

QMYOU

MAGAZINE

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF
QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY
Issue 87 | February 2020



**QMU to educate the
paramedics of tomorrow**

**Alumnus in leading role
with Cirque du Soleil**

**Meet QMU's new Principal:
Sir Paul Grice**



Queen Margaret University
EDINBURGH



Principal's Welcome

Welcome to this issue of QMYOU, which publishes just a few months after I was installed as Principal of Queen Margaret University (QMU).

Both before and since joining QMU, I have been struck by the relevance of the subjects in which research and teaching is focused here. Indeed, that was a significant factor in my decision to join this University. From initial teacher education through to global health and development, QMU's work is making a real and practical positive difference to society in the here and now as well as addressing the issues of the future.

And the news and features in this magazine showcase some brilliant examples of our recent work. For example, you can read about our plans to offer a BSc Paramedic Science, a move which reflects the fact that paramedics entering the profession from 2021 must have a degree. You'll find quite a few stories about our work fostering entrepreneurship and the business successes of our current students and recent graduates. Also very interesting is an interview with Dr Anthony Schrag looking at how we are supporting artists, theatre practitioners and other creatives to apply their skills in social contexts – in public health, social welfare, education, the criminal justice system and so on.

In my first few weeks at QMU, I have been spending a lot of time getting to know staff and students, and their concerns and their priorities. This will help us ensure that our future strategies are the right ones. I've also started to meet alumni and friends of the University, and I have been touched by the high levels of support and commitment there is for the University across Scotland, the UK and well beyond. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the months and years to come, and to nurturing and building the QMU community across the world.

Sir Paul Grice FRSE
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Moving up the rankings

QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY (QMU) has climbed seven places in the Complete University Guide 2020 League Tables, holding the position of highest ranked modern university in Scotland.

In subject rankings, QMU scored in the UK top ten for 'Aural and Oral Sciences', and 'Drama, Dance and Cinematics'.

*Modern refers to the 'post-92' universities that were given university status through the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. □

Dr Wood named one of UK's 'lifesavers'



DR SARA WOOD, A clinical phonetics researcher and speech and language therapist at QMU, is one of the 'Nation's Lifesavers' – the top 100 individuals or groups based in universities whose work is saving lives and making a life-changing difference to our health and wellbeing.

Dr Wood was included as part of Universities UK's MadeAtUni campaign, which brings to life the impact of universities on everyday lives. Universities from across the country were invited to nominate an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to the nation's health and wellbeing. More than 100 universities from Plymouth to Dundee submitted a nomination.

As part of a team of therapists and technical experts, Dr Wood has transformed the lives of children suffering with long-term speech communication problems through the use of pioneering visual feedback technology. Using Electropalatography (EPG) – a custom-made artificial palate fitted with electronic sensors – Dr Wood can demonstrate to the child how to change their tongue position to create correct speech sounds.

Her intervention has had a profound impact on many children's lives, with improved speech boosting their confidence, educational attainment and social interactions, as well as opening the door to a world of opportunities they never thought possible. □



Student Nursing Times Awards

THE QMU NURSING TEAM was ecstatic to be awarded a top award at this year's Student Nursing Times Awards in London, serving as further evidence of the University's outstanding reputation and track record in nursing.

Scooping the Student Experience award, QMU was delighted to be recognised as a flourishing place and space for all learners, beating off stiff competition from Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust, Liverpool John Moores University, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton FT, University of Hertfordshire, and the University of the West of Scotland.

QMU was represented across five awards categories; Stephanie Norton-Alexander was a nominee in the Student Nurse of the Year (adult) category, and Karen Rennie, a QMU PhD student and research assistant, was nominated for Learner of the Year (Post-registration).

The University's partnership with Cyrenians (the Scotland-wide charity working with homeless and vulnerable people) was also nominated for The Partnership of the Year award. QMU's final nomination was in the category of Nurse Education Provider of the Year (Pre-registration).

Professor Jan Dewing, Director of The Centre for Person-centred Practice Research at QMU and the Sue Pembrey Chair in Nursing, said: "I'm absolutely delighted and so proud of QMU's nursing team for winning the Student Experience Award at this year's Student Nursing Times Awards.

