

■ Welcome

This is the first edition of *Link* for the 2004/05 academic session. To those parents and families joining us for the first time, a very warm welcome to the University community of St Andrews.

At the beginning of Orientation Week, over 1,100 parents and family members were welcomed to the University by the Principal & Vice-Chancellor and the Deans of the Faculties of Arts, Divinity, Medicine and Science. The Parents' Receptions were well received and provided families with the opportunity to meet members of academic and non-academic staff and to become involved with the life of the University. For those of you who were unable to attend, the overriding messages were of congratulations on an excellent choice of University, reassurance that your students are in very safe hands and a wish that you, the parents and families of our students, will come to hold the same affection for the University and the town of St Andrews as is shared by generations of alumni and friends of the University throughout the world.

Link is an integral part of the University's Family Programme, set up in recognition of the essential role that parents and families continue to play in the lives of our students throughout their time here. Our aim is to keep you up to date with any news and developments at the University that we think may be of interest to you. We hope that you enjoy the selection of news and information and would be delighted to hear from you if you have any comments or suggestions for future editions.

With best wishes from St Andrews.

Elaine Cartwright (MA 1985)
Alumni Relations Officer

Sarah Martin (MA 1996)
Alumni Assistant

■ Celebrating a Centenary

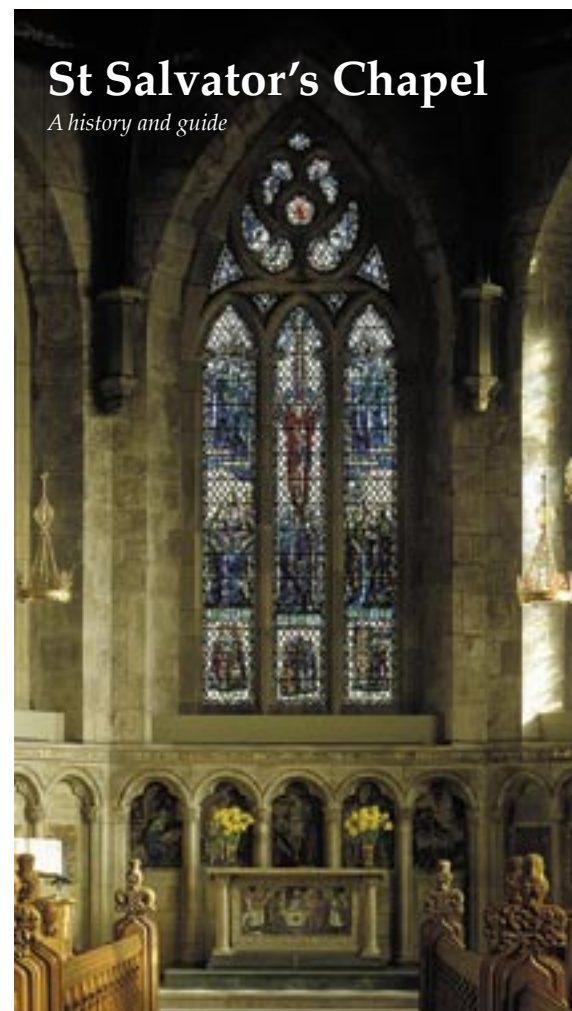
This autumn marks the centenary of the ancient Collegiate Church of St Salvator becoming the official University Chapel. To celebrate this, the University is hosting an exhibition on: *Work and worship: a celebration of the University Chapels and of the congregation of the parish of St Leonard, 1413-2004*. The exhibition focuses on the history of the University's two churches, now known as St Salvator's and St Leonard's Chapels. This public exhibition, in the University Library, North Street, runs until the end of December 2004.

Also to coincide with the centenary, a new guidebook to St Salvator's Chapel has been produced by the University. It is illustrated throughout with stunning colour photographs and provides a fascinating history of this magnificent building from its foundation in 1450 to the present day. As the University Chaplain, Rev Dr Jamie Walker, remarks in his Introduction: "From whatever direction you arrive in St Andrews the tower of St Salvator's Chapel can be seen standing out above the rooftops. Just as distinctly, with the Chapel, you can begin to sense its unique contribution to the life of the University and the town."

The booklet can be obtained from the University Library, the Tourist Information Office, and other bookshops in the town, or by post from the Publications Office.

Tel: +44(0)1334 463023. Price £4 + 50p p&p.

