



University of
St Andrews | FOUNDED
1413 |



LINK

*The newsletter for families
of undergraduate students*

SEMESTER 1 ISSUE
Winter 2022

Welcome

Welcome to the winter issue of *LINK* e-magazine.

We began the academic year with the fantastic news that we were ranked the top university in the UK by the **Guardian University Guide 2023** – the second time in two years that our ancient University has overtaken Oxford and Cambridge to top a leading university league table.

You can see from our cover image that our students are also delighted about this! We know how much they value the education they receive here: for the 14th time in the last 16 years the National Student Survey 2022 named St Andrews top in the UK for student academic experience.

It has been wonderful to get back to in-person events and we were delighted to celebrate three glorious weeks of graduation ceremonies this June.

We were also delighted to welcome so many new family members to the Parents' Receptions at the beginning of Orientation Week in September. I hope that these events and the tours provided by our Student Ambassadors gave you an insight into the unique St Andrews experience that your student will now be enjoying.

In this issue of *LINK* there's an update about the progress we are making on key projects from New College to the St Andrews Prize for the Environment.

We've also explained the current situation regarding student accommodation.

You can read about the launch of our **Kaleidoscope Alumni Network**, which celebrates the ethnic and cultural diversity of St Andrews graduates around the world.

Our digital events are going from strength to strength. Find out more about what we are offering and remember to save the date for our Global Burns Night – now an established online tradition – at 7pm GMT on 25 January 2023.

Please contact **families@st-andrews.ac.uk** if you have any queries, or any comments or suggestions for future issues.

With all best wishes for the festive season and here's to a happy and healthy 2023 for us all!



Robert Fleming, Director of Development



Number one in the UK – again!



The semester got off to a wonderful start with the news that – for the second time in two years – the University of St Andrews was ranked the top university in the UK, ahead of Oxford and Cambridge, by the **Guardian University Guide 2023**.

This time last year **St Andrews was ranked number one** in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide – the first time in the 30-year history of league tables that any university other than Oxford or Cambridge has come top.

The Guardian has now coined the term ‘Stoxbridge’ to describe what it says may be the new world order in UK university rankings.

Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Sally Mapstone said:

“I hope that St Andrews’ terrific students and all of my hard-working colleagues will feel the recognition of this very significant achievement. They entirely deserve it.

“The amalgam of our strengths in the key areas which *The Guardian* measures has set us narrowly ahead of some of the very best universities in the world. For a small Scottish university to shake the established order repeatedly is a great tribute to everyone who works and studies here.”

Read the full story about our top University ranking where you can watch a video clip of students describing what they like best about St Andrews.

Cost of Living Update

On Friday 4 November the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dame Sally Mapstone FRSE, St Andrews Students' Association President, Juan Pablo Rodriguez and Students' Association Director of Wellbeing and Equality, Emma Craig, sent an email to all staff and students outlining a package of measures designed to ameliorate the effects of the cost of living and energy crisis.

The measures were developed by the Cost of Living Taskforce, which comprises students and staff.

These initiatives include subsidising travel; boosting money available in student discretionary funds; giving advice and support on part-time employment and internships; reviewing scholarships and bursaries; publishing a cost of living guide; subsidising food in all University cafes; and enabling the use of communal warm spaces throughout the University.

[Read the email to find out about the full package of measures and schemes developed by the Cost of Living Taskforce](#)



Although this task force will alleviate some of the financial pressures our students face, we are counting again on your generosity to help them through this challenging time. By donating to the University's area of greatest need you can provide help where it's needed most.

[Find out how to help alleviate the cost of living crisis for our students](#)

The Younger Hall



The building at the heart of the University has been rejuvenated, restored and reshaped into a new ceremonial, teaching and learning space.

This summer we launched naming opportunities for seat plaques and flagstones to celebrate the reopening of the Younger Hall and to welcome the graduating classes of 2020, 2021 and 2022 back to St Andrews.

These opportunities were also available to mark the ceremony held in the Younger Hall in July when legendary golfer Jack Nicklaus was honoured with the award of Honorary Citizen by the St Andrews Community Council, and some of the world's best-loved golfers – José María Olazábal, Catriona Matthew, Sir Bob Charles and Sandy Lyle – received honorary degrees.

