

THE BRIDGE

Alumni Magazine 2018

University of Dundee

A man with a beard and dark hair, wearing a white cycling jersey with various logos, is shown from the chest up. He is looking off to the side with a slight smile. The background is a bright, hazy sky. The text 'AROUND THE WORLD' and 'IN 80 DAYS' is overlaid on the image in a grey box.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

Our Rector Mark Beaumont
sets a new mark for
endurance sport, page 8



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Hello from Alumni Relations

The 2018 edition of The Bridge features some fantastic stories about you, our alumni. Some of our favourites also return with the 'University of Love' and a look back at this year's reunions and events.

If you haven't done so already, please do sign up to Dundee Connect, our online alumni platform. It provides an exclusive mentoring and networking platform for you, our alumni and our students. From offering CV advice to providing information about your company, Dundee Connect is a great way to share your expertise and experience with others.

It's also been an exciting time here in Dundee as we have watched the Waterfront redevelop and look forward to the opening of the V&A in September. So much so, that we are offering you the opportunity to win a trip back to Dundee to see the changes for yourself. Please find more details at the back of the magazine.

You will also find a copy of our privacy statement within the magazine. Our alumni and supporters are extremely important to us, and this privacy statement explains how the University of Dundee's Development and Alumni Relations Office collects, stores, manages and protects your data. Finally, we very much hope you enjoy reading the 2018 edition of The Bridge.

Pam, Cara and Amy
Alumni Relations Team

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), Cara Longmuir, Hilary McNally (Psychology - Politics, Class of 1989) and Amy Pass
Design	Creative Services - creativeservices@dundee.ac.uk

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of Dundee

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Image courtesy of Shahbaz Majeed
Applied Computing, Class of 2003

A welcome from the Principal



Professor Sir Pete Downes
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

This is the last chance I shall get to write the words 'Welcome to the new issue of The Bridge' under the banner of a welcome from the Principal, as I will be retiring at the end of 2018.

It has been a tremendous honour to lead this great institution for what will have been almost ten years at the time I step down. Being Principal has been the latest and final chapter of my career in the University, which began in 1989.

When I arrived in Dundee I had the enormous privilege of working with an extraordinary group of colleagues as a small biochemistry department transformed itself into a world-leading Life Sciences complex. I have now been here long enough to have received a Long Service Award last year. I wear my silver badge, denoting 25 plus years of service, with pride, along with the many staff who have shared the journey. Later this year I will turn 65 and this seems a natural time to consider the next stage of my life.

I am very much one for looking forward rather than back, and I think this University and the city have exciting times to look forward to.

I think what we have here is truly extraordinary. From a small dot on the map on the east coast of Scotland, and in a University that is relatively small when compared to some of the global giants, we have done remarkable things.

Over our history we have pioneered innovations as diverse as flat screen technology and keyhole surgery. Only recently we have been at the heart of such diverse projects as; clearing the island of South Georgia of rats to re-establish the hugely important seabird colonies there, developing a compound, currently in clinical trials, which has the potential to offer a new treatment for malaria, opening up a new level of performance for the Large Hadron

Collider at CERN, and giving our students opportunities to work at the world's largest experiment and giving a voice to street children in Africa.

The teaching and environment we provide for students is excellent, as noted in our gaining a Gold Award in the inaugural Teaching Excellence Framework, affirmation for the great work done by so many people across our community. The outcomes of that are increasingly notable. We are now among the very best universities in the UK for graduate employment, showing that our students are ready to take their place in industry and make their own impact.

We are attracting more people – students and staff – from around the world to Dundee. We are more international than ever, with more than 140 nationalities represented on campus. We are at the heart of new developments which are changing the landscape of the city, most obviously in the central waterfront where we see V&A Dundee rising on the banks of the Tay, a project which originated here at the University.

That is a project I have been closely involved with. It is a sign of Dundee on the rise, to the extent that this year everyone from the Wall Street Journal to Lonely Planet have placed the city on their global lists of 'must-see' places.

You, our alumni around the world, are helping to spread the message ever wider that Dundee is a place where great, exciting things are happening.

The role of a Principal, I believe, is to develop and nurture a culture that allows people and the institution to prosper, so that ambition, success and progress become self-sustaining. I will be leaving in the belief that my successor will join a University which has such a culture and which will continue to achieve our core mission – to transform lives. **TB**

Our University at a glance

- The University is home to around 17000 students and more than 3000 staff, helping to make Dundee Scotland's most student-friendly city
- We are more international than we have ever been – 25% of the students we are engaged with are from outside the UK, with over 140 countries represented on campus
- We were named Scottish University of the Year 2016 and 2017 (Sunday Times Good University Guide)
- We are one of the World's Top 200 universities – Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018
- We are now top in Scotland and sixth in the UK for graduate prospects, with over 85% of our recent graduates going on to graduate level employment or further study – Complete University Guide 2019
- Dundee has been named one of the top destinations for 2018 by the Wall Street Journal, Lonely Planet and more, with V&A Dundee set to open in September



“With the opening of the newest branch of the V&A this September, Dundee is a city with an eye on the future.”

*Lonely Planet
Best In Europe 2018*



*"Dundee has emerged as
Scotland's coolest city"*

*Wall Street Journal
October 2017*



- We won a Gold award in the 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework, the main assessment of teaching quality in the UK. We are one of only 12 universities in the UK to hold the Gold award and also be in Times Higher Education's world top 200 universities.
- We are best in the UK at influencing innovation – Nature Innovation Index 2017
- We are the world's most influential pharmaceuticals research institution, according to Clarivate Analytics 'State of Innovation' report (2017), ahead of the likes of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of California Berkeley.
- The University is one of the best places in the UK to be a student – one of Times Higher Education's 'NSS top tier' universities from the 2017 National Student Survey. Overall satisfaction rated at 93%, International Student Barometer 2018.



Around the world in eighty days

Our Rector Mark Beaumont set a new mark for endurance sport by shattering the world record for cycling around the world. He describes how it felt and how it has helped give him a greater understanding of mental health challenges.

The challenge is broadly measured in thousands of miles and timelines of days and weeks. But for Mark Beaumont the meticulous planning to get around the world in 80 days under his own power started by looking at the minutes.

"I became very obsessive about minutes," admitted Mark, our University Rector. "The alarm was set for 3.30am every day and I was on the bike at 4am. Not being ready until 4.05am was a reprimandable offence. It had to be that sleek. If we lost just five minutes every time I had a change over it would add up to two days over the course of the ride. And that was time we didn't have."

To fulfil his target Mark had to average 240 miles a day. That meant 16 hours on the bike every day, which doesn't leave much spare time for luxuries such as sleeping.

"Our plan was for 75 days riding, three days of flights, and two days for contingency," Mark explained.

"We only used fourteen hours of those two days, we were that tight with our time." Mark had previously set a round-the-world record in 2008, when he did it in 194 days. Since then other riders had taken chunks off the mark, lowering the record to 123 days. To do it in only two-thirds of that time was a daunting challenge, but inspired by Jules Verne's classic novel *Around The World In Eighty Days*, Mark and his support team set a plan.

Starting off in Paris on July 2 last year, he cycled through Europe, Russia, Mongolia and China. From there he flew to Australia and crossed the continent before heading up through New Zealand and taking his next flight to Anchorage in Alaska and starting the long haul across North America.

Then a flight across the Atlantic brought him to the final stretch, through Portugal, Spain and back to Paris, completing the route in 78 days, 14 hours and 40 minutes.

"During the ride I was permanently inside this incredible performance bubble. The alarm was set for 3.30am every day and I was on the bike at 4am."



As well as capturing the overall record he also set a new official Guinness World Record for the most miles cycled in a month, from Paris to Perth in Western Australia, verified at 7031 miles (11,315 km).

Maintaining an average speed of 25 kilometres an hour all the way, he maintained an incredible focus to get the job done, while taking the time to appreciate some of the sights rolling by.

"New Zealand was one of my favourite parts of the journey, we did the length of it in five days and it was gorgeous," said Mark.

"The ride in to Paris was incredible. The finish was everything I dreamed it could be, the crowds were out, I was given clear roads to ride in on, the media were there in force. It really was the dream."

Then came the really tough part. "After the emotion of the finish I realised I was more tired than I had ever been. I'd basically had two-and-a-half months of sleep deprivation.

Continued →



Around the world...



