Kelpies launch in New York and Scotland

Research to delight tea lovers

iQ Chocolate proves truly 'scrum'ptious
Welcome to another packed edition of QMYOU. Over the last few months we have enjoyed many successes and implemented numerous university events and initiatives. On top of this, I am delighted that QMU is performing well in the university league tables – moving up 10 places in the Complete University Guide and 12 places in the Guardian League Tables. We have also enjoyed positive feedback from our international students in the Barometer with QMU ranked the top university in the UK for ‘eco-friendly attitude’ and top in Scotland for ‘work experience’.

Our work in knowledge exchange is having a positive impact on organisations, businesses and communities. Our Media Practice Lecturer, Walid Salhab, has used his unique stop-motion/time-lapse filming technique to capture the build phase of The Kelpies, Scotland’s largest arts project. Walid’s breathtaking footage of the 30 metre high horses’ heads attracted significant attention at the launch of The Kelpies in New York, and is helping to put Falkirk on the global tourist map. Employing our expertise in business and tourism, our business academics have worked with Borders Journeys, an ancestral tourism company, to further develop its strategic direction in this specialist tourism market to coincide with VisitScotland’s Homecoming Scotland 2014.

Our research and knowledge exchange work in food and drink continues to delight businesses and to attract media attention. Recently, our scientists teamed up with an artisan tea company to offer consumers more nutritional information about the company’s wide variety of speciality teas. In addition, our food researchers have discovered that iQ Chocolate, produced in Stirling, can provide students with the skills, knowledge and attitude to provide better health outcomes for patients with diabetes.

Having recently presided over our graduation ceremony, I was delighted to hear from many students who had already secured employment even before attending graduation. QMU prides itself on its robust employability strategies which are designed to provide students with the skills, knowledge and attitude to secure jobs in their chosen field. We are pleased to share details of our Employer Mentoring Programme on page 8 and 9 and to demonstrate, not only the advantages for our students, but also the benefits to employers who share their valuable experience with mentees.

We always enjoy hearing about our graduate successes. I was delighted to hear how David Sharp, who is a graduate in International Management & Leadership, is reaping the benefits of his Masters qualification and enjoying great success with the Japanese conglomerate, Nichii Gakkan. See page 22.

If you are a QMU alumni, please share your career successes with our alumni team. If you are in business and feel that your company could benefit from our research input, please speak to our Research and Knowledge Exchange Unit. If you can contribute to the success of the University in any way or to the development of individual students through mentoring, internships or scholarships, we would really welcome your input.

Professor Petra Wend, PhD, FRSA Principal and Vice-Chancellor Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
The team was also shortlisted for 'Public Sector Team of the Year' in the Scottish Accountancy & Finance Awards 2014. Commenting on the finance team’s recent successes, Malcolm Cuth, Director of Operations & Finance at QMU, said: “To have become finalists in these two prestigious awards is a clear indication of how QMU’s finance team has achieved significant success in supporting the development of the University’s financial strategy in recent years and is being recognised for its achievements by its industry peers.”

This growing recognition also reflects the exceptional contribution made by all the members of the finance team.”

Through the ‘QM150’ project, the University is currently defining its vision for 2025, the University’s 150th anniversary, to inform strategic planning for 2015-2025. The project will provide new challenges for QMU’s finance team, to transform the way it operates to provide additional support for long term strategic priorities.

The National Poet of Scotland, Liz Lochhead, provided a twist on the traditional formal lecture at this year’s contribution from QMU to the Edinburgh Lectures Series. Liz, the National Poet of Scotland and a QMU honorary graduate, delighted the audience by performing a poetry reading entitled ‘Language, Community & Confidence’. The event was sponsored by QMU.

The guest panel for the broadcast from QMU included Angela Constance, Minister for Youth Employment in the Scottish Government; Helena Kennedy, Labour Peer and Barrister; Scottish Conservative Annabel Goldie MSP; and Michael Fry, historian and founder of ‘Wealthy Nation’, which favours independence for Scotland.

‘High demand for places resulted in the accommodation office on arrival’ and ‘cost of accommodation’ were amongst the nine Scottish universities and the accommodation office on arrival’ and ‘cost of accommodation’ as the second top in Scotland. International students clearly showed their appreciation of the design and quality of QMU’s modern campus development and the small class size, rating the campus building and class size as the second top in Scotland (both 7th in the UK).

QMU research confirmed that sea buckthorn is bursting with antioxidants, vitamins and essential minerals, making it a truly a Scottish superfruit. The event was a real hit with young children and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and interesting range of subjects and 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The facilities for the Centre include test and developmentitchens, a whiteboard, and a food sensory suite, along with a range of laboratories.
Creating Drama in the community

Making a drama out of John Muir celebrations

A GROUP OF COMMUNITY theatre students teamed up with Stoneyhill Primary School in Musselburgh in April to make a drama out of the John Muir Festival celebrations.

The QMU students worked with the primary school pupils to stage a one-off workshop event to celebrate the life and legacy of the Dunbar-born conservationist, who is recognised worldwide as the founder of America’s national parks.

The event coincided with the official opening of Scotland’s new national pathway, The John Muir Way, on 21st April, and with Earth Day on 22nd April.

The pupils created a range of puppets, flags, songs and improvisations, before parading their creations around the school. The school choir also took part in a procession up to QMU to perform a medley of Scottish songs for staff and students.

The students worked alongside local community drama group Prestongrange Players, which set the scene at the workshop with some John Muir inspired storytelling.

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A Ned’s Lament

Q MU’S COMMUNITY DRAMA specialists joined forces with the Brunton Theatre to bring to the stage a moving musical black comedy about red culture.

The production, which focused on a gang leader and his team of thugs, captured the essence of John Gay’s satirical ballad play ‘The Beggar’s Opera’.

Irvine Allan, a Community Drama Lecturer at QMU explained: “Through the creation of the set and the fabulous costumes designed and constructed by our costume design students, ‘A Ned’s Lament’ skilfully harked the 18th century with modern day Scotland. The costumes captured present day fashion but with a hint of the old ‘Beggars Opera’. The result was a hilarious and moving production which highlighted Scots’ language and culture.”

A strong community focus. ‘A Ned’s Lament’ involved QMU students and an enthusiastic team of people from the Brunton Players, the Brunton Senior Youth Theatre and the Prestongrange Players.

Irvine Allan, said: “It’s wonderful to see our students working with a mix of community groups and people of all ages. The cast involves young people from the local youth theatre, as well as more experienced people who have spent many years in amateur dramatics. We were especially delighted to have East Lothian woman Kate Potter taking part, Kate, who is in her 80s, played the role of a young ned and she was absolutely fantastic. In addition, the music for the libretto was written by Jane Gardner and Hazel Morrison, both musicians from Portobello.”

