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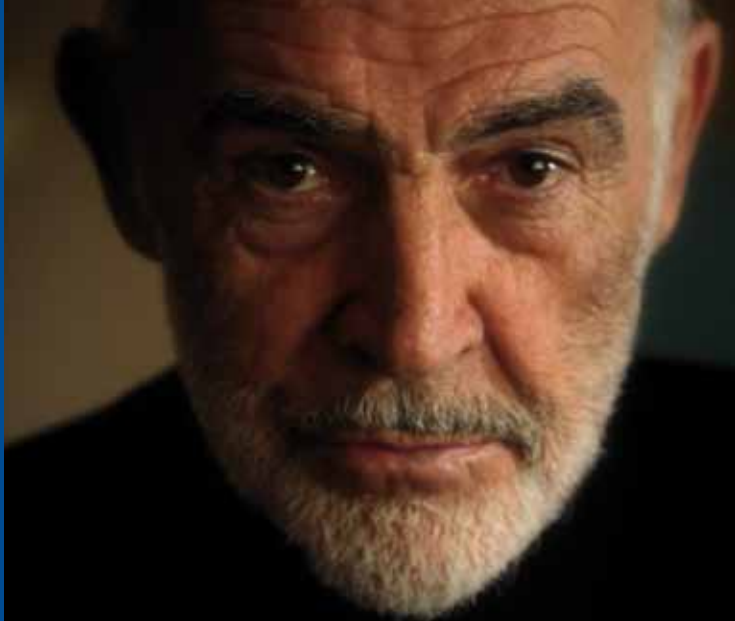
The newsletter for families
of undergraduate students



University of
St Andrews

600
YEARS

Candlemas
2012



Welcome

Welcome to the Candlemas edition of *Link*, the newsletter for families of undergraduate students. We are delighted to have this opportunity to share with you news from around the University.

Ever to Excel

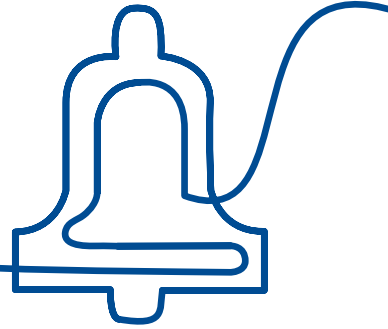
Sir Sean Connery has made a return to the silver screen in a film charting the history of the University. Entitled *Ever to Excel*, the film presents the first-ever cinematic account of the foundation and development of the University, from its mediaeval origins to its current status as a global centre of excellence.

Honorary graduate Sir Sean (Hon DLitt 1988) initially agreed to be the unseen narrator for the St Andrews film, but during the project was persuaded by the Principal to step in front of the lens once again.



“When Louise Richardson invited me to collaborate on a film to mark our 600 years as a key part of the scholarship endowment campaign, I readily agreed. As our film *Ever to Excel* began to take shape, I soon came to realise how central St Andrews is to Scotland. And how, in a very real sense, it is to America too. I’m proud to be an honorary graduate of a place where good is never good enough. Ever to excel. Happy Birthday St Andrews. Lang may your lum reek.”

The film was directed by St Andrews alumnus (BSc 1962) Murray Grigor OBE, Sir Sean’s long-time collaborator and co-writer of his memoirs. Commissioned as a result of a generous anonymous donation, the film will seek to raise funds in support of the 600th Anniversary campaign. A gala premiere in New York in May was followed by showings in St Andrews.



Ringing the changes

While in New York for the premiere of *Ever to Excel*, University Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Louise Richardson teamed up with Sir Sean Connery to ring the opening bell which marks the start of the day’s trading session at the New York Stock Exchange, a task broadcast to more than 100 million people worldwide. Sir Sean and Principal Richardson were granted this honour in recognition of the University’s 600th Anniversary celebrations.



Principal Richardson commented, “It is a great honour and privilege to be invited to ring the famous bell for the world’s largest stock exchange to mark our ancient institution’s 600th birthday. I hope that the bell will ring in great financial results, not only for those on the floor but also for our 600th Anniversary Campaign in the years ahead.”

Raising Martians

A young student with Asperger's has written a self-help book for parents with children suffering from the condition. Joshua Muggleton (22) wrote the book to help parents like his own better understand the minds of their children. Joshua, who graduates from the University this summer, hopes that his book will also offer valuable insights for mainstream school teachers like his own, who struggled to cope with limited resources.



