**06**

**Gary Lightbody interview**
Snow Patrol’s Gary Lightbody looks back on life in Dundee and where it has led him as he receives his honorary degree.

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**14**

**Dundee: a changing city**
Mike Galloway, Executive Director of City Development for Dundee City Council, has been given control of shaping the city in the 21st century.

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**16**

**Love Dundee**
We asked for your tales of love and romance through the decades at Dundee. The response was overwhelming. Read the best inside.

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**30**

**Projects funded by you**
From sports clubs to scholarships, cancer research to clinical practice, alumni have helped fund numerous projects across the University.
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Hello from Alumni Relations
One of our alumni once said to me that people make Dundee and fine people they are – as both an alumna and member of staff I couldn’t agree more! This year we have revamped The Bridge so it is very much about the people who make Dundee, whether our staff or indeed you, our alumni. From the alumna who has integrated palliative care into the health care system in Kenya to the alumnus who has revolutionised the online shopping world, our Dundee ‘folk’ are transforming lives in many different ways. You will find many such stories in this edition of The Bridge.

We have had the pleasure of welcoming many alumni back to Dundee recently and with the 50th anniversary celebrations taking place next year we would love to see you back in Dundee throughout the course of 2017.

We are always delighted to hear about your experiences of Dundee and all of your successes and achievements. There is an update form inserted in the magazine, please fill it in and keep us posted!

Finally, I very much hope you enjoy reading the 2016 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!

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Bradley Quinn

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Welcome to the 2016 issue of The Bridge. As we approach the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Dundee as a university in its own right, we can reflect very positively on how much has been achieved in that time.

This year Times Higher Education has named us the top UK institution under 50 years of age in their ‘150 under 50’ international league tables. This is a showcase of the best of the emerging universities around the globe, and reflects the huge strides we have taken, as well as our global impact. We have built an international reputation for excellence in research and teaching, while the experience we offer students has been consistently highly rated.

While there is much to look back on, of course, our main focus is on the future. In this past year, as well as the ‘150 under 50’ ranking, we were also named Scottish University of the Year by The Times & Sunday Times and in the world’s Top 200 universities by Times Higher Education. This is the level we look to maintain and build on, being Scotland’s leading university in what we choose to do, and operating on a global stage where we can make a real difference to the world.

Our alumni are also a vital part of our achievements. You form a community with connections right around the world and in many ways are our global ambassadors, delivering impact every day. In this magazine you will see examples of how we, and in many cases you, are helping to transform lives.

We celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2017, and I look forward to welcoming many of you back to the University and the city in the course of our celebrations. I will also meet many of you on my travels and hope that you stay engaged with the University and take pride in our success, as we take pride in yours.

Professor Sir Pete Downes
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
As he receives an honorary degree from the University, Gary spoke to Roddy Isles (Head of Corporate Communications and former local music journalist) and looks back on life in Dundee and where it has led him.

You’re coming back to Dundee for Graduation – how often have you been back in the years since University? Is the city a place you view fondly? I’ve been back a few times since I left for various things and to see friends. I love the city. It gave me the life I have now so I can’t ever thank it enough.

As he receives an honorary degree from the University, Gary spoke to Roddy Isles (Head of Corporate Communications and former local music journalist) and looks back on life in Dundee and where it has led him.

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What does it mean to you to receive an honorary degree from the University?

It really means the world. My mum and aunt are coming over and a few of my best mates will be there too so it’s going to be a really fun day. It’s a law doctorate so I’m intending to start practicing straight away. Lightbody & Sons will be my firm. I have no sons but it makes it sound legitimate.

How soon after arriving in Dundee did the band start to come together?

The very first day I met Mark McClelland and we started the band. He was from Belfast and had attended the rival school to mine two miles down the road. Then we met Mike Morrison soon after. He was also from Belfast. I went to Scotland to form a Northern Irish band!

Music was always first but then it was long before I went to Dundee. All I ever wanted to do since I was 12 was to be in a band. So my studies didn’t really stand much of a chance. I still got my degree though! It made my mum happy.

What were the general aspects of University life like in your time here? I remember visiting you in a classically messy student flat (at the bottom of Springfield I think) – was yours a typical student experience of the time?

I was the messiest student on campus. I’m sure. There was also a lot of drinking. I’m not going to lie. The band had started so there were gigs in the students union and a lot of music related craziness.

As well as having the band, you were obviously also studying for a degree. Were you a committed student, or how did you balance the music with the work?

It was amazing. I loved the campus and met a lot of really nice people very early on. I didn’t know what to expect and I was pretty nervous on my way over but within minutes of getting into my room in halls I was talking to the guy across the hall from me. Those nerves went fast.

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Snow Patrol – the early years. I know there were some struggles. Playing to venues that weren’t always busy. What is your recollection of that time? Were there any particular low points?

Oh boy, were there! Yes we played to one man and his dog on a regular basis. It was amazing. I loved the campus and met a lot of really nice people very early on. I didn’t know what to expect and I was pretty nervous on my way over but within minutes of getting into my room in halls I was talking to the guy across the hall from me. Those nerves went fast.

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'MY SCHOLARSHIP IS MORE THAN JUST A BURSARY; IT GIVES ME THINGS THAT MONEY CANNOT BUY LIKE IMPROVING AS A PERSON AND PROVIDING PRICELESS ADVICE DURING MY COURSE AND WHEN I GRADUATE.'

"1st year student"

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

These are the words of just one scholarship recipient who otherwise wouldn’t have been able to study in Dundee. Not only are they pursuing a subject they’re passionate about, but they’re growing and learning as an individual too. Amazing, isn’t it?

This is what a Dundee education can make possible – creating knowledgeable people who can influence the world to transform lives for the better.

Yet for some students, the chance to achieve their full potential is hard to come by due to financial constraints or family circumstances. They might struggle to meet their living costs, to fund travel for postgraduate research, or need to pay for childcare while they’re attending lectures. The financial pressure of studying at university can sometimes mean that gifted students are unable to take up their hard-earned place or complete their degree.

The University is already leading the way in enabling talented students from the most deprived communities in Scotland to access higher education. There’s still more to do, for example making sure students from Inverness, Manchester, Cardiff, Beijing, Lagos, Sydney, Toronto, and all corners of the world can take advantage of all that a Dundee education has to offer. Making support available across academic disciplines and at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels ensures that talented students have the best opportunities to learn and develop their skills.

Many alumni have recently shared their memories of Dundee with us, and it was wonderful to hear how much Dundee has meant to our graduates through the years. Not only this, but it was heartening to hear how many had benefited from additional help during their studies, through scholarships and bursaries that were available at the time. For many, the chance to engage in higher education and desire for knowledge is fondly remembered. For our alumni, being a part of the University of Dundee extends beyond graduation and forms a wonderful lifelong connection to friends, professors and a city by the Tay.

Our team love to hear from our alumni; stories and memories you cherish of your time at university. In October and November 2015, our student callers spoke to many graduates as part of our telephone campaign. They chatted about studying in Dundee, how the city and university have changed, and the wonderful difference the Scholarships and Bursaries Fund will make.

One of our student callers, Jamie (3rd year), says how much having access to funding has helped him in the past:

‘Besides helping me focus on my studies, it also had a major impact on my general well-being. I was able to buy healthier food and eat better, boosting my positive mentality and day to day energy!’

‘I came from a family with little money and without financial support I would not have gone to university.’

‘1970s graduate’

Education should be open to all those with the ability, desire and commitment to excel in their chosen field. That’s why it’s so important to offer help in the form of scholarships and bursaries. The newly established Scholarships and Bursaries Fund will mean that current and future students can receive the vital support they need to continue and complete their studies. It’s an investment in both the present and the future.
Dundee is the UK’s only UNESCO-designated city of design and will soon be home to the V&A Museum of Design.

The city supports a thriving creative industry sector, vital to Dundee’s future prosperity. The University of Dundee’s Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, one of the UK’s leading art and design schools, has been central to the city’s evolution as a creative capital, says Acting Dean Professor Jeanette Paul.

At the time of writing this, our buildings are buzzing with excitement as we gear up for the annual Degree Show. This is traditionally the largest exhibition in Dundee’s cultural calendar and the University has been at the forefront of the city’s rebirth as a centre of creativity and inspiration. The existence of a thriving art and design College, ranked in the top 1% in the world, has helped lead to the creation of new galleries, projects and accolades, most obviously Dundee’s first Dundee Design Festival take place of Design, Dundee. This year sees the creation of new galleries, projects and countless other areas.

Our students’ artistic abilities and design creativity, in addition to the visionary, analytical and communication skills they honed at university, are highly valued. They are enterprising and a large number establish their own studios, businesses, charities or cooperatives while still students. They explore serious social and cultural issues and make a real difference to people’s lives as they tackle some of the biggest problems facing the world.

They come here because of a passion for art and design and a desire to make the most of their innate talent. Our role is to help each individual to become a well-rounded person and develop their visionary and creative skills in order to transform the way we live, whether here in Dundee or on the other side of the world.

Professor Jeanette Paul, Acting Dean Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design

For most Star Wars fans, The Force Awakens was a hugely welcome return to form. For one like Matt Cameron, who worked on the film, it was a dream come true.

‘Star Wars was one of my first memories of a movie that went beyond the ordinary,’ he said. ‘To be working on the new film was an incredible experience.’

Matt graduated with a First Class degree in Time Based Art & Digital Film in 2010 and returned to Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design the year after. It was his MSc in Animation & Visual Effects that saw him take his first steps in the exciting world of VFX and Matt has now worked as a 3D artist on numerous features during spells with prestigious studios in London, in addition to his freelance work.

As well as the awards Matt has won for his own work, he was part of the team that earned Interstellar an Oscar for visual effects, and he is passing on his experience to current students at Dundee.

