Former fisherman turns to nursing for career on high seas

Prue Leith appointed Chancellor Designate

Improving hearing care in residential homes
OMU continues to focus its research on areas of relevance which will ultimately help to improve people’s lives both in Scotland and internationally. You can read about our audiology project which looks at hearing care for older people in residential homes (pages 12 & 13). Then there are our experts in international health and development who are identifying ways of improving access and care for patients with tuberculosis (TB) in South Africa and Latvia (page 14).

Our Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation ensures that our commercial work in food and drink continues to go from strength to strength. The team of food and drink experts has an excellent track record in supporting the development of SMEs, as well as large-scale organisations. Find out how our experts helped entrepreneurs develop a first-to-UK-market blend of high caffeine black tea. If you would like to be involved in our commercial food testing, you might like to sign up to become a taste panel member by emailing lboyd@qmu.ac.uk.

Please do stay connected with OMU. If you are a graduate, you might consider sharing your career story with our Alumni team or mentoring a student. Other ways for people to engage and support the University are by funding a student scholarship, setting up an internship, donating a tree to be planted in the campus grounds, supporting research or donating to the Student Development Fund. You can remember us in your will or speak to our Development Manager about creating a lasting legacy for a departed loved one.

We look forward to hearing your news, helping you with business solutions, discussing student support ideas, organising a reunion or taking you on a campus tour.
QM University celebrates real Living Wage commitment

QMUniversity has joined a growing roll-call of Scottish Universities making the real Living Wage commitment by becoming an accredited Living Wage employer.

The University welcomed the Scottish Government’s Higher and Further Education Minister, Shirley-Anne Somerville, to celebrate the move on campus during Living Wage Week. The new UK rate of £8.45 was announced in the autumn.

Dee Denton, Head of Human Resources at QMU, said: “We believe that paying at least the real Living Wage to all QMU staff is the right thing to do. Paying each member of our team fairly is at the core of our values, and the Living Wage accreditation offers formal recognition for this.”

Higher and Further Education Minister Shirley-Anne Somerville, said: “I’m delighted that Queen Margaret University is now accredited as a Living Wage Employer, which is a key part of the Scottish Government’s commitment to making our country a fairer place for everyone to live, work and study.”

Recognition for excellence in supporting researcher career development

QMUniversity’s work in supporting the career development of its researchers was acknowledged when it retained the European Commission’s HR Excellence in Research Award.

Kim Gilchrist, QMU’s Head of Research and Knowledge Exchange Development, said: “QM University is now accredited as a Living Wage Employer, which is a key part of the Scottish Government’s commitment to making our country a fairer place for everyone to live, work and study.”

Professor McCormack awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons

Professor Brendan McCormack, Associate Director of the Centre for Person-centred Practice Research at QMU, recently travelled to Dublin to receive a Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons.

The prestigious award was in recognition of Professor McCormack’s global health expertise in person-centredness.

Community Forum helps locals engage with QMU’s activities

People living in the surrounding communities of East Lothian and Edinburgh are able to gain an insight into University’s work by attending QMU’s Community Forum.

The Community Forum brings together university staff, local residents, businesses, organisations, schools and council representatives twice a year to discuss University and local community issues. Local people have the opportunity to ask questions about the University and find out how it works with the community through its students, staff, commercial work and widening participation initiatives.

Professor Petra Wend, QMU Principal, said: “The Community Forum creates a link between local people and the University, and is part of our community engagement strategy. The event attracts interest from local residents, councillors and representatives from community groups and offers an excellent platform for local information exchange. It also provides an insight into how the University’s students and staff contribute to the community, as well as opportunities for local people to engage in our activities such as public events, open days, drama projects and community outreach initiatives.”

For more information and to register for the QMU Community Forum, contact Jane Scott, Director of Marketing & Communications, T: 0131 474 0000, E: jscott@qmu.ac.uk.

‘Step Up’ with QMU

We all know that personal development and work experience opportunities are a great way to kick-start your career, so we recently launched an integrated campaign to engage students and raise awareness of what’s on offer at QMU.

The University commissioned one of its graduate film companies, Raw Film Productions, to produce the ‘Step Up With QMU’ campaign promotional film, which features students discussing their outstanding work placement and internship experiences via QMU programmes and initiatives.

You can hear about our students’ experience of our employee mentoring scheme, STARS scheme (Student Tourism Ambassadors Role Scotland), Apex Scholarships and Santander Internship Programme.

Watch the film to find out how these opportunities, and others, are enticing student learning and improving outcomes for QMU students.

View ‘Step Up with QMU’s You Tube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/user/QMUniversity StepUpwithQMU”.
Prue Leith, writer, restaurateur, cookery expert and judge on the hit TV show ‘Great British Menu’, was appointed as QMU’s new Chancellor Designate in October 2016.

Prue Leith was a judge on the hit TV show ‘The Great British Menu’ and has recently been announced as a new judge on Channel 4’s ‘Great British Bake-off’.

PRUE WAS NOMINATED for the role of Chancellor given the affinity of her interests and experience with the University’s expertise in food and drink, sustainable business, and creativity and culture, and well as one of its key values of social responsibility.

The new Chancellor has an impressive track record as an entrepreneur having successfully built a business from scratch in the 1960s which grew to become Leith’s Good Food, the party and event caterer. In 1989, 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. The group reached a turnover of £15m in 1993, when she sold out all but the restaurant, which she went on to sell in 1995.

For many, Prue Leith is the epitome of classic cookery experts. With her rich culinary background, she was an obvious choice for the role of judge on the BBC’s ‘Great British Menu’. Having been involved with the show from the first screening in 2006, Prue is a regular on our television screens where she is mainly seen putting the country’s top chefs under severe scrutiny in a bid to identify Britain’s finest dishes and its top culinary talent.

Prue has received no less than eleven honorary degrees or fellowships from UK universities, including one from QMU in 1997. In addition, she was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1989 and Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2010 Birthday Honours list. Echoing Queen Margaret University’s focus on making a real practical difference to people’s lives, Prue has a deep-rooted commitment to social responsibility. As Chair of the RSA, she has been instrumental in founding and running many charities including ‘Focus on Food’, which in partnership with the Soil Association, set up the Food for Life initiative which works in schools focussing on cooking and sustainability.

She has held numerous public appointments but the one she has described as the most important of her long career so far has been her role as Chair of the School Food Trust (2006 – 2010), the British Government’s campaign to replace foods high in salt, sugar and fat with freshly cooked healthy food. Her passion in this field shares her well to act as a figurehead for QMU’s work in food and drink, including that of the Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation based at the University.

A champion of education, Prue was a member of the National Task Force setting up National Vocational Qualifications. Some of her other public appointments include Chair of the Restaurants’ Association and member of a Consumer Debt Commission.

Always an optimist, Prue has strived throughout her life to make things better. She has become passionate about the care and rights of people who are dying and is involved with the ‘Dignity in Dying’ campaign, believing that much work needs to be done to improve end of life care. She is therefore very interested in finding out more about QMU’s specialist nursing research in person-centred practice, dementia and the care of older people.