The book, *Raising Martians: from Crash-landing to Leaving Home*, takes its title from the idea that raising a child with Asperger's can feel like raising an alien. Joshua first thought about writing a book four years ago as he was preparing to leave his home in Guildford, Surrey, to go to St Andrews. He says the self-help manual is his way of giving something back to those who have helped him overcome the condition.

Citing his ability to adapt in a strange place 500 miles from home, Joshua credits his student friends and support staff at the University for getting him through his degree, "I felt I needed to break free, and St Andrews seemed like a tight-knit community that was nice and quiet, away from the stresses of inner-city life. It's been a life-changing experience for me; I've made some great friends and learned about what I can get out of life and what I can do."

Raising Martians is available from Jessica Kingsley Publishers, price £12.99 / \$19.95.
You can read more about Joshua on his website www.mugsy.org/josh/

League tables

The University has been named one of the top five universities in the UK, according to *The Guardian University Guide* 2013. St Andrews is placed fourth in the UK, behind the London School of Economics (third), Oxford (second) and Cambridge (first). The listing maintains St Andrews' position of top university in Scotland and it is also the only Scottish institution to feature in the top ten of the annual table. Universities are ranked according to areas such as spending per student, student/staff ratio, graduate career prospects, grade requirements and how happy final year students are with their courses, based on the annual National Student Survey.

In the subject rankings, Theology and Religious Studies is placed top in the UK, while three subjects (Computer Science & IT, Mathematics and Politics) are ranked second overall.

Other top-rated subjects include: History, History of Art and Physics (third); Chemistry, Classics and Philosophy (fourth); Anthropology, Business & Management Studies, Earth & Marine Science and English (fifth), Geography & Environmental Sciences and Modern Languages (seventh) and Psychology (ninth).

The University has also been named as one of the world's leading centres for scientific research, according to a new league table. St Andrews is placed 71st in the Leiden Ranking 2012, published at www.leidenranking.com. The new ranking uses a sophisticated set of varied indicators to assess the quality and importance of scientific research at 500 of the world's top universities.

St Andrews applications rise

Applications from prospective students to the University have increased by 17%, according to figures released by UCAS. A total of 13,696 prospective students have applied for a place at St Andrews in 2012 – equivalent to 10 applications for every available place. It is the largest number of applications ever received by St Andrews and comes against a downturn in the UK HE sector as a whole.

Applications to St Andrews from students resident in the UK – Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland – have increased by 10%. Applications from Scotland are up 11%, from Wales up 10%, from England down 3% and from Northern Ireland down 15%. Applications to St Andrews from the rest of the EU are up 35% and from overseas, up 22%.

New Union building

The University and the St Andrews Students' Association have taken an important step towards a major redevelopment of the Students' Association building in St Mary's Place. The University Court has agreed to invest over £400,000 in detailed designs for a top-to-bottom revamp of the Union, which has remained largely unchanged since it was built in the 1970s. If the final designs and plans are approved by Court, it is hoped that work can start in 2013 to provide St Andrews students with a state-of-the-art Union with many new features.



Credit: GMP Design

If the redevelopment goes ahead, it will have a budget of up to £12 million and may include: an attractive piazza and new entrance; new street-facing café, run for students, by students; new performance venues; expansion and improvement of spaces for societies; and, overall, a greener, more sustainable building, aiming for the same standards achieved by recent University new builds.

New name for New Hall

Students have voted to name their largest hall of residence after the University's first female graduate. New Hall, which opened in 1993, will now be named after Agnes Blackadder, who first made her mark on the University's history when she graduated 117 years ago. The official renaming will finally give New Hall a permanent title, 19 years after it opened.

Students living in the Hall – on the North Haugh, St Andrews – came up with the idea of renaming their home as a way of marking the University's 600th Anniversary celebrations.

Agnes Forbes Blackadder (1875-1964) graduated with an MA on 29 March 1895. She went on to achieve great eminence through a distinguished medical career as a consultant dermatologist in London. She published papers on the forcible feeding of suffrage prisoners on hunger strike and also played a central role as radiographer in the Scottish Women's Hospital at Royaumont, France, during the 1914-1918 War.



Credit: University Library



Time for a change

Following much consultation among staff and students, September 2012 will mark the beginning of the newly redesigned academic year. The University has been planning this change for some time and this major reform will at last become reality in the 2012-2013 academic year.