Matt Cameron talks VFX, Oscars and a dream come true...

I have developed a practical masterclass in conjunction with the MSc Animation & VFX course, the same one I studied on. This is something I want to do more of in the future as I really enjoy teaching.'

‘I went into VFX from an arts background and this has helped me to think about what you can do creatively with visuals. As my time at Duncan of Jordanstone went on I began to focus more on this area as it allowed me to have fun with visuals whilst also helping me to get an industry job.’

‘The great thing about being here was that we get support from tutors while being given creative freedom and being encouraged to build our own teams and work on our own projects. This spirit of collaboration is essential when you go into industry and it really prepared me for the challenges that my career has brought so far.'
**GET ON BOARD WITH THE VINE TRUST**

Shona Mason is a 1991 graduate from the University of Dundee, and a current honorary clinical teacher in the School of Dentistry. She has been volunteering with the Vine Trust’s Amazon Hope project for over ten years – and taking students with her.

This coming summer marks my 14th trip with the Vine Trust on the Amazon,’ said Shona, ‘and I’m now on their board of directors! I’m still here because this project is executed well. We take care not to undermine the existing local healthcare systems – rather, we aim to encourage its development, help it to achieve its goals, and make life better for people in the region.’

The typical volunteer team consists of up to eight people, which may include doctors, dentists, dental hygienists or therapists, nurses, dental nurses, physiotherapists, or even opticians.

After her initial trips, it wasn’t long before Shona started bringing the University of Dundee’s dental students along for the ride. It has proven to be a popular elective destination for 4th year students, with more than 60 volunteering since 2007. ‘Students are accompanied by a qualified dentist from the UK, and typically spend 10 days on the boat, carrying out basic restorative procedures or extractions,’ said Shona.

‘In their down time, they have the chance to explore the surroundings, meet with the villagers where the boat stops, and socialise with their Peruvian hosts.’

Several University of Dundee graduates have also gone on to volunteer in Peru.

There are many motives for being involved in global volunteer dentistry – faith-based ones, humanitarian ones, or a desire to see a different world and be part of it for a while. We dentists and dental care practitioners have skills which are transferable globally; we are practical people who see a need and want to respond to it.

If you are a student or graduate in a healthcare profession and would like more information about volunteering, visit www.vinetrust.org

**FROM DUNDENE TO TRISTAN DA CUNHA**

In the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, between Africa and South America, lies a group of five islands with a population of 267. Tristan Da Cunha has no airport and no sheltered anchorage. The nearest port is over 1,700 miles away. Despite this, Dundee Dentistry graduates have been going over for the past 20 years.

In 1995, former employee of Dundee Dental Hospital and graduate of the University of Dundee, Dr Chris Southwick, saw an advert in the British Dental Journal looking for a dentist to visit Tristan Da Cunha. I was told if I could put a team together, then I would stand a much better chance.

**DENTAL DYNASTY**

Dundee has played a huge part in the dental dynasty established by the du Plessis family, originally from South Africa but now checking, scaling, polishing and extracting teeth in Tayside, East Anglia and the Highlands.

When Kevin du Plessis decided to follow in the footsteps of his father, dad Dickie suggested he apply to Dundee as he had met a representative of the Dental School at a conference and was impressed by what he had to say. Kevin lives locally to this day and works as an associate at a dental practice in Perth, with his choice of University having a profound effect on his life.

The work of Dundee graduates in Tristan Da Cunha has been so inspirational that a resident has decided to train at the School of Dentistry to become a dental nurse back on the island, becoming yet another Dundee student to work on Tristan Da Cunha.

The island is just about to benefit from its very first dental suite. This will be headed up by the current onsite dentist, Dr Penelee Grainger, yet another alumna of the University of Dundee.

The island is the world acclaimed rapper Jay Z! I studied dentistry at Dundee from 1971 to 1975 and graduated with a BDS. I am currently practicing oral and maxillofacial surgery in New York City. My practice is on Central Park West in Manhattan. After graduating from Dundee I returned to New York to obtain a license to practice dentistry. At first I was advised, by the head of dentistry in New York, against trying to obtain a license without further training even suggesting I should go back to school in the U.S. first. I decided against that and began sitting my exams. Concurrently I worked as an unpaid extern in a hospital dental clinic. The faculty and staff were so impressed with my knowledge and clinical skills that they offered me a paid internship. I passed the licensing exams easily scoring in the high nineties percentile. This was followed by an oral and maxillofacial surgical residency. I may have been the first individual offered one of these coveted positions that was not American trained. I owe this all to my excellent training at Dundee. Coupled with extracurricular activities I feel I could not have been better prepared.

Practicing in New York City affords you the opportunity on occasion to treat high profile patients, whether it’s professional athletes, TV and movie personalities or music industry superstars. A true gentleman I have had the pleasure to treat is the world acclaimed rapper Jay Z. I owed this all to my excellent training at Dundee. Coupled with extracurricular activities I feel I could not have been better prepared.

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Executive Director of City Development for Dundee City Council, Mike is the Town and Regional Planning graduate of 1979 who has been given control of shaping the city in the 21st century. It is a time of remarkable change for Dundee, with crises high over the central waterfront raising the new V&A Museum of Design and a transformed train station.

For anyone who has been to university and then returns to their alma mater some years later, there is likely to be evidence of change. In Dundee that process has been accelerated over the past decade and a half. ‘I think even someone coming back who graduated five years ago would notice significant changes, particularly around the central waterfront but also across the city,’ said Mike.

‘Dundee has been changing for the past forty or fifty years but it is the pace of change that has accelerated dramatically in the last ten years.’

That includes the creation of the V&A at the heart of a revitalised waterfront. The entire area has already changed beyond recognition from what it was just a few years ago. By 2018 it will have Kengo Kuma’s striking V&A sitting alongside a completely redesigned railway station, creating an entirely new welcome for visitors to the city.

‘The new train station is very important,’ said Mike. ‘It is the arrival point for so many visitors and they will emerge from a new concourse there and see the V&A and McManus, with the river close by. We have such a great natural setting with the river. Whether you are arriving by road, rail or air you see it when you are coming in, and it acts as a reference point once you are on the ground.’

‘There were a lot of mistakes from the past, decisions made fifty years ago that perhaps weren’t as well thought out as they could have been.’

‘A lot of what we have done over the past ten years has been about correcting those mistakes. There is now no Tay House, no Olympia Centre, the bridge ramps have been moved to open up the waterfront area again and reconnect the city with the river.’

‘That was always a primary goal for me. When I came back to Dundee in 1997 after working around the UK I thought the city had made some great strides – the pedestrianisation of the city centre, for example, had made a huge difference. But the waterfront was an embarrassment.’

‘I remember seeing people staying at the Hilton Hotel on the riverfront, who were here for Graduation, and you could see them coming out of the hotel and not having a clue how to get to the Caird Hall. They could see it, but it just wasn’t clear how you would get to it.’

‘There was a lot of that kind of thing, and it really wasn’t great because people’s early perceptions of a city are absolutely crucial. There have been plenty of studies which show the first four or five minutes we spend in a place creates an impression that can be hard to shift. That is something that is a primary consideration in everything we are doing around the waterfront. The waterfront isn’t Dundee, it is a great natural setting with the river close by. We have such a great natural setting with the river. Whether you are arriving by road, rail or air you see it when you are coming in, and it acts as a reference point once you are on the ground.’

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‘And that first impression is now so much better and one we can build on. The city really does look and feel much better.’

From 1879 to the present day, Sue Lawrence’s new book deals with a mysterious disappearance all set in a backdrop of an ever changing Dundee.

Alumna Sue Lawrence has had an incredible career since graduating from the University of Dundee in 1978. She’s won Masterchef, worked as a cookery columnist and is also a widely read author, who has recently launched her new book, The Night He Left, which is set in Dundee.

Sue’s time at the University of Dundee was an inspiration for the book. ‘As students, we used to look out into the water from our accommodation and see the remains of the old Tay Rail Bridge. So that was where I got the idea from. I wanted to do a story that was combined with Dundee in the present day.’

The novel starts off in 1879 and features a woman whose husband is believed to have died in the Tay Rail Bridge disaster. Fast forward to present day, and another woman is investigating the disappearance of her own partner, and discovers strange similarities with the events of 1879.

The book deals with a changing Dundee, comparing the old with the new. Even during Sue’s five years at university, she saw the campus undergo some major changes. Most importantly, the brand new student’s union. ‘It was like an airport. Everybody thought it was incredible. It was all new and shiny.’ Despite change, some things stay the same. University life led Sue to gain lifelong friends. Sue met MaryAn Charnley in a lecture theatre in 1973 and they have not looked back. ‘As she was from London she used to come and stay at my house during the holidays. MaryAn was my bridesmaid, and I was hers.’

MaryAn added, ‘I’m even her son’s godmother and her kids come down to stay with me in London. Sue kindly looked out for my son when he was at university in Edinburgh. We have so many amazing memories, and it all started in Dundee.’

Sue describes her time at the University of Dundee as some of the best days of her life. After a busy career and motherhood, it goes to show that the University stays with you, long after you have left.

‘I have been given the sandpit to play with!’ ... laughed Mike Galloway
Back in February, with Valentine’s Day approaching, we were in the mood for love.

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

At the start of each academic year, the University Chaplain tells our new students that she has the pleasure of marrying many couples who meet as students at Dundee, so we wanted to find out more. We asked you if you met the love of your life at Dundee and we were delighted with the response! Indeed, your ‘Love Dundee’ stories took Facebook by storm with many more alumni sharing their stories on social media. Looking back over the decades here are some of our alumni who met the love of their life at Dundee...