[Watch Jack Nicklaus and the other golfing greats in the ceremony in the Younger Hall](#)

[See page 9 for news about the recent winter graduation in St Andrews](#)

[Find out how you can name a seat plaque and flagstone](#)





Mackenzie Institute for Early Diagnosis

The Mackenzie Institute brings together the University's strengths in the sciences and strong clinical links in community healthcare with the School of Medicine's recent return to full-spectrum medical teaching.

The Institute's vision is to transform medical research at St Andrews and create life-changing, real-world impacts by focusing on early diagnosis of human disease.

Visit the Development web pages to find out how to become part of this groundbreaking project.

Visit the Mackenzie Institute for Early Diagnosis web pages



**SIR JAMES
MACKENZIE
INSTITUTE
FOR EARLY
DIAGNOSIS**



St Andrews Prize for the Environment

The St Andrews Prize for the Environment recognises and supports innovative and inspirational responses to environmental challenges – including the climate crisis.

The Prize – now in its 24th year – aims to champion the people and ideas addressing the greatest challenge of our age.

This year's winning project – Misión Tiburón – is a community-based project that protects and restores blue carbon sinks in the hammerhead shark sanctuary in Costa Rica. The project aims to protect and conserve the ocean and the life it holds through education and scientific research.

Read about the winner of the 2022 St Andrews Prize for the Environment

Watch the 2021 Winner's Presentation and the 2022 Prizewinner

If you would like to join the donors supporting the prize, please visit our web pages

Pictured (left to right) are Andrés Lopéz Garro, Misión Tiburón co-founder; Ilena Zanella, Misión Tiburón Director; Professor Dame Sally Mapstone FRSE, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of St Andrews; and Dr Hayaatun Sillem, Chair of the St Andrews Prize for the Environment Trustees



New Business School

The University has announced plans to bring the School of Economics and Finance and the School of Management together to create a world-leading Business School.

The Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dame Sally Mapstone FRSE said in her recent email to staff and students:

“We are fortunate to count amongst our colleagues here at St Andrews some of the foremost international academic authorities in management, finance, and economics.

“By supporting them to join forces under the umbrella of one Business School, St Andrews will be better able to respond to a world whose priorities and challenges shifted so rapidly during the pandemic, and continue to change now.”

There will be no change to teaching programmes or degrees awarded to currently enrolled students or students who have accepted a place to study at either school.

The University has appointed Deputy Principal, Professor Brad MacKay as Interim Dean of the Business School to oversee the initial structural changes and building of collaborative activities.

Read more about the New Business School

New College

The intention is that in 2027 the Business School and the School of International Relations will both be located in New College on the site formerly occupied by Madras College in South Street.

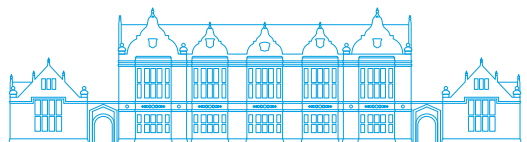
Progress on the New College project is continuing apace, with demolition of the 1960s buildings on the site almost being complete.

WilkinsonEyre – the architects who undertook the major restoration and repurposing of the iconic Battersea Power Station – have been awarded the contract for New College project. We are very excited to be working with such renowned designers on this once-in-a-generation project.

Read more about the appointment of WilkinsonEyre

Visit the New College web pages for all the latest information

If you would like to find out more about the new Business School or New College, please contact Robert Fleming at Director.Development@st-andrews.ac.uk



Meet the sabbaticals

Here are this year's Sabbatical Officers – students who have been elected by their peers to represent them until July 2022. They are responsible for helping with all manner of student queries and activities.

[Find out more about our Sabbatical Officers](#)



President

Juan Rodriguez leads the Association as the main spokesperson for students.

[Read more about Juan Rodriguez](#)



Director of Education

AK Schott represents students on matters relating to learning, teaching and research.

[Read more about AK Schott](#)



Director of Events & Services

Lucy Brook designs and implements events for students by students.

[Read more about Lucy Brook](#)



Director of Student Development & Activities

Sam Gorman supports co-curricular development opportunities for students.

[Read more about Sam Gorman](#)



Director of Wellbeing & Equality

Emma Craig champions student health, diversity and inclusion.

[Read more about Emma Craig](#)



Athletic Union President

Ailsa Martin represents and manages student sport.

[Read more about Ailsa Martin](#)

Launch of the Kaleidoscope Alumni Network



We were very excited to formally launch the Kaleidoscope Alumni Network on Monday 28 November 2022 to celebrate the ethnic and cultural diversity of our St Andrews community. The event was both in-person and live-streamed from the state-of-the-art McPherson Recital Room in the Laidlaw Music Centre.

