

1495



UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN

In this issue:

Jamie's journey from law to laughs

Giving potential the chance to shine

Getting by with a little help
from their friends

Alice aims for Olympic
Wonderland

The Birdman of Aberdeen



VOICE

CONVERSATION AND NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

SUMMER 2019



A word from the Principal

Welcome to the 2019 edition of Voice magazine.

Having just celebrated our summer graduations, I have had the chance to reflect on the privilege of confirming the award of degrees on our students, who now count themselves part of our worldwide alumni community.

As an Aberdeen graduate myself, it is especially poignant to be able to 'doff' each student as they come across the stage and congratulate them on their achievement.

It has been almost a year since I arrived back in Aberdeen, and in that time we have achieved much as a University, not least our success in being named Scottish University of the Year 2019 by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide.

While we can celebrate our current successes, we must also build for the future. Our ambitious plans for growth are underlined by our recent investment in 50 extra academic posts, as well as a £100m investment in our infrastructure in Old Aberdeen, including our new Science Teaching Hub where work has already started.

These plans reflect our commitment to provide every student with a world-class learning experience, ensuring that we continue to produce graduates who emerge ready to make a real impact on the world.

Our alumni community continue to be a source of immense pride for the University, and we value your continued support locally, nationally and internationally. Follow our social media channels where a new campaign is celebrating the achievements of graduates in a range of occupations.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this latest edition of Voice magazine featuring stories of student, staff and alumni success, along with news of our efforts to promote access to higher education in line with our founding principle that the University is 'open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others.'

Bishop Elphinstone's vision has served us well since 1495, and continues to be a source of inspiration as we look forward to celebrating our 525th anniversary next year.

Professor George Boyne
Principal and Vice-Chancellor



Front cover image courtesy of Getty Images:
Sheryl Crow performs with the University of Aberdeen
Chapel Choir at the Unicef Snowflake Ball

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Jamie's journey from law to laughs

From high-flying corporate banker to acclaimed comedian, it's fair to say that Jamie MacDonald's career has developed in ways he could never have predicted as a law student in Aberdeen.

Now hailed as 'Britain's premier blind comedian' with a string of sell-out performances, Jamie's latest show 'Designated Driver' started its Scottish tour earlier this year, taking his unique brand of uproariously funny storytelling across the country.

It's all a long way off from his graduation with an LLB back in 2006, when a career in comedy was a distant prospect.

"When I left Aberdeen I headed to London for a job in corporate banking," he explains.

"While I was there I dabbled in some open-mic stuff at the Comedy Café in Shoreditch and loved it, but I never considered it as a career until I lost my job because of the financial crash. I'm one of the few people glad that happened, because I could never have justified quitting a well-paid job to become a comedian."

Overcoming adversity has been a feature of Jamie's life from a young age, when he was diagnosed with the degenerative eye condition Retinitis Pigmentosa.

This became aggressive in his mid-to-late teens, but failed to prevent him gaining a degree in Ancient History from St Andrews University before coming to Aberdeen to study the LLB.

"I had a cracking time in Aberdeen, and stayed very close to the Machar Bar, which was handy – maybe too handy!

"I realised fairly early that I probably wouldn't end up practicing law, but the legacy skills have been invaluable. Some comedians like to ad-lib but I'm more structured, so the analytical skills and ability to hone material that I developed have helped massively."

Jamie's first foray into his new career began in 2013, when he won a slot at the Edinburgh Festival Free Fringe, performing from midnight at a pub in the Royal Mile. His show - 'That Funny Blind Guy' - was a hit, but he still had work to do.

"Even though my shows were well reviewed, I had to earn my stripes on the 'circuit' before I got paid to perform at professional nights and booked to support headline acts. You have to do that before you can really count yourself as a comedian."

Before long he had refined his act, with his observations on the absurdities of everyday life attracting critical acclaim. With a string of tours under his belt he now has a loyal following, but he still admits to some trepidation when taking to the stage.

"At the start of your career you can feel crushed when you have a bad gig and even now it can be terrifying.

"What you always want is roaring laughter and applause, and when that doesn't happen you realise you have to work a bit harder. But sometimes you get audiences that you can't gauge at all, only to find out right at the end of the gig that they loved it. That's always a massive relief!"

[@funnyblindguy](https://twitter.com/funnyblindguy)

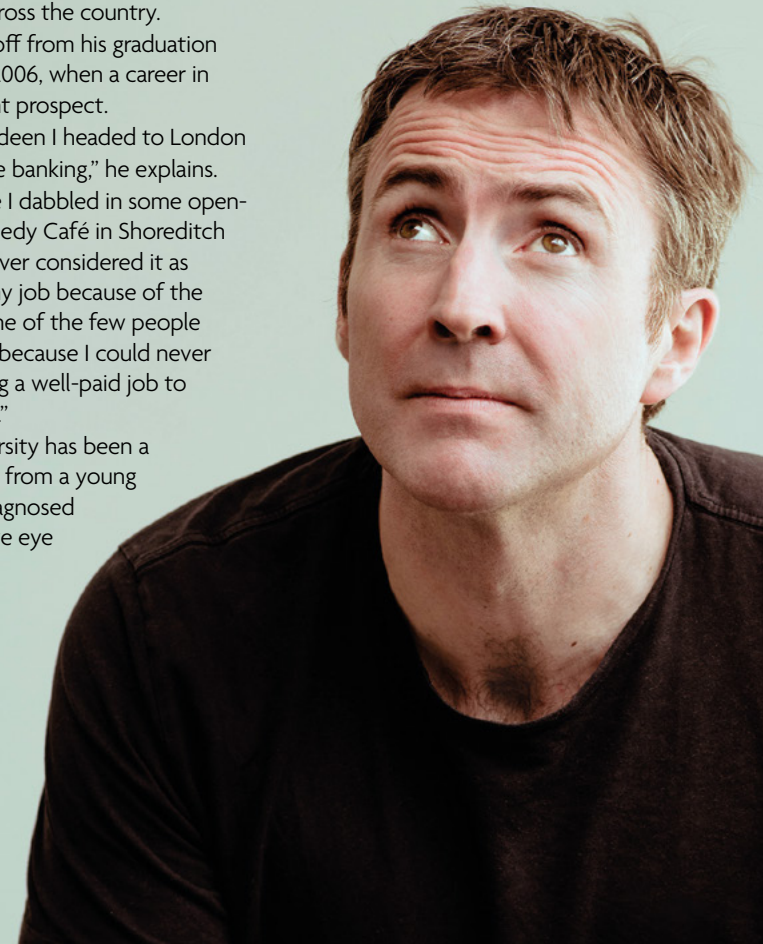


Image courtesy of Jamie MacDonald



Some comedians like to ad-lib but I'm more structured, so the analytical skills and ability to hone material that I developed at university have helped massively

GIVING POTENTIAL THE CHANCE TO SHINE

The University hit the headlines last year with its pledge to double the number of students it recruits from disadvantaged backgrounds. But this is just one example from a host of initiatives that aim to ensure a University of Aberdeen education is open to all. We spoke to three people whose experiences are testament to the opportunities created by the University's work to widen access to higher education.