“The ride in to Paris was incredible. The finish was everything I dreamed it could be, the crowds were out, I was given clear roads to ride in on, the media were there in force. It really was the dream.”

“The next day I was broken. If you had paid me £1million I couldn’t have got up and out of my bed at 3.30am. “There is a physical comedown, and I also had broken teeth and a fractured elbow. But even harder is the mental side of things.

“This was my Everest, but now I had to come down the other side. I got to Christmas and I was feeling a bit blue about life. And that has made me think a lot about mental health, how sport and exercise depend on our mental health as much as our physical health, and how the two support each other.

“One of my big interests as Rector is in the mental health of our students and the challenges they face. And for them there is an analogy to facing your own Everest, working hard for four years to gain your degree, worrying about it, preparing for it, facing the stresses, hopefully finding the time to enjoy yourself along the way. “I hope my experience helps inspire people, our students particularly, to meet their own challenges. I want to encourage people to take their education and do something with it that they are passionate about, to instil that confidence in young people to make those choices.”

Mark’s global challenge raised £80,000 for Orkidstudio, a Scottish-based charity which works to benefit communities worldwide through innovative architecture and construction. For now he is spending a bit less time on the bicycle while he ponders new challenges. First up is a very unusual one.

“I’m having fun this year,” he said. “Part of that is going to be trying to break a record that was set in 1881, the hour distance record for a Penny Farthing. It’s a challenge just to get on it and a totally different kind of bike to ride!” **TB**

Holly on the telly



Picture the scene: you have been up since 3.30am, you are appearing on live television in front of two million viewers and you have just been handed a rifle – the first time you have ever held a gun – and told to shoot it.

That was the situation facing BBC Breakfast reporter Holly Hamilton when she toured the UK to meet young Olympic hopefuls. The 31-year-old Dundee graduate tried her hand at rugby, gymnastics and several other sports as the nation watched between mouthfuls of cornflakes.

It was the rifle incident that would prove the most bizarre of Holly's career to date, however. "It wasn't planned or expected," she explained. "Someone handed me a rifle and told me to take a shot. It was on live TV so I didn't have much option. It felt strange in my hands. There was an awful lot of pressure not to miss."

The nature of breakfast television means there is no such thing as a typical day for Holly and she can be covering the most heart-wrenching tragedy imaginable one minute then helping a farmer to muck out a barn the next. Since joining the Breakfast team four years ago, Holly has been handed a diverse set of assignments, falling in love with the sheer unpredictability of live broadcasting along the way.

"When you pre-record pieces then there are lots of things you can do in the editing suite to improve it," she continued. "Being a perfectionist, I'm always tweaking bits but live isn't perfect and you have to just accept that."

Holly's broadcast career started at Dundee's Radio Tay just months after graduating in 2008. After a couple of years she crossed over to the small screen as a reporter and presenter with STV News. Holly briefly returned to her native Northern Ireland to work in radio again before she wound up at the BBC's Salford studios in 2014.

Despite moving to Salford, she still considers herself an honorary Dundonian. "I still visit Dundee as regularly as I can", she said. "I am very proud to have studied at the University. I reel off accolades that DUSA and the University have received whenever I speak to someone about the place. I always tell people how great Dundee is and how it's one of the most gorgeous places in Scotland." TB

I am

Holly Hamilton
Politics-French, Class of 2008

BBC broadcaster

My life long treasure

Secretary-General of The International Energy Forum, Dr Xiansheng Sun, travelled to Dundee from China in 1996. Little did he know it would create a relationship that has lasted over 20 years.

Before he submitted his application to study Energy Policy, Dr Sun was working for the Chinese Petroleum Industry. "At the time, the University wanted to bring students from China to Dundee. They were sending over academics to highlight the courses available," said Dr Sun. "My boss asked whether I was interested in giving it a try. I felt really lucky and pleased to have been given such an amazing opportunity to study in Scotland."

He liked the city so much that he decided to stay for his PhD in Energy Law. After which, he headed back to China. He has now worked in the country's oil sector for more than 30 years. "Initially I was working for the Petroleum Ministry of the Chinese government, as Department Director of the Information Centre," said Dr Sun.

However, after Chinese administrative reforms he was transferred to the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and worked there for more than two decades. He says he owes a lot of his career to what he learned at Dundee. "What enabled me to undertake those responsibilities successfully was partially due to my many years of working within the sector, but also thanks to my student journey at Dundee," he said.

"I gained more confidence thanks to the teachings I received at Dundee, which, to me, has been the most valuable treasure I have acquired in life."

Now in his role as Secretary-General of The International Energy Forum he is responsible for liaising with 88 states and leading talks in energy related issues. "We need to work to foster a greater understanding and awareness of common energy issues," explained Dr Sun. "In doing so, we could also help enhance transparency of the energy markets and to improve energy security as well."

Dr Sun has not managed to let Dundee go and is in constant touch with the University's Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMLP). He was even back in June last year. "I love working with CEPMLP," he said. "I hope to organise future events and help the University to recruit students, not just from China, but from other countries as well."

It is because of his unending support of the University, that he will cross the Caird Hall stage yet again. This time to collect his honorary degree. "I am very excited," said Dr Sun. "It is such a great honour and a privilege. I hope it goes to show just how far a degree from Dundee can take you." **TB**

"I gained more confidence thanks to the teachings I received at Dundee, which, to me, has been the most valuable treasure I have acquired in life."



I am

Dr Xiansheng Sun
Energy Law and Policy, Class of 2000

**Secretary-General of the
International Energy Forum**

Strengthening links with China

The University of Dundee is forming exciting new partnerships with some of the best universities in China, with new initiatives strengthening Dundee's already established links.

A collaboration with China University of Petroleum - Beijing (CUPB) will welcome the first students on to a new Dundee-China Dual Masters in Energy Finance.

This interesting new programme brings together CUPB and Dundee's Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMLP).

A joint initiative with another of China's top universities, the Central South University (CSU) in Hunan, will see life sciences students from CSU graduate with two degrees.

In architecture, links have been established between Dundee and Wuhan University. Students spend their first four years in China with Dundee staff teaching part of the course before coming to Scotland for their final year.

And a Dundee China Global Summer School has also been established with the support of the Chinese Embassy. This initiative offers scholarships to students from Dundee to study at a partner institution in Shanghai over the summer break.

BlackRock-ing all over the world

BlackRock is recognised as one of the largest asset managers globally and has a number of University of Dundee graduates working across the world. We caught up with some of them and asked how their degree has impacted on their career.



Lyndsey Howe
Financial Economics, 2014
Associate, Assets Under Management Team, Edinburgh, UK

"I am an associate who provides critical weekly reports about BlackRock's Assets Under Management and Net New Business. My degree taught me a great deal about the market place and the different financial institutions. I learned about BlackRock through the University's online Career Planning module. One of the studies we performed was to look at our chosen industries and use the available data to determine which companies values were best matched to our own and my top match was to BlackRock! I miss the social life and all the friendly people on campus. There were so many great places for catching up and socialising."



Joanna Hemsley
Biomedical Science, 2008
Associate, Global On-boarding Team, Edinburgh, UK

"I work closely with our clients, service providers and a broad cross-section of internal BlackRock teams. Even though I did not follow the traditional Business or Finance Degree course, the experience of time management, analytical thinking and problem solving that I gained during studying for my degree has helped me undertake a variety of interesting and engaging roles since leaving University. Since joining BlackRock, I have been able to move internally and perform three different roles during my seven years with the company. I miss Dundee, especially that you could walk everywhere, but also the DCA and of course the 24 hour bakery!"



Colin Clunie
Financial Economics and Management, 1995
Director and COO, Global Accounting and Performance Team, Edinburgh, UK

"I work across our global leadership team to drive strategy, planning and execution. My degree provided a sound understanding of economic principles and the workings of financial markets and institutions globally. During my 2nd year at Dundee, I attended an introductory accounting module. This was a catalyst for pursuing a career in that field and I joined Ernst & Young LLP as a graduate and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1998. I miss the compact nature of the campus which made it easy to take advantage of the facilities and to make, and keep in touch with, friends. I still take the opportunity to visit Dundee whenever I can."