Irvine concluded: “This latest collaboration builds on the existing established relationship between QMU and the Brunton Theatre and it provides an excellent platform for community theatre to grow within Musselburgh and the surrounding area.”

Journalist Kate Adie and influential theatre director receive honorary degrees

The internationally renowned journalist, Kate Adie, joined influential theatre director, Eugenio Barba, to receive an honorary degree from QMU.

K ATIE ADIE WAS awarded an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of her contribution to news reporting and our understanding of world events. The former BBC international affairs journalist was joined by Eugenio Barba, a theatre practitioner who has significantly influenced practice and critical thinking within the art form.

Eugenio is director of Odin Teatret, a theatre company which he founded in 1964, and founder of the International School of Theatre Anthropology, both of which are based in Denmark. Both honorary graduates were acknowledged for the relevance of their work to society at large, reflecting the university’s own commitment to enhancing lives in the communities it serves.

The University was delighted to award Kate Adie, one of the UK’s highest profile journalists, with a Degree of Doctor of Letters at the graduation ceremony held in Edinburgh’s Usher Hall in July. Dressed in a flak jacket and a helmet, Kate hung up her flak jacket and helmet and moved to accept her honorary degree.

Kate Potter, who is in her 80’s, played the role of a young ned.

Kate Adie was joined by influential theatre director Eugenio Barba to receive an honorary degree from QMU. The ceremony took place at Edinburgh’s Usher Hall in July.

To read the full honorary graduate article visit: www.qmu.ac.uk/marketing/press_releases/Honorary-graduates-2014.htm
Callum Shearer, BA (Hons) Public Relations and Marketing

"This internship has been an integral part in my successful achievement of a graduate role..."

Juan Garcia, Project Coordinator

The NEW EMPLOYER MENTORING Programme at QMU explores ways to strengthen students’ employability and boost their confidence, helping their transition from academia to graduate employment.

Project Coordinator, Juan Garcia, believes that the initiative meets student employability expectations and creates a means to identify skills requirements in the region. It also meets regional business development needs by supporting local businesses which are developing their workforce through mentoring.

Juan explained: "Being involved in the Employer Mentoring Programme allows mentors to have a direct impact on our students’ development and success. Apart from a real feeling of satisfaction and achievement, it also provides professionals with the opportunity to gain a range of valuable skills which they can utilise within their own organisations."

The results from the new scheme have been extremely positive with the very first intern to work on the project securing a graduate level job in his specialist field.

"The Programme provides professionals with the opportunity to gain a range of valuable skills which they can utilise within their own organisations."

Juan Garcia, Project Coordinator

Callum Shearer at the QMU Graduation - July 2014

Callum Shearer, BA (Hons) Public Relations and Marketing

Callum was selected as the first intern to work on QMU’s first employer mentoring project and was so successful that he secured a paid graduate job in marketing and PR as Digital Communications Executive for Miituu. Edinburgh-based Miituu offers a new, fast and cost effective way of collecting video feedback from many audiences.

"I'm really grateful to Grayling Scotland for its continued support. My mentor showed me how to analyse real PR cases and strategies, as well as how to maximise the impact of my CV in the current PR job market and the work areas that are relevant to me."

"The whole experience allowed me to rediscover my own strengths and boost my confidence in my own capacities."

Martin Allen, Account Director at Grayling, said: "The mentor experience was very fulfilling. Having not undertaken anything like that before, there was certainly an element of the unknown and also responsibility, knowing that someone might shape their future on my words!"

"Maria, my mentee, was an excellent match and we were able to quickly develop a good working relationship. This meant the experience was very rewarding and I’ll certainly be happy to help out again."

Benefits for the mentor

Project feedback suggests that mentors can use this unique training and support opportunity to develop their coaching and mentoring skills, gain greater self-awareness, and enhance their managerial and leadership skills. Martin Allen, Account Director at Grayling, found the experience to be extremely rewarding. He mentored final year student, Maria Seisdedos-Diaz, from Spain.

For further information on the Employee Mentoring Programme at QMU, please contact Juan Garcia at the QMU JobShop on T: 0131 474 0000 or E: employermentoring@qmu.ac.uk.

You can also read more case studies, including one from Beth Noble, BSc (Hons) Nutrition student, who was mentored by the Development Manager (Food and Health) with NHS Health Scotland, at http://www.qmu.ac.uk/jobshop/casestudies.htm.

If you are a professional and/or QMU alumni who would like to know more about becoming a mentor to a QMU student.

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"I have gained a wide range of experience while undertaking the internship for the Employer Mentoring Programme and am thankful for receiving this opportunity. I can, without doubt, say that this internship has been an integral part in my successful achievement of a graduate role and has further enhanced my employability in a difficult job market."

Callum Shearer, QMU alumni

Maria Seisdedos-Diaz, BA (Hons) Public Relations and Marketing

Maria found out about the QMU Employer Mentoring Programme through the University’s Job Shop and was matched with one of the country’s leading public relations and public affairs consultancies, Grayling, in Edinburgh.

"I’m really grateful to Grayling Scotland for its continued support. My mentor showed me how to analyse real PR cases and strategies, as well as how to maximise the impact of my CV in the current PR job market and the work areas that are relevant to me."

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Juan Garcia, Project Coordinator

Maria Seisdedos-Diaz, BA (Hons) Public Relations and Marketing

Callum Shearer at the QMU Graduation - July 2014

Becoming a mentor

The QMU Employer Mentoring Programme is now looking to hear from business professionals and companies, including industry experts from film and media, broadcasting, public relations and psychology, that would be interested in becoming a mentor to a QMU student.

If you are a professional and/or QMU alumni who would like to know more about this programme visit: www.qmu.ac.uk/jobshop/becomeamentor.htm, follow us on Twitter @QMentoring, or contact Juan Garcia at the QMU JobShop on E: employermentoring@qmu.ac.uk or T: 0131 474 0000.

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A STUNNING STOP-MOTION FILM of Scotland’s major new cultural landmark – The Kelpies in Falkirk – was launched in New York and in Scotland in April.

Created by QMU’s award-winning filmmaker, Walid Salhab, the striking time-lapse/stop-motion film captures the four-month construction phase of Andy Scott’s Kelpies structures which form the centrepiece of the £43 million Helix land transformational project between Falkirk and Grangemouth.

The 30 metre (100ft) high sculptures of two horses’ heads are the world’s largest equine sculptures and are expected to play a key role in The Helix attracting an additional 350,000 visitors and adding around £1.5 million in additional annual tourism spend in the area.