James Short Making the jump from college to university was so challenging for James Short that he decided to help others in the same position. James, who graduated with a MEng in Electrical and Electronic Engineering last year, helped set up the University's Engineering Summer School, a free programme to prepare college graduates for university life.

James entered the 2nd year of his degree programme having easily passed an engineering HND. However, the realities of higher education soon hit home.

"The transition was very challenging in many ways, and not just the coursework.

"At college you might have one or two lecturers, with the same group of classmates, with classes blocked together over two or three days.

"At university you've got tutorials, lectures, labs – when I first printed off my timetable I had classes nine to five, Monday to Friday.

"Not only was the structure massively different but there is a huge jump in the academic level – in mathematics especially. It was scary stuff, and I simply wasn't prepared for it."

Getting to know his new classmates, it was apparent there were others in the same position, which led to discussions with Sally Middleton, the University's Higher Education Progression Routes Manager, about what could be done to help.

"Sally and I started talking about the possibility of putting on a summer school, but we had to make a case for it.

"We had two years of grades-based data on people who went straight into 3rd year of an engineering degree from an HND course, and it was clear that although they were coming out of college with really good grades they were really struggling, especially with maths. "I knew this already from my own experience but the data made it clear."

Having demonstrated the potential benefits, the Engineering Summer School launched in 2016.

With free accommodation at halls of residence provided, students spend two weeks on campus immersed in university life, taking part in lectures and seminars, and developing key skills that will help them hit the ground running.

"Straight away it was a huge success – the vast majority of the people who did it in the first year are thriving now."

Now training to be a college lecturer, James is proud of his role in setting up the summer school, which helped set him on his current career path.

"The idea of teaching was always in my head, but it's only because of my own experiences that I decided I wanted to be a lecturer," he said. "I get a real joy out of helping people, especially those going through the same challenges as I once did."

Marta Lopes Going the extra mile to achieve her ambitions has been a hallmark of Marta Lopes' learning journey, starting in school when she had to travel elsewhere to study towards her Highers.

A shortage of teachers meant she had to go to other schools in Aberdeen for classes, surrendering free time that most pupils take for granted.

A recent MA Psychology graduate, Marta came to university after receiving a contextualised offer that required her to pass a six-week summer school programme that mimics first year. For Marta, putting in the extra effort once again paid dividends.

"The summer school made the critical difference because I fell short by just one grade in my exams," she explained.

An advocate for greater information sharing on widening access initiatives, Marta has accompanied Principal George Boyne on visits to local schools, speaking with pupils and teachers about the options open to them.

"It's important that teachers and pupils know that getting to university isn't just about grades, even though that is important.

"For many pupils there are things outside their control that can negatively impact on their performance at school. They need to know that these issues are taken into account and that applications are viewed as a whole."

Seb Siegrist Living alone after failing his Higher exams and unsure of what direction he should take, Seb Siegrist lost all confidence that he would ever fulfil his ambition of becoming a doctor.

In foster care since the age of 14, Seb had struggled through his teenage years, a consequence of a difficult upbringing where money was scarce. But a love of science, and for helping people, led him to the University's Gateway2Medicine pre-medical studies course, and a path to a brighter future.



Seb Siegrist

"I wanted to be a doctor from a young age but then I hit a barrier, apathy set in and I failed my Highers," he explained. "I thought that was it for me.

"I studied applied sciences at college and through that I discovered there was a chance to get into the pre-med course. I worked hard on my application and interview, and when I was accepted it was such a big deal."

As a medical student, Seb is among the first scholars to benefit from a £270,000 donation from The Cormack Family Foundation, set up by Aberdonian businessman Dave Cormack to help medical and business students from widening access backgrounds.

"The support I receive through the scholarship makes a huge difference. I've no parental help, but I'm lucky that along the way I've had tutors and people supporting me.

"My ambition is to work in acute medicine – when I was struggling, getting into medical school was the most difficult thing I could imagine. Acute medicine is the most difficult thing I can imagine doing now."

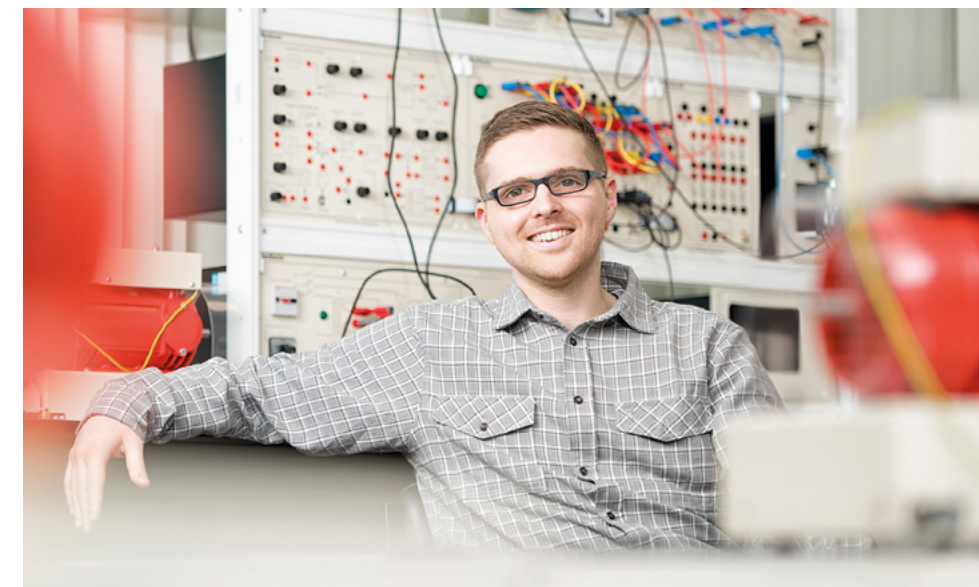
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My ambition is to work in acute medicine – when I was struggling, getting into medical school was the most difficult thing I could imagine

SEB SIEGRIST



Marta Lopes



James Short

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING OUR WIDENING PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME FOR STUDENTS

Contact: Lisa Chilton, Fundraising Manager, University of Aberdeen Development Trust
Email: giving@abdn.ac.uk Phone: +44(0)1224 272281 Visit: www.abdn.ac.uk/giving



Edward Stevenson MBE takes part in the procession making its way to Elphinstone Hall



HRH the Duchess of Rothesay speaking to researchers at the Foresterhill health campus



A piper leads the procession through King's College campus to the installation ceremony at Elphinstone Hall



Children from the University's Rocking Horse Nursery present flowers to HRH the Duchess of Rothesay



The University's Chapel Choir perform at the ceremony, with musical arrangements by the University's Royal Composer, Professor Paul Mealor



Principal and Vice-Chancellor George Boyne (far left) with HRH the Duchess of Rothesay and Edward Stevenson MBE



Principal and Vice-Chancellor George Boyne with HRH the Duchess of Rothesay following Professor Boyne's installation

HRH THE DUCHESS OF ROTHESAY INSTALLS GEORGE BOYNE AS PRINCIPAL

The year got off to an auspicious start at the University of Aberdeen as Professor George Boyne was officially installed as Principal and Vice-Chancellor by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Rothesay.