During the week, Prue mainly works as a novelist. She has recently completed her seventh novel, and in 2012, published her memoir ‘Relish: My Life on a Plate’.

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New medical imaging degree provides career boost for diagnostic radiographers

**D**iagnostic radiographers can now help boost their career prospects thanks to a new part-time postgraduate degree offered by QMU.

MSci Medical Imaging is approved by the Society and College of Radiographers, providing continuous professional development (CPD) opportunities for diagnostic radiographers. The Ultrasound programme is also now fully accredited by the Consortium of Sonographic Education (CASE).

**New courses advance opportunities for British Sign Language/English interpreters**

Academics at QMU have launched two new modules in British Sign Language (BSL)/English Interpreting at QMU, which will significantly advance the skills and understanding of experienced interpreters.

These modules are a stepping stone to the development of a fully online Master’s programme in Advanced BSL/English Interpreting, and represent an important advancement in the post-registration provision for BSL/English interpreters in the UK. For the first time, this will allow interpreters to get accreditation for work in specialist fields such as healthcare, education, legal services, and mental health provision.

Students will typically work across a broad range of areas. Projected modules will allow practitioners toчётify existing skills already acquired in crucial areas, such as interpreting in the health service or education, as well as helping interpreters extend their practice into new specialties. This will allow individuals to develop their profiles as specialists in key sectors.

There is high demand for BSL/English interpreters across the UK, but training and development opportunities are not always easily accessible and can be very costly. These modules are unique, as they will be delivered entirely online, ensuring they are equally accessible regardless of geographical location.

**What is online learning?**

Online learning is a form of distance learning which is made available on the internet. Recent advances in technology have revolutionised the student experience and work. For learners who need flexibility to allow them to study, online learning will become increasingly important in the future.

Online learning offers students several benefits. They can study in a flexible way, around their work and family commitments. They can access specialist courses in other cities or countries. They can study at their own pace, at times that suit them. They can meet and engage with fellow students in online seminars. They can easily access, revise, and review up-to-date online materials informing discussions about cutting-edge research and its impact on practice. As more of our students grow up in an online world, these benefits will become increasingly important in the future.

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Recent years have seen an explosion of interest in online learning. Many universities around the world are launching online courses in response to technological changes and demand from students. These courses offer greater flexibility, accessibility, and choice compared with more traditional courses. They allow learners to balance their competing professional and family responsibilities whilst studying.

QMU aims to have 20% of its courses online by 2025. But, if online learning is the future, what does that future look like?

**Creating online communities**

Many of QMU’s rich areas of expertise lend themselves to online learning. Online learning offers students across the world access to our highly specialised knowledge. We call upon a pool of informed, international experts to share the latest developments in their subject area, discussing issues relevant to our learners’ professional lives. The hallmark of our developing approach to online learning involves fostering online communities of learners. Online learning at QMU is not a solitary business. Instead, technology facilitates conversations and a communal approach to learning. Learning is interesting, interactive, supportive and flexible.

**New courses advance opportunities for British Sign Language/English interpreters**

At QMU, online learning is a great solution. As technology continues to transform our learning environment, for learners who need flexibility to allow them to study, online learning will continue to change the way we learn. This presents an opportunity for QMU’s developing range of online courses.

**The future of online learning**

Online learning provides students with access to specialised knowledge in a comfortable, friendly community-based online environment. For learners who need flexibility to allow them to study, online learning is a great solution. As technology continues to transform the way we live, so it will continue to change the way we learn. This presents a huge opportunity for QMU’s developing range of online courses.

**Current online programmes**

• MSc Dispute Resolution
• MSc in Professional and Higher Education
• PgDip (post registration) in Rehabilitative Audiology
• PgCert in Hearing and Communication
• The Diploma of Higher Education in Hearing Aid Audiology
• Pg Cert Collaborative Working: Education and Therapy
• MSc Diabetes
• BSc Conversion Course (Radiography / Occupational Therapy / Podiatry / Physiotherapy)

For more information about our online courses visit: www.qmu.ac.uk
Former fisherman turns to nursing for career on high seas

Norman chose to study at QMU due to its reputation for delivering a high-quality nursing undergraduate course. Moving into Edinburgh from the Highlands of Scotland was also an easy choice - the vibrancy and culture of Edinburgh was a big draw for him.

Discussing his course, Norman said: “I did have a fear that the academic work would be beyond me, but I was committed with a strong work ethic. The academic work became easier and really interesting. I enjoyed every clinical placement as it gave me the opportunity to apply theory to practice.

“With good mentorship on placements and in the University, I feel that I developed a professional approach to nursing.

“After graduating, I gained a lot of clinical experience working in acute medical admissions, rehabilitation and urology at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh.

“I then decided to continue developing my knowledge and I went back to QMU in 2007 to study MSc Nursing over three years. It was hard doing this whilst working, but I felt that my practice matured as I progressed through the course. At this point I was working as a urology nurse specialist at the Western General Hospital and the MSc positively influenced my clinical decision making, critical thinking, case management and professional approach.”

Norman made another career change in 2010, when he went to work in the oil and gas sector as an offshore medic for Centrica in the East Irish Sea. He explained: “It’s an autonomous job where healthcare is delivered in a hostile environment to a population with unique needs. It’s been a fantastic experience for me and I’m fortunate to work for a company which has recognised my academic ambition and has given me the training and development to have a new role as the offshore health, safety and environmental advisor.”

Norman is now undertaking a BSc in Occupational Health at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen which he expects to complete in 2017. He said: “It’s my intention to study another MSc in Safety and Risk Management at Heriot Watt University. I also have a long-term ambition to undertake a PhD, which will examine the relationship between workplace culture and process safety.”

Norman concluded: “QMU has given me a thirst for lifelong learning. I’ve had a wonderful career which wouldn’t have been possible without having a firm academic basis, confidence and ambition that I gained from my undergraduate years.”

AN EX-FISHERMAN IS embarking on an exciting new career on the high seas after studying nursing at QMU. Norman Todd’s fascinating story demonstrates that no matter what your early start in life is, it’s never too late to return to education, change your career direction and fulfill your potential.

Norman, now 44 years old, was brought up in Ullapool and left school at 16 with few qualifications and no academic aspirations. He began his working life as a deep sea fisherman off the north coast of Scotland, but decided to change his career path and move into nursing in 1999. The fishing industry was in decline and it was getting harder to make a decent living. He was spending 10 days at sea and getting only four days at home, which was difficult as a single parent.

When he was 26, Norman signed up to an access to higher education course at Telford College (now Edinburgh College) in Edinburgh. He had decided that an access course was the best option for him as a mature adult learner. Norman felt it was a tough challenge, having been out of academia for a decade, but he really enjoyed studying and developing new life skills, which he still uses to this day. The experience provided him with an excellent grounding to go on to study at university and, as a result, was accepted to study Nursing at QMU.