Matthew Cardosi
Business Economics with Marketing, 2006
Portfolio Manager, Vice President,
New York City, USA

"I am part of a team that manages over \$100 billion of institutional clients' assets. My degree gave me the knowledge and an understanding of the global capital landscape. Joining BlackRock has helped me navigate the financial markets, and also my career. I am exceptionally proud to be flying the flag of the University of Dundee in New York. Without a doubt I miss my family and friends. Access to golf courses is a little more difficult; there's no such thing as a 'cheeky nine holes' after work when you work in Midtown Manhattan. I have managed to source fish and chips and even black pudding, but the Dundee 'Peh' remains as elusive as the Haggis!"



Sid Siddharth
E-Commerce Computing, 2008
Vice President
Gurgaon, India

"My team is called Aladdin Client Services and we are responsible for resolving clients' queries around BlackRock's proprietary Asset Management platform, used by around 100 big financial services institutions across the globe. I acquired a lot of client-facing experience during my time at Dundee. The course required us to go and meet executives from a lot of companies based in Scotland and have conversations about product management. This helped me improve my people skills and know what questions to ask. I miss so many things about Dundee! Mostly the Volleyball Club and the calm feeling that the small town of Dundee had about it."

"Without a doubt I miss family and friends. Access to golf courses is a little more difficult; there's no such thing as a 'cheeky nine holes' after work when you work in Midtown Manhattan."

Friends across the Irish Sea

Over the years, the University of Dundee has welcomed students from all corners of the UK, with one corner in particular appearing to have a strong attraction. Since 2005, 8000 students have made the trip from Northern Ireland to Dundee. Our relationship with Northern Ireland dates back even further to the 1940s and we decided to chat to Northern Irish alums to find out what attracted them to Dundee.

Julianne Robertson, County Antrim, English, 2000

"I had applied for Queen's, St Andrews and Dundee, but Dundee was my top choice. I went to an Open Day and I was struck by the fact it wasn't a big scary city. Being from a rural town, I thought it would have been a culture shock to go to Glasgow or Edinburgh. The very first person I became friends with at university was from Northern Ireland. Her name was Christine and we met in West Park halls and we ended up being friends all the way through university."

Paul Arnold, Belfast, Anatomy and Physiology, 1999

"It wasn't just Dundee that I was attracted to, it was Scotland as a whole. If I chose to study in Scotland I'd get to do a four year degree, as opposed to England's three years. I felt that university was supposed to be the best years of your life, why not make it last a bit longer? I had also been to Scotland a few times with various rugby and cricket tours over the years. I felt that the Scottish sense of humour was similar to that of the Northern Irish, I thought I'd be able to settle in quickly."

Lucy Downey, County Armagh, Social Work, 2012

"There are only two universities in Northern Ireland and there is a lot of competition to get in, so they set very high entry levels. I knew I wanted to do Social Work, but I didn't think I would get the grades to be able to study it at home. Luckily I was successful in my application to Dundee and don't regret it for second. I had such an amazing time and made friends for life. I also found that Dundee was a manageable size for someone being 18-years-old and moving away for the first time."

"The Scottish sense of humour was similar to that of the Northern Irish, I thought I'd be able to settle in quickly."





James McClintock, Antrim, Mechanical Engineering, 1996

"The links between Northern Ireland and Scotland have always been strong; the dialects, Christian beliefs, sense of humour and positive attitude are engrained and it was these that first attracted me, and subsequently helped me to settle quickly, in Scotland. My memories are of how a microclimate of cloudless skies, views of the Law, the Tay, the bridges, Fife to the south and the hills to the north from so many vantage points in the city made it an enjoyable place to work and relax. Now working as a senior teacher in a Northern Irish college, I take every opportunity to sell the advantages of taking the short trip across the Irish Sea to study and I often recommend that potential students check out what Dundee has to offer."



John Hall, County Armagh, Civil Engineering, 1978

I had been working for four years in Civil Engineering in Northern Ireland and had gained a HNC through part-time studies. This allowed me to complete a civil engineering degree in two years as a result of the University of Dundee's credit system. This was particularly attractive as I was married and keen on getting the degree as soon as possible. No other university facilitated this. I also had friends in Scotland who were able to locate suitable accommodation in a wee apartment in Broughty Ferry and helped in choosing a local church which was similar to one that we, as a married couple, were part of in Northern Ireland."



Many people will be surprised to find that Tottenham Hotspur hero and Northern Irish international Danny Blanchflower started his career at the University. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 which led him to come to the University of St Andrews in 1944 as part of the 'Air Training Scheme.' The course covered Maths, Physics, Electrical Engineering and Kinematics, with Physical Education being taught at Dundee. At the time, The University College, Dundee team was coached by Jack Qusklay, former Celtic, Dundee United and Scotland trainer. It appears as if Jack saw something special in Blanchflower and persuaded him to play for the team for a spell.

Above: Photograph of 1944 University of Dundee football squad featuring Danny Blanchflower. Photograph courtesy of University of Dundee Archive Services.

A vision to be proud of

To many people in Dundee, V&A Dundee is a new feature to the city's waterfront. But to Alumna Tara Wainwright it has been a project that started a decade ago.



Tara joined the V&A Dundee project 10 years ago, while seconded from the university. She graduated from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design with a degree in Textiles in 1995. Shortly after graduating she found a position with Kinross-based cashmere spinners, Todd & Duncan. "I loved my job as a textile designer," said Tara. "However, as it was the 90s, the Scottish textiles industry was not so buoyant." This change in outlook eventually led Tara to take up a position at her alma mater working within the University's Creative Design team.

As a Graphic Designer, Tara worked to build the University of Dundee's brand. She even designed the very first edition of *The Bridge*. "I remember we toyed about with names for a while," she explained. "Marmalade was one option at the time, however *The Bridge* was a better fit with what we were trying to say, and, as you can see, it stuck."

It was during her time at the University that she first heard rumours of Dundee getting its very own V&A. "The University is one of the founding partners of V&A Dundee and my director at the time was heavily involved at the early stages," said Tara. "I remember sitting at my desk and getting a phone call from her telling me about the project and asking if I wanted to get involved. "I was excited about the project from the get go. I was in good company - over 120 international architects came forward to compete for the chance to design the building." The winning vision came from Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, who is now designing the stadium for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. His design takes its inspiration from the dramatic cliffs along the east coast of Scotland. His vision will also be the focal point for Dundee's 30-year masterplan to reconnect the city with its waterfront.

I am


Tara Wainwright
Textile Design, Class of 1995

Marketing and Audiences
Manager, V&A Dundee

It is Tara's position as Marketing and Audiences Manager to sell V&A Dundee to the world. "I had been part of the team for seven years before the first spade hit the ground," said Tara. "I remember watching the Hilton and the old Olympia coming down, and then, gradually, our extraordinary building has been built. Before that, I had been travelling the country, telling people about this amazing museum that was still to be built."

To people driving past the building every day, V&A Dundee looks complete, but to Tara it is just getting started. "There's a lot of work going on inside, installing our exhibitions and getting all the fixtures in place," said Tara. "But it is breath-taking. There is so much light in the building, it is really quite spectacular."

The V&A Dundee team has been doing a lot of work to reach out to local communities and schools across the country to tell them more about this exciting development. "Kuma's vision was to create a space that the whole of Dundee and Scotland could enjoy and be proud of," said Tara. "We've spent a lot of time going out to schools and communities and working with our creative industries, to really involve them in the development of the museum – it is theirs after all. Based on the feedback we've been receiving, everyone is really excited to see the museum open."

With V&A Dundee just months away from opening, Tara is justifiably excited to get people in the door. "I'm at the point now where I just want people to see it," she said. "It has been a decade long project for me and it's brilliant to see it finally realised. It's now about getting people in and getting them engaged with design – sharing it with the world." 



V&A Dundee will open its doors on **Saturday 15 September**. Its first exhibition will be **Ocean Liners: Speed and Style**, an insight into the glamour of life on board the world's greatest 'floating palaces', their design and cultural impact.

Fighting for a world free of Alzheimer's

Every three seconds someone in the world develops dementia. It is estimated that there are 47 million people worldwide living with the condition. A University of Dundee alumna is working to find a cure for its most common form, Alzheimer's disease.

Samantha Budd Haerberlein came to Dundee in 1990 from Southampton to study Biochemistry. "I left school knowing I wanted to do science, but I hadn't figured out what field," said Samantha. "This is why I decided Scotland was probably the best place for me to study, as the system allowed me to study for four years. It gave me that extra year to decide what I actually wanted to do."