At a ceremony in Elphinstone Hall, Professor Boyne acknowledged the achievements of his 48 predecessors and spoke of the pride he felt as an Aberdonian schooled in nearby King Street.

Around 500 guests heard of his ambitions for the institution, based around Bishop Elphinstone's 1495 vision 'to found a University that is open to all, and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others'.

The ceremony also saw Her Royal Highness – who is Chancellor of the University – confer an honorary degree upon Edward Stevenson MBE who worked in the University's biomedical physics department for 42 years and supported the pioneering team that created the world's first clinical MRI scanner.

Aberdeen initiative Food and Fun – set up to provide free meals during the school holidays for children most in need – was recognised with the University's inaugural Principal's Award for Outstanding Service to the Community.

Afterwards, Her Royal Highness met and spoke with guests before heading to the University's health campus at Foresterhill to meet students and researchers from the Aberdeen Centre for Women's Health, and the Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health.

She was also given an insight into the work that earned the University the Queen's Anniversary Prize – the highest national honour for a UK university – in recognition of its world-leading health services research over the last 40 years.



The founding partners of Food and Fun were presented with the first Principal's Award for Outstanding Service to the Community

Skiing, Sudoku, and a story that went around the world

What do skiing and Sudoku have in common? Apart from being notoriously tricky for beginners, the two pursuits are now linked by an analogy used by scientists to explain a landmark study that has overturned conventional wisdom regarding the benefits of problem-solving in preventing mental decline.

For decades, it was widely accepted that keeping your brain active with hobbies like brain training, crossword puzzles and Sudoku were key to preventing mental decline in later life.

However, a study led by Roger Staff, Honorary Lecturer at the University of Aberdeen and Head of Nuclear Imaging for NHS Grampian, found that regularly engaging in problem-solving activities does not prevent mental decline as we age.

Not that we should throw away the chessboard just yet. As with all the best puzzles, it's not quite as black and white as it seems – and that's where skiing comes in, as Roger explains.

"The analogy we use – the skiing analogy – is that these types of endeavours, like crosswords and brain training take you further up the 'cognitive mountain'.

"When you go down the slope in later life, the slope will be the same, but if you have developed cognitive resilience throughout your life, you just start from a point higher up the mountain."

When published in the British Medical Journal, Roger's study became national and international news, but the roots of his research lie very close to home. While previous studies had suggested that a range of activities could help reduce the risk of dementia, a lack of data regarding mental ability in childhood created an incomplete picture.

Luckily, researchers at Aberdeen have access to the Aberdeen Birth Cohorts, described by Roger as a "gold mine" of data which allowed his team to examine the association between intellectual engagement at an early age and mental ability in later life.

"The Birth Cohort has been collecting data on babies born in Aberdeen in 1921, 1936 and throughout the 1950s," he explained.

"This means we can use it to try to answer all manner of questions about ageing and development. In this case we used it to find if encouraging older adults to participate in brain training exercises would help prevent decline.

"Our results suggest that these types of intervention are of little value, but as our skiing analogy makes clear there is still value in being mentally engaged over a lifetime."

Originally from London, Roger came to Aberdeen via the University of East Anglia in 1988, and was initially only meant to stay in the Granite City for six months. However, working under the pioneers who created the world's first MRI scanner was too good an opportunity to pass up, and his stay became permanent.

"I came to Aberdeen to work with pioneers like Professors Sharp, Gemmell and Mallard. As Professor Mallard once said, 'you can conquer the world from Aberdeen', so why would I leave!"

“

Endeavours, like crosswords and brain training take you further up the 'cognitive mountain'”



Getting by with a little help from their friends

"They say that university opens up a new world of opportunities but never in my wildest dreams did I think it would lead to something like this."



Peter MacPherson and the University Chapel Choir performing at the UNICEF Snowflake Ball (Images courtesy of Getty Images)

Reflecting on his experience of performing solo to a star-studded audience in New York, music student Peter MacPherson is still pinching himself – and with good reason, not least because of an endorsement from a bona fide pop legend. Peter is one of 35 members of the University's renowned Chapel Choir, led by acclaimed royal composer and Professor of Composition Paul Mealor, who travelled to the Big Apple in November to perform at the UNICEF Snowflake Ball.

The Ball is renowned as one of the world's largest charity galas, and an invitation to perform at the event does not come easy. In recent years the Choir has cemented its reputation with a string of high-profile performances at home and abroad, including at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the BBC Proms.

This prompted the invitation to join world-famous singer Sheryl Crow to perform a Beatles medley in honour of Sir Ringo Starr, who was receiving the George Harrison Humanitarian Award for his charitable work.

"It was quite unbelievable," said Peter. "Sir Ringo Starr was at the table closest to the stage and I had to try so hard not to look at him during the performance to keep my concentration.

"When we finished he stood up and said 'that was awesome'. "To receive comments like that from a Beatle when you've just sung one of their songs is mind-blowing, and something I will hold with me for the rest of my life. I also got to sing a George Harrison song, My Sweet Lord, to his widow which was very moving."

The Choir's visit to New York was made possible by the support of the University's alumni and donors, which Peter said made it all the more important that they put in the performance of a lifetime.

"I was the only one to perform without music which made me a bit anxious, but the Choir were all amazing. We are a close-knit group – we always start every rehearsal with a group hug – but in New York that really shone through. Being asked to sing the solos was a great honour but I also felt huge pressure and a responsibility to ensure that I did the Choir and the University proud.

"To have an opportunity to experience something like this really is the chance of a lifetime, and to be able to share the experience with a group of your friends is something that none of us will ever forget."

Choir Manager Pavlina Skodova, who is studying towards an MSc in Strategic Studies and International Law, said the trip helped her feel connected to those who have gone through the University experience before her.

"Today's Chapel Choir members are the successors to the University's first choir appointed in 1495, and it's a huge privilege to be a part of this wonderful heritage, and to represent the University internationally.

"It was an honour to perform at the Snowflake Ball and at other exceptional venues during our trip to New York, including the British Consulate and the Cathedral of St John the Divine.

"I am extremely grateful to our benefactors and to the University for this once in a lifetime opportunity. These are memories I will cherish forever."

Peter added that the welcome the Choir enjoyed in New York showed him just how far the support for the University stretches.

"Opportunities like this only exist because people remember their time at University, and the connections they made here," he said. "We are all so thankful that our alumni and donor community give back to help us achieve our dreams."



