



# The Bridge

04

Dundee at 50  
celebrating our  
anniversary

06

Stephen Fry  
on his years  
in Dundee

14

Starter for ten  
Our University  
Challenge triumph

16

David Mackenzie  
Film director -  
a star on the rise



TB

2017

# Inspiration + Innovation



## Bring your international conference home!

### Why not inspire your audience by sharing Dundee & Angus with the world?

From the bustling historic city of Dundee, recently named the UK's first City of Design by the United Nations, to the rolling glens and breath-taking scenery of Angus, city meets countryside and captures the best of both worlds. As an alumni of the University of Dundee you can welcome your delegates to Dundee and Angus! Get in touch today and find out how we can help you host your next event in Dundee and Angus!

#### WORKING WITH YOU FOR YOU

Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau T: +44 (0)1382 434318

E: [ambassadors@conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk](mailto:ambassadors@conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk)

[www.conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk](http://www.conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk)

**Dundee & Angus**  
CONVENTION BUREAU  
WORKING WITH YOU FOR YOU





# Contents

University of Dundee Alumni Magazine



## Hello from Alumni Relations

This edition of The Bridge very much celebrates the 50th anniversary of the University since independence from St Andrews in 1967. As well as a nostalgic look back at the 50 years of the University the magazine features the fantastic stories of you, our alumni. As our alumni, you are such an integral part of our story, helping spread the name of Dundee around the world. As you will read, from the US to Burundi and Hong Kong to India, we have alumni in every part of the world doing amazing things.

We want you to be part of the next fifty years too. 2017 has been a milestone year so far and we have been delighted to hear your stories and to welcome you to reunions and other events, whether in Dundee or overseas. In your magazine you will find a form to share your story, tell us where you are now and let us know how to stay in touch in future.

Finally, I very much hope you enjoy reading the 2017 edition of The Bridge.

## Pam Lawrence

Alumni Relations Officer

The Bridge is produced by the Department of External Relations at the University of Dundee, who include some of our own alumni!

Editors	Roddy Isles - R.Isles@dundee.ac.uk Pamela Lawrence (History, Class of 2006)
Contributors	Grant Hill (English, Class of 2001), Dominic Younger (Philosophy & Politics, Class of 2015), Paul McPate (Town & Regional Planning, Class of 1988), Josephine Jules Andrews (MLitt Writing Practice and Study Class of 2013), Cara Longmuir and Sophie MacKenzie
Design	Creative Services creativeservices@dundee.ac.uk

- 03 / Welcome from the Principal
- 04 / Dundee at 50
- 06 / Stephen Fry on his Dundee years
- 08 / Lord Robertson on a University to be proud of
- 10 / What Dundee gave me – views from alumni
- 12 / Masterchef and graduate Gary Maclean is cooking up a storm
- 14 / Starter for ten – Dundee's University Challenge triumph
- 16 / Film director David Mackenzie is a star on the rise
- 18 / The University of Love – pairing up for life at Dundee
- 20 / Carla Brown is developing games to beat bugs
- 22 / The Dundee dentists giving vital care in Africa
- 24 / Scholarships creating Dundee stars on and off the ice
- 26 / From Dundee to Gotham City – Claire Roe
- 28 / Creating a legacy through giving – the William S. Phillips' Fund
- 30 / Our High Commissioner in Ghana, graduate Iain Walker
- 32 / Alan Linn is shooting for the moon in the Big Apple
- 34 / Going for Olympic gold with Rucha Kalkashar
- 36 / 50 years of university sport
- 37 / Alumni around the world – a global network
- 38 / Dundee at a distance with Cynthia Murray
- 39 / Transforming lives with a gift – how our donors are making a difference
- 40 / The Dundee alumnus building bridges in Hong Kong
- 42 / Generations of success – making Dundee a family affair
- 44 / Back to Dundee – alumni reunions

## Postgraduate Open Day

Wednesday 8th November 2017  
2pm - 7pm



Dalhousie Building  
University of Dundee  
Main Campus



### Booking your place

visit [www.dundee.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/opendays)

call 01382 383838

email [opendays@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:opendays@dundee.ac.uk)

Postgraduate Open Day

# A Welcome from the Principal



**Professor Sir Pete Downes**  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

Welcome to the 2017 issue of *The Bridge*. This year marks the 50th anniversary of our separation from St Andrews to become a University in our own right. I am happy to say it is a split that has proved to be good for both parties, leading to the development of what has been called an 'intellectual gold coast' on the eastern side of Scotland.

We are very different institutions, although fifty years later some of the passions that were in the air at the time, as referred to by Lord Robertson in these pages, have now mellowed. We enjoy a very strong relationship these days and both bring many benefits to Scotland – not least an economic impact which is vital to Tayside and Fife – and to society in general. Our successes were well illustrated by *The Times & Sunday Times Good University Guide 2017*, which included both Dundee and St Andrews in their shortlist for the title of UK University of the Year (we were delighted to log a second consecutive award of Scottish University of the Year).

That is one example of how we have continued to bolster our reputation around the world in our anniversary year. *Times Higher Education* again named us among the world's top 200 universities, and the only one in Scotland to improve our standing amidst fierce global competition. They also named us the leading UK university, and in their global top 20, in their list of the world's best 'young' universities.

These awards and rankings are very encouraging but of course it is the work that leads to them that is truly important. We have continued to make great strides in delivering teaching and research that transforms lives. Alastair McCall, editor of *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide*, summed this up extremely well when he said, 'Dundee proves it is possible to be both an outstanding teaching university and one at the cutting edge in research work'.

That is the impact we strive to make. Over the past few months we have been spending time developing our strategy for the next five years. It reinforces the

idea of transforming lives, in the way we prepare our graduates, of those who receive the benefits of the research we do, of the members of the University community and of the communities we serve.

As alumni I am sure your own lives will have been transformed in some way through your experiences at Dundee and, for many, in your continuing relationship with the University.

We value dearly our links with you all – you are our ambassadors to the world in so many ways, something I see first hand in the meetings I have with alumni around the globe, be it in Shanghai, New York, Singapore or closer to home in Scotland.

I always enjoy hearing from you, and seeing how our Dundee graduates are doing, so this issue of *The Bridge* is a special treat as we speak to some of our alumni, from Masterchef champions to ambassadors, comic artists to global leaders. They, in our 50th year, help show everything Dundee can achieve and inspire others to achieve.

My own small contribution to the 50th anniversary has been to take on the Principal's Charity Challenge – I, together with my wife Elizabeth, will be cycling, rowing and running a total of 50 miles, connecting our campuses at Kirkcaldy, Ninewells and in the heart of Dundee, with a ceremonial stop-off along the way to mark our historical links with the University of St Andrews.

I am indebted to all who have supported my efforts and those of my colleagues who have joined the Challenge. Money raised via the Principal's Challenge will give students the support they need to make the most of their Dundee education. Funds raised will enable them to take part in sport and exercise, support social activities run by our fantastic Student Services team, and make financial aid available to those most in need.

If you want to make a donation you can still do so through the 'Everyday Hero' page [everydayhero.co.uk/event/challenge2017](http://everydayhero.co.uk/event/challenge2017)

I am hugely grateful for the support all have shown, as I am sure the students who will ultimately benefit from it will be.



2017 marks 50 years of Dundee being a university in our own right. We will be celebrating our half-century throughout the year

## Dundee at 50 – delivering impact locally and globally

### Anniversary podcasts

We're bringing history to life with 50 weekly podcasts on how the University has made an impact on the people, the economy and the city of Dundee.

Each episode is short, fun and full of surprises – listen out every week for famous folk and fascinating facts about the University of Dundee.

All of the podcasts can be found on the 50th anniversary website at [www.dundee.ac.uk/50](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/50) and they are also available for free via iTunes and SoundCloud

#### In the beginning

On August 1st 1967, the University of Dundee came into formal existence by virtue of a Royal Charter. We are marking our 50th anniversary as an independent institution throughout 2017.

We are reaching our 50th birthday with plenty to celebrate, pointing to how our impact has grown over the decades.

We are:

- one of the world's top 200 universities
- the Scottish University of the Year for two years running
- consistently rated as one of the best places in the UK to be a student.

Our teaching and research are genuinely transforming lives, both here on campus and around the world. We have grown to be a richly diverse and international community, with around 150 countries represented amongst our staff, students and alumni.

We have become the most potent force for economic, social and cultural development in our city region, helping create new industries and sparking the idea to bring the V&A to Dundee's waterfront to establish the UK's first Museum of Design outside the city of London.

We are among the best universities in the UK for graduate employment and our alumni, as seen in these pages, are making their impact felt in a vast range of disciplines.





### The President's view

"Dundee is a really thrilling place to be right now. We have a unique partnership with the University, developed and fostered over the years, that helps us to safeguard the excellent student experience for which we are consistently ranked among the very best in the UK.

"Dundee always listens to the students and tirelessly looks for new ways of improving their time here at the University. DUSA in turn continues to make sure the University is open and affordable for everyone and ensure there is always somebody listening to and caring about each individual."

Indre Urbanaviciute,  
President of Dundee University  
Students' Association

### Dundee and St Andrews – a shared past, present and future

The history of what would become the University of Dundee stretches back to 1881 when University College Dundee (UCD) was founded through a donation of £140,000 from Miss Mary Ann Baxter and her cousin, John Boyd Baxter, two of the famous Baxter family who were among the city's jute barons.



UCD then became part of the University of St Andrews in 1897, under the provisions of the

Universities Scotland Act of 1889. Initially, UCD and St Andrews worked alongside each other in relative harmony. Dundee students were able to graduate in Science from St Andrews, despite never having attended any classes in the smaller town.

Relations, however, over time became strained, particularly over the issue of the Medical School and whether chairs of Anatomy and Physiology should be established in Dundee, St Andrews or both, setting the stage for the tensions that would place some strain on the relationship between the two institutions for the next few decades.

By the mid-1900s separation was starting to look like the way forward. A 1954 Royal Commission led to University College being given more independence, being renamed Queen's College, and taking over the Dundee School of Economics.

On August 1st 1967 the Royal charter was granted and

the University of Dundee was formally established. The Queen Mother became the University's first Chancellor, both raising its profile and displaying a vote of confidence in the newly independent institution.

50 years on Dundee and St Andrews enjoy a warm relationship, very much in the spirit of friendly rivalry. Both are in the world's top 200 universities and are among the top ranked in the United Kingdom for student experience. The combined strengths of Dundee and St Andrews have been recognised as an 'intellectual gold coast' on Scotland's east side.

We work on many joint projects, including the Scottish Graduate Entry Medical Programme (ScotGEM), the first programme of its kind in Scotland. This innovative project will see Dundee and St Andrews working with NHS Scotland to give graduates from a range of disciplines the chance to move in to medicine.

HM The Queen Mother at the University's inauguration ceremony in 1967 (Top left)

Celebrating the Holi festival on Campus Green in 2017 (Bottom left)

The Students Union then and now (Top right)

Mary Ann Baxter, co-founder of University College Dundee (Bottom left)

### Follow the 50th

You can keep up to date with all 50th anniversary events, news and features at the dedicated webpages at

[www.dundee.ac.uk/50](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/50)

Stephen Fry first arrived in Dundee early on the morning of his induction as University Rector in 1992, stepping off the sleeper service from London Euston to begin a relationship that lasts to this day. Here the acclaimed writer and broadcaster tells us how it all started

## Dundee gave me more than I could ever give it



*Being Rector is very interesting, because it sits very high in the University structure. I suppose there is always a danger in these things that you end up being something of the regimental goat, a mixture of the mascot and the Queen Mother, but I thought I could be a little more useful than that*



"It is a dramatic place to visit, and I always arrived by train so that I could come in over the Tay. That really is one of the great arrivals of any city, coming in to Dundee over the water." Stephen Fry has fond memories of his first visits to Dundee, when he was elected Rector of the University in 1992. The richly talented comedian, actor, writer and broadcaster spent six years as Rector, the students' representative on the governing body, and remains a hugely popular figure at the University.