Although she had planned to stay in Dundee for four years, Samantha actually ended up staying for seven and left Dundee with a PhD in 1997. During her undergraduate degree she had become deeply interested in neuroscience and finding out how the brain works. "I saw a challenge when it came to neuroscience," said Samantha. "The clarity of the function of nerve cells, yet the unknown of how the brain works on many levels. I quickly became interested in how the various neurological diseases manifest themselves at the molecular and cellular level."


Her PhD took her across the pond and to Harvard Medical School's Department of Neurosurgery. From Harvard she moved first to The Burnham Institute in San Diego and then to Sweden to work for the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. It was here that she began to look at therapeutic ways to treat Alzheimer's. Now she is Head of Clinical Development for Alzheimer's disease at Biogen, a biotechnology company that specialises in Neurological and Neurodegenerative diseases. "We are currently leading an advanced clinical trial that involves several thousand patients and over 300 hospitals from around the world," said Samantha. "Our focus is on amyloid plaque, a protein

that grows on the brain that can lead to memory loss. We're looking at ways to slow or stop this growth process to hopefully stop the condition from developing."

Samantha's work at Biogen managed to catch the eye of Microsoft co-founder, Bill Gates. When he was asked to edit an issue of TIME magazine, his team approached Samantha to write an essay for the edition. "I was amazed when I was asked to contribute a piece," said Samantha. "Alzheimer's research is a new area of focus for Bill Gates, so I jumped at the chance to talk about our work, and how we're playing our part in trying to battle the disease."

Despite being featured in the highly respected publication, she has not let it go to her head. "I'm very proud of the TIME piece," said Samantha. "Not only has it highlighted the work that is going to combat the condition, but it's also allowed my teenage sons to see me in a different light. They now think I'm cool."

Although Dundee was just the start of her journey into science, Samantha says she owes a lot to the University. "I had a terrific time at Dundee and it worked out perfectly for me," she said. "It allowed me to explore science and got me to where I am today. I haven't forgotten my time there and I still keep a close eye on what the School of Life Sciences is up to."

"I am optimistic that we will find a cure for Alzheimer's, which looking back, is something I wouldn't have been able to say when I was a student at Dundee. I look forward to a world that is free from this debilitating condition." 



I am

Dr Samantha Budd Haeberlein
Biochemistry, Class of 1994

Head of Clinical
Development for
Alzheimer's Disease
at Biogen

"We are leading an advanced clinical trial that involves several thousand patients and over 300 hospitals from around the world."

University of Love

Forget the chocolates and the flowers, it is the alumni stories that we love the most. Each Valentine's Day we put out a call for stories of love forged on our campuses. We are always amazed by the response and always have a new tale to tell. Here's some stories of love that we gathered back in February.

Suzannah Harnor and Stephen Hobson

Suzannah Harnor and Stephen Hobson first met in the University's Carnellie Building when they were both studying Chemistry. They remained together while Suzannah stayed in Dundee to do her masters and Stephen left to start his PhD in Glasgow.

They were soon reunited and both received PhDs in Organic Chemistry from the University of Glasgow. Their work then took them to Newcastle University, where they both became Research Associates, working side by side in the fight against cancer. Their story was even shared far and wide to mark this year's World Cancer Day. Suzannah said, "We've spent the majority of the last 14 years working and living together and people are often surprised that we can manage, but we think we are incredibly lucky to have studied and worked in the same cities at the same time. To work together within the research community helping to fight the disease is incredibly rewarding."



The University Chaplain is always happy to tell our brand new first year students that they could easily meet their future husband or wife during Fresher's Week.



Phillipe and Jane Boissiere

Philippe and Jane Boissiere met in Dundee while they were both studying Medicine in 1970. Jane was pregnant with Claire, the eldest of their four children, at graduation. Claire herself would later attend Dundee and became a member of the DUSA executive in 1997. "It looks like Dundee graduates who meet at university tend to have lots of children. Perhaps the future prospectus should carry a fecundity warning," said Philippe.



Julie and Craig Lintern

Julie met her husband Craig during her first night in Dundee in September 2009, before she had even had a chance to matriculate. Julie said, "He was a medical student and I was about to commence my degree in Law. Hilariously we met at the fresher's night in the student club called 'fresh meat'. We've been inseparable ever since."

Craig stayed in Dundee to complete his foundation years, waiting on Julie to complete her studies. He then followed her to Bristol where Julie started her career as a solicitor. After almost eight years together, they got married on 20th May 2017.



Jonny and Naomi Mainwaring

Jonny Mainwaring and Naomi McCourt had their first kiss outside the students union in May 2000. Both law students, they met through a mutual friend. Naomi said "Dundee is very special to us as it holds all of our 'firsts' ...first date, first kiss, first Valentine's day! We graduated on the same day in July 2003 with both our families around us."

The couple later moved Newcastle upon Tyne. Nearly 18 years on and they are very happily married and have two children. Naomi added, "Thanks University of Dundee for our love story...we are very much enjoying our happily ever after!"



Salah and Sandra Elnagar

Microbiologist Salah Elnagar met his wife Sandra in the student's union in 1975. Sandra had been a teacher in Dundee, but was doing an extra course at the College of Education. After graduation they were married in Hampshire, where Sandra was originally from.

They worked abroad for many years, but have now settled in the Wirral with their twin sons and two grandsons. Salah said, "We are very fond of our time at Dundee and we share beautiful memories."

Creating hope in risky spaces

Dr Trish McCulloch, senior lecturer in the School of Education and Social Work, talks to The Bridge about the creative ways society can tackle offending in Scotland.



“Really, what works with people who offend is the same as what works for everyone. What works is feeling like we have a say, feeling like we have a stake in what is happening”

There are few subjects more guaranteed to trigger an outpouring of political rhetoric and public outrage than crime and how to deal with those who commit it. And there are few issues more likely to polarise opinion – with calls for longer sentences and harsher punishments on one side and appeals for more understanding and support on the other.

But for Dr Trish McCulloch, whose research looks at what works in cutting offending in Scotland, reducing the debate to an argument over whether tougher is better is deeply unhelpful and risks missing the opportunities to work together to create a safer society.

“Punishment is the dominant narrative in society,” she said. “The stereotype is of people who are bad, who have done bad things and therefore should be punished, but as soon as you look a bit deeper it becomes clear that it is so much more complicated than that.

“When you look beyond the label of offender, see the person and hear their story it is easier to understand what can be causing the offending in the first place and we need to look at that. We have to understand what causes offending if we want to be able to reduce it.

“Framing the debate in terms of hard and soft approaches is really unhelpful. It sets people against each other when really we all want the same things. We all want to live in a safe society. We want people to fulfil their

responsibilities and stop offending. So the question is what is the best way to do this and how can we work together to make it happen.”

Dr McCulloch has explored this question in her research. She has tracked people who have offended and come through the criminal justice system and looked at what has helped or hindered them to change their behaviour and ‘make good’.

“Most of the things that hindered them were within the criminal justice system and most of the things that helped were outside of it. So being able to access support helped, forming supportive relationships helped and finding practical support helped. It was things that gave them a sense of hope and a sense of worth.

“Really, what works with people who offend is the same as what works for everyone. What works is feeling like we have a say, feeling like we have a stake in what is happening and feeling like we are involved.

“When the system is purely punitive it doesn’t deal with the reasons why people are offending or address whether it could be down to substance misuse, homelessness, a chaotic lifestyle or trauma.”

She added that early trauma, sometimes referred to as adverse childhood events, is a highly significant factor in terms of journeys into offending.



“A few years ago I volunteered at a soup kitchen in Dundee and the stories I heard were consistent, of abuse, neglect, domestic violence, of people using substances to self-medicate and cope with their lives. We need services which acknowledge that trauma.”

Dr McCulloch recognises that the idea of offering support and understanding to those who offend is difficult for many people to accept.

“I absolutely understand the kickback there is around this. Crime harms. It hurts. This isn’t about excusing anyone. It is about understanding how people get into offending lifestyles and looking at how to change that.

She believes that the only way to see progress in reducing offending is for a shared commitment to change across society as a whole.

A project she has been involved in to this end is the Creating Spaces for Change knowledge exchange initiative funded by the Scottish Universities Insight Institute. This looked at the idea of change through increased societal involvement that came about in the wake of increased grassroots participation during the 2014 independence referendum.

“The referendum created a space where people could imagine the kind of country they wanted to live in. I think it also created

an appetite for more participation and an awareness that it is possible to be involved.

