

# THE BRIDGE

THE UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

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**TOP 200**  
UNIVERSITIES

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY  
**OF THE YEAR 2016**  
THE TIMES / THE SUNDAY TIMES

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STUDENT SURVEY 2015

TB

2016

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.

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.

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.

30

## *Projects funded by you*

- From sports clubs to scholarships, cancer research to clinical practice, alumni have helped fund numerous projects across the University.

## SURVIVAL TIP

1:3

## Organising a conference?

# It makes perfect sense to team up with DUNDEE & ANGUS CONVENTION BUREAU



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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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 do 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!

Cover Image Bradley Quinn

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## CONTENTS

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

05 / PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

06 / GARY LIGHTBODY INTERVIEW

08 / SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

10 / ART & DESIGN

12 / DENTISTRY

14 / DUNDEE: A CHANGING CITY

16 / LOVE DUNDEE

18 / EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK

20 / HUMANITIES

22 / DUNDEE TO THE WORLD

24 / 50TH ANNIVERSARY

26 / LIFE SCIENCES

28 / MEDICINE

30 / PROJECTS FUNDED BY YOU

32 / INSIGHTS FOR UoD GRADUATES

34 / NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

36 / SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

38 / THROWBACK

40 / REUNIONS AND ALUMNI EVENTS

42 / SOCIAL SCIENCES

44 / SPORTS

46 / SOCIAL MEDIA TRENDS





# UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

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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.

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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

.....



ON PATROL WITH GARY LIGHTBODY : A JOURNEY, THAT STARTED WHEN HIS BAND FORMED WITHIN THE FIRST FEW WEEKS AT THE UNIVERSITY, HAS TAKEN GARY LIGHTBODY TO THE WORLD’S BIGGEST FESTIVAL STAGES AND LED TO MILLIONS OF RECORD SALES WITH SNOW PATROL.



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.

*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.

*There has been a long history of Northern Irish students coming to Dundee. What were the reasons you chose to come to the University?*

A few of my school friends were going. I hadn't put that much thought into what uni I was going to and I'd applied to Queens in Belfast but thank God I didn't get in! I just sat on the phone for two weeks solid to Dundee. I think I spoke to everyone including the janitor until they got so annoyed at me calling they just said okay, come on over.

*How did you find it when you got here? Did it match expectations, if indeed you had any?*

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 speaking to the guy across the hall from me. Those nerves went fast.

*How soon after arriving in Dundee did the band start to come together? Was there a pre-history of you knowing the other guys or did it all happen in Dundee?*

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!

*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 from the start 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?*

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 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.

*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. In fact we literally played to one person in Joseph's Well in Leeds in 1997 and that person was Bob Hardy, who would a few years later join Franz Ferdinand so I like to think we were the genesis of that!

I mostly remember laughing. We laugh like morons for most of the day. Even now we still do. Although if we were still playing to one person then I doubt our sense of humour would have held up. We had ten years (1994-2004) without a hit record and that would

test the patience and sanity of most people. It made the first hit ('Run' - January 2004) all the sweeter though.

*Were there any particular influences on the development of the band from your time in Dundee?*

Yes, Dundee had a profound effect on us in the early years. We loved the place and wrote so many songs there. I also met Tom Simpson there and that was massive for many reasons. He's one of my best friends, he expanded my musical horizons, he joined us in the band, and he taught me how to DJ, which I have done in massive clubs all over the world, including in Ibiza. I never would have got to do that without meeting Tom.

‘I think I spoke to everyone including the janitor until they got so annoyed at me calling they just said okay, come on over.’

*'Run' was the point of 'lift-off' for the band after a ten year hard slog. What do you think had changed?*

Meeting Garret (producer Jackknife Lee) who is now arguably the biggest producer in the world (currently working with U2) at a time when things were at a crucial point for both of us. It would be the beginning of a, currently, 14 year partnership and friendship. He encouraged me to write choruses which sounds like an obvious enough strategy but one I'd been resistant to.

*What was the experience like going from playing small venues like the Westport Bar in Dundee to headlining festivals? It was a pretty quick rise, how did you handle that?*

I'm not sure we handled it as well as we could have. We were a good live band then but not a great one as we didn't think about the 'show'. We were still thinking about the 'gig'. There is a big

difference between the two. Playing Live 8 in front of 250,000 people in Hyde Park made us realise very clearly that we were out of our depth. We were on after Madonna and she had a 50 person choir all dressed in white and then we strolled on dressed like we were in the Tav Bar.

Watching that back on video was a sobering experience and we vowed to up our game considerably. We also toured with U2 for the first time around that time and they showed us how it's done properly. Watching them and talking with them after shows we learned more than we ever had in our careers up to that point about stage craft and how to put on a show.

*You've headlined major festivals, toured the world, collaborated with everyone from the indie cognoscenti to Taylor Swift – any particular highlights that stand out for you?*

Playing the V festival in 2009 when Oasis dropped out of the headline slot and we were bumped up to headline. We thought we would get a rough ride as Oasis fans can be a little feisty. The opposite turned out to be true. 80,000 people sang every word and were on our side from the beginning to the end. We had people from other bands in our dressing room after the show in tears saying it was the best gig they'd ever seen. It was a very special night and one I'll never forget. I've had a profound love of Oasis fans ever since. We are so lucky to have nights like that and we don't take it for granted or lightly. Probably because we know what it's like to play to no one.



‘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.

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.

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.