1960s

Chris Ide bought a ticket for the Belmont Hall Valentine’s Day Ball on Friday 14th February 1964. Chris was already a student at Dundee, and it was his first time going to such a function. The ticket was a double ticket, so he needed a partner. None of the girls in his class wanted to go, or if they did, they didn’t want to go with poor Chris. So, on Friday 17th January, he went to the ‘hop’ at West Park Hall. He met two girls, (Anne Batchelor and her friend Edith) both of whom seemed prospective partners. He asked Anne if she would like to come, on the basis that she would only join him on half pints of lager, while Edith took G&T! Little did he know how much that would ultimately cost him! They were married in St Margaret’s Church in Dunfermline on 5 October 1964. Those dates, and a number of other dates of happy occasions which occurred during and after his time in Dundee are engraved on his pewter tumbler. Chris and Anne are still going strong – he thought he was still going strong – he thought they would get married but they got there in the end – Crispin says they were simply having too much fun to get round to it! The wedding was held at Dundas Castle near Edinburgh. Jacqueline was Crispin’s bridesmaid, in the days when the Gaudie Night/Raisin Monday tradition was still going strong – he thought he had to look after his bejantine during the accountancy building – the first term, not for the rest of his life! They recently celebrated their 12th anniversary of marriage and 34 years of ‘going out’. Crispin recently addressed a group of current students about marketing, and returned to the Accountancy building – the last time he was there it was to sit his Financial Accounting finals!

1970s

Hugh and Katie Guest met at the University of Dundee in 1972. Katie studied Civil Engineering (at the time there were only two girls studying Civil Engineering) and Hugh studied Dentistry. Katie was about to turn 18, and Hugh 23, so they had a joint party at Laing’s on 29th February - and that was the beginning! Hugh thought that Katie paying for half the barrel of beer would be a good idea, but Katie says, ‘Little did he know how much that would ultimately cost him!’ They were married on 26th November 1974 and are still together now 41 plus years later. They left Dundee to live in Somerset where they still are, although they have a home in Tennessee where they spend a third of the year. They have two daughters and a grandson.

1980s

Crispin Reed and Jacqueline McNemey were at the University of Dundee in the early 80s, and they were married on 29th November 2003 - 21 years, 10 months and 10 days after they started going out at the University of Dundee! It took them a little while to decide to get married but they got there in the end – Crispin says they were simply having too much fun to get round to it! The wedding was held at Dundas Castle near Edinburgh. Jacqueline was Crispin’s bridesmaid, in the days when the Gaudie Night/Raisin Monday tradition was still going strong – he thought he had to look after his bejantine during the accountancy building – the first term, not for the rest of his life! They recently celebrated their 12th anniversary of marriage and 34 years of ‘going out’. Crispin recently addressed a group of current students about marketing, and returned to the Accountancy building – the last time he was there it was to sit his Financial Accounting finals!

1990s

Bryan and Aleksandra Coutts (nee Wasiak) met in Freshers’ Week in 1994 in The Union. This was the start of second year for them both. They were introduced through a mutual friend who studied Accountancy with Bryan and who knew Aleks (a Dental student) through sharing a floor in Belmont Halls. They have been together since that day. Bryan graduated with Honours in Psychology and latterly in 2000 when she completed her Dental degree. One day before the 8th anniversary of meeting they were married in St Margaret’s Church in Dunfermline on 5 October 2002. Two of Aleks’ bridesmaids were also alumni! They have three children, Calum, Sofia and Glen, and Bryan says maybe one day they will be students at Dundee... and maybe they too will find love like their mum and dad did!

2000s

Sara Aziz and Syed Sohaib Ahmed met at Dundee in 2006 and instantly became best friends, subsequently falling in love - they were married in 2012 in Pakistan. Although they’re both from Pakistan, albeit different cities, they often wonder if they would have ever met if it wasn’t for the serendipitous meeting at the University of Dundee, which now holds such a special place in their hearts, for many reasons, but especially for this. Sohaib did his MSc Accounting and Finance at the University and currently works for Warid Telecom, Lahore, while Sara did her BA(Hons) in Fine Art from the School of Art & Design, and now teaches at Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, as well as working for White Turban Art Consultancy and in her studio.

2010s

James Potton and Katie Graves met through Katie’s flatmate in June 2013. She had recently graduated from the University with a BSc in Midwifery and he was a biological chemistry student. They started dating pretty much immediately and in December 2014 James asked Katie to marry him! James graduated in June last year and around the same time they had their engagement party in Air Bar! They get married in August 2018.

If you would like to share your ‘Love Dundee’ story we would be delighted to hear from you! Please email us at alumni@dundee.ac.uk
UNLOCKING A CHILD’S INTELLECTUAL POTENTIAL...

Two boys and a Super Nintendo led alumnus, lecturer and former teacher, Derek Robertson, to look at computer games technology in a whole new way.

It was the last day of term before Christmas and some of Derek’s pupils were playing on a Super Nintendo to pass the time. What happened next took Derek by surprise.

‘These boys were exhibiting fantastic problem solving skills.’

They were in my lower ability group for maths and I had thought they weren’t clever, so it really was an eye-opener for me.’

This made him wonder if computer games were the answer to unlocking a child’s intellectual potential. He began to delve deeper into the theory and spoke internationally about the subject.

‘In the three years they were playing Minecraft, they never needed their dad to help them out. They were able to learn independently, without the guidance and intervention of an adult.’

In 2015, and in his new role as lecturer at the University of Dundee, he started a project with local primary schools. The children were tasked with designing the city’s Waterfront using Minecraft. The pupils worked to reimagine, design and build whatever they wanted.

They were asked to consider a number of factors including the aesthetic of their design, how their design would bring in tourists and how their new development would bring in jobs. Derek is still ploughing through data from the project, but one thing is clear, that there was a role reversal, the children became the teachers.

It also enabled children who maybe weren’t high flyers in maths and English to become the go-to boys and girls for help and guidance.

The children reported that they enjoyed the process, with one pupil going as far to say that it was the first time in ages they had felt at home at school.

Derek is now in talks to take Minecraft back into the classroom to find even more ways the game can benefit future generations.

‘When I saw Minecraft back in 2011, I knew I wanted to use it in the classroom.’

‘Minecraft is a sandbox game that lets users create their own world. Players need to mine for materials to help them survive. ‘Something you need in the game is iron. So you have to create a smelting stove, and the next thing you know you‘ve built the Taj Mahal!’

He began by watching his own daughters play the game. That’s where he noticed they were able to learn on their own.

A CENTURY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK

The transformative role that education and social work training has played in Dundee for more than a century was celebrated in an exhibition in the Tower Foyer Gallery earlier this year.

Images, films, artefacts and other information from the early days of Dundee Training College right through to today’s School of Education & Social Work featured in the exhibition.

The successes of degree and diploma programmes and the role Dundee has played in shaping the education, social work and community education professions was also celebrated, as was the contribution of the many teachers, social workers and others who trained in the city.

The transformative role of a good quality education for all is the job of education and social work training. It also enabled children who maybe weren’t high flyers in maths and English to become the go-to boys and girls for help and guidance.

The children reported that they enjoyed the process, with one pupil going as far as to say that it was the first time in ages they had felt at home at school.

Derek Robertson, to look at computer games technology in a whole new way.
THE BRIDGE 2016 | HUMANITIES

WORKING AT THE SHARP END OF DIPLOMACY

SIR WILLIAM PATEY TAKES US ON A JOURNEY FROM DUNDEE TO AFGHANISTAN

Sir William studied Modern History at Dundee, graduating as part of the class of 1975. He has had a distinguished career, serving as the UK’s Ambassador in countries including Sudan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan. His path towards becoming one of the world’s leading experts on diplomacy in the Middle East was set in motion by a careers advisor at the University, a piece of advice he remains thankful for as he returns to the University to be awarded an honorary degree.

‘I was the first of my family to go to university, being a working class boy from Edinburgh,’ said Sir William. ‘I came to Dundee partly because I wanted to get away from home, like many people setting out for university. Dundee was where my interest was really sparked in politics, debate, argument and broadening horizons.’

‘I actually wanted to be a teacher and had a place at what was then Dundee College of Education, but a careers advisor at the University, Barbara Jackson, pointed me in the direction of the Foreign Office. I was surprised because I didn’t think they’d be interested in a working class lad like me but I applied anyway and in the event I was accepted. So it returns to the University to be awarded an honorary degree.

Dundee was named as one of the UK’s top-performing universities for creative writing in the 2017 Complete University Guide. Its programme was described by former chair of the Scottish Arts Council, Richard Holloway, as one of the most exciting to be found anywhere, while editor Michael Schmidt praised Dundee for developing the most outward looking and inspiring, creative and literary programme in Scotland.

The success of graduates offer the most powerful testimony for the Creative Writing courses at Dundee, particularly the acclaimed MLitt in Writing Practice and Study. After graduation students go on to jobs in publishing, teaching and festivals or publish novels, short stories and poetry.

Graduate Oliver Langmead was nominated for a Not the Booker award for Dark Star, his first novel which was inspired by the rhythms of John Milton’s Paradise Lost and has been optioned by a major movie house. Clare Hunter was awarded a Creative Scotland Bursary whilst Beth McDonough is Creative Writer-in-residence at Dundee Contemporary Arts. Lindsay Macgregor was appointed Professor of Philosophy.

Critically acclaimed novelist Kirsty Gunn was appointed Professor of Creative Writing at the University in 2007. She says the success of the Dundee programme lies in its tailored approach to Creative Writing developed by her and colleagues Jim Stewart, Gail Low, Eddie Small and Aliki Varvogli.

‘We take immense pride in this being a small, bespoke, distinctive and highly creative programme. Our courses are designed to help them explore and extend their own possibilities as a writer and engage them in a varied and exciting range of literary activities. The programme is designed to fit around the individual writing needs of each student and to have them feeling like a real writer from the very start.’

