

QMYOU

MAGAZINE

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF
QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY
Issue 85 | December 2017



**Celebrating 10 years
on campus**

**Performing Arts student
launches theatre company**

**QMU top for graduate
employment**



Queen Margaret University
EDINBURGH



Principal's Introduction

Welcome to this issue of **QMYOU** which, as ever, offers us a wonderful opportunity to share with you news about the support we offer our students, graduate successes, and highlights of our work at home and abroad.

We are delighted that our hard work in the area of graduate employment is paying off. The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency confirm that QMU is top in Scotland and third in the UK for employment of our undergraduate leavers. 98.2% of them are in work or further study six months after graduation. Our award-winning 'STARS' project, featured on page 5, is just one of our initiatives to enhance student and graduate employability. Other articles showcase awards and scholarships which are bolstering students' skills and knowledge, ensuring that our graduates are prepared for successful careers.

In the autumn, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our move to our purpose-built campus. Much has been achieved in the last decade at QMU. Our student numbers have grown and we now have a rich international community with representation from over 90 countries. Alongside expanding our international partnerships, we are deeply engaged locally, and are seen as a real community asset in East Lothian. We have leapt up the national research rankings, have greatly expanded the range and depth of such work, and are now widely acknowledged as a thought leader. We are truly fulfilling our vision of being recognised as a university of ideas and influence.

You can read more about our 10th anniversary (page 7) and about the graduates who have experienced life at our current campus in our 'Where are you now?' feature (pages 26 – 29).

We are always pleased to share stories about our graduates who are pursuing interesting career paths and positively impacting on organisations at home and abroad. On pages 12-13, the spotlight is on Sheila Burns, who has used her postgraduate degree in global health to direct nursing provision in some of the county jails in the USA. In addition, our story about Harry Jackson (pages 20-21) is an example of the enterprising nature of some QMU students. The feature on Daniel Pauley (page 22), who spent much of his life in foster care and is now excelling on his Podiatry degree, is testament to the determination of individual students. His story also pays tribute to QMU staff who are dedicated to helping our students reach their full potential.

We always aim to demonstrate how our research is having a practical impact in the world. Find out more about our work in fragile states (page 11), our research into facial recognition and the criminal justice system (page 17), and the impact of TV on child development (page 10).

Your association with QMU is important to us. We hope that you will stay connected with the University, perhaps by sharing the magazine with others, volunteering as a student mentor, donating to the Student Development Fund or working with us to develop scholarships, awards and donations which will help to change lives.

Professor Petra Wend, PhD, FRSA, FRSE
Principal and Vice Chancellor
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

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DESIGN:

Marketing &
Communications Team

PRINT:

This publication is printed on Oxygen
Offset

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NEWS IN BRIEF



First Hungarian scholarship celebrates the legacy of Saint Margaret

TWO STUDENTS FROM Hungary have become the first to study at QMU as part of a new scholarship exchange programme between Edinburgh and Budapest.

The Queen Margaret Legacy Programme has been developed by the Hungarian Embassy and QMU to celebrate the legacy of Saint Margaret, one of the most loved women from Scottish and Hungarian history.

Petra Kata and Anna Patziger, who are both students from Corvinus University of Budapest, are spending three months studying Public Relations and Media at QMU.

Not only will Petra and Anna benefit from studying at QMU, they will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Scottish culture and life in Edinburgh, which will undoubtedly add to their overall learning experience.

The official partnership between QMU and the Hungarian Embassy was formed in recognition of the fact that QMU takes its name from Margaret, Queen Consort of King Malcolm Canmore of Scotland, who was born in Hungary in the 11th century.

She was known to be a fine scholar with a formidable intellectual capacity, who often debated the affairs of state with the King's noble and clerical advisers. As a deeply religious woman, Queen Margaret was concerned with works of mercy and giving and particularly with the care of the poor. She was canonised as a Saint in 1250.

The name Queen Margaret was incorporated into QMU's title in 1972 because she was seen to personify the institution's key values of serving the community, enhancing the quality of life, and taking practical action. Queen Margaret's philosophy of social justice and her ability to identify what changes were required in society still resonates today, and her name is reflected in the titles of a number of other organisations with social purposes.

Dr Richard Butt, Deputy Principal of QMU, said: "This educational exchange programme, and the transcultural learning it is now enabling, are entirely consistent with the life and values of Queen Margaret herself. Not only is this partnership creating a culturally rich and career enhancing learning experience for students, it is also creating a further link between Scotland and Hungary."

Commenting on the opportunities that she is receiving through the Queen Margaret Legacy Programme, Anna said: "The opportunity to live and study in Edinburgh really appealed to me. The history, culture and diversity of the city, combined with the stunning natural beauty, makes it an ideal environment in which to learn and broaden your horizons."

The exchange programme also allows QMU students to study in Hungary and experience life in Budapest. Earlier this year, QMU Public Sociology students, Caitlin McDowell and Ellen Rahm, spent three months studying at Corvinus University of Budapest and living in the city. □

City Region Deal signals major investment in East Lothian

OVER THE SUMMER, the Scottish and UK governments announced that £600m would be available for the 'City Deal' investment in Edinburgh and Lothians. QMU very much welcomes this announcement which brings the University's proposals for an Innovation Park (EIP) another step closer to becoming a reality.

EIP is the major project included within the Edinburgh City Region Deal to benefit East Lothian and QMU is working closely with East Lothian Council on it. Focused on land adjacent to the University's campus, the project presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to create significant employment and a vibrant and sustainable community that will serve generations to come, alongside adding greatly to the vibrancy of the campus environment. □

98.2% of our graduates find employment
or go on to further training within six months of graduating

QMU has top graduate employment rate in Scotland

IT'S OFFICIAL – QMU is top in Scotland and third in the UK for employment of our undergraduate leavers.

98.2% of our graduates are in work or further study six months after graduation. The Scottish university sector average is 95.2%.

This information was released by Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), which published the UK performance indicators relating to the employment outcomes of students six months after completing their qualification. The statistics, which were published in July 2017, are based on students who graduated in July 2016.

QMU's Principal, Professor Petra Wend, said: "We are delighted that our efforts to continuously improve the employability of QMU students are reflected in these figures. Over recent years, we have been ambitious in our vision to strengthen our employability strategy by creating outstanding development opportunities for our student community, including mentoring programmes, internships, networking events, scholarships and volunteering opportunities, employer engagement networks and international travel opportunities. Our academic staff are well connected within their industries and many of our graduates acknowledge the assistance that individual staff have provided in helping them secure employment in their chosen areas.

"QMU offers an impressive range of career-enhancing extracurricular opportunities and our size means that a high proportion of students, particularly those who seek out opportunities, can easily take full advantage of these benefits."

This issue of QMYou features many stories about student and graduate development opportunities, demonstrating the University's work in preparing students for successful careers. □



Ground-breaking employability initiative expands to Military Tattoo

A ground-breaking initiative which offers paid work experience opportunities for students expanded in 2017 to provide tourism ambassadors for The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Pioneered by QMU, the Student Tourism Ambassador Role Scotland (STARS) programme was designed to create a tourism ambassador programme for the City of Edinburgh, creating a seamless journey for all visitors from their arrival at the airport and on to the main city attractions. No other city in the UK has an initiative like this which nurtures the talent of university students to help enhance the visitor experience and strengthen the city's tourism reputation.

The programme has helped 60 students secure paid employment in customer service tourism roles with Edinburgh International Airport, Virgin Trains at Waverley Station and Edinburgh's St James. This summer, the project provided up to 18 students to assist visitors at The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Professor Joe Goldblatt, from QMU, is a world renowned expert in events management. He conceived the project with Juan Garcia, QMU's Employability Adviser. Professor Goldblatt explained: "Since it started in summer 2014 in the international arrivals hall at Edinburgh International Airport, our University STARS students have welcomed 350,000 people from all over the world. The fact that our STARS students speak 22 languages between them helps to ensure that international visitors to Edinburgh are given a warm welcome, which is backed up with useful visitor information."

The students have all developed important customer service and communication skills that equip them with desirable skills for the tourism, events and other relevant industries. The introduction of a student coordinator's role has provided outstanding leadership skills, with students who have held this position gaining graduate jobs in related sectors. Having worked as STARS Coordinator, Rebecca Neish went on to work for Disney World in Florida, later returning to Scotland to secure a graduate level position with the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce.

The STARS team was excited about the project expansion with students working in a variety of different roles with The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Adrian Crighton, a PR, Marketing and Events student, is currently working as STARS Coordinator. He said: "I am gaining essential practical management skills over and above the academic knowledge I'm learning on my degree. It's improving my confidence and developing my problem solving and leadership skills. It was a great opportunity for some of our STARS students to gain experience of working at this world famous event – seeing the growth in confidence in every STAR student was very inspiring. The skills that they have learned, such as problem solving and managing visitor numbers, will no doubt help them in their future careers."

Professor Goldblatt confirmed: "The model not only creates paid work and outstanding skills development for our students, it offers business solutions for our partners and could be easily transferable to other locations and universities." □

QMU invests in new senior academic appointments

A NUMBER OF NEW senior academic management appointments were made at QMU in time for the start of the 2017/18 academic year.

The move is part of QMU's continued investment in leadership and development, and is strengthening the institution's vision to become recognised internationally as a university of ideas and influence.

The new appointments will help us continue to grow in our flagship areas of expertise in sustainable business, creativity and culture, and health and rehabilitation.



Professor Brigid Daniel
Dean of School of Arts, Social Sciences and Management

Professor Daniel completed her PhD in psychology at the University of Edinburgh, and subsequently worked at the Universities of Dundee and Stirling. A professor since 2004, she was previously Deputy Head of School of Applied Social Science at the University of Stirling, and Director of the Centre for Child Wellbeing and Protection, a research centre that she established. She is a member of the board for the charity Children in Scotland. Her research focused on child neglect and on children's well-being and resilience in the face of adversity.