It was a relationship he arrived to cold, both literally and metaphorically.

"I knew Dundee existed and had a vague memory of it being historically known as the

city of three 'J's' – jute, jam and journalism – and that it sat right on the River Tay. But I had never been there," said Stephen.

"The course of events that brought me to the city was that I was approached by the students, which I took as a big compliment. The notion of Rector was a strange one to anyone not acquainted with the Scottish university system but I was intrigued by it.

"I was pondering it when, a week later, I received a letter from students at St Andrews asking the same thing. Now, St Andrews may have looked more glamorous, on the face of it, to the uninitiated, what with the history and the robes and the golf. But I felt that Dundee had got there first and so it was only fair I stuck with them.



"I thought it sounded like an interesting adventure, so I wrote back and said I would be happy to have a go, and it was only then that I found out that one of the students had told a friend at St Andrews that they were asking me to be their Rector, and that had then prompted the efforts by the St Andrews students to undercut Dundee. That only confirmed I had made the right decision!"

After being elected, Stephen's first duties were to attend his first meeting of Court and take part in the ceremonial 'drag' around town, where students carry the Rector around town in a carriage.

"I was voted for in absentia so the first time I arrived was for my installation and to be carted across the town," he recalled. "It was a real blur. I got on the sleeper train at Euston and arrived in Dundee at something like 5.30 in the morning, to be greeted on the platform by Jim Duncan, the Rector's Assessor, and a group from the Students' Association. I got my breakfast cooked at Jim's house, which became a tradition in the years to come, then the people from DUSA briefed me and I was straight into, if I remember rightly, a dispute over accommodation, and then the Court meeting, and then the ceremonial drag through town.

"I loved being chaired through town but I had been warned that the students would endeavour to get me as drunk as was humanly possible. I worked out a system with Jim Duncan that if things got too much I could sneakily pass drinks to him and he would dispose of them. That just about worked well, and I just about managed to struggle on to the train back to London. If I'd had to get a plane I don't think they'd have allowed me to get on it!"

Stephen quickly found a way to make the most of his new position.

"Being Rector is very interesting, because it sits very high in the University structure. I suppose there is always a danger in these things that you end up being something of the regimental goat, a mixture of the mascot and the Queen Mother, but I thought I could be a little more useful than that.

"As Rector I had access to the door of the Principal, and I thought that showed how I could be the most use to the people who had elected me, the students. I tried to spend as much time with them as possible and to take up issues on their behalf. What I did sat halfway between the chaplaincy and the students' association, trying to get things done for the benefit of the students.

"I did have great fun as well. I would do a bit of a routine in the bar, while the students would try to get me drinking. And I got to see so much of what was going on. I could turn up like the Prince of Wales and ask to be given a tour of this or that school or discipline and they would welcome me in."

The one thing above all others that has stayed with him from his time at Dundee is the warmth of the welcome extended to him.

"That is the outstanding thing I remember, the warmth and friendliness of everyone, the staff, the students, the Court members and the people of Dundee," he said. "They were very honest and straightforward, which was great. I think it is of great credit, remembering this was 25 years ago, that I arrived as an openly gay man and no one ever made an issue of that, I was warmly welcomed with open arms, and I think that said, and continues to say, so much for the University and for Dundee.

"It is a time I remember extremely fondly and ultimately I feel Dundee gave me

#### Keeping a clear head

Stephen and Jim Duncan (Far left)

#### Dragged around town

Students pulling the ceremonial carriage (Main image)

#### The art of good conversation

Stephen chatting with a student at DJCAD (Below)



more than I could give it. I have great, great memories. They even named the bar in the students' union after one of my books. It is still there? Oh that is so sweet, I really am touched by that!"

The connection between Stephen and the University is maintained with the annual award of the Stephen Fry Prize for Public Engagement in Research.

"I remain absolutely thrilled that the University offers a prize in my name," he said. "It speaks so well to the idea of, to use one of these rather clunky words, outreach. It imparts a real sense of how the University works, carrying out research and making discoveries that make an impact on ordinary communities. That is a hugely important part of what universities do for us all."

Former Annasach editor, Lord George Robertson, reflects on his journey from student journalism to Secretary General of NATO



## A university to be proud of

*One of my articles was ranting about old men running the world. Now I'm 71 and I think 'hang on a minute'*

History records George Robertson becoming Member of Parliament for Hamilton in May 1978 but the fact he tasted electoral success in Dundee more than a decade earlier is less well-known.

The future Secretary General of NATO and Right Honourable Lord Robertson of Port Ellen matriculated at Queen's College, Dundee in 1963 in order to "get away from home and spare my father embarrassment". He was elected to the Student Representative Council during his first year in Dundee having already made a name for himself as a precocious activist in his hometown of Dunoon. This reputation only grew over the next four years, laying the foundations for the stellar political career that followed.

When George Robertson arrived in Dundee, Queen's College was already on the verge of becoming a university in its own right. For George and his fellow students who were due to receive their degrees during the University's first-ever graduation ceremony, this meant deciding where their loyalties lay – Dundee or St Andrews.

"Those of us who started off as St Andrews students were given the option to graduate from either there or Dundee," he explained.

"There were several of us who felt strongly that the new institution must be supported and we ran a campaign encouraging people to be patriotic by taking a Dundee degree but others felt differently. There was an element of snobbery, with people thinking a St Andrews degree afforded more prestige."

Lord Robertson wrote a weekly column in the University's 'Annasach' newspaper, from which he fired broadsides at a number of national and local targets. Those who opted to take the option of a St Andrews degree were among the subjects of his ire.

In an edition of 20th October 1967, he hit out saying their decision amounted to a vote of no confidence in the new institution. "I think we have a university to be proud of," he railed. "We have taken away St Andrews' best faculties; we will in the near future have the best equipped teaching hospital in Britain, and probably the best Dental School... If people can be so short-sighted as to kick the chances of expansion in the teeth, then I think they are not worthy of the education they have received here."

"I have quite a collection of old copies of Annasach because my mother kept them and it makes me cringe at times,"

Lord Robertson admitted. "One of my articles was ranting about old men running the world. Now I'm 71 and I think, 'hang on a minute'! As long as I kept supplying them they kept printing them. Week after week I was having rants about rents and the warden at West Park and other things. It was pretty irresponsible stuff in its own way but that was the way of student journalism in those days."

The mid- to late-1960s marked the high watermark of student radicalism and the young George Robertson was heavily involved in on-campus demonstrations. He was one of a number of Dundee students to invade the pitch during a rugby match at St Andrews involving a team from the Orange Free State to protest against apartheid. He also organised a 24-hour work-in by students in the library in opposition to proposed cuts to student grants. The latter incident saw University Principal James Drever teach the rebels a lesson in how to manage opponents.

"Speeches were made and there was a great sense of fun," he remembered. "After a few hours this ebbed away. Principal Drever came in to see us about 3 in the morning. We were ready to fight back against his complaints about us keeping staff up all



The call for students to take a Dundee degree

Annasach, 20 October 1967

Only 10% take up

Annasach article, 4 October 1968

Vol. 2, No. 1

## Only 10 Per Cent. Take Dundee Degrees

AT the Summer Graduation Ceremonies held at the Caird Hall many prominent students were presented with their degree diploma — that passport to financial security and the good life so sought after by undergraduates. Among those taking a Dundee University Degree was George Robertson (could he do anything else?), who was loudly cheered by graduates and Faculty members alike. His example and continuous broadside from "Shakeout" however, would appear to have very little effect as, out of a total of 365 graduates, only 40 (just over 10 per cent.) — a disappointingly small number — took a Dundee University Degree. Other prominent Dundee

Graduates were Dr Hugh Pincoff (former President S.R.C., etc., etc.), Robin Rycroft (former editor, "Aien") and Barry Minnery. Out of 120 Graduates of the Faculty of Social Science, only one obtained the coveted First Class honours degree, while 50 others obtained honours degrees of other classes. In Applied Science there were two First and 12 others. In Pure Science there were four Firsts and 37 other Honours out of a total of 71. It is a matter of conjecture whether these figures reflect the higher standard of the Social Science Faculty compared to the Sciences or the higher entrance standard of the Faculty of Social Science compared to the Faculty of Applied Science.

ANNASACH, Friday, 20th October, 1967

## SHAKEOUT

Int-  
U.S.  
nor-  
em-  
a  
help

NOT so long ago there was a quite vigorous controversy as to whether it should be compulsory for all those graduating from Dundee University to take Dundee degrees. That debate was settled when it was decided that matriculation in St Andrews would mean a choice of degrees, but the essential principle is still at stake. In the week of the University's inauguration it might be very opportune to raise again the basic questions involved in this matter. If this to be the only graduation for three years because all those with a choice of degree decide in favour of St Andrews, then the reputation of this harmed and its progress to high academic status impeded. The short-term considerations of those who find themselves able to command a choice could for many years retard the future of the many students who will study here in the next decade. If, as it seems increasingly likely, only a small amount of the next three years graduates decide to take Dundee degrees rather than settle for the instant prestige of a degree from Scotland's oldest university, it will appear to the outside world a mass vote of no confidence in our new institution. I think we have a university to be proud of; we have taken away St Andrews' best faculties; we will in the near future have the best equipped teaching hospital in Britain, and probably the best Dental School and a computer department that is forging ahead to be so short-sighted as to kick the chances of expansion in the teeth, then I think they are not worthy of the education they have received here.

Next time you hear the agonising squeals of horror that emanate from most academic quarters when the suggestion that University finance should be accountable to Parliament, just reflect on this interesting story. Three years ago, the S.R.C. had premises at the top of Small's Wynd, on the Hawkhill. They were not flamboyant by any means, but they were well decorated and had been extensively fitted out. It was then decided to knock that side of the Hawkhill down, so the S.R.C. was

decorated and fitted out with no little difficulty and expense. The two flats above the shop were also renovated for societies and were converted from long-neglected slums into very pleasant premises. However, a year and a half later, it is decided to knock down that side of the Hawkhill, and so out on the road goes the S.R.C. book exchange and all. This time the university decided to go to town, and a large building next to Laing's Hotel was grabbed and converted for the SRC and the Sports Union at great trouble and expenditure. If you mention the fact that the electrician made his holes in the beams by pushing his finger through the wood, you might get some idea of the potential lifespan of the building. If anyone can tell me what academic freedom is in danger by investigating this seemingly short-term attitude to planning, then I'd be very interested. By the way, the Hawkhill offices can't be abolished till the Queen Mum has passed through.

Principal Drever attended the graduation in St Andrews last week longer as Master of Queens, and no of the most boring speeches he has ever made. Principal Watson mentioned this change in status, and, so is customary at such ceremonies, requested, by means of spontaneous and vociferous pleas, some form of acknowledgment of this promotion from the new Principal. In a most uncourtly fashion, they did not get it. Ah, the responsibilities of power.

GEORGE ROBERTSON.

## Art student injured

A 20-year-old art student, Miss Maureen Doyle, of Kincardine Street, Dundee, was injured when the car in which she was a passenger crashed down the Leith Hill early on Sunday morning. The vehicle rolled over several times before stopping 150 feet away from the point it left the road and 50 feet further down. Miss Doyle sustained multiple injuries, including a head injury, and is being kept in hospital for observation.