“And what is key for social work is that if it is about anything it has to be about participation. And yes that can be really challenging when we are working in areas of risk and harm.

“But good policy isn’t enough. Good research isn’t enough. Achieving change in and through criminal justice services involves everyone. We can see this in successful public health initiatives or in child protection initiatives.

“Making progress requires us to share responsibility and be willing to get involved. Criminal justice is the same but it is a risky and controversial space. No-one has a problem with children achieving their potential but there is an ambivalence when it comes to people who have offended.

“It comes perhaps from a frustration with the criminal justice system which can feel distant and detached and maybe a feeling that there is not enough focus on victims of crime. But offenders and victims can be the same people. We have to talk about these issues, together.

“There is a public engagement statement that sums this up for me: If we are more involved then we can become more forgiving, more proactive, more grown up.” **TB**

“What is key for social work is that if it is about anything it has to be about participation.”

Transforming young lives

A scholarship programme for high achieving young people who may not otherwise be able to maximise their potential is helping students at the University find success in higher education and transforming their lives.

For over 20 years, The Robertson Trust, the largest independent trust in Scotland, has funded scholarships in line with its vision to improve the quality of life and realise the potential of people and communities in Scotland.

In 2015 the Trust adopted a match-funding approach with universities to increase the number of young people who could be supported. Since then 17 students at Dundee have received these match-funded bursaries taking the total number of Robertson Trust scholars on campus to 36. It is hoped that figure will be increased in the next academic year with the award of a further six match-funded bursaries.

Those who have benefitted from the scholarships have praised the initiative and described how it has helped them with far more than just financial support. “The team at the Trust have been a wealth of knowledge about what to expect from the world of work and how to navigate through it,” said Jonathan Cochrane, a 4th year history student.

Kenzie Harrison, a 1st year architecture student, agreed and described how the Trust had helped the move from school to university. “The scholarship has benefitted me greatly,” said Kenzie. “Most importantly for me it made the transition from school to university so much smoother than I expected it to be.”

The Trust was established by the Robertson sisters in 1961 with shares from their grandfather's family business Edrington, owners of well-known brands, Macallan, Highland Park, Famous Grouse, Cutty Sark and Brugal. The sisters' benevolence and business acumen ensured that profits from the successful Robertson companies would continue to help people and communities in Scotland, just as they had done in their grandfather's day.

In addition to their bursary, the Robertson Trust Scholars also benefit from a personal development programme called Journey to Success which improves employability and self-awareness through workshops, funded internships, volunteering opportunities, and a leadership development programme.

The Journey to Success programme is central to the scholars experience at University providing one to one support and training, ensuring students reach their maximum potential. Applications come from partner schools and universities and are assessed on how the young people have overcome barriers to learning and self-development including growing up in a low-income family, attending a low progression school, living in an area of multiple deprivation, being care experienced or having carer responsibilities.

In addition to an annual £4,000 bursary payment, 3rd year scholars are encouraged to apply for a paid summer internship. The Robertson Trust gives £1,900 in additional financial support to each scholar for eight weeks in an area that increases their employability opportunities.

There is also a Graduate Internship Scheme for scholars who have failed to secure graduate level employment at the end of their degree. The Robertson Trust gifts an additional £3,000 directly to the scholar for 12 weeks within an organisation that offers them the skills and experience they need to compete successfully with other graduates in their field. The Robertson Trust also pays travel expenses and accommodation costs for scholars to take up opportunities which maximise the potential of their degree. This can include travel and accommodation for relevant work experience or volunteering opportunities. All of these additional costs are covered by the Robertson Trust. On average, over 90% of Robertson scholars are awarded a 2:1 degree or above at graduation, compared to the national average for this degree classification of 76%.

The University of Dundee is proud to partner with the Robertson Trust and is delighted to currently have 36 matched and fully funded Robertson Trust scholars on campus. With ongoing fundraising efforts, we hope to increase this number year on year. **TB**



Jonathan Cochrane
4th year History

"The Journey to Success programme has been a valuable part of my university career from the beginning. The team at the Trust have been a wealth of knowledge about what to expect from the world of work and how to navigate it. On a personal level, I am grateful to the Trust for endowing me with the confidence to emphasise what I have to offer an employer and give my all to every task that I have to overcome at university."



Maarya Mehmood
1st year Medicine

"The Robertson Trust not only gives financial support but they also help with important skills through The Journey to Success program, helping with CV writing and interviews which are important for life after university. They are a family which help and support each other and I could not be more grateful and proud to be part of The Robertson Trust."



Samuel Walker
3rd year Accountancy

"I would say the scholarship helps in many ways. It gives support while at university through workshops which help develop skills for using both in classes and for using in internships and jobs. The scholarship provides financial support which helps take stress away as it means you can afford to do less hours at work and concentrate on work and exams instead of having to worry about both. They help with internships and look to help you boost your CV for when you are applying for jobs."

"The team at the Trust have been a wealth of knowledge about what to expect from the world of work and how to navigate it."

Return of the Secret Seven

Award-winning author Pamela Butchart is well known for writing about pugs, demon dinner ladies and baby aliens. But now she's about to reintroduce us to seven children from our childhood.

I am

Pamela Butchart
Philosophy, Class of 2004

Award-winning
author, teacher and
honourary graduate

Pamela is now taking on the incredible task of writing the 16th and 17th Secret Seven books, made famous by Enid Blyton. "Enid Blyton Entertainment got in touch to say they liked my books," said Pamela. "And then they asked if I wanted to write a Secret Seven story. I almost fainted."

Pamela graduated from Dundee in 2004 with a degree in Philosophy. This led her to complete her teacher training and later gained a position at Harris Academy in Dundee. She started writing after her husband bought her a book entitled, 'How to Write for Children'. To date Pamela has penned over 20 books, including *The Baby Brother From Outer Space*, which was picked to be one of this year's £1 World Book Day books. That, she said, had been an amazing experience. "It was full of surprises. From getting to meet the First Minister, to taking my then 10-week-old son to 10 Downing Street. He joined me as I got to chat to a group of children about toxic baby alien poos!"

Now Pamela is about to bring back Peter, Janet, Jack, Barbara, George, Pam and Colin and plans to kick start their journey from where they left off in 1963. *The Mystery of the Secret Skull* will see Peter discover an old skull hidden in his bedroom. He calls on the rest of the gang to investigate. "I'm a huge Secret Seven fan," said Pamela. "I wish I could go back in time and tell eight-year-old me what's happening. It is an amazing thing to be part of and an awesome responsibility. I hope my books help to introduce lots of new readers to the brilliant world of the Secret Seven."

She is enjoying her new role as mum to six-month-old Albie, a job that Pamela describes as the hardest she's ever had. Since he entered the world he has been busy following his mum around the country. "We have had amazing support from my publisher, Nosy Crow, and my agent Becky," said Pamela. "It's obviously not easy touring with a young baby, but they made sure we had everything we could possibly need to

help things run as smoothly as possible. Well, as smoothly as they can when you take a baby on tour during 'The Beast from the East'!"

Pamela is showing no signs of slowing down. "In July, I'll be going on tour to promote the new Secret Seven book," said Pamela. "Then it'll be back to my desk as I have a further eight books under contract, with five due to be finished by the end of the year. I hope my baby got the memo." If that was not enough, Pamela is joining the likes of Jacqueline Wilson, Nicola Sturgeon and Mel Giedroyc by contributing to an Enid Blyton anthology, which is due to be released in October. That same month, Pamela will be releasing the next book in her Izzy series. "It's called 'There's a Yeti in the Playground,'" said Pamela. "I believe it's going to feature a fantastically glittery yeti on the front cover. I can't wait!" **TB**

The 16th Secret Seven book, *The Mystery of the Secret Skull* is released on 12 July 2018.



Dealing in death

Death comes to us all, but for three young graduates, they have to see it every day. We spoke to the trio to find out what it's like to work in the University's mortuary.

While taking a tour of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification, Professor Tracey Wilkinson will take you to the tank room. This is home to around 145 cadavers, people who made it their last wish to have their body donated to science. Professor Wilkinson takes great pride in telling visitors that the tank room is looked after by three young women, all of whom graduated from the University.