Email: publications@st-andrews.ac.uk



■ *The Union*

All students of the University automatically become a member of the Students' Association or the Union. Located within the centre of the town it is the hub of student life in St Andrews. Students can involve themselves in the Union at all levels, from volunteering with the Entertainments crew or the Charities Campaign, to standing for one of the elected representational positions.

Every student is automatically a member of the Union Debating Society, the Performing Arts Fund (Mermaids), the Music Fund and the Charities Campaign. The Union also funds a wide variety of student societies and activities, encouraging students to organise their own clubs, theatre productions and bands.

The Students' Representative Council or SRC has active involvement at all levels of University government. The elected sabbatical team for this session are left to right:



Simon Atkins (Association President);
Bonnie Ryder (Director of Services);
Ben Reilly (Director of Representation); and
Oli Walker (Head of Media, Marketing and Design).

■ *Student Support*

Student Support Services provide a supportive and friendly environment for students at the University, many of whom find themselves far from home for the first time. Over 2000 students each year visit Student Support; their problems may include illness, unexpected hardship or bereavement. It is therefore comforting for students and their families to know that there is a caring team of professionally trained staff available to offer support and advice in such situations. Staff are trained in all aspects of student support, including disability provision, academic advising, immigration issues and student finance.

Student Support Services is complemented by a team of 30 volunteers (Support Network, or "SupNet" for short) which offers peer support to all students. These volunteers, students themselves, are recruited in their first year from all academic years, backgrounds and academic disciplines. They are trained throughout their second year and then work for Student Support Services providing an essential link between the professional staff and the student body. Peer support is important, as students have an valuable insight into the kind of

problems faced by other students, and can therefore offer a quality of support that staff members cannot.

"SupNetters" also facilitate a number of local self-help groups and support networks providing guidance and support on everything from personal and relationship problems to financial and health matters. As well as groups and larger projects they also meet up with students individually, which often involves going for coffee and a chat, or perhaps meeting up as a "buddy" during Orientation Week. Student Support Services is a successful service because students trust them and one of the ways in which this trust is upheld is by maintaining absolute confidentiality. A student's problem cannot be discussed with third parties without the student's permission. However, if parents are concerned about a son or daughter, Student Support Services would welcome a call from them.

Anyone who would like any further information should contact Chris Lusk, Director of Student Support Services, +44(0)1334 462720 or visit their website at <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/sss/>

■ *Medical Collaboration with Edinburgh Announced*

The Universities of St Andrews and Edinburgh are to collaborate on medical teaching and research, providing 50 more doctors per year for the NHS in Scotland and offering more opportunities for Scottish students to train as doctors.

The announcement follows a review of medical education in Scotland, conducted by Sir Kenneth Calman and Michael Paulson-Ellis, which called for the provision

of 100 additional medical training places in Scotland. Half of these new places will allow 50 St Andrews students, who currently complete their clinical training in Manchester, to conclude their training in Scotland. The University of Edinburgh will provide places for 50 St Andrews students who have completed a BSc Honours in Medical Science to enter the third year of the Edinburgh medical course and subsequently graduate MB ChB from Edinburgh.

■ **Forward thinking**

Kathleen Jamie, poet and lecturer in Creative Writing at the University St Andrews, has won the prestigious Forward Prize for poetry with her new collection, *The Tree House*. The £10,000 Forward Prize is the nation's biggest poetry prize.

She has gained a reputation as one of the leading poets of her generation with her previous books, including 'The

Queen of Sheba', 'Jizzen', and 'Mr and Mrs Scotland are Dead', is a previous winner of a Somerset Maugham Award and has twice won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Award. She has also been winner of the Forward prize for best individual poem, and a previous nominee for best collection.

■ **Proposed New Arts Building**



Brian Allen's artistic impression of the new Arts Faculty Building.

The University of St Andrews is seeking planning permission for a major new town centre building which will provide much-needed teaching and research space for the Faculty of Arts and a new home for the School of International Relations. The proposed multi-million pound building of architectural distinction will be located next to the University Library in North Street and will include a new lecture theatre, seminar rooms and office space.

Dean of Arts Professor Christopher Smith believes the new arts building must complement St Andrews town centre architecture and help the University meet rapidly growing demand for new teaching and research space.

"St Andrews is now home to several world-class centres of excellence and assessments of the teaching and research we provide are universally outstanding," he said.

"A consequence of that success is that our expanding undergraduate, postgraduate and staff population has exceeded the currently available space and new accommodation is urgently needed to ensure we maintain the highest traditions of excellence in teaching and research.