## I am

Lord George Robertson  
Economics, Class of 1968

## Former Secretary General of NATO

Lord Robertson has been politically active for most of his life, starting small in his hometown of Dunoon and reaching global influence as Secretary General of NATO. Despite admitting that he perhaps spent less time than he should focused on academic pursuits, Lord Robertson remains fiercely proud of his Dundee education and all that it has afforded him in life.

night and the disruption we were causing. Instead he looked at students quietly sitting at desks and working away. 'Well, this is wonderful, Mr Robertson,' he said 'Maybe you could organise this every Wednesday night.' He left us feeling about two inches tall."

Lord Robertson was re-elected by the people of Hamilton five times and served as Chairman of the Labour Party in Scotland and as Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland. He was appointed Defence Secretary when Labour came to power in 1997 and became Secretary General of NATO two years later.

His time in Dundee had seen Lord Robertson become heavily involved in local politics as well as those relating to campus life. He worked alongside "very big, controversial personalities" in the local Labour Party and believes that his choice of university provided him with a solid grounding in politics.

"I did very little academic work during my time at University," he admits. "Dundee itself was a bit

of a hotbed of politics in those days and I became involved in big campaigns through the Labour Party that wouldn't have been possible if I had gone to Glasgow or Edinburgh.

"I chose Dundee because I needed to get away from home. Dunoon was a small place and my father was a policeman with the same name as me. I was demonstrating against American submarines in Scotland and other things that were causing trouble for him. I had struggled at school but here I just sank into the system and enjoyed it thoroughly. The social scene was pretty vibrant with lot of parties taking place. I made lots of friends and really just had an amazing four years. My wife worked in the Economics department

and we met when I worked here after graduating."

Today's students are very different to those of Lord Robertson's vintage and the decline of campus radicalism is often bemoaned. How does the former student firebrand view the class of 2017?

"That was a moment of time when students were in the vanguard," he remembers. "Brian Wilson, Alex Neil, Malcolm Bruce, Lynda Clark and Chris Chope, who all went on to politics, were here around then. There was lots of activity everywhere. Things are more competitive now and students are more focused on careers but there is still a lot for them to get angry about. And I hope they do."

The mission of the University is to transform lives, locally and globally, through the creation, sharing and application of knowledge. Our students are the most important element of that. The education and experience they receive while at University is life changing. We asked some of our graduates from across the years what their experience at Dundee had given them

## What Dundee gave me...



---

*My Dundee education gave me opportunities that I would never have dreamt of*

Sarah Cruickshank, Marketing & Communications Professional (Interactive Media Design 2009)



*My God, world class teaching - people actually taught you, you know - in an environment that was so generous, and let you sort of develop so many skills, because these people were really, really good at what they did; these teachers, these painters, these sculptors, draftsmen, they were just fantastic, and the way they talked about things, if you were smart - I mean, I say I was a big dopey kid, but I was smart enough to have my eyes open and my ears pinned back so that I could pay attention. They taught me everything, those guys*

David Mach, Sculptor  
(Fine Art, 1979)



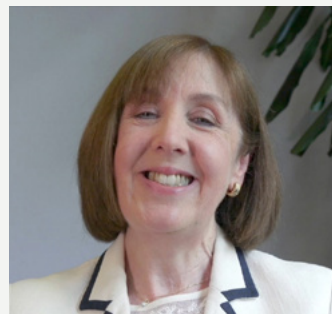


My Dundee education has given me most things in my life professionally and personally. I came here to study as someone who knew the city, and thought I knew many people, but I built a whole new community and relationships with fantastic people around here. Professionally, it gave me the opportunity to become an entrepreneur at a very early age, and without the support of the team here at the University I don't think I would have ever started my business as early as I had. My wife and I both studied here, so I suppose, in summary it's pretty much given me everything

Chris van der Kuyl, Entrepreneur  
(Computer Science, 1991)

My Dundee education gave me a great start to my career. It gave me confidence that I could move on to the working life that I was hoping to have - which was completely different from, perhaps, the life that my parents' generation had. So I've been extremely lucky and I'm very grateful to Dundee

Joyce Cullen, Solicitor (Law, 1979)



My Dundee education gave me a tremendous launchpad, really, for the rest of my career. I really enjoyed my time in Dundee and look back with very fond memories of it

Alan Grant, IT Consultant  
(Electronics, 1967)

My Dundee education gave me a wonderful five years of my life - which have been unforgettable - fantastic further education, and lifelong friends

Sue Lawrence, Author & Food Writer  
(Modern French Studies, 1978)



My Dundee education gave me a complete new future

Gerry Coll, Solicitor (Law, 1985)



My Dundee education gave me confidence. I don't think I would be in the job I'm in now or have moved down to London and tried something different if I hadn't been in a position where I had to push myself and try new things. So, in the main, confidence

Kirsty Fergusson, Marketing Professional (English, 2011)

Graduate Gary Maclean's teaching qualification set him up to be a UK Masterchef champion

## Cooking up a storm

*I love the opportunities that teaching throws up for the students and staff. Very rarely do I have two days the same. I also love to see the progression of the students from when they start and graduate. It's very rewarding*



**MasterChef: The Professionals** is widely recognised as being the most gruelling of all reality shows.

Unlike others of the genre, the show does not set out to ritually humiliate contestants, footage is not selectively edited according to a pre-determined narrative, and participants are unlikely to become tabloid fodder. Instead, contestants must put their professional reputation, indeed their entire livelihood, on the line for no set prize, no guarantee of a celebrity career and a high chance of failure.

Dundee graduate Gary Maclean was one of the dozens of contestants to put it all on the line. The catering lecturer at City of Glasgow College faced skills and invention tests and

wowed judges with his signature dishes. He was exposed to entirely new approaches to food and cooked for some of the biggest names in the culinary world. After seven tense and gruelling weeks, Gary was named the winner of *MasterChef: The Professionals* 2016.

"I had a few sleepless nights in the weeks up to my first day," he said. "Once I was there I was very calm and composed and for the most part continued like that all the way through. I never thought I would win. It's strange to say, but I don't think any of us did at any stage. It was all about survival and getting through to the next stage. Winning was just a dream that was very difficult to imagine coming true."



"I think the show summed up very well how I felt before the winner was announced. I probably wasn't nervous but it was almost like an out of body experience. I knew I had done well and was in the running but still couldn't start thinking about winning. When my name was read out I was shocked, speechless, proud and totally overwhelmed."

Gary obtained his Teaching Qualification in Further Education at Dundee. As his course was part-time, he needed to juggle his studies with his day job and the demands of a young family. Fitting it all in came down to good planning and sticking doggedly to deadlines, according to Gary. He believes the course significantly enhanced his teaching and that his experiences of working at the college were a major contributing factor to his MasterChef success.

"I feel the qualification has helped my teaching in many ways," he said. "It made me think much more from a student's perspective. It also has helped me in identifying effective teaching styles. I can honestly say my teaching was one of the main reasons I won. As a lecturer you need to be super organised and be able to plan and organise your lessons. Secondly, I have been the College culinary coach for the last six years. This means you need to know what you are doing so you can then pass it on to students."

"I love the opportunities that teaching throws up for the students and staff. Very rarely do I have two days the same. I also love to see the progression of the students from when they start and graduate. It's very rewarding. "I think formal education for chefs is more

important now than ever. Our graduates are not looking for jobs but long-term careers. The job market they are entering is very different to the one I entered. It's now a global industry and our graduates can choose almost any country in the world for career opportunities. We encourage all our students to work part-time in good establishments whilst attending college so a combination of both are vital. I think this is a very exciting time for the Scottish food scene. Lots of new restaurants are opening with amazing chefs and real pockets of excellence in most of our cities."

Given his success, many people expect Gary to be among those amazing chefs opening swanky new restaurants. While he is determined to make the most of the opportunities that winning the show has opened up for him, the Glaswegian has no intention of abandoning his teaching career.

"My plan is to stay with the City of Glasgow College," he continued. "I have never worked with such a dynamic and forward-thinking employer. We have just moved into an amazing new campus and I enjoy being here."

"Winning *MasterChef: The Professionals* was a truly life changing experience. I now have an agent who deals with the dozens of enquires I get in a week. The strangest thing is being recognised in the street and being asked to do selfies with people. I want to take advantage of the amazing platform that winning MasterChef has given me. I would love to do more TV and also do a book. At the moment I have loads of things in the pipeline. Watch this space."

# I am

**Gary Maclean** Teaching Qualification in Further Education, Class of 2014

## I am winner of *Masterchef: The Professionals* 2016

From the catering classroom at City of Glasgow College, Gary Maclean competed alongside dozens of others to be crowned champion in the 2016 series of *Masterchef: The Professionals*. He continues to teach the next generation of fantastic chefs, and credits his teaching skills with helping him achieve his TV win.

University Challenge has become one of Britain's most popular shows, sparking viral sensations and maintaining a reputation as one of the toughest intellectual challenges on television. The competition has been dominated over the years by the Oxbridge colleges but their hegemony was broken in 1983 by a triumphant team from Dundee. The story of how they won the day is one of high drama

## Starter for ten... again and again!

*When the quarter final was transmitted viewers noted a disallowed correct answer. Consequently we were invited back for a play-off against Corpus Christi, Cambridge, who were in a similar position*

University Challenge often leaves many of us mumbling answers to questions we would normally never get asked, something which paradoxically seems to only add to its appeal. No such problems for the Dundee team of 1983. They were underdogs who went all the way to the final and eventually won in a best-of-three showdown.

But it so nearly never happened. The team of James A. Smith (Economics and Politics), Graeme Davidson (Law), Donald Kennedy (Medicine) and captain Peter Burt (Zoology) had to endure almost unbearable drama on their way to the final.

The story started with a notice in the Students' Association asking for volunteers

for University Challenge. With the team duly selected they made their way some months later to Granada TV's studios in Salford, arriving slightly in awe of the legendary host Bamber Gascoigne.

To qualify for the quarter-final, teams had to win three games. Dundee won their first two, against Salford and Westfield, London, before losing to Balliol College, Oxford. "A week later Granada told us there had been a scoring error and we had actually won," noted Peter Burt.

So it was on to the quarter-final. Then it appeared that they had lost to University College, Oxford, by the slightest of margins, a mere five points.



However, lightning struck twice. "When the quarter final was transmitted viewers noted a disallowed correct answer. Consequently we were invited back for a play-off against Corpus Christi, Cambridge, who were in a similar position." explained Peter.

Dundee won that match and then smoothly progressed through the quarter and semi-finals, against Leeds and Birmingham respectively. The final was to be against Durham.

Durham won the first game comprehensively, Dundee won the second, and the third was a cliff-hanger. Peter noted in his diary that it was Graeme Davidson who clinched the match with an interrupted starter for ten, only 30 seconds before the end.

Graeme Davidson, remembering the win, said, "On the moment of realisation that we had secured victory for Dundee I felt a range of sensations, all of them vast. The key ones were delight, surprise, achievement and pride, plus enormous gratitude that we had James Smith on our team, as the fellow's an absolute brainbox.

"And, perhaps embarrassingly, I also confess to having experienced in the moment a certain sense of 'Ha...we showed them!', as regards people who might not have rated our chances of getting anywhere at all in the tournament, far less actually advancing to the senior stages and eventually going on to win the chuffing thing, after an utterly draining and totally nail-biting three-game final!"

That made Dundee only the second Scottish university to win University Challenge, a record that hasn't been added to since.

The series champions' story didn't end there. In December 1983 they took on their dons in a light-hearted challenge. Almost twenty years later they were invited back for a 40th anniversary series, Dundee again recorded a notable win, beating St Hilda's College, Oxford.

And now, for the University's 50th anniversary, they are flexing their mental capacity once again.