In first year I decided on History all the way. I got involved with the History Society, organised trips and events and was also awarded a Carnegie Vacation Scholarship to complete my dissertation. I loved all my choices in History and the staff, as well as the postgrads, were brilliant – always encouraging. I was incredibly fortunate to be put forward for funding to complete a PhD on Scottish noblemen. As a mature student with a husband and two boys becoming a Carnegie Scholar was not something I had imagined when I started out and I was thrilled to graduate (again!) in 2012.

Knowing what to do after was the tricky part but I landed a job working for a local authority as their Local History Officer. It suits me well, I work hard promoting our collections and support all kinds of local history projects and genealogy. I still pursue my own research interests and recently was invited to give a talk at the National Archives at Kew on the subject of Jacobite Noblewomen. I have also branched out into film making – our project on short local histories is proving really popular! After all my research and hard work for the PhD all I have to do now is write my book.

Dr Nicola Cowmeadow
MA (Hons) History, 2006 & Doctor of Philosophy, 2012

I began my studies at Dundee in 2004. I intended to do English and then teach but things didn’t turn out that way at all! I had a great time in my first two years studying English, Film Studies, Politics and History. In second year I decided on History all the way. I got involved with the History Society, organised trips and events and was also awarded a Carnegie Vacation Scholarship to complete my dissertation. I loved all my choices in History and the staff, as well as the postgrads, were brilliant – always encouraging. I was incredibly fortunate to be put forward for funding to complete a PhD on Scottish noblemen. As a mature student with a husband and two boys becoming a Carnegie Scholar was not something I had imagined when I started out and I was thrilled to graduate (again!) in 2012.

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PASSED AROUND 2016

THE BRIDGE 2016 | HUMANITIES

Chapter AND Verse

IN LESS THAN A DECADE, THE UNIVERSITY HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS ONE OF THE UK’S FOREMOST PLACES TO STUDY CREATIVE WRITING.

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The University is engaged with students and staff from every corner of the globe, with more countries represented on campus than ever before. Some of the new countries we have attracted students from this year are Kyrgyzstan, Djibouti and Papua New Guinea.

When we say we reach ‘every corner of the globe’ we really do mean it – this year we even saw a participant in Antarctica engaging with our online course in forensics (they were working in a research station there).

Indre Urbanaviciute, our new student President, is one of our international representatives, from Lithuania. ‘There is a real community feeling here at the University and I am delighted to have the opportunity to play a big part in that,’ says Indre.

The countries with the highest numbers of students engaged with the University are China, Canada, Ireland, USA and Kuwait. Almost ten percent of our students come to Dundee from across the European Union.

Around one-quarter of the student population the University works with come from outside the UK.

Our partnerships touch every continent. We teach nurses in Eritrea and Kenya, we train orthodontists in Egypt, we partner a research institute to tackle diabetes in Kuwait, we attract life sciences doctoral students from Brazil, we work with seventeen leading Chinese universities, mainly in science and engineering, and we are pioneering staff exchanges with University of Technology Sydney, Australia.

‘International education is above all about people, helping them to connect, to live and learn together and to build ties that span the oceans and the generations. It is a transformational process that enriches all, impoverishes none and beckons us all to a deeper understanding of our fellow travellers on the road of life and learning.’ – Wendy Alexander, Vice-Principal (International).

The International Student Barometer, the largest annual survey of international students, ranked Dundee in its world top 20 and number one in Scotland. Dundee was particularly highly ranked for helping students make friends from other countries, cost of living, and support services.

‘International students and staff are a vital part of our community here on campus. More than a quarter of the students we are engaged with are from outside the UK. They bring the richness and diversity of their own cultures to this city and in many ways are our ambassadors to the world.’ – Professor Sir Pete Downes, Principal and Vice-Chancellor.
Celebrating our 50th Anniversary

In 2017 The University of Dundee celebrates a big birthday, turning fifty years old – and we’re planning a year of events to commemorate. The theme of the year is ‘Celebrating the Past, into the Future’ – so while we’re remembering the many moments in the history of the institution that have made it great and have made it a cornerstone of Dundee, we’re also looking forward to see how the next fifty years might look.

It’s been an impressive 50 years. We’ve really been in existence since 1881, a college of the University of St Andrews, but in 1967 we became an independent institution – and our growth began. The University of Dundee regularly appears at the top end of many UK and World rankings, we’ve been named Scottish University of the Year in The Times & Sunday Times Good University Guide 2016 and are in the top 20 universities worldwide under 50 years old (Times Higher Education 100 Under 50 2015). Our students also rate us very highly on student satisfaction - we have been ranked No. 1 in Scotland for six years running by the Times Higher Education (THE) Student Experience Survey (2010 - 2015).

Throughout the year, we’ll reflect on the core pillars of the University’s Transform Agenda – promoting the sustainable use of global resources, shaping the future through innovative design and improving cultural and physical well-being.

We have got a set of clear aims for the year:

- To celebrate the University of Dundee’s many accomplishments over the past 50 years, including the University’s impressive growth and prosperity that have positively impacted the economy and its cultural and community organisations.
- To build and enhance the University’s base of support, including alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students and friends.
- To strengthen the brand of the University of Dundee by increasing the visibility and prominence of the University both nationally and internationally.
- To engage with new audiences within the city and across the UK.
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- To raise funds for scholarships.

We’ll kick off in January 2017 with the launch of a series of podcasts, 50 Things That Made Dundee that will focus on one item per week from the University’s archives, which changed the way the world worked. Including radar, cancer treatments, flatscreen TVs and much more, we’ll release a podcast each week and they will be available to download, wherever you are in the world.

Alumni will be a huge focus of the year, with a weekend dedicated to bringing past students back to the campus to remember their time at the University, reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Dates and a schedule of events for the weekend will be released later in 2016, so make sure you’re signed up to Dundee Connect, www.dundeeconnect.com to get all the information.

Our Time to Shine project will put a spotlight on projects across the University that happen between two or more schools, showing how we lead the way in innovative and exciting new ways of working – and showing some of the incredible results that happen as these projects develop.

For our Saturday Evening Lecture Series we’ll be inviting a host of past Honorary Graduates and former alumni back to the city to speak – we have already got some fantastic names ready to announce, so make sure you get your tickets quickly, these are bound to sell out.

We’re also planning to extend our Saturday Evening Lecture Series to include a younger audience, with two Young SELS, later in 2017. These will be targeted at high school aged children who are making key decisions about where to attend university, letting them see the University and staff at its best.

Throughout the year there will be other 50th activity, with a dedicated events page on the website, merchandise available and details of everything that is happening to make 2017 the best year in our history. Please do join us and celebrate the past, looking into the future.
Malaria is a debilitating, often fatal parasitic disease that kills around one million people each year, mostly children under the age of 5, living in sub-Saharan Africa. Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the most deadly infectious diseases in the world, killing 1.5 million people every year with nearly another nine million suffering from the disease.

Among the ‘most neglected’ diseases of poverty are a group of related parasites – spread by blood-sucking insects – causing visceral leishmaniasis, Chagas’ disease and human African trypanosomiasis (HAT).

These are diseases which threaten almost half of the world’s population – the half that can least afford it. For each of them there are still only relatively poor therapies available, and in many instances those drugs are also subject to increasing resistance.

The Drug Discovery Unit (DDU) in the University’s School of Life Sciences was opened in 2006 to help address these issues. As a consequence, enormous public and medical charity investment in biomedical research remains untranslated into validated drug candidates, whilst industry often has difficulty in properly accessing and refining the flow of information from academia. As a result, enormous potential to treat malaria patients in a single dose, including those with malaria parasites resistant to current medications, and help reduce the transmission of the parasite.

This was greeted worldwide as offering hope that a new treatment could be in sight for those millions threatened by the disease.

De Michael Chew from the Wellcome Trust, which provided funding for the DDU/MMV project, said, ‘The need for new antimalarial drugs is more urgent than ever before, with emerging strains of the parasite now showing resistance against the best available drugs. The discovery of this new antimalarial agent, which has shown remarkable potency against multiple stages of the malaria lifecycle, is an exciting prospect in the hunt for viable new treatments.’

The work on the malaria compound, and on potential targets for other neglected diseases, shows how the Drug Discovery Unit can help transform the lives of millions of people across the planet.

One of the Unit’s most significant breakthroughs came in the last year when, working in partnership with Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) they announced the discovery of a compound which has the potential to treat malaria patients in a single dose, including those with malaria parasites resistant to current medications, and help reduce the transmission of the parasite.

The idea came when I was a postdoc and took part in several projects, which inspired me to think about how the public could get involved in science through the medium of art. In 2011 I took the plunge and went to Duncan of Jordanstone to re-train in Animation. In parallel with this I also participated in a business module at The Enterprise Gym. After completing the Masters, I won a Graduate Enterprise Fellowship and we have been trading now for nearly four years growing the business each year. We have won several awards in this time, have international clients and plan to continue to grow our client base across UK and Europe.

The founder of award-winning scientific animation production company Vivomotion received her Biochemistry degree in 1996 before earning a PhD in Cell & Molecular Biology four years later. A postgraduate Teaching & Learning in Higher Education certificate followed in 2009 before her career took a radical turn and she completed a Masters in Animation & Visualisation. From science to art, how did that happen?

Professor Jim Woodgett

The life sciences research community and associated departments have never been stronger. Sir Philip has been recognized multiple times for his inspirational contributions to biomedical research. As director of research at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, I’m always impressed by the quality of young researchers who’ve trained in Dundee (we’ve several) and I even follow the Protein Phosphorylation Unit on Twitter (@MRCPPU).