The Faculty of Arts has almost two thirds of the undergraduate population in St Andrews and Schools like Philosophy, History and Classics have been extremely successful in attracting external funding for internationally regarded research centres. This building will reflect our position as one of the most lively and dynamic Arts Faculties in the United Kingdom.

Amongst these success stories, the School of International Relations boasts one of the fastest growing postgraduate populations in the University and is attracting new staff from all over the world, while the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence has a pre-eminent reputation within the field."

■ **Exciting development for the Gateway building**



Earlier this year, the University purchased the imposing Gateway building at the western entrance to St Andrews. Totalling 46,544 square feet and arranged over four

floors, the open plan interior has undergone significant alterations to provide world-class research and teaching accommodation for the University's internationally renowned undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in management and business. The ground floor has a bistro-style cafeteria and will serve as a high-quality orientation and information centre focusing on the University and the town.

The University's Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Dr Brian Lang said,

"This development is firmly in line with the University's continued strategy of investment in high quality facilities to support world class teaching and research... The Gateway occupies one of the most prominent sites in St Andrews and it is fitting that we should be able to put it to good use for the long-term benefit of the community and the University."

■ John Lennon at 64

Psychologists and computer scientists at the University of St Andrews have created a computer-generated image, which shows the ex-Beatle as he might have looked on his 64th birthday. The singer died aged 40 when he was shot in New York by Mark Chapman on December 8th, 1980.

Elisabeth Cornwell from the University's Perception Lab used 'ageing' software to reproduce the natural effects of ageing, taking into account changes in skin texture, hairline and hair colour. They used the cover image from the retrospective 1982 album 'The John Lennon Collection', in which he was aged 40, as a starting point. The process of ageing was mimicked by changing the texture and shape of the original image to simulate the changes in the skin that would occur between the ages of 40 and 60.



CREDIT:
www.perceptionlab.com,
The University of
St Andrews

■ University Seal

The *Love from Home* and *Family Book Fund* leaflets include an imprint of the University seal. Here is some information about its history (taken from *The University of St Andrews: A Short History* by R G Cant).

"The ancient seal of the University has as its main feature a figure of St Andrew upon his cross. Below, are figures representing either a rectorial court or a regent, attended by a bedellus, lecturing to a class of students. Above, is a triple canopy bearing the coats of arms of the three founders of the University: in the centre, Pope Benedict XIII; on the right hand side, King James I; on the left hand side, Bishop Wardlaw. The seal cannot be precisely dated, but in view of the prominence of the arms of Pope Benedict XIII it must be prior to 1418.

No common coat of arms was adopted by the University until 1905, when the heraldic details of the seal were grouped, and officially matriculated. The design is perhaps more ingenious than beautiful, but it remains the sole coat to which the University is legally entitled." (The University's coat of arms appears at the top of this newsletter.)



■ Sporting Chance

New athletics facilities at the University of St Andrews have been recently unveiled by former Olympics sprinter and local MP Menzies Campbell. The new facilities in place are for throwing and jumping events and will see the completion of the full range of athletics facilities available to the University and the local community.

The athletics track, opened in 1997, is part of the public sports complex which sits alongside the University Sports Centre. The complex also includes an Astropitch, tennis courts and cricket nets. Funding for the field events facilities was provided jointly from National Lottery Funds, Fife Council and from alumni and friends of the University through the Appeal Fund.

■ Session Dates 2004/2005

Martinmas Semester: Mon 27 September 2004 - Sat 22 January 2005
Reading Week: Week beginning Mon 8 November 2004
Graduation: Tues 30 November 2004
Christmas Vacation: Sat 18 December 2004 - Tues 4 January 2005
Revision Period: Starts Wed 5 January 2005
Examinations: Wed 12 January 2005 - Sat 22 January 2005

Candlemas Semester: Mon 7 February 2005 - Friday 27 May 2005
Spring Vacation: Mon 28 March 2005 - Fri 8 Apr 2005
Revision Period: Starts Sat 7 May 2005
Examinations: Sat 14 May 2005 - Wed 25 May 2005
Graduation: Tues 21 June 2005 - Fri 24 June 2005
Re-Assessment Diet: Med Sci Mon 29 August - Thurs 1 September 2005
Others Wed 7 September - Sat 10 September 2005

Information for families of current students can be found at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/develop/families

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