Alice aims for Olympic Wonderland



“

It's a full training regime but I'm supported all the way by the University's Sport and Exercise Team

“Psychology is one of the most important things about swimming – you think it's only about strength and power – yes it's about that, but how you use your mind is just as important.”

Alice Alcaras should know – as a psychology student and member of University of Aberdeen Performance Swimming (UOAPS) she knows how mental strength can pay dividends in the pool.

With ambitions for a career in sports psychology, Alice is one of several students benefiting through the University's Sports Bursary Scheme, funded by the University's Development Trust through fundraising, the support of business, and alumni.

Growing up in Genoa on Italy's Ligurian coast, Alice has been swimming for as long as she can remember. Moving with her family to Aberdeen five years ago, she quickly became involved in the north-east's club swimming circuit, which has produced talents such as Robbie Renwick, David Carry and Hannah Miley. Alice now trains alongside Hannah, whose father Patrick Miley – the University's

High Performance Swimming Coach – puts the UOAPS squad through their paces each week at Aberdeen Sports Village's Aquatics Centre. “The training I do in the pool is about technique, not just about going fast,” Alice explains.

“I also do strength and conditioning work in the gym – I'm lucky that my bursary covers gym membership including coaching and physio support, as well as yoga and pilates. It's a full training regime but I'm supported all the way by the University's Sport and Exercise Team.”

Alice's involvement with the UOAPS high-performance squad comes at an exciting time in the programme's development, with a £420,000 investment in an underwater camera system enabling coaches and swimmers to view their technique from every angle.

Funded through a donation to the Development Trust from Saltire Energy, with support from sportscotland, Aberdeen Sports Village, Aberdeen City Council, Scottish Swimming and the University, the system is helping Alice and others identify marginal gains that can help them make the leap to elite level.

For Alice, this investment comes at a crucial time as she competes for qualification to this year's British Summer Championships, taking place across six days in Glasgow.

“I got a medal at the Championships two years ago as part of our relay team, but I'd love to get one in my own right.

“In the future my ambition is to go to the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics. That means I would have to choose between Italy and Scotland, but I already know I'm going to choose Scotland!”

In the meantime Alice's main goal is to complete her degree. Now moving into second year, the demands of training mean that she is often in the pool before her classmates are out of their beds.

“I do eight sessions a week of swimming, each lasting two hours, as well as time in the gym,” she explains. “On my busiest days I'm up at 5am and in the pool for a couple of hours, then on to the gym for an hour before uni starts. Those are the days I've been careful to keep classes to a minimum!”

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE AND HELP SPORTS BURSARS ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

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£100m campus plans for University in Qatar

Artist's impressions of Qatar campus



University Principal George Boyne has hailed plans for the development of a new campus in Qatar as a “milestone” for the University.

Professor Boyne attended the official launch of the development of the campus earlier this year, along with Her Excellency Dr Sheikha Aisha bint Faleh Al Thani, Chairperson and Founder of the Al Faleh Group (AFG) for Education and Academic Services.

The new campus in Al Daayan, near Doha, represents an anticipated £100m investment by AFG marking the second phase of its partnership with the University. The first campus opened in Doha in 2017, providing business-related degrees. Around 80 students are expected to graduate when the first ceremony takes place in Qatar in November.

At 50,000 square metres, the Al Daayan campus will provide space to expand the range of programmes offered by the University.

Welcoming the plans, Professor Boyne said: “Throughout its long history the University has taken pride in being open to the world, and our campus in Qatar is testament to our international outlook, which has seen the University export its expertise in teaching and research to new areas and is assisting

Qatar in its plans to deliver the highest quality education to its citizens.

“Since its launch over 400 students have enrolled at our Doha campus to study our renowned range of business programmes.

“The next phase of the collaboration is a significant moment in our partnership with AFG and will open up exciting opportunities to expand our range of degrees. I look forward to continuing our excellent work together as we create a world-class campus that establishes the University as a leader in transnational education.”

In addition to these plans, the University's focus on delivering education in other parts of the world has led to a new initiative, providing a route for aspiring doctors from Sri Lanka and elsewhere overseas to study medicine in Aberdeen and Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lanka Medical Pathway will see students spend three years studying in Scotland and the final clinical years working in hospitals and other clinical settings in Sri Lanka, supported by University staff.

Professor Rona Patey, Deputy Head of the University's School of Medicine and Medical Sciences, said: “This new pathway to gain the University of Aberdeen MBChB degree is a unique opportunity for international students to gain experience learning in two healthcare systems and gain a high quality medical degree that is recognised around the world.”





START ME UP!

“

...it's the relationship we have with R&I and the University that enables us to do the important things that add value for the business on a day-to-day basis

From completing his PhD project to pitching his business to royalty at St James's Palace, Rotimi Alabi's entrepreneurial journey is one that would make even a dragon sit up and take notice.

Picking up tips from Peter Jones of BBC's *Dragons' Den* during the Duke of York's Pitch at the Palace competition signalled how far Alabi has taken RAB-Microfluidics, formed with support from the University's Research and Innovation (R&I) team.

The start-up offers oil analysis through 'lab-on-a-chip' technology, allowing mobile online oil measurements to dramatically cut equipment maintenance costs.

The business has already won several prizes and significant funding, and now Alabi is on the verge of taking his product to market.

Speaking at the University's ABVenture Zone business incubator, which along with RAB-Microfluidics is home to several start-ups, he explains the next steps in his journey.

"In the months ahead we are working to get the technology to the field-testing stage, and we are in discussions with major international companies to make that happen.

"We are aiming to get to the point where we can prove that we are able to automate analysis in the field.

"We have nine companies lined up for pilot testing, which will involve testing the automated device to understand how it works with different types of machinery.

"All of this activity is scheduled to take us into 2020, which is when we intend to commercialise the product."

Taking RAB-Microfluidics this far is testament to Alabi's determination to make the most of the results of his PhD project, which he completed at the School of Geosciences.

"We started this business on zero," he explains. "I had a credit card that financed some of the day-to-day things, but we were surviving by haggling and the sheer goodwill of other people. It's amazing how inventive you can be when you don't have money, but you still need to get things done, and the University has been instrumental in helping us do that."

From Prince Andrew and Prince William to Nicola Sturgeon and Peter Jones, Alabi has met a host of famous faces while picking up several high-profile entrepreneurship awards over the past few years.

A large part of RAB-Microfluidics' success, he says, is driven by a support network focused on innovation that has provided the business with a gateway to opportunity.

"It's nice to be recognised with awards and to meet famous people, but it's the relationship we have with R&I and the University that enables us to do the important things that add value for the business on a day-to-day basis," he explained.

"Not only do we have space here in the ABVenture Zone to work from, we also have access to laboratories that allow us to develop our product.

"We are very fortunate that in Aberdeen we are operating in an eco-system that helps small businesses grow. The University plays a key role in that, along with other organisations in the city.

