



Welcome to Voic:E

September 2017

Welcome to the September edition of Voic:E, the University of Aberdeen's alumni ezine. A special welcome to our newest alumni, those who graduated during summer 2017. We love to hear from all 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](#).

Retirement of Sir Ian Diamond as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University



On 24 August, Professor Sir Ian Diamond announced his intention to retire from the position of Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen and invited Mr Martin Gilbert, Senior Governor to commence a global search for his successor. Sir Ian has agreed to stay in post as Principal and Vice-Chancellor until his successor takes up appointment.

Sir Ian joined the University of Aberdeen as Principal and Vice-Chancellor in April 2010.

[Read more >>](#)

University forges ahead with enhanced portfolio of online provision



The University is taking its postgraduate offering to the next level with a range of programmes and individual short courses now available completely online.

While the University loves nothing more than welcoming postgraduate students to campus, not everyone who wants to undertake further study can do so full-time or away from where they live. Our online offerings aim to offer an alternative solution, which fits around individuals' circumstances so that they can study anywhere and in their own time. Our ever expanding portfolio ranges from short courses to full Master's programmes, covering a whole range of subjects from business and engineering, to education,

finance, health, and law. For the first time, a range of programmes including Decommissioning, Dispute Resolution, Scottish Heritage and Clinical Nutrition are available to study fully online together with a number of stand-alone courses, offering an accessible route to further study with the University for many more students.

For the first time, the **exclusive 20% alumni discount for postgraduate programmes now applies to all online provision**, providing our alumni with a fantastic new benefit in recognition of their importance to the University. If you want to find out more about the online programmes and courses that the University offers, please see our dedicated [online learning pages](#).



Silver success for Zoey at World Championships

Recent graduate Zoey Clark has started life after university with a silver medal at the World Athletics Championships. After graduating from the University of Aberdeen in June with a first class honours degree in Chemical Engineering, Aberdonian Zoey Clark has followed up this success by winning a silver medal in the 4 X 400m women's relay at the IAAF World Championships in London. Zoey received support from both the prestigious John Robertson Sports Scholarship and a sports bursary during her time at University and it's wonderful to see her now fulfilling her potential on the world stage.

Read more [here](#).

University alumni launch Bookfeeding Project in Nigeria

University of Aberdeen alumni Alena Machalkova and Carolin von Janowski (pictured) are launching the latest drive by their charity Bookfeeding Project to set up a public library in Mbu, Nigeria. Having previously overseen projects in India, Madagascar, Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania, Bookfeeding Project became an official registered Scottish charity in January 2016. Carolin met another University of Aberdeen graduate, Chijioke Alaku, on a flight late last year and got into conversation about a book she was reading by a famous Nigerian author. Chijioke told Carolin that he was very worried about the current state of his former secondary school in Mbu where students hardly have any books. With no funding available, this lack of access to books means lack of opportunities, which is why Bookfeeding Project chose Mbu as its next assignment.



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

Aberdeen graduate raises the bar with conveyancing award

An Aberdeen law graduate has been recognised for her outstanding achievement in conveyancing, with a top award from leading land and property search organisation Millar & Bryce.

Aimee Stuart received the 'Best Conveyancing Student in Scotland' award, following exceptional commitment and contribution to her Diploma in Professional Legal Practice.

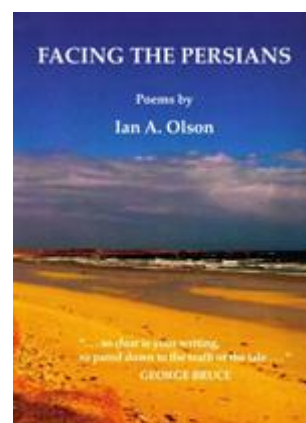
Twenty-three year-old Aimee is now set to embark on her two-year traineeship with family business Stuart & Co Solicitors. She said: "I am really thrilled to receive this award from Millar & Bryce. My mum is a conveyancer and I spent many a summer job looking through and documenting old sasine reports, so it's something I really enjoyed at university. I'm really looking forward to being able to apply what I learned into a practical environment."



Read more [here](#).

Doctor and Research Fellow unveils debut poetry volume

Retired GP and current Honorary Research Fellow Dr Ian Olson has published his first volume of poetry, 'Facing the Persians.' Dr Olson has a long and dedicated history with the University as a 1962 graduate in Medicine with a subsequent MD from 1969 and the recipient of an honorary DHC in 2006. He served as a member of Senate between 1984 and 1988 and was Convener of the Business Committee between 1997 and 2000 as well as editing the Aberdeen University Review between 1985 and 2000.