Norman’s top tips for students

“The best advice I’d give to any students interested in studying nursing at QMU is not to leave assignments late, enjoy the learning and to put good care at the centre of all of the clinical placements.

“If you need help, then ask for it early on and ensure that when your work is done that you enjoy the other social and recreation facilities on offer at QMU and in Edinburgh.”
Improving hearing care for older people in residential care

RESEARCH TEAM AIMS to tackle one of the most significant health issues facing our ageing population – hearing loss. Audiologists from QMU are conducting a Scotland-wide research project which will ultimately improve hearing care for older people in residential homes.

Hearing loss is a significant problem affecting the UK’s increasing ageing population. Surprisingly, it often goes untreated, resulting in millions of people who are suffering unnecessarily.

The Scottish Care Home census 2014 reported that 10% of older people in long term residential care had hearing impairment.

Research suggests that the problem in residential care is actually much greater with well over 70% of people experiencing problems with hearing. It is also known that around 6.7 million people in the UK could benefit from hearing aids. Unidentified and untreated hearing loss in adults is a risk factor for increased distress, depression, loneliness, paranoia, cognitive decline and dementia.

QMU’s research project will establish how many people living in care homes are experiencing hearing loss, as well as identify whether there are more effective ways of assessing older people’s hearing, particularly those with challenging behaviours. The research is funded by the Abbeyfield Research Foundation, which funds healthcare research into the over 55 age group and has an associated company involved in residential care home provision.

Dr Joanna White, audiologist at QMU, is leading the project. She explained: “It is generally accepted that when people age, they will experience hearing loss – either a reduction in their hearing, or significant hearing loss which can have a major impact on their quality of life and social interactions. Older people with hearing loss experience frustration and isolation which can lead to depression, social exclusion and general lack of wellbeing.

There is also a known link between untreated hearing loss in adults and risk of dementia. “Unfortunately, there is a general acceptance that we will become deaf or experience hearing loss as we age, and often no action is taken to address this.”

Dr White continued: “Worryingly, if individuals have not received a hearing assessment or treatment before entering residential care, they are unlikely to get any assistance with their hearing loss during their time in residential care – the problem is essentially ignored.”

The research project will also look at the issue of training for care home staff to better support residents who are experiencing hearing deterioration. This would include the referral process for specialist hearing support, managing hearing aids, effective communication with residents, facilitating communication between residents and families, and support with using specialist hearing equipment.

An experienced audiologist, Amy Meikle, has begun her PhD at Queen Margaret University, funded by the Abbeyfield Research Foundation. She explained: “There can be a very high level of noise within the care home environment and many older people will find it difficult to process auditory information even if they have no measurable hearing loss. This can add to their anxiety levels when trying to communicate their needs to staff and integrate with residents.”

“It can also be very difficult to help older people in care homes who have challenging behaviour. The stress of trying to take people out of care homes into a clinical facility for a hearing test is a major barrier. We are therefore looking at how we can make things easier for older people and care workers so that more residents benefit from the correct audiology support. So, for example, the study will look at the use of portable testing equipment which can be brought to the care homes, making it easier to provide hearing tests on site.”

Dr White concluded: “The scale of the problem is massive in care homes across the UK. In addition, you have the challenges of limited NHS budgets and high turnover of care home staff. However, currently we have an unacceptable situation in that despite so many residents experiencing hearing loss whilst in residential homes, very little is done to tackle the problem. We therefore aim to produce guidelines and quality standards that will help staff better care for residents in their care who experience hearing loss. This will ultimately impact on the quality of life of residents as well as improving communication between care staff and families with residents.”

Professor Fiona Coutts, Dean of Health Sciences at QMU, said: “Since its inception in 1875 QMU’s work has focused on tackling some of the most pressing issues affecting our society. This project is an excellent example of the relevance of QMU’s work in dealing with some of the health issues affecting our increasingly ageing population. We are proud that our research can be applied to real life situations to help improve and influence the quality of life of people across the UK.”

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QM University working to strengthen global health systems for TB care

Researchers from the Institute of Global Health and Development (IGHD) at QM University have been awarded funding for a series of projects examining how health systems in South Africa and Latvia might improve access and quality of care for patients with tuberculosis (TB).

Known as a disease of the poor, TB remains a significant cause of disease and death globally. Failure to effectively control the TB epidemic has resulted in the rise of TB bacteria that are resistant to the main drugs used in treatment. These drug-resistant bacteria can then be transmitted to others and although treatment is available, it is lengthy, complicated, expensive, and results in poor patient outcomes.

There have been recent medical advances, including a rapid diagnostic test for drug resistant TB (DR-TB) which has been rolled out across South Africa, and a new drug Bedaquiline which has the potential to dramatically improve the effectiveness of DR-TB treatment. In order to increase access and decrease delays in starting treatment, these developments are being delivered in a decentralised manner through the country’s existing health system.

In collaboration with the University of Cape Town’s Department of Medical Microbiology, IGHD at QMU has received funding from the Joint Health Systems Research Initiative, funded through the Economic and Social Research Council, Department for International Development, The Welcome Trust and the Medical Research Council, to better understand the health systems constraints and enable the successful implementation of decentralised care for DR-TB patients in South Africa.

IGHD project lead, Dr Karina Kielmann, said: “There is huge diversity in the ways and extent to which care for DR-TB is being decentralized across health districts in South Africa - and substantial variation in the performance of the DR-TB program in relation to key measures of success such as linkage to appropriate care and treatment outcomes. Our aim in this four-year project is to undertake an in-depth analysis of the health policy and systems context and to identify factors that determine what kinds of models are working to improve patient outcomes, and why these models work, across different settings.”

The Latvian project looks at issues of access to care and adherence to TB treatment for vulnerable individuals.

“This involves TB treatment is key to a successful outcome for patients, and can be a real challenge for individuals who struggle with alcohol or drug dependency, and who may lack social or financial support to encourage positive health-seeking behaviour,” says Dr Kielmann who is working on this research with colleagues at IGHD and at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

“In collaboration with partners at the Centre for Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, based at Riga East Clinical Hospital, we have developed and piloted a social risk screening tool that will help us identify those individuals likely to struggle with adherence to treatment, as well as tailored adherence support mechanisms for those patients at risk of dropping out of treatment.”

In both projects, we hope to contribute to strengthening health systems to improve TB patients’ pathway to care and outcomes.”

Research shows smartphones could help people with shoulder pain

University research has shown that smartphones can help in the treatment of people experiencing shoulder pain.

Physiotherapy and rehabilitation scientists from QMU worked with specialists in Switzerland on the novel use of smartphone technologies to help establish which treatments could best improve patients’ shoulder function.

The amount of people experiencing shoulder pain is extremely high – up to 27% at any one time. After the lower back, that makes the shoulder the second most affected body part to experience pain. Across the specialism of physiotherapy within healthcare, there is an ongoing debate about the best methods to evaluate the effect of disease and pain on shoulder function. Patients often have to fill out medical questionnaires which try to establish how effective a treatment has been on their shoulder injury/problem. However, there are numerous styles of questionnaire, and due to the poor reporting quality, there has never been an agreed universal standard.