"This well-deserved accolade serves as further evidence of the University's sterling reputation in nursing, and is just one of the multiple benefits we can see from investing in the co-creation of a person-centred culture in the team." □

Professor McVittie awarded Fellowship of the American Psychological Association (APA)

PROFESSOR CHRIS MCVITTIE (PhD, CPsychol, AFBPsS) has been awarded Fellowship of the American Psychological Association (APA).

Professor McVittie is Professor of Social Psychology and Director of the Centre for Applied Social Sciences at QMU, and has been with the University for more than 15 years.

Not only has Professor McVittie been awarded Fellowship of the APA, but also of its Division 5 (Quantitative and Qualitative Methods). On this latter award, Professor McVittie has the further distinction of being the first non-US resident psychologist to receive this honour.

Professor McVittie said: "It is a great honour to have one's work recognised by the leading international professional association. I am delighted that the APA has decided to mark my contribution to Psychology by this award of Fellowship." □

Professor McCormack awarded £2.5m for dementia care

A WORLD RENOWNED NURSING leader has helped secure a ground breaking investment which will support people with dementia and carers to become experts, leaders and influencers in Scotland.

Professor Brendan McCormack, QMU's Head of Division of Nursing, who has a global reputation for his work in person-centred practice and with older people, has been a driving force in securing the £2.5 million investment from the Life Changes Trust. The funding will be used to create a School of Leadership in Dementia and a National Forum for Dementia Policy and Practice.

Professor McCormack has worked in collaboration with leaders from the Life Changes Trust, Age Scotland and the University of Edinburgh to bring this exciting development to fruition.

The creation of the National Forum will bring together people with experience and expertise in dementia, locally and nationally, with the aim of evidencing what will create better lives for people with dementia and those who support them. □

Making schools more inclusive

SCOTLAND'S SECONDARY SCHOOLS are set to become more inclusive for all pupils thanks to a new online professional learning resource.

Recognising a need for secondary school teachers to have access to equitable professional learning on inclusive practice, Education Scotland has created 'Inclusion in Practice – The CIRCLE Framework: Secondary'. Based on The CIRCLE Framework - a collaboration between practitioners in Edinburgh City Council, QMU and NHS Lothian - the free resource is designed to promote effective inclusive practice in classrooms. □

Professor Alastair Ager awarded Fellowship

(QMU) PROFESSOR HAS been awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh for his work in the field of global health and development.

Professor Alastair Ager, Director of the Institute of Global Health and Development at QMU, received the honour in recognition of his contributions and dedication to the industry.

Professor Ager has worked in the field for over twenty-five years, after originally training in psychology at the universities of Keele, Wales and Birmingham in the UK. He has wide international experience as a lecturer, researcher and consultant across sub-Saharan Africa, south Asia, Europe and North America working with a range of intergovernmental, non-governmental and governmental agencies. □



Deputy First Minister visits with QMU from Education Studies students

JOHN SWINNEY MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, visited QMU on Wednesday 30 October 2019, to learn how the University is taking a distinctive and fresh approach to the education of student teachers.

In collaboration with the Scottish Government, QMU launched its new teaching education programmes in autumn 2019. With a real-world approach and a broad-based social science curriculum, these courses take full account of the educational needs of school pupils now and in the future.

During his visit, Mr Swinney saw the first cohort of undergraduate primary education students participate in a workshop on academic literacies, featuring discussions on topics ranging from digital literacy to climate change. He also heard how QMU is featuring education in British Sign Language in its teaching courses, exemplifying the University's focus on inclusive education.

Mr Swinney also met with students on the University's postgraduate course in home economics, and learned how they are being taught to educate young people in food, nutrition, health and wellbeing, and the connection between these issues and addressing climate change.

Mr Swinney said: "I was very pleased to meet so many talented and enthusiastic student teachers who are enjoying their courses and have the passion and enthusiasm to make a lasting, positive difference for our children and young people." □

Framework to improve support for refugees

AS SCOTTISH ACADEMIC'S RESEARCH into refugee integration has contributed to a new Home Office report, which was published in June 2019. Launched by the Immigration Minister, the report looks to improve integration strategies to better support refugees in the UK.