Three of the original line up - Peter Burt, James Smith and Graeme Davidson - are being joined by Tom McGhee, an English graduate and member of the Dundee team 1978 who also enjoyed a spectacular run in the competition, finishing as runners up. They will face a team of current students out to show that the 2017 vintage can match their predecessors.

James Smith said it was a cautious return for the historic champions, "I think we should prepare two speeches beforehand - one saying that we may be confident that the baton has passed to worthy successors, and a second crowing that young people aren't a patch on their parents' generation. I don't expect we would need to use the second one!"

The 2017 student team is Ian Bertram, Mason McIlreavy, Ian Brodie and Rory McDowell and reserve Greg Armstrong. Dundee hasn't competed in University Challenge in recent years but together with the Students' Association we are currently looking to mount a new assault on the nation's premier quiz. Perhaps beating the 1983 champions could set the new generation on their way...

---

*I also confess to having experienced in the moment a certain sense of 'Ha, we showed them!'*



Filmmaker David Mackenzie was attracted to Dundee by the world-class facilities on offer, setting him on a path that has led to Oscar nominations for his box office success *Hell Or High Water*

## A star on the rise



*I think everyone realised the massive opportunity we were all being given. It was a great course to be on and a great place to be*

It was the reputation of Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design as one of the United Kingdom's best art colleges that drew David Mackenzie to Dundee in the early 1990s.

"It was pretty much unique in the United Kingdom, the course they were offering. It was very practical, film-related stuff, and people forget this but even then we were still in the relatively early days of the visual effects world," said David, director of a series of critically acclaimed films from *The Last Great Wilderness* and *Young Adam* to *Starred Up* and *Hell Or High Water*.

"The facilities were really good, well above what you found elsewhere, and I think everyone realised the massive opportunity we were all being given. It was a great course to be on and a great place to be.

"I had a done a theoretical course on film in England but this was about being allowed to get your hands dirty and make things, and to be allowed to make mistakes. And when I look back at the stuff I made then I certainly made plenty of mistakes but that's great. Your failures are as important as your successes. You have to work out where things go wrong and the only way to do that is to practise."

It was a creatively fertile atmosphere in which David completely immersed himself.

"I had a cottage just out in the country in my first term but I soon felt that even that 20 minute commute was time wasted," he said. "So I got a flat just off Perth Road, practically on the doorstep of the college and from then on I was in there full-time, working on film stuff."

After leaving Duncan of Jordanstone he began a directorial career with a series of well-regarded short films before making his feature debut with *The Last Great Wilderness*, a cult Scottish road movie with elements of comedy, a thriller and a strong dose of horror.

It tested the mettle of all involved, as external forces seemed to conspire against them.

"*The Last Great Wilderness* certainly provided a tough beginning in directing," laughed David. "We had a lot of outdoor locations and two days before we started filming the UK was hit by foot-and-mouth disease, which closed down half the countryside. That took away all of our locations and we had to abandon our plans and start rethinking what was plausible. It was a real test of thinking on your feet but we got there.

"That probably served me well when we came to make one of my later films 'You Instead' (released as 'Tonight You're Mine' in the USA). We shot it in the midst of T In The Park (Scotland's biggest music festival). You're working as a director with no way of controlling this human tide of revellers that is all around you. These are the situations where you learn so much."

He followed that with prison drama *Starred Up*, which saw his own star shine brighter, bringing numerous awards including the BAFTA Scotland Best Film and Best Director awards.

Last year's excellent *Hell Or High Water* upped the ante even further. In this tale of two bank robbing Texan brothers, David saw the opportunity 'to shine a light on the raw

nerve of contemporary America'. With stellar performances from Jeff Bridges, Chris Pine and Ben Foster, the movie was a box-office hit and drew four Oscar nominations, including for Best Picture.

That, he hopes, will help propel him to even bigger things.

"Having an Oscar nomination for Best Movie definitely starts to open doors," he says with a smile. "I have been trying to put

together a reasonably big budget Scottish film, a medieval epic I've been developing for about six years. That now looks like it is going to happen so it's a very exciting time."

On the day he speaks to us, it is reported this will be a Netflix-backed movie centred on Scotland's legendary King Robert The Bruce. David Mackenzie's star is well and truly on the up.

# I am

**David Mackenzie**  
Electronic Imaging, Class of 1990

## Oscar nominated film director, Best Picture

David's debut feature film stars his brother and is set in the Highlands, and his Scottish roots are present in many of his works. He's directed some of the biggest names in Hollywood; Sir Ian McKellen, Tilda Swinton, and Jeff Bridges to name a few. He credits his course at Duncan of Jordanstone with providing fantastic practical experience in his field.



University is often synonymous with the first throes of freedom and romance. For some that romance may be fleeting, a term-time relationship. For others it is the start of a lifelong partnership

## The University of Love



Reverend Dr Fiona Douglas,  
University Chaplain

At Dundee, we have a wonderful history of long-lasting love. Since 1975, over 400 marriages have taken place in our University Chapel while others have been held across campus including in the gardens.

Reverend Dr Fiona Douglas, University chaplain since the 1st of August 1997, has been marrying university lovebirds for almost 20 years.

"I think the reason so many staff and students have married here is because it has a special place in their heart," said Fiona. "The community is so special here and the fact we get to witness people give their strongest commitment of love is really heartwarming.

"I am always delighted when someone tells me they want to get married here. We are here throughout the highs and lows and everything in-between, for students and staff. We get to build a special relationship with families on campus and it is wonderful to be part of their celebrations."

### Gaby and Martin Beattie

Gaby said "The University of Dundee was the start of our story in many ways. We felt that the only place we could choose to get married was at the University. I had been on Fiona Douglas' interview panel as a student member and knew that she would be the person to marry us. The Chaplaincy is the perfect venue as it is so beautiful inside with its pristine white walls. We had met in the Union so walked between the Union and the Chaplaincy to get to the Geddes Quadrangle for our photos, which seemed apt. Our wedding party turned out to be only Dundee Uni graduates! It was a perfect day and marked our 10 years together. It has almost been 7 years since we got married and we still live locally with our two perfect little boys."

### Andrew and Shona Mason

met in Freshers' Week of their first year in 1985. Both studying Dentistry, they started going out in the November of that year and got engaged exactly three years later after completing an intercalated BMSc. They tied the knot at the Frankland

Building on campus in the March of their final year before qualifying in December 1990.

Andrew and Shona graduated as a married couple and celebrated their 25 year wedding anniversary in 2015. Andrew is now a senior lecturer at the Dental School and Shona teaches there as an NHS dentist and honorary University teacher. Andrew has given a welcome speech to the new first year Dental students for some years now, which includes the line "Look at who you are sitting beside - I married the person I sat next to at this talk in first year!"

### Tim Chew and Christine Wang

Christine said, "I was in the Electrical and Electronics Engineering faculty in 2000 to 2002 and then did my MSc in Applied Computing in 2003. My husband Tim was a medical student then who spent most of his time at Ninewells. We actually met in the Dundee Chinese Christian Fellowship at the Chaplaincy in 2000. The DCCF held meetings there for about a year or so before moving on to another location. It's funny how we got together given that 1) We weren't studying



Tim Chew and Christine Wang (Below)

Gaby and Martin Beattie (Centre)

Andrew and Shona Mason, (Top right)

Sally Melville and Kat Marshall, (Below right)



in the same faculty, and 2) I was actually dating someone else back then. After completing the postgrad degree, I left Dundee and went back to Malaysia to work. Tim continued his internship year in Inverness before he too left and headed to Australia to work. We lost touch with each other as we moved on with our lives. A few years later, thanks to social media, we got back in touch, started dating

long-distance, got married and I moved to Australia. And recently, we just celebrated our 9th wedding anniversary! Whenever anyone asks how the two of us met, we always said it was back in Dundee at the Chaplaincy. That's our story!"

**Love for modern generations isn't any different - just digital.** LGBT+ Society President, Sally Melville told us about how she

'met' Kat Marshall in 2013. Despite growing up only just a few miles from each other, they actually matched on Blendr, a lesbian version of Tinder, when Sally swiped Kat as she was travelling in Sri Lanka. It was love at first date. "It was ridiculously lucky," said Sally. "We lived 15 miles apart growing up but if it wasn't for the app we would never have met. Going online was not

just an escape but easier to meet like-minded people." Having just celebrated their three-and-a-half year anniversary in February, Kat and Sally say that despite going to different universities they couldn't be happier. In fact, it actually helps increase collaboration between the Abertay and Dundee LGBT+ Societies.

On a digital media quest to educate and engage the public with science and health, Dr Carla Brown takes up the battle against antibiotic-resistant bacteria with her *Bacteria Combat* app

## Games to beat bugs



I am still gobsmacked to have been named in Forbes 30 under 30... but I am also extremely honoured. It was very exciting to see innovative microbiology education and antibiotic resistance education featured on the list



By 2050, anti-microbial resistance (AMR) will kill approximately 10 million people each year. Some of the finest scientific minds in the world are working on a looming crisis that policy makers across the globe are struggling to get to grips with.

Dundee alumna Dr Carla Brown is among those to have taken up the battle against antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Her weapon of choice – video games – may at first appear unconventional but her placing in Forbes magazine's '30 under 30 Europe Science and Healthcare' list recognises both her own success to date and the vital role education will play in the fight against AMR.

Carla, who graduated with a BSc Microbiology degree in 2011, is the founder of Game Dr., an award-winning company that develops games and films to educate the public on important health topics. In addition,

she is currently undertaking a postdoctoral fellowship focused on the development and implementation of digital games in higher science education at Philadelphia's Drexel University. Carla's passion for her subject is the force driving the story forward.

"I am still gobsmacked to have been named in Forbes 30 under 30," she said. "But I am also extremely honoured. It was very exciting to see innovative microbiology education and antibiotic resistance education featured on the list. This shows great promise for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education and also women in STEM.

"I have always been fascinated by the social and dynamic behaviours of bacteria. And I have always loved talking about microbiology so I try to use different strategies for different audiences," she said.



"I love people. People are the reason I do my job. Having conversations with different groups about microbiology is probably my greatest passion. It's interesting how individuals will have unique perceptions towards bacteria and antibiotics based on their upbringing, life experiences, lifestyle and interests."

The idea for Game Dr. developed as a result of such conversations. When discussing her PhD subject Carla found herself using the analogy of warfare to explain microbial/antibiotic battles and warfare. This led to a card game called 'Bacterial Combat' that was eventually developed into a mobile app. After evaluating the effectiveness of these products at engaging school students Carla realised the potential for games in science education.

"Games are engaging, interactive and individual," she continued. "Each player has a unique experience. Bacteria, which are invisible to the naked eye, can also be humanised and visualised through games allowing players to experience the challenges faced by these organisms. For science, games are powerful. If you want to help people, you have to start with people."

Game Dr. brings scientists, educators, creatives and developers together to work on innovative digital media. The team continues to investigate new strategies that can be used to influence the attitudes of both children and adults towards health topics such as AMR.

"It's not my job or desire to scaremonger but we do need to wake up to reality, which is an increasing number of multidrug-resistant bacteria alongside a limited number of new antibiotics," said Carla. "When new antibiotic therapies are developed we need to ensure they are used effectively through public education, regulated prescribing and decreased use of these drugs in farming."

If we can raise an antibiotic-aware generation now, we can prolong the lifespan of these new classes of antibiotics and avoid repeating our mistakes."

Carla credits her lecturers in the School of Life Sciences at Dundee with inspiring her to excel in her chosen field. The wider University and city also influenced her.