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

1970s graduate



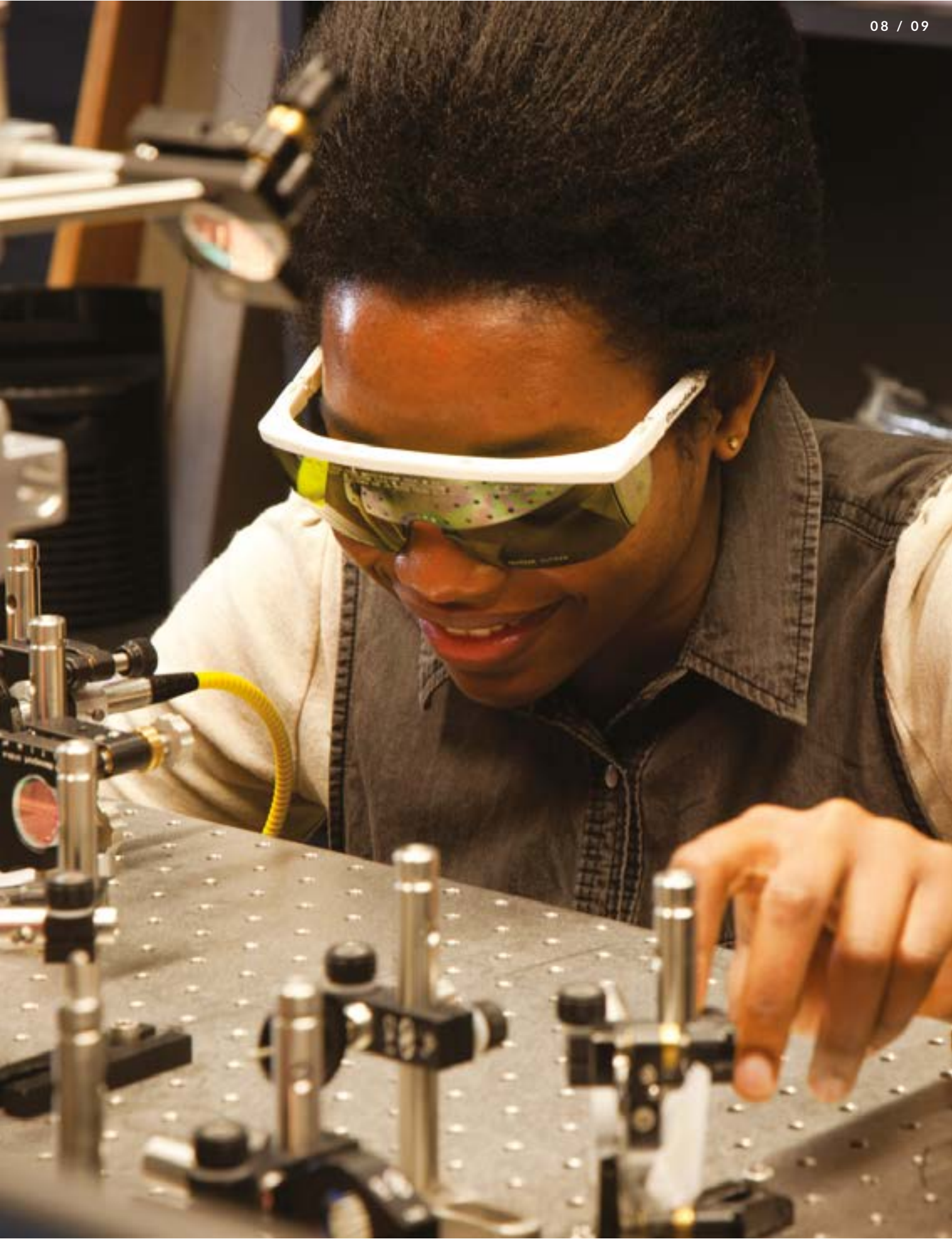
Our team love to hear from our alumni; stories and memories you cherish of your time at university. In October and November 2015, our student callers spoke to many graduates as part of our telephone campaign. They chatted about studying in Dundee, how the city and university have changed, and the wonderful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

It’s when students give feedback like this that the power of your kindness really becomes evident. University is a time of growth and learning, and it’s wonderful to hear how much you and graduates like you are making a difference for today’s students.

You are a key part of what makes Dundee so special to so many. For your help, whether it’s through offering career advice, supporting scholarships and bursaries, or simply sharing your funny stories and experiences, thank you.





A HIGH DEGREE OF  
CREATIVITY  
ON SHOW



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’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 Contemporary Arts and the V&A Museum of Design, Dundee. This year sees the first Dundee Design Festival take place to mark our designation as the UK’s first UNESCO City of Design as well as Ignite, a showcase of the city’s thriving creative sector. Both have been built around Degree Show in recognition of our flagship event’s importance to Dundee in cultural and economic value.

The UK has in recent years started to understand the impact of the cultural industries, not only on the economy but

also in regeneration. Cities are waking up to the fact that a vibrant cultural offering makes people want to live there.

Nearly 15,000 people visited the Degree Show last year, filling hotels, restaurants and bars in the process. Not only did they have the privilege of viewing work by some of the UK’s most talented emerging architects, artists and designers, but the visitors generated a £1.5million boost to the city’s economy. Hundreds of creative businesses produce a combined annual turnover of £190million and provide employment for 3,000 people. All this is helping a post-industrial city reinvent itself and it is being driven not just by the University as an institution but also by the graduates it is producing.

This year’s graduates will be hoping to emulate the success of alumni such as Turner Prize winner Susan Philipsz, Jo Basford, creator of adult colouring books which have sold millions of copies worldwide, and Aaron Garbut, who has played a leading role in turning Grand Theft Auto into a multi-billion dollar entertainment phenomenon. Not all our students will become practising artists but the vast majority go on to work in an area related to their studies. Our graduates can be found in film, games and animation studios or working with some



of the world’s largest tech companies and leading the next big start-ups. As well as working in arts organisations, design studios and industries, they work in areas related to environmental sustainability, the medical professions, crime enforcement, education, disaster victim identification, deep sea exploration, 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

THE FORCE  
AWAKENS

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 2D 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 got 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.’

MYDUNDEE



**Ellis O’Connor**

I am a visual artist working in printmaking, photography and drawing. I was born and brought up in Dundee and graduated in 2015 with a MA distinction in Art and Humanities, prior to which I studied Art & Media for four years.