The 'Indicators of Integration Framework', a helpful resource for local authorities and charities who work with refugees, is based on research conducted by Dr Alison Strang, an expert in refugee integration from Queen Margaret University (QMU), Edinburgh. The report allows individuals to understand how well settled someone is and what changes need to be made to improve their integration into their new community.

Produced by the Home Office in collaboration with Queen Margaret University, academics from the University of Birmingham and the University of Sussex, as well as charities and refugees themselves, the report provides practical ways to understand and measure the integration of refugees and migrants.

Essentially, it will help organisations working with refugees and asylum seekers to design more effective strategies, monitor services and better evaluate progress. □

Interview with Sir Paul Grice

IN OCTOBER, SIR PAUL GRICE took up the role of Principal and Vice-Chancellor at QMU. Sir Paul has an outstanding record in governance and leadership at a national level. Before joining QMU, he held the position of Clerk and Chief Executive at the Scottish Parliament. Having been involved in the constitutional group with responsibility for the referendum on establishing the Scottish Parliament, he went on to manage the Scotland Act which laid the foundation for the new constitutional framework. And he was the first person to speak in the Scottish Parliament, declaring it officially open.

But Sir Paul is not new to higher education. He has a deep understanding of the sector and its challenges, with fellowships and board memberships at a number of prestigious academic institutions. He was knighted in the New Year Honours List 2016 for services to the Scottish Parliament and voluntary services to higher education and the community in Scotland.

We have asked him some of the questions that we think you might like put to him.

What attracted you to the role of Principal at QMU?

Having worked in public service throughout my career, I have found myself increasingly drawn towards higher education. Not only are universities a hugely important part of civic society - as educators, knowledge creators, and engines of economic and social development - they also build policy and practice. That combined impact is incredibly powerful.

More, I am excited by the opportunity to lead a university that excels in areas that mean a great deal to me personally, including health and culture. I'm fascinated

by QMU's work in food and drink and in business, and I can see the fantastic opportunities arising from teacher education.

Also important to me is QMU's particular focus on social justice: widening participation, sustaining people in education, promoting employability, providing employment and influencing society for the good - all these are aspects of social justice and things that QMU does particularly well.

How do you feel your career so far prepares you for your role at QMU?

There are definite similarities between my last role and that at QMU. The most obvious of these is the privilege and responsibility of leadership. Both my previous and new roles are people focused. They are both about bringing out the best in creative, highly intelligent and committed groups of people. That's something I really enjoy.

I recognise that my new role will represent a learning curve for me. That said, I am lucky to have benefitted from a number of opportunities to work in higher education governance. Beginning with a role on the Court of the University of Stirling, my higher education roles have included membership of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), board membership of Policy Scotland at the University of Glasgow, and fellowships at the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) and at a centre of the University of Cambridge. I look forward to translating my learnings from these governance roles into operational leadership.

And I believe that my role in the Parliament - at the heart of public life - means that I have a particular understanding of the contribution that universities can make to society. I hope

to bring to QMU new connections and a broad frame of reference in terms of the context in which we operate.

How has higher education touched you personally?

Growing up in York, I didn't do exceptionally well at school - my own fault entirely! I developed a taste for learning while studying for a Diploma in Building and Construction at my local further education college (perhaps a rather unusual stepping stone on the path to university leadership). Then the University of Stirling took a chance on me and my non-traditional qualifications. I graduated in economics and environmental science, having had a fabulous time both academically and socially.

Much later, Stirling invited me back to join their Court. I was delighted to give back to the organisation which had given me such wonderful life opportunities. The role on the Court at Stirling led on to many other chances to work in higher education governance and ultimately to my decision to apply for the role of Principal at QMU.

What are your thoughts on the transformative power of higher education?

Higher education transforms individual lives and it transforms society. I am just one example of someone whose life opportunities have been transformed through their experience of university. At societal level, universities transform economies, the way people think and the way society acts. As a smaller institution, QMU is in a great position to respond to changes in society as we should be able to respond faster than a larger institution.

