



November 2017

Welcome to the November edition of Voic:E, the University of Aberdeen's alumni ezine. 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](#).

2017 Celebration of Carols: The Three Ships



This year's alumni Celebration of Carols is a very special collaboration written by notable British actor, producer and author Sir Tony Robinson with music by Royal Composer and University of Aberdeen Chair in Composition Professor Paul Mealor. Having met at last year's alumni carol event, the pair have penned The Three Ships, a superb reinterpretation of the Christmas story and we are very proud to be hosting the two premiere performances.

The tickets for the Aberdeen performance at St Machar Cathedral on 12 December were all snapped up within hours of release, but there are still places available for the London performance at St Marylebone Parish Church on 21 December. If you'd like to attend, please email us at alumni@abdn.ac.uk with your name, the number of tickets you'd like and the names of any guests who will be accompanying you. The performances will also be used to raise funds for cancer and dementia research.

[Read more >>](#)

Alumni News



Chemical Engineering graduate attends UNLEASH

Giulia Marzetti, a 2016 Chemical Engineering graduate, was invited to the inaugural edition of UNLEASH, a UN Innovation Lab for Sustainable Development Goals that brings together young leaders, experts, and entrepreneurs to accelerate breakthrough solutions for the [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#). They aim to do so by engaging young talents in problem-solving and by providing the support needed for bringing the best ideas into real projects.

Having joined one of Climate-KIC's flagship programmes directly after graduating, Giulia worked with startups and research institutes working on sustainability and climate change. "It was in a Spanish R&D laboratory developing carbon capture membranes where I understood the link between my university degree and making a positive impact for the future generation," she said. "I was fortunate enough to intern for Grameen Bank in Bangladesh and to closely work with Dr. Yunus during the last 2015 Innovation Social Lab. Ever since I have been passionate about developing affordable solutions to combat climate change in developing countries."

This year UNLEASH took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, and as well as harnessing the ideas of 1,000 young talents from 129 countries, it was also attended by high profile guests including Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, Prime Minister of Denmark Lars Løkke and actor Ashton Kutcher. You can read more about the outcomes of the event [here](#).

Aberdeen graduate appointed Deputy Chairman of IPSO

University of Aberdeen alumnus Richard Hill MBE was recently appointed Deputy Chairman of the Board at the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). Mr Hill, who graduated from the University with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1990, has previously been Chair of the General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland, Chair of the Northern Ireland Screen Commission, Chair of Consumer Focus Post and a member of the Consumer Focus UK Board. IPSO's Board is responsible for the oversight, vision and strategic direction of the organisation.



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

Alumni and supporters attend University of Aberdeen U.S. events

On Thursday November 9, alumni, friends and supporters of the University attended a unique event at the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) in Washington DC.

A panel from the US and Scotland, including Yoni Appelbaum (Senior Editor for Politics at The Atlantic), Dan Glickman (Senior Fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center and Former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), Thomas Weber (Professor of History and International Relations at the University of Aberdeen) and John Paterson (Vice-Principal



for Internationalisation) discussed what Europe and America might look like after Britain's exit from the EU and in the year of the next presidential election, and what can we learn about the fragility of today's world by looking back into the shadows of European history of the last 100 years. The discussion was moderated by University of Aberdeen alumnus and Senior Reporter for CNN Politics Stephen Collinson and introduced by Robert Traynham.

Following this wonderful event, our east coast alumni and supporters were invited to a reception in New York on November 10 to celebrate the vision of the Aberdeen Centre for Women's Health at the Baird Family Hospital. The guest speaker was Professor Siladitya Bhattacharya MD FRCOG, Director of the Institute of Applied Health Sciences and Chair in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Aberdeen. He gave a fascinating talk which greatly interested and enthused the [gathered members of the Aberdeen family](#).

Son of alumnus returns rare Student Show material to University

The son of a University graduate who studied at the University of Aberdeen in the 1930s has returned a trove of his late father's rare Student Show material to the Alumni Relations team, including pictures of cast members in costume for the very first official show, 1922's *Stella the Bajanella* and the script and souvenir programme from 1935 which were both previously missing from the University's archives.

As the University previously held no material relating to the inaugural show, which was penned by notable graduate and later Rector of the University, Eric Linklater, it was surprising and significant to find the historic pictures in amongst the wealth of scripts, programmes, letters, posters and photo albums which had been returned, the majority of which date from the 1930s. Prior to depositing the items with the Special Collections department, we have used some of the material for an article about the early shows on the Alumni Blog.