Dundee is a place that has inspired me, not only from the geography of the city, but also because of the rich history, culture and creativity found here. Dundee is a very good base for exploring the surrounding areas and throughout my studies it was an ideal location for me to get out and explore Angus. This included many trips to Glen Clova, the Arbroath Cliffs and spending many a day sat atop the infamous Law ‘hill’ looking out to the Tay and sketching the surrounding Sidlaws and rich landscapes as far as the eye can see. I am artist in residence at DJCAD until the end of the summer. This has allowed me to pursue my ideas, work on finalising projects whilst producing a new body of work. My new work was exhibited as part of our residency show and my recent solo show ‘Fading Light’ was on display at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

Dundee has influenced my work immensely and continues to support my practise and amaze me with the friendliness of the people, the rich history and brilliant cultural scene.

**Ellis O’Connor**  
MA distinction in Art and Humanities, 2015  
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# GET ON BOARD WITH THE VINE TRUST

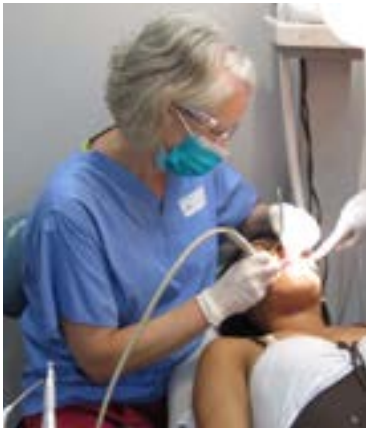
Shona Mason is a 1991 graduate from the University of Dundee, and a current honorary clinical teacher in the School of Dentistry. She has been volunteering with the Vine Trust’s Amazon Hope project for over ten years – and taking students with her.

Iquitos is the capital of the Peruvian jungle. Home to more than 350,000 people, it is the sixth most populous city in the South American country, but it cannot be accessed by road or rail. Instead, visitors are forced to fly there, or to sail along the mighty Amazon River, which runs all the way to the Atlantic Ocean nearly 3000km away.

Since 2004, volunteers with the Amazon Hope project have teamed up with Peruvian healthcare staff to sail the river system around Iquitos aboard two refurbished Royal Navy tenders, providing much-needed medical and dental care to a remote population of around 100,000 people.

Amazon Hope is facilitated by the Vine Trust, a Scottish charity dedicated to helping some of the poorest children and communities in the world.

Shona Mason volunteered to help the project for what she expected to be a once-in-lifetime experience, but it didn’t work out that way.



‘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 system – 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](http://www.vinetrust.org)

## FROM DUNDEE 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. The



## 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 siblings Lieze and Christoff.

Sister Lieze would travel up to Dundee to visit Kevin. After deciding to study dentistry herself and having enjoyed her trips to the city, she decided that she too would make it her home for the duration of her studies. She was soon followed by her ‘younger brother, Christoff.

department backed me 100% and said they’d provide a nurse. All I had to do was source a technician.’ Chris explained.

The team made their very first trip that same year for 12 days. They worked day and night to fix an array of dental problems, from pulling teeth out to fitting dentures. ‘We had to squeeze everyone in in the time we had available, but it was made much easier by the fact that the people were so lovely and welcomed us with open arms.’ said Chris.

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

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.



‘I think what influenced me was seeing how much my Dad enjoyed his work. His enthusiasm rubbed off on me and after Kevin and then Leize went into dentistry, it felt natural for me to follow in their footsteps.’

Lieze, who received her first class BDS honours degree on the same day that Christoff graduated with a first class intercalated BMSc degree, now works with her father at his practice in Cambridgeshire while Christoff and his wife, Alison, are associates at a practice in Fort William. Unsurprisingly, Kevin’s wife, Gosia, is also a dentist.

## MY DUNDEE



**Gil Perrone**  
New York New York...

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, T.V and movie personalities or music industry superstars. A true gentleman I have had the pleasure to treat is the world acclaimed rapper Jay Z!

**Gil Perrone**  
Bachelor of Dental Surgery, 1975



# DUNDEE: A CHANGING CITY

‘I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE SANDPIT TO PLAY WITH!’  
... laughs **Mike Galloway**

Executive Director of City Development for Dundee City Council, Mike is the Town and Regional Planning graduate (BSc Hons, 1979) who has been given control of shaping the city in the 21st century. It is a time of remarkable change for Dundee, with cranes 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 Malmaison, 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 Tayside 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 over 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, there is much more to the city, but it is like a totem for the city’s confidence, how we see ourselves and how others see us’.

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



## A TALE OF TWO CITIES

*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.*



Sue and MaryAn returned to the University during their visit to Dundee for Sue’s book launch in the city. They enjoyed an afternoon of reminiscing in the Archives and on a campus tour.

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.



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 1969. He realised that 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 ran on half pints of lager, while Edith took G&T! Little did Chris know that his partner for the ball would become his partner for life, and they married at McCheyne Memorial Church, Perth Road, Dundee on 29th March 1975. 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 tankard, which used to hang in the bar in what used to be Old Dines. Chris and Anne had more than 39 very happy years together, until Anne sadly died

in September 2014. Chris says, ‘Anne was the best thing that ever happened to me, and I still miss her. And to think that the only reason that she went to the ‘hop’ at West Park Hall on 17th January 1969 was because she had bought herself a new pair of shoes in the January sales, and wanted to take them for a ‘test drive!’

### 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 21, 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 16th 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 McMenemy 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 bejantine, 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 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

Sara and Sohaib  
Pakistan 2012



James and Katie  
Date set for August 2018



Bryan and Aleks  
5, October 2002



Hugh and Katie  
16, November 1974



Chris and Anne  
29, March 1975



### 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 starting 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](mailto:alumni@dundee.ac.uk)

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 1997, Aleks had her first graduation that same year with an Honours in Medical 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.



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.



# UNLOCKING A CHILD’S INTELLECTUAL POTENTIAL...

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 was soon leading computer game-based learning at a national level and even spoke internationally about the subject.