Senior Anatomy Technician, Sam Skene, Anatomy Technician, Sheryl Paton and Mortuary Technician, Claire Cunningham are all members of CAHID's technical team. Sam runs the team and helps facilitate external courses that want to use CAHID's award winning facilities. Sheryl works in the dissection room, which sees approximately 800 students pass through its doors each year. Claire looks after the bodies once they have been donated and oversees the embalming process and the mortuary.

Being three young graduates and dealing with a subject that is often deemed taboo, they manage to take it all in their stride. "When someone asks me what I do for a living, I have to gauge the person before I tell them," said Sheryl. "Some people don't

want to know more, but others ask lots of questions like 'So what do you do?', 'What's it like?', and 'What do they look like?' I just tell them there's nothing to hide. Death is coming to us all. So why should we be scared of it?"

The trio enjoyed their time in CAHID as students, with all three describing their third year as an amazing experience. "Back when I applied there was a 25 place cap for students wanting to do Forensic Anthropology," said Sam. "If you were one of the lucky ones, you were chomping at the bit to get into the anatomy department. In our case they've not been able to kick us out."

The draw of CAHID was strong, with all three taking up posts at their alma mater within two years of graduating. "After I graduated I ended up working in retail," said Claire. "It was actually a current student who told me there was a job going in the mortuary. I found the advert the day before it closed. I frantically filled in the application and was really pleased when I got the position."

Still being part of CAHID and getting to see the next cohort of students come through the door is a great experience for Sam, Sheryl and Claire. "If you see them struggle, you can be there to help them," said Sheryl. "If it's their

first time in the dissection room it can be a bit overwhelming, some faint, cry or feel ill. I'm there to offer support if they feel scared about the situation. They know that they can come and chat to us at any time."

The three technicians deal with death, all day, every day. However, they manage to handle it with an incredible level of maturity. "For us, it's something that is drummed into you as a student," said Sam. "You sign a compliance form about how you're going to behave. You're warned that the cadavers are people's loved ones. That's always at the back of your mind. Alive or dead, they still need to be respected."

"It helps knowing that everyone who donates their body wants to be here," added Sheryl. "You're carrying out their last wish. It's not a sad thing."

For Professor Tracey Wilkinson, she thinks the trio are a shining example of where a degree from Dundee could take you. "As graduates of Dundee they think about things differently," said Professor Wilkinson. "They come up with fantastic ideas. Having three young women is not only an amazing advert for Dundee, but also for female empowerment." **18**



Top: L to R, Claire Cunningham, Sheryl Paton and Sam Skene

Bottom: MS 16/6/9 Watercolour painting of a heart by William McCartney, 1833. The drawing is part of a collection of anatomical drawings held by University of Dundee Archive Services.



130 years of the Cox Chair of Anatomy

The Cox Chair of Anatomy was established in 1888 at University College, Dundee. It was the culmination of a major public campaign to establish a Medical School in the city. Andrew Melville Paterson was appointed to the chair and quickly built up a museum of specimens and models for teaching. Only a small part of the original collection survives. All human remains are housed in the current Anatomy Museum in the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification while models and other teaching aids are kept by the University's Museum Services. In 2014 Professor Tracey Wilkinson was appointed Cox Chair of Anatomy following the retirement of Professor Roger Soames. "It was all a bit of an accident," said Professor Wilkinson. "I'd known Roger for many years and he asked if I would be interested in the position. At that point I was living in Cardiff and having grown up in Africa, Dundee was just too far north for me!" However, Professor Soames did not back down and offered Tracey and her husband the chance to come up to Dundee to see the campus. "Dundee is very nice when it's sunny," said Professor Wilkinson. After her visit, she applied and successfully gained her Chair.

Leading the field

Football and academia, at first glance, may appear unlikely bedfellows. After all, what does dispassionate research aiming to produce the evidence-base for policy have to do with the beautiful game, where skill on the ball is prized above matters of the mind? Well, actually quite a lot according to School of Business academic Dr Brian Howieson.

“I start the class with a quote from Willie Miller, who said that when he spoke to coaches at professional clubs throughout Scotland they said there was a dearth of leaders,”

Last year, Dr Howieson began working with up-and-coming coaches studying for their UEFA Pro Licence at the Scottish Football Association's centre of excellence at Largs, the coaching hub that the likes of Jose Mourinho, Fabio Capello and Andre Villa-Boas passed through on their way to the top of the management tree. At Largs his job is to develop his students' leadership, a skillset he believes is sadly missing from the game today but one of the many aspects of modern football that top coaches must master.

Managers have always been leaders. Now they must lead while navigating a myriad of 21st century challenges that would have left the legendary managers from Scottish football history dumbfounded at the complexity of it all. For example, Bill Shankly never had to contend with social media.

That being said, Dr Howieson, a passionate football fan and season ticket-holder at the Falkirk Stadium, cannot help but hark back to yesteryear for inspiration.

“I start the class with a quote from Willie Miller, who said that when he spoke to coaches at professional clubs throughout Scotland, they said there was a dearth of leaders,” he said. “We are not producing

Graeme Sounesses or Billy Bremners anymore. I then introduce coaches to the subject of leadership in different industries and we talk about what it looks like in football.

“I can't teach these guys anything about what happens on the football pitch – my aim is to get them thinking about, not just how they coach, but how they manage. I want them to consider that their job is not just about getting someone to cross the ball better, it's also about working on players' personal qualities.”

The Pro Licence qualification, the highest coaching certification available, takes a minimum of 20 months to obtain. It involves an intense blend of practical units on the pitch and classroom-based learning. Modern coaches, after all, are expected to not just execute a 4-2-3-1 or 3-4-1-2 but also support players' personal development, manage a network of technical support staff, and help shape club policy.

“There is now an acceptance that football can learn from other sectors. Academia is part of that. It's about helping people to develop their thinking. Sir Alex Ferguson has written a best-selling book on leadership and lectured on the subject at Harvard.



Image courtesy of University of Dundee Archive Services

There's never been a better time to look at how ideas from one industry can be applied to others. The Scottish FA realised this some time ago. They are very progressive when it comes to education."

This last statement might raise a few eyebrows given the ongoing travails of Scottish football and well-documented discontent with the leadership of the national game, but Dr Howieson is adamant that the organisation he and his colleague Stephen Morrow from the University of Stirling have worked with for the past nine years is ahead of the curve when it comes to developing coaches.

"The Scottish FA are open to new ideas. They have always had a European reputation for innovation in coaching. They are always thinking outside the box for solutions. Nothing like what I'm doing with them is happening in other associations across Europe."

"However, in Scotland, we beat ourselves up about other countries being more technically able than we are but what if the reason we aren't very good at football is because of a lack of leadership rather than a technical shortfall?" **TB**



Photograph courtesy of Penguin Photography

A walk down memory lane

We've always been passionate about football in Dundee. Are you in the photos?

Do you have sports clubs photos to share?

Please do let us know by emailing:

alumni@dundee.ac.uk

From The Union to T in the Park

Over the past 30 years Stuart Clumpas has forged an incredible career in the world of music, and it all started in Dundee.



Stuart started his Accountancy and Economics degree in 1977. Not long after arriving, he started to write concert reviews for the student newspaper, Annasach, and was later voted in as Entertainments Convener. One of his initial bookings was The Pretenders, supported by UB40. "Brass in Pocket was at number one, so it ended up being the hottest gig the Union had ever put on," said Stuart. "Tickets sold out the morning they went on sale, which got me the wrath of the medical fraternity. They didn't anticipate the quick sell out and didn't get down in time to the Union from Ninewells."

A highlight of Stuart's Entertainments Convenorship was persuading Peter Gabriel to play the Union. "He had recently left Genesis and was planning to go on tour," said Stuart. "I spotted a gap between his Aberdeen and Newcastle dates, so I thought I'd chance it with his manager." However, the then Student Union President, Andy Myles, had put a £500 limit on Stuart's spending. Peter's manager came back with a £2000 fee and a 'must have request' for Peter to stay in a castle. "I wasn't sure how it would pan out, but I did know Andy was a massive Genesis fan," said Stuart. "Once he found out

it was for Peter Gabriel he fell off his seat." It was approved and Peter played a sell-out show at DUSA on 27th February 1980.

After Stuart graduated he spotted an advert in Music Week for an accountancy firm. "I contacted them and they said they'd take me on as Junior Accountant, so I headed for London," said Stuart. However, doing the likes of Bob Dylan's books was not where Stuart's heart lay so he headed back to Dundee.