The change to the academic year will see an end to January examinations, which were deeply unpopular with students. Many complained that revision work ruined the Christmas vacation; but more importantly, attendance at exams required expensive return journeys to St Andrews, sometimes from far corners of the Earth and at a time of year when the weather is at its least obliging. This huge amount of travelling was environmentally unfriendly too, producing a vast collective carbon footprint.

In future, students will sit exams before the Christmas vacation and will then be free in January to prepare reading for Semester 2. For students who support themselves financially, that month will also be an opportunity to take short-term jobs wherever possible to ease the pressure of part-time work on top of full-time study during term-time.

Full semester dates for the new academic year 2012-13 can be found on the back cover.



Class Gift 2012

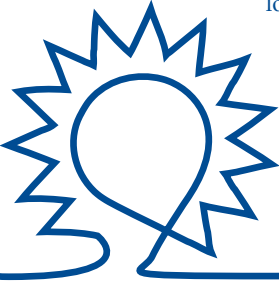
This year's Class Gift initiative has harnessed the enthusiasm and philanthropic spirit of St Andrews students to great effect. As well as raising awareness via Facebook and email, the 2012 Class Gift Committee decided 75% of this year's Gift should be put towards a scholarship. Students then voted on which the projects the other 25% should support. The turnout was fantastic, perhaps in part due to the delicious waffles on offer during a chilly March. The result was a tie between the refurbishments of the Sports Centre and the Students' Association building.

Keen to show how giving can make a difference, students have been involved in a number of ways including through the 2012 Spring Phone Campaign. The Class Gift Committee recently organised a Business of Philanthropy event featuring current student Ezekiel Conteh and former Director of Careers Jack Daniels, who spoke about the benefits of scholarships and the rewards and challenges of international philanthropy as a career. Generous donations to the Class Gift have also been made by the Bute Medical Society and the Management Society.

Parents have also chosen to support the campaign, highlighting the value of giving back to help the next class of students and commemorating their own student's time here. If you would like to join this year's graduates in supporting the 2012 Class Gift, please visit www.st-andrews.ac.uk/classgift

St Andrews Prize

An innovative project, which employs 32 non-literate Maasai warriors in Kenya as community conservationists and field biologists, has won this year's St Andrews Prize for the Environment – which carries a total prize value of £95,000 (\$150,000). The Lion Guardians have created an entrepreneurial solution through employment and empowering communities to conserve lions as a long-term livelihood strategy. The programme includes literacy training for the Maasai, mitigating lion-livestock conflict, monitoring lion populations by combining traditional and modern tracking with local participation, preventing lion killing, and naming of the lions by the Maasai.



Now in its fourteenth year, the primary objective of the Prize is to find innovative solutions to environmental challenges. The solutions should combine good science, economic reality and political acceptability. Full details on each of the finalists' projects can be found at www.thestandrewsprize.com

Gift form

US donors only

I would like to support the University of St Andrews American Foundation Inc. by making a gift towards:

Student Scholarships Area of greatest need

Please do NOT publicly acknowledge my gift *(For Family Book Fund donations, please use the enclosed form)*

I have enclosed a check (made payable to **University of St Andrews American Foundation Inc.**) for \$

You can also help the University meet its sustainability goals by making a gift online at www.st-andrews.ac.uk/develop/donate

Your details

Name	Telephone
Home address	City and state
Zip code	Email

Please return your completed gift form and check to: **University of St Andrews American Foundation Inc., c/o Development, Crawford Building, 91 North Street, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ, Scotland**
(If you wish to make a regular donation please contact us on +44 (0)1334 461900 or by email to donate@st-andrews.ac.uk)

The University of St Andrews American Foundation Inc. (EIN 58-1662222) has been determined by the United States Internal Revenue Service to qualify, under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, as a tax-exempt public charity to which tax-deductible contributions may be made. The American Foundation will send a receipt for any gifts it receives in a form acceptable to the IRS. If you have any questions, please contact us at donate@st-andrews.ac.uk or +44 (0)1334 461900.