However, things really heated up when he came across a new game the whole world would soon be talking about.

*‘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.

*‘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.



## A CENTURY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK

SUSAN BUCKMAN GOES BACK TO THE FUTURE

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.

Organiser Susan Buckman, a Lecturer in Education, said, ‘Since teacher training began in Dundee, thousands

of students have passed through the various institutions responsible for preparing them for the challenges that teaching, social work and community education pose. In turn, they have gone out to schools and other organisations in Dundee and far beyond to make a real difference to the lives of their pupils, students and clients.’

Dundee Training College was inaugurated in 1906 and moved to Park Place in 1920. DTC was renamed Dundee College of Education in 1958-9 as part of a nationwide re-organisation of education training.

Teacher training continued at Park Place until 1975 when DCoE was absorbed into the Northern College of Education in Dundee’s Gardyne Road. Responsibility for education and social work training was transferred to the University in 2006 ahead of an official merger five years later.

### MY DUNDEE



Emma Hinton

*On a career in Social Work, Bridesmaids and Brothers*

I graduated from the University of Dundee in 2005 with a BA degree and diploma in Social Work. I am not sure that anything can prepare you for the reality of being a social worker but my learning, experiences and placements at university definitely helped.

I have been a Social Worker for almost 11 years, working predominantly in child protection. I care a lot about what I do, especially the children and families I work with and I believe I can make a difference. My qualification has allowed me to work in different places. I have worked across Scotland, been lucky enough to work in Australia with the Red Cross and in the coming months will be working in London.

My friends are the best. I made some great ones at university and was bridesmaid for my roommate and one of my close friends. Some of my closest and favourite people in the world are social workers.

In 2013 I dropped my brother off at the new Belmont halls of residence. He is studying Politics and having almost as good a time as I did.

Emma Hinton  
BA Social Work, 2005



# 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 was a very good piece of advice!



'It did throw up another interesting situation because I was Deputy President of the Students' Association and was standing for President when I found out I had an acceptance from the Foreign Office. The election was looking close, but I decided to withdraw and take up my position in London.

'I was sad to leave because I had a great time at university, and would have loved to be the Student President. That feeling wasn't helped when I arrived in London and realised that the accommodation and everything else was going to be much more expensive than I was used to. I was less well off working in London than I had been as a student in Dundee!

'I still have so many good memories of Dundee. It was where I met Vanessa, my wife, and made enduring friendships. It really was one of the best times of my life.'

A personal interest in the Middle East led to an early posting to Lebanon, where William learned to speak Arabic. 'From that point I was hooked and I have spent most of my working life since in the region.'

He rose to become head of the Middle East Department at the Foreign and

Commonwealth Office before being appointed Ambassador to Sudan in 2002. He took on the same role in Iraq in 2005 before moving on to Saudi Arabia and then, from 2010 to 2012, Afghanistan.

Those places and dates, of course, coincide with some of the world's most challenging political environments, countries riven by conflict.

'Working in countries like Sudan, Afghanistan and Iraq has been challenging, you are right at the sharp end of diplomacy and it places huge demands on you and your family but it has also been very rewarding personally and professionally. I always say to people that if you get a chance to serve somewhere where 10,000 UK troops have just been deployed following the liberation of a country then you need to do it. Once you have been in a position like that, as I have been, then you don't want to do any other kind of diplomacy.'

'There are still painful transitions to go through in many of these countries, and it does bring its frustrations, particularly about the pace of change. But you also gain a deep understanding of the complexity and fragility of societies. You see how difficult it is to construct the sort of society we have.'

Image by David Graham



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

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 by 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 while Beth McDonough is Creative Writer-in-residence at Dundee Contemporary Arts. Lindsay Macgregor received a New Writers Award from the Scottish Book Trust for her widely published poetry and Susan Haigh was nominated for the same award. Claire MacLeary has signed a two-book deal and Zoe Venditozzi had her first novel published and was made Reader-in-Residence at Dundee Libraries.

# CHAPTER AND VERSE

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.'

'We bring them out of their own private writing space and into a community where reading and writing and imaginative thinking are central to our studies and lives. As a result, our students emerge from our programme with a sharpened sense of literary and cultural life and with an impressive body of work that is ready to be taken into the world.'

The Creative Writing programmes are just one of the ways in which the University is contributing to the nation's literary community. The groundbreaking Comics and Graphic Novels Masters courses and Literary Dundee, a University-led cultural organisation celebrating readers and writers, also enhance the cultural canon.

# MY DUNDEE



**Dr Nicola Cowmeadow**

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 noblewomen. 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, 2008 & Doctor of Philosophy, 2012