"There is so much to be gained from the campus environment," she says. "Due to the proximity of Duncan of Jordanstone, I was able to befriend lots of talented artists and creatives who have helped shape my future career. The city itself has also influenced my career massively. Dundee hosts some of the best game development studios in the country. Having these innovative and creative groups around me during my studies really helped to expand and develop my passions and interests."

"Game Dr. was launched as a game development company, but over the last two years we have expanded. We aim to utilise lots of different forms of digital media to educate and engage the public with science and health. I want to expand my knowledge on game design, film production and creative storytelling to ensure that I continue to develop effective products that break the mould of science education."

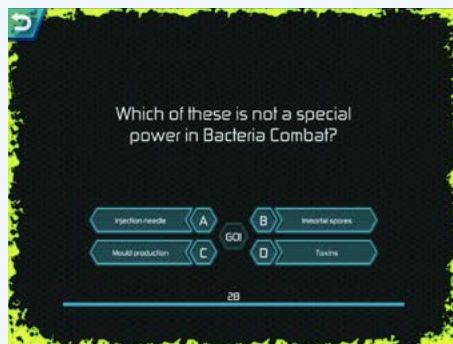
"I've got a long way to go until I can call myself a successful businesswoman but I have learned some important lessons along the way and continue to do so. There's an amazing network of mentors, peers and investors that can help take your start-up from a napkin scribble to fully functional business so take advice of the wide range of support out there. Most importantly, make sure the company is founded on your passion and just do it."

# I am

Carla Brown Microbiology, Class of 2011

## Founder of Game Dr. developing games and films to educate the public on health issues

Carla has been named in the Forbes 30 under 30 Europe Science and Healthcare list, recognising her work on educating the public on health topics. She is currently undertaking a postdoctoral fellowship focused on the development and implementation of digital games in higher science education.



Bacteria Combat, screens from the game



Dundee alumni and students are bringing vital services to people in Burundi, where what we consider straightforward procedures present new challenges

## Filling the gaps in dental care in Burundi

# I am

Chris Southwick Dentistry, Class of 1975

### Providing vital dental care to citizens of Burundi

Dr Chris Southwick has been delivering oral health to communities all over the world for more than 30 years. His career has taken him from Dundee Dental Hospital, to the remote and sparsely populated island of Tristan Da Cunha, to the heart of Africa. He has been instrumental in the training of both local practitioners and Dundee based students.

In the heart of Africa, when an abscess forms around a rotten tooth, infecting the gum and bone tissue, it can quickly become a life-threatening complication.

While treating an abscess can be a simple procedure in countries like the UK, in the province of Rutana, South-West Burundi, a swelling jaw can be an issue of life and death when the nearest dentist is over 200km away. There are only 16 doctors for the 400,000 people in the region and the closest health clinic does not extract teeth.

This was the stark situation facing Dundee dentist Dr Chris Southwick when he began travelling to Burundi, a country devastated by years of ethnic conflict.

For the past five years, Chris has been extracting teeth in the rural clinics of Burundi. During his time he has been training local nurse practitioners as well as guiding young Dundee dental and medical students how to deliver oral health amongst the terraced hillsides in a country the size of Wales.

"You are dealing with people who have nothing," said Chris. "When my son, John, first told me there were only 13 qualified dentists for the 10 million people in the country, I couldn't believe him, but our exploratory trip to assess how the Scottish Christian community could help confirmed it.

"I joined up with a team from Mission International and for the next five years I helped organise the instruments, materials and appropriate medicines to care for up to 400 people per trip."

Since 2011, Chris and his team of keen students have spent two to three weeks of their summers in the Myembuye Clinic in Rutana, dealing with 35-40 patients each day. Some of the patients, including pregnant women, have to walk over 15 kilometres to receive treatment.

"We were determined to provide acute dental care to maximise our effectiveness but this also limited our ability to perform all the extractions needed," said Chris. "We had plenty of practical problems to cope with. Working at an altitude of 3500 feet, in a remote location, we had to sterilise our instruments in a pressure cooker."

Chris began to train the male nurse practitioners at the clinic in safe and effective oral health. He has also helped train and support a young doctor in dentistry. The situation in the country means there is a need to blur the boundaries between the jobs.

"The vast majority of treatments are very simple but are crucially life-saving," said Chris. "Each year I have been helped by students who have, through their actions, helped transform the lives of those living in Rutana province. It has become a vital service for patients and a great experience for all those who have gone."

Over the years Chris has been travelling to Burundi he has seen some positive signs of change, although with much still needing to progress.

"There are signs of improvement but it is slow," he said. "This is a country the size of Wales but many of the people aren't able to get the healthcare we take for granted."

Chris intends to return to Burundi this summer to carry out more of this vital work.



Dr Southwick and his clinical team



*The vast majority of treatments are very simple but are crucially life-saving*



Ice hockey might not be the first thing which comes to mind when you think of the city of Dundee, but the Stars have a proud history

## Dundee stars on and off the ice

*Hockey doesn't last forever, and I'm fortunate to have my education and a plan for my future career in management. Wherever that may be*

The University has been a sponsor of the Dundee Stars ice hockey team since 2014, and key players have benefitted from a scholarship to study in the School of Business.

So far, each of the ice hockey scholars has come to Dundee from Canada. Current MSc Management student and scholarship recipient Justin Faryna started playing hockey at age 7, and gained his first professional contract for Rapid City Rush in South Dakota, USA.

"The biggest difference playing in Scotland is that it's a much closer-knit team. In North America you'd go out for a beer with your

teammates but you'd know you were competing week to week for the same spot on the team!" Justin says.

Last year's recipient Marc Cheverie agrees. "Playing Ice hockey in Dundee was quite a bit different than my previous experiences playing in North America, but I really enjoyed it. The fans of the Stars are extremely passionate about the club and it makes for a great atmosphere at the games. The schedule was very demanding!" Balancing a job and a full-time degree is a challenge, but it's one that's familiar to many Dundee students. Without financial help,





it can be a real struggle to pay bills and rent, and cover the general living costs of studying.

Scholarships and bursaries are a vital lifeline to those, like Justin and Marc, who have the talent and drive to succeed at university. Being able to focus on their studies, free from worries about money, mean that students can fully participate in all that Dundee has to offer. Learning beyond the classroom is just as important as performing well in exams and coursework – whether this is taking part in sport, finding new interests by joining societies, or simply making lifelong friends, as so many students do.

It's through the kindness and generosity of our alumni community that such opportunities are available – every gift makes a wonderful difference.

"It's life-changing," says Justin of receiving a scholarship. "Hockey doesn't last forever, and I'm fortunate to have my education and a plan for my future career in management. Wherever that may be!"

After graduation, Marc returned to Canada and now works in global commercial real estate. "My Dundee education gave me a global perspective on business. It's really helped in my career. I also spend a lot of time volunteering with youth ice hockey teams."

Justin wants to continue playing, but he's really proud of his achievements at university too. His paper on the discourse of leadership within the Dundee Stars is one of the highlights of his studies so far, because it links his coursework and his life on ice.

Ice hockey may not be as big in Scotland as it is in Canada, but the links between the University and the Stars continue to grow. Thank you to all those who make scholarships and bursaries possible for Dundee students.



## Dundee Alumni or Family Member Scholarship

Did you enjoy your Dundee experience so much that you plan to complete another degree here? Or has a relative been inspired so much by your

experience that they would like to study here? Graduates and their family members could be eligible to a discount of up to £1500 on tuition for one full year of study.



**Find out more:**

[www.dundee.ac.uk/study/scholarships/2017-sept/dundee-alumni/](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/study/scholarships/2017-sept/dundee-alumni/)

Animation graduate Claire Roe is the latest to continue Dundee's rich comics heritage, bringing *Batgirl* to life

## From Dundee to Gotham City

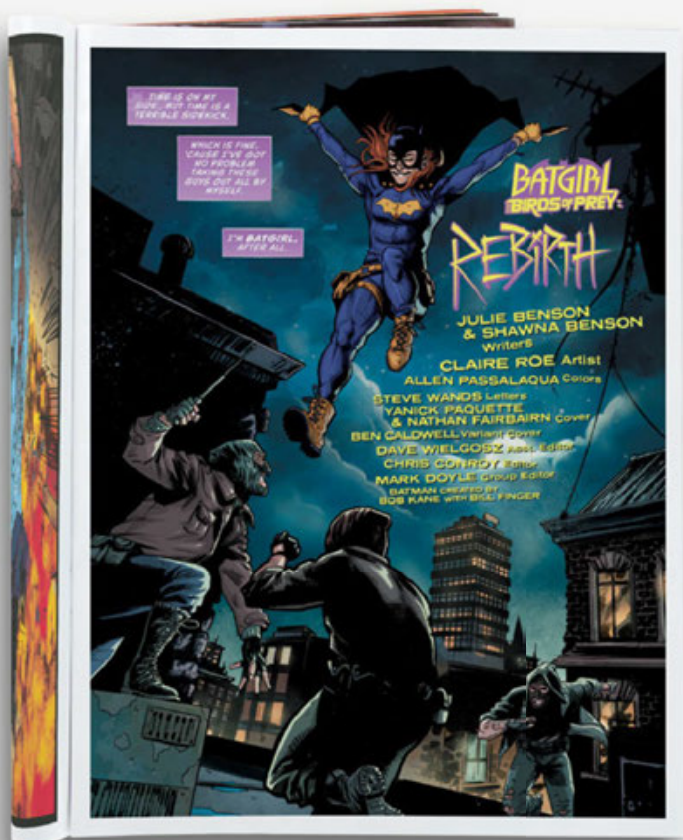
Making their inky mark on the DC Universe is one of the greatest achievements that comics artists can aspire to. Most toil throughout their careers without ever attaining the hallowed status of working for DC Comics or Marvel—the Big Two of the industry—but Dundee graduate Claire Roe joined the select band within a few short years when she was commissioned to illustrate the *Batgirl* and the *Birds of Prey* series.

While the University has established itself as a leading centre of comics scholarship and training in recent years, Claire didn't matriculate with the express intention of carving out a career in the industry. At the outset of her Animation degree at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, she was no more than a casual comics fan but that changed with the 2010 publication of *American Vampire*, co-written by Stephen King.

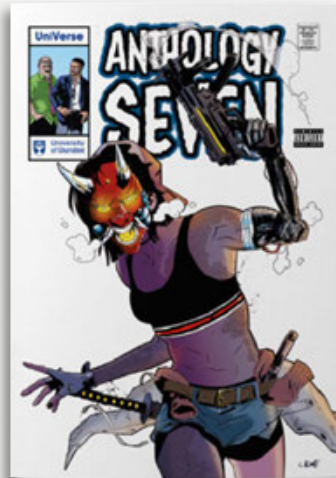
"As a kid I read *Spider-Man* and the *Simpsons* comics, but nothing much more than that," she explained. "It wasn't until I was at university and picked up *American Vampire* in a bookshop that I really started to love comics."

As Claire's appreciation of the medium blossomed, comics began to feature more and more in her work. She was one of the first ever students on the Level 3 Comics & Graphic Novels Module, and also the first student on the Animation course to submit a comics-only Degree Show piece and worked with the BBC and comics writers on projects during her studies. Claire's tutor Phillip Vaughan was quick to spot her potential and alert his contacts at DiamondsteelComics.

That led to Claire being chosen to illustrate *Saltire*, Scotland's first traditional comic book superhero. After *Saltire*, Claire worked for Boom! Studios and soon found herself being feted by the Big Two. "I didn't even know that



*I didn't even know that a career in comics was an option... It always seemed so inaccessible that I guess I never gave it a thought*



a career in comics was an option,” continued Claire. “It always seemed so inaccessible that I guess I never gave it a thought. Then Phil Vaughan passed on my name to the creators of *Saltire*. They liked my art, we met up, chatted, and I got my first comics gig. I learned basically everything about drawing comics while doing *Saltire*.