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SMRU Jubilee award

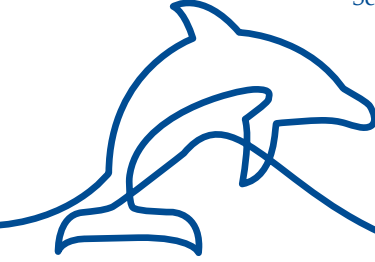
The University's Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) was among the winners in the Diamond Jubilee Round of The Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education. St Andrews was the only Scottish university to receive an Anniversary Prize, which recognises excellence in higher education and research. The Sea Mammal Research Unit has become a world leader in applied research promoting best practice in the health and governance of the ocean environment.



Credit: Theodore Wood Photography

Professor Ian Boyd, Director of the Unit; Dr Ailsa Hall, Senior Research Scientist; St Andrews Principal Professor Louise Richardson; University Chancellor Sir Menzies Campbell, and five St Andrews students were invited to Buckingham Palace to receive the prestigious Prize on behalf of the University.

As part of the 600th Anniversary campaign a new Centre for Earth, Life and the Oceans is planned, which will encompass the activities of SMRU, the Scottish Oceans Institute and our Department of Earth Sciences.



Gift form

US donors – please use other side

I would like to support the University of St Andrews by making a gift towards:

- Student Scholarships
- Area of greatest need
- Please send me a tax receipt
- Please do NOT publicly acknowledge my gift *(For Family Book Fund donations, please use the enclosed form)*

I have enclosed a cheque (made payable to **University of St Andrews**) for £

You can also help the University meet its sustainability goals by making a gift online at:
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/develop/donate

Your details

Name	Telephone
Home address	
Postcode	Email

Gift Aid Declaration (UK Taxpayers Only)

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and want the University of St Andrews to treat this donation, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations. You must be paying an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount that the University and any other charities you support reclaim on your donation(s) in the relevant tax year (6 April one year to 5 April the next).

Signature..... Date.....

Please return your completed gift form and cheque to:
Development, University of St Andrews, Crawford Building, 91 North Street, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ, Scotland
(If you wish to make a regular donation please contact us on +44 (0) 1334 461900 or by email to donate@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Recognising undergraduate excellence

The University of St Andrews has joined an elite group of academic institutions throughout the UK, Ireland, and USA participating in the Undergraduate Awards.

The scheme, backed by some of the world's most powerful companies including Google and KPMG, is open to students in their final or penultimate year on an undergraduate degree course. It seeks to honour the best undergraduate papers and bring the brightest minds together for a summit in Dublin.

Submissions are invited for 20 different subject categories and must be received in June, after which winners will be chosen to be presented with the Oscar Wilde Gold Medal for Academic Excellence by official patron, Irish President Michael D Higgins.



Online Love from Home service

Our very popular online Love from Home service, run in co-operation with local baker and confectioner Fisher & Donaldson, allows families to send their children cakes, chocolates and gift baskets on special occasions with a personalised message. To see the full selection of goodies which can be ordered and paid for online, please visit: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/parents/FamilyProgramme/LovefromHome

Please note that deliveries are made to addresses in St Andrews during term-time, Monday to Saturday, between 8am and 1pm. It is important to allow at least five working days between placing your order and the delivery date to guarantee delivery on the requested date. In the interest of security, we are unable to take orders over the phone.

Semester Dates 2012/2013

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/semesterdates/

Martinmas Semester: Monday 17 September 2012 – Friday 21 December 2012

Orientation Week: Week commencing Monday 10 September 2012

Graduation: Friday 30 November 2012

Revision Period: Commences Monday 3 December 2012

Examinations: Monday 10 December 2012 – Thursday 20 December 2012

Christmas Vacation: Saturday 22 December 2012 – Sunday 6 January 2013

Inter-semester: Monday 7 January 2013 – Sunday 27 January 2013

Candlemas Semester: Monday 28 January 2013 – Friday 31 May 2013

Spring Vacation: Saturday 16 March 2013 – Sunday 31 March 2013

Revision Period: Commences Saturday 27 April 2013

Examinations: Monday 13 May 2013 onwards *tbc*

Graduation: Week commencing Monday 24 June 2013

Resits: Week commencing Monday 19 August 2013

LINK is published by

Alumni Relations

Development

University of St Andrews

Crawford Building

91 North Street

St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AJ

T: +44 (0)1334 467194

F: +44 (0)1334 462590

E: alumni@st-andrews.ac.uk

Further information for families of current students can be found at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/parents

Latest news and other information about the University can be viewed at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk

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