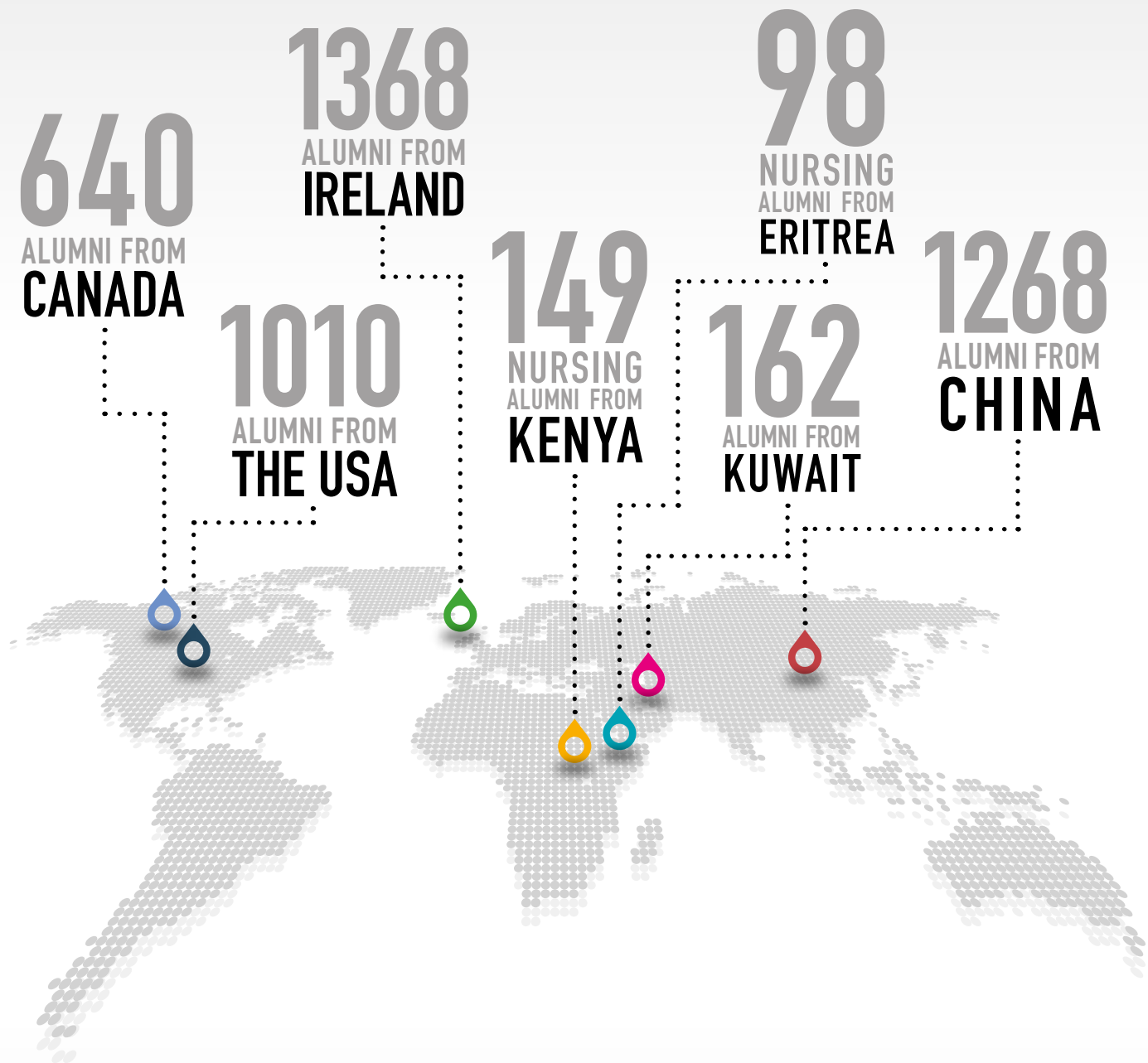


TAKING DUNDEE TO THE

WORLD < > DUNDEE

BRINGING THE WORLD TO

.....



.....

Our students come to Dundee from all over the world and as alumni are our ambassadors around the globe.

: THERE ARE 195 COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. IN THREE-QUARTERS OF  
: THEM YOU WILL FIND SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN TO, IS WORKING  
: WITH, OR IS PLANNING TO JOIN THE UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE. WE  
: ARE A SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY THROUGH AND THROUGH, BUT WE ARE  
: ALSO VERY MUCH AN INTERNATIONAL ONE. WE ARE BRINGING THE  
: WORLD TO DUNDEE, AND TAKING DUNDEE TO THE WORLD

- 🌐 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 xspan 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.





The Tower Building being opened by the Queen Mother in 1961. The Tower, a listed building designed by Sir Robert Matthew, replaced the four villas originally purchased to provide the initial accommodation for University College Dundee. Image from Archive Services.

**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.
- We will use the 50th Anniversary as an impetus to look forward to the future and the next 50 years.
- To celebrate and continue to establish the Transformation Agenda.



- 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.
- 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](http://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.





# BRIDGING THE 'VALLEY OF DEATH'

DUNDEE AT THE FOREFRONT  
OF TACKLING THE NEGLECTED  
DISEASES WHICH DEVASTATE  
THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

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 1.5million 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 and bridge the 'valley of death' which often prevents academic research from being translated into drugs by the pharmaceutical industry.

*'The problems we identified were that these diseases were being neglected and that the existing drugs being used were deeply unsatisfactory, some of them coming with serious, even lethal, side effects.'*

said Professor Alan Fairlamb, co-founder of the DDU with Professor Mike Ferguson.

'We recognised that if the pharmaceutical industry was to be persuaded to develop better treatments for these diseases we needed to provide them with better drug-like molecules to work with. Academia often lacks the funding, expertise and technology to translate world-class innovative research into validated drug candidates, whilst industry often has difficulty in properly accessing and refining the flow of information from academia. As a consequence, enormous public and medical charity investment in biomedical research remains untranslated – a situation often referred to as 'the valley of death'.

*'We were determined to bridge that valley. And ten years on I think we can look at the situation and say we have achieved a great deal towards that aim.'*

The DDU's work has led to delivery of clinical candidates for several of these diseases, offering hope of finding better treatments for diseases which impact on millions of lives. One compound, fexinidazole, is currently in clinical trials in Africa for the treatment of visceral leishmaniasis.

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.

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

Dr 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.



## MHAIRI TOWLER: FROM SCIENCE TO ART

THE UNIVERSITY TURNS 50 NEXT YEAR AND FEW, IF ANY, OF ITS STUDENTS HAVE CELEBRATED GRADUATION AS OFTEN AS MHAIRI TOWLER.

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?

'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.

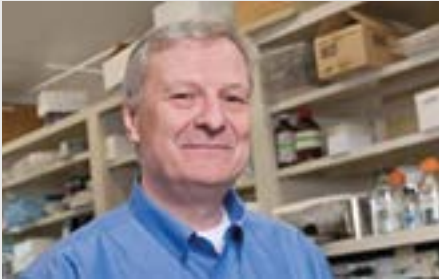
'After completing the Masters, I won a Graduate Enterprise Fellowship and we have been trading now for nearly four years growing the business each year. We have won several awards in

this time, have international clients and plan to continue to grow our client base across UK and Europe.