My work with Policy Scotland and the ESRC has reinforced my sense of the importance of universities in pushing the

boundaries of knowledge and practice through research and knowledge exchange. But delivering excellent teaching is of the utmost importance and should go hand in hand with research and knowledge exchange.

How do you see your relationship with alumni and friends of the University?

I know that QMU graduates are to be found in meaningful, influential and inspirational roles at all levels and in all sectors in Scotland, the UK and internationally. I hope to meet as many of our alumni as soon as possible, and help ensure that their connection with the University feels relevant and fulfilling to them. QMU is fortunate too, in having

so many friends and supporters across the world. I aim to help the University nurture and build on these important relationships, focusing on our shared commitment to providing opportunities for students, and to make the world a better place through our graduates, research and knowledge exchange.

Can you tell us about your life out of work?

I am married with two adult daughters (aged 25 and 21). When I was young, I played rugby and I love pretty much all spectator sport. I also do triathlons – slowly.

As you might expect from someone who has served two terms on the board of the

Edinburgh International Festival, I really enjoy culture, and not just high culture - I can assure you that I'm equally happy watching stand-up comedy as I am at the opera.

And my niece is a proud QMU graduate.

* Sir Paul Grice was officially installed as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Queen Margaret University at a ceremony hosted at The Brunton Hall in Musselburgh, attended by QMU Chancellor Prue Leith CBE, the Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP (Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament), staff and students.

To read more about the installation, please visit www.qmu.ac.uk/principal-installation. □



PROF PETRA WEND

WHEN PROFESSOR PETRA WEND FRSE retired as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of QMU at the end of July, it truly felt like the end of an era. Professor Wend was at the helm of the institution for a decade, joining us two years after we moved to our current campus.



Under her leadership, the University leapt up the rankings in terms of research excellence and greatly expanded the range and depth of such work. It nurtured and expanded on its local and national partnerships and connections alongside growing its international footprint and outlook.

Indeed, a committed internationalist, Professor Wend has worked consistently throughout her career as an academic to cross borders, geographically and socially, in order to realise the full potential of the institutions with which she has been associated.

While Professor Wend was Principal, QMU won the top award in the Outstanding Leadership and Management Team category of the Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards 2012. In March 2015, she was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, in recognition of her inspirational leadership in higher education (FRSE).

Although she had never lived or worked in Scotland before joining QMU, she soon established herself firmly here both in the higher education sector and in broader civic life. In addition to her role at QMU, she has been a member or chair of a significant number of national and international boards. These roles include the Chair of the National Implementation Board for Teaching Scotland's Future, a Commissioner on the Commission on Widening Access, Vice-Convener of Universities Scotland, member of the Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and also their Education Committee, Director on the Board of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, Chair of the Common Purpose Edinburgh Advisory Group, and membership of the British Council Scotland Advisory Committee. She is Chair of the Global Universities Leaders' Council. She is also a member of the Council of the University of Hamburg.

Professor Wend delighted in engaging with students, alumni and friends of the University. Just one example of this was the financial support that she personally gave to student projects through the Vice-Chancellor's fund that she established.

Commenting on her retirement, she said: "These last ten years at QMU have been the best of my professional life. I know that I will really miss the University but I also think that QMU, like any organisation, will benefit from a fresh perspective and new leadership after a period of ten years."

"With Sir Paul Grice taking up the role of Principal and Vice-Chancellor, I know that QMU will go from strength to strength, led by someone with such relevant and extensive experience, such a strong reputation and such a high profile. I look forward to following your successes from afar."

Dr Frances Dow, CBE, Chair of the Court of QMU said: "Throughout her time at QMU, Professor Wend provided inspirational, insightful, people focused and practical leadership. She has nurtured QMU's commitment to social justice, our emphasis on excellent teaching and research, and our success in innovation and entrepreneurship. I have greatly enjoyed working with her and witnessing her indefatigable energy in securing a strong place for the University within the Scottish higher education sector, and a position of influence globally." □

Tumbling into Cirque du Soleil



Q MU GRADUATE, Paul McGinley, is Director of Performance Medicine with world famous attraction, Cirque du Soleil.