Professor Nigel Gleeson, an exercise rehabilitation specialist at QMU, directed the research. He explained: “The team had been looking for a better way to evaluate patients’ performance and to establish how treatment has helped improve pain and mobility in the shoulder.

“Computerized movement analysis could provide effective results due to its precision and reliability. The limitation is that computerized systems are expensive, and there are issues associated with training needs and patient accessibility.”

QM University worked with research partners in Switzerland to identify a solution to this problem. The team focused on the use of smartphones, which include three-dimensional movement sensors as standard. These smartphones are also affordable, easy to use and readily available, and can offer a more effective solution to evaluating patients’ shoulder performance following treatment.

The research was conducted by Claude Pichonnaz, a PhD scholar at QMU, in collaboration with Haute Ecole De Sante Vaud (University of Applied Sciences, Western Switzerland, Physiotherapy Department) and CHUV-UNIL, Orthopedics and Traumatology Department, Lausanne.

“Sticking with TB treatment is key to a successful outcome for patients, and can be a real challenge for individuals who struggle with alcohol or drug dependency, and who may lack social or financial support to encourage positive health-seeking behaviour,” says Dr Kielmann who is working on this research with colleagues at IGHD and at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

“In collaboration with partners at the Centre for Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, based at Riga East Clinical Hospital, we have developed and piloted a social risk screening tool that will help us identify those individuals likely to struggle with adherence to treatment, as well as tailored adherence support mechanisms for those patients at risk of dropping out of treatment. In both projects, we hope to contribute to strengthening health systems to improve TB patients’ pathway to care and outcomes.”

The project in Latvia is funded through the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and managed by the World Health Communication Associates.

“The double blinded randomised control trial was funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. Following on from this research, an app, ‘Hands up’ developed by the company Gait Up, SA, has been developed. This free app is now available to support researchers and clinicians involved in patient care.

Looking to the future, Professor Gleeson said: “This project has shown great potential for the use of smartphone technology in rehabilitation and for optimising individualised, self-managed care by patients.”
QMU to offer new Gastronomy degree in Italy

QMU is joining forces with an Italian university and a foundation for food excellence to offer a master’s degree in Gastronomy which will be delivered in Italy. It is believed that the exciting new course, which will be taught in English, will attract both an Italian and an international audience.

QMU is partnering with the University of Cassino, Lazio and the I’Ciacca Foundation. Students of the new course will be taught on the tranquil organic farm of I’Ciacca in Picinisco, an ancient town located in Val di Comino between Rome and Naples.

The farm buildings, where teaching will take place, are set within a vineyard and are currently being renovated. They will accommodate a Masterchef style kitchen with TV transmission capabilities, classrooms and accommodation.

“Students of the new course will be taught on the tranquil organic farm of I’Ciacca in Picinisco, an ancient town located in Val di Comino between Rome and Naples.”

The area surrounding the farm is a fitting location for the study of Gastronomy. It is situated in a natural uncontaminated area where organic farming is a way of life and is surrounded by olive groves, herbaceous plants, vines, fruit trees and livestock.

Due to its environment and dedicated organic farming methods, the area of Picinisco is bursting with superb local produce including wines, fruit, olive oil, honeys, grains, cheese, sweet meats and cured meats.

Dr Richard Butt, QMU’s Deputy Principal, explained: “This course builds on our university’s riches in history of food, which dates back to 1675, when we were set up to help improve the diets of the urban poor. What was initially established as the Edinburgh School of Cookery has now developed into a modern ambitious university with flagship in Sustainable Business, Health and Rehabilitation and Creativity and Culture. In relation to food, the University has significant expertise in the teaching of dietetics, nutrition and biological sciences, as well as commercial expertise in the area of food and drink. In 2014, we launched the Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation which supports food and drink businesses in Scotland and beyond. We were the first to offer a Master’s in Gastronomy in Scotland, and our new Gastronomy course, delivered with the University of Cassino, is being adapted to the Italian landscape. It aims to be an excellent fit for both Italian and international students.”

“Our partnership with the University of Cassino, allows us to offer an education programme that will contribute to the economic regeneration of the local region by promoting local food production and expertise, and generating international interest in Italian gastronomy and food culture.”

The development and delivery of the new course is being facilitated by I’Ciacca Foundation, which will provide access to local food production facilities that use traditional techniques. The Foundation, a not-for profit organisation, is enforcing its historical links by building a collaboration with institutions in Scotland and Italy relating to food and learning. It was founded by the Di Ciacca family, which is based in Scotland but has ancestral roots in the region. The family is restoring the farm - its home for over 500 years before its move to Scotland - which will be the location for the delivery of the new MSc Gastronomy.

Dr Butt continued: “There are existing links between the Di Ciacca family and QMU in relation to food and gastronomy and we are delighted to strengthen that partnership with this exciting international venture in gastronomy. We are also enthusiastic about our collaboration with the University of Cassino due to its expertise in business, enterprise and entrepreneurship and its track record of successful international partnerships.

Giovanni Betta, Rector of the University of Cassino, said: “The collaboration with QMU will add to our university’s programme of internationalisation. It is an important agreement which will enhance the profile of gastronomy in our region, thereby contributing positively to the area’s economic regeneration.”

The new MSc in Gastronomy will begin in Italy in September 2018 with graduates of the programme gaining an award partly from Queen Margaret University and University of Cassino. It is ideally suited to people with either academic qualifications in a related subject or significant industry related experience; or mature students who are able to evidence their interest and passion for food and food culture. QMU and the University of Cassino will also be offering a new Master in Family Business which will begin in 2019.

If your food business needs help with new product development, reformulation of existing products, nutritional analysis, consumer focus groups, taste panels or requires access to specialist research/test facilities contact QMU’s Business Development Manager, Miriam Smith on E: msmith3@qmu.ac.uk T: 07872 128 688

A NEW SCOTTISH DRINKS producer has used university expertise to develop a supercharged tea that packs a punch similar to coffee. Hi Tea, which contains three times the level of caffeine found in a normal cup of tea, will give tea lovers the taste of their favourite drink with an extra buzz that’s sure to keep their energy levels up throughout the day.

The entrepreneurs behind Hi Tea enlisted food experts from Queen Margaret University to develop the new supercharged tea concept. The company wanted to create a new beverage that would be acceptable to existing tea drinkers and to consumers who may not enjoy coffee but who were still looking for a high caffeine hit.

Laura Ewing from Hi Tea, explained: “The daily consumption of tea in the UK is around 165 million cups, compared with approximately 70 million cups of coffee. Although mainstream tea sales have slumped in recent years, the growth of premium and specialty teas has grown. We believed there was a gap in the market for a tasty black tea which could offer similar qualities to coffee, but we needed to partner with food specialists at QMU to help us carry out consumer research. In addition, we required specialist support to review our ingredients, develop a recipe for tea bags and assess caffeine levels.”