'We not only produce animations, but also graphics, cover art and we deliver workshops on presenting science visually that have been taught at universities in Scotland and France. Our clients include academic scientists, biotech companies, scientific institutes and science centres. We have built up a team of freelance animators and artists who work with us when needed.

'All the different courses I have studied here have given me different skill sets. Some of these are technical but also a lot of transferable skills such as problem solving, communications, reflection and an awareness of what's going on in society.

'My experience at Dundee has been exceptional. Dundee equipped me with everything I needed to progress through my career.'



### Professor Jim Woodgett

*Recollections that are out of this world...*

I graduated from the University of Dundee in 1984 with a PhD from Sir Philip Cohen's laboratory. The experience I gained there was eye-opening and foundational in many ways - I became skilled in various scientific experimental procedures and approaches that guide me to this day; I met amazing visiting scientists and fellows in the laboratory whom I've kept in touch with and who've been wonderful mentors and colleagues; part of my PhD covered work on a gene family that still forms the main topic of interest of my research in Toronto (ask me anything about GSK3!). And last, but certainly not least, it's where I met my wife, Caroline. I've been back to the University several times and it's undergone tremendous change.

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 Phosphor-ylation Unit on Twitter (@MRCPPU).

*The University of Dundee was my research life's Cape Canaveral and I'm still in orbit!*

### Professor Jim Woodgett

Doctor of Philosophy, Biochemistry, 1984  
@jwoodgett



INNOVATIVE TEACHING  
INTO THE  
**21<sup>ST</sup>**  
CENTURY

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, pathology, microbiology and so on, and it was year 4 before we really got to the wards. Now it is all about patient contact from year 1.’

*‘The world has changed. There has been such an increase in medical knowledge for one thing and in ways to access it, including via the internet, and a recognition that being a doctor is more than just about knowledge, it is about being a professional and being able to meet the needs of patients in the modern health service.’*

‘WHEN I STARTED MY STUDIES AT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL IN THE LATE 1970s I BARELY SAW A PATIENT FOR MY FIRST THREE YEARS!’



‘We are preparing our graduates to be lifelong learners, recognising that they are likely to be building their knowledge throughout their careers as they specialise in their chosen area.’

It is an approach that has led to Dundee being consistently rated among the best of the UK’s medical schools in producing well prepared graduates, ready to start making a contribution to our health services. They are now taught in facilities that have undergone radical changes in the past few years, helped considerably by donations from hundreds of alumni who supported a fundraising campaign.

‘The support we received from our alumni across the country and around the world really was fantastic and has enabled us to do things which have completely changed the structure and feel of the School,’ said Gary. ‘Our students are being taught in facilities which are the equal to the best.

‘That is important. We have a huge demand to study here and for those who come to study medicine we want to provide the best possible experience. Our alumni have done a great job of supporting the future generations of doctors.’

Dundee has been among the innovators in developing ever more sophisticated methods of selecting students. That thread of innovation runs right through the School, to an outstanding research profile that was ranked top in the UK for impact in the Research Excellence Framework, the major assessment of research quality.

That has brought major breakthroughs in diabetes and cardiovascular research, and has helped bring policy change on how drugs are prescribed and what goes in them. For example, a ground breaking study on the amount of salt contained in commonly-used dispersible medicines showed it was putting patients at increased risk of cardiovascular events and led to a recommendation for a Europe-wide change in labelling legislation for medication.

*‘Impact is what we are looking for in all of our research, the things that will make a real, positive difference to patients’ lives,’*

Gary doesn’t have to look too far these days to see the impact of some of his own work. Part of his duties as Dean is to read the names of all those medical students crossing the stage at Graduation. Bearing in mind that his own specialist area before coming back primarily to teaching was in obstetrics and gynaecology, working in Tayside, he is now seeing graduates who he delivered as babies!

‘This happened to me for the first time last year when the Chancellor stopped a student on stage and asked her when she had first met me. She was embarrassed but it was a very nice moment.’

MYDUNDEE

Margaret Wood

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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.

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Margaret Wood M.B Ch.B. FRCA  
E.M. Papper Professor and Chairman  
Department of Anesthesiology,  
Columbia University New York

KEEPING  
IT REAL ON  
SILENT WITNESS  
.....

‘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.’

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.’ He was even lucky enough to be a hand-double for actor Richard Lintern in a scene involving a neck incision, to make sure it was done correctly.

Even though artistic license does play a part in Silent Witness, Stuart says producers work hard to ensure that the basis of the story is correct, obviously with his help. ‘I have to make allowances for telling a story, so I don’t get upset if timescales are shortened to keep the plot moving. You sometimes have to accept that it’s a drama not a documentary.’

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.



# PROJECTS FUNDED BY YOU...

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.

**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 1988. 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.

Images by Roddy Paul of James Paul Associates



**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.



**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 £10m 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](mailto: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](mailto:legacy@dundee.ac.uk) or on +44 (0)1382 381136

**Thank you!**



# CHANGING THE WORLD OF WORK

## LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE GRADUATES

Image by Alan Richardson

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.

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.

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.

**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](mailto: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 infants 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 adequate health care before, during, or immediately after pregnancy.

It is estimated that increasing breastfeeding to near-universal levels for infants and young children could save over 800,000 children's lives a year worldwide.

These are issues where the University of Dundee, and in particular the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, is making a significant impact.

'The essential needs of childbearing women in all countries, and of their

babies and families, have been our focus, because many of those needs are still not being met, decades after they have been recognised,' said Mary Renfrew, Professor of Mother and Infant Health and Director of the Mother and Infant Research Unit.

'That needs to change. We are involved at many levels in working with international agencies to make that happen. We have seen tremendous developments this year which have been influenced by a series of articles we led for The Lancet on midwifery, and our work with Save the Children on breastfeeding, led by colleagues including Dr Alison McFadden, is 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 in to action. Dundee has played a key role in all of this.