[More >>](#)



Q&A: Alumni volunteer Sam Singh

Sam Singh, a 2011 MSc graduate of the University of Aberdeen and Partner of St James's Place Wealth Management, contacted the Alumni Relations team earlier this year to offer his help organising alumni meet-ups in London. Following a successful first event back in July, Sam has arranged a repeat of the evening on St Andrews Day, November the 30th (see later in the e-zine for details). We asked him a few questions.



Why do you volunteer for the University?

Looking back at my time at Aberdeen University has always brought back very fond memories and ones that I will always remember. Upon leaving, I was made aware that there wasn't a support or network where new or old alumni were able to get together in London and help each other, not only with careers but also to network and socialise, so I have decided to take this upon myself and create a social environment in bars around the city for alumni to get together for a great night out but also, if they choose to, do some networking to grow their careers.

What is the benefit of meeting with other Aberdeen graduates?

By coming to one of my events you are sure to not only have a great night out but also get together with a group of your peers who are like-minded and are very happy to help you in your career, whether it be advice or guidance or just for a great time out!

How valuable was your time at University?

My time at Aberdeen has helped me considerably, not only within my career by coming from a highly reputable university but also culturally from learning and experiencing time in Scotland and broadening my life experience. It was a great place to learn and equally a great place to socialise!

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



University of Aberdeen opens international campus in Qatar

The University of Aberdeen has opened a campus in Qatar, making it the first UK University to have a dedicated campus in the Gulf State offering mainstream degrees. The multi-million pound facility in Doha is a partnership between the University and the Al-Faleh Group for Educational and Academic Services (AFG) that will initially offer business degrees to Qatari nationals and the country's expatriate community.

The University will initially offer two undergraduate courses - Business Management and Accountancy and Finance - which are expected to attract around 120 students in the 2017-18 academic year. Over the next four years the campus is expected to expand to include additional undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects.

[More >>](#)

University lends Pharaoh artefacts to major international exhibition

Almost 150 of the University of Aberdeen's internationally important collection of artefacts from ancient Egypt are on display in a major exhibition 'Pharaoh: living in ancient Egypt' at the Lokschuppen Exhibition Centre in Rosenheim, Germany, organised in conjunction with MuseumsPartner GmbH of Innsbruck and the Roemer- und Pelizaeus-Museum of Hildesheim. This is the largest loan of museum items in the University's history, and has already been visited by well over 100,000 people. Among the highlights are a 4,000 year-old wooden coffin of Nakht, the mummy of the lady Ta Cheru and a fine statue of the scribe Rahotep – all on loan from Aberdeen. There are also many fine items from German museums in Berlin, Hildesheim and Hamm.



The University of Aberdeen's collection of 6,000 Egyptian archaeology items is the largest collection in Scotland after that of National Museums Scotland. It spans all periods of Egyptian archaeology, from prehistoric flint tools and pre-Dynastic pottery through tomb assemblages and sculptures from Dynastic Egypt to Coptic textiles. The most important material was collected by Robert Wilson (1787-1871), who graduated in Medicine from Marischal College in 1805 and another Aberdeen doctor, James Grant (1840-1896), gained a high reputation in Cairo as a physician, where he had the title of 'Bey' conferred upon him by the Khedive of Egypt. Building on this collection, further material was acquired from the British School of Archaeology in Egypt, the Egypt Exploration Fund and the Deutsche Orient Gesellschaft.

"Such a large loan has taken much logistical planning and preparation, but has been a very successful operation with our German and Austrian partners. The exhibition has also been very valuable for the University, with the project paying for specialist conservation of a number of internationally important items in the collection", said Neil Curtis, the University's Head of Museums.

The exhibition is open until 17 December, with free entry to University alumni during its final few weeks. Museum staff are now working on developing a touring version of the exhibition, with plans already well advanced for display in Canada and the USA in the coming years.

Benefits and Opportunities



Alumni Benefit of the Month: Hardy's Chocolates

Hardy's Chocolates in Aberdeen is offering alumni a 10% discount off purchases from their chocolate cabinet.

Hardy's Chocolates offers a wide range of quality chocolate from across the UK and Europe for gifts for others or a treat for yourself. With over 40 flavours in the cabinet and boxes, bars, truffles and more, including no-added sugar and free-from selections, there really is something for everyone. Bespoke boxes, speciality and branded chocolates and wedding favours are also available.