Exports from QMU’s Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation were able to advise on the development of the product by conducting taste testing panels and consumer feedback sessions. This helped to gauge acceptability levels from keen tea drinkers to the tea blends initially selected by the company. Taste panels also helped to confirm if consumers could distinguish any adverse bitterness from the addition of caffeine in the new Hi Tea product when comparing against standard black tea.

Cassiano Liddle from QMU’s Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation, explained: “The trend for tea supplemented with synthetic caffeine has come over from the US. Synthetic caffeine is a common additive in energy drinks, but for this project it was important that a natural UK source was identified. QMU was able to source caffeine that was not only natural, but had none of the characteristic bitterness normally associated with synthetic sources of this ingredient. A formulation was then created enabling Hi Tea to produce a blend fortified with natural caffeine but tasting like everyday tea. In addition, we were able to ascertain the base level of caffeine found in the tea leaves used by Hi Tea and supplemented this with the ideal levels in order to reach the target amount.

“Nowadays, a lot of tea drinkers don’t use loose tea. Many prefer the convenience of tea bags. We recognised that tea lovers prepare their favourite drink in different ways, so we encouraged taste testers to take the tea samples home with them to allow them to prepare it in the way they normally would on a daily basis. The testers were able to provide feedback to us via a specialist questionnaire created by QMU academics.”

Hi Tea product when comparing against standard black tea.
IT IS AN EXCITING time for the cultural sector in Malta, not least because 2018 will see Valletta, the capital city, take on the mantle of European Capital of Culture. Indeed, it is the vision of Arts Council Malta that arts and creativity will be at the heart of Malta’s future, and a cultural management specialist from QMU has helped arts organisations there to think strategically about how they might make this a reality.

Dr David Stevenson, Head of Media, Communication & Performing Arts, runs QMU’s MA Arts, Festival and Cultural Management. He recently visited Malta to assist the Arts Council in building capacity in the country’s cultural sector. During his trip he delivered a programme of training with a diverse range of cultural organisations, including the Valletta Film Festival; BLITZ: a contemporary art project space; and Opening Doors, an arts association that promotes the active involvement of adults with learning disabilities in the arts.

All of the organisations involved were part of Art Council Malta’s Cultural Partnership Agreement which is part of their five-year training strategy focusing on partnerships with a number of national and international organisations. As a spokesperson for the Arts Council explained: “Our aim is to support training initiatives that focus on identified needs in artistic practice and cultural entrepreneurship.”

The Arts Council believed that in order to enhance the Maltese cultural sector, specialist training in cultural management and leadership was required as well as a funding programme that would provide development opportunities for artists and arts educators alike. David carried out three days of strategic management training with representatives from the selected organisations, which are based all across Malta and Gozo. Participants had the opportunity to reflect on the core purpose of their organisation, what they hoped it could achieve by 2018, and how best to employ their resources in order to increase the likelihood of success.

David said: “It was wonderful to spend time with such a diverse range of arts organisations in Malta, and to assist them in achieving their ambitions. It is also heartening to know that this new relationship has developed from our association with QMU graduates. We now have two arts management alumni working at the Arts Council of Malta – Adrian DeBattista who graduated in 2015, and Toni Attard, who, in his role as Director of Strategy, has been central to the development of Malta’s five-year action plan for the cultural and creative sectors. Read about Adrian on page 28."

Dr Richard Butt, Deputy Principal at QMU, confirmed: “This new relationship in Malta helps to strengthen the University’s international influence and confirms our commitment to embrace partnership working with local, national and international communities.”

Influencing the future of the cultural sector in Malta
First class success for student after developing the skillset to manage dyslexia

QM University postgraduate student, Annie Fowden, has achieved significant academic and career success after continuously learning how to manage her dyslexia.

Dyslexia is a language based learning disability that affects around one in ten people. The British Dyslexia Association defines dyslexia as ‘a combination of abilities and difficulties that affect the learning process in one or more of reading, spelling and writing’. People with dyslexia may experience difficulties with reading, processing, short-term memory, organisational skills and hearing or visual perception.

Annie became aware of her dyslexia when she was just five years old. Throughout her early education, she struggled with aspects of learning due to the school’s limited knowledge about dyslexia and how to manage it. As a result, she was unsure whether university was a viable option for her and thought that career opportunities may be restricted.

However, Annie believes dyslexia is becoming more widely recognised and is pleased that greater support is now available to manage this learning difficulty. In 2012, Annie secured a place at QMU to study Events Management.

During her time at QMU, the University’s Disability Service team quickly identified the learning challenges Annie was facing, having supported many other QMU students with dyslexia in the past. The team carried out a need assessment and developed an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) to support Annie’s learning difficulties.

QMU assigned an external tutor to Annie to offer her personalised and continued support throughout her QMU journey. Annie benefiting from support each academic year, which included help to develop her writing, referencing and time management skills. The QMU Disability Services team also helped Annie secure funding from the Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSA) to buy a laptop with assistive software.

The positive impact of this continued support meant that Annie’s academic performance improved consistently each year. Her grades increased from Es and Cs in her first year to As and Bs in her final year. She graduated with a first class honours degree from QMU in 2016.

Annie said: “The support I received from QMU’s Disability Service team has had one of the biggest and most positive influences on my experience at QMU. The help I’ve had has given me a huge confidence boost and has allowed me to reach my academic potential, as well as opening doors to new career opportunities.

“The Disability Service team always made time for me and made sure I was offered personalised advice. My advice to other students with dyslexia at QMU is get out there and find out about the specialist support available to you on campus.”

Annie was also one of the first QMU students to be selected for the new Apex Hotels and QMU Scholarship Programme. Apex Hotels and QMU have teamed up to launch the scheme, which is helping to bolster career opportunities for hospitality and events students each academic year. The move 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.

Annie received a bursary and began her management apprenticeship with Apex Hotels in February 2016. The new Scholarship Programme supported Annie during her final year of study at QMU and provided her with paid work experience with Apex Hotels. The opportunity allowed Annie to gain hands-on experience across all areas of the business.

Annie has now secured further employment with Apex Hotels, which is also providing additional funding to help further her postgraduate education at QMU. Annie has enrolled on the University’s new Master of Public Administration (MPA), which she hopes to complete in 2017.

Annie celebrating her achievement of a first class honours degree at the QMU graduation.

“Awards and scholarships like this enrich students’ academic experience, build their confidence, broaden their horizons and allow them make a real contribution to their field or to serving society’s needs.”

Supporters celebrate student scholarship and award winners

The award-winning students were joined by the University’s Chancellor Designate, Prue Leith CBE, as well as the companies and individuals whose generous support has helped boost their academic experience, personal development and made special student projects possible.

Dr Richard Butt, QMU’s Deputy Principal, said: “The University is grateful for the continued support of organisations, individuals and QMU graduates, which greatly enhances the experience of those students who receive scholarships and awards.