Contracted by the Helix to produce the film, Walid is the only filmmaker to have had access to the complete build phase of the monumental Kelpies structures – thereby visually documenting a period in Scotland’s history. It is believed that his unique portrayal of The Kelpies will capture the attention of a global audience putting Falkirk on the international tourist map.

Walid and his technical support partner, Bill Annua, spent months on the construction site using a unique combination of hand-held, slides, tracks and static cameras to capture the build. Over 100,000 photos were taken with 12,000 making it into the final cut. The film is like a Persian carpet – stitched together by hand, frame-by-frame.

Walid continued: “The construction phase was the most challenging to capture as there were no second chances. We therefore had to double the amount of filming to cover any camera failures. It was almost a 24-hour process with editing necessary every night following filming to ensure that there were no technical issues.”

One of the key elements of The Kelpies is their capacity to reflect light. Walid explained: “Andy Scott has crafted beautiful structures which reflect their environment. The second part of the film celebrates the majestic nature of the completed Kelpies. Kelpies are supposed to be ‘shape-shifters’. These sculptures do indeed have a mystical quality about them as well as a tremendous capacity to reflect the sunset, clouds and moon. Their position between Falkirk and Grangemouth often results in a very distinctive backdrop of changing skies – enhancing their unique quality.”

Audiences may be surprised to learn that no special effects have been used in the film. Walid said: “Absolute minimum colouring is used. We wanted the final result to be as genuine as possible to demonstrate the true reflective nature of the metal structures. Ninety-five percent of the camera movement was achieved by re-positioning the camera on a tripod manually – inch by inch and foot by foot. The film is like a Persian carpet – stitched together by hand, frame-by-frame.”

Walid concluded: “Filming The Kelpies has been the most difficult but most rewarding experience of my life. I hope that the film will now encourage other photographers, filmmakers and visitors from all over the world to visit Falkirk and experience the brilliance of Andy Scott’s Kelpies.”


Walid Salhab went on to produce another dramatic Kelpies film. The three minute time-lapse ‘The Kelpies Enflammer’ captures the pyrotechnics display at the international launch of the Kelpies.

The amazing pyrotechnics were staged by Groupe F, the specialist company famous for lighting up the Eiffel Tower during the Millennium firework display.

Walid worked with a crew of five which included the team from Smart Film Production (Marcin Walczak and Ondrej Lodes) and Raw Film Productions (Michael Grant and Agata Jagodzinska). Smart Film and Raw Film Productions are leading video production companies run by QMU film graduates. The team shot more than 15,000 photos during two three hour performances.

Walid said: “We were unsure if the combination of stop-motion photography and slow-motion video would work on this project. We also had the challenge of condensing the three hour event into a three minute film without losing any of the drama. The Kelpies make a magnificent centre piece for a unique pyrotechnic show like this and I hope our footage helps to share the stunning performance with an international audience.”


A stunning time-lapse film launches in New York and Scotland

The Kelpies Enflammer

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Costume Showcase is ‘pure theatre’

This year, students from QMU’s Costume Design and Construction degree took the University’s annual catwalk event to new heights with a truly theatrical show.

With the theme of ‘pure theatre’, the 2014 show was even bolder and more inventive than in previous years.

Held in May, the event showcased an impressive array of costumes created and modelled by performing arts students. The breadth of work reflected the Costume Design and Construction students’ portfolio and included large scale works as well as smaller pieces including masks, millinery, puppetry and illustration.

The show introduced the audience to the world of courtiers and royalty, as well as ethereal fairy-stories and backstage glamour. Historical, mythological and literary creations took centre stage, and guests were treated to costumes from the period of Edward VII, creations from the play ‘Orpheus and the Underworld’ and a Queen Elizabeth I costume.

A focal point of this year’s event was an exquisite range of tweed themed outfits. The beautiful tweed fabric, kindly donated by Lovat Mill in Hawick, was crafted by students to create bespoke outfits for a forthcoming student film ‘Hound of the McBaskervilles’.

Dr Richard Butt, Dean of the School of Arts, Social Sciences & Management, said: “This event is always a highlight in the QMU calendar as it provides a platform for us to celebrate creativity and allows students to unveil costumes they have worked on over the last year.”

Sarah Paulley, Costume Design and Construction Course Leader, said: “This year, a much expanded exhibition of original design work and sketchbooks, together with masks and headdresses, were available to view after the show. This provided guests with the opportunity to meet the designers and makers, and to get an insight into the research, creativity and skill that goes into developing these creations.”

Dr Butt continued: “We would like to extend our most sincere thanks to Lovat Mill in Hawick, for providing the beautiful tweed. It is always a privilege for our students to work with such high quality material and it was a real thrill to see the bespoke tweed creations, in particular the large scale hound puppet, that the students created for Costume Showcase and the ‘Hound of the McBaskervilles’ film.”

Students used exquisite tweed fabric to craft costumes for the film ‘Hound of the McBaskervilles’.
Film and Media students help make the world ‘Happy’

QM and Media students have been spreading their own special brand of happiness around local businesses and across the globe, as part of their ‘Filming in the Media’ module.

Each year, the QMU students undertake a project with external clients that involves the production of a media product such as a film, website or social media campaign. Often the client is a small business, charity or community group, some of which don’t have the expertise needed to produce specialist promotional media. The result is therefore a win-win situation – our students gain excellent practical and technical experience working on a live project, and the client gets the chance to develop their promotional material.

2nd year students on the BA (Hons) Film and Media degree, Sarir Borgersen, Anine Rygg and Sophia Sahiche, teamed up with Clifton Hall School in Edinburgh this Easter to create an energetic short video set to the chart-topping single ‘Happy’ by singer Pharrell Williams.

The fun film ‘Clifton Hall Does Happy’ demonstrates the dancing factor that it is now being showcased on YouTube to show the happy ethos of the school.

The students built a new social media network to boost REdesign’s membership and online presence.

Another group of film and media students has teamed up with an East Lothian home improvement network to help it attract more members and to give its social and digital media presence a boost.

The REdesign network offers furniture up-cycling and refurbishment services for house-proud residents in East Lothian, as well as staging a range of creative upcycling workshops, pop-up shops and local community group events throughout the year.

QM level 2 students, Stuart MacKenzie, Connor Mullan, Blue Rainbird and Roni Simpson, worked with REdesign to build a new social media network, linking together Facebook and Twitter, as well as photo and video sharing channels - Instagram, Vine and Pinterest. The students also created a new image and logo for REdesign, by advising on a new style of photography to reflect the network as it develops.

The results of the students’ work are already having a positive impact on REdesign’s membership and online presence.

If other East Lothian and Edinburgh businesses and voluntary organisations are interested in getting involved in QMU’s film and media client projects they should contact Denny Colie, Lecturer in Creative Enterprise, E: dcolie@qmu.ac.uk

Who do you think you are?