Professor Monika Foster
Head of Division of Business, Enterprise and Management

Professor Foster has worked in higher education in the UK and overseas for over 25 years, including 15 years as Associate Professor and Director of Learning and Teaching at Edinburgh Napier Business School. Her external profile includes the award of Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, a member of Chartered ABS Learning and Teaching Committee and a Visiting Professor at Shandong University of Finance, PRC. Prior to working at Edinburgh Napier University, Monika had industry experience of working in an international shipping company, VShips. She led setting up the business and management of international training centres across the world, including centres in Burma, Thailand, Brazil, Croatia and Poland.



Professor Philip Drake
Director of the Centre for Communication, Cultural and Media Studies

Professor Drake was previously Head of the Department of Media and Professor at Edge Hill University. He has also held a number of senior roles including Middlesex University, the University of Stirling and the University of Glasgow. His research focuses on media and creative industries, and he has collaborated internationally on a range of funded research projects, including recently on digital distribution and video-on-demand (VOD). He serves as an expert member on the Social Sciences and Humanities Panel of the Irish Research Council and his background also includes knowledge exchange activities with Channel 4, Film London, Scottish Enterprise, Creative Scotland, the British Film Institute, FACT and Creative England.

Professor Brigid Daniel has been appointed as Dean of School of Arts, Social Sciences and Management; Professor Philip Drake as Director of the Centre for Communication, Cultural and Media Studies (CCCMS); Professor Monika Foster as Head of Division of Business, Enterprise and Management; and Dr Oliva Sagan as Head of Division of Psychology and Sociology. These four join Dr David Stevenson, who was promoted to Head of Division for Media, Communications and Performing Arts earlier this year.



Dr Oliva Sagan
Head of Division of Psychology and Sociology

Dr Sagan is a chartered psychologist and former psychodynamic counsellor with 20 years' experience of working with adults with long term mental health difficulties. She has extensive experience working with trauma and distress within specific populations, including refugees, the homeless, women experiencing chronic depression, individuals with eating disorders and people with combined physical and mental illnesses. She is regularly involved in overseas humanitarian work. Olivia's phenomenological, user-led research explores the strategies that people develop over time through which they make meaning of their mental health difficulties and life experiences. Her projects to date have included longitudinal studies of the ways in which adults with severe mental illness and limited verbal ability have employed autobiographic writing and visual art making outside of the clinical domain.

Celebrating ten years at the Musselburgh campus

10 YEARS on campus

In October 2017, the University celebrated the 10th anniversary of its move to its purpose-built campus.

TEN YEARS AGO, QMU welcomed its first cohort of new students to its newly built campus, situated by the east of Edinburgh, in Musselburgh.

Over the last decade, QMU has responded to our fast changing world with agility, positivity and a practical approach.

Since relocating, the University has seen its student numbers grow, and has moved up the rankings in terms of research output. Currently, QMU is ranked top in Scotland and third in the UK for employment of our undergraduate leavers.

QMU's vision is to be 'a university of ideas and influence', and over the last ten years its reach has extended with graduates using the skills and knowledge they have acquired at QMU to make a positive influence on the lives of individuals and communities in Scotland, the UK and internationally. In addition, the University has seen increasing numbers of students study for its degrees through partner institutions abroad, including Nepal, India, Singapore and Greece.

At its new campus, and through partnership with East Lothian Council, the University became the first Scottish university to host a Business Gateway. This development is part of a much wider programme of work to foster entrepreneurship and support the Scottish economy.

Alongside this, the University has also implemented ground-breaking initiatives to demystify higher education and to encourage widening participation, including the Children's University and the South East Scotland Academies Project.

The attractive landscape around the campus buildings has matured. The grounds have become a haven for wildlife, and students and staff enjoy sharing the gardens with the local community.

To mark the 10th anniversary, the University ran an exhibition on campus celebrating the stories of some of its current students and graduates who have experienced studying at the new campus. These stories were shared via QMU's social media and you can also see some of them highlighted in the 'Where are you now?' section on pages 26 - 29 of this magazine.

Discussing this anniversary, Dr Richard Butt, Deputy Principal of QMU, said: "The 10th anniversary has offered us the opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved in the last 10 years, both at home as well as globally, and to reconnect with our alumni and share their success. The anniversary also presents us with the chance to express our gratitude to our new community which has embraced and supported QMU, helping us put down strong roots in East Lothian. By building strong partnerships locally, we are all more than a sum of our parts.

"Our move to our new campus and our QMU150 strategic plan have helped us develop a new found confidence, allowing us to become more ambitious in our outlook and helping realise our vision of being known as a university of ideas and influence."

Dr Butt concluded: "Whether you are a QMU alumni, current student, friend of QMU or are new to the University, please do connect with us on social media and learn more about the QMU story. Our Alumni Relations team is also keen to hear about the success of our graduates, so do share your news and achievements with us by emailing

E: alumni@qmu.ac.uk □

Professor Petra Wend, QMU Principal, said: "All five individuals are highly experienced experts in their field and bring impressive leadership skills to the University. Their contribution will ensure that we enhance our existing academic offering whilst being ever more dynamic and ambitious in our future activities. In short, they will help us develop our sphere of influence both within the UK and internationally, strengthening our reputation as a university of ideas and influence." □



In conversation with Prue Leith

Q MU'S HALLE LECTURE Theatre was at capacity in November for a special event with TV personality Prue Leith.

The star of 'The Great British Bake Off' was interviewed in front of an audience of alumni, staff, students, press representatives and members of the local community.

Prue, who was officially installed as Chancellor of QMU in July 2017, discussed her fascinating career as a TV personality, novelist, cookery expert and entrepreneur. She also spoke in depth about her interest in food and diet, education and the arts, and the rights of people who are near end of life.

'In Conversation with Prue Leith' was part of the University's programme of public engagement work and staff were delighted to see how popular the event was with the wider community. Stan Blackley, Programme Leader and Lecturer on QMU's MSc in Gastronomy, had the pleasure of interviewing the Chancellor.

Prue Leith CBE has become a household name in recent years due to her regular appearances on TV. Up until 2016, she spent 11 years as a judge on BBC 2's cooking contest programme 'Great British Menu'. She recently starred on prime time TV alongside Paul Hollywood, as the new judge on the popular amateur cooking show 'The Great British Bake Off'.

The TV personality has an impressive track record as an entrepreneur, having successfully built a catering business from scratch in the 1960s which grew to become Leith's Good Food, the party and event caterer. In 1969, she opened Leith's, her famous Michelin starred restaurant, and, in 1975, founded Leith's School of Food and Wine which trains professional chefs and amateur cooks. Today, Leith's has catering contracts at the most prestigious venues, including one with the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC).

In more recent years, Prue has mainly worked as a novelist and journalist. She has just finished her eighth novel and an updated edition of her autobiography 'Relish: My Life on a Plate' has recently been published. She contributes regularly to national newspapers and magazines, such as the Spectator, writing on various topics.

Go to the QMU website to read more about Prue Leith, and how her passions for business, the culinary arts and healthcare align with QMU's flagships.

www.qmu.ac.uk □

Prue is a big hit with the Children's University

NOVEMBER'S QUEEN MARGARET Children's University (QMCU) graduation ceremony was extra special, as the University's new Chancellor, Prue Leith, officiated.

QMU is proud to be the first higher education institution in the east of Scotland to host the Children's University, which aims to promote exciting and innovative learning activities outside normal school hours to children aged 5 to 14. Importantly, it encourages children to become successful and confident learners and contributors.

In a relatively short space of time, the project has grown significantly: over 3000 pupils in East Lothian and Midlothian have participated in QMCU activities.

Prue was a big hit with the young people and their families, many of whom knew her from her recent appearance in 'The Great British Bake-off', and she clearly enjoyed officiating at the graduation ceremony, which involved 42 pupils from 16 East and Midlothian schools.

Find out more about Queen Margaret Children's University at www.qmu.ac.uk □





Too much TV can affect children's language skills

NEW UNIVERSITY RESEARCH has shown that more than three hours of TV viewing a day can have a negative effect on the language skills of 11 year olds. The study specifically found that watching more than three hours of TV each day has a greater negative effect on children who were already classed as poor performers.

A research team from QMU and Newcastle University used data from thousands of children in the UK's Millenium Cohort Study. It found that, whilst less is generally better than more when it comes to TV viewing, TV has a different effect depending on the children's language skills at 11 years. In particular, whilst it appears to make little difference to children with better language scores, the negative impact of too much TV viewing when younger is strongly associated with the performance of those who have poorer language skills when they reach the age of 11 years old.

The researchers looked at the impact of parental involvement with children when they were aged three and five-years-old, and then examined how well they were able to communicate their ideas at 11.

They asked parents how often they:

- read to their children;
- told stories;
- visited the library;
- took them to the park and
- watched television – for three hours a day or less.

Reading to young children was, on average, associated with better performance, but again, it had much less of an effect for children with the best language scores at 11 years and correspondingly much more of an effect for those who were doing less well.

The study also found that poverty, and the more siblings a child had, were both negatively associated with language development at age 11.

Robert Rush, from QMU, explained: "The analysis was a novel approach to investigating the effect of various early factors on later child language performance. The findings of this study confirm that too much TV can have a negative impact on the language development of children. Importantly, this new information about language skills can be used to help parents and agencies modify TV viewing to improve the language performance of those who need it the most."

Lead researcher James Law, Professor of Speech and Language Sciences at Newcastle University's School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences, said: "As researchers, we're really interested in looking at the things which parents can do which can make a positive impact on helping their child develop good language skills.

"The television effect was a very interesting finding and we saw it had a bigger impact for the children with lower language skills, but made little difference to those who had higher levels of language.

"It suggests that the Government and local authorities might want to consider how they get messages about setting limits on television and reading to children across to families who may need support in issues such as delayed language development.

"Television isn't the enemy. My personal view is that it's how you watch it that's important. If you're actively watching a programme with your child and you're talking about what's happening, you're asking and answering questions, then I think that's fine and will be a positive experience for both of you. It's when children are sat in front of it for hours with no input – in effect an electronic babysitter - that I think it becomes problematic."