“Awards and scholarships like this enrich students’ academic experience, build their confidence, broaden their horizons and allow them make a real contribution to their field or to serving society’s needs.”

If you would like to find out more about opportunities to give to QMU, please see our website or email Heather Edie, Development and Alumni Manager E: hedie@qmu.ac.uk.
Students benefit from pioneering scholarship programme

Scottish students are currently benefiting from a pioneering widening access programme developed and part funded by The Robertson Trust.

As the largest independent grant-making trust in Scotland, The Robertson Trust is dedicated to achieving positive change in Scotland. Its Scholarship programme was set up in 1995 to help fund ten young Glaswegians. Today, it helps more than 460 young people from across Scotland studying on a wide range of undergraduate courses, including the students at QMU.

Robertson Trust Scholars not only receive financial support, they also embark on a self-development programme called the ‘Journey to Success’, which includes personal support through peer mentoring, employability workshops and paid internships. All of this ensures the scholars are able to maximise their potential at university and compete successfully for graduate level jobs with increased self-confidence.

Scholars are nominated by their school, college or university as talented individuals who show real potential despite their life experiences. Often they are the first in their family to go to university, from low income families or have spent time in care.

Claire Kenny, one of the first Robertson Trust Scholar at QMU, is now in her second year of the BSc in Psychology. She acknowledges that she has benefited from the partnership between QMU and The Robertson Trust. She explained: “The Robertson Trust Scholarship has made both studying, and moving away from home, a lot easier. I believe if I wasn’t for the Trust’s help and support, my first year at QMU would have been a lot more stressful. Although it supports scholars financially, it also supports us in so many other ways. The team really does want the best for us.”

This coming year, QMU will select one further Robertson Trust scholar thanks to matched funding from former QMU Court member, Mark Laing. Mark, who is also a trustee of the Robertson Trust, is passionate about access to education for all who have the ability, yet may not have the financial means.

Mark explained: "The scholarship programme mirrors QMU’s ethos of widening access and broadening students’ horizons, so I am delighted to be involved, as both a trustee of the Robertson Trust and a donor to QMU.

To find out more about how you can support widening access initiatives at QMU, contact Heather Edie, QMU Development & Alumni Manager, E: hedie@qmu.ac.uk T: 0131 474 0000.

Mark Laing and Dr Annie Doyle from the Robertson Trust with QMU’s Robertson Trust Scholars.

Wise Up About Dementia

QMU students are being offered the opportunity to deliver ‘Dementia Friends’ awareness sessions to student peers, school pupils on QMU’s Health and Social Care Academy, and young learners who are part of the Queen Margaret Children’s University.

The aim of the initiative is to raise awareness about dementia as a condition; become more aware of how people can ‘live well’ with dementia; and discuss what we, as a society, can do to make a positive difference to people living with dementia in our communities.

Led by the QMU Dementia Working Group, students from across the School of Health Sciences can participate in the co-design and co-production of the dementia awareness sessions. A group of students from the Division of Nursing delivered the first session in January.

This initiative contributes to QMU’s drive to become a Dementia Aware university and has been made possible by development funding from Santander Universities. Dementia Friends is a UK wide project, offered by Alzheimer’s Scotland, which is supporting its implementation.

Recognised by healthcare employers, each session also adds to employability in professional practice, and will enable students to be dementia friendly resources within their families and communities.
Chinese festival producer supports QMU cultural management students

LEADING FESTIVAL PRODUCER in China has continued to pledge his support to QMU by boosting his annual award for cultural management students.

At the start of 2017, Dr Chris Wang from Shanghai, China, presented his annual award to QM University's, MA Arts, Festival and Cultural Management student. The award will provide Claire with financial support to carry out a cultural research project in her home country of Malta as she investigates the impact upon audiences of delivering cultural programmes in various languages. Dr Wang has generously increased his contribution this year by providing additional support to enable a future student to participate in his cultural festivals in China.

Based in Shanghai, Dr Wang is responsible for bringing some of the highest quality Chinese productions to Scotland each summer. The Chinese Art and Cultural Festival is now a prominent feature within Edinburgh's Fringe Festival. He is also progressing work which will see the development of Scottish festivals in China. Dr Wang is also a champion of education and founded one of the first event management education programmes in China.

Having studied for several years in the USA under the direction of QMU's Professor Joe Goldblatt, the world's leading academic in event management, Dr Wang is passionate about event and cultural management and is keen to nurture talented young people who will contribute to the cultural and creative industries. He is delighted to support Claire with her research project which will look at how the language of delivery has to do with the way in which the audience receives and perceives live performance.

Professor Goldblatt said: “Dr Wang was one of my most determined and promising students when I lectured in Washington and I’m proud that he has gone on to establish this important cultural relationship with the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He is responsible for bringing a range of outstanding Chinese productions to Scotland’s capital city, and for providing graduates with the opportunity to develop skills and experience within the cultural sector.”

Dr David Stevenson, Head of Division for Media, Communication and Performing Arts, said: “Dr Wang has helped us establish QMU’s first scholarship in Cultural Management for students on the MA in Arts, Festival and Cultural Management. His increased gift, this year, of £700 as well as return flights and a work placement in China, is invaluable in supporting student development on the MA programme. Without his generosity, Claire would have been unable to develop her research in this interesting area.”

Legacy of St Margaret leads to scholarships in Hungary

TWO PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY students have taken up study opportunities at a Hungarian university as part of a new scholarship exchange programme between Scotland and Hungary. The programme was 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.

Caitlin McDowell and Ellen Rahm, students on the BSc (Hons) Public Sociology programme between Scotland and Hungary, which will undoubtedly enhance their experiences and themselves how amazing it is to live and learn new skills and both Hungary and Scotland will benefit from stronger people-to-people contacts between our nations.”

QMU takes its name from the Scottish queen, born in Hungary

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.

Margaret 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. As a result, she was canonised as saint in 1250.

The name 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 practical action. Queen Margaret was also a strong advocate for 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 organisations with social purposes, including QMU.

Madras Lodge for a relaxing break

From beach walks and delicious pub lunches to birdwatching, watching the Fringe and exploring the surrounding area of East Lothian, has something to offer everyone. Why not book Madras Lodge for your next family break or for a class reunion? Madras Lodge provides a unique opportunity for a stay 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 it a family holiday of one or two weeks or a relaxing weekend. Costs are very reasonable - ranging from £215 for a two night break in the loft, to £405 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 2017 started last November, but there is still availability, particularly 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.

Programme of Events Spring - Summer 2017

The Association thrives on the involvement of members, so if you haven’t been able to join us for a while it is never too late to take part and re-engage. You will be most welcome!

THURSDAY 20TH APRIL at 5.30pm: A recital of botanical paintings by Lady Ann Fraser and Dr Kathy MacLean. Hungarian Cultural Association members have been invited to this event, which features the work of two outstanding botanical artists. There is no charge, and a place is reserved for you with the University’s Student Development Fund.