The University of Dundee was my research life’s Cape Canaveral and I’m still in orbit!
Gary Mires knows how much has changed since he graduated. A graduate of the class of 1983, he is now Dean, leading a medical school placed firmly in the 21st century, with innovative teaching, first-class facilities and research that has ranked top in the UK for impact.

‘The lack of patient contact in the early years, when I was a student isn’t a criticism, it is just the way things were done then. We spent our first three years learning the ’ologies – physiology, anatomy, biochemistry and genetics. I remember that was fantastic and has enabled us to do things which have completely changed the way we work. Part of his duties as Dean is to read over 300 autopsies, given evidence in court over 250 times and has taught in the modern health service.’

Margaret Wood

I graduated in Medicine in 1970 as one of a very small number of women medical graduates at that time. I spent the next few years in residency training in Dundee before leaving for what I intended to be a two-year fellowship in the United States. I published my first paper with Professor Ian Stevenson in Pharmacology when I was a young registrar in Anesthesia in Dundee and that experience taught me the critical importance of working in an outstanding laboratory with an established, rigorous mentor. I have since applied that lesson frequently as I built the Department of Anesthesiology at Columbia University in New York City after I became Chairman in 1995 and have encouraged my own residents and faculty to challenge themselves by joining outstanding laboratories as they start their research careers.

In fact, my ‘two-year fellowship’ has stretched to 40 years in the United States, but Dundee has always been a very special place for my family and me — in Dundee I met and married Alastair, who was one of my classmates and our two children visited their late grandparents in Dundee frequently. Alastair and I received honorary degrees from the University in 2008 and it was really moving to return to the Caird Hall again and remember our last graduation together which seems such a short time ago.

Margaret Wood

M.B Ch.B FRCA

E.M. Papper Professor and Chairman

Department of Anesthesiology, Columbia University New York

It is not just the writing staff that get to benefit from Stuart’s expertise. The actors themselves take their role of pathologists very seriously.

‘When they’re filming autopsy scenes I help them get the terminology correct which helps them look natural. The actors are always really keen to get everything looking as right as possible.’

Dr Stuart Hamilton graduated from the University of Dundee with a degree in Medicine in 1998. Since then he has carried out over 3000 autopsies, given evidence in court over 250 times and has taught in various English universities - but it is also his job to make sure they get the science right on BBC’s Silent Witness. Stuart has been working on the show for the past five years. Before filming starts, he will look through the script to make sure it is accurate. Sometimes, the writers even come to him first to sound out ideas before they put pen to paper. ‘They will have a plot point and say “how can we get to this finding”. So I’ve got to think of some clever forensic way to get a certain answer.’

Stuart is still enjoying his time with Silent Witness and is set to make sure Emilia Fox and the rest of the team are kept right for some time to come.

‘When they’re filming autopsy scenes I help them get the terminology correct which helps them look natural. The actors are always really keen to get everything looking as right as possible.’

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E.M. Papper Professor and Chairman

Department of Anesthesiology, Columbia University New York

Gary Mires knows how much has changed since he graduated. A graduate of the class of 1983, he is now Dean, leading a medical school placed firmly in the 21st century, with innovative teaching, first-class facilities and research that has ranked top in the UK for impact.

‘The lack of patient contact in the early years, when I was a student isn’t a criticism, it is just the way things were done then. We spent our first three years learning the ’ologies – physiology, anatomy, biochemistry and genetics. I remember that was fantastic and has enabled us to do things which have completely changed the way we work. Part of his duties as Dean is to read over 300 autopsies, given evidence in court over 250 times and has taught in the modern health service.’

Margaret Wood

I graduated in Medicine in 1970 as one of a very small number of women medical graduates at that time. I spent the next few years in residency training in Dundee before leaving for what I intended to be a two-year fellowship in the United States. I published my first paper with Professor Ian Stevenson in Pharmacology when I was a young registrar in Anesthesia in Dundee and that experience taught me the critical importance of working in an outstanding laboratory with an established, rigorous mentor. I have since applied that lesson frequently as I built the Department of Anesthesiology at Columbia University in New York City after I became Chairman in 1995 and have encouraged my own residents and faculty to challenge themselves by joining outstanding laboratories as they start their research careers.

In fact, my ‘two-year fellowship’ has stretched to 40 years in the United States, but Dundee has always been a very special place for my family and me — in Dundee I met and married Alastair, who was one of my classmates and our two children visited their late grandparents in Dundee frequently. Alastair and I received honorary degrees from the University in 2008 and it was really moving to return to the Caird Hall again and remember our last graduation together which seems such a short time ago.

Margaret Wood

M.B Ch.B FRCA

E.M. Papper Professor and Chairman

Department of Anesthesiology, Columbia University New York

It is not just the writing staff that get to benefit from Stuart’s expertise. The actors themselves take their role of pathologists very seriously.

‘When they’re filming autopsy scenes I help them get the terminology correct which helps them look natural. The actors are always really keen to get everything looking as right as possible.’

Dr Stuart Hamilton graduated from the University of Dundee with a degree in Medicine in 1998. Since then he has carried out over 3000 autopsies, given evidence in court over 250 times and has taught in various English universities - but it is also his job to make sure they get the science right on BBC’s Silent Witness. Stuart has been working on the show for the past five years. Before filming starts, he will look through the script to make sure it is accurate. Sometimes, the writers even come to him first to sound out ideas before they put pen to paper. ‘They will have a plot point and say “how can we get to this finding”. So I’ve got to think of some clever forensic way to get a certain answer.’

Stuart is still enjoying his time with Silent Witness and is set to make sure Emilia Fox and the rest of the team are kept right for some time to come.
ALUMNI ARE AT THE HEART OF DUNDEE’S SUCCESS. FROM SPORTS CLUBS TO SCHOLARSHIPS, CANCER RESEARCH TO CLINICAL PRACTICE, AND STATE OF THE ART NEW BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES, YOU HAVE HELPED FUND FANTASTIC PROJECTS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY. HERE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS GIFTS FROM ALUMNI, FRIENDS, TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS HAVE MADE POSSIBLE – AS WELL AS CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE.

Dundee Alumni Fund
Set up in 2004, the Dundee Alumni Fund offers graduates the chance to make a direct impact on student life at the University. Thanks to kind supporters over £1m has been raised, funding student hardship relief and many exciting projects which would otherwise not have gone ahead. The Dundee Alumni Fund provides the greatest flexibility for the University to respond to opportunities for both staff and students, meaning that fantastic projects like summer school access programmes, internships, graduate skills development, and much more can benefit students in all academic disciplines.

Ninewells Cancer Campaign
Since 1991 the Ninewells Cancer Campaign has been working to raise funds (to date over £20m) to advance our understanding and treatment of cancer. The £2m campaign in honour of Jacqui Wood was recently completed, which will further the work carried out at the Jacqui Wood Cancer Centre on campus at Ninewells Hospital. A fitting tribute to Jacqui, who was an integral part of the Campaign until her sad death in 2011, the Centre will be the hub of research into the development of more effective treatments and higher quality care for cancer patients in Tayside and beyond.

Ninewells Hospital and Medical School
Over the last few years the Medical School at Ninewells has been transformed. Thanks to the generosity of alumni, friends and trusts and foundations, new cutting-edge teaching space and facilities have been created to match the world-renowned medical education provided at the University of Dundee. The Gannochy Trust Lecture Theatre is a state-of-the-art, flexible space, and the Robertson Trust Medical Library houses some of the very best resources for students. Many alumni are commemorating their time studying in Ninewells by sponsoring a seat in a lecture theatre. Because of this wonderful support, the next generations of doctors, nurses and dentists are learning in the most technologically advanced facilities in Europe.

Projects Funded by You

Library refurbishment
The Library is the heart of any academic institution. With over 6,000 visitors per day, 24-hour opening during peak exam times, and playing an increasingly important role in encouraging students to come to Dundee, the Library has seen some fantastic changes since it was originally built in 1968. Two extensions and upgrades have taken place to improve facilities and bring them up to the standards needed for today’s students. The laptop lockers, study pods, new PCs and flexible spaces on the ground floor are just some of the areas in which supporters have made a crucial difference. Now, increasing the number of study spaces, providing better access to high-use resources, and installing new technologies and media suites are the focus for the next phase of renovation.

Looking ahead
There are a number of exciting opportunities coming up in the next few years here in Dundee. Professors Sue Black and Niamh Nic Daeid are leading the creation of the Leverhulme Centre for Forensic Science, following a £3m award made by the Leverhulme Trust. The Centre will promote cross-disciplinary research in the sciences, technology, engineering and maths, to address gaps in knowledge and the application of forensic science. In doing so they will change how science is used in the criminal justice system.

A new fund has been established to provide support to students in need, the University of Dundee Scholarship and Bursary Fund. Access to education should be open for all those who wish to pursue a subject they are passionate about, regardless of financial background or circumstances. The Fund will be open to all students across academic disciplines, ensuring that those with the ability, drive and commitment to pursue a university education are able to do so free from money worries.

There are many ways to get involved with these and other projects ongoing in Dundee. For more information on how you can make an impact on your university, get in touch at alumni@dundee.ac.uk.

On behalf of all the staff, researchers and students you’ve helped so far, Thank you!

Transforming lives
Dundee graduates are leaders in their fields all over the world. They’re making a huge difference to the lives of many millions of people in a variety of ways. But perhaps the most personal and significant way they are transforming lives for the better is through remembering the University in their will.

‘As a direct consequence of gifts in wills and other donations, we have new state-of-the-art research laboratories... Our world-leading researchers are making the very latest breakthroughs.’

Professor Roland Wolf OBE, School of Medicine
A wonderful connection to your university, including Dundee in your estate planning can have an enduring impact on the students, researchers and wider world of the future. A gift in your will can last the lifetime of the University, keeping you at the heart of a place of cherished memories and happy times spent as a student.