The study was conducted using a different way of analysing data which could lead to more targeted approaches in helping children with delayed language development. The researchers found that this method could help target areas which needed particular attention - something which would have been impossible from traditional models that only use average findings for the whole population.

Robert Rush confirmed: "Essentially, this research helps to identify important factors that could be used to improve the performance of children who need the most help, rather than a blanket approach for all children."

The research was carried out using the Millennium Cohort Study, a cohort of children born in the UK between September 2000 and January 2002. The research looked at the language development of 5,682 children, measuring their language abilities using the British Ability Scales assessment.

The paper, 'Early home activities and oral language skills in middle childhood: A quantile analysis' is published in *Child Development*, the foremost international academic journal in the field. □

Global health experts awarded £3.5m to promote health services in fragile settings

A SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH GRANT of £3.5 million has been awarded to global health experts at QMU to strengthen mental health care and treatment of diabetes and heart disease in countries with weak health systems.

The grant, awarded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), will help researchers in QMU's Institute for Global Health and Development work with colleagues in Lebanon and Sierra Leone where the ravages of war, civil unrest and the impact of the refugee crisis present huge challenges to the delivery of these vital services. This is one of only 13 NIHR Global Health Research Units that was granted funding (in this round of grant distribution) across the UK, with four grants being awarded to Scottish institutions.

The research team will look at ways of strengthening the resilience of health workers and clinics, and the work of local community groups, to develop new ways of providing vital services in even the most fragile of circumstances. According to the World Health Organization, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart attacks, strokes, cancers and diabetes kill 38 million people a year with almost three quarters of these deaths occurring in low and middle-income countries. Mental health issues create a huge burden of suffering in countries troubled by instability.

Professor Alastair Ager, Director of QMU's Institute for Global Health and Development, explained: "Promoting good health and delivering effective health services in countries affected by years of unrest or adversity is a challenging task. By building on the relationships we have developed with researchers and health leaders in Lebanon and Sierra Leone we have an opportunity to develop innovative approaches to address these challenges. If we find ways of delivering these services in these countries, we could learn lessons to share in other fragile situations."



Professor Alastair Ager

Tackling the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis

UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS ARE taking an innovative approach to tackling the transmission of drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) within health facilities in South Africa. The Institute for Global Health & Development is a leading partner on a major new £1.7 million grant awarded under the Cross Research Council Tackling AMR initiative.

South Africa has one of the highest burdens of drug-resistant tuberculosis in the world, with more than 20,000 people diagnosed with DR-TB in 2015.

IGHD at QMU is recognised as a world leader in two major areas of research – health systems and mental health provision. This research grant will bring together these two major strands. The £3.5m grant will allow QMU to collaborate with the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS) at the University of Sierra Leone, and the Global Health Initiative at the American University of Beirut.

Professor Ager concluded: "This important research builds on ideas developed as part of our ReBUILD consortium, which focused on the study of post conflict health systems recovery in Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Cambodia; and in an ongoing project funded by the Wellcome Trust and UK Aid looking at the resilience of the health care system after the influx of refugees from Syria to neighbouring countries. We are delighted to continue to work in partnership with colleagues in Beirut and Sierra Leone, who will be key to making this research have real influence on the lives of people in these countries facing the growing challenges of mental ill-health and non-communicable disease."

Professor Fiona Coutts, QMU's Dean of Health Sciences, said: "This is a significant grant which will help to impact the lives of people who have been affected by traumatic situations in fragile countries. Importantly, this work also has the potential to improve health outcomes for communities across many different countries. It confirms QMU's excellent reputation in global health and development, and strengthens our ambition of being a university of ideas and influence." □

QMU's Dr Karina Kielmann will work with partners at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) to develop data that will inform the design of a health systems intervention package to reduce the transmission of DR-TB within health care clinics in South Africa.

Find out more at the News section of QMU's website www.qmu.ac.uk □

Global Health graduate appointed as Director of Nursing in USA



A GRADUATE FROM QMU's Institute for Global Health & Development (IGHD) has been appointed Director of Nursing at Guilford County Jails in North Carolina, USA.

Sheila Burns, who is originally from Linlithgow, graduated with an MSc Global Health Systems from QMU in 2016. She was able to study part-time at QMU over three and a half years, whilst bringing up a young family and balancing the demands of her full-time job.

Sheila achieved a Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of Glasgow in 1993 and had over five years' experience working in nursing for the prison system in Scotland before starting her postgraduate studies at QMU.

Sheila's significant professional experience, as well as the knowledge acquired studying global health at QMU, has equipped her with the skills and confidence to help vulnerable prisoners across three different locations in North Carolina. She

is now putting her dissertation topic 'health systems and prisons' into practice by helping over 1,350 inmates, including those in a juvenile detention centre.

Commenting on her experience of studying global health at QMU, Sheila said: "I really wish I'd taken the plunge 10 years ago and signed up to study global health at QMU. My dream of living and working in the USA and improving my employability in the prisoner health sector has finally become a reality.

"By choosing to study at QMU, I really wanted to expand my knowledge of health economics and systems, as well as sociological influences. Whilst researching different courses available, I found that QMU had the exact mix of subjects that interested me. The course also offered a great selection of modules that I hoped would open doors to a different type of career.

"There was so much support offered at QMU, which made the course so much more manageable. The other students also offered an invaluable supportive network, which was positively encouraged by the staff.

"Being surrounded by students from all over the world made a massive impact on how I viewed what I was doing with my life. Studying global health at QMU has equipped me in many ways I didn't realise were possible. My knowledge level and appreciation of global health issues have expanded beyond anything I could have imagined beforehand."

In the future, Sheila wants to continue advocating for best practice in care for prisoners in the USA. She has also started to make connections with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Wake Forest University to encourage further prisoner health research. □



Institute for Global Health & Development (IGHD)

Visit www.qmu.ac.uk for more information about postgraduate study in global health at QMU. View the new Institute for Global Health and Development film on QMU's You Tube channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/QMUniversity>

Credit: Jamilia Davis Norwood Photography



Family business expert reveals economic impact of Scotland's 'Top 100'

“Research into the family business sector in Scotland is fundamental to improving the understanding of the sector and the contribution these businesses make”

AN EXPERT IN family business has revealed the economic impact of Scotland's 'Top 100' to mark Scottish Family Business Week, 2-6 October 2017.

Professor Claire Seaman, Chair in family business at the University, has been working with Family Business United Scotland, Carbon Financial and a range of industry partners over a six month period to reveal 'The Scottish Family Business Top 100' and the significant contribution the sector makes to the country's economy.

A first for Scotland, this report has shown that the country's 100 most profitable family-owned companies generate a combined £1 billion of pre-tax profits and have a collective annual turnover of £16.6 billion. The study has also shown that the sector employs over 100,000 staff and contributes 11 per cent to Scotland's onshore gross domestic product (GDP).

In Scotland, SMEs account for 99.3% of all private sector enterprises and 63% of these are family businesses.

Professor Seaman helped compile the report along with Family Business United Scotland and Craig Corporate. As part of her role as Chair of Family Business at QMU, Professor Seaman undertakes impactful research in enterprise and family business and works with businesses across Scotland.

Commenting on The Scottish Family Business Top 100 report, Professor Seaman said: "Family firms are the backbone of the Scottish economy and this latest research proves that the sector is a significant employer, revenue generator and contributor.

"Research into the family business sector in Scotland is fundamental to improving the understanding of the sector and the contribution these businesses make; and more importantly, to demonstrate to key

decision makers and influencers that these businesses are important to Scotland, and therefore need to be given support and recognition to continue to flourish.

"All our research and work with businesses emphasise the importance of family owned and managed businesses. That's why we're tailoring some of our educational provision around family business at QMU."

Family Business United Scotland founder, Paul Andrews, added: "Family Business United Scotland champions family businesses whatever their size, sector or age. Our research dispels many myths about family businesses being small or lacking in ambition. The top 100 have demonstrated impressive abilities to respond to market forces and to innovate and evolve in order to remain current, relevant and profitable."

QMU offers two postgraduate study programmes in family business, which were developed following five years of industry consultation with organisations such as Scottish Family Business Association, Family Business United Scotland and a range of family-run Scottish businesses.

MSc International Management & Leadership with Family & Smaller Enterprises and MBA Family & Smaller Enterprises offer experienced business professionals, as well as recent business graduates and those who are returning to the family business after studying for an unrelated degree, greater insight into the value, practice and function of family businesses. Topics covered in the courses include family business succession, governance, behavioural finance and risk.

For more information on the family business programmes at QMU, visit www.qmu.ac.uk or contact Professor Claire Seaman at QMU, E: cseaman@qmu.ac.uk □

Research helps ensure better consumer representation in payments sector

A NEW REPORT examining the best approaches to ensure effective consumer representation in the governance of financial services was released in the autumn. Work on the report was led by consumer specialist Carol Brennan, Director of the Consumer Dispute Resolution Centre at QMU.

The research, commissioned by Bacs Payment Schemes Limited (Bacs) – the organisation behind Direct Debit, Bacs Direct Credit and the Current Account Switch Service - identifies ways in which consumer representation can be improved across the financial industry. The aim is to ensure that the needs of end-users are put at the centre of discussions on how to develop, deliver and monitor the effectiveness of new products and services.

The publication also highlights that principles in relation to culture, people and processes underpin effective consumer representation, whilst it is suggested that a mix of both representatives on boards, and a collective forum, can provide an influential and effective voice for consumers.

The findings conclude that strong consumer representation should be viewed as integral to an organisation's strategy and that when consumers are put at the heart of corporate decision making, better outcomes are achieved.

Anne Pieckielon, Bacs' Director of Product and Strategy, said: "At Bacs we are big believers that only by putting the needs of consumers front and centre, when it comes to decision making, can the best outcomes be achieved for all.

"By commissioning this research we hope that our work can help inform governance decisions across the industry, spark further discussion about what best practice looks like and help set a benchmark for true consumer engagement at the highest levels within organisations."