Partnering with ex-union president, John Reid, they set up a business booking entertainment for several Scottish student unions. Then, in 1983, the iconic Fat Sams opened in the city. It was here that Stuart launched the popular Dance Factory. After a few months of running their Sunday nights, he was managing the whole club. "I wasn't that keen to begin with," said Stuart. "All I wanted to do was put on shows. But my car had just died. So, I said yes, on the condition that a nice car came with the job."

In 1990 Stuart set his sights on his former home city of Glasgow and opened the now world-famous King Tuts Wah Wah Hut. Around the same time, Tennents, who were then involved at the grass roots end of Scottish music, aspired to do stadium shows.



I am

Stuart Clumpas

Accountancy and Economics, Class of 1981

Chairman of Live Nation
New Zealand and founder
of T in the Park

"I staunchly suggested that a festival would be a better idea," said Stuart. They listened, and the first T in the Park took place at Strathclyde Country Park in 1994 with the likes of Blur, Bjork, Crowded House and Oasis on the bill. Stuart describes that first year as touch and go, but demand for more camping soon took them to Balado in Kinross in 1997. For seven years, Stuart remained at the helm of DF Concerts, helping to shape T in the Park into one of the best loved and well attended music festivals in the world. Stuart describes his experience of T in the Park as scary. "Although I'd been working in the music industry for over 10 years it was completely new ground for me. As it grew, we were dealing with camping on a massive scale. I'd become a town mayor."

This strain had an impact on Stuart's health, and having been diagnosed with Crohn's disease, resulting in major surgery, he decided to sell up and emigrate to New Zealand in 2001. "At that point, me and my wife Judith had a four-year-old and a two-year-old. I just wanted to see them grow up," Stuart explained.

However, retirement did not last long for Stuart. New Zealand's Vector Arena opened in 2007, and by 2012 Stuart and

Judith were running the show. Stuart has helped the venue, now the renamed Spark Arena, to become a top destination for major recording artists, such as Bruno Mars, Céline Dion and Pink. The couple have not stepped too far from their roots and also own a 400-capacity venue. The Great South Pacific Tuning Fork is Auckland's answer to King Tuts.

Stuart is showing no signs of stopping. He has just been appointed the inaugural chairman of the newly created Live Nation New Zealand. "For the last four decades Australian promoters have pretty much run the New Zealand touring business," he explained. "I'd like the country to be able to stand on its own two feet. I want to grow New Zealand as a touring destination independently, and not have to rely on our big brothers across the Tasman".

Despite graduating over 35 years ago, Stuart says he would not have achieved so much in his career if he had not come to Dundee. "If I'd stayed at home to study, the conviction to follow my heart wouldn't have flourished," he said. "Dundee gave me the ability to think for myself, how to organise myself and focus on what I, not others, wanted my career to look like." **TB**

Doctor in the house

Dr Saleyha Ahsan might be a familiar face to many people across the UK, having appeared on 'Trust Me I'm a Doctor' and 'The One Show', but she did not enter into the world of medicine in the conventional way.



I am

Saleyha Ahsan
Medicine, Class of 2006

Emergency medic and star of
TV's 'Trust Me I'm a Doctor'

Born and raised in Essex, Saleyha decided to study chemistry at the University of Salford. From there she began a career as a radio journalist, but she later decided to give it all up to join the army when she was 25. She later served with the Royal Army Medical Corps and became the first British Muslim woman to graduate from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as an army officer.

It was while she was serving in Bosnia as part of the NATO stabilising force, that she started to consider a career as a doctor. "I remember witnessing some awful scenes of trauma," explained Saleyha. "But I was struck by how calm and fantastic the medics were. They performed amazingly to save lives. I decided then and there that I wanted to be a doctor. Luckily, the Army was incredibly supportive."

Saleyha decided to apply to study in Scotland, and it was Dundee that managed to make a lasting impression. "It's a really

pretty and beautiful campus," she said. "When I came to Dundee for my interview I decided to have a walk around the campus. It looked like a really cosy place. It didn't feel intimidating. It was friendly, and I gauged it by the taxi drivers. They were chatty and asked how I was, so basically Dundee passed my taxi driver test."

Saleyha was keen to remain creative during her time in Dundee. She decided to work with students from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design to make a documentary. It focused on doctors working in Palestine and received its premier at Dundee Contemporary Arts in 2002.

She would later cross the Caird Hall stage in 2006 to collect her medical degree, a moment which she describes as life affirming. "I remember heading into a corridor and someone handed me my degree and said 'Congratulations Dr Ahsan', and that's when it hit me, I had made it." **TB**

Dentist in The Gambia

Dundee Dental School Graduate Amer Mobarik always thought he would give back to the less fortunate after he left Dundee. Earlier this year he packed his sickle probe and headed for Gambia.




Twenty seven year old Amer graduated from University of Dundee Dental School in 2013. After working in various dental hospitals, and eventually settling into general practice, he decided to apply to be part of the charity, Dental Aid Network.

Amer first heard about the Dental Aid Network through his colleagues. "I initially saw them posting on social media that they were working with the charity," said Amer. "It was something I was always planning to get involved with. They then advertised for volunteers for a trip to Kashmir in 2017 which was the perfect opportunity for me."

The aim of the Dental Aid Network is to promote oral health for impoverished areas around the world that cannot access dental care. In March this year, Amer joined the team on a trip to Gambia in West Africa. "As this was our first trip to Gambia, it was our job to target identified orphanages," explained Amer.

"However, we were also able to allocate a few days to treat local adults from nearby villages." The first two days of his trip were spent screening and treating approximately 400 children, some of whom had never seen a dentist before. The work Amer and his team were doing ranged from tooth extractions to crown placements. Amer found the process extremely rewarding. "Relieving those in pain and the feeling of contributing to their oral health and general well-being was amazing," he said.

Amer hopes the charity will take him back to Gambia to continue his work with the patients he met during his time there. "We've only just got started in Gambia," said Amer. "If we are able to get out there again, we want to be able to collect data to see if our earlier efforts have led to a reduction in the amount of children with widespread dental decay. We want to focus our efforts on preventing dental disease throughout the country." 

I am

Amer Mobarik
Dentistry, Class of 2013

Dentist and member
of Dental Aid Network

Celebrating the 50th anniversary

In 2017 we welcomed alumni back to Dundee to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the University. There were also events across the globe in New York, Hong Kong and Lagos. Here are some of the highlights.



1. Alumni gathering in Nigeria
2. Tours of the School of Life Sciences
3. Marquee fun on Campus Green
4. Celebrating the 50th in New York City
5. Alumni gathering, Hong Kong
6. 50th Anniversary dinner dance, Malmaison

Return to the city of discovery

Please do get in touch if you are planning to return by emailing alumni@dundee.ac.uk. We can help to put you in touch with classmates and arrange campus and department tours.



We love to welcome our alumni back to campus, whether as an individual or a group, by subject or by halls.

1. Class of 1964 Medics

2. Peterson Halls, Class of 2001

3. Dato Manan Amir receiving a tour of Civil Engineering with his son

4. Class of 1977 Dentists

Adapt – Adjust – Revise

Researchers at Dundee are working hard to make sure that forensic science remains a vital component of the criminal justice system. Here we take a look at the University's Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science and its ambitious plans to 'positively disrupt' the scientific community.

The Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science (LRCFS) has always been open about its aims to address a 'crisis' in the field and restore public and judicial confidence in forensic science. The £10 million, 10-year project, was established to raise standards and promote a realistic understanding of current forensic science while unlocking the door to new opportunities and potential.

"Ultimately we are striving to restore, revise and recharge the validity and credibility, where it is needed, of the science appearing in our court rooms," said Professor Niamh Nic Daeid, Director of the Research Centre.

She explained that a report from the US National Academy of Sciences in 2009 had highlighted deficiencies in the robustness of many types of forensic evidence and that subsequent reports have reiterated the challenges that forensic science faces.

The Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science was born out of a desire to address these deficiencies, close the research gaps and improve the way forensic science is communicated. The £10 million grant from the Leverhulme Trust has catapulted the University of Dundee onto the world stage for forensic science research. The University was one of only four in the UK and the only one in Scotland to win a Leverhulme Research Centre award.

To meet the issues facing the forensic science community and its role in the criminal justice system, the Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science brings together experts from around the world to discuss the challenges and propose collaborative solutions.

