Mealor) and postgraduate research students (John F Hudson and Thomas LaVoy) alongside choral favourites and proceeds from the sale of the CD will support Aberdeen's research on dementia.

You can read Professor David J. Smith's full article on the CDs [here](#). All three albums are available via Amazon and iTunes, as well as from all good record shops worldwide. If you would like to try before you buy, the following links will take you to extracts from each track.

[O Sacrum Convivium, Choir of King's College, Aberdeen / David J. Smith \(VXR0001\)](#)

[A Much-Travel'd Clown, Lesley Wilson \(bassoon\) \(VXR0002\)](#)

[Immortal Memory, University of Aberdeen Chamber Choir / Paul Mealor \(VXR0002\)](#)

Opportunities for Alumni



Elphinstone PhD scholarships now open

Are you looking to study for a PhD? We are offering you the opportunity to study with a prestigious Elphinstone Scholarship.

The University of Aberdeen has provided excellence in learning and teaching for five hundred years, exporting outstanding graduates and world-shaping ideas from north east Scotland to the far reaches of the globe. To commemorate the 500th anniversary of our founder, Bishop William Elphinstone, we offer a PhD scholarship programme in memory of his commitment to excellence and "the pursuit of truth in the service of others".

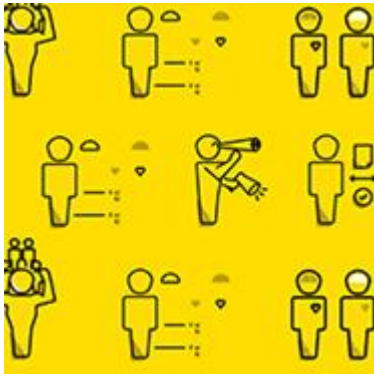
This opportunity is offered to high-achieving students looking to begin a PhD programme. Students from anywhere in the world can apply. If successful you will have your fees waived for each year of your PhD. Click [here](#) to find out more about the wide range of subjects and projects you can apply for. Applications close on 31 March 2017.



Looking for an exciting trustee role?

Aberdeen University Students' Association (AUSA) is a charity representing the students of Aberdeen University. They are recruiting external trustees and are looking for someone with experience in finance at a senior level. They are particularly interested in receiving applications from women.

For further information please contact Chubbe Anucha at ausapresident@abdn.ac.uk.



Free Authentic Leadership Guide e-book

University of Aberdeen Online in conjunction with the University of Aberdeen Business School have just published an e-book on authentic leadership. It is the function of the business leader to determine the progression route of the company, to describe clearly to staff how the business will develop, how each and every employee can and will contribute, as well as to outline the criteria that will be used to ascertain success - and to communicate all of this while presenting a persona that is positive, optimistic and motivational. What is an authentic leader, and how can you become one? [Download our free Authentic Leadership Guide](#) to discover the truth about authentic leadership, and how you can put it into practice.



CareerConnect - supporting student employability

As a part of University of Aberdeen's Internplus programme, Linda Lammensalo, a third year Politics and International Relations student, has been developing a new part-time job service for university students. The project, which is a collaboration between the University's Career Service and AUSA, has resulted in the development of **CareerConnect**.

This new portal is free to use and enables employers to recruit talented and competent University of Aberdeen students. As alumni we would be delighted for you to register and make use of the service, providing valuable employment opportunities for our students. Please visit the ['for employers'](#) webpage for more information.

Another aspect of the project is to provide students with a wide range of services designed to support and meet the needs of employers and to market their brand to students. Through **StudentJobs** we can arrange on-site presentations, interview facilities and meet and greet days. Employers can also attend a part-time jobs fair held annually on the University campus. For more information please contact [AUSA](#).