Carol Brennan concluded: "The financial services market is complex, and power is traditionally weighted in favour of providers. This asymmetry of power compromises the effectiveness of competition and can lead to consumer detriment. Effective consumer representation can help rebalance the asymmetry of power in the market, bring clarity about the issues faced by consumers and help prioritise strategies to address problems and forward plan effectively.

"Our research confirms that consumers should be put at the heart of all decision making and that consumer representation should be viewed as part of a company's broader consumer engagement, communication and advocacy strategy. Customer values should be at the very core of service providers' culture and strategy to ensure future sustainability. □

CONSUMER DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTRE

QMU'S CONSUMER DISPUTE Resolution Centre (CDRC) is a centre of excellence in consumer dispute resolution and consumer policy. The Centre provides continuing professional development (CPD), research, and consultancy services to business, government, and third sector organisations in the UK and across the world.

The Centre's particular expertise concerns dispute resolution between individuals and large organisations, for example, between consumers and businesses and between citizens and the government. Its focus is on understanding consumer perspectives on dispute resolution and developing the idea that users should be at the heart of dispute resolution systems and processes.

The Centre also has broader interests in relation to consumer policy, and issues such as regulation, representation, consumer advice, and enforcement.

If you would like to discuss your organisation's research or continuing professional development needs contact Carol Brennan on E: cbrennan@qmu.ac.uk

Loneliness – Britain’s ‘last taboo’

A RECENT REPORT into the cost of loneliness estimated that 1.2 million people in the UK experience chronic loneliness. The ‘Campaign To End Loneliness’ is calling for the condition to be seen as a public health problem, like obesity and smoking. But, there is a reluctance to talk openly about the devastating impact of loneliness – and it means that this ‘last taboo’ remains both a serious and largely unshared complex problem for many.

Firstly, we must understand that there is a difference between experiencing loneliness and feeling lonesome. Loneliness is a complex and usually unpleasant emotional response to perceived isolation. People who experience it are often anxious about their lack of connection and communication with others and can be fearful about how loneliness affects their current and future situation.

The condition is often associated with our older population. Indeed, in 2016, the World Health Organization identified older people as being vulnerable to multiple social, psychological, and biological factors that can result in loneliness. However, in our fast-paced digital world, there is a growing awareness that the ‘loneliness epidemic’ is having a devastating impact on people’s health and wellbeing regardless of age or social class.

Within the constraints of reduced resources and squeezed government budgets - where we are seeing an erosion of community spaces and services where there would normally be interpersonal exchange - how can we address this isolating human experience and prevent it from digging deeper into pockets of society? To address the list of health,

social and economic issues linked with loneliness, we must better understand the condition, its impact on individuals and on key population groups.

Dr Olivia Sagan is Head of Division, Psychology & Sociology at QMU. Having researched mental illness throughout her career, she noticed that loneliness was a reoccurring theme in her work with mentally ill adults from all walks of life. She explained: “In one recent participatory research project I asked a group of mental health service users what they thought should be looked at in more detail. I was not surprised to hear them say: “what it is really like to be lonely”.

“On researching the experience of loneliness I found it to be a complicated, deeply human experience, one not necessarily helped by having more friends or a busy life, and one certainly not ‘solved’ by having a million Facebook ‘friends’ or using Skype and Facetime. In fact, it often seemed worsened by these substitutes for human connectedness. In bringing together a range of people from the arts, health, therapy, psychology, conservation and education, I explored the experience of loneliness in the 21st century. This work, brought together in a book of multidisciplinary research and recently published by Routledge, confirms that to understand and address loneliness in the 21st century we need to harness the talents not only of a broad spectrum of health and social professionals, but of architects, artists, educationalists, conservationists, engineers and philosophers.”

Recently regarded as an unspoken threat to the nation’s wellbeing, 2016 saw loneliness move out of the shadows and into the spotlight. The Scottish Government set up a £300,000 fund to tackle social

isolation and loneliness, with an extra £248k for well-established projects aimed at curbing isolation. Dr Sagan believes the money is long overdue, but is pleased to see the funding directed towards vulnerable people. She confirmed: “This signifies recognition of the harm that loneliness and isolation cause, not only to individuals but society more broadly.”

Evidence from psychology research demonstrates a correlation between loneliness and a range of health issues both mental and physical, with one recent study finding that loneliness triggers biological changes that can cause illness and early death.

Dr Sagan concluded: “Worryingly, my research shows that the most vulnerable amongst us are seeing real cuts to their benefits, a scaling back of their health and social care and a withdrawal of vital community projects that offer a simple lifeline to so many. While loneliness does not differentiate between socio-economic backgrounds, there is no doubt its effects are felt more acutely by those who have the least means of combatting it.”

Dr Sagan’s most recent research, generated by concerns amongst groups of adults sharing their lived experience, looks more closely at people living with the contested diagnosis of Personality Disorder – claimed by many to be the loneliest of experiences and diagnoses.

Find out more about Dr Sagan’s recent research on loneliness and her co-edited books by viewing her staff profile on the QMU website: www.qmu.ac.uk

How eye witness research could strengthen Scotland’s justice system

Scotland is well placed to become a world leader in conducting eyewitness identifications



PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN Scotland’s justice system is essential for its efficiency and protecting people from crime is an ever-present concern for society. Yet, when mistakes occur, public confidence is eroded and the guilty can be free to commit further crimes.

Dr Jamal Mansour, Senior Lecturer in Psychology at QMU, studies eyewitness memory. She said: “Eyewitnesses are extremely compelling to judges and jurors, regardless of their accuracy, and so it is critical that eyewitness evidence is obtained with the most reliable methods possible.”

Since its inception in 1992, the Innocence Project, a US organisation that advocates on behalf of people who claim to be wrongfully convicted, has been instrumental in 349 exonerations based on DNA evidence. Over 70% of these wrongful convictions involved inaccurate eyewitness identification. Whilst some of those errors were deliberate, the National Exoneration Registry found that eyewitnesses mistakenly believed they had identified the criminal in 43% of 873 cases later resulting in exonerations in the US from 1989 to 2012.

There are high profile examples closer to home too. Take William Mills from Glasgow who was arrested for stealing £8,216 from a Royal Bank of Scotland branch after four eyewitnesses identified him as the thief. The Police took him from his home at gunpoint as his children looked on. After six months in prison he was convicted and sentenced

to nine years in jail. Luckily, DNA at the crime scene linked someone else to the crime and Mr Mills was eventually released.

Dr Mansour believes that Scotland is well placed to become a world leader in conducting eyewitness identifications. She explained: “Partnerships between academics and the police are common and encouraged in Scotland, thanks to the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR), a consortium of Scottish universities with the Police Service of Scotland, of which QMU is a member. Furthermore, following the recommendation in Lord Bonomy’s post-corroboration safeguards review, a national code of practice for identification is imminent. A national code, based on reliable scientific evidence, will promote the collection of reliable identification evidence. Also, having a national police force means consistent practice is achievable - compared to the US where identification policies and practices vary by city and state.

Already recognised for high quality research on face recognition, Scotland’s academics have a key role to play. Jamal is the only psychologist in Scotland whose focus is specifically on face recognition in the context of lineups.

Funded by a grant from the American Psychology-Law Society, Jamal and her QMU team examine how people make decisions about lineups. She explained: “Specifically, we are measuring the extent to which an eyewitness’ decision making

process varies depending on the quality of their memory for the crime, and the way in which lineup members are presented.”

She concluded: “Our work will provide unique insights into how identification procedures can be refined and could lead to further fine-tuning of the policies and practices for eyewitness identification in Scotland. Ultimately, this would result in fewer mistakes and greater public confidence in our criminal justice system.”

Dr Olivia Sagan, Head of Psychology and Sociology at QMU, said: “Jamal’s work is an excellent example of the relevance of QMU’s research and how it can be applied to real life situations to improve processes and outcomes for organisations and individuals.” □



Dr Jamal Mansour

£10,000

postgraduate loans scheme is a game changer



Debbie Ryan

'Step Ahead with QMU' – moving from undergraduate to postgraduate

Darren Jordan studied for a BA Business Management at QMU and moved on to the University's MSc International Management and Leadership

He said: "When I found out that it was possible to skip my fourth year and move straight onto an MSc, I decided to do this. I thought that the master's degree would make me stand out more when I was looking for a job.

I like the postgraduate style of learning and teaching. Class sizes are much smaller and lectures and seminars are combined into one three hour class which allows for greater class discussion and better understanding of the content. Lecturers are also available to go over course work and assessments and are happy to provide 1-2-1 sessions.

The course offers a project instead of a dissertation, where we approach a 'company' of our choice and write a consultancy report for them. I've chosen my organisation and I am already seeing the benefits – I have a job offer, to begin after I graduate, and possibly two internships for global companies TESLA and McLaren.

IN AUTUMN 2017, the Scottish Government introduced new funding opportunities that are making it possible for more people to study postgraduate degrees.

For many, the financial commitment associated with postgraduate study - including the cost of course fees and general living expenses - can be a barrier that prevents people pursuing their educational and career ambitions.

When the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) announced its plans to offer a new package of financial support for those wishing to pursue postgraduate study, a door opened to many which would have otherwise been closed.

The new (SAAS) Postgraduate Loan scheme means that eligible students can now benefit from a maximum combined tuition fee and living cost support loan of £10,000. This maximum loan is available for Scottish domiciled students who are embarking on their first master's or postgraduate diploma course and who will be studying on a full-time basis. However, eligible students who wish to study part-time can access the tuition fee loan (but not the living cost support).

Bill Stronach, Student Funding Adviser at QMU, said: "This is a great opportunity for people who are currently studying at undergraduate level at QMU who wish to progress to postgraduate study, as well as people who have been out of education for several years and want to use further study to help them change direction or specialise."

He continued: "Giving up a job and a salary to commit to postgraduate study is a significant undertaking. This new loan scheme is a game changer. It provides people with some financial security when changing direction and progressing their areas of interest. Ultimately, it can mean the difference between being stuck at the same level or in the same job and having the chance to use postgraduate study to realise career ambitions."