Business specialists identify opportunities in ancestral tourism

WITH THE RECENT INTEREST in programmes such as the BBC’s ‘Who do you think you are?’ and the continuous enthusiasm from people in North America in tracing their ancestry, it is no surprise that Scottish businesses are seeing the potential in ancestral tourism.

Borders Journeys, a small tourism business based in the Scottish Borders, has been promoting the ancient but often neglected, Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway regions as travel destinations since 2012. In addition to sightseeing, owner/director Ian Walker has been inviting ancestral enthusiasts to connect with their Scottish roots and to explore their ancestry across the Borders and Dumfriesshire’s towns and countryside. With an excellent knowledge of Scotland, Ian specialises in tailor-made tours which share the beauty, history and culture of his homeland with visitors from home and abroad.

However, with a passion for all things Scottish, Ian was struggling to decide whether to concentrate on the specialism of ancestral tourism or to broaden his focus to encompass Scottish tourism in general.

Dr Claire Seaman, Director of the Scottish Forum for Family History Research at QMU, said: “Ian felt he needed a clearer strategic vision for his company. He particularly wanted to establish if there was a large enough market to merit him spending the majority of his time focusing on ancestral tourism.”

She continued: “As specialists in tourism, QMU was delighted to get involved with Ian. Small businesses often lack the resources to establish if there was a large enough market to merit him spending the majority of his time focusing on ancestral tourism.”

She predicted that ancestral tourism could bring around £2.4 billion of additional spend to the Scottish economy over five years.

“Outside from the USA and other international markets which generate tourists who seek bespoke personal tours focusing on their ancestry in Scotland there is also a growing domestic and out-of-country market, possibly fuelled by programmes such as ‘Who do you think you are?’ and a growing older population.”

Dr Seaman and Professor Joe Goldblatt, from QMU’s Division of Business, conducted research into the ancestral tourism market in Scotland, estimating the market size, and looking at the characteristics of ancestral tourism within Scotland and with the Scottish diaspora.

Professor Goldblatt explained: “A recent scoping study for VisitScotland highlights that the current value of ancestral tourism is around £101 million and that the likelihood of ancestral tourists becoming returning tourists in Scotland is high across all countries.”

VisitScotland also estimates that there are approximately 28-40 million people with Scottish ancestry who live permanently outwith of Scotland, in addition to these ancestral Scots, a 2009 study conducted by the American Scottish Foundation (ASF) identified some tens of millions more individuals who have an affinity with Scottish culture.

Professor Goldblatt continued: “With the increased priority being placed on ancestral tourism by the Scottish Government and opportunities presented by large-scale events such as the Commonwealth Games and Scotland’s Homecoming, and links with the clan associations, there is significant scope for the development of ancestral tourism.”

Dr Seaman concluded: “Our report suggested that, to avoid over-reliance on links as the main business expert within the business, the company could grow parallel stands of business, one of which would be additional expertise to be brought into the company as appropriate.”

“However, importantly, our research, and the marketing opportunities identified with diaspora Scots, confirmed that the future is indeed bright for Borders Journeys and that there is a substantial market to merit its further development in ancestral tourism.”

The three month long research project was supported by Interface through a £5,000 innovation voucher from the Scottish Funding Council. Interface provides a central point of access to the expertise available in Scotland’s higher education and research institutions and helps match businesses with the right academic expertise.

Ian Walker from Borders Journeys, said: “The advice and support provided by the QMU academic team has been invaluable. Building on the project’s findings, Borders Journeys are building new relationships and contacts worldwide in the ancestral history and tourism market. This year we have seen a significant increase in clients contacting us regarding ancestral research and tours.”
First Macmillan Supporters help cancer patients with nutrition

In May, a team of cancer survivors in Glasgow celebrated after successfully completing a course to become Scotland’s first fully trained Macmillan Supporters.

The new Macmillan Supporters, who are all volunteers, have either had a personal cancer experience or cared for someone with cancer. Each of the volunteers completed comprehensive training in nutrition, which was credit rated by QMU, to equip them with the skills and confidence to listen, support and provide advice to cancer patients.

The new initiative from Macmillan Cancer Support, which is delivered in partnership with QMU and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, provides cancer patients in the West of Scotland with the opportunity to meet with, or talk over the phone, to someone who has experience of cancer. The Macmillan Supporters are now equipped to talk through issues such as treatment, managing changes in appetite and body weight or experiencing a similar type of cancer to ensure they can simply offer a listening ear.

Trisha Hatt, Macmillan Senior Development Manager, said: “Receiving a cancer diagnosis and going through treatment will be the toughest fight many people will face. Having family, friends and health professionals for support is essential. However, we know that speaking to someone who has gone through the same experience is highly valued by those affected by cancer.

“Speaking to someone who has gone through the same experience is highly valued by those affected by cancer.”

The new Macmillan Supporters will act safely and effectively to improve the cancer and the healthcare community to be assured that a Macmillan supporter will have either had a personal cancer experience or cared for someone with cancer. Each of the volunteers completed a course to become Scotland’s first fully trained Macmillan Supporters.

New scholarships help address Scotland’s shortage of therapeutic radiographers

With cancer cases on the rise across the globe, health authorities face the significant challenge of ensuring that there are enough therapeutic radiographers and specialised equipment to meet the growing demand for treatment and patient care.

The World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) estimates that cancer cases will rise from 12.7 million to 21 million by 2050. However, in the UK, there is a shortage of qualified therapeutic radiographers. Not surprisingly, the 7.6% average vacancy rate for these qualified professionals in the UK is prompting major concern about the future sustainability of cancer services across the UK. With new oncology care centres opening in Tayside and the west of Scotland, and three additional treatment units being built in the north of England, demand for therapeutic radiographers is at an all-time high.

However, recruitment and retention of suitable students to courses which train therapeutic radiographers is a major challenge to the radiography workforce. Without the qualified staff, it is impossible for the NHS or private practice to service the expansion of radiography services. In addition to its four year undergraduate programme, ten years ago, QMU responded to the high demand for qualified therapeutic radiographers by developing an innovative two year pre-registration postgraduate diploma in radiotherapy and oncology. The aim was to fast track graduates already qualified in science or other health disciplines. Initially, the Scottish Government provided funded places for students on the fast track postgraduate programme, but funding ended and students had the challenge of paying for their own fees.

Dr Coutts continued: “The demand for qualified therapeutic radiographers remains high and the postgraduate course at QMU has a 100% employability rate. However, at a cost of £3240 a year, the financial burden of self-funded postgraduate study is a major barrier for many students. This situation limits the number of graduates in Scotland available to work as radiographers and has a detrimental effect on services to patients with cancer.”