Visit [Hardy's website](#) to find out more. To take advantage of this discount visit Hardy's store on Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen, and remember your [Alumni Privilege Card](#) to claim the discount.

GradConnection - a new way to find international opportunities



The Careers Service is delighted to offer you a new free resource for finding international job opportunities. GradConnection has details of current vacancies in a range of countries and with a particular focus on South East Asia, Australasia and the Middle East. You can create a profile on the system that will enable you to receive regular email updates of new opportunities. There are currently over 600 graduate jobs and internships advertised on GradConnection.

You can also register as an employer on GradConnection and post your own job adverts for free. Opportunities must be located in Southeast Asia, Australasia and the Middle East. All opportunities must also be paid.

To register to use GradConnection visit <http://abdn.campusgc.com>. If you have any questions please email careers@abdn.ac.uk.

Thank you to all our volunteers

Thanks to everyone who has given their time so generously to support current students and fellow alumni at the University. Your advice, experience and support is incredibly valued by all of us at Aberdeen.

So far you have volunteered your time to help us recruit new students, mentored current students guiding them with their career development and cultivated networks with fellow alumni by running chapters as well as organising informal gatherings around the world. Thank you!



We will be launching our official volunteer programme in the new year and we look forward to working with you again soon.

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

Society & Reunion News



Aberdeen University Forestry Society

Aberdeen University Forestry Society was established in 1919 and is thought to be the oldest continuously active alumni society in the University today. The high point of the Society calendar is the Forestry Society Annual Dinner held in Aberdeen in late February which attracts around 90-100 graduates. The Annual Dinner is a long established event with the first dinner taking place on November 15 1945 and it has taken place every year since. Interestingly, the President of the Society then was Mr Kenneth McKellar, the late well-known Scottish singer.

Sadly, the BSc and MSc Forestry degree programmes were closed in 2015, but the Society remains as strong as ever. As the Society moves towards its centenary year in 2019, a new committee has been established to take things forward. The first activity is organising the 2018 Annual Dinner to be held on Friday 23 February 2018 in the Hilton (Double Tree) Hotel, Aberdeen. On the afternoon of the dinner, the annual Borthwick-Steven Lecture will be held at the University. This lecture was established in 1995 to mark the quincentenary of the University of Aberdeen and has become a firm feature of the Forestry alumni calendar. In a little over a year's time, the Society will celebrate its centenary and a special celebration will be held to mark this event. If you would like further details about the Annual Dinner, or if you have lost touch with Aberdeen University Forestry Society, please email aufs.annual.dinner@gmail.com.

Medical class of 1982 reunion

The Medical class of 1982 celebrated their 35th anniversary of graduating at a reunion event in Aberdeen on the 23rd of September. 90 people, including 59 of their original class, attended a dinner at the Norwood Hall hotel, with some attendees travelling from New Zealand and Canada for the event.



Some party members spent the previous evening revisiting haunts in the city, including the Kirkgate Bar. The next day the group had organised a tour of the new Suttie Education Centre and Medical School, where they tried unsuccessfully to break things in the simulated ward environment. They satisfied their healthy living ambitions with an organised run and walk along the old railway, then spoiled it all with tea and biscuits back at the hotel. Some attendees hadn't been to any previous reunions and seemed to enjoy it all the more for that 35-year interlude. There is apparently a burning desire among all except perhaps the organisers to do it again very soon!

1977 Freshers of Johnston Hall reunion

A cross-discipline group of graduates returned to the University on October 27 and 28 to celebrate their 40th anniversary of meeting for the first time as residents of the University's Johnston Hall where they spent their first two years of student life living together. The group have kept in touch over the years and had a number of previous reunions, but this was the first time they had returned to the University as a group. 16 graduates attended with their partners, and in some cases their adult children, with people travelling from across the UK and in one case from Australia to be present!



The main event of the weekend was a dinner on the Saturday night at the Chester Hotel, but they also met up on the Friday night in the city, and on Saturday attended a tour of the University campus which included a visit to their old rooms in Johnston Halls to see where it all began!

Dental School alumni workshop

The University of Aberdeen Dental School are gauging interest in a proposed alumni workshop for Dentistry graduates to be held on Saturday 13 January at the Village Hotel, Kingswells. There is a provisional booking for a workshop/seminar during the day with lunch and refreshments provided and a dinner to follow to which partners of graduates would also be invited. The hotel are also offering reduced rates for rooms should anyone wish to stay overnight. Further details including speakers, learning outcomes and costs will be finalised upon confirmation of numbers.