Debbie Ryan, aged 37, is studying MA Arts Festival & Cultural Management

Programme at QMU, and is one of the first students to benefit from the loans scheme. Having initially completed a fine arts degree, Debbie had several jobs before embarking on the Masters programme, including Artist Educator at the Tate Gallery in Liverpool and helping run an arts shop at Edinburgh Art College. More recently, her main activities are connected to her self employment work as a community arts freelancer and mosaic artist.

Discussing the benefits of the SAAS PG Loan, Debbie explained: "The loan scheme has given me the opportunity to study on a full-time basis rather than part-time. Accessing the living costs loan has allowed me to reduce my hours in work and allocate more time for my studies. I can really focus on university and have more time to consider the course content and undertake research that is relevant to my work as an arts freelancer.

"I'm really enjoying the course. Studying full-time seems to make the course feel less stressful and rushed as I'm not having the challenge of juggling lots of work commitments with study.

"Importantly, the full-time option will allow me to complete the Masters in one year rather than two. This means my freelance work is on hold for a shorter duration."

Discussing life after course completion, Debbie said: "I'm planning to set up my own business which integrates the elements of my arts management studies. The skills and knowledge I've learned on my course will help me make improvements to the way I conduct project evaluation, marketing and project management. The course has helped me question things more, such as considering objectives or assumptions made by myself or others. However, I hope to continue researching and learning as my work progresses."

Debbie concluded: "I feel like my course is just the beginning of a life-long learning curve."

To find out more about the (SAAS) Postgraduate Loan scheme visit the SAAS website at www.saas.gov.uk



Partnership with Theatre Trust aims to enhance Edinburgh's cultural sector

QMU AND A leading Scottish theatre organisation have joined forces to develop new talent and support the wider creative and cultural sector in Edinburgh and Scotland.

The University and the Festival City Theatres Trust have signed an agreement which will lead to a wide variety of artistic and development opportunities for students, staff and the wider community.

The partnership recognises the need to invest in the education and training of the next generation of creative talent. It is predicted that, through the agreement, the theatres managed by the Festival City Theatres Trust, the King's and Festival Theatres and the Studio at Potterrow will accommodate teaching sessions. For example, QMU students could have the chance to do voice work in large theatre spaces, and to engage in community theatre projects.

Students across different specialisms will also have the option to gain invaluable work experience through internships, research projects and community engagement opportunities. End of year

showcase events, such as the Costume Showcase, which promotes the talents of QMU's Costume Design and Construction degree students, could also be staged at Festival City Theatre Trust venues.

Dr Richard Butt, Deputy Principal at QMU, said: "This new collaboration presents outstanding opportunities for our students to enhance their skills and knowledge by learning in a true theatre and arts environment. Beyond our drama, festival and cultural management students, there are also prospects for event management, PR, marketing and healthcare students to develop special projects. We also look forward to welcoming guest speakers from different areas of the Trust, who can share their professional knowledge with our student groups.

"The partnership supports projects that are of mutual benefit and we will explore research initiatives that will help not only the Festival City Theatres Trust and QMU, but the wider community. The Trust is also known for its progressive educational activities and we may also explore the

possibilities of validating some of its educational programmes."

Duncan Hendry, Chief Executive of the Festival City Theatres Trust, said: "This partnership is based on our shared values of equality, diversity and participation,

and the development of sustainable arts and cultural organisations which contribute positively to communities and nurture new talent. This is an exciting development with endless opportunities for collaboration across different specialisms. For example, by contributing to QMU steering groups, Trust staff can help shape course development, ensuring students are equipped with the right skills to go into industry. We also look forward to benefitting from new research which can help enhance our business practice and the quality of the customer experience in our theatres.

"Importantly, we are pleased to be able to contribute positively to undergraduate and postgraduate cultural programmes and to further develop community education for a wide variety of people in Edinburgh and throughout Scotland." □

Acting student sets up theatre company to help other students

YOU ONLY HAVE to meet student Harry Jackson once and you'll never forget him. His striking image is indeed memorable and his energy infectious.

At just 21 years of age, Harry is a force to be reckoned with. He's not reached his graduation date yet, but he's already established his own business, which he's running from QMU's Business Innovation Zone.

Passionate and entrepreneurial, this Acting student from Northumberland secured funding from QMU's Student Development Fund to launch Amplify Time Productions. As Artistic Director, Harry helps to provide talented acting and performance students with opportunities for personal development in different professional settings. Students get the chance to develop their personal skills, gain hands on industry experience and showcase their talents to the market. It builds their CV and helps them develop industry connections for the future. This year, funding from QMU's Student Development Fund helped Harry's company place 30 students in a classic production in a major theatre venue in Edinburgh.

Discussing his choice of course and career, Harry said: "I chose QMU, as both the University and the BA (Hons) Acting for Stage and Screen have a reputation for providing quality, intensive actor training which is realised practically through performances in assessment and end of year shows. The course allows you, as a creative, to develop practical and academic knowledge across the subject. There is also the opportunity to collaborate with a wide variety of students across QMU's creative industries, potentially leading to great opportunities which may help to shape future careers."

Harry continued: "On an academic level, being able to develop many skills and knowledge across the duration of the course has been the most rewarding part of my learning experience. It has given me so much more to play with as a professional actor and director. I really cannot emphasise enough how this course helps improve you as a performer and ensures you are ready for entering professional industry!"

Harry is the first QMU Acting for Stage and Screen student to have created a production company of this type and scale. The benefits go far beyond Harry supporting other students and creating opportunities for them to develop beyond the course curriculum. He believes Amplify can be sustainable and he plans to extend its reach across the different courses and year groups, as well as performing in the Fringe and cities outside Edinburgh.

Securing the Student Development Fund award has helped Harry use the Amplify project to test his ideas and put them into practice both academically and as a director. He said: "I'm delighted that over the last year, we placed 16 QMU actors in our production of 'Doctor Faustus', with three QMU students taking on crew roles. I'm now looking forward to the challenges of growing the business and developing more opportunities for creative students."

Harry concluded: "Investment in new initiatives like this is essential to get a new student company off the ground. I'm grateful to QMU's Student Development Fund for helping me begin to realise my ambitions."

In October, Harry shared his experiences with donors and supporters at QMU's Scholarships and Awards Reception, an annual event held at Edinburgh's Dovecot Studios, which celebrates the achievements of QMU students who have been supported by awards, scholarships, grants and internships. Importantly, the reception allows QMU supporters to meet students face-to-face and gain a better understanding of the impact that these types of opportunities are having on their student experience and career ambitions. It also helps supporters realise the value of their contribution to QMU and assists in developing a culture of giving amongst a wider audience. □

IMAGE CREDIT: Michael Brady

Follow Amplify on Twitter @amplifytheatre

‘Foster experienced’

student’s life is transformed because

“QMU believed in me”

A FINAL YEAR Podiatry student who transformed his life through university education has been presented with an award from the UK’s leading fostering charity, The Fostering Network.

Daniel Pauley, a twenty five year old Podiatry student from the Scottish Borders, was presented with the award of ‘Outstanding Achievement in Education’ at the Fostering Excellence Awards in London.

Daniel, who left school at the tender age of 15 with hardly any qualifications, has used his university education to transform his life and train for a career in healthcare where he could help others. His recent success on BSc (Hons) Podiatry at QMU was recognised by the Fostering Excellence Award. The boy who had been written off in his teenage years had won an award for attaining the highest clinical grade in his year group (Level 3 Clinical Studies prize in 2016-17) at QMU.

At the end of October, Daniel travelled to London to take part in the prestigious ceremony in Westminster where he received his award during an afternoon tea reception. It was the first time that he had visited the capital so he was pleased that his flatmate and fellow final year Podiatry student, Katherine Moffatt, was able to join him as his guest and share the experience.

Now in their fourth year, the Fostering Excellence Awards provide a fantastic opportunity to shine a spotlight on some of the young people, foster carers, social workers and others who make a positive contribution to the fostering community. The Fostering Network’s chief executive, Kevin Williams, was particularly keen to mark the achievements of some of the young people in the UK who have been fostered. He said: “We believe that with the right support, particularly from foster carers, care experienced young people can truly thrive.”

Daniel spent some of his life in foster care. Sadly, only 6% of children in foster care go on to university level education compared to 43% of people who have not been fostered, and so it was indeed a great achievement when Daniel secured his place on the podiatry degree at QMU.

His lecturer, Evelyn Weir, who is also a foster carer herself, nominated Daniel for the award. She was overjoyed to discover that he had actually won.

Evelyn knows only too well what an accomplishment it is for Daniel to have made it onto a degree programme. She said: “We are very proud of QMU’s reputation in widening access and in supporting students from all backgrounds to achieve their full potential. We all need to work together to help transform lives and I am pleased that Daniel is finding QMU to be a good fit. He is clearly enjoying his university journey and thriving within it.

“Daniel left school with very little in the way of qualifications, but through hard work, resilience and determination, he started from scratch by going back to college and is now in his final year of his university studies.”

Daniel explained: “When I was at school there was really no support and it was very disheartening. I’d had a lot of difficulties at home and I didn’t get any encouragement from the teachers, so I had no self-belief. It was no surprise that I didn’t do well academically. But I eventually realised two things – I loved helping people and I enjoyed health and fitness, so I picked myself up, went back to college and got an HND. That helped me get a place at QMU on the BSc (Hons) Podiatry, and I’ve never looked back.

“As a foster child, you can be easily cast off. If no-one believes in you, then you don’t believe in yourself. But my experience at QMU has completely transformed my life. I am shocked at how much help and support is available – from financial support through bursaries, which means I should complete my degree without building up massive debt - to the incredible support of the academics and professional services staff. They are totally invested in helping students be all they can be. At last, I’ve found people who believe in me, so I can start believing in myself.”

Daniel continued: “As a student of QMU, I am no longer overlooked - I am more than just a number. I have people who are 100% behind me and are helping me achieve my goals. This encouragement means I’ve developed a passion for learning and I always keep classes running late because I ask so many questions.