THURSDAY 1ST JUNE at 5.45pm: Opera Unwrapped, La Boheme at Edinburgh Festival Theatre. A short introduction to the opera session offering highlights from the music and insights into the production. No charge. Book your ticket via Stanley 125 by 12th May.

FRIDAY 9TH JUNE 2017 at 9.30am: QMU Graduates’ Association Annual General Meeting at QMU's Secretariat building and Madras Lodge. This break with tradition is to encourage members to become involved in the important work of the University and to have the opportunity to work on a working day.

For more details, contact Elaine Acaster or Dorothy Finlayson.

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10.45 -11.15 Coffee prior to the AGM hosted by the University.
11.30 - AGM including presentation on the work of the University.
Buffet lunch - Cost £22.00 including a glass of wine or fruit juice.

Follow Madras Lodge on:
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Madras Lodge contacts:
Bookings via: Anne Vokes
T: 07817328035
E: mlbook@qmuga.org.uk
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Q.M.U.G.A.

CONTACTS

President
Elaine Acaster
E: elaineacaster@gmail.com
T: 07816 661561

Social Secretary
Dorothy Finlayson
T: 0131 669 5341
E: sylvia@thenorthcotts.net
T: 01968 674161

Treasurer
Anne Scagell
E: annescagell49@gmail.com
T: 01259 214668

NEW LETTER

By Elaine Acaster, Graduates’ Association President

The Graduates’ Association, which celebrated its centenary year in 2014-2015, welcomes new members at any time following graduation from the colleges which formed QMU, and would like to know it today. Members of staff are also most welcome to join.

Life Membership costs only £45 (£35 in the year of graduation) and opens the opportunity to join our soil networking every year.

Caitlin McDowell and Ellen Rahm, students on the BSc (Hons) Public Sociology programme in Hungary, which was developed of organisations with social purposes, including QMU.

QMU through the Madras Lodge page on Facebook. Enjoy Madras Lodge for your next break and share your memories with us on Facebook or Twitter.
Dietetics graduate becomes
Associate Chief Health Professions Officer with Scottish Government

We were delighted to welcome Tracy MacInnes, a Dietetics graduate, back to QMU when she accompanied Shirley Ann Somerville MSP, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, on a recent visit.

We took the opportunity to catch up with Tracy and find out about her interesting career in healthcare, and her more recent advisory role with the Scottish Government.

Having graduated from Queen Margaret College in 1986, Tracy MacInnes held several dietetics and healthcare roles in hospitals and healthcare organisations across the UK before moving to the Scottish Government in 2009, where she now works as Associate Chief Health Professions Officer.

She started her first job at Stoke Royal Infirmary which was a rotational basic grade post so covered renal, paediatric and community, which provided her with a really solid platform to build on. She then went to Stafford District General and worked as the Senior Dietitian, dealing again with a complex and varied workload within primary and secondary care.

Tracy returned to Scotland in 1992 and was successful in getting the Renal Dietetic post at the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow. She explained: “This was my first experience of working outside of a dietetic department and within a wider multi-professional team, where I began to extend my scope of practice.

“My last dietetic post was as the Chief Dietitian within the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow. I then moved to work as the Senior Professional Advisor at the Care Inspectorate and within primary and secondary care.

Tracy was awarded the IBEX Award for Professional Achievement in 2003 by the BDA. In 2005, she completed a Masters in Healthcare Management at Strathclyde University and a Postgraduate Certificate in Social Services Leadership from Robert Gordon University.

When asked about a typical day in her current position with the Scottish Government, Tracey said: “My role is to support and advise any Minister and other colleagues from within Scottish Government in respect to Allied Health and Healthcare Science. This helps ensure they have the most up to date information to hand. It involves supporting the ministers at external visits, conferences and face to face meetings with stakeholders. The team I work within leads on Allied Health Professions and HCSS policy development and supports implementation at service level.”

“My role is to support and advise any Minister and other colleagues from within Scottish Government in respect to Allied Health and Healthcare Science. This helps ensure they have the most up to date information to hand.”

Discussing the future of the dietetics profession in Scotland and the UK, Tracey confirmed: “I believe that dietetics has a huge role in addressing the health and social care of our population. This is throughout the life curve, from conception right through to last stages of someone’s life. Dietitians should be leading the way with consistent public health messages.”

Aimie Patience from Inverness graduated with a BSc (Hons) Podiatry in 2016. Since leaving QMU’s she’s completed an eight-week research internship in Leeds with Arthritis Research UK, where she helped facilitate ongoing research into inflammatory and musculoskeletal diseases.

Aimie said: “I’ve now been appointed as a Clinical Trials Associate within the Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine. My main duties are recruiting patients into clinical trials, providing practical podiatry support when necessary and collecting, analysing and publishing work I’m involved in.

“In the near future I hope to apply for a clinical academic doctorate through the National Institute of Health Research. I would conduct PhD research and develop my clinical skills part-time to ultimately achieve a fully integrated clinical academic role within rheumatoid and musculoskeletal disease research.”

Aimie concluded: “I would not be where I am today if it wasn’t for the brilliant teaching and ongoing mentorship I’ve received from the staff at QMU.”

John Hansen-Brevetti
manages family planning centre

New Yorker, John Hansen-Brevetti, 32, graduated with a BSc Nursing from QMU in 2014.

He said: “After I graduated from QMU, I went on to study Health, Community and Development at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences. After receiving my master’s degree, I started working as a Registered Nurse with Marie Stopes International (MSI). I was promoted to Clinical Team Leader, and again to Clinical Operations Manager for one of MSI’s largest UK clinics.

“I now oversee a team of 12 nurses and six health care assistants, and manage the day-to-day operations of a busy family planning centre in London. I’ve thought about one day undertaking a PhD in nursing, but for the moment I’ve got my hands full!”

Aimie progresses podiatry career in rheumatic and musculoskeletal medicine

Aimie Patience, from Inverness, graduated with a BSc (Hons) Podiatry in 2016.

Since leaving QMU’s she’s completed an eight-week research internship in Leeds with Arthritis Research UK, where she helped facilitate ongoing research into inflammatory and musculoskeletal diseases.

Amie concluded: “I would not be where I am today if it wasn’t for the brilliant teaching and ongoing mentorship I’ve received from the staff at QMU.”
Adrian develops cultural carer with the Arts Council Malta

ADRIAN DEBATTISTA, from Malta, graduated with an MA Arts Festival & Cultural Management from QMU in 2015. He started working as a research associate at Arts Council Malta just a week after finishing his final project at QMU.

Discussing his current role, Adrian said: “The course was a determining factor in the success of my application. My role involves developing and managing the Council’s research programme through qualitative and quantitative research, whilst gathering statistics and data mining, analysing cultural practices and monitoring trends effecting or resulting from cultural participation, production and consumption.