'A key point that is now being widely recognised is that the core 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 follow-up work has been instrumental in that. We are already having a big impact on the implementation of midwifery and improvement of health services for women and children.'

# NEW HEIGHTS FOR GRADUATE NURSE

Phelim Garrett-Hanna graduated from Nursing in 2015, and at the same time received the Wimberley 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'm happy to take the initiative in my new job, listen to my patients and colleagues needs first and take pride in my team,' says the top of his class graduate who has been shortlisted by the Royal College of Nursing for photography of nursing this year.

Whilst he physically balances his job as a nurse alongside new adventures, from scaling the heights of Scotland's most northern Munros with the Dundee Mountain Club and gearing up for an expedition with the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, Phelim believes that nursing has itself opened up to new heights in recent years.



'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.'

## MY DUNDEE



### Zipporah Ali

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 the 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

# BRIDGING THE RESEARCH GAP

THE UNIVERSITY IS RANKED NUMBER ONE IN THE UK FOR FORENSIC SCIENCE AND HAS A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY...

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 it is 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](http://www.cahid.dundee.ac.uk)

# ANNALU WALLER

GIVING A VOICE TO PEOPLE WITH COMPLEX COMMUNICATION NEEDS



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.'



## Kevin McMahon

You may be reading this thinking why on earth would the University be promoting the fact that one of its Science MSc graduates is now a magician. Being a successful magician is long hours, lots of travelling, you have to learn how to do lots of tasks simultaneously and it can be lonely. But the thrill of being on stage and the passion I have for the job make it worthwhile. It's allowed me to work with Eddie Izzard, Derren Brown, Penn & Teller, Paul Daniels and many more legends in the industry. I've broken a Guinness World Record (on my bucket list since age 6), joined the Magic Circle and had a sell-out Fringe show and Radio 4 commission. I'm constantly building new illusions and, as always, your most exciting illusion is the one that you're working on right now.

My new illusion is creating a rainbow on stage, for the first time ever. There have been lots of optics problems to solve, polarisation of light issues, and engineering problems I would never have imagined, or been able to deal with if it wasn't for my Masters in Display Technology. The MSc allowed me to travel, work in industry and understand the benefit of working with people in other fields of study - I couldn't have created this cross-genre work had it not been for the fact I benefited from a wonderful higher science education - something I'll be eternally grateful for.

**Kevin McMahon**  
MSc Display Technology,  
Systems & Applications, 2004  
[quantummagician.com](http://quantummagician.com)



# THROWBACK TO SUNSHINE HOUSE

EVERY THURSDAY WE FEATURE ‘THROWBACK THURSDAY’ ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE WHICH IS ALWAYS A HIT. WE ARE ALWAYS DELIGHTED TO HEAR ‘THROWBACK’ STORIES FROM OUR ALUMNI. INDEED, ALAN NORCOTT, WHO GRADUATED IN 1963 WITH A BSC HONOURS IN CHEMISTRY, RECENTLY GOT IN TOUCH AND SHARED HIS DUNDEE STORY WITH US.

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 two floor flat at 143 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 and would do it all over again.’*

**Alan Norcott**  
BSc Honours Chemistry, 1963

*‘We were looked after by a lady called Mrs Wilde, who cooked our breakfast and our evening meal and did some tidying up now and again. Sometimes when she was a bit pressed, she would go out to the nearby chip shop and return with our meal duly wrapped in newspaper. We recently had three Dundee gatherings for a get together that included spouses, along with*



Cathy Duncan, June Kilcolm and Liz Manton who were 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 80mph 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!’*

**Ian Donald**  
BSc Maths and Physics, 1963

*‘When we moved from the second floor to the third floor of Sunshine House in September 1961, just as our term started the remains of an Atlantic hurricane arrived in Scotland. We had all returned to Sunshine House with the exception of Mick Hallam, whose Dental faculty started a couple of weeks*



ABOVE: Sunshine House, Nethergate, 1963.  
TOP LEFT: The Sunshine House boys minus photographer David Hitchcock!  
BOTTOM LEFT: The ‘Sunshine Cleaners’ at the annual students’ charity parade in 1962 (Front L to R: Don Collins, John McLaren; Rear L to R: Dave Hitchcock, Alan Norcott, Mick Hallam, Ian Donald; Don Mercer is missing but his girlfriend – subsequently his wife, Angela, appears to the right).

*later than the rest of us. The hurricane was sufficiently powerful during the night to remove a substantial part of our chimney which came through the roof and through Mick’s bed onto the floor of his room. I’m glad to say he wasn’t in residence at the time!’*

**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 Luxemburg, 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

*‘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 applauding 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 included on 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 an Austin A30/35 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

# WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT THE UNIVERSITY IN THE EARLY SIXTIES



**TOP:** Front cover of the Glad Mag produced for the annual charities campaign in 1961. The magazine was mainly humorous and used to raise funds for the charity. It ran from 1940 until the 1970s. Image from Archive Services.

**CENTRE:** The Tower Building being opened by the Queen Mother in 1961. The Tower, a listed building designed by Sir Robert Matthew, replaced the four villas originally purchased to provide the initial accommodation for University College Dundee. Image from Archive Services.

**BOTTOM:** Article from Aien the University of St Andrews Student Newspaper, 16 November 1962, about the closure of Dines, a refectory in the old Students Union (Ellenbank). In 1963 New Dines, housing a refectory and laundry, was opened on a site where the current library is now, opposite the Peters Building. Image from Archive Services.

The images have been supplied by the University Archives. The Archives holds records including reports, correspondence, photographs, and publications relating to the University and to individuals and organisations in the Dundee and Tayside area. Of particular interest for alumni are the student newspapers, photographs of the campus, University calendars and information about courses and staff. The Archives are open to the public as well as staff, students and alumni. They are keen to collect new material and are always interested in hearing from past students. If you would like to arrange a visit or have items you would like to donate to the Archives please contact Caroline Brown, University Archivist at [c.z.brown@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:c.z.brown@dundee.ac.uk)



REUNIONS AND ALUMNI  
EVENTS HOME AND AWAY!