“I met (award-winning artist) Cameron Stewart at a convention in Glasgow and showed him my work. He very kindly tweeted about me and soon enough the DC editor he worked with on *Batgirl of Burnside* got in touch. I kept in touch with the editor while working at Boom, and with a stroke of luck I got asked to be part of *Birds of Prey*. Around the same time I was asked to do an issue for a Marvel title, which I had to turn down, so that was a crazy few months.

“I was stunned when I was told I would be working on *Batgirl*. I didn’t quite believe it. Working at the Big Two is always an ambition. I didn’t think it

would actually happen though. Bringing *Batgirl* and the *Birds of Prey* to fruition was a pretty stressful process. Dealing with impostor syndrome on top of the work is tough. But the folks in the Bat-family are brilliant, I couldn’t have asked for a better and more supportive team to work with.”

Her stellar rise has meant dealing with autograph-seeking fans as well as adjusting to seeing her name on comics produced by one of the world’s most prestigious publishers.

“It’s crazy seeing my art with the DC logo,” she said. “I hate to look at my own final product in print though, so I just quickly glance it over then hide it away so I don’t start noticing things I could have drawn better! I’ve only done a couple of signings, and it’s nice to see that people like your work. Drawing all day puts you in a little bubble, so to hear it from real people and not just a random online is gratifying.”

Online bubbles or not, the liberating influence of the internet means there has never been a better time to

be a comics writer or artist, according to Claire.

“The comics industry isn’t just an old boys club anymore,” she said. “You don’t have to travel to big American conventions for a portfolio review to get a chance at working for big publishers. The internet is changing everything. People with different stories to tell are now getting that chance.

“I have a few things down the pipeline, but I don’t have many comics under my belt, so I’d still love to do something at Marvel or DC but I’d also like to do a creator-owned comic, to really build something up. My career has only just started, so who knows what opportunities will come my way.”

## I am

Claire Roe Animation,  
Class of 2013

## I am the DC Comics Batgirl artist

Illustrator and comic book artist Claire Roe fell in love with comics at university, but didn’t expect to be able to make an incredible career out of them. Since leaving Dundee she’s been in high demand at some of the world’s biggest publishers, including DC and Marvel. Claire still works freelance, and was recently shortlisted for the SICBA Awards in 2016.





William Sangster Phillips

Since 2003, a trust fund set up by the son of one of Dundee's best known 19th century artists has been contributing to the city's rich heritage, giving over 40 postgraduates bursaries for study at the School of Art and Design, an outstanding example of the impact a legacy gift can have

## A lasting legacy through art

In his wonderful book *Art in Dundee 1867-1924*, Matthew Jarron (Curator, University Museum Services) describes how the city has inherited and continues to benefit from an extraordinarily rich art culture. Education has undoubtedly played an important role: the Dundee Technical College founded in 1888 gave rise to our Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, now one of the UK's finest art schools.

The William S. Phillips' Fund helps students of exceptional talent, particularly those who wouldn't be able to study without a bursary. It is an outstanding example of how a legacy gift can transform lives for years to come.

William 'Willie' Sangster Phillips was born in Dundee in 1901 and died just before his 100th birthday in 2001. Art was close to his heart – Willie's father was Charles Gustav Louis Phillips (1863-1944) whose best known paintings include 'The Siege of Dundee, September 1651' which hangs at the entrance to Dundee Council Chambers, and 'Dundee from Balgay Hill', in the McManus Galleries. The family lived in Union Street where his father taught classes in art from his studio.

Willie attended the High School of Dundee until 1917 when he became an apprentice at the famous linen manufacturers Baxter Brothers (owned by the brother of our university's co-founder, Mary-Ann Baxter). In 1924 he gained certificates in Jute Spinning and Weaving from Dundee Technical College and School of Art, the forerunner of Duncan of Jordanstone.

After leaving Baxter Brothers, Willie worked for one of Dundee's paper and stationery firms until retirement. A keen tennis player, he was President of the Lawn Tennis Association from 1953-54 and a lifelong member of the Liberal Party. In addition to setting up the trust fund, Willie donated a large number of his father's works to the Dundee Heritage Trust. These are now regularly on display.

A legacy such as the William S. Phillips' Fund contributes to the education of generations to follow. The graduates of Duncan of Jordanstone who have been supported by this fund are now inspiring countless others through their art practice and teaching. We are all the beneficiaries.

We caught up with some of the recipients of the bursaries and asked them what receiving the award meant for them.

### Anna Orton

Anna graduated with an Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in 2013 and has gone on to specialise in theatre design, designing the sets for *King Lear* and *Messiah* with director Tom Morris (*War Horse*) for Bristol Old Vic Theatre.

"I had 5 years out after my undergraduate degree and the award gave me the opportunity to re-evaluate and continue my art practice."



Abi Baikie



Ruaridh Lever-Hogg



Two of the most recent recipients **Abi Baikie** and **Ruaridh Lever-Hogg** are putting the finishing touches to their Masters' Degree Show projects.

Abi's work embraces colour and striking patterns and has already exhibited her work as far as Charleston, South Carolina as well as in the online gallery, Curious Egg. She says of the award:

"It allowed me the time, support, tuition and access to facilities to push my art career forward. I will be forever grateful."

Ruaridh has had an exciting year, having been filmed for the BBC's Big Painting Challenge.

"The award has meant so much to me – it has boosted my confidence and helped me to believe in myself."

#### Amanda Adam

Amanda achieved an MFA with Distinction and now works as an artist in Fife. Her work is inspired by the natural landscape and geological phenomena.

"As a single mum on a low income I had no way of funding a postgraduate course. The award has meant I have been able to continue working and progress my ideas"



#### Joletta Thorburn

After graduating with a distinction in an MFA Art & Humanities in 2016, Joletta received the Fife Decorative Arts Award which further enabled her to travel to the foothills of the Himalayas to study Tibetan Buddhist painting. After learning the ancient arts of applying and mixing pigments and pure gold, she completed a painting of Machig Labdrön, an 11th century Tibetan yogini.

Dundee was her first choice due to the facilities and opportunities to deepen her understanding in philosophy and critical practice.



## A legacy can deliver remarkable results

A gift in your will is the most personal gift you can make. It's a way for you to make a lasting difference at the University, ensuring support for students, research and teaching for generations to come.

For more information on remembering the University in your will, contact your solicitor or our Legacy Officer, Gordon Ramsay  
+44 (0)1382 381136  
[g.w.ramsay@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:g.w.ramsay@dundee.ac.uk)

**Dundee's art heritage:** *Independent and Individualist: Art in Dundee 1867 - 1924* by Mathew Jarron, (Abertay Historical Society/ University of Dundee Museum Services, 2015) is available to buy in Waterstones or in our online shop: [www.buyatdundee.ac.uk](http://www.buyatdundee.ac.uk)

A most unusual route to international diplomacy and not a Ferrero Rocher in sight for our now High Commissioner to Ghana

## Opening doors across the world

# I am

Iain Walker Scots Law, Class of 1998

### The British High Commissioner to Ghana

Iain Walker's career spans the private, public and voluntary sectors, from Dundee, to London, to all over Africa – Malawi, Kenya, Ethiopia and Ghana. He has worked in consultancy for some of the world's largest firms, in the Cabinet Office and the Foreign Office. His new post in Ghana will be a fantastic adventure for him and his family when they move there in August.



Iain Walker credits his Law degree at Dundee with opening many doors for him, the latest being to the UK High Commissioner's residence in Ghana.

The 40-year-old Dundonian's route into the world of diplomacy is less conventional than many. He didn't join the Foreign Office straight after studying languages or PPE at university. Instead, his CV shows a career built across the private, public and voluntary sectors. "The Foreign Office has changed a lot in recent years," he says. "It is so much more diverse than any stereotype would suggest. In any case, as I'm allergic to nuts I won't be spoiling people with Ferrero Rocher!"

As well as becoming the British High Commissioner to Ghana, Iain will also become the UK Ambassador to Ghana's smaller

neighbours, Togo, Benin and Burkina Faso. His role will see him work in a country with strong links to the University, primarily through the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law Policy. Ghana's recently appointed Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, John Peter Amewu, is a graduate of Dundee and 'The Scholarship', an Apprentice-style radio reality show that offers talented Ghanaian students the chance to win a fully paid postgraduate place at the University, has been running for the past three years.

"Ghana is a wonderful, vibrant country. There is real, genuine affection for the UK there, and there is a significant population of Ghanaians living and working in the UK," he explained. "I'll be looking to build on a long tradition of close UK-Ghana ties. In the coming



years, I'm sure trade will be an increasingly important part of my role as the UK adapts its relations following Brexit, and as the recently elected Ghanaian government looks to strengthen their economy. Building new trading relationships and growing existing ones will be a major part of this.

"I've previously worked in Africa, but Ghana will be a new challenge and experience for myself and my family. It will be a four-year posting. I'm thrilled to be taking up this role at this time, and I hope it will be a great adventure for my whole family."

After graduating in 1998, Iain left his hometown and went to work for multinational financial services firm Ernst & Young in London. There he obtained accountancy qualifications but also realised that his destiny lay elsewhere.

"I, perhaps naively, wanted to do something useful and to make a difference," he said. "I thought about how I could best do that so I volunteered to work for an NGO in Africa. I spent the first year in Malawi and then moved on to Ethiopia and Kenya. It made an incredible impression on me and I learned more than I could ever have imagined."

Iain moved back to London at the end of his African adventure and began working for the UK Government, firstly at the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs before joining the Cabinet Office during the premierships of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

He explained, "I joined DEFRA at a time when it was developing the Carbon Emissions Trading scheme, responding to the bird flu outbreak and going through a lot of internal change. It was a great experience – it felt fast-paced and purposeful. It led to me joining the Cabinet Office and working for the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit. It was a fascinating time

to be working so closely with No. 10 Downing Street. It was a time of a lot of change and we were charged with looking at new ideas and new ways of organising Government and getting different departments working together. It was a challenging and interesting job, made more so by the change of Prime Minister and the unfolding financial crisis.

Upon leaving the Cabinet Office, Iain and his family moved back to Scotland when he accepted a position with PricewaterhouseCoopers, another of the 'Big Four' professional services firms. There he worked for PwC's public sector consultancy arm before, in 2010, he felt the pull of policy once more and joined the Foreign Office as Finance Director and became a Board member.

Iain takes up his new post in Ghana in August. Although he left Africa 13 years ago, the continent had never left him and he remained a trustee of GOAL, the NGO he first worked with all those years ago.

"My journey here has been unconventional, I suppose," he said. "I think my law training helped me in several ways. It made me think about the importance of the rule of law: how we can take it for granted, and how essential a foundation it is for security, commerce and a functioning society. It opened doors to different experiences in the private, public and voluntary sectors that I will bring to the role. And it made me interested in areas I wasn't interested in before; it made me inquisitive and question the ways things were and how they could be made better."

"When I got married my best man and ushers were friends that I had made while at university. My time at Dundee has had a big influence on my life, professionally and personally."



*I, perhaps naively, wanted to do something useful and to make a difference. I thought about how I could best do that so I volunteered to work for an NGO in Africa. I spent the first year in Malawi and then moved on to Ethiopia and Kenya. It made an incredible impression on me and I learned more than I could ever have imagined*

Now the owner of the vibrant private members club, Norwood Club, in New York's Chelsea district, Duncan of Jordanstone alumnus, Alan Linn has come a long way from his student days in Dundee

## Shooting for the moon in the Big Apple

---

*I came to America with a dream. Americans love your enthusiasm – it doesn't matter your socio-economic background. The Scots have always been good at going out on their own and creating new things*



Alan Linn came to Dundee as a last resort. It turned out to be the best thing that could have happened.