“I am incredibly lucky to be where I am today, and am particularly grateful to my lecturer, Evelyn Weir, who is one of the most vital people I have ever met. Her contribution to the university and her influence on the student experience is immense. Evelyn and QMU make me believe I can do it!

Evelyn said: “Daniel has made a positive contribution to the University and is working hard to achieve his goal of becoming a podiatrist, possibly working within the NHS. He is an absolute inspiration to me, to my foster children and to all of our other students at QMU. We are all delighted that his hard work and positive attitude have been recognised by the Fostering Excellence Awards. I could not be more proud of or pleased for him.”

Daniel really enjoyed meeting people at the awards ceremony and his message to everyone he met at the event was: “Promote education for kids and make sure they have the support they need to take full advantage their learning opportunities.”

Daniel concluded: “If I can do it, they can too.” □

Help us support students like Daniel

QMU is fully committed to widening participation amongst students who have previously been inhibited from entering higher education and we work hard to increase student numbers from under represented groups.

We have a comprehensive support system in place and a number of funding channels available. This includes donor supported scholarships and bursaries as well as discretionary hardship funding.

Our foundations, as the Edinburgh School of Cookery, were built upon social justice and these values are still very much part of our present and future.

If you would like to ensure that more students, like Daniel, can benefit from a QMU education, then please contact our Development & Alumni team on E: development@qmu.ac.uk □

“As a student of QMU, I am no longer overlooked - I am more than just a number. I have people who are 100% behind me and are helping me achieve my goals.”



Support from the hospitality sector equips students for industry

THE VALUE OF the hospitality and tourism industry to the Scottish economy is considerable: recent figures suggest it is worth over than £4.2 billion and employs over 218,000 staff. The targets for the future as set out by the Government are ambitious, and there is a growing demand for highly-qualified professionals, at all levels, to help develop this important industry.

To ensure that students on QMU's hospitality and events related programmes are ready for the workplace, we have partnered with some of Scotland's leading industry specialists.

Ongoing support from Apex Hotels, Dakota Hotels and the Moffat Trust, as well as new donations from the Crerar Hotels Trust, The Lord Forte Foundation, the Scotsman Hotel and the Kitchin Group, are providing students with much needed financial support as well as vital industry experience and connections.

QMU has delivered elements of hospitality and tourism education for 140 years. Building upon more than a century of experience within the University and its predecessor institutions, the current hospitality, events and gastronomy lecturers at QMU consider themselves the custodians of the expertise passed down from the founders of the former Edinburgh School of Cookery. The University's courses today are underpinned by some of the simple philosophies that were at the heart of the institution's teaching over a century ago. □

Apex Hotels

ONGOING SUPPORT FROM Apex Hotels has provided Events Management student Erin Gilroy with funding towards her postgraduate studies.

Erin was a previous recipient of the Apex Hotels Apprentice Award whereby she received funding towards her undergraduate studies alongside paid work experience with the hotel group. She then successfully competed against two other students to win the enhanced Apex Hotels Dr Norman Springford Scholarship, which saw her receive further funding to support her postgraduate studies at QMU.

Erin enthused: "I've been able to put into practice a number of theoretical practices and knowledge I gained at QMU and transfer them in to a real life situation. The Scholarship will also be used to further my events management education."

The funding from Apex aims to create a new generation of hospitality leaders who can transform Scotland's hospitality industry so that it is a key player on the world stage. □

Dakota Hotels

ALBA BRUNO GRADUATED with a BA (Hons) International Hospitality and Tourism Management in July 2017. It was a double celebration for Alba on graduation day, as she also won the annual Dakota Award for Innovation in Hospitality Dissertations for her research. Her dissertation looked at possible factors that impact upon labour turnover within Edinburgh's hospitality business, The Vittoria Group, in order to find a suitable solution to reduce employee turnover.

Commenting on her graduation achievement and Dakota Hotel award, Alba said: "I'm so flattered to have received the Dakota prize and I'd like to thank all lecturers at QMU for their vital support and guidance. I would not have been able to graduate and being awarded with such an honourable prize without them.

"My QMU experience has changed me and the way I look into the future. It gave me the confidence to pursue my career goal of working in human resources. I'm now ready and excited to start a new chapter of my life."

The Dakota Award for Innovation in Hospitality Dissertations is part of wider support package from Dakota Hotels to sponsor talented students studying on QMU's hospitality and tourism degree programme. □

Future Awards

THIS YEAR'S STUDENTS are in an incredibly fortunate position with several new awards on the table. In addition to the ongoing support that exists, there are exciting new packages of support from the Lord Forte Foundation, the Scotsman Hotel and the Kitchin Group.

The partnership with the Kitchin Group will offer QMU's budding restaurateurs and hospitality professionals with financial support, as well as the opportunity to gain valuable work experience and potential employment within the Kitchin Group's portfolio, including The Kitchin (a Michelin starred restaurant), Castle Terrace Restaurant and The Scran & Scallie. Led by the internationally acclaimed Scottish chef, Tom Kitchin, these three businesses are considered as 'Best Practices Businesses' in terms of service, food and drink, both in the city of Edinburgh and the rest of the UK.

The Lord Forte Foundation is the charitable arm of the famous hotel group that boasts Edinburgh's prestigious Balmoral Hotel as part of its portfolio. The Foundation wishes to support final year students on hospitality pathways with funding to help with fees (in the case of international or RUK students), living expenses and other costs, in order that the students can focus on academic excellence as a priority without having to commit disproportionately to part-time employment.

We look forward to bringing you news of the students who will benefit from these new partnerships in upcoming issues of QMYOU.

These partnership developments make an important contribution to QMU's links with industry and help to strengthen the University's already robust employability strategy.

For more information any of the above projects email E: development@qmu.ac.uk □

Crerar Hotels helps secure university opportunity for Lanarkshire student

AHOTEL ORGANISATION has helped reduce the financial pressure associated with going to university by providing a new student from Lanarkshire with a generous grant. The £8,000 award from The Crerar Hotels Trust is helping 18 year old Megan Gillis (Falconer) move a step closer to pursuing the career of her dreams.

Megan is the first person in her family to go to university and she is delighted to have secured a place on the BA (Hons) International Hospitality & Tourism Management (IHTM). The Crerar Hotels Hospitality Bursary will make a significant difference to Megan's university experience, allowing her to concentrate on getting the personal development practical experience and skills needed to help achieve her career aspirations.

Megan did not think she could afford to go to university until she heard about the grant, which is helping fund her university studies at QMU over the next four years. She grew up in a single-parent family with a low household income, and so she has first-hand experience of how restricted finances can be a struggle and limit personal development opportunities.

Despite undergraduate fees for Scottish students being covered by the Scottish Government, coming to university can be expensive, particularly if it involves moving away from home. Even when students have just enough money to live on, a lack of money can prevent them from participating in educational projects or exchanges that will enrich their education and make them more attractive to employers.

Money worries can also force students to focus too much on paid work at the expense of their studies. As well as affecting their grades negatively, this can lead to them dropping out of university altogether, or even prevent them accepting a university place in the first place.

The Crerar Hotels Hospitality Bursary is available for prospective students like Megan, who are accepted onto the IHTM degree at QMU and who have the ability and potential to benefit from higher education, irrespective of their background or economic circumstances.

Uniquely, up to 50% of Crerar Hotels' distributable profits are donated to charities operating within areas where Crerar Hotels are based. The Trust, which is chaired by Paddy Crerar, has awarded £7m of grants to over 400 organisations over the last 16 years. This forms part of a commitment to re-invest in the communities in which the group's hotels and inns are based.

Paddy Crerar, Chairman of The Crerar Hotels Trust and Chief Executive of Crerar Hotels commented: "We're delighted to have made this award to QMU's student, Megan Gillis, and look forward to hearing how this funding helps impact her university studies.

"Crerar Hotels is committed to giving back to the local community to help it grow and thrive, and provide opportunities that may otherwise seem out of reach. For every stay our customers have with us they are supporting others, who really need it. It is great for our folk in the hotels to see their hard work and efforts helping people in their own communities as well as those from throughout the whole of Scotland and Yorkshire."

Megan added: "I'm really grateful to The Crerar Hotels Trust and QMU for their support and for helping me secure my place at university."

"I now feel able to achieve my full academic and career potential without the financial constraints. My hope is that this course will allow me to not only progress towards my career, but also gain valuable insight into how the hospitality industry works." □

Botanical exhibition raises funds for students' big ideas

TWO AWARD WINNING botanical artists turned QMU into an art gallery to mark World Earth Day in April. Friends and graduates were invited to the opening of the exhibition of work by QMU's former Head of Nursing, Dr Kathleen Munro, and Atholl Crescent alumna, Lady Ann Fraser. Together, the artists displayed over 20 pieces of original work with the proceeds going towards the Student Development Fund.

Local resident Ann studied drawing and painting at Edinburgh College of Art and went on to specialise in botanical painting at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. Following retirement from QMU, Kathy also took the opportunity to hone her painting skills at the Botanic. Both artists created several exquisite pieces which transformed QMU's piano bar into a colourful floral spectacle.

Many of the drawings have been inspired by flowers and plants in the artists' own gardens.

Guests at the event were given the opportunity to purchase the original artwork with the 'gallery commission' going directly to the Student Development Fund. The Student Development Fund provides QMU students with the opportunity to get their big ideas off the ground and to develop projects that reflect their enthusiasm, creativity and initiative.

Sir Charles and Lady Fraser also very generously donated one of the framed pieces called 'Flaming Tulips' to the University. This artwork now takes pride of place in the main foyer as a bright, colourful welcome to all visitors to QMU. □



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS ON CAMPUS

In October 2017, QMU celebrated the 10th anniversary of its move to the Musselburgh campus. In the next few pages, we highlight some of the graduates who have studied at the campus in East Lothian and look at what they are doing now.