The University was therefore delighted that Santander, through its Santander Universities Global Division, helped ease the situation by providing scholarships which part-funded three students on the fast track programme in 2013 and 2014.

Due to the expansion of radiography services and the urgent demand for a skilled workforce, QMU has been determined to encourage more students to prepare for a career in this specialist field. QMU’s efforts have been rewarded by the successful funding from the Scottish Government of 16 fee-paying scholarships for students studying the PgDip/MSc in Radiotherapy and Oncology in 2014/15. Students will receive full fee funding for both years of the programme.

Dr Coutts concluded: “We are very grateful to Santander Universities and to the Scottish Government for providing this much needed funding. We also greatly appreciate the support of Scotland’s Radiotherapy Service Managers, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer Scotland, the AHP Federation Scotland, the Scottish Government, through its Santander Universities fund and the Scottish Government of 16 fee-paying scholarships for students studying the PgDip/MSc in Radiotherapy and Oncology in 2014/15. Students will receive full fee funding for both years of the programme.

Dr Coutts: “The demand for qualified therapeutic radiographers remains high and the postgraduate course at QMU has a 100% employability rate. However, at a cost of £3240 a year, the financial burden of self-funded postgraduate study is a major barrier for many students. This situation limits the number of graduates in Scotland available to work as radiographers and has a detrimental effect on services to patients with cancer.”

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QM UNIVERSITY OF SCOTLAND FOR THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Fresh blend of research informs Britain’s tea lovers

MU’S FOOD AND DRINK scientists have teamed up with one of the UK’s leading artisan tea companies to offer consumers more information about the contents of their tea cup.

eteaket, the loose leaf speciality tea company based on Edinburgh’s Frederick Street, aimed to expand its range of speciality teas for the UK and overseas market. It also wanted to provide customers with more detailed nutritional information about caffeine and antioxidant levels to assist them in choosing the best tea variety for their personal requirements.

With a strong research background in supporting the development of Scotland’s food and drink businesses, eteaket identified QMU as the academic partner with the widest skills and knowledge for analysing the science behind its range of 30 loose leaf teas.

Researchers at QMU have extensive experience of identifying the antioxidant content of a wide variety of food and drink products, including undertaking a number of studies which have assessed the nutritional and health benefits of antioxidant rich drinks.

Varying levels of caffeine and antioxidants found in everyday food and drinks products such as tea, coffee, chocolate and energy drinks have a number of health benefits as well as some physiological effects. Some studies have revealed that caffeine has anti-inflammatory properties and has an impact on neurological function.

Dr Mary Warnock, Senior Lecturer in Microbiology at QMU, discussed the findings: “Tea contains numerous different natural chemicals which act as antioxidants, including vitamin C (ascorbic acid) and tannins. Antioxidants play a valuable role in maintaining good health. They can help protect cells from damage and are important in the fight against disease.

“Our research showed that some of eteaket black teas have a high caffeine level but some tea enthusiasts might be surprised to learn that it is those teas that also have a high antioxidant level. eteaket’s English Breakfast black tea variety had the greatest antioxidant content and the Silver Needle variety of white tea had the least. eteaket’s Oriental Oolong and English Breakfast teas contained the highest levels of caffeine while Decaf Breakfast and Big Red Rooibos contained no or negligible amounts.

“Even though black teas have a relatively high amount of caffeine, it is still only about half the amount that is found in coffee and energy drinks.”

Dr Warnock concluded: “Hopefully this information will be really helpful to consumers who are interested to know about the nutritional content of their tea. So for example, those who are looking to reduce caffeine in their diet could choose to select eteaket’s Decaf Breakfast or the Big Red Rooibos varieties.”

Erica Moore, Founder of eteaket, added: “We’re passionate about tea and have been rekindling the British love for proper leaf tea since 2008.

“The latest scientific data from QMU is helping us develop product information contained on our website, online shop, promotional materials and labelling. We’re really pleased that we can now offer our customers and tea connoisseurs, across the UK and overseas, detailed consumer information about the contents of their tea cup.

“Importantly, the valuable information we now have on caffeine and antioxidant levels across our product range is also helping us increase sales and identify other business opportunities.”

Consumer information on the full range of eteaket’s teas will soon be available from the company’s online shop www.eteaket.co.uk
NEW QMU RESEARCH has shown that an artisan chocolate made in Scotland has the potential to improve the reaction times of Scotland’s toughest rugby players.

QMU scientists teamed up with one of Scotland’s leading chocolate makers and Scottish Rugby in a bid to unravel the superfood value of the popular snack. Stirling-based iQ Chocolate enlisted the help of QMU and 12 of Scotland’s toughest rugby players to put the product through robust scientific analysis and up against the extreme physical demands of these sporting giants.

In addition to seeing a marked trend in reaction times of rugby players, the research also showed that IQ Chocolate has a greater antioxidant level compared to the other leading chocolate brands, including iQ Chocolate, which is often perceived as an unhealthy food. Most chocolate available on the market is highly refined, with high sugar and fat content, as well as relatively low cocoa content. Bearing this in mind, IQ Chocolate wanted to create a chocolate that challenged this negative image.

IQ Chocolate is a raw, organic, bean-to-bar chocolate that has a high 72% cocoa content. It is produced and formulated in a particular way to retain specifically high antioxidant level.

Cocoa is a very concentrated and valuable source of antioxidant in the diet, along with certain fruit and vegetables and red wine. Varying levels of antioxidants found in these everyday products can have a positive effect on heart health and mental function. The most widely consumed source of cocoa is chocolate, which is often perceived as an unhealthy food. Most chocolate available on the market is highly refined, with high sugar and fat content, as well as relatively low cocoa content. Bearing this in mind, IQ Chocolate wanted to create a chocolate that challenged this negative image.

IQ Chocolate proves truly superfood

Researchers and Scottish Rugby tackle the ‘superfood’ value of chocolate

Researchers at QMU have extensive experience of assessing the antioxidant content of a wide variety of food products, including undertaking a number of studies which have identified the nutritional and health benefits of antioxidant rich foods such as sea buckthorn and tea.

The results of QMU’s research have shown that an artisan chocolate made in Scotland has the potential to improve the reaction times of Scotland’s toughest rugby players. IQ Chocolate identified QMU as the academic partner with the widest skills and knowledge for analysing the science behind its premium product.

Researchers at QMU have extensive experience of assessing the antioxidant content of a wide variety of food products, including undertaking a number of studies which have identified the nutritional and health benefits of antioxidant rich foods such as sea buckthorn and tea.

With help from QMU researchers, IQ Chocolate wanted to provide customers with more detailed nutritional information about the antioxidant properties of its products and its positive health benefits, especially for those people who take part in regular intense exercise and sports.