"If you are an entrepreneur who is willing to put in the hard work required to grow your business then you can really get off the ground here."

Spikkin *about* SCOTS

"Ye may gang faur and fare waur" – a familiar saying to anyone who's made the road trip north to Aberdeen via the A90, where it stands out as a bold proclamation encouraging travellers to sample the fare at a roadside restaurant.

Translating as 'you may go further and do a lot worse', the sign welcomes many newcomers to the north-east of Scotland with their first experience of Doric – the dialect that has helped give the region its distinct character.

The dialect, history and culture of the area can now be explored as part of an online course offered by the University through its new suite of on-demand learning courses.

North-East Scotland: History, Landscape, Culture and Economy is a flexible short course that counts towards a Scottish Tourist Guides Association (STGA) Green Badge – a recognised qualification for anyone who wants to work as a tour guide in the region.

The Scots language element of the course has been developed by Alistair Heather from the University's Elphinstone Institute.

He explained: "The Scots language unit looks at the arrival of Scots in the form of a Germanic language, into the north-east as part of an anti-Gaelic plantation and the eventual emergence in the 1300s of a distinct Scottish Germanic language variety that would become known as 'Scots'.

"Some linguists suggest that the uniqueness of the north-east dialect comes from the long period of bilingualism between Scots and Gaelic that occurred in the region.

"In other parts of Scotland Germanic varieties replaced Gaelic fairly quickly.



"Many common Gaelic words were absorbed into Scots, such as 'Glen', 'Strath' and 'Loch', for steep and gentle valleys and lakes. In the north-east however, both Gaelic and Scots were spoken as indigenous languages for at least eight centuries. Doric has therefore been enriched by having even more Gaelic loanwords than other dialects."

The inclusion of Scots in the course is indicative of a revival in the language that has seen the creation of a North-East Scots Language Board aiming to make it more visible in everyday life.

The University is also leading a project to examine whether learning in Scots can help pupils excel across the curriculum.

Researchers have partnered with Banff Academy to consider if studying towards the Scots Language Award – a national qualification which provides opportunities for learners to study the history and development of the Scots language – has a beneficial effect on attainment. Meanwhile, Robert McColl Millar, a Professor in Linguistics and Scottish Language at the University, is leading the first linguistic survey of Scots since the 1950s to assess how it has changed and how it might be preserved.

Describing Scots as a language that has been "brought in from the cold" Alistair said that it was important to capitalise on its new-found popularity.

"It is difficult to ascribe single reasons to social phenomena, but part of the newfound comfort with a language that was once much derided must be attributable to the wider Scottish trend for self-investigation and cultural renewal. Wherever the recent boost has come from, it is vital that we maximise its impact."

For further details visit on.abdn.ac.uk/culture

“

Some linguists suggest that the uniqueness of the north-east dialect comes from the long period of bilingualism between Scots and Gaelic that occurred in the region

The collective power of giving

The collective power of the support we receive from alumni and donors around the world has an astounding impact on so many individuals, projects, medical research programmes and, of course, on our students through scholarships and student experiences.

Our alumni from all around the world engage with the University in a range of different ways, including volunteering, career mentoring and guest-lecturing. Many choose to give back to their university by donating and every year the Development Trust receives considerable cumulative support from those who give on a regular basis. This also includes donors who are not alumni but who appreciate the fantastic opportunities available in so many different areas, including medical research, student support and support of the arts and humanities. Many of these donors have been giving since the inception of our Regular Giving Programme (previously known as the Alumni Annual Fund).

Widening participation is a key priority for the University as we strive to harness the talent and potential of young people who are considering higher education but deem it unachievable without the financial support of scholarships.

The impact that a scholarship can have on a student can be truly life-changing. Many alumni around the world will have experienced first-hand just how much a scholarship can benefit them as an individual by providing support throughout their studies and enhancing their whole university experience.

Regular givers are absolutely key to this and over the years have enabled many young people to achieve their dream of graduating from Aberdeen having benefited from the academic and extracurricular university experience we provide. As well as giving regularly, some of our donors choose to give to the Regular Giving Programme with a gift in their will, leaving a further legacy to support scholarships and the student experience for future students.

An extensive range of other valuable projects, some of which would not be available without regular givers, include vital support services such as the Niteline confidential listening service and the Transition Programme for students with autism, the Gaudie student newspaper, student experience projects, course-specific field trips, conferences and research grants, student societies and clubs and bursaries for elite sportsmen and women through the Sports Bursar Scheme.

Support from regular givers for these services and experiences greatly adds value to university life. This ensures that students receive not only the best education but opportunities which enhance their studies and learning experiences. This helps them to develop the broadest range of transferable skills, far beyond those which relate only to their chosen academic discipline, setting them up for life and enabling them to go anywhere.

THE ELPHINSTONE REVIEW “The Elphinstone Review is a student-led undergraduate research journal which provides students with first-hand research experience and the opportunity for an editing board to work on and produce an original academic journal. It offers undergraduate students the opportunity to see their own essays in print, encouraging academic development and providing invaluable experience for anyone considering a career in academia, editing, or writing.



Without the funding the journal would simply have been unable to run this year

ALEX CALDER



The Elphinstone Review

“Similarly, our editorial board was comprised of both undergraduate and postgraduate students who had the opportunity to get involved and gain experience in editing, while also developing their team working, time management, organisation, and analytical skills. Without the funding the journal would simply have been unable to run this year.”

ALEX CALDER, ENGLISH STUDENT

AU TAEKWON-DO CLUB “Funding enabled 11 students from the AU Taekwon-Do Club to attend a summer training camp in Moffat. We trained formally for seven hours a day alongside 30 other students from other universities both indoors and outdoors. We covered many aspects including application of techniques, patterns, sparring, team building and much more. All the students were delighted that they had been able to attend and felt that it was a motivational and inspirational way to train. It was clear that the funding was hugely beneficial in encouraging them to attend for the first time.”

LUCY TRUONG, PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT



AU Taekwon-Do Club



Euan Carter

THE ANTIBIOTIC GUARDIAN CONFERENCE & AWARDS

This event, hosted by Public Health England, saw undergraduate medical student Euan Carter shortlisted in the Student of the Year category for his work on various public engagement projects on the topic of antibiotic resistance. Funding enabled Euan to represent the University and present his poster at the conference as well as attend the awards ceremony. He won the Highly Commended Award in the Student of the Year category and met with Professor Dame Sally Davies whose book inspired him to choose his field.

“I got to meet some great people in the field, including Prof Dame Sally Davies which was special to me as her book was what first got me interested in the area. In the end I won an award, and got to go up on stage to receive it which was a lovely bonus.”

EUAN CARTER, MEDICAL STUDENT

THE MITCHELL BARCLAY TROPHY FOR ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR



The 1955/56 team with Mitchell Barclay in the back row, 2nd from the right

A new Footballer of the Year trophy established in memory of an Aberdeen alumnus has been awarded for the first time to Exercise & Health Science student Ross Clark.