20% alumni discount for Leadercast Live

Leadercast Live is the largest one-day leadership event in the world. Broadcast live each year from Atlanta to 100,000+ people in hundreds of locations around the world, Leadercast Live brings together many of the world's most recognized and respected global leaders to create a leadership experience unlike any other. The 2017 conference is hosted in Aberdeen by Total Perspectives. The University of Aberdeen Business School is proud to be a partner to host this unique conference for the second year running.

Along with an exciting line up of international leaders, **Bob Keiller** [Chairman Scottish Enterprise], **Ray Riddoch** [MD Nexen UK & SVP Europe] and **Jennifer Young** [Chairman & Partner Ledingham Chalmers] will be speaking at the AECC, Aberdeen on the 5th of May 2017.

Take advantage of a **20% discount** on the conference tickets by using the code **UOALC17** on the Eventbrite booking site. To book tickets please visit www.totalperspectives.com/leadercastabn, email info@totalperspectives.co.uk or call 01224536561.



Have your say – influence world university rankings!

One of the main global university league table providers is offering you the opportunity to get involved in scoring universities worldwide. When it comes to questions like 'Which universities produce the best graduates?' the QS World University Rankings would like your help!

If you're in employment or an employer, [register to participate here](#). If you're an academic working at a university, you can [participate here](#). Current world university rankings are available online at the [QS website](#).

Reunion Focus



35 year Clinical Pharmacology anniversary event

Did you study an MSc in Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Aberdeen? If so, then you're invited to an event in October 2017 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Clinical Pharmacology masters programme in Aberdeen. The event is being organised by Heather

Wallace; if you'd like to attend please email 35yearsclinpharm@abdn.ac.uk for more details.



Upcoming Class of Medicine reunions

Several classes of Medicine will be holding reunions in 2017 so if you're a medical graduate of the University of Aberdeen, have a look and see if your year has organised an event. So far reunions are planned for the classes of 1957, 1972, 1977 and 1982. You can find details of upcoming meet-ups on the reunions tab of the alumni events page [here](#), or you can email alumni@abdn.ac.uk for further information or to get in touch about organising a reunion for your own class!



Annual Aberdeen Forestry Dinner - 3rd March 2017

This year's annual Aberdeen Forestry Dinner will be taking place at the Macdonald Norwood Hall Hotel in Aberdeen. The dinner will be three courses and followed by the traditional speaker. This year's speaker will be Jo O'Hara, Head of Forestry Commission Scotland on the Forestry Commission Board of Commissioners. The raffle will also be going ahead, and donations are, as ever, welcome. If you graduated in Forestry at the University and would like to attend the dinner, please RSVP to aberdeenforestrydinner@gmail.com.



Aberdeen Geological Alumni annual AGA-HRH Quiz Challenge

The 2017 AGA-HRH annual quiz night will take place on Wednesday 8th March at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. This year the quiz will be held at the Hilton Treetops Hotel, Springfield Road, Aberdeen.

As always, there are numerous prizes up for grabs. The prizes for the overall winners and the Geology round winners are sponsored by HRH Geology. A prize will be awarded for top of the non-geology categories, so non-geologists are welcome to join in too! There is also a £250 top undergraduate student team prize, kindly sponsored by ConocoPhillips. Rounds include Science & Nature, Sports, Geography & History and, of course, Geology!

Tickets are £5 per person (£3 for students/members) and teams of 4-5 people are invited. Please download a booking form from the [AGA website](#) and send it to aberdeengeologicalalumni@gmail.com to reserve your team. This is AGA's most popular fundraiser event, so register quickly to avoid disappointment. The Aberdeen Geological Alumni was founded in 1998 and all money fundraised from AGA events is used to support Geology students doing fieldwork at the University of Aberdeen. We look forward to seeing you there!

Development Focus



Aberdeen Student Radio bursts onto the air thanks to donors

On Friday 27th January a brand new radio station run by University of Aberdeen students burst onto the air worldwide providing a wide range of music, topical discussion and even a jingle supplied by Radio 1's Greg James. The station is solely funded by the Development Trust Student Experience Fund which is supported by thousands of extremely generous alumni donors from around the world every year. This fantastic support through the fund enables a great many stimulating student activities and initiatives which greatly enhance the overall university experience for students.