WE ARE ALWAYS DELIGHTED TO WELCOME  
OUR ALUMNI BACK TO DUNDEE AND TO  
HOST ALUMNI EVENTS ON OUR TRAVELS.



01



02



03



04



05



06



07

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.

UPCOMING REUNIONS IN DUNDEE

.....	
9 July 2016	Class of 1976 Medics
22 August 2016	University of Dundee Chinese Society, 1990
5 September 2016	50 Years of Nursing in Dundee
9-11 September 2016	Class of 1966 Medics
17 September 2016	Class of 1996 Medics
2-4 May 2017	Class of 1964 Medics
5-7 May 2017	Class of 1975 Dentists

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](mailto: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/](http://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 in historic buildings. This has directly translated into spearheading the first private initiative for the restoration and rehabilitation of a 19th century listed haveli in the walled city of Delhi.’

A benchmark project in itself following the internationally prescribed methodologies, it has achieved many firsts in strongly advocating that the future of heritage does not lie in fossilising the city but in



Image by Karan Kumar Sachdev

creative and sustainable design setting an example for the entire city of Delhi. This project has been extensively featured in the Indian and international media.

‘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 and shaped 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 Kingdom of Netherlands, Embassy of France in India and The Doon School!

## MY DUNDEE



**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 UKs 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 UKs 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

# CEPMLP IN AN EVER CHANGING WORLD

.....  
PROVIDING EDUCATION IN ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES ON A GLOBAL STAGE

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 emergent 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,’ said Professor Peter Cameron, Director of CEPMLP. ‘Our aim has always been

to provide a strong education in energy and natural resources studies, to provide countries and communities with the knowledge and expertise to best manage the resources they have. Good governance is a key concept for us.

‘As the energy market has changed around the world, as new fields have opened up in countries that previously weren’t producers, including many in the developing world, so those countries have had to find and develop the expertise necessary to manage that.

‘For those reasons, education in energy and natural resources studies has never been more relevant than it is today. Nor have the dilemmas of intensive resource use across the planet been so much the focus of controversy. What we aim to do is provide our graduates with the tools and expertise to help manage those resources and make those decisions responsibly.

‘Whenever a new energy market opens up, there is inevitably going to be a game of chess between the big energy and mining companies and governments. Sustainable and responsible development should mean the countries realise the benefits of their own resources in the form of jobs and new opportunities. Our work is to help produce the people that can help make that happen.

‘The benefits to those countries – which often include some of the poorest people on our planet - are significant. Good

technical knowledge can better inform political, economic and social choices and lead to better outcomes. When we are speaking about energy management it is never just about oil and gas, it is about big economics, the impact that has on countries and on international finance, the quality of governance, and the effects on billions of peoples’ lives.’

Looking at our alumni, you can see the effect they are having around the globe...

‘Dundee is a lovely City with wonderful people. The education I got here gave me the confidence to work in 20 countries following my graduation’ - Professor Sun Xiansheng, who graduated with his PhD degrees from CEPMLP in 2000 and is now President of the CNPC Economics and Technology Research Institute.

Joseph Nii Tettey Ashong, from Ghana, won a Scholarship to come to Dundee. ‘For many of us coming from Africa to study, one realises that the extractive industry is becoming critical to our economies back home. The expertise at CEPMLP prepares us adequately to take up challenging roles within the entire energy industry.’

CEPMLP alumnus, Marina Scalon, who comes from Brazil, has just been appointed her country’s Chief of the Mineral Policy Management Department of the Secretariat of Geology, Mining and Mineral Processing of the Ministry of Mines and Energy.



THE UNIQUE FRIENDSHIPS CULTIVATED THROUGH UNIVERSITY SPORT, SAW FORMER VOLLEYBALL CLUB MEMBERS TRAVEL FROM ACROSS EUROPE AND BEYOND FOR A SPECIAL REUNION.

# SERVING UP A FUN FILLED TOURNAMENT

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.

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 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 100 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 is one of the largest and most successful sports clubs at the University, having won the Sports Union Club of the Year award on two occasions and Team of the Year a further three times. The women's team have been finalists of the British Universities Championship on two occasions, winning the British Universities Trophy in 2010.

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, DUVVC 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 - DUVVC 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 DUVVC 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.



'We bought the first boat 'Raasay' from a club on the Clyde with a grant from the Dean,' said Professor Helen White-Cooper, the club's very first Women's Captain. 'It was rowed for the first time in the Head of the Clyde race in 1990 and won the novice women's race with some style.'

The club has gone through some hard times, with numbers dwindling to less than double figures at the start of the millennium, but that was until a rowing hero turned up to the Sydney Olympics. The 'Steve Redgrave factor' led to an increase in membership, most of them never even setting foot in a boat before. However, this was not the end of the club's problems. With an increase in rowers, the team felt they deserved a better boat. In 2002 they launched their annual charity rowing marathon where staff and students break a sweat on rowing machines, while DUBC members shake buckets and ask people for donations.

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. 'I arrived in Dundee in 2005 to study English Law and didn't know one end of a boat from another,' 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!

## MYDUNDEE



### 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 (& 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 Scotsman 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 named 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!

**Graeme Sword**  
MA Hons Geography & Political Science, 1990



# 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, Annalu Waller, Vivienne McGuire and Jill Belch, were rewarded for their work and contribution to society in the New Year Honours List.

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TOP

BEST IN SCOTLAND

FOR SATISFACTION WITH INSTITUTION NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY 2015

NO 1

VOTED NO 1 IN SCOTLAND FOR 6 YEARS RUNNING TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SURVEY (2010 - 2015)

HIGHEST #1

STEM SUBJECT QUALITY PROFILE IN SCOTLAND UNIVERSITY IN UK FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK 2014

NUMBER 1

IN SCOTLAND FOR ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY & ENGINEERING COMPLETE UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2016 EDUCATION, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING GUARDIAN UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2016



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