The trophy has been generously donated by the family of Mitchell Barclay, a 1958 BSc Eng graduate who was a keen footballer during his time as a student.

Mitchell Barclay came from Fraserburgh, and through his career working in the nuclear power industry, worked in several UK locations before settling in Ayrshire.

His wife and daughter visited the University recently and were delighted to attend the game in which the University team featuring Ross won their league, becoming Scottish BUCS 2A champions by pipping Strathclyde University.

They went on to complete a memorable double by winning the Scottish Student Sport Conference Cup, with Strathclyde again losing out.



This year's double-winning Men's Firsts with Ross Clark kneeling, 3rd from the right

The team manager Dan McKendrick describes Ross as “an exceptional talent” and one that had been recognised through his selection for Scotland in the University Home Nations tournament. The Barclay family agreed that he was a worthy first winner of the new trophy.

Please stay in touch...

Forming a life-long relationship with our graduates and providing them with the opportunity to give back is vitally important to the Development Trust and contributes greatly to the ongoing success of the University.

To make sure we can continue to update you about the successes you are enabling, please make sure we have your consent to contact you by email at giving@abdn.ac.uk or visit www.abdn.ac.uk/stayintouch.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE DIFFERENT WAYS YOU CAN DONATE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Contact: Liz Bowie, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, University of Aberdeen
Email: giving@abdn.ac.uk Phone: +44(0)1224 272281 Visit: www.abdn.ac.uk/giving

MENDING MINDS

For Reem Masri, the lure of ‘coming home’ paved the way for her return to Aberdeen and would become the first step in a career supporting the psychological needs of children living with the effects of violence and conflict.

Born and bred in the north-east, Reem was 12 when her father received a job opportunity in the Gulf region, and so the family moved and settled there. But when it came to applying to universities, Aberdeen was at the top of her list.

“I was ecstatic when the acceptance letter landed on the doormat,” she said. “Going back to my hometown to study had always been at the top of my agenda. It wasn’t just the beautiful, historic campus that made the desire to be a University of Aberdeen student so strong, but also because it is one of the top universities at which to study psychology.”

After graduating with a BSc in Neuroscience with Psychology, and then undertaking a Masters in Psychology, Reem was working at a private clinic when a job opportunity in Lebanon with War Child Holland came up.

War Child Holland is an international non-governmental organisation that works to improve the resilience and wellbeing of children living with violence and conflict.

“I was accepted for the position and then given the opportunity to work as a Child Protection Officer. War Child Holland work with children affected by living with conflict, who have been abused, used for child labour or are at risk of being forced into early marriage. The role was challenging, and the situations of many of the children are so bleak, it was an extremely draining position to be in.”

Reem felt that while she was still passionate about working for War Child Holland, there might be another role that would allow her to capitalise more on her knowledge and skills, and she successfully applied for a Psycho-Social Support Trainer role within the organisation.



“The role of a Psycho-Social Support Trainer is to equip people with the knowledge and skills needed to support those in need.

“The knowledge I gained at the University through my BSc Neuroscience with Psychology is hugely relevant to my line of work, but more than that, the style of teaching and the practical skills I amassed gave me the skills needed to be the best I can be at my job.

“Working on group projects, presenting to peers and even the discipline needed for writing up reports are all so important once you are out in the ‘real world’.

“I absolutely love my job – it allows me to use my qualifications for a cause that is extremely important to me.

“It is very rewarding to be in a position where I can help others develop the skills they need to carry out such vital work. My day is usually spent not in an office, but out in the community delivering coaching and training.”

“

The knowledge I gained at the University through my BSc Neuroscience with Psychology is hugely relevant to my line of work, but more than that, the style of teaching and the practical skills I amassed gave me the skills needed to be the best I can be at my job

Looking ahead, Reem has a clear idea of what the future will hold, encompassing two of her passions – studying and working with children.

“I would really love to continue my studies and have ambitions of completing a degree in clinical psychology – as well as opening a youth centre. For me, helping others is a gift, and I am privileged that I am able to do this as a career.”

Honorary Graduates Summer 2019



Ronnie Watt OBE

A lifetime commitment to Shotokan Karate saw Aberdonian Ronnie Watt awarded the honorary degree of Master of the University. The President of the National Karate Institute Scotland holds the title 9th Dan Hanshi ‘master of masters’ – the highest award bestowed by the International Karate Do Shihankai.

In a 55-year career as an instructor he has trained over 20,000 students and in 1994 he established the Order of the Scottish Samurai, which recognises qualities of respect, excellence and character. He was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun on behalf of the Emperor of Japan in recognition of his work to strengthen links between the two countries.

Speaking after his honorary degree ceremony, Ronnie said: “Being adopted into such a wonderful university is one of the highlights of my life. My message to graduates is keep heading forward and seek perfection of character, refrain from violent behaviour, endeavour, respect others, be faithful – and make sure you win!”



Professor Dame Sue Black DBE

As a distinguished anatomist and forensic anthropologist, Professor Dame Sue Black is renowned for her professionalism and compassion when dealing with the darkest of human situations in life and death.

An Aberdeen graduate, she received the degree of Doctor of Science in recognition of a career that has taken her to conflict and disaster zones worldwide. Appointed the lead forensic anthropologist for the UK response to war crimes in Kosovo, she has also served in Sierra Leone, Grenada, Iraq and Thailand after the Asian Tsunami. She has been awarded an OBE and DBE for services to education and forensic anthropology.

In her graduation speech, Dame Sue encouraged fellow graduates to “lead by example” and be kind to themselves and others. “You only have one life and I know that better than most,” she said. “You have to live every single day of your life as if it matters. Find your passion, make it your job and it will never feel like you are working.”



Sir Tony Robinson

A longstanding contribution to the creative arts, along with his role in popularising archaeology and history, saw Sir Tony Robinson awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters this summer.

Renowned for his many books, and his work in film and television – including his portrayal of Baldrick in Blackadder and his work with Time Team – Sir Tony’s association with the University began with his participation in the May Festival in 2016.

The following year he joined forces with composer Professor Paul Mealar to create a Christmas concert to raise funds for cancer and dementia research at the University.

‘The Three Ships’ – a Christmas story offering a unique interpretation of the traditional nativity – drew huge audiences to performances in Aberdeen and London.

At his ceremony, Sir Tony spoke of his fondness for the north-east due to connections forged while his father served in the area during the war. “This is one of the great universities, and to be recognised for the work I’ve done is an enormous honour.”

ABERDEEN FAMILY SAYS GOODBYE TO DAVID LESSELS

The University has paid tribute to former law lecturer and Honorary Professor David Lessels, who passed away late last year. Prior to his retirement in 2013, David spent 40 years as a Lecturer and Senior Lecturer within the Law School, where he was hugely popular with students and staff.