Paul studied physiotherapy at QMU in the nineties, graduating in 1999, and worked in a variety of posts in Scotland before landing

this exciting role with Cirque du Soleil. He is now based in Canada where he supports approximately 1,400 artists performing across the globe.

Can you tell us a bit about where you're from and what inspired you to come QMU for study?

Home is North Berwick, though Edinburgh is really where I feel I'm from nowadays. I saw my sister studying physiotherapy and realised that it was the profession that would enable me to balance my desire for better understanding of human biology and medicine with my interest in sports.

QMU (then Queen Margaret College) was local to me, and therefore the most practical route to achieving my career goals. It also enabled me to maintain many of my other interests (piping with my local band, playing rugby with the same team, and staying connected with friends). We were based in the Leith campus and this was very new, and easy to access.

After graduation, can you tell a little about where your career has taken you?

I started working in the NHS, as is most common for physiotherapists, and began to doubt whether sport was actually for me. I realised I loved intensive care work, and was able to enjoy a diverse range of work environments through rotations as a Junior Physiotherapist.

However, an opportunity came up for a post at Hibernian Football Club where they were creating an Academy Physiotherapist post. I reached out, met with the head physio and after due process, was given this role. I loved it! For me, it was exciting having more time to spend with patients, with such a daily variety of cases and work-day structure. At the end of each week there were matches which gave you a gauge on how successful your work had been.

After three seasons, I moved to a more senior role at Livingston Football Club but they went into receivership and my post was made redundant. So I undertook locum work to fund completion of my master's degree, and headed to Australia to complete this. On my return I worked as maternity cover at the Fitness Assessment and Sports Injuries Centre (FASIC) at the University of Edinburgh, and was then appointed to a permanent post within Scottish Rugby, working at Glasgow Warriors.

I was a Team Physiotherapist then became Lead Physiotherapist after a few years, and subsequently became the Physiotherapist Manager and National Team Physiotherapist before becoming Head of Performance Medical for Scottish Rugby, where I was responsible for the medical services we provided to all of our squads. I was at Scottish Rugby for 11 years, across several posts. In 2016 I was chosen as the Lead Physiotherapist for GB Women's 7s, and supported them in their journey to the Olympics in Rio.

How did you secure the role working with Cirque du Soleil and can you tell me about what the position entails?

Truthfully, as is often the way with sports jobs, I stumbled across the post of Director of Performance Medicine at Cirque du Soleil online. I had always been intrigued by this company and the art it creates, but had never imagined such a post existed. And so I decided it was time to take a chance to change my career path, and applied - five interviews later, I was offered the role and moved to Montreal where Cirque has its international headquarters.

My role is largely managerial now, since I don't yet have French competence, and so cannot register as a physiotherapist in Quebec. I lead and manage a team of between 65 and 70 therapists across 25 shows which are globally located or travelling. We support approximately 1,400 artists who perform daily, and this group is enormously diverse, from clowns to acrobats, dancers to musicians and

many other disciplines. This diversity means we encounter truly diverse injuries also - from aerial artists with problematic shoulders, to tumblers with tendinopathies.

We are also responsible for the emergency response within our shows, which is similar to sport in that if an accident happens, we are the first responders on-stage to provide care. We work across five pillars - Injury Risk Reduction, Acute Care and Emergency Response, Rehabilitation, Healthcare Administration and Performance Support. Interestingly though, injury is infrequent in this space - artists may perform up to 480 times per year, which is quite unlike sport, and their performances are very similar to each other, also unlike sport. But it appears that by undertaking consistent activity, you form protection against injury through familiarity and specific adaptation to the demands. And so we spend a notable amount of time seeking to prevent injuries to further support this.

My role now is to support my team to deliver healthcare and we employ people from multiple professional backgrounds, as this reflects the professional differences which we are exposed to as a global company. We have physiotherapists from the UK, Ireland, Australia, Canada, Mexico, Brazil and Belgium in our team, but also US Physical Therapists, Canadian Athletic Therapists and US Athletic Trainers.

