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.

Worldwide Film Weekend

Following its hugely successful premieres in London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Los Angeles, New York and St Andrews, the University film Ever to Excel is being made available to alumni and friends around the world. The film, directed by graduate and honorary graduate Murray Grigor (BSc 1962, Hon DLitt 2012) and starring Sir Sean Connery (Hon DLitt 1988), tells the remarkable story of the University’s 600-year history and its impact on the world. For 48 hours on 19 and 20 October 2013, we are calling on alumni, parents and friends around the world to show a copy of Ever to Excel to friends, family and colleagues. Proceeds from the weekend will be directed towards establishing a Sir Sean Connery Scholarship as a lasting legacy of this truly memorable Anniversary celebration. Further details of how you can apply to take part in this fundraising initiative are available from: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/alumni/filmweekend or contact our Events Team for further information at E: 600@st-andrews.ac.uk

A New Face for the Students’ Association

Work has recently started on the redevelopment of the Students’ Association building in St Mary’s Place. The distinctive building has remained largely unchanged since it was built for a much smaller student population in the 1970s.

The revamped Students’ Union will include a new entrance, a street-facing café (run for students and the public by students), and new performance areas. The current Venue One will be split into two distinct spaces – a flexible performance space and a 600-person capacity entertainment venue, with a lounge area for an additional 270. The redevelopment will also allow for a dramatic expansion and improvement in terms of space for student societies on the middle and top floors. This will include a design suite, radio broadcasting facility and film-editing suite. On the top floor, two large flexible rooms will be introduced, both suitable for rehearsals. In keeping with University policy, the building work will be following a strict sustainability agenda throughout.

The top-to-bottom revamp (visualised above), which will be completed by the end of 2015, will cost up to £12m. Alongside central University funding, the Students’ Association is contributing £750,000 to the total with the remainder to be secured through fundraising. You can keep up to date with the progress of the redevelopment at: www.facebook.com/yourunionredevelopment
The gift of life

A group of kind-hearted students have been recognised by NHS Blood and Transplant as their first University Organ Donation Society Partner.

The unique initiative was inspired by the tragic death of St Andrews student Alex Richardson, who created a living legacy by donating many of his organs. His mother, Annie, conceived the idea, in collaboration with the students and the NHS.

The Partnership’s aims include increasing the number of young people who choose to help others by joining the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR), as well as promoting to students the importance of discussing their wishes regarding organ donation with friends and families.

For more information, go to: www.organdonation.nhs.uk

Calling on your support

With one of the longest-running, most successful university phone campaigns in the UK, the University of St Andrews raises more than £300k per year for scholarships, capital projects and library resources. We are delighted to report that this year’s UK spring campaign has raised a total of £256k in gifts and pledges which, together with the autumn 2012 and recent spring North American campaign, have already delivered a record-breaking £320k total for our 600th Anniversary campaign. Our sincere thanks to everyone who has already taken the time to speak to our callers and to those who have pledged a gift.

To learn more about the phone campaign, please visit: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/alumni/phone

Beam me up

Scottish and Czech scientists have created a miniature real-life “tractor” beam, as featured in the Star Trek movies, which for the first time allows a beam of light to attract objects, albeit at a microscopic level.

Researchers from the University of St Andrews and the Institute of Scientific Instruments (ISI), of the Czech Republic, generated a special optical field that efficiently reverses the radiation pressure of light.

Dr Tomas Cizmar (School of Medicine), along with Dr Oto Brzobohaty and Professor Pavel Zemanek (ISI), led the team which discovered a technique allowing the provision of ‘negative’ force acting upon minuscule particles. This could lead to more efficient medical testing, such as in the examination of blood samples.
600th Anniversary Campaign Dinner

"With your support we can make sure that every child is born into a conditional offer from the world’s best university, regardless of circumstance."

HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge

In November 2012, a fundraising dinner was held at Middle Temple Hall, London, in support of the 600th Anniversary Fund, in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The event raised over £401,000. During the evening, guests were treated to speeches by the University’s Campaign Patron, the Duke of Cambridge, the Principal, Professor Louise Richardson, and two of our undergraduate students, Pamela Forbes and Kristofer Drummond. They highlighted the importance of the Sutton Trust Summer School at the University, and the thousands of generous benefactors of our scholarship programmes who help make attendance at St Andrews possible.

Making an impact

A recent independent report has demonstrated that, last year, the University contributed over £84m to the Scottish economy. It received approximately £40m in public funding from the Scottish Funding Council. This represents an increase in economic impact of £179m a year since 2008-2009. The study also looked at the ‘graduate premium’ – the longer-term effects of St Andrews alumni on economic productivity. The lifetime graduate premium of a single year’s cohort of University graduates was £15m to the St Andrews economy.

In recently published league tables, the University has been named best in Scotland and sixth in the UK in the Complete University Guide 2014. The guide measures student satisfaction, research assessment, entry standards, student/staff ratio, spending on academic services, spending on student facilities, good Honours degrees achieved, and graduate prospects and completion.

St Andrews has also been ranked top in Scotland and 47th in the world in the Leiden Ranking 2013, a prestigious scientific performance ranking.

Gift form

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 send me information on legacies

☐ 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 $ . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

I have also helped the University meet its sustainability goals by making a gift online at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/alumni/giving/makeyourgift

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, UK

(If you wish to make a regular donation please contact us at +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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600th Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving

Over 2,400 alumni and friends gathered last December in St Paul’s Cathedral in London for a spectacular Service of Thanksgiving in celebration of the University’s 600th Anniversary. In the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Alexandra, readings were delivered by Lord Robertson, Bill Bryson, Jack Vettriano, Anna Ford, Peter Alliss and Crispin Bonham-Carter. A new work by composer Paul Mealor and commissioned by the London Alumni Club, was premiered on the evening.

Over £90,000 was raised from the proceeds of tickets, donations and a silent auction to establish the London Scholarship at the University. The Scholarship, awarded on the basis of financial need, will enable one gifted student from Greater London, who might otherwise have been unable to attend St Andrews, to fund part of the cost of their studies.

The Cathedral was a fitting venue for the Service, given that St Paul’s face appears on the seal or ‘bulla’ attached to the 1413 papal bull granting the University of St Andrews its authority to award degrees.

Online shop

We are pleased to announce that a web version of our recently opened retail store, situated at 144 Market Street in St Andrews, has been developed to allow all our alumni and friends to purchase unique, quality, branded items and help support the University. A 10% discount for alumni and friends is available online by entering the voucher code SPARC600 when prompted to do so.

The web address for the retail store is www.standrewsuniversitystore.com

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 loved ones cakes, chocolates and gift baskets on special occasions with a personalised message. The service provides a great way to deliver an encouraging word, a good luck message or a birthday greeting to your absent student. To see the full selection of goodies which can be ordered and paid for online, please visit: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/lovefromhome

Please note that deliveries are made to addresses in St Andrews during term-time, Monday to Saturday, between 8am and 6pm. 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 2013

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/semesterdates

Candledmas Semester: Monday 28 January 2013 – Friday 31 May 2013
Spring Vacation: Saturday 16 March 2013 – Sunday 31 March 2013
Revision Period: Comences Monday 27 April 2013
Examinations: Monday 13 May – Friday 24 May 2013
Graduation: Week commencing Monday 24 June 2013
Rests: Week commencing Monday 19 August 2013

Martinmas Semester: Monday 16 September 2013 – Friday 20 December 2013
Graduation: Friday 29 and Saturday 30 November 2013
Revision Period: Comences Monday 2 December 2013
Examinations: Weeks beginning Monday 9 and Monday 16 December 2013
Christmas Vacation: Saturday 21 December 2013 to Sunday 26 January 2014

Further information for families of current students can be found at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/parents
A forum for US Parents of current students can be accessed on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/StAUSParents
Latest news and other information about the University can be viewed at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk

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