‘Scholarships and bursaries funded by gifts in wills... ensure highly able students regardless of background can access one of the UK’s top universities... [Support] really does transform lives.’

Dr John Blicharski
Access & Participation Manager
Alumni from all walks of life choose to remember the University in their will, and we are most grateful for their consideration and kindness.

If you would like more information on how a gift in your will can transform lives for the better, please contact Gordon Ramsay, Legacies Officer, at legacy@dundee.ac.uk or on +44 (0)1382 381136

Thank you!
Andy Lothian, who graduated in 1987 with degrees in Economics and Computer Science, is the Chief Executive of Insights Learning and Development. A Scottish business success story that is proud of its Dundee heritage, Insights has grown from a two-man operation in 1993 to a global company employing more than 400 people, with a presence in 40 countries.

Andy's first career began in London in the field of merchant banking shortly after graduating from the University of Dundee. While his time in this career provided a strong business foundation, it also led to an important career realisation.

“I asked my boss one morning in the fixed income and currency group at Rothschilds ‘What is it that will get me on the fast track?’ He said, ‘If we can beat the return our clients can get on cash by between half and three quarters of a percent we will have done our job’. I thought, ‘what kind of purpose in life is that?’

From here Andy took his passion for purpose-driven work and founded Insights with his father, Andi Lothian. Guided by the organisation’s purpose to ‘create a world where people truly understand themselves and others, and are inspired to make a positive difference in everything they do’, Insights provides learning solutions based in Jungian psychology that enable personal and professional development for individuals, teams, leaders and entire organisations.

In addition to his focus on doing work with purpose, the city of Dundee has long been an integral part of Andy’s personal, professional and philanthropic identity. The organisation’s flagship learning solution, Insights Discovery, is named after the RRS Discovery, Captain Robert Falcon Scott’s ship, RRS Discovery, and a Director of The High School of Dundee. He is on the Scotland committee for the Institute of Directors and on the Scottish Enterprise Regional Advisory Board.

Andy is the Chairman of Dundee Heritage Trust, which is custodian of Captain Robert Falcon Scott’s ship, RRS Discovery, and a Director of The High School of Dundee. He is on the Scotland committee for the Institute of Directors and on the Scottish Enterprise Regional Advisory Board.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE GRADUATES

Throughout the organisation’s lifespan, Andy has lead dual priorities in facilitating development breakthroughs for the organisation’s customers and its people. While this is a simple approach, it is also rare for a company to be so keenly focused on its internal stakeholders as well as its external clients.

Some organisations will be concerned about developing people who then leave to go to a better job. My response is what if you don’t develop them and they stay?

Graduates from the University of Dundee who have joined Insights exemplify the unique possibilities that go hand-in-hand with meaningful learning and development opportunities.

For instance, Marcus Wylie graduated from the University of Dundee in 1997 with a degree in Mathematics and Statistics and is now Insights’ Head of People Experience. In this role, he and his team focus on Insights’ people through capability development, talent management, organisational change management and corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Another alumnus, Liz Oliver, graduated from the University of Dundee in 1990 with a degree in Architecture and joined Insights in 2004 to support the organisation’s learning design initiatives. Commenting on the journey from architecture to learning design Liz said, ‘I still see my role as an architect, but just in the field of personal change. Now, I design learning journeys that encourage people to keep growing.’

Andy enables career journeys like these to occur through his dedication to cultivating a company culture of possibility and authenticity. He encourages all employees to ‘bring their whole selves to work’ and is passionate about creating an environment where every person in the organisation can say (in their own way) ‘I love my job and I love this company’.

The organisation continues to look at the qualified graduate pool from the University of Dundee to join the growing organisation. In 2015, Andy outlined a three-year strategy to double the size of the business by 2018. In the last financial year alone (since 1 April 2015), Insights’ People Team has filled approximately 132 new or back-filled positions.

Do you have a project that could benefit from an extra pair of hands? Do you need to advertise your vacancies to an audience of high quality candidates?

If you would like to recruit our graduates or offer internship opportunities to students, the University of Dundee’s award-winning Careers Services houses an Employer Engagement Team who can talk you through how easy and affordable it is to arrange, and how they can help in promoting your organisation on campus.

The Careers Service also provides advice and guidance to alumni for up to five years after graduation.

If you would like to get in touch, you can reach them on 01382 384017, email careers@dundee.ac.uk or at 1 Airlie Place.
DELIVERING ESSENTIAL CARE TO WOMEN AND BABIES

PROPER ACCESS TO GOOD QUALITY MIDWIFERY CARE IS SOMETHING THAT MANY OF US MAY TAKE FOR GRANTED BUT IT IS A HIGHLY CONTENTIOUS GLOBAL ISSUE. THE SAME APPLIES TO BREASTFEEDING AND THE RISKS OF USING BREASTMILK SUBSTITUTES, WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BATTLES INVOLVING BIG BUSINESS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES AND PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES.

When we look at global health it is often the major diseases or sudden outbreaks of possible pandemics that grab the headlines, but what may be seen as more prosaic issues are having a drastic effect worldwide.

Every year, nearly 300,000 women die during pregnancy, childbirth, or soon after. About 2.6 million women suffer stillbirths, and 2.9 million children die in the first month of life. The great majority of these deaths could be prevented by proper care. Millions more women and their families suffer long-term problems simply because they have not received proper access to good quality midwifery care.

‘A key point that is now being widely recognised is that the care issue is not only about midwifery, or not only about breastfeeding. It is about bringing essential care to women and babies, which impacts on their survival, their long-term physical and mental health and even the economic prospects for their families and communities.’

Engendering major change across different countries and cultures is a mammoth task, but Mary sees reasons for hope.

‘I am far more optimistic now about where things are going than I would have been if you’d asked me the same question even just two or three years ago. From where I am standing there really has been a complete sea change in attitude and approach to global co-ordination for midwifery, and the Lancet Series on Midwifery and our work with Save the Children on breastfeeding, led by colleagues including Dr Alison McFadden, has been having a similar impact.

‘The hugely encouraging thing is that for the first time I can recall, the major global agencies are really collaborating on the implementation of midwifery. That is particularly important when we look at consistent messaging around what are complex issues.

‘Countries are now putting new training in place for midwives. Education is changing and improving in many places. Individuals involved in healthcare around the world have picked up the key messages from The Lancet series and started putting them into action. Dundee has played a key role in all of this.’

Phelim Garrett-Hanna graduated from Nursing in 2015, and at the same time received the Wincherry Award for outstanding contribution from a student. During the first and second years of his degree course, Phelim was class representative, moving on to become class president in third year. He also volunteered for the University’s Nightline service throughout his time at Dundee, providing confidential support to his fellow students who needed help or simply someone to talk to.

He is now finding the same skills are vital in his role as a staff nurse in the acute medical unit at Ninewells Hospital.

‘I feel that it is important for students to make the most of their time at University and I didn’t feel I would be able to fulfil my full potential unless I got involved in things beyond just my field of study,’ explained Phelim.

‘Mentoring students as a peer connector and representing them as a class representative has meant I can be more than just able to fulfil my full potential unless I got involved in things beyond just my field of study,’ explained Phelim.

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‘A lot of people don’t get what we do, most of our patients see us in traditional, Florence Nightingale roles,’ explains Phelim. ‘However, nursing has changed so much in a short time. We are consultants, specialised in our fields and often making decisions over and above doctors.’

Whilst not the first nor hopefully the last to acknowledge the changing dimension of his profession, Phelim is proud to be a part of a generation taking nursing to a different level.

‘A lot of energy goes into my job and shifts can be taxing at times but being able to get out into the hills and explore this country gives me the drive to work even harder,’ says Phelim. ‘Right now I’m focused on becoming the best nurse I can be and trying to ground myself in my specialty but my dream is to see the world. I’m just getting warmed up. Soon I’d like to volunteer as a nurse in a crisis zone and push nursing even further.’

In November 2015, I received my Masters in Palliative Care from the University of Dundee. Being a distance learning student, travelling from Nairobi to Dundee for my graduation ceremony was indeed a dream come true.

I was one of the lucky few doctors to be awarded a Commonwealth scholarship to pursue a post graduate degree in palliative care and since then my skills, knowledge and perceptions have improved tremendously. The course has equipped me not only with more in-depth knowledge and skills to provide better palliative care to patients and their families, but it has also built my confidence as a trainer and an advocate. I believe the success of integrating palliative care in the health care system in my country was largely as a result of the first module in my course.

My research was on exploring doctors’ experiences of caring for palliative patients and whether they felt there is a need for further training at undergraduate level. This was a qualitative study, which truly challenged me to read and understand more on research methodologies. Although the whole process was hectic and demanding, I am now more confident in both quantitative and qualitative research methods. I now mentor other students and find this exciting. Furthermore, the findings of my research have been instrumental in advocating for palliative care to be integrated in the undergraduate medical curriculum.

Zipporah Ali
Master of Palliative Care, 2015
Forensic science has never had a higher profile, thanks in part to the endless fascination of media across film, television and literature where we delight in tales of criminals being undone by laboratory experts.

Ironically, it is also in a state of crisis. The science underpinning some of the most prominent tools available to scientists and the criminal justice system – from fingerprinting to DNA analysis – has been questioned and found wanting. There is a research gap that has to be bridged if the science is to be deployed successfully and effectively.

Dundee is leading the way in discovering how and in what way such deficiencies in the science behind forensic evidence can be developed and supported. The University is ranked number one in the UK for forensic science, largely based on the work of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification (CAHID), one of the world’s foremost institutions for the study and application of human anatomy, forensic human identification, disaster victim identification, forensic science research and forensic and medical art. The Centre was awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher Education 2014.