Sheila Murray

MA Arts, Festival and Cultural Management (graduated 2015)



WHILST STUDYING FOR her master's at QMU, Sheila was appointed to the board of Creative Scotland - the government agency in charge of promoting Scotland's arts, screen and creative industries.

Sheila, who is from Edinburgh, had significant arts management experience both in the UK, and abroad, including board membership of several high profile arts organisations. Her MA at QMU covered the role and purpose of boards, in addition to a wide spectrum of issues affecting Scotland's arts and culture. She was, indeed, a perfect fit for the Creative Scotland board.

Sheila said: "I'm a firm believer in the need for continuous learning. The course deepened my skills through practical application and academic discussion of issues facing cultural leaders today. I underestimated the rigour, but it was an invaluable, highly enjoyable experience".

Since graduating, Sheila continues to make a significant contribution to the Scottish arts through her judging for the Inches Carr Trust, as curator for the Edinburgh Macmillan Cancer Support Art Show and recently, as a mentor to undergraduate art students at Reading University. □

Stuart Duncan

Executive Master's Public Services Management (now Master of Public Administration – MPA) (graduated 2010)



Before enrolling on the Executive Master's in Public Services Management, Stuart from Bo'ness was leading the creation and establishment of one of Scotland's largest public service partnerships.

In 2009, Stuart moved to the Scottish Government to work in the Justice department and led a number of major summary justice reform programmes. In 2014, Stuart was appointed a Programme Director at the Scottish Government and authored the Digital Strategy for Justice in Scotland. He has since been leading an implementation programme to deliver the objectives set out in the strategy; transforming

administrative, civil and criminal justice in Scotland.

In January 2017, Stuart joined the Leading Improvement Team in the Scottish Government to help departments and organisations across the public sector shape their change and improvement work.

He said: "The Executive Master's in Public Services Management helped me better understand the evolution of government in the UK and devolved administration here in Scotland. The knowledge that I acquired certainly made me more inquisitive. Even now, I constantly question policy and look for evidence to verify decisions." □

Michael Grant and Agata Jagodzinska

BA (Hons) Film (2007 - 2011)



MICHAEL GRANT FROM Auchterarder started studying at QMU when it had just opened its new campus in 2007. In 2010, he met Agata Jagodzinska, a Polish student, and the duo went into partnership together in 2012 when they established Raw Film Productions, a video production company.

Michael said: "In the last few years our work has included travel to Canada for the Royal and Ancient Golf Association; and to Malawi to highlight the work of the charity 500 Miles which makes prosthetics and orthotics for people with mobility difficulties, giving them a chance to live independent lives. Through our film contacts we have raised awareness of serious health issues through our involvement with the Mental Welfare Commission, and created a historical

documentary of the ancient two week ceremony 'Musselburgh's Riding of the Marches. Currently we are working on a promotional film for the Lamp of Lothian and documentary about the Fishwives of Musselburgh.

"Our company now specialises in promotional film for third sector organisations and documentary work for charities."

Michael concluded: "Over the years we have also had the opportunity to collaborate with other QMU graduate start ups such as Round Frames, Smart Film Production, and Front Edge Media. We believe this is important because by having a strong network of talented filmmakers to work with, we can take on larger projects together and so develop our businesses further." □

Toyin Ware,

BA (Hons) Film and Media (2007–2010)



TOYIN WARE, ORIGINALLY from Nigeria, started her film and media degree when QMU opened its new campus in 2007.

Ten years on, she works for a fashion retailer and supports its busy global communications function from the company's offices in Edinburgh.

Toyin studied politics and international relations in Oxford before coming to QMU. She said: "In my

previous course, I didn't feel very supported and I wasn't sure who to go to for help with different aspects of learning and student life. However, at QMU, I had absolutely amazing support. From the very first day at Queen Margaret, there was so much emphasis on how to find the right support. I know for certain that I would not have been successful without it." □

Nial Vivian

MSc Dispute Resolution (2015 – 2016)

Nial, 30, was raised in Plymouth but had recently been living and working in the north west. He studied History and Politics at the University of Leicester, and after graduating in 2010, worked in a number of different roles across fundraising and insurance before finding his vocation in dispute resolution.

In 2015, Nial began studying MSc Dispute Resolution at QMU. The postgraduate qualification is aimed at students wishing to become dispute resolution professionals in areas such as conflict management, complaint handling, ombuds work, mediation, and arbitration.

He said: "I had always had an interest in law and justice, especially between big organisations and the government and individuals, where we often hear about problems in the media. I also wanted a varied and challenging job dealing with complex issues, as well as wanting to make a positive difference to people's lives. As a result, I was well-suited to this area, which is rapidly becoming a highly-regarded and professional career pathway.

"The MSc Dispute Resolution provided me with the skills and confidence necessary to really excel at a role investigating complaints at an ombudsman scheme."

Nial concluded: "The results of the MSc Dispute Resolution and my work with an Ombudsman scheme has now led to a move into academia within the field, as a lecturer at Queen Margaret University, which is clearly thanks in large part to my work with the team here on the course." □



Thorben Grosser

BA (Hons) Event Management (2008 – 2012)



ORIGINALLY FROM LUXEMBOURG, Thorben came to QMU due to its international reputation for the study of planned events.

Whilst studying at QMU, he attended the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA), a professional events management conference in the USA. This provided him with outstanding learning opportunities and the chance to network with important industry professionals. Thorben also did an exchange in Canada, benefitting greatly from working in a multinational environment.

During his degree, Thorben took part in an international PCMA event. This led to an outstanding job offer with EventMobi, a revolutionary event management application

technology company, which aims to change the way attendees engage at live events. EventMobi now serves clients in 75 countries. Thorben heads up the company's European office from its base in Berlin.

Thorben said: "I am passionate about helping QMU event management students reap the benefits of attending international conferences. I have been pleased to provide financial support for student networking dinners, which help facilitate important opportunities for students to converse with industry professionals. I stay connected with QMU by taking part in alumni reunions and acting as a facilitator and keynote speaker."

In 2017, Thorben was awarded an Outstanding Alumni Award for his contributions to QMU. □

Samantha Hamilton

BA (Hons) Tourism Management (2007 – 2010)
then MBA Hospitality (2013-2015)



SAMANTHA HAS DEVELOPED her career with Dakota, a unique, award-winning UK boutique hotel brand. Now Group HR Manager, she has spent several years focusing on recruitment and talent development and is helping to identify and nurture future leaders who can advance Scotland's hospitality sector.

Speaking of her MBA, Samantha, who is from Fife, said: "Returning to study my MBA whilst working in industry really heightened all of my theoretical learning. I also benefit greatly from

being given the autonomy to challenge the way we do things and explore ways to improve our operation at Dakota as we continue our expansion throughout the UK."

Samantha has stayed connected with QMU by working with the University's staff to develop internships and scholarships for current students of the BA/BA (Hons) International Hospitality and Tourism programme. In this way, she is supporting QMU and the emerging generation of hospitality leaders. □

Rose and Carol Tibi

MSc Global Health



When Rose Tibi and her daughter, Carol, fled the civil war in Sudan in the 1980s, no one would have guessed that Carol would follow in her mother's footsteps by studying with QMU's Institute for Global Health & Development (IGHD)..

As a former nurse in Sudan, Rose completed two courses with IGHD – enrolling in 1993 in the MSc International Health and later on a health visiting course.

Since graduating, Rose has worked as a health visitor at various locations around Edinburgh, setting up local community groups for new parents. Her studies in global health also influenced her to work with local groups like Shakti Women's Aid, a charity which fights against domestic violence within black ethnic minority groups, and the Minority Ethnic

Health Inclusion Service (MEHIS), part of NHS Lothian.

A current student with QMU, one of Carol's modules is Psychosocial Interventions for Displaced Populations. This module focuses on mental health care support for people who are forced to move due to persecution, conflict and natural or man-made disasters. The module is studied completely online – something that was not available when her mother, Rose, was studying at QMU.

Carol added: "My future aim is to work with refugees and vulnerable people, who are often marginalised in developing and developed countries. I feel, more than ever, there is a need for sustainability and effective resettlement programmes in communities to allow refugees to rebuild their lives." □

Zoe Roxburgh BSc (Hons) Speech & Language Therapy (2007 – 2011)

Zoe, from Burntisland, Fife, was one of the first students to study at QMU's new campus in Musselburgh.

Since graduating she has worked with a pioneering team of speech and language therapists at QMU to investigate the effectiveness of ultrasound technology for people with intractable speech sound disorders.

She said: "I really enjoyed working on QMU research projects which helped children who had long standing speech difficulties. I now work as a community paediatric speech and language therapist for NHS Grampian and am in the final stages of writing up my PhD thesis." □



GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

By Elaine Acaster, Graduates' Association President

The Graduates' Association, which celebrated its centenary year in 2014/15, welcomes new members at any time following graduation, including new members from the colleges which formed QMU as we know it today. Members of staff are also most welcome to join. Life membership of £45 (or £35 in the year of graduation) gives the opportunity to join social networking events and also the opportunity to rent Madras Lodge, the Association's seaside house at Gullane.

The Association thrives on the involvement of its members, so if you have not been able to join us for a while, it is never too late to take the first step to re-engage. We have continued to plan our events in and around Edinburgh due to its good travel connections. If you have ideas for other locations the Committee would like to hear from you.

Autumn events included an interesting visit to the Royal College of Surgeons Museum. Most recently members were enthralled by an expert cake decorating demonstration by our Social Secretary, Cecilia Young. This was followed by supper and presentations to Past President and former Madras Lodge

Chair Pat Denzler, who has given outstanding service and commitment to the Association over many years. Despite having stepped down, we are grateful that Pat has generously continued to support us through advice based on her encyclopaedic knowledge of all things QMUGA and Madras Lodge.

In a break with the tradition from holding the AGM in central Edinburgh, in 2017, it was held at the University's campus. This provided the opportunity for members to view memorabilia, meet staff, see some of the remarkable facilities, hear presentations, take part in tours and walk in the attractive grounds. Following the success of the 2017 event, we plan to hold the 2018 AGM at QMU. (see details below).