IQ Chocolate decided to test the product on the Scottish Rugby Union’s squad. Rugby performance is influenced by physical activity levels, but also relies heavily on tactical behaviour and decision making. Since rugby is one of the most tactically complete sports, a high antioxidant intake on a regular basis, specifically before a match, offers the potential to provide additional benefits for players in terms of both physical and mental function abilities.

IQ Chocolate is now being successfully marketed as a superfood with the aim of repositioning its range of premium chocolate products as naturally healthy food. IQ Chocolate is particularly suited to the sports market, as it is fuel rich and a healthy alternative to other high energy snacks.

Scottish Rugby currently now recommends IQ Chocolate as a post-match snack to its players due to its high antioxidant content.

To read more about this research visit: www.qmu.ac.uk/marketing/press_releases/QMU-research-tackles-superfood-value-of-chocolate.htm

For more information about QMU’s Research & Knowledge Exchange Development Unit and how it can benefit your business, contact Miriam Smith, Business Development Manager at QMU on T: 0131 474 0000 or E: MSmith3@qmu.ac.uk
Interview with David Sharp, Area Supervisor with Japanese conglomerate Nichi Gakkan

David Sharp, MSc International Management & Leadership, 2012 (distinction)

Any tips for current QMU students?
Don’t get too star-struck by specific subjects like marketing or supply chain, they may or may not be useful. The business and workplace psychology subjects like organisational behaviour, leadership studies and reflective practice, are just as useful. Understanding how organisations and people work is a vital skill that will help you get work and get promoted. It will give you confidence when dealing with clients, colleagues, subordinates and bosses because you know that you aren’t just making decisions on a whim, you are acting, deciding and working with an awareness of the most up-to-date science on how different kinds of behaviours, incentives and organisational structures affect those around you.

What aspects of your QMU degree do you still use?
The great thing about my QMU masters is that it didn’t just give me general transferable skills - it gave me real, practical business and management knowledge and a solid grasp of the theory behind that knowledge.

How easy was it for you to secure your current job?
It isn’t a matter of hard or easy. It is a matter of consistently being ready for opportunities. My time at QMU, doing projects, it isn’t a matter of hard or easy. It is a matter of being ready for opportunities. My time at QMU, doing projects, being on a 10-person shortlist from over 200 applicants who were interviewed for promotion. During my MSc, human resources was broken down into four areas: operational and administration, training, and development. It's more than the nuts and bolts of the job, it's about understanding how organisations and people work, and how to engage employees and motivate them.

What is your current job title/role?
I am an Area Supervisor responsible for staff training and product quality at nine worksites. I have 65 employees reporting directly to me. I am also responsible for liaising between head office and operations staff, and provide cross-cultural dispute resolution consulting to nine managers, three branch managers and a division head.

Do you feel your QMU degree has been important in helping you get to where you are today?
The real employment value in management degrees such as the MSc International Management & Leadership is that it helps you stand out from the crowd: promotions are being decided. During my MSc, human resources was broken down into four separate areas. This gave me a real in-depth knowledge when it came to workplace psychology and change management. I used this knowledge while working in my company and it helped me stand out in interviews. Very few non-Japanese people ever receive a tenured position in a Japanese conglomerate, and it was my QMU management degree that made all the difference.

How was it for you to secure your current job?
It isn’t a matter of hard or easy. It is a matter of consistently being ready for opportunities. My time at QMU, doing projects, and being a member of the Student Parliament, representing my fellow MBA and MSc cohort, as well as the academic work, gave me a good understanding of the need to always be ready, to always say yes to a challenge, and to go the extra mile. My approach to staff evaluation and feedback sessions is heavily based on what I learned in my Organisational Behaviour and Reflective Practice classes.

In discussions with my own boss, I am able to contribute intelligently to larger projects because of what I learned in the QMU Strategy and Finance class. The hands on Theory Into Practice project is integral to the QMU MSc International Management & Leadership because it gives you a real chance to be a leader.

David Sharp, MSc International Management & Leadership, 2012 (distinction)

New bursary aims to improve communication of children from disadvantaged backgrounds

The MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ‘CASL’ Research Centre at QMU, which promotes research into speech and non-verbal communication, has recently received a generous donation from Speech and Language Therapist, Mrs Carol Sprague. The four year funding will support ‘The Carol Sprague Dissertation Bursary’, a MSc project which will explore communication difficulties and intervention in children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

The project’s focus is to assess the communication skills of primary school children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds and provide them with targeted speech and language therapy to consolidate and improve their communication skills. It will be carried out by a newly qualified Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) who has recently graduated from QMU’s PgDip Speech and Language Therapy.

As part of the bursary, the successful student will register for a further qualification, the MSc in Speech and Language Therapy. The opportunity to undertake a funded MSc dissertation project will be of immense benefit to the student who is chosen to carry out the work. Data gathered by the student will enhance the breadth and depth of the study, whilst the learning opportunities open to the chosen student will be greatly enhanced by working alongside professional practitioners in a challenging and rewarding clinical environment. The work carried out will also result in the student contributing to academic publication, which is crucial to the early career development of those wishing to impact significantly on practice within the field.

If you would like to discuss different ways of supporting student development at QMU or to support other aspects of the University’s work, please contact Lisa Gillespie, Development and Alumni Manager. She can be contacted via development@qmu.ac.uk or T: 0131 474 0000.

(*CASL – Clinical Audiology, Speech and Language)
International management scholarship honours memory of mother

In January 2014, QMU celebrated the unveiling at Atholl Crescent of a historical document plaque to commemorate Louisa Stevenson and Christian Guthrie Wright, founders of Queen Margaret University. One guest, who travelled from Washington DC to join the celebration, was Mr Desmond Lacton Bishop. He was joined by a relative and friend, Harold Ezidio and Eugene Beckley. Mr Bishop made the journey to Scotland as he wanted to see for himself where his late mother, Victora Christina Bishop (nee Sawyer), had studied over sixty years ago.

Mrs Bishop attended the institute that is now QMU at Atholl Crescent between 1954-57 on a scholarship from Sierra Leone, West Africa. After her time in Edinburgh, Mrs Bishop returned to Freetown, Sierra Leone, and enjoyed a long and successful career in the world of business and hospitality management. Her many successes included working for the British Commercial Development Corporation, which then ran some of the best hotels throughout British West Africa. She went on to become the General Manager of the famous Paramount Hotel in Freetown. Later, she served as the designated consultant for state visits, looking after the highest level of dignitaries including heads of state and prime ministers. Among the highlights of her career was the state visit of then Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia in January 1972, and co-ordinating the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Kent in 1987. She received the highest honour of the land, the Member of the Order of the Rokel, for her dedicated service to her country immediately after Sierra Leone hosted the 1980 GMU conference.