With the support of a £10million award from the Leverhulme Trust, a new research centre in forensic science has been established at the University. The Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science will drive transformational change and establish new standards of science across the discipline.

‘Forensic science is a highly valued component of the criminal justice system but widely recognised to be in crisis,’ said Professor Sue Black, Director of CAHID and co-director of the Leverhulme Centre with Professor Niamh Nic Daeid. ‘It is not satisfactory to have repeated incidents where science is questioned and found wanting in a court. Forensic science should not be the weak link in the criminal justice chain, it should be a gold standard in which we place confidence and trust. We have to raise the bar in the standards of science underpinning many of the vital techniques which are at the core of forensic science.’

‘We have a very strong reputation for innovation and excellence within CAHID, where we have pioneered new approaches to criminal investigation including identification of child sexual abuse where we have assisted in securing convictions against offenders. With the Leverhulme Centre we are focusing innovation on the entire ecosystem of forensic science.’

Clarity of communication in scientific evidence is also critical. For example, in the early days of DNA evidence there were considerable challenges in communicating the strengths and limitations of that evidence and its importance in a given set of circumstances. The University is working with the Royal Society, Royal Society of Edinburgh, Office of the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales and the Scottish Judiciary to establish a series of judicial primers, documents in simple prose which will be used to explain science to the court rooms. This is arguably the largest exercise yet attempted in public engagement with forensic science.

‘We need to change the game, stimulate the research and evidence base for forensic science, and create pathways for innovation, enterprise and enlightened engagement at national, international and global levels,’ said Professor Nic Daeid.

‘At Dundee we are uniquely well placed to take on this challenge. We combine the necessary strands of forensic expertise that are vital to take the discipline forward. There is a big challenge for everyone in the forensic sciences to ensure we can deliver the impact society needs. Our work is vital. There are few more fundamental issues than helping establish innocence or guilt. Forensic science needs to be a key player.’

For more information please visit www.cahid.dundee.ac.uk

The University is one of the world’s leading centres for research into augmentative and alternative communication technologies for people with severe communication difficulties, a fact which has been roundly celebrated with the award of an OBE to Professor Annalu Waller in the 2016 New Year Honours list.

Annalu is Chair of Human Communication Technologies at the University of Dundee, based in Computing. She was awarded her OBE for her services to people with complex communication needs. She works closely with children and adults with disabilities, involving service users in the development of innovative technologies.

‘I was delighted to receive this Honour, which I feel really puts complex communication needs on the map. The reason I initially came to Dundee in 1984 to do my PhD was that the University was at the forefront of developing predictive communication aids for non-speaking people.

‘We have remained a world leader in this field, principally I think because we have always involved people who need to use these aids in the development of new tools. We are working with the most severely disabled people in society and giving them a voice in research.’

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Annalu Waller

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During his first year in 1959 Alan met many friends in Airlie Hall so at the end of that year Alan and seven of his friends - David Hitchcock, Donald Mercer, Donald Collins, Ian Donald, Jonathan Wilkie, Michael Hallam and John McLaren decided to take over the second floor flat at 343 Nethergate known as Sunshine House. Alan and his housemates fondly look back on their time between 1960 and 1962 in Sunshine House …

‘We stayed in Sunshine House for two years having a great, and often hilarious, time. Because of its proximity to Campus many students would just drop by for a chat. You never knew who might be there when you arrived home. I got to love Scotland and its inhabitants but I regret that I didn’t take more opportunities to see even more of it. Amazingly we are all in touch with each other. I had wonderful time, made good friends right throughout our student days.’

Don Collins
BSc Honours Mathematics, 1963

‘Skiing in Scotland in the 1960s was not for the faint hearted. Nevertheless four intrepid Sunshiners set off for Glenshee in an Austin A30 in 1961, unperturbed by the Met Office forecast of snow blizzards at the summit. As I was putting on my skis, I slipped and one ski took off down the mountain and disappeared. Two hours later both skis were amazingly reunited but unfortunately at the bottom of Glenshee and a long way from the ski lift. The next year the ‘Sunshiners went skiing in Switzerland’.

Cathy Duncan, Jane Kilcohn and Liz Manton who were good friends during our student days.

Alan Norcott
BSc Honours Chemistry, 1963

‘We were looked after by a lady called Mrs Wilde, who cooked our breakfast every morning and our evening meal and did some tidying up now and again. Sometimes we would do it all over again.’

Ian Donald
BSc Maths and Physics, 1963

‘One of my memories is of the politics of the time. Being alive to the possibilities of a good prank, Sunshine House sent a letter to the Communist leader of Albania apologizing his achievements and asking for advice on how to follow in his footsteps. Months later, we received a parcel of books from the General and noted that the parcel had been opened, inspected, and resealed. I have long suspected that the ‘Sunshiners’ were all members of a list of communist sympathisers, to be watched!’

Jon Wilkie
BSc Chemistry and Maths, 1963

‘After the rather rigid regimen of Airlie Hall, life in Sunshine House struck me as that of a warm spirited commune where everything was shared. I have memories of the living room at full house, with activities ranging from newspaper reading (Mrs W supplied a range from The Courier and The Broons’ to the Observer), bridge quartets, chess, earnest talk of scientific formulae, spinning LPs on Ian Donald’s turntable, and reverent silence as everyone listened to that earliest of the pirate radio stations, Radio Luxembourg, late in the evening for the latest Top 20.’

John McLaren
Bachelor of Laws, 1962

‘I was the only Dental Student in the flat and I joined only by default. The original guy unfortunately failed to return after first year so I slotted in. As a Dental student I spent more time in Dundee, working in the Hospital during the vacs. Indeed I stayed there for most of the holiday after the others had left. Mrs Wilde taking care of Campbell Hargreaves and myself for a few weeks. Campbell was also studying dentistry and was well known to the other Sunshiners.’

Mick Hallam
Bachelor of Dental Surgery, 1963

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Don Mercer
BSc Honours Chemistry, 1963

‘From memory I think Sunshine House participated in three charities events with different themes. Alice in Wonderland with the slogan ‘Give it to Alice’, a Stone Age ‘ban the bomb’ and a cleaning crew. As well as the floats and procession there were other activities such as the car raffle. The car if I remember was a Austin A30o-35 and to win you had to guess the number of tickets sold. Many an evening at Sunshine House was spent counting the counterfoils.’

David Hitchcock
BSc Physics and Chemistry, 1963

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David Hitchcock
BSc Physics and Chemistry, 1963

‘I was the only Dental Student in the flat and I joined only by default. The original guy unfortunately failed to return after first year so I slotted in. As a Dental student I spent more time in Dundee, working in the Hospital during the vacs. Indeed I stayed there for most of the holiday after the others had left. Mrs Wilde taking care of Campbell Hargreaves and myself for a few weeks. Campbell was also studying dentistry and was well known to the other Sunshiners.’

Mick Hallam
Bachelor of Dental Surgery, 1963

‘One of my memories is of the politics of the time. Being alive to the possibilities of a good prank, Sunshine House sent a letter to the Communist leader of Albania apologizing his achievements and asking for advice on how to follow in his footsteps. Months later, we received a parcel of books from the General and noted that the parcel had been opened, inspected, and resealed. I have long suspected that the ‘Sunshiners’ were all members of a list of communist sympathisers, to be watched!’

Don Mercer
BSc Honours Chemistry, 1963

‘From memory I think Sunshine House participated in three charities events with different themes. Alice in Wonderland with the slogan ‘Give it to Alice’, a Stone Age ‘ban the bomb’ and a cleaning crew. As well as the floats and procession there were other activities such as the car raffle. The car if I remember was a Austin A30o-35 and to win you had to guess the number of tickets sold. Many an evening at Sunshine House was spent counting the counterfoils.’

David Hitchcock
BSc Physics and Chemistry, 1963
Reunion images:

01 | Dentists - The Class of 1973 led by Craig Goodman visited the School and Hospital in October last year and were treated to a guided tour of the clinics and laboratories followed by a wine and cheese reception hosted by the Dean, Professor Mark Hector.

02 | Medics – Many of the Class of 1990 Medics had not been in touch with each other since their 10 year reunion in Pitlochry or even since graduation! 25 years was as good an excuse as any to catch up again, compare wrinkles and remind themselves of ‘the good old days in Dundee’. The group returned to Dundee in November, participating in a tour of the Clinical Skills Centre at Ninewells before a dinner in the Apex City Quay Hotel.

03 | Saudi Arabia - A ‘Showcase Dundee’ alumni and partners reception was held at the British Ambassador’s Residence in Riyadh in April. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for Dundee alumni and friends to get together and celebrate the successes that the institution has had recently with over 60 people attending.

04 | Architects - Members of the 1965 architecture intake returned to campus in September to celebrate the 50th anniversary of them starting their training at Dundee. After meeting with Graeme Hutton, Professor of Architecture, the group engaged with current students undertaking a ‘Places in Dundee’ project.

05 | Beijing - A delegation of University of Dundee staff including Vice Principal (International) Wendy Alexander, Vice Principal (Learning and Teaching) Karl Leydecker and Director of External Relations, Thomas Veit hosted an Alumni Dinner in Beijing. Each alumni was invited to tell a Dundee story which included tales of Dundee flea markets, a Dundee version of Sleepless in Seattle and lugging multiple pumpkins back from Tesco on foot!

06 | Tartan Day Parade – Despite the weather our New York alumni participated in the Tartan Day Parade in April. Organiser of the Dundee brigade, Lorinda Chamberlain, said ‘We had a grand time, despite the cold, the rain, and an anomalous snowfall as we crossed the end point of the parade. But it was a blast. We heard cheers of ‘Dundee! Goan yersel’ and the like which warmed our hearts and feet. En route we met Catherine, a current Dundee first year and her mum, who were in New York for a week visiting. They joined us in the parade and onto the after party. Her enthusiasm was just what we all needed to keep us smiling as we warmed our socks in The Long Room bar on 46th Street.’