There must be a sense of satisfaction when someone you've been working with on an issue vastly improves through physiotherapy and is able to live their life to the full again. Can you tell us what it's like helping someone through that process?

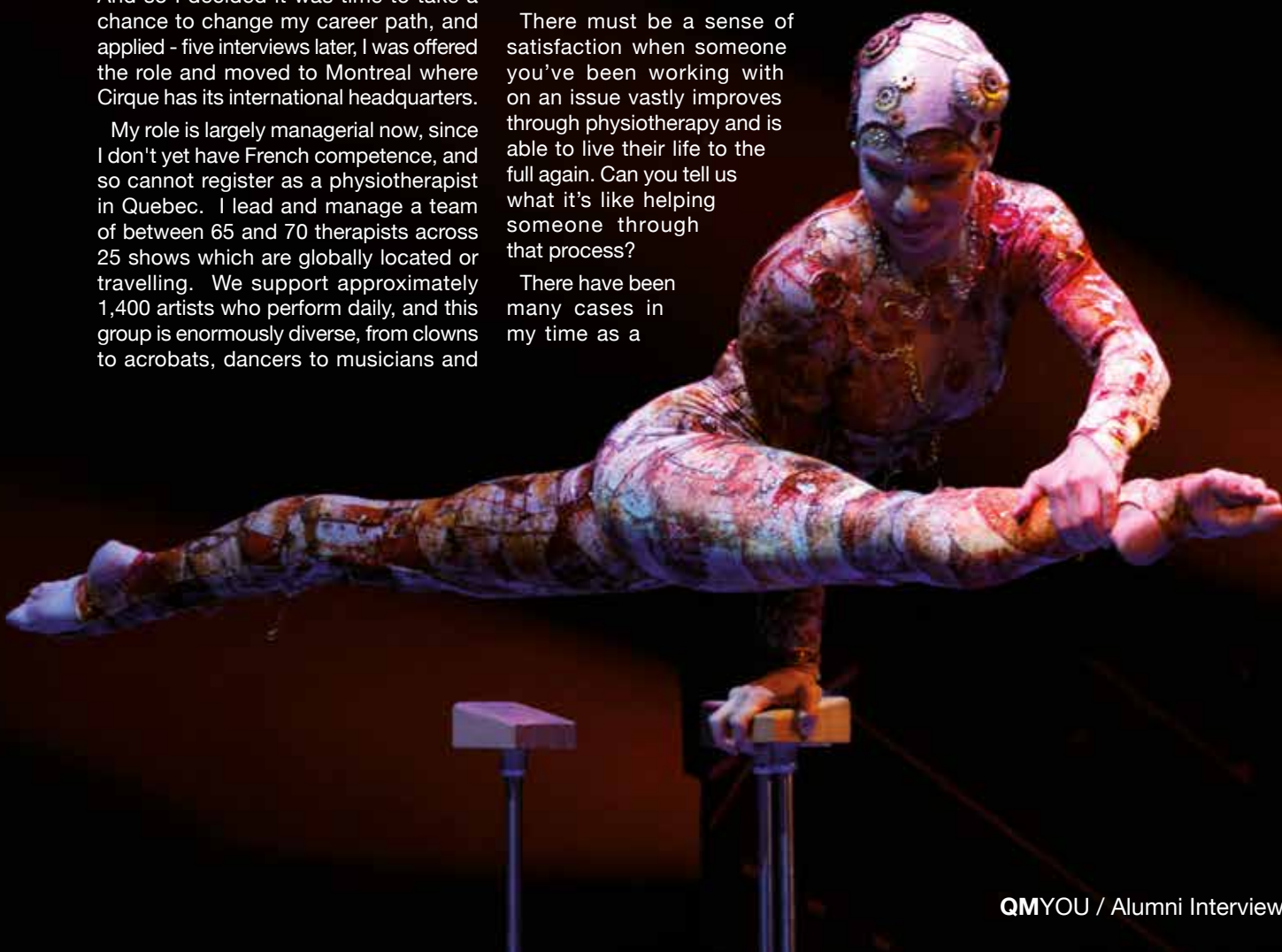
There have been many cases in my time as a

physiotherapist, and some of the most memorable or impactful are actually from my time in the NHS, though there have been some from my time in sport also. I personally find making a difference is an enormous motivator for me - seeing change for the good makes me want to do more, and never seems like a chore. And I get a buzz from their success and their reaction to success, particularly when some of your knowledge and experience is a direct contributor.