Reviewing the volume, former University of Aberdeen Principal Sir Duncan Rice sums it up by saying "if every first collection is as good as this, British poetry has a great future. The book is worth its modest price for the exquisite Reelid. a meditation at an Iron Age burial mound. Those who read Olson's collection will gather a healthy harvest of gentle humour and deep thoughtfulness. I hope there will be another one soon."

Plans are underway to implement a page on the alumni website dedicated to books by our graduates, so if you're an author with a book on the way please let us know!

1967 summer school student revisits campus 50 years later

An American who first visited Scotland in the summer of 1967 as part of a programme which brought groups of US students to Aberdeen to attend summer school at the University has revisited the campus 50 years later and written about the profound effect that the visit had on him. Thomas Armstrong, now an Assistant Vice President at Merrill Lynch, penned an evocative memoir of his visit to Europe as a teenager. The piece, which captures the frustration and confusion of growing up in 1960s America as well as the vibrant and profound impressions that travelling across the world had on him, was first published on the American Institute for Foreign Study website. You can now find [an extract on our alumni blog](#), as well as a link to the whole story.



New newsletter for US alumni

Our contactable US alumni should recently have received the first issue of the new **Aberdeen in America** digital newsletter. From the history makers to the newsmakers, the goal is to tell the stories and celebrate the people that make up the Aberdeen community in the United States. If you didn't receive it, be sure to [click here](#) or email alumni@abdn.ac.uk.



San Francisco Bay Area alumni, [email us](#) if you would like to attend the San Francisco Giants v Padres game at AT&T park on 30 September. Liz Bowie, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, would like to take you out to the ball game!

(Picture: US Capitol building designed by University of Aberdeen alumnus Dr William Thornton)

Alumni Relations Facebook page reaches 6000 likes

If you're on Facebook or Twitter then give the Alumni Relations page a like for alumni updates, news from the University and regular benefits and opportunities for our graduates! We recently hit something of a milestone, gaining our 6000th like. We often have news of alumni gatherings around the globe so our social media channels provide a great way to stay in touch with everything that's going on in the Aberdeen family. You can find the Facebook page [here](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) too.



Well done to all our alumni on their fantastic achievements! For more graduate news, why not visit our [alumni blog](#)?

University News



Top marks for University in National Student Survey

Students have given the quality of teaching at the University of Aberdeen their seal of approval in the latest National Student Survey (NSS).

The University has been ranked well above the UK average across every teaching measure, while overall student satisfaction stands at 87 per cent – again, well above the sector average.

The NSS is an annual survey of nearly half a million UK students that gathers opinions on their experiences of studying at their chosen institution, and is scored across a range of criteria.

[More >>](#)

Cooking the Books exhibition shows off University collection

Modern recipe books regularly top the non-fiction bestseller lists and their authors, the 'celebrity chefs', are household names. Now an exhibition in the Sir Duncan Rice Library is showcasing a selection of cookery books and food-related pamphlets from the University of Aberdeen's Special Collections. They date, predominantly, from the 1800s, a period during which a fashion and a passion for food was fed by the dramatic increase in book publishing. The names of the cooks may not be familiar, but their books sold like hot cakes.



The exhibits are accompanied by a touring display from the National Library of Scotland on the subject of '400 Years of Scottish Food and Drink'. Subjects include 'Desserts & Baking', 'Fish & Shellfish', 'Oatmeal & Bread', 'Soups & Broths' and 'Jams & Preserves'. There's an activity cart and games to have a go at, and a film reel featuring a menu of foodie films from the Scottish Screen Archive.

[More >>](#)

For more University news, click [here](#).

Benefits and Opportunities



King's College Chapel available for alumni weddings

Did you know that one of the benefits of being a University of Aberdeen graduate is that you can book King's College Chapel for your wedding? Elphinstone Hall, the Linklater Rooms and James MacKay Hall are also available for your reception. The University offers various wedding packages to suit your requirements. You can find more information [here](#). We also now include details of alumni weddings on our [website](#). If you would like your wedding details to be included, please send us an [email](#).

Did you enter the University through clearing?

We are looking for volunteers to take part in our Insight programme, an initiative introduced to support students during their time at Aberdeen. The programme provides the opportunity for a student to connect with a graduate who has been through a similar experience.

We are currently trying to connect graduates who entered the University through the clearing process, and would like to share their experience, with students who have joined us through clearing.