The programme included a panel discussion about the power and pitfalls of language in discussing diversity; an audience with Claudia Lubao (Chemical); and presentations by Dr Gurnam Singh and Jocelyn Pridgen.

More than half of the students who graduated in the winter graduation ceremonies pre-registered to hear about the Kaleidoscope Alumni Network. We hope that all staff, students, alumni and their families will get involved in or want to find out more about this people-focused initiative.

The network aims to provide a means of representation, engender a greater sense of belonging and create a fairer, more inclusive extended St Andrews community through the kaleidoscopic lens of our rich ethnic and cultural lived experiences.

Thank you to our Focus Group members for their advice, support and encouragement, and to all those involved in making the launch possible.

Contact Dr Catherine Dunford, Alumni Relations and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Engagement Coordinator for further information stakan@st-andrews.ac.uk

[Visit the KAN website](#)

[Watch the Kaleidoscope Alumni Network Launch](#)

Winter Graduation

Congratulations to parents of all the students who received their academic awards at the winter graduation ceremonies on Tuesday 29 November and on St Andrew's Day, Wednesday 30 November.

If your student graduated in person, we have a bespoke video clip waiting for them that shows their moment crossing the stage. If they haven't received their clip, they can contact us at alumni@st-andrews.ac.uk to find out how to do so.

More than 1100 students were joined by singer-songwriter Joan Armatrading, violinist Nicola Benedetti and Labour Peer Lord Alf Dubs, who received honorary degrees.

[Read about the winter graduation ceremonies](#)

[Read full biographies of the Honorary Graduates](#)



Digital St Andrews: anytime, any place, anywhere

The development of online events has been the silver lining of our pandemic cloud. Thanks to the Saints Talk series, Meet the Author discussions, Laidlaw Live concerts and our Global Burns Night (now an established online tradition), we have been able to engage with many more of our alumni, parents and friends at any time, anywhere in the world.

Read more about these online events below.



Saints Talks

We introduced Saints Talks early in 2020 to give alumni, parents and friends an insight into some of the exciting research projects taking place at St Andrews. Topics have covered everything from 'The Neurobiology of Alzheimer's Disease' by Professor Frank Gunn-Moore to 'Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: A Strategic Overview' by Professor Phillips O'Brien to 'The Best Thing about Losing' by Alan Sinclair.

If you haven't managed to watch any Saints Talks yet, you can watch them again here

Look out for forthcoming Saints Talks in St Andrews in the News



Meet the Author

This series has given alumni authors the opportunity to talk about their work, the creative process involved and getting published, with time for audience questions (on the chat function) at the end.

If you haven't managed to watch any Meet the Author events yet, you can watch them again here



Laidlaw Live

Laidlaw Live was introduced during pandemic restrictions to enable us to continue to showcase the breadth and talent in our musical community and to provide performances by world-class visiting musicians to alumni, parents and friends all over the world.

Now restrictions are over Laidlaw Live continues to live-stream high-quality performances throughout the semester – much to the delight of both in-person and virtual audiences.

Enjoy Music from St Andrews



Global Burns Night

We began our online tribute to the 'Ploughman Poet' in 2020 as a way of engaging alumni, parents and friends during lockdown restrictions. It's now in its third year and showing signs of becoming an established tradition.

The 2023 event will take place online at 7pm on Wednesday 25 January. Mark your diary now!

With all best wishes for the festive season from Development



LINK is published by:
Development
University of St Andrews
Crawford Building
91 North Street
St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AJ

+44 (0)1334 467194
alumni@st-andrews.ac.uk
Visit our alumni website

Keep connected with our social
media channels:

Facebook
Twitter
Instagram

Saint Connect

**Global Parents Group on
Saint Connect**

Further information:
Take a look at our **semester dates**

**View the latest news and other
information about the
University**

Details of how the University makes use of your personal data and protects your privacy are available here in the **Development Privacy Notice**.

Here is a copy of our **Gift Acceptance Policy**.

If you would like to support our community you can find more information on how to **donate to St Andrews here**, or contact: develop@st-andrews.ac.uk

Produced by Print & Design, University of St Andrews, December 2022.

Photographs by Gayle McIntyre.

The University of St Andrews is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC013532



University of
St Andrews
FOUNDED
1413