The overcoming of adversity touches people profoundly, and it is an honour and responsibility that people trust you to help them when they need it. This is one of the things that makes physiotherapy and physiotherapists special. □

About Cirque du Soleil

Originally composed of 20 street performers in 1984, Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group completely reinvented circus arts and went on to become a world leader in live entertainment. Established in Montreal, the Canadian organization has brought wonder and delight to over 180 million spectators with productions presented in 450 cities in 60 countries.



Paramedics of tomorrow to be educated at QMU

QMU is delighted to announce that it has been awarded funding from the Scottish Government to offer a three-year degree in Paramedic Science.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP with the Scottish Ambulance Service, this new three year ordinary BSc Paramedic Science programme reflects the requirement that all paramedics entering the profession from 2021 must have a degree.

The new programme will provide approximately 60 places for students from September 2020 to develop the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies to provide out-of-hospital care in a range of health settings as a member of an integrated health and social care team.

Over three years, students will learn how to respond safely and effectively in emergency and non-emergency situations, and will develop skills of assessment, diagnosis, management and treatment of people. The new programme will also utilise virtual reality, provided by Viarama - Scotland's leading virtual reality social enterprise - which will allow students to practice real-life scenarios in a safe environment.

Topics covered in the three-year programme will include: biological sciences, management of health and illness, communication skills, person-centred practice, leadership and management.

The role of paramedics is set to expand beyond acute trauma with an increasing focus on the management of long term conditions, mental health care, support of older people and the reduction of unnecessary hospital admissions. A broad range of allied health programmes are already provided at QMU and so an interprofessional learning experience alongside a wide range of other health and social care professions unrivalled in any other university in Scotland can be provided to these students.

Professor Fiona Coutts, Dean of the School of Health Sciences, said: "The announcement of this exciting new programme is a testament to our commitment

to interdisciplinary healthcare programmes that give students the knowledge they need to make a real difference in their communities.

"Our School of Health Sciences offers the largest range of professional healthcare programmes of any university in Scotland, and these are designed to create healthcare graduates who think critically and are ready to develop existing practice. With our focus on person-centred practice and our excellent student experience, we are delighted to be working alongside the Scottish Ambulance Service to educate paramedics of tomorrow."

QMU is also well-equipped to provide paramedic science students with the necessary skills to work with patients with hearing or speech impairments. The University teaches British Sign Language (BSL), and QMU aspires to lead the way in terms of responding to the Scottish Government's BSL (Scotland) Act 2015. With aims to provide a BSL-friendly culture at QMU, this will have great influence on the teaching of paramedic science at the University.

QMU is one of five Scottish universities set to deliver the degree from September 2020.

Pauline Howie, Chief Executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service said: "We are absolutely delighted to work in partnership with these universities – it is exciting to know they will be educating new generations of paramedics who will enter the workforce armed with the latest skills and trained to the highest standards.

"These changes not only increase our capacity for training more paramedics, helping us meet predictions for future demands of patients, but they support the delivery of integrated health and social care."

To find out more about Paramedic Science provision at QMU, visit www.qmu.ac.uk/paramedic-science □

“ QMU's School of Health Sciences offers the largest range of professional healthcare programmes of any university in Scotland”



MA Applied Arts and Social Practice: interview with Dr Anthony Schrag

With growing interest in applied arts and social practice, QMU's new master's will allow students to graduate with a better understanding of how artists, theatre practitioners and other creatives apply their skills in social contexts, third sector organisations, public health, social welfare, education and criminal justice, while giving them the practical and enterprise skills to develop a sustainable career in their chosen field.

WE SPOKE WITH programme leader, Dr Anthony Schrag, to find out more about why this course is vital in today's society and who would benefit from this area of study.



Why has this new course been developed at QMU?