Would you be willing to spend a few hours over email, Skype or face-to-face supporting students in this way? If so, please complete [this form](#) to register to become a guide.



The Careers Service

As a University of Aberdeen graduate you can make use of the University's Careers Service at any time in life should you require guidance, advice or be considering a change in your career path. You are also invited to make your own valuable contribution to the service to help others who are making use of the service. Currently, the Careers Service are looking for input into the STAR Award and the Leadership Academy. These initiatives comprise of interactive skills workshops and self-reflective assessments, which ultimately help University of Aberdeen students to enhance their employability and to release their inner leader.



To get involved, you could contribute to the delivery of workshops, deliver a webinar, take part in the interview assessments, or be a panellist at our Q&A sessions. This is a great opportunity to raise on-campus profile, come into contact with a breadth of students, and to gain a sense of satisfaction to know that you are actively helping students' employability!

Please get in touch for more details on this excellent way to enhance your own CPD and meet the next generation of talented students: star@abdn.ac.uk & leadership.academy@abdn.ac.uk.

You can also watch a video introducing the Careers Service [here](#).

Law School 'Career Conversations'

The Law School would welcome the opportunity to share your career journey, post-Aberdeen, on their web and social media pages, by presenting a series of Alumni 'Career Conversations'. The format would be an interview style focusing on your academic career at Aberdeen and where your Aberdeen education has helped to take you in your current career. If you are interested in sharing your career to date with a wider audience, we would love to hear from you, no matter when you graduated or where you currently are in the world. Please contact alumni@abdn.ac.uk with your name, Aberdeen programme and year of graduation, current job title and location and we will be in contact to start your career conversation. We look forward to hearing from you.



Work-based project course: Engineering Work Experience

Engineering Work Experience is an undergraduate second year course which provides students with the opportunity to practise key career and project management skills. The work-based project, which is an integral part of the student's degree programme, is intended to address real needs defined by the employer organisation and can be desk or field-based. Projects commence January 2018, running for 10 weeks and include time for organisations to meet the students to discuss project progress and direction.



If you are interested in working with a small group of undergraduates or would like to find out more about this initiative, please email [Zaib Ahmed](mailto:Zaib.Ahmed@abdn.ac.uk) **by Monday 2nd October 2017**.

Health and Wellbeing Day

We are creating a programme of innovative cross-institutional campaigns, initiatives and events to promote positive health and wellbeing and University services. Part of this programme is the Health and Wellbeing Day which will be held on Thursday the 12th of October 2017 in Elphinstone Hall from 11am-2pm. In the hall we will have stalls showcasing the services available to students and we will use the Linklater rooms next door for talks and workshops.



[We are looking](#) for alumni who would be interested in delivering a short talk or workshop as part of this event or who would like to get involved in the programme in any other way. Talks could be on any topic related to wellbeing. Some examples include fitness, nutrition, mental health, relationships, resilience and struggles you encountered while at university, juggling studies with a part-time job and your experience with university Health and Wellbeing services.

Career Mentoring Programme - call for new mentors

We are seeking volunteer mentors to support current students taking part in the Career Mentoring Programme. As a volunteer mentor you will mentor a student for 1-2 hours per month between November 2017 and April 2018. No experience of mentoring is necessary and we are keen to hear from alumni working in all sectors. Could you help a student like [Rebecca](#)? If you think you could support a current student please register [here](#).



Study UK Alumni Awards 2017/2018

The British Council has launched the fourth year of a prestigious award celebrating the outstanding achievements of the UK's international alumni around the world. For the first time, the Alumni Awards are open to all alumni living outside of the UK, finding and celebrating many more success stories of the UK's alumni.



The Alumni Awards are open to alumni currently residing in any country outside the UK, who have studied in the UK, at an officially recognised provider of UK university degree level study for a minimum of a term or semester, or who have been awarded a full UK degree level qualification (or higher) by a UK university within the last 15 years. Last year University of Aberdeen graduate Timipre Wolo reached her regional final following her inspirational work as a role model in the oil and gas sector.

For more information or to apply, please click [here](#).

For more alumni benefits click [here](#). For volunteering opportunities see [this page](#).