"I didn't actually choose Dundee. I'm dyslexic and as I didn't get my Higher in English I was turned down by Glasgow School of Art. Dundee was my third choice behind Glasgow and Edinburgh and it was the best move ever for me. It made me leave home and grow up. It also provided me with the opportunity to meet people and be in a new city.

"My first flat was £4 a week, I shared it with three other people and we had an outdoor toilet! I'm still great friends with my Dundee group. We had no money. We would go the Steps Theatre and watch French movies, it was fabulous. Being a working class boy in Glasgow in the 1980s we were means tested and it gave me the opportunity to go to Art College and in turn graduate with a first class degree."

Sadly Alan's mum was diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. At this time Alan stopped working as an artist and got a job in a bar, the foundation for his career in hospitality. One of the pieces in the club, featuring the moon, is a fitting tribute to his late mother.

"My parents were ordinary, working class people. When mum walked the dog she could see the moon. At the time I was living in London and my sister was in Italy. She always said if all three of us could see the moon she felt connected to us both and she wasn't as lonely. I was actually pictured telling Nicola Sturgeon this story recently. Everyone in the background was in tears and asked what I had said. It's the smallness of life – simple as that."

Alan has always had a love of America and after meeting his husband, he looked to move to New York. Prior to his move to the US he had worked as General Manager for Blacks, a London Private Members Club, for 12 years. He couldn't get a job in the US, being told that he had too much experience so decided to open Norwood.

"I came to America with a dream. Americans love your enthusiasm – it doesn't matter your socio-economic background. The Scots have always been good at going out on their own and creating new things. That's what I love about us – we assimilate into the places we go and we don't hold a Scottish badge, we're making things happen.

"Upon opening we were asked to do pieces in Vanity Fair and Vogue. It was a time when the British were coming over saying it's great in Britain, it will be great in America too. That wasn't our philosophy though. We wanted to let the Americans discover Norwood so we didn't do the articles."

Now celebrating its 10th anniversary Norwood has been voted second best club in America and second best club in the world. There are 1100 members of the club with 11 clubs around the world including in London, Madrid, Munich, Toronto, New Zealand, Buenos Aires and LA that members can access. Membership is open to all but is based on curiosity.

"Make creativity happen, that's what we do. It's amazing to see people with creativity meet each other. The real essence of the club is smashing people together and connecting people."

# I am

Alan Linn Design, Class of 1983

## Owner of Norwood, a private members' club in Chelsea NY

Alan counts coming to university as one of his best moves. He originally planned to study at Glasgow School of Art, but found himself sharing a flat with three other students for £4 a week in Dundee. His private members' club Norwood in New York is now celebrating its 10th anniversary.



Sports and Biomedicine graduate Rucha Kashalkar is helping lift India to Olympic glory

## Going for physiotherapy gold

### I am

**Rucha Kashalkar Sports & Biomechanical Medicine, Class of 2014**

#### Physiotherapist to India's Rio Olympics Women's Wrestling team

Rucha was the first female physiotherapist to work with an Olympic medal-winning team from India, and worked with the tennis, rugby, football and cricket teams at Dundee. She hopes her success will inspire future generations in India to explore sports medicine as a career.



Rucha graduated in 2014 with an MSc in Sports and Biomechanical Medicine. Having already completed her Bachelor's Degree back home in India, Rucha decided she needed to further her skills to improve her already blossoming career as a physiotherapist. "When I was in Dundee, the whole of Scotland was getting geared up for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games," said Rucha. "This meant Dundee had a whole host of professionals from the field of sports medicine who were able to guide me on how athletes should be preparing and training for high level games." She was able to get to grips with new technologies that were not available to her in India. "I had the chance to work with athletes from a variety of nations and cultures which made me confident and competent to handle any high pressure situations. It was actually a reason I got the chance to work with the Indian Olympic team."



## Get involved with the British Council Alumni Awards in the future

The British Council Alumni Awards celebrates alumni who have used their experience of studying in the UK to make positive contributions to their professions, communities and countries. 2017 marked the third year the awards have been held in Egypt, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey and the USA. All award finalists were invited to one of the prestigious award ceremonies held in their country, giving them the opportunity to raise their profile and highlight their success to an international audience.

The awards are split into three categories; Professional Achievement Award, Entrepreneurial Award, and Social Impact Award. The Professional Achievement Award is given to an alumnus who has proven themselves as a leader and who has made exemplary achievements in their professional industry.

Candidates for the Entrepreneurial Award have to be active in initiating, or contributing to, innovative new business opportunities with strong growth prospects. The Social Impact Award is awarded to an alumnus who has made a positive social change to improve the lives of others.

The prestige of winning an Alumni Award is far reaching. The benefits to awardees include enhanced global status and strengthened professional networks. All finalists are given the opportunity to connect with fellow high-calibre and successful alumni, as well as influential guests at the award ceremony. This will help them to extend and build their professional networks and contacts.

**For more information about the British Council Alumni Awards :**  
[www.britishcouncil.org/education-uk-awards](http://www.britishcouncil.org/education-uk-awards).

Thanks to Rucha's work in Dundee, she was selected to be the physiotherapist for the Female Indian Wrestling team in the Rio Olympics. She worked with Sakshi Malik who went on to win a Bronze medal for her country. This made Sakshi the first Indian female wrestler to win a medal at the Olympics, and only the fourth female to win an Olympic medal for her country.

This was a massive achievement for India and even led to Rucha getting some accolades of her own. "I was given the Thane Gaurav Award in October 2016 which is granted to Thane Citizens for their exceptional work in their field. I was also nominated for a British Council Alumni Award this year." The British Council Alumni Awards celebrates the outstanding achievements of alumni and showcases the impact and importance of undertaking a UK higher education. "Being named on the shortlist was just as good as winning. I had a great time at the ceremony and met

a lot of inspiring people and professionals. It felt fantastic to represent the University of Dundee."

Being part of an Olympic medal winning team has not gone to Rucha's head. She still feels she has more work to do to encourage the physiotherapists of the future. "I feel as a sports physiotherapist I have to inspire young physiotherapists to take up sports as a specialisation," said Rucha. "I have been inspired by my former lecturers Dr Weijie Wang and Professor Rami Abboud and have started to move my knowledge into the classroom." Rucha has been delivering a host of lectures to try and encourage more people to get into sports medicine. "Sports is a neglected field in India and awareness about the link with physiotherapy is lacking," explained Rucha. "Sports medicine is basically in its infancy. I feel I can help give Indian athletes the much needed boost to improve their athletic performance and help train the Indian Olympic stars of the future."

Football, golf, netball, ski, basketball, surf, dance, volleyball ... tiddlywinks?

## Celebrating 50 Years of University Sport

The University's 50th anniversary marks many significant changes and developments within the institution over the past half century, but one thing which has remained a constant during this period is the key role which sport plays in enhancing and contributing to the student experience.

When the University gained its charter in 1967 students had a choice of 23 sports clubs, twenty of which still welcome students today (the ice skating, gymnastics and weightlifting clubs being no longer in existence). The number of university sports clubs has now almost doubled to 43, with the establishment of clubs such as Dance, Surf, Ultimate Frisbee and Handball reflecting the changing trends and interests in sport that have taken place during the last fifty years. During this time there have been occasionally eccentric attempts to establish new 'sports' clubs, such as in 1970 when an application for a Tiddlywinks club to be admitted to the Sports Union was dismissed, while an attempt to start a Swingball Club in 1992 also suffered the same fate!

However, the camaraderie and lifetime friendships forged through the experiences that students enjoy in their sports clubs has remained constant throughout the past half century. This unique role was highlighted by the men's rugby club captain, Graham Desson, in 1967:

"University teams have a unique team spirit, engendered by the companionship of Varsity life, as well as the social occasions so often associated with clubs..."

It is these bonds that see sports club alumni frequently returning to relive their student days and share their memories and stories with current students. Many sports clubs now host alumni reunions on a regular basis, celebrating their club histories and stories and enabling former members to learn and share in current developments and successes.

The University has enjoyed much competitive success during the past fifty years, with many individual students and clubs claiming Scottish and British titles, while some exceptional student athletes have reached the pinnacle of student sporting competition at the World University Games. This run of sporting success was launched in 1967 by the men's rugby team which claimed that year's Scottish Universities title. Fifty years on, University teams continue to enjoy sporting success with Scottish Student titles being claimed in 2016/17 by a number of clubs, including men's and women's water polo, women's hockey, karate and fencing.

However with survey feedback indicating that 83% of our 2500 sports club members confirming that they joined their club 'for fun', it is the strong bonds created through weekly training sessions, club trips and regular club social events that ensure that strong friendships are forged and lifelong memories are created.

### From Top

Men's Hockey Club, 1975

Sports Club Captains, 1967 - 1968

Volleyball reunion, 2016





With thousands of alumni worldwide,  
the University network is one that we trust  
you will want to remain connected with

## Building a global network



Clockwise from top left  
Alumni gathering,  
Malaysia, November 2016

New York Tartan Parade,  
April 2017

Dinner with the Principal,  
Hong Kong, October 2016

Alumni and friends reception,  
India, April 2017

'Showcase Dundee',  
Saudi Arabia, April 2017



### Global ambassadors

Over the past twelve months we have met alumni from all over the world, both here in Dundee and on our travels. As our alumni you are our global ambassadors who can help the University with plans for transformation and growth throughout the world.

With thousands of alumni worldwide, the University of Dundee network is one that we trust you will want to remain connected with, no matter how many years have passed since you left the University.

We encourage alumni to come together and formally set up regional groups across the world.

To get involved please email  
[alumni@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@dundee.ac.uk)

# I am

Cynthia Murray, Nursing Class of 2008

## Nurse Care Manager (Ambulatory Care) for the US Department of Veterans Affairs

Cynthia Murray studied via distance learning so only visited Dundee for her graduation. Working for the US Veterans Health Administration, she serves veterans of US conflicts abroad and at home, past, present and future in the context of ambulatory care.

Studying via distance learning, Cynthia Murray has only been to Dundee for her graduation ceremony but her Dundee education is helping to transform lives in a global world

## The reach of Dundee



Cynthia's journey with the University of Dundee began in 2005 when she was awarded a National Nursing Education Initiative (NNEI) scholarship through the United States Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

"Through my work at the US Veterans Health Administration, I have the honour of serving veterans of US conflicts abroad and at home, past, present and in preparation of future events. Our troops, when deployed to areas outside of the borders of the United States, are returning to the US with post exposure illness and diseases. The United States public health service had eradicated or vaccinated against many diseases that are still present in the underdeveloped world but these are again affecting our population through the exposures now faced by our troops.

"Many of our soldiers who are longing for the normalcies of home have taken on native dogs and cats as pets only to find they

have been exposed to rabies due to lack of veterinarian care, limited access to basic public health standards and or non-existent basic animal control mechanisms in these war-torn lands. Once the soldier transitions to veteran, screenings for these post deployment maladies begin in the ambulatory care clinic and treatment can be initiated."

Cynthia credits her Dundee education with giving her a global perspective.

"My curriculum was research centred in evidence based nursing practices. Through the extensive resources of the University library and the astute personal guidance provided by my professors, I developed a foundation of knowledge and abilities that has served me well professionally and has expanded my influence within the greater field of nursing both nationally and internationally.

"My work at the Veterans Health Administration is based in the Ambulatory Care setting. Utilising the foundational research

principals I gained at university prepared me to chair several important national projects on the quality and standards of professional nursing practice for the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing.