Mr Bishop said: “My mom travelled from Western Africa to Scotland at the age of 21. She was a young woman who took an opportunity to broaden her horizons and learn a profession that she would enjoy for the rest of her life. She stayed with a Scottish family and studied at Atholl Crescent for three wonderful years. The skills and lessons she learned at the Edinburgh School of Domestic Science shaped her career for almost 30 years. We are incredibly proud of her determination and achievements.”

Following their trip to Scotland the Bishop family has created a special scholarship in honour and memory of their beloved mother and aunt. “The Victoria C M Bishop Scholarship” is a five-year scholarship providing support, each year, to a student in QMUs MSc International Management and Leadership with Hospitality.

If you are interested in creating a scholarship to help current students, our Development and Alumni Manager, Lisa Gillespie E: lgillespie@qmu.ac.uk would be delighted to discuss the opportunities available with you.

Graduate donation improves opportunities for current students

Thorben Grosser, a QMU graduate in Events Management (2012), has recently gifted a generous donation of 500 euros to the Student Development Fund.

Shortly before his graduation, Thorben, together with six fellow students and QMUs Professor Joe Goldblatt, attended the Professional Convention Management Association’s (PCMA) conference in San Diego. In response to this trip, Thorben was offered a job with EventMobi, a multinational company which produces mobile apps for events, conferences and trade shows that enhance the attendee experience. Thorben is now Business Development Manager for EventMobi in Berlin, Germany.

Thorben said: “The 2012 student trip to San Diego resulted in me securing my current position. I want to make sure future students have the same opportunities I had a QMU. Coming to QMU changed my life because of all the practical experiences and training, and valuable career contacts that I made. I am still fairly new to this job, so making this contribution means I need to cut back on some things for a few months to afford this donation. However, I am happy to financially support QMU students who hope I will enjoy similar experiences and successes that I have had since graduating from QMU.”

Thorben’s donation helped sponsor a dinner in Boston in January 2014. Nine QMU Event Management students had the opportunity to meet two event alumni - Michka Brooks and Yasha Bergmann, both successful event planners in Boston and Germany. The evening gave students the opportunity to gain invaluable careers advice and important contacts for the future.  

The Vice-Chancellor’s Fund giving students an international perspective

The Vice-Chancellor’s Fund was set up in 2010 with the sole aim of supporting students who wish to take part in study or research abroad. The Fund continues to support in a wide range of overseas projects. These projects are made possible through the generous support of individual donors, such as Mr Hor Guilid, who supports QMU on an annual basis.

In 2013, Paulo Nunes de Moura, Associate Student on the MSc Social Justice course, applied for funding to attend an accredited summer school programme at the University of Amsterdam. Paulo said: “The programme ‘Global Poverty & Inclusive Development’ started focusing on poverty in low and middle-income countries. Thanks to the knowledge I had acquired on the Poverty and Social Exclusion programme at QMU, I was able to suggest that we should also talk about pockets of poverty in developed countries, such as Scotland, and the Netherlands, which the facilitators agreed to include in discussions.”

Paulo added: “I’d like to thank QMU, for facilitating this opportunity, which is not usually afforded to part-time students, and Dr Eirug Scardlett for his support with my grant application which allowed me to go on the programme.”

Katie Gardner and Amy Westby, currently PgDip MSc students in Speech & Language Therapy, travelled to Dehradun in Northern India in October 2013 to work with the Latika Roy Foundation. The Foundation runs four schools in the city which provide educational and pre-vocational placements for children with a range of additional needs and physical difficulties. Katie and Amy provided support and discussed possible strategies and interventions with staff in order to maximise the pupils’ communicative potential. Discussing their placement, they said: “We are extremely grateful for the financial help that QMU provided. This assisted us in fulfilling our goal of working in India. It was a fantastic trip which is allowing us to grow in confidence as speech therapists. The experience will continue to guide and influence us throughout our professional careers.”

If you would like further information on the Vice-Chancellor Fund, including details of how to give or how to apply for a grant, see www.qmu.ac.uk/ alumni_and_friends/VC_fund.htm or E: development@qmu.ac.uk.  

Students enjoying their time in Boston

Second row: Professor Joe Goldblatt, students Leigh Ward, Laura Zambon, Finenica Gago, Stephanie Maybeck, Lars Van Veen
Back row: student Hannah MacDonald, Boston Red Sox Pitching Coach Juan Nieves, student Katie_Logue.
**QMU Graduates’ Association celebrates 100th anniversary**

An Afternoon Tea event was held on Friday 23 May to celebrate the centenary of the Queen Margaret University Graduates’ Association, 1914–2014. Over 50 guests attended the ‘walk down memory lane’ which included afternoon tea and a display of artefacts and memorabilia from the Archives Department. In addition, a short play was written and performed by current QMU students showcasing the three locations of QMU over the past 100 years. The first meeting of the Association – then Guild – was on the 30th May 1914. The Guild was founded by Miss Elsie de Coeur, who was President from 1909-1931. The purpose of the Guild was to preserve contact between staff and students after leaving college. The Guild was managed by a Committee. The Principal was President and there were representatives from each department. At that time, there was an annual membership fee of £2½ and a reunion was held each year in the summer term. The afternoon celebrations concluded with a tree planting ceremony. This wonderful occasion was marked by members sponsoring a ‘Tree of Life’ in the name of QMU Graduates’ Association.

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Left to right: Constance MacArthur, Maureen Paterson, Anna Ross, Naomi Serratt, Sarah Stewart and Jean Bulkhead

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**Where are you now?**

Sian Downes - QMU graduate named one of the UK’s top event planners of 2014

Sian Downes, a recent PR and Media graduate, was ‘Highly Commended’ as one of the top four event planners under the age 30 in the UK and the only ‘Rising Star’ in Scotland, at the 2014 Event Awards in London in October. The annual Event Awards is the only industry awards ceremony in the UK that celebrates the creative, experimental and supplier sectors in the live events sector.

Sian, who works as the Events Manager for the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, said: “I’m thrilled to have been named one of the UK event world’s ‘rising stars’ this year. My QMU degree has certainly equipped me well for my chosen career path by offering lots of practical opportunities as well as building my academic knowledge. I really thrive on working in such a dynamic environment and have enjoyed taking on the challenge of boosting the profile of Chamber events and working alongside the members.”

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**Kaiza secures marketing position with Contini Events**

Congratulations to Kaiza Magnusson, an Events Management graduate from 2012, who started a new job in the summer as Bookings Secretary for Contini Events, part of the Victor and Carina Contini restaurant and catering business. Contini Events offers fresh, simple Italian and Scottish food for parties and celebrations at its two restaurants: The Scottish Café and Restaurant based at the National Gallery of Scotland on The Mound (serving sustainable Scottish food) and its Italian restaurant Contini Ristorante on George Street, Edinburgh.