A fluent French speaker, he established many of the University’s links with Europe through the exchange programme Erasmus and visited many other universities worldwide to foster relationships.

Paying tribute to his legacy, Dr Greg Gordon, Head of the Law School, said: “David was an inspirational teacher and mentor to countless students and staff, and will be remembered as a consummate professional. He was as kind, sociable and collegiate a person as one could wish to meet.”





Making memories at Summer Graduations 2019

Kelsey Stewart

On the track and in the classroom, Kelsey Stewart has excelled during her time at the University of Aberdeen.

Graduating with a degree in Exercise and Health Sciences, she is now aiming for Commonwealth and Olympic success in her specialist event, the 4x400m relay.

With a trip to Australia as part of Scotland's Commonwealth Games squad already under her belt, Stonehaven-born Kelsey has established herself as 'one to watch' in future.

As a Sports Bursar, Kelsey has benefited from support from the University's Sports and Exercise Team, and the flexibility to balance training with her studies has been invaluable.

She said: "The School of Medical Science is like a family with staff who are very accommodating and flexible.

"Also, the Sports Bursary Programme is one of the best in the country and there is a great support network for when things don't go smoothly."



Megan Mackay

Taking to the waves helped Megan Mackay cope with the grief of losing her twin brother while studying towards her degree, and has inspired her to help others dealing with trauma.

Megan, whose brother Ruairidh died in a tragic accident while she was in second year, has built up a reputation as one of Scotland's best female surfers during her time at university, where she was a member of Aberdeen University Surf Club.

Graduating with a BSc in Geology and Petroleum Geology, Megan is embarking on a career as a petrophysicist.

As well as continuing to compete in surf competitions internationally, Megan plans to help others whose struggles might be alleviated by taking to the waves.

"What I'd really like to do is help people who have gone through traumatic events, or who are struggling with mental health issues, using surf therapy," she said.

"Surfing has helped me so much, not only in terms of dealing with the loss of my brother but in every aspect of my life. It has made me a more confident person, and I'd like to show others how it can help them too."

Maya Sherpa

From the Himalayan foothills to Old Aberdeen, Maya Sherpa has come a long way to graduate with a degree in psychology. Maya, originally from Nepal, struggled with mental health issues after being hospitalised and diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 15. However that led to an interest in pursuing a career where she could help others.

"I realised that a lot of people suffer in silence and are ashamed to speak up about their problems due to the stigma around mental health, but I want to help educate people," she said.

Now planning to travel the world, her ultimate ambition is to achieve a doctorate in clinical psychology.

As a Robertson Trust scholar, Maya has benefited from financial assistance through the University's Development Trust, and this – along with the support of her family – has helped her achieve her dreams.

"My parents were not able to attend school because their parents did not have the financial stability to support them, but they wanted to create a better life for their children," she said. "I was able to achieve my dreams of studying because they always supported and believed in me."



Agathe Dugleux and Cosmin Mogosanu

For Agathe Dugleux and Cosmin Mogosanu life in Aberdeen led to love, and now the couple are set to embark on a new adventure together. Agathe, who is from France, and Cosmin, from Romania, are moving to Sweden after graduating from the University of Aberdeen Business School with degrees in Business Management, and Economics and Finance respectively.

Having met in first year, the pair's friendship blossomed into romance, and now they will both study for their Masters degrees at Lund University.

Looking back on their time at Aberdeen, Cosmin said: "As a city Aberdeen offers so much in terms of career development with lots of companies offering opportunities for placement. And the lecturers here are so approachable and really helpful." Agathe added: "I loved being part of life at the University, especially the Gymnastics Society which I joined. Overall the experience has been great."

News from our campus



Multi-million pound regeneration ahead for King's College campus

Work has officially started on the University's new Science Teaching Hub, set to open in the first half of 2021. Providing cutting-edge teaching labs for students, the facility is part of transformational plans to enhance teaching and learning spaces at the University's Old Aberdeen campus and support growth in student numbers.

Major regeneration and new developments are proposed with a wide portfolio of projects being considered – or getting underway – with a combined cost of almost £100 million.

Commenting on the plans, Principal and Vice-Chancellor George Boyne said: "Some of the proposals will transform estate that has been 'lost' over the years and yet exists at the very heart of our campus.

"As well as bringing neglected spaces back to life, we are looking at creating better connectivity that will open up areas that will be unknown to many.

"This is the first phase of our vision to bring greater vibrancy and cohesion to the heart of our Old Aberdeen campus and make it the very best it can be as we plan for our next two decades."

Alumni benefits

We have a wonderful programme of discounts exclusively for our alumni. Treat yourself to 10% off bookings made through Hotels.com, two-for-one cinema tickets at the Belmont Filmhouse and a 10% discount on subscriptions from HelloFresh, not to mention several exciting entertainment and shopping discounts in and around Aberdeen! For the full range of benefits as well as details of how to claim please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/benefits-services

Alumni Poster Campaign

We are looking for alumni who are willing to feature in our recently launched poster campaign which hopes to inspire prospective and current students as well as fellow alumni, and includes physical and digital posters containing degree and career information. If you would like to share your story, please email alumni@abdn.ac.uk

Become a volunteer - how can you inspire?

Our alumni volunteer programme launched last month, with opportunities to mentor current students, support prospective students, lead international networks, coordinate reunions and much more! For more detailed information please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/involved. We hope that you will feel motivated to get involved and inspire others!

A big thank you to everyone who has already volunteered their time for the University!

The University's General Council

Did you know that all graduates are members of the University's General Council? As a member you have a right to review and comment to the University Court on all questions affecting the well-being and prosperity of the University, elect the University's Chancellor and members of the Business Committee, which manages the affairs of the General Council. The General Council holds two meetings annually (May and December) which any member can attend. To find out more visit www.abdn.ac.uk/generalcouncil

Stay in touch... action required!

Do we have your up-to-date email address? If we do, have you confirmed we can still contact you on it? If the answer to either of these is 'no', please help us stay in touch with you via email by going to www.abdn.ac.uk/stayintouch



From Aberdeen to Europe

In May the University's Alumni Relations team criss-crossed Europe as part of a series of events celebrating our alumni based on the Continent. Beginning on Europe Day (May 9th) with an event at the British Embassy in Helsinki, 'From Aberdeen to Europe' was a ten-day programme of activities which saw alumni come together to celebrate being part of the Aberdeen family.

Organised with the help of the University's alumni ambassadors, events were held in Helsinki, Brussels, Paris, Berlin, Athens and Warsaw, where alumni took part in a Europe Day parade, proudly marching behind the University of Aberdeen banner.

Alumni Engagement Officer Chloe Bruce, who helped organise the programme, said: "Throughout our journey we met alumni from across Europe and further afield, and we hope that these celebrations help demonstrate how highly we value the deep connections we share.

"Our alumni based in Europe will always remain a part of the Aberdeen family, and the community we have created together is helping to ensure that our existing collaborations flourish, while encouraging new partnerships."