What makes the approach different is that the research centre positively encourages interdisciplinary discussions from all of parts of the community and beyond including the judiciary, scientists, researchers, practitioners, designers, writers and the general public.

As a result Dundee facilitates the development of an international network of researchers within forensic science and beyond – which includes the University of Lausanne in Switzerland, the University of Technology, Sydney in Australia and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in the USA as well as many others – all working together to strengthen the science used in the service of justice.

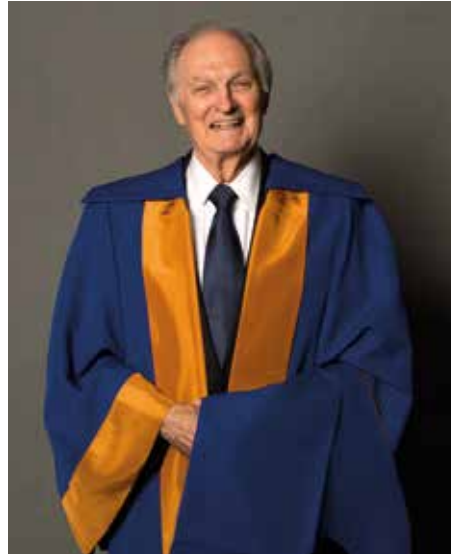
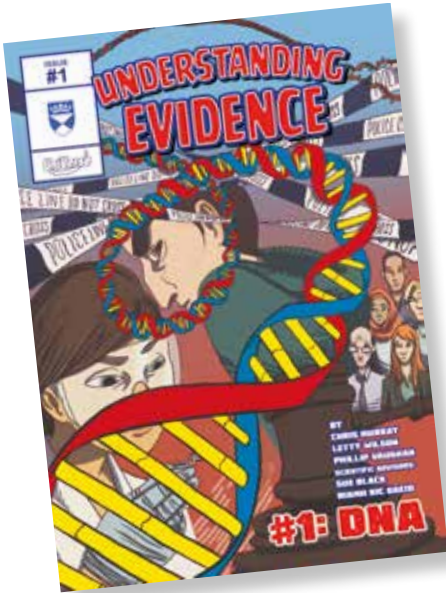
Professor Nic Daeid's team in Dundee also works extremely closely with the most senior judicial figures across the UK including the Lord Chief Justices of England and Wales, of Northern Ireland and Scotland's most senior judge, the Lord President of Scotland.

"We wanted to create a ground-breaking, positively disruptive research centre to rethink how we look at and evaluate the use of science in the criminal justice system," she said.

"The stakes are high. Ensuring that both communication and understanding of the subject are fit for purpose is essential. When the ultimate decision is being made by members of the public who may have limited scientific and statistical understanding and where the impact is on liberty and in some countries, people's lives, the essential importance for communicating our science correctly could not be more acute.

"We use Dundee's strengths in comics and design to help us and most recently have begun to work with one of the University's honorary graduates Alan Alda to assist us in our goal of improving science communication."

Since 2009 Alan Alda, star of stage and screen, has been working with Stony Brook University in New York to help current and future scientists learn how to communicate more clearly with the public. The Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook are now working in collaboration with the Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science in Dundee to improve the communication of science in court. **TB**



"Scientists need to understand the work of other scientists, especially across disciplines. We are very excited to be working with the Leverhulme Research Centre at the University of Dundee. The work you are planning in forensic science is so tremendously important to justice." Dr Alan Alda

Clockwise from above: Communicating the science behind DNA profiling to the public using comics in a unique Dundee collaboration between LRCFS, DJCAD and the School of Humanities; Dr Alan Alda; Professor Niamh Nic Daeid



From wireless to ward

For 20 years Graeme Waggott was a familiar voice across Tayside and North East Fife. As 'Waggy' he would spin the tunes at Radio Tay and get people through the early morning traffic. But in 2013 he hung up his headphones and delved into a new career in nursing.



Graeme has gone from interviewing Pink and Kylie, to caring for patients, and he has not looked back. "I was made redundant from Radio Tay in June 2013," said Graeme. "It was an extremely daunting time as I had been doing a job I'd wanted to do since I was 10-years-old. I was a bit lost." His wife Helen obviously saw something in him and thought he would make a great nurse. He decided to apply, but had missed the application deadline.

However, this gave him the chance to do an HNC in healthcare to see if nursing was really for him. "I had no preconceptions of nursing," said Graeme. "There were people on my course who had already been healthcare assistants, so they had ward experience, but I had no idea what I was getting into. I even had to be shown how to make a hospital bed correctly." Despite this first panic, Graeme excelled during his time at University. After graduation he found himself working in the orthopaedic trauma ward at Ninewells Hospital, which brought along a new set of challenges. "With trauma, you don't really know what's about to come through the door", explains Graeme.

"The uncertainty of things means that you're rushed off your feet. It's a very rewarding but challenging job. You start off seeing people in some dreadful states, and you have to help them with their recovery. When you see them coming in on a trolley, to walking out on their own, you know you've done a good job."

Despite no longer being a radio DJ, he is still able to use the skills he built over the years. "When my wife first suggested a career in nursing I did think, 'What on earth have I got that I could bring to nursing?' but it was so obvious. To be a nurse you have to be an excellent communicator, you need to put them at ease once they arrive on the ward, just as I did when I had a listener live on air.

"My favourite part of the job is finding out about patients and hearing their stories. You don't tend to have a lot of time with them, not as much as you would like anyway, but you always manage to find a common bond somewhere and you just take it from there." Graeme has just started a new job within theatre recovery at Ninewells, which had been a placement he enjoyed during his time as a student. **TB**

I am

Graeme Waggott
Adult Nursing, Class of 2016

Theatre Recovery Nurse at
Ninewells Hospital, Dundee



Transforming maternity care across Africa

A Dundee graduate's passion and dedication to improving maternity care in the developing world was honoured by the British Council at a ceremony in Washington DC.

Professor Jonas Nguh, who graduated with a postgraduate degree in Nursing in 2010, is the winner of the charity's Social Impact Award for his work pioneering a model for maternity care which has now been rolled out in communities including India, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia. It is estimated around two million people have been helped in recent years.

Jonus, now Professor of the Graduate Nursing Programme at Walden University in Minnesota, received the honour at the charity's Study UK Alumni Awards at the British Embassy in the American capital earlier this year.

"My time studying at the University of Dundee really framed my thinking," he said. "I'm so grateful that I can use my education to make a difference to so many people around the world." As well as establishing maternity homes in Africa and Asia, Prof Nguh has worked in more than 20 countries, teaching primarily in public health and nursing.

Professor Lynn Kilbride, Dean of Nursing and Health Sciences at Dundee, said that Prof Nguh's passion for healthcare would motivate today's students.

"The importance of his work cannot be overstated," she said. "Bringing a new life into the world is never easy, but Prof Nguh's passion and dedication to improving maternity care in the developing world has already helped millions of people and will undoubtedly help many more in years to come. "His work will inspire all current students within the School of Nursing and Health Science here at the University of Dundee, and we congratulate him on his tremendous success."

The Alumni Awards were developed by the British Council and UK universities to showcase leaders in their field who have used the experience of studying at a UK university to make a positive contribution to their professions. **TB**





I am

Jonas Nguh
Nursing, Class of 2010

**Winner of the Social Impact
Award at the British Council
Awards 2018**

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. 2018 marked the fourth 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, 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.

For more information about the British Council Alumni Awards go to britishcouncil.org/education-uk-awards

Taking Dundee to the world

We have recently launched a number of alumni chapters across the world – in Nigeria, New York, Boston, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and most recently in Kuwait and here in Dundee.

As our global ambassadors our chapters are a chance for alumni to help with our plans for transformation and growth throughout the world. Chapters may for example:

- Help organise alumni events and activities
- Welcome and orientate alumni who are visiting or have re-located to your area
- Help mentor new graduates, provide career advice and assistance in finding jobs locally
- Help the University's International Team during recruitment fairs and provide assistance in exploring partnership or articulation opportunities
- Help maintain up-to-date contact details for alumni in your area and communicate these updates to the Development and Alumni Relations Office in accordance with data protection regulations, having gained consent from individual members
- Host a pre-departure event in your region or country for new students and applicants about to leave for Dundee
- Fund a scholarship for a deserving student to study at the University of Dundee
- Help to enhance the global reputation of the University



If you are interested in getting involved please email: alumni@dundee.ac.uk

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