Reunion News



Hong Kong alumni reception

On the 28th of July the Aberdeen University Hong Kong Association held a reception in Elphinstone Hall for our Hong Kong alumni. Dr Laurence Hou led a large group who travelled back to Aberdeen with their families to visit the campus. Among others, the party was joined by University Principal Professor Sir Ian Diamond, Vice-Principal Professor Margaret Ross and the Dean for SE Asia Professor Richard Wells. It was a wonderful night which included ceilidh dancing, an excellent meal and great company and was a fitting tribute to the unique connection between the University and its Hong Kong alumni. Photos from the evening can be viewed [here](#).

Biology honours class of 1979 reunion

On Friday 28 July 2017, four alumni from the biology honours class of 1979 met up again for the first time since graduation. Joan Denton-Thompson, Alasdair Joyce, Peigi Nicholson and Enid Reade travelled, accompanied by family members, to Aberdeen from the corners of the UK - Hampshire, Morecambe, Moray and the Isle of Lewis - to reminisce and exchange news of the past 38 years. They were also joined by one of their former lecturers (and honours thesis supervisor in the case of two of the students), Dr Mark Young, formerly of the Zoology department.



Class of Medicine reunions

Several classes of Medicine held reunions in 2017. If you attended a reunion this summer, please [email us](#) with pictures and a recap so you can be featured in future newsletters.



The **1982** medical reunion is happening on 23 September and the class of **1973** have plans in place for a reunion next year. There is also an event coming up for all graduates of the University's **Clinical Pharmacology masters programme** in honour of the 35th anniversary of the degree. 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!

Supporter News



Engineering students' racing success

TAU Racing, which has received financial support from alumni and donors through the University of Aberdeen Development Trust over a number of years, recently celebrated fantastic racing success while taking part in a global competition. The team, made up of engineering students, finished first in Scotland, third in the UK and fourth overall out of 115 teams from around the world.

Read more about their impressive achievements [here](#).

CRANES support University's urology research

Long-term supporter of the University's cancer research programmes, CRANES (Cancer Research Aberdeen and North East Scotland), recently made a donation of £85,000 for Professor James N'Dow's urology research. The local charity has raised millions of pounds for locally-based research into the causes of and treatments for all forms of cancer since its establishment in 2003 under the leadership of Chair Gladys Sangster. The University is extremely grateful for their ongoing commitment and generosity.

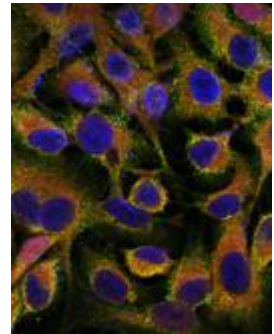


Event News

See cancer as you've never seen it before

14 September 2017, 6:00pm - IMS, Foresterhill

On Thursday 14th September 2017 the University is hosting a unique event to enable attendees to see cancer under the microscope while also learning more about our plans to transform cancer care and research. The event is being held at the Institute of Medical Sciences at our Foresterhill campus from 6 – 7.30pm and is free so please [click here](#) to register.



Read more [here](#) about our plans to transform cancer care and research.

Annual Ladies' Lunch

21 September 2017, 12:00pm - Marcliffe Hotel, Aberdeen

On Thursday the 21st September the University will hold its annual Ladies' Lunch at the Marcliffe Hotel & Spa in Aberdeen. We are delighted that Professor Siladitya Bhattacharya, our Chair in Obstetrics & Gynaecology will talk about our exciting plans for the future in the area of women's health research. We hope you can join us for an afternoon of excellent food and entertainment as well as an inspirational talk.



Book tickets [online](#) or contact Lynne Black on 01224 272087 or by email: lynne.black@abdn.ac.uk.

Hardy's Chocolate tasting

12 October 2017, 4:00pm - Hardy's Chocolates, Rosemount

Join us at our first ever chocolate tasting event in collaboration with Hardy's Chocolates. During this exciting evening you will have the chance to try some delicious treats over a glass of bubbly and connect with fellow alumni.



Hardy's Chocolates was set up in 2016 by University of Aberdeen alumna Lisa Thomson with the simple goal of bringing exquisite chocolate to Aberdeen. In addition to some amazing chocolates, Hardy's also offer a number of 'free-from' treats, including gluten free and vegan chocolate! Tickets are priced at £10 which includes a glass of bubbly on arrival, at least five different chocolates to taste and soft drinks.

For more information or to book, see [here](#).

Save the Date - London alumni meet-up

2 November 2017, Venue TBA

Feedback was very positive following the alumni gathering at a bar in London in July. The night was organised by Sam Singh and plans are underway for a repeat event at the start of November. The venue has yet to be confirmed and London alumni will be informed once we have more details.



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