07 | Kenya – International Officer Mish Dattani hosted an alumni gathering in Kenya. The evening provided the opportunity to learn about recent news and developments at the University and to hear updates, both professionally and personally from our alumni. The idea of an East African Alumni Group, particularly in relation to CEPMLP was also discussed. This would provide a platform to share ideas on how to develop the energy market, especially with the recent discovery of oil and gas reservoirs within the region as well as provide networking and mentoring opportunities for alumni.

If you would like to organise a reunion for a special anniversary or indeed as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations or are interested in participating in the formation of an alumni group in your country or area please do get in touch by emailing alumni@dundee.ac.uk

What’s on at the University of Dundee
We now have a weekly ‘What’s On’ email going to all staff and students, sharing information about talks, seminars, workshops, exhibitions & other events at the University. If you’d like to receive it, please register at www.dundee.ac.uk/events/subscribe/
PROTECTING INDIA’S HERITAGE

ALUMNA AISHWARYA PROVIDING CREATIVE WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE COUNTRY’S HISTORIC BUILDINGS

With a masters degree in European Urban Conservation from the University of Dundee Aishwarya Tipnis returned to India to set up an independent architectural conservation practice in 2007. Since then she has worked diligently towards changing the stereotypes of heritage conservation in India, from a largely preservationist approach, to a holistic perspective of conservation encouraging sensitive and bespoke interventions in historic buildings and settings.

The first Indian student on the course, my work has primarily focused on the preparation of urban conservation plans of the former European Settlements in India, namely Chandernagore (French) and Chinsurah (Dutch) as well as other 19th century non-monumental historic buildings, neighbourhoods and towns.

My training in Scotland exposed me to the concept and techniques of interventions of historic buildings. This has directly informed my practice. ‘My training in Scotland exposed me to the concept and techniques of interventions of historic buildings. This has directly informed my practice.

The ethos of my practice has been to make Conservation a ‘popularist’ movement rather than an elitist exercise, I have been involved in further propagating the learning in the form of workshops, Design Jam, special lectures, books and publications which have inspired many young architects as well as broadened their concept of urban heritage conservation in India. I have spearheaded the first cross disciplinary projects in community engagement, heritage conservation and digital humanities in India.’

And if Aishwarya wasn’t already busy enough she is also an independent consultant to UNESCO, World Monuments Fund New York, The Embassy of France in India and The Doon School!

Cally Russell
From a real world approach to global shopping platforms

My Dundee story is one that taught me a range of life lessons and skills that I use every day as the Founder and CEO of Mallzee, the UK’s leading mobile shopping app. I studied Politics and International Relations and graduated in 2009, once I left I put my degree to work straight away working with one of the UK’s leading PR and Public Affairs agencies working on a wide range of clients. Whilst a great job, my time at Dundee had resulted in me having a strong passion for trying new things and pushing myself outside of my comfort zone.

Looking back I think this was fostered by the real world approach the course took and the mind-set created in group discussions and debates. This experience also gave me the confidence to start my own business and whilst the first attempt might not have been a great success it ended up evolving into Mallzee which now employs 30 people and has seen us create a global shopping platform used by hundreds of thousands of people. This is a mind-set I often see when interviewing graduates from the University of Dundee and has resulted in the University being the most represented in our team, despite being based in a totally different city!

Cally Russell
MA International Relations-Politics, 2009
@CallyRussell www.mallzee.com

When the North Sea oil and gas industry started to grow dramatically in the mid-1970s, it quickly became apparent there needed to be every bit as much investment in expertise as there was in oil rigs and pipelines. That meant education.

Like any country suddenly finding itself in the position of being able to extract valuable natural resources, Scotland and the wider UK was not bursting with people with experience of how to run and best manage a major energy sector.

It was a situation that led directly to the creation of the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMLP) at the University. Fast forward almost forty years and the map of the Centre’s influence now closely resembles that of the major emerging energy producers.

It is there in China, where CEPMLP alumni hold influential positions in China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) in Beijing. In Africa, Nigeria and Ghana have provided a flow of students in recent years as those countries have built major oil and gas industries. And in Latin and South America the CEPMLP alumni community runs from Mexico down through Colombia and Venezuela all the way down to Buenos Aires.

The focus of the Centre’s activity when it was created was very much towards the North Sea but that has changed as the whole energy sector has changed. When the North Sea oil and gas industry started to grow dramatically in the mid-1970s, it quickly became apparent there needed to be every bit as much investment in expertise as there was in oil rigs and pipelines. That meant education.

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The day was rounded off with a little slower than in their student days! The unique bonds and friendships which university sport cultivates, ensured that former volleyball club members travelled from throughout Europe for the reunion, with alumni returning from Denmark, Switzerland, Greece, Cyprus, Italy and France. Indeed the 1995 women’s team captain Wendy Melville, stole the show, returning from China specifically for the event.

The main focus of the weekend was a fun tournament on the Saturday, which saw over sixty current and former club members take to the court for some fun volleyball, with many of the alumni wearing their original team kit from their student days – which provoked much amusement amongst the former students! There were also a number of competitive – the older players having taken on the current men’s and women’s challenge matches, with alumni teams wearing their original team kit from their student days – which provoked much amusement amongst the former students! There were also a number of challenge matches, with alumni teams taking on the current men’s and women’s first teams. Despite some alumni having not played in earnest for over twenty years, the matches were surprisingly competitive – the older players having lost none of their competitive edge, albeit their court movement was perhaps a little slower than in their student days! The day was rounded off with a dinner and ceilidh in The Union for over a hundred current and former club members, where alumni shared their experiences and memories, whilst at the same time hearing from current club members of the club’s continued development and successes. Five decades of club members were represented at the reunion, with Dr Salam Souliman getting special recognition, having been a club member in the late 70s.

Dundee University Volleyball Club’s Alumni Reunion, which was held over the weekend of 26 - 28 February, was one of an increasing number of such sporting alumni events which different university sports clubs have held over the past year, with current students keen to welcome back their predecessors and share experiences, sporting memories and tales of competitive successes.

Dundee University Volleyball Club served up a fun filled tournament for students from all walks of life. With twenty six members having gained selection for the Scottish Universities Representative Squad over the years and six players winning international selection for their respective countries, DUVC has enjoyed much success on the competitive front. However it is in bringing people together through sport that the university volleyball club has made the biggest impact over the years. A truly international club – DUVC has welcomed people from over 60 countries in the past four decades - the majority of members join to meet new people and be part of a sporting community where friendships are forged for life. The DUVC Alumni Reunion really demonstrated the unique role that sport plays in student life and the life-long bond that sport provides for students from all walks of life.

Boat Club

2016 marks the Dundee University Boat Club’s 25th anniversary. Over the years, students have taken to the waters of Inchrya, made friends for life, met their spouses and fundraised.

Most of the money raised goes towards club funds but a portion is given to charity. Indeed, since they began, DUBC has raised over £10,000 for charity. The Dundee University Boat Club has continued to punch well above its weight in local events and further afield. The DUBC now competes in the Scottish University rowing league. However, it’s not all about the race. It also changes lives. ‘Arrived in Dundee in 2005 to study English Law and didn’t know one end of a boat from the other,’ said Sophie Warburton, ex-DUBC and Sports Union President. ‘11 years later I am the Regional Development Officer for Scottish Rowing, eager to share my passion for sport and rowing with anyone else who’s willing to listen.’

The DUBC has resulted in three marriages, two engagements and possibly more to come. The Dundee University Boat Club appears to leave a lasting impression long after you have left university!

Graeme Sword

I started at the University of Dundee with a junior squash career already behind me and after taking a year out to play full time squash during which I became the second youngest player (and still am!) to have represented Scotland at senior level, aged seventeen. I was also a schoolboy hockey international and led Monifieth High School to victory in the 1995 Scottish Schools Cup. Whilst at university I continued to play squash at a high level, I won the British Universities Sports Federation squash championships in Edinburgh in 1987, becoming the first Scot to win this event. During this time I was honoured to represent Scotland in the home internationals, European and World Championships. After university I had another year of playing and coaching full time squash before starting my career with Unilever. In 1995 I returned to Scotland and in 1996 was voted Scotland’s Player of the Year and regained my place in the international squad which was runners up in the 1996 European Mens Team Championship. In 1997 my partner and I won the right to represent Scotland in the first World Doubles Championships. After Unilever, I worked for 3i plc before founding my own private equity firm. I’m now too busy and old’ to play at a high level but am now a keen golfer and encouraging supporter/driver to my three children!
TRENDING WITH UoD...

We love to share all the fun and exciting things that are happening at Dundee through our social media. Here’s a look back at what got everyone talking over the past year...

01 Our April Fool – we revealed who this year’s honorary graduates would be...

02 Northern Lights – A stunning image of the Northern Lights over Dundee in March 2016.

03 Diamond days – Muriel Duncan, familiar to many at the University due to her longstanding role as Tower receptionist, celebrated her diamond wedding anniversary in August 2015.

04 Light work – Fireworks over Dundee to celebrate the start of 2016.

05 Dressed to thrill – The Dundee penguins were all dressed and ready for graduation week!

06 Mr Tumble’s Graduation – Justin Fletcher, who plays the popular children’s TV character Mr Tumble, received an honorary degree in June 2015.

07 Valentines – We celebrated Valentine’s Day by sharing stories of couples who found love at Dundee.

08 Honours – University of Dundee staff, Annala Walker, Vivienne McGuire and Jill Bolch, were rewarded for their work and contribution to society in the New Year Honours List.

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