Do please keep in touch with the Graduates' Association and I look forward to meeting you at our up-coming events.

Q.M.U.G.A.

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Anne Scagell
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Gullane beach

Madras Lodge is a perfect place for an enjoyable holiday, whether it is a long weekend or a longer break.

Within easy walking distance of the beach, local pubs and restaurants, Madras Lodge is located right in the centre of Gullane. Whether your pastime is birdwatching, world-class golf, wind surfing, or visiting coffee shops, East Lothian has something to offer everyone. Why not book Madras Lodge for your next holiday with the family or a class reunion? In 2018, Gullane will host both the Scottish Ladies Open and Scottish Open Golf Championships. Both properties are still available for four nights from Thursday 26th July for a special rate of £400 for the house and £300 for the loft. If you are a golfer, Gullane is the ideal location.

Madras Lodge, is a relaxing holiday house and flat for use by members of the QMU Graduates' Association. Members can rent accommodation that is split into the House (sleeping 5) or the Loft (sleeping 4). A member can stay there with friends and family for a break, be that a family holiday of one or two weeks or a relaxing weekend. Costs are very reasonable - ranging from £115 for a two night break in the Loft to £410 for a whole week's rent of the House in the height of summer. There are reduced rates and extra nights available for bookings in the low season. Bookings for 2018 are now in full swing. Summer months are quickly booked up, but often there is availability throughout the year outside of the peak summer period.

Check your Graduates' Association status with the Membership Secretary and then contact the Madras Lodge booking secretary to arrange your break. Details are available through the QMUGA website and through the Madras Lodge page on Facebook.

Enjoy Madras Lodge for your next break and share your memories with us on Facebook or Twitter.

Madras Lodge contacts:

Bookings via:

Anne Vokes
T: 07817328035
E: mlbook@qmuga.org.uk

Follow Madras Lodge on:

Facebook: @madraslodge/ Twitter: @madraslodge

Collaboration signals recipe for success for Edinburgh food firm



Lucinda Bruce-Gardyne, Founder of Genius

Genius Foods will also have access to the Centre's fully-equipped sensory suite facility, which allows experts to measure people's perceptions of food and drink products' attributes, including appearance, aroma, texture, flavour and aftertaste.

QMU's team of food innovation experts regularly provide its clients with consumer focus groups, taste panels, nutritional analysis and shelf-life testing.

Dr Julien Lonchamp, from QMU's Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation, said: "We're very pleased to be providing specialist research and development facilities and training for Genius Foods. The specific combination of sensory and analytical facilities that we offer at QMU was previously unavailable elsewhere in Scotland, so research work was often sent to England or Northern Ireland instead.

"Through practical innovation support and creative business solutions, QMU is continuing to help leading food and drink businesses, like Genius Foods, with new and innovative product development."

Lucinda Bruce-Gardyne, Founder of Genius, added: "The partnership with QMU demonstrates our ongoing commitment to producing market-leading gluten free bakery products. Whilst an element of our R&D will remain in-house, we are working in partnership with the Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation, which will enable us to have an even deeper understanding of the behaviour of our core ingredients. We look forward to working with QMU to take our recipes and product range to the next level." □

A WELL ESTABLISHED gluten free food specialist has its sights set on healthy growth after extending its research and development capability via a partnership with QMU's food team.

Edinburgh based Genius Foods has entered into a partnership with QMU's Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation, where its team is now operating from a specialist new food science laboratory.

With a strong research background in supporting the development of Scotland's food and drink businesses, Genius Foods identified QMU as the academic partner with the most suitable facilities for developing its own recipes and product range.

The University's food scientists have provided expert training to the Genius Foods team on ways to measure the texture, colour and flow properties of its products using specialist equipment.

The Scottish Centre for Food Development & Innovation is enhancing Scotland's position as a leader in food and drink innovation in Europe and supporting access to the global market for healthy and functional food. Facilities include a dedicated chemistry laboratory and a technology room for industry to test new technology.

For more information about the Scottish Centre for Food Development & Innovation and how it can benefit your business, contact Miriam Smith, Business Development Manager at QMU on T: 0131 474 0000, E: msmith3@qmu.ac.uk or visit www.qmu.ac.uk

Programme of events: winter 2017 and spring 2018

Please note change to booking and payment arrangements.

All events must be pre-booked and pre-paid by the dates specified.

Bookings and payments are now taken by QMUGA Treasurer, Anne Scagell.

Electronic payments to QMUGA

Sort code: 80-02-77

Account no: 00707066

Reference your family name/event name or pay cheque to QMUGA, via Anne Scagell, 11 Titania, Pavilion Gardens, Alloa, Clacks FK10 2UJ.

E: annescagell49@gmail.com

T: 01259 214668

Activities for 2018 have been arranged, and will be supplemented with other events.

Date: Thursday 1st February at 10.15am

Event: Visit to the Scottish Parliament

Details: This visit includes a tour of the building, entry to the Debating Chamber for First Minister's Questions and a sandwich lunch. Subject to Parliamentary business we hope to be joined at lunch by Colin Beattie MSP for a question and answer session. Due to security arrangements arrive by 10.15am for tour departing at 10.45am. Following lunch there will be the option to view some of the artwork on display.

Cost: £9.

Booking: Book and pay by 18th January.

Date: Friday 2nd March at 5.45pm

Event: Opera Unwrapped, FLIGHT at Edinburgh Festival Theatre

Details: This is a one hour taster session offering highlights from the music and insights into the production.

Cost: £5 (An optional supper will be an additional cost.)

Booking: Book & pay by 16th February.

Date: Friday 8th June 10.45am

Event: Annual General Meeting at QMU.

Details: Coffee on arrival and substantial sit-down buffet lunch in a private room. Following lunch there will be a presentation on an aspect of the University's work, and the opportunity to stroll round the attractive grounds.

Cost: £22 for lunch.

Booking: Book and pay by 25th May.

Help us keep your details up-to-date

Email addresses and other contact details change from time to time. Please email or phone Membership Secretary, Sylvia Northcott (details above) with your up-to-date contact details to ensure you receive electronic communications from the Association.

Benefit from the Alumni Referral Scheme

Are you a current QMU student or graduate?

Did you know that you can get a fee for referring a student who goes on to study certain QMU courses at postgraduate level?

If you know anyone who'd like to study a MBA or MSc International Management and Leadership course, then refer them to study either of these courses at QMU and you could receive £150.

It's a win win situation. You receive a fee and they get to study a great course which should improve their career opportunities.

Conditions apply but find out more by looking at the 'Benefits and Services to Alumni' section on the QMU website www.qmu.ac.uk. □

Taste panelists wanted for food trials

Do you love food?

Do you like to express your opinions about food and drink?

THE SCOTTISH CENTRE for Food Development and Innovation at QMU is looking for enthusiastic foodies to join the Centre's food tasting panel.

Consumer tasting panels, which run every week from the Centre's Sensory Evaluation Suite, offer the chance for panelists to provide feedback on a wide variety of products including bakery, meats, ready meals, snacks and chocolate.

Some panel sessions are quick and simple and are completed in around 30 minutes, others require more detailed tasting of up to around 45 minutes. Each week panellists will receive an email with notification of upcoming sessions to choose from. Most sessions are Monday through Friday and so are ideal for people who are retired and those with a little free time during weekdays.

Panellists will be rewarded at the end of each session with a £10 Amazon or John Lewis voucher.

For more information, or to sign up as a consumer panel taster, email Lucy MacLellan or Phil Cook of the QMU Food & Drink Consumer Tasting Panel on E: consumerpanels@qmu.ac.uk □

Call for classmates

Graduates of HND Institutional Management and Domestic Administration, who started in 1978, are invited to celebrate the group's 40th reunion in October 2018. Anyone interested in taking part in this special event should email E: alumni@qmu.ac.uk □

DATES for your diary

Date: Monday 12th February 2018, 6pm
Event: Edinburgh Alumni Networking Reception hosted by QMU Chancellor, Prue Leith CBE
Venue: to be confirmed

Graduate 10% discount scheme

Are you considering moving on to postgraduate study?

QMU offers a 10% discount in postgraduate tuition fees for alumni who have graduated with an undergraduate degree from the University's Edinburgh campus. This discount is available for students who register for a full or part-time postgraduate degree.

This discount applies to home, EU and overseas students, and applies to the self-funding element of the postgraduate tuition fee only. It does not apply to any part of the tuition fee which is covered by a scholarship, funding body, your employer, a company, or any another source of funding.

To find out more about this discount scheme contact E: Admissions@qmu.ac.uk □



Top student accommodation award

THE UNIVERSITY'S SUSTAINABILITY credentials were recognised recently at the National Student Housing Awards. The University won 'Best Environmental Management' award, which recognised its achievements in environmental sustainability in student accommodation.

In 2007, the University's new campus in Musselburgh was recognised as an exemplar in sustainability across the UK. Building on its sustainability credentials, the University has placed sustainability at the very core of its vision, taking a joined up approach to the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

QMU was up against some of the best providers of student accommodation in the UK as voted for by the students themselves, with finalists drawn from the results of the National Student Housing Survey – the country's largest accommodation survey of students.

Paul Sibanda, Accommodation Manager at QMU, said: "We are particularly pleased to have achieved success in these awards, as the result is based on our students' feedback. It is encouraging to know that students appreciate the campus's environmental features and sustainable facilities, and our efforts to incorporate these into campus life.

"We always strive to provide our student community with outstanding customer service, and were therefore delighted also to be a finalist in the Awards' 'Best Customer Service' category. In addition, the standard of our customer service was confirmed with the achievement of the Quality Mark for International Accommodation. QMU is one of only 11 accommodation providers which achieved over 90% satisfaction from the international student community in halls." □

Date: Monday 19th February 2018, 6.30pm
Event: London Alumni Networking Reception hosted by QMU Chancellor, Prue Leith Prue CBE
Venue: to be confirmed

To register your interest in these events, email E: alumni@qmu.ac.uk