Kaiza was grateful for all the support she has received from QMU staff, particularly Professor Joe Goldblatt, Director of QMU’s International Centre for the Study of Planned Events. Sharing the good news of her recent job offer, she wrote: “Thanks for being an excellent professor and giving me a great education and fantastic support during and after university. Now I am going to put my skills to good use!”

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**Actor’s ‘Road to Change’ campaign raises awareness of child abuse**

Acting graduate and professional Scottish actor, Matthew McVarish, has launched a personal campaign, ‘Road to Change’, to help stamp out paedophilia in Europe. Matthew is walking 16,000 kilometres to each European capital to try to convince local governments to adopt harsher paedophilia legislation.

With only the shirt on his back and two kilts to wear, Matthew has already been walking for over 11 months and has reached out to millions of people across Europe. He has appeared on TV, radio and in newspapers in every country on his route. Bucharest is the 18th city he has visited.

Matthew’s ‘Road to Change’ campaign has already brought this sensitive and controversial subject to the attention of government officials and policy makers around Europe, but Matthew is continuing to make further ground. He now plans to continue his epic journey to Sofia, Athens, Cyprus, Malta, Sicily, Rome, Slovenia, Croatia and Romania.

Matthew is being sponsored by American non-governmental organisation - ‘Stop the Silence: Stop Child Sexual Abuse’. **Where are you now?**

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**GA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Christmas Lunch – Monday 8 December 2014, at the Edinburgh New Town Cookery School, Queen Street, Edinburgh. Please contact Social Secretary by Monday 24 November 2014 if you wish to attend.

Lunch – October and November 2014. Please contact Social Secretary, Telephone contact preferred.

Join Edinburgh University Graduates’ Association (EUGA) events 2014
QMU is invited to attend several EUGA events which involve lunch at its two restaurants: The Scottish Café and Restaurant at its two locations in Edinburgh, and Contini Ristorante on George Street, Edinburgh. EUGA is sponsoring a ‘Tree of Life’ in the name of QMU Graduates’ Association.
things you might not know about QMU

• is enjoying university league table success. Recently, it climbed 10 places in the Complete University Guide 2015 and 12 places in the Guardian League Tables 2015.

• is soon to launch the new Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation to support Scottish food and drink firms with their business and product development.

• houses a Business Gateway, run by East Lothian Council, which provides support for local businesses and entrepreneurial graduates.

• Matt Baker, BBC’s ‘The One Show’ presenter, and Edith Bowman, Radio 1 DJ and broadcaster, are QMU graduates.

• students and graduates were heavily involved in Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games taking on both paid and volunteering roles.

• has a Consumer Insight Centre which has launched an accredited complaint handling qualification for public service staff. More details at: www.qmu.ac.uk/be/Research/cic.htm

• Public management experts have worked with councils to develop a high impact masters programme that will improve the delivery of public services across the country.

• Santander’s internship programme has provided QMU students and graduates with the chance to gain invaluable experience in the workplace. A variety of paid internships have been offered in PR, sales, marketing, event management, creative industries and healthcare.

• is capitalising on its international reputation for cutting-edge stop-motion/time-lapse filming by developing a new kinetic centre. This will include a knowledge exchange hub for the production of short promotional film projects for commercial organisations. For details E: wsalhab@qmu.ac.uk or mgrant@qmu.ac.uk

• is committed to supporting the development of small and medium sized enterprises. The Research and Knowledge Exchange Unit is continuing to develop mutually beneficial links with the wider business community. For further details about research and development contact Miriam Smith on E: msmith3@qmu.ac.uk

PR graduate shortlisted for ‘Rising Agency Star’ Award

QMU graduate, Lisa Addie, was shortlisted for this year’s Marketing Society Scotland ‘Rising Agency Star’ Award.

The prestigious Marketing Society Scotland Star Awards is firmly established in setting standards of excellence across all aspects of marketing and sectors. The awards also help build Scotland’s reputation as world leading marketing community and a great place in which to study, work and invest.

Lisa graduated in 2012 with a BA (Hons) PR & Marketing (first class) and is now a PR and Brand Executive for Threebrand in Edinburgh, an independent creative branding agency with a specialism in food and drink.

Lisa’s client management role is split across two key disciplines within the agency, namely PR and branding - a diverse role, which spans a range of clients from different sectors and which demands a flexible and proactive manner and approach.

Not only does this unique dual-role entail developing specific knowledge and insights across a breadth of categories, it also requires a high degree of organisation, client management, and ability to deal with multiple projects all with extremely tight deadlines at the same time – not a job for the faint hearted!

2013 was a steep learning curve for Lisa. Key areas of achievements included developing her experience across fashion, retail, tourism and luxury brands.

‘Louise’s play is a sell out at the Traverse’

‘Listeners Beware’ written by Louise E. Knowles, was recently performed to a packed audience at Edinburgh’s Traverse Theatre. Louise, who graduated in 2002 with a BA (Hons) Playwriting, and again in 2004 with an MFA Screenwriting, won a commission from director Caitlin Skinner and funding from Creative Scotland to develop the play. The 45 minute production centred around characters in a North East of Scotland radio station ‘Fittle FM’.

Produced as part of the programme of new writing for The Village Pub Theatre playwright collective, ‘Listeners Beware’ prompted uproarious laughter, cheers and thrills from an enthusiastic audience. Louise was delighted when the play received a four star review from Scotsman theatre critic, Joyce McMillan.

In its inaugural year, Louise was selected as a mentee of the Playwrights’ Studio Scotland 2004/2005. Performances of her plays include ‘Intransit’ (GRV), co-written in collaboration with The Actors’ Kitchen. Louise is also a founding member of The Village Pub Theatre collective and regularly writes for evenings at The Village Pub in Leith.

In addition to writing, Louise co-produces the Edinburgh and Glasgow 48 Hour Film Projects with husband Sam Goldblatt. Sam is a QMU graduate in Cultural Management and is currently Marketing Campaign Officer at the King’s and Festival Theatres in Edinburgh. In March of this year, Louise and Sam travelled to New Orleans to attend ‘Filmapalooza’, the 48 Hour Film Project’s international festival, where their winning Glasgow film was selected to be screened at the Cannes Film Festival.

Event: Postgraduate Open Evening
When: Wednesday 26th November 2014
Time: 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Where: QMU

Event: Official opening of the Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation
When: Tuesday 9th December 2014
Contact: E: msmith3@qmu.ac.uk

Booking for open day events is not essential but interested parties are advised to register at www.qmu.ac.uk close to the time of the event.