Aberdeen Student Radio will be broadcasting online worldwide during term-time and can be found at www.aberdeenstudentradio.co.uk.



Professor I Howard Marshall Scholarship established thanks to £10,000 anonymous donation

A new scholarship is being established in memory of a much-loved and hugely-respected University luminary thanks to a generous donation of £10,000. Professor I Howard Marshall, who passed away in 2015, undertook both his undergraduate degree and PhD at Aberdeen as well as teaching and supervising students for 35 years. The University of Aberdeen Development Trust is now seeking further support to enable the University to provide a full PhD scholarship for a student within the field of Divinity.

To find out more, including how to support the scholarship, click [here](#).

Events Focus



Aberdeen boat race returns with a splash

The Aberdeen Boat Race returns for its 22nd year on Saturday 4th March 2017 at 5.30pm thanks to the continued support of Aberdeen Asset Management. Old rivalries will be reignited as Aberdeen's two universities take to the River Dee in a fierce battle of nerves and determination with Aberdeen University Boat Club President Fiona Bell stating, "after RGU winning for five years straight, defeat is not an

option – it's time for us to reclaim the title."

For more information, click [here](#).



Meet the Research Stars of Aberdeen

Last year, three scientists from the University of Aberdeen were elected Fellows of the Royal Society, the premier society in the UK that celebrates scientific excellence.

Join us on Monday 13th March 2017 for a fascinating evening where each speaker will share their personal research perspectives, explain why Aberdeen had such an influence on their journeys and give their insights into the importance and relevance of research in today's society.

There will be a welcome and introduction by Professor Sir Ian Diamond, Principal of the University of Aberdeen. Presentations will follow from Professor Dame Anne Glover FRS, Professor Neil Gow FRS and Professor James Prosser FRS. There will be time for audience questions and answers at the end of the presentations. Admission is free, but booking is required. You can find more information and register for the event [here](#).

If you cannot attend in person but would like to see the event, a live stream will be broadcast on the night at www.abdn.ac.uk/events/live-stream.php.



Director's Cut event with Mark Cousins

Join us on Wednesday 1st March 2017 for this special Director's Cut event where award-winning filmmaker, author, and curator Mark Cousins will share the story of his passion for film and how it has informed his extraordinary career.

Born in Northern Ireland and based in Edinburgh, Cousins has collaborated with Tilda Swinton, Jarvis Cocker, and Irvine Welsh and led film festivals and organised screening series throughout the UK and around the world. He is a filmmaker of amazing versatility, having in the last few years alone directed 'A Story of Children and Film', the cinematic city-symphony, 'I am Belfast', and, most recently, collaborated with the band Mogwai for 'Atomic', an essay-film marking the seventieth anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb.

Admission is free but booking is required. You can find more information and book tickets [here](#).



International Women's Day Conference

International Women's Day has been celebrated across the world since the early 1900s. Originally, its aim was to provide a forum for women to campaign for equality and women's rights. Over time it has evolved and now in March each year, thousands of events are held throughout the world to recognise the progress that has been made, to inspire women and to celebrate their achievements.

The University of Aberdeen will host an International Women's Day Conference on Wednesday 8th March 2017 and the theme will be "inspiring journeys." Our specific aim in hosting this event is to raise the profile of issues that are central to career development for female colleagues at both a local and national level.

To register for the conference click [here](#).



Save the Date - May Festival

It's nearly that time of year already! The 2017 May Festival will take place from 26-28 May and will once again enable audiences of all ages to experience the joy and inspiration of books, music, film, science, food, history, nature, sport and more in the glorious setting of

Old Aberdeen. Look out for upcoming announcements of speakers and activities. Booking will open in mid-April.

Stay in touch and update your details on the [alumni hub](#).



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