Graduating in 2019? Enjoy 50% off.

We will honour your Student Lifestyle Membership price of £23 per month* for a year after you graduate!

Gym, swim, squash, athletics, and much, much more - there's something for everyone at ASV.

Even better - UoA Alumni will receive a 15% discount on their ASV Lifestyle, Aquatics, Athletics and Squash memberships - **FOR LIFE!**

Call Reception on **01224 438900** to get set up.

*Offer expires 30 Sept 2019. Available to University of Aberdeen Graduates only.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2019 25 August	Great Aberdeen Run
SEPTEMBER 2019 4 September 12 September 24 September 28 September	Porter's Gin Tasting in Paris University Lunch at The Marcliffe Hotel in Aberdeen Medical Class of 1969 Reunion Moray Songs and Music Traditions at Baxters Highland Village
OCTOBER 2019	Interfaith Kirking Event at King's College *
NOVEMBER 2019 5 November 11 November	Alumni Reception in Qatar * Aberdeen in America - A Series of Events Around the USA * Bonfire Night Reception Remembrance Sunday Reception
DECEMBER 2019 18 December	St Andrew's Day Celebration in Berlin * Celebration of Carols at St Marylebone Parish Church in London
JANUARY 2020	University AGM and Statutory Meeting of The General Council *
FEBRUARY 2020	Founders' Day Service At King's College Chapel *
MARCH 2020	Incorporated Trades Service * Corporate Scholars' Reception * International Women's Day Conference *
APRIL 2020 18 & 19 April	Tartan Day Celebrations in New York * Run Balmoral
MAY 2020	May Festival * Donor Discovery Day * Statutory Meeting of The General Council *

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON OUR UPCOMING
EVENTS, KEEP AN EYE ON
[www.abdn.ac.uk/
alumni/events](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/alumni/events)
* DATE TO BE CONFIRMED -
CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES



Exhibition news The Birdman of Aberdeen

The remarkable life of a renowned 19th century naturalist and ornithologist, whose friendship with a transatlantic contemporary had a profound influence on ornithology in Britain and America, is set to be the focus of a major exhibition staged by the University of Aberdeen's Museums and Special Collections.

Born in Old Aberdeen, William MacGillivray (1796-1852) was a Professor of Natural History at Marischal College who worked closely with pioneering American ornithologist and artist John James Audubon (1785-1851). Their relationship is one of the major themes of the exhibition, which begins in September and aims to raise awareness of MacGillivray's life and work.

The exhibition showcases some of the highlights of the University's extensive special collections – a number of which were donated by MacGillivray himself.

Visitors will have an opportunity to see a giant book measuring over a metre high: a volume of Audubon's seminal *Birds of America* (1827-1838) filled with breath-taking depictions of every species of bird that Audubon encountered during his extensive journeys in the North American continent.

Audubon's images were not just factually accurate, but dramatic artworks capturing scenes such as owls bursting into flight, songbirds perching delicately in the trees, and eagles feasting on their prey.

MacGillivray met Audubon in Edinburgh in 1830, and was hired to write the companion text for the illustrations of *Birds of America*, based on Audubon's field notes. This was an arrangement that developed into a deep and lasting friendship.

Audubon named a bird – the MacGillivray's Warbler – after his friend, and sent him gifts of bird specimens from America. An accomplished watercolour artist, MacGillivray hoped to complete a full colour illustration sequence to his five-volume *History of British Birds*, though his dream of a counterpart to *Birds of America* went unrealised.

An adventurous lover of the outdoors, MacGillivray had a poor opinion of the 'cabinet naturalist' who never left his study.

While a student at the University of Aberdeen, he would walk from his home on the Isle of Harris to university, making notes on the birds, flora and fauna he found along the way. During these two-week journeys he carried a backpack stocked with supplies of 'socks, gun powder, sketchbooks, and opium', and kept extensive diaries.

In 1819, aged 23, he walked 828 miles from Aberdeen to London to visit the British Museum and see its natural history collections. This inspired him to establish the University's Zoology Museum, and his handwritten journals from this expedition will be on display along with thousands of botanical and ornithological specimens he contributed to the University's collections.

The exhibition will open on the 200th anniversary of the start of his walk from Old Aberdeen to London, and follows the successful showcase of another of the jewels in the University's collections, the Aberdeen Bestiary.

The fascinating medieval book, which describes the beasts of the world, both real and fantastical, took the starring role at *Book of Beasts: The Bestiary in the Medieval World*. The exhibition featured bestiaries and related works of art from the Middle Ages that attracted tens of thousands of visitors to the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles from May to August.

It was the first time the Aberdeen Bestiary – considered one of the best examples of its type due to its lavish and costly illuminations – has left the UK since its creation more than 800 years ago.

Exhibition opens 6th September 2019, Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen. Opening hours: Mon to Wed & Fri - 10am to 5pm, Thurs - 10am to 7pm, Sat & Sun - 11am to 4pm. Entry is free and all are welcome.

There will be a programme of associated events and talks. For further information see www.abdn.ac.uk/museums.



HELP US TRANSFORM LIVES THROUGH PIONEERING RESEARCH IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

For many decades the University of Aberdeen has pioneered the transformation of women's health care with Professor Sir Dugald Baird, Regius Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (1937 – 65), establishing Aberdeen's strong international reputation in Obstetrics and Gynaecology research.

Our Pioneering Plans

Women's healthcare has changed dramatically in the past 50 years – but there are still significant risks to women's health and the health of their children. Eighty years on from Professor Baird's pioneering work, the University has taken inspiration from him by establishing the Centre for Women's Health Research which, from 2021, will be located in the new, purpose-built Baird Family Hospital.

Our research strategy will be structured around five main impact streams:

- Pre-cancerous conditions – including breast and cervical cancer
- Pelvic floor disorders – including incontinence and prolapse
- Menstrual disorders – including endometriosis and menopause
- Fertility and infertility – alongside the Aberdeen Fertility Centre
- Pregnancy and childbirth – alongside the Aberdeen Maternity and Neonatal Databank

However, we need your help

With the launch of an ambitious £6 million fundraising campaign we aim to expand our scope and collaborations, attract world-class academic clinicians and researchers to new key posts and focus on the areas with the potential to bring the greatest benefits to women and their families.

With fantastic opportunities and facilities within the Baird Family Hospital, the Centre for Women's Health Research will bring together clinical and non-clinical researchers to generate the answers to important questions in women's health.

Our research will have a direct impact on clinical care, keeping women at the heart of the research at all times while addressing women's clinical needs at different stages of their lives and identifying the best ways to deliver effective and personalised care.

You can help us vastly improve care and outcomes for women globally

For more information or to discuss how you would like to support our women's health research, please phone Kelly M. Anderson on +44 (0)1224 273057 or email kellymanderson@abdn.ac.uk.
To give online today visit www.abdn.ac.uk/giving/womenshealth.

Thank you.