“I’m also responsible for ensuring quality control of research by setting up appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems. The aim is to produce a knowledge-base from which effective policy recommendations can be made, whilst aiding cultural operators through more informed decision-making.”

Soon after Adrian started in the role, he was invited in writing the Council’s five-year strategy. He explained: “I’ve been working on the formulation of data collection methods for internal evaluation of national cultural organisations, which came into effect in 2017.

“Some of the projects I’m involved in or manage include a national cultural participation survey, the impact evaluation of two funding programmes managed by the Council and an audience segmentation report for cultural organisations. In the process, I’m working with the research team at the Valletta 2018 Foundation, which oversees the Valletta 2018 European Capital of Culture programme.”

As part of his QMU course, Adrian undertook a work placement with arts organisations, Lapidus Scotland, to help manage its social media, write funding applications and develop the organisation’s new website. He said: “My experience with Lapidus Scotland challenged some of my preconceived ideas about how relationships with the public and local authorities can be managed, and has helped me in my current position with the Arts Council Malta. I see these aspects as having a lasting influence on the way I reflect on myself and the environment around me as I progress in my career.”

Culture director shares her career experience with students

LYNNE HALFPENNY recently came to QMU to share her experience of event management of the cultural sector with first year students.

Lynne graduated from QMU with a degree in Communication Studies in 1984 and has spent the last 30 years working in the cultural sector in Scotland, most recently in her capacity as Director of Culture with the City of Edinburgh Council. She began her career at the mid-Edinburgh Commonwealth Games where she was part of the Artist Liaison and Marketing Team during a controversial Games, due to the anti-apartheid boycott by Commonwealth Countries. As Head of Culture and Sport in Edinburgh, Lynne managed a £21 million annual budget and lead a team of around 180 staff.

Most recently, as Director of Culture, she has lead a transformation project to deliver savings, while ensuring that the integrity of the culture service was maintained.

Property lettings specialist recruits Hannah as its first marketing executive

HANNAH MCCONNACHIE has secured the role as marketing executive for Edinburgh property investment and lettings specialist Cullen Property.

Hannah originally from Aberdeen, graduated from QMU in 2010 with a BA (Hons) in Media, and since then has undertaken internships with public relations and marketing agencies in order to further her experience.

Hannah said: “It can be a difficult process trying to find your first job as a graduate and I’m extremely grateful to have this opportunity with Cullen Property. I can’t wait to hit the ground running and start meeting with prospective investors and tenants at property shows and student accommodation fairs."

Steve Coyle, Operations Director at Cullen Property, says: “We are delighted to have our first in-house marketing executive. The experience Hannah has gained through working with local marketing and public relation firms will be a huge asset to us and bring a fresh approach to our current in-house marketing activities.”

Claire develops expertise in family business

OW A READER IN Enterprise and Family Business at QMU, Dr Claire Seaman originally studied Dietetics at Queen Margaret before graduating in 1988. She has continued to develop her career at the University within the Division of Business, Enterprise and Management, specialising in family business research. She is now one of few people in the UK who is known as an expert in this specialist field of research.

I’m extremely grateful to have this opportunity to do Business Development. At the end of 2013, I became the Royal British Legion’s Marketing and Communications Officer holding responsibility for the communications of the veteran charity across the country. Among many other things the role has included being the editor of the charity magazine with a circulation of over 25,000 and winner of two awards (Best Printed Publication at the Institute of Internal Communications Awards and ‘Front Cover of the Year’ at the PPA Independent Publishers Awards). I am also the Marketing and Communications Officer for PoppyScotland which involves all the communications and marketing of the Scottish Poppy Appeal.

If you are interested in organising your own reunion please get in touch and we can help you reach out to your former classmates.
Lucy Deady – creating costumes for Strictly Come Dancing

Since graduating in Costume Design and Construction in 2014, Lucy Deady has moved to London to work on some of the UK’s most popular TV shows. She started as a dresser for the knockout round of ‘The Voice’ on BBC and then went on to work on ‘The Voice live shows, that allowed her to further develop her ability to work under pressure and to operate as part of a team.

A chance meeting with Vicky Gill saw Lucy secure her next role within the BBC’s ‘Strictly Come Dancing’. Her position with the BBC, working in Northern Ireland, Manchester, London, and to operate as part of a team.

Kay excels with the BBC

Kay Croewoson graduated from QMU in 2005 with a BA (Hons) Arts and Theatre Studies (First Class).

Kay has gone on to have a very successful career with the BBC, working in Northern Ireland, Manchester, London, Leeds, Nottingham and in North Yorkshire. After graduating from the BBC’s journalism trainee scheme and working as a producer on numerous programmes, Kay then retrained as a broadcast meteorologist. At the same time, she started volunteering in various radio stations, from hospital radio to local development radio stations. For a few years she combined these roles with running a TV studio and acting and had roles in various adverts and some small parts in TV programmes, but her main drive was presenting.

After a few years Kay got her break on the BBC Journalism Trainee Scheme. She moved to Belfast to craft her journalism skills, and went on to working on BBC Newsround, School Report and BBC Learning. A conversation with her boss resulted in a move to weather… and six years later she finally got her dream job; breakfast presenter on BBC Radio York!

Kay is looking forward to Strictly Come Dancing 2017!

Kay’s big break with Strictly Coming Dancing meant she had the opportunity to work with a variety of celebrities. She said: “From the start of the series, I was allocated the celebrity girls to dress, so I did spend time with them all each week. My favourite costumes that I worked on was Claudia’s hot pink plus size outfit. I really enjoyed making the black lace collar and cuffs.”

When asked what her favourite dance of the show was, she said “I changed each week but I did love Danny and Ollie’s samba”.

Kay’s future looks secure with Dance Sport International. She is now working on designs for Austrian ‘Dancing with the Stars’ and upcoming Latin and ballroom competitions. Of course, she is looking forward to Strictly Come Dancing 2017!

Kay has many fond memories from QMU.

After university, Kay went back to Manchester and started working as a presenter & roving commentator. At the same time, she started volunteering in various radio stations, from hospital radio to local development radio stations. For a few years she combined these roles with running a TV studio and acting and had roles in various adverts and some small parts in TV programmes, but her main drive was presenting.

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Event: QMU undergraduate open days
Details: an opportunity to find out about undergraduate courses, meet staff and students, and view the campus facilities.
When: Thursday 31st August and Saturday 30 September 2017
Time: 11am – 4pm
Where: QMU, EH21 6UU
Further information: www.qmu.ac.uk
Organisers: Marketing and Communications Office, QMU

Event: Costume Showcase (part of Platform 4)
Details: Spectacular runway performance showcasing some of the best costume creations from students on the BA/BA (Hons) Costume Design and Construction.
Platform 4: Showcasing drama, performance, photography and artwork from QMU's creative courses. Check website for more details about Platform 4.
Costume Showcase - 19th May 2017, matinee at 3pm, evening performance at 7pm.
Where: Summerhall, Summerhall Place, Edinburgh EH9 1PL
Further information: www.qmu.ac.uk