Any dental graduates interested in attending the event are requested to [email Lorraine Middleton](#) or telephone 01224 555154.

If you are interested in organising a reunion please see our [reunions page](#) or [email us](#).

Supporter News



University welcomes 100 visitors to 'See Cancer'

On Thursday 14 September the University hosted a unique event which enabled attendees to see cancer under the microscope while learning about our plans to transform cancer research in Aberdeen. As well as finding out about the many different areas of our research at interactive stalls, visitors got the opportunity of lab tours and heard speeches from staff member Arlene Ray and volunteer fundraiser Naomi Robertson-Murray. Both ladies have survived a cancer diagnosis and spoke passionately about their experiences and about the vital need for a centre for cancer research based in Aberdeen.

[More >>](#)

2017 Ladies' Lunch raises over £7,400 for women's health research

Our annual Ladies' Lunch was held at The Marcliffe Hotel & Spa on Thursday 21 September and raised over £7,400 for the University's women's health research. Guests enjoyed a fascinating and informative talk from Professor Siladitya Bhattacharya, the University's Professor of Reproductive Medicine & Director of the Institute of Applied Health Sciences, as well as musical performances, great food and excellent company.



[More >>](#)

Gift in will provides fantastic opportunities for two students

A hugely generous gift in the will of alumna Major John Duthie has enabled the Dorothy Campbell Scholarship to be awarded to two PhD students. Amanda Berg, who completed her BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences here in June, and Helen Heaney, who received her undergraduate degree and an MSc Microbiology from the University, have both now embarked on exciting PhD projects. The Dorothy Campbell Scholarship supports postgraduate study in medicine or medical sciences and particularly encourages females to further their medical education.



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Event News

Medicine in Wartime: Aberdeen's medical innovators

11 November - 18th March, The Gallery, The Sir Duncan Rice Library

The paradox of medicine in wartime is that although it is conducted in the surgical theatre of war - an environment of devastation and death - it is in these abhorrent circumstances that advances in medical science can often take place.

This exhibition tells the stories of a small group of doctors, surgeons and nurses, associated with Aberdeen, who used medicine in wartime with courage and innovation. Their journals, letters, instruments and inventions from the Special Collections and Museum Collections at the University of Aberdeen evoke a period in military medical history that was challenging and ripe for change.



Read more about the exhibition [here](#).

BBC Singers

23 November 2017, 19:30 - 21:00, St. Machar's Cathedral

The BBC Singers hold a unique position in British musical life. Performing everything from Byrd to Birtwistle, Tallis to Takemitsu, their versatility is second to none.



The programme will show the singers at their best with a programme to include a world premiere of a piece by Dr Philip Cooke of the University of Aberdeen Music Department.

Click [here](#) for details and to book tickets.

Pride and Pudding - the History of British Puddings, Savoury and Sweet

29 November 2017, 17:30 - 19:30, The Sir Duncan Rice Library

Food photographer, food writer and designer Regula Ysewijn is the author of 'Pride and Pudding -The history of British Puddings Savoury and Sweet' and in this entertaining illustrated talk, will take you on a journey through the fascinating culinary past of Great Britain. A feast for the eyes as well the stomach!

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



London alumni St. Andrew's Day meet-up

30 November 2017, The Forge, London

London-based alumni are cordially invited to our St Andrew's Day drinks event for alumni, friends and supporters of the University of Aberdeen living in and around the capital. As with our first drinks night back in July, Aberdeen graduate Sam Singh will be hosting the evening at the Forge Bar. We had a great response last time from the people who attended and we anticipate an equally successful evening this time around!

If you'd like to join fellow Aberdeen graduates for a drink or two, please email us at alumni@abdn.ac.uk for more details and to register.



Aberdeen Connect

Aberdeen Connect is an umbrella for alumni activity in Aberdeen. We have a number of exciting events coming up in the next couple of months, including the [Winter Statutory Meeting](#), our [healthy lifestyle evening with FoodStory](#) and a family-friendly event which be a great opportunity to learn more about the innovative research happening at the [MRC Centre for Medical Mycology](#). For more information and our full list of events, please visit the [events page](#) on the Alumni Relations website.



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