Indeed, Cynthia hopes that her experience of Dundee will encourage her colleagues to benefit from the international outlook a Dundee degree provides.

"With the expanded need to treat locally while thinking globally in how health care is delivered, I am hopeful that other nurses, including those within my beloved US VHA, will consider the University of Dundee as a place to prepare their nursing practice. It is truly an honour to be an alumna of a university that desires for its students to not only impact their native countries, but more importantly to have a global impact for the betterment of all mankind. As the world becomes smaller, Dundee's reach becomes greater."

To paraphrase Nelson Mandela, education is the most powerful way to transform the world – and this is exactly what our supporters do every day

## Making a difference



*I'm grateful for what Dundee did for me... I feel that, if I'm going to give to help students, then the logical place is to start where I started*

Lorraine Harper, Arts and Social Science, 1976

Lorraine and her husband David met as students in Dundee, and both feel that their regular gifts are a modest way of recognising how much their time at university has influenced and benefitted their lives. They have each had highly successful careers; Lorraine in pensions and management consultancy, David in public and global health, and they both think fondly of the big adventure they had arriving at university for the very first time!

And it's not just financial help that alumni are providing to current students. Through volunteering to represent the University, sharing stories about days past, or hosting a marvellous send-off for those travelling to Scotland for the first time, the dedication of graduates in spreading positive Dundee vibes all over the world is amazing.

Rick Smith now lives in Australia, but his connection to Dundee remains strong. Thanks to his kindness, two students have been able to start their university careers in the last year, with two more set to join them in September. Holly and Scott were thrilled to be the inaugural Joan Markie and Richard Smith Scholarship recipients. Holly says of finding out she'd been awarded a scholarship:

"I was really shocked when I was successful. Being awarded the scholarship has opened up more opportunities for me, helping me further my career in a way I thought would not be possible!"

Helping students in unexpected ways is something graduate Chris Van der Kuyl is familiar with too. Last year, he won the Dr Manhattan Oor Wullie statue at auction, and decided to donate it to the University.

Now Oor Wullie sits in the Tower Building and greets guests as they come into the foyer!

For students who would otherwise struggle to afford their degree, the generosity shown by Dundee alumni and friends is life-changing. The fact that alumni are happy to take some time out of their day to help someone following in their footsteps means a great deal.

Whether it's £5 or £5,000, a five minute chat or even a five(ish)-foot statue, every gift makes a wonderful difference. Our heartfelt thanks to every University of Dundee donor!



From Hong Kong to Dundee and back again, Eric Chan is building connections across the world

## Building new pathways

*Life was difficult to begin with in Dundee. Language was the obvious problem. But I soon made friends*



If you are lucky enough to be flying into Hong Kong International Airport take a look out of the window. You will see a bridge over the sea that is currently under construction. This is called the Hong Kong Link Road. A 12km road system built to connect the areas of Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao to the nearby airport. This mega-bridge is also outstanding for another reason, its construction is being supervised by a Dundee alumnus.

The Hong Kong Link Road is a dual three-lane carriageway, comprised of 7.4km marine viaducts, 2km land viaducts, 1km of tunnels and 1.6km at-grade road. Eric Chan is the

bridge contractor's Director of Infrastructure. Eric graduated from Dundee with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1979. "Life was difficult to begin with in Dundee," said Eric. "Language was the obvious problem. It took me several months to find my feet, but I soon made friends." Also, being a student in the 70s came with its own problems. "There was no TV, mobile phones or internet at that time. The library and computer centre were our home."

After graduating he moved back to Hong Kong and got to work finding a job. "Without my degree from Dundee it would not have been possible to train as an engineer. In



Hong Kong a degree is essential to gain an engineering chartership,” explains Eric. It was not long before he joined the design and engineering consultancy, Arup HK. “It was here that I decided to specialise and discovered my favourite subject, bridge engineering,” said Eric. He started off his career by designing small vehicular bridges, footbridges, roads and drains as well as civil structures. Later on, he was involved in the 4km Kwun Tong Bypass project in 1987, which was built to alleviate congestion on one of Hong Kong’s busiest roads.

Now he leads a 400 strong team. The Hong Kong Link Road is a HK\$25 Billion project and currently one of the largest in country. “It is a very expensive project and it has been branded a white elephant by some people. There is always someone trying to hit out against it,” said Eric. “So if we are over budget, violate environmental permits or have an accident on site there’s always a backlash. This makes life very difficult, especially for a supervisor.”

Building a link road in close proximity to a massive international airport comes with many risks. “It is a delicate operation and all of the work is demanding. We have to work around many restraints because of the airport,” explains Eric. Airport-related height restrictions have meant that viaduct construction in areas adjacent to the south runway have had to be carried out at night when the runway was closed. Height detection equipment was installed to ensure construction was done within the height limits.

On the positive side Eric is working on what is described as a world class standard construction. “Everything is of high quality,” said Eric. “I love being part of this challenging and rewarding project.”

The Hong Kong Link Road is scheduled to open very soon. Thanks to his Dundee degree, Eric is a local man who is helping to build new pathways for the people of his country.

# I am

**Eric Chan** Civil Engineering, Class of 1979

## Director of Infrastructure for Arup HK

Eric Chan started his career designing small bridges and roads, but his latest projects are anything but small. From the 30km-long Hong Kong Zhuhai and Macao Bridge, to the Central Kowloon Route (designed to reduce journey time from 30 mins to 5 mins), Eric continues to take on big challenges – not least finding time for his favourite hobby, cycling!

Four very different siblings all trod the well worn path to Dundee, following in the footsteps of Law graduates John and Caroline MacMillan (Mum and Dad)

## It's a family affair

The MacMillan bunch



*He decided that his path was at a different university. However, he soon changed his mind and ended up following his brother and sisters to Dundee*

John and Caroline MacMillan met while they were both studying Law in 1974. After graduating in 1978, they got married, moved to Ayrshire and had four children: Christine, Merrick, Lewis and Esther. Remarkably, all of them have returned to where their parents met to attend university. "When Christine was a teenager I told her she would make an amazing lawyer. I had to be trained for five years how to think like a lawyer, but she had the gift, explained Caroline "But that was it. After that suggestion there was no way she was doing law. So if I told her she should go to the University of Dundee she would have gone anywhere in the world except Dundee." John added "Hand on heart we can say we never encouraged any of them to go to Dundee. It was their choice."

Caroline thinks it could be down to the lasting friendships she made during her time at Dundee. "I've always been close to my former flatmates from university. The kids were brought up hearing tales and stories and I think they had a good idea of what Dundee was like."

Christine arrived in Dundee in 2001 to study Physics and Maths, followed by her brother Merrick in 2008 who studied History and

Geography, rounded off by the youngest sister Esther arriving in 2006 to study English.

Their youngest son Lewis took a different route to Dundee. "Lewis said no. He wasn't going to Dundee," said John. "He decided that his path was at a different university. However, he soon changed his mind and ended up following his brother and sisters to Dundee to study Renewable Energy in 2011."

The links do not stop there. Christine met her husband James while he was studying Economics at Dundee, and Lewis also met his girlfriend Adele, who will graduate this year in Mental Health Nursing.

With all of their children heading to Dundee, John and Caroline decided to invest in a property in the city. "We bought a flat, in Paradise Road, just on the outskirts of the city centre," said John. "It became very convenient. All four of our children stayed there. We owned it for 13 years and we only had to find a tenant for one of those years. So it was a good piece of real estate."

The MacMillans' is a love story that started in Dundee and led to their children starting their very own adventures right here in the city.



Three sisters who began their careers at Dundee under the watchful eye of their academic father Professor Ravindra Dhir

## Sister Act three

On 27th February 2017, Anuja Dhir QC was appointed to the Old Bailey. She is the youngest and first non-white judge to hold this position. Anuja's incredible career all started in Dundee.

Anuja was born in the city, attended Harris Academy and took the decision to study English and Scottish Law at Dundee in 1984. "I didn't really know what to expect or even if I had chosen the right course to study," explained Anuja. "It helped that my best friend from school, Cheryl Edgar, started with me and that we both were studying law. Good friends make all the difference. I didn't consider going to any other university and I'm not sure my dad would have encouraged it."

After all, her dad taught at the University. Professor Ravindra Dhir was a lecturer in Civil Engineering during Anuja's student days. He was later promoted to chair of Concrete Technology and remains an Emeritus Professor at Dundee. "It was always useful having him on campus, especially as it meant we could always get a lift home after lectures," said Anuja. "But in all seriousness he was an inspiration. He gave us so much and was also a committed academic with an exemplary work ethic. He is also a decent and kind man who has helped many."

The family links do not stop there. Both of her sisters graduated as dentists from the University. Namrta graduated in 1990, with Pratima completing her studies in 1998. "I can't take credit for either of my sisters deciding to study at Dundee. My dad might have, subtly." However, Namrta, being the older sister, made sure Anuja made it to lectures on time, but looking back the younger sibling thinks it must have been a struggle for her. "Who wants their annoying younger sister at University? So it was difficult for her, but wonderful for me," explained Anuja.

Shortly after graduating Anuja was awarded a Gray's Inn scholarship and was called to the Bar in 1989. Gray's Inn is one of the four Inns of Court, professional associations for barristers based in London. "Some of my friends had gone to London to sit the Bar Finals and after hearing about the Inns of Court and the English Bar I decided I would like to try it. I joined Gray's Inn because they were the smallest and I thought they were the friendliest of the four Inns," explained Anuja. She decided to focus on Commercial Law and even taught International Law at the City of London University during her first year at Gray's Inn, but she soon realised she wanted to be a court advocate.

She practised at the Bar for 23 years, prosecuting and defending in serious criminal trials and appearing in cases involving national security and human rights. Anuja was made QC in 2010. "In one 18-month period I represented solicitors, a male escort, fraudsters, heads of major corporations, accountants and defendants with learning and psychiatric problems," said Anuja.

She is also keen to train the next generation of legal advocates. "I enjoy working with students, pupils and new practitioners. I teach in the UK and abroad, including Singapore, Jamaica and Zimbabwe." She also regularly trains judges for the Judicial College and has a particular interest in how the vulnerable are treated by the courts.

Dundee was where Anuja's legal career began. "The quality of the teaching and the people I met during my time at university made it really special for me. It got me to where I am today. If I picked a different university my career could have taken a very different turn."

*In one 18-month period I represented solicitors, a male escort, fraudsters, heads of major corporations, accountants and defendants with learning and psychiatric problems*



Anuja (Above)

Namrta, Anuja and Pratima (Below)

We may be celebrating one big reunion in Dundee to mark the 50th anniversary in 2017 but over the past twelve months we have welcomed reunions back

to the city to celebrate their own milestones. Whether by subject, sport, halls or society there's always a good reason to return to Dundee!

## Returning to the City of Discovery







07

- 01 Class of 1966 Medics
- 02 Class of 1976 Medics
- 03 Class of 1987 Dentists
- 04 Matriculating Class of 1966 Architects
- 05 Class of 1996 Medics
- 06 Chalmers Hall Ladies, 1966
- 07 Chinese Society, 1990s
- 08 Gaelic Football, Alumni v Students



04



08





University  
of Dundee

## Be part of the next 50 years

The law is changing on how we contact you. Make sure you don't miss out on all things Dundee – get in touch today!

**DundeeConnect**

[www.dundeeconnect.com](http://www.dundeeconnect.com)



Image courtesy of Shahbaz Majeed  
Applied Computing, Class of 2003

The Bridge is published by External Relations, University of Dundee.  
The University of Dundee is a registered Scottish charity, No: SC015096  
e: [alumni@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@dundee.ac.uk) t: +44 (0) 1382 381184