QMU has developed this new course in response to the industry needs which recognises that more and more artists are working within applied arts contexts. It's also responding to government policy which encourages artists to work outside of their regular cultural fields and in fields such as prisons, healthcare settings and schools.

We've also recognised that there's a growing need for artists who are interested in developing their skills, and at QMU we have a wealth of lecturers and practitioners who we feel that we can help train these new graduates and so that's why we've developed this new course.

Who is the MA Applied Arts and Social Practice course aimed at?

This new MA will appeal to a wide variety of people. There will be those who are already working within the fields of applied arts who wish to embed their practice, get to the depths of more theory, but there's also going to be people who already work in – for example – education and outreach and healthcare projects, who wish to know more about the applied arts side. So we're appealing to both sides - the professional sides who wish to go more in depth with it and get better training, but also those freelance practitioners who wish to get a better understanding of the entrepreneurial and financial aspects of this practice.

How is the course structured?

The course is arranged around certain modules that give the students particular insight into practicalities such as financing, fundraising, and entrepreneurship. And these build together to allow the student to

develop a real sustainable and successful career after they graduate.

What are the benefits of this course?

The benefits for students are multiple. We have a long history here at QMU of working with social justice concerns, and so being able to take student learning and embed that into a real-time practice gives benefit to students to be able to know what these lived concerns are rather than something that's quite theoretical. We do place an emphasis on theory, and that is a benefit in itself for many people who perhaps have practiced and not had time to think about the theory, but we also have many, many links with local, national and international bodies. Students coming to the course will be able to practice their work in the field, on the ground, with these many experts. Also at QMU, we have lecturers who have a wealth of experience in the field – with extensive networks – and we can piggyback upon that to give those students an 'in' into the industry to allow them to really see what the practicalities of doing this work are.

Graduate Diane Stewart on lessons



AFTER LEAVING SECONDARY school, Diane Stewart knew that she wanted to study drama but wasn't sure about what career path she would go down after graduation.

She was attracted to the BA (Hons) Drama and Performance course at Queen Margaret University (QMU) because of the mix of practical and theoretical modules on offer, which she felt would give her a good grounding

no matter which direction she chose. Since graduating from the course in 2014, Diane - who hails from Dunfermline - has undertaken postgraduate study in York and Stockholm, and is currently working as a playwright. Most recently, she returned to Edinburgh where her new play *Work-Life* was performed at the capital's Traverse Theatre.

What did you enjoy most about your course? What were the highlights?

I liked the variety that the course offered - no module felt the same. It was flexible, so I was also able to pick up a couple of film and media modules to complement the drama and theatre ones I was taking.

Were there any particular course activities you found especially interesting?

Working on site-specific performances was both really interesting and challenging,

What is special about the MA Applied Arts and Social Practice course?

There are several elements that make this course unique. For example, we're the only course in Scotland that's really looking at this subject from a practical, experiential level. And that practical, experiential level means that the students can guide their dissertation project in a way that is unique and specific to them. So the student can really guide their own learning. The dissertation project is also quite practical. You don't just do a classroom reflection,

you do a project linked with a national, international, or local organisation that could for example be linked to a national theatre company, you could be working with the NHS, you could be working in schools. Something that is unique and specific to you. And that's what makes the course unique, the student really drives it and it's what is best for them. We help them to deliver that.

Why QMU?

Well first of all, Scotland has a huge history in applied arts and social practice, and we really value that history and we embed that

within a lot of our learning here at QMU. Second of all, QMU has a long history of social justice, and therefore a lot of the applied arts theories and principles are embedded into what we do so there's a big link internationally. Lastly, we're in Edinburgh. We're in one of the biggest festival cities there is in the world. The possibilities are endless. □



from QMU and life as a playwright

and incredibly useful to have taken part in.

Although it wasn't specifically linked to my course, I loved working with the Costume Design and Construction students and taking part in their costume showcase.

How did your lecturers support your learning?

The lecturers at QMU were very supportive and helped me to find the element of theatre that I wanted to turn into my career.

If I hadn't taken the third year Playwriting module with Dr Ksenija Horvat, I don't think I would be doing what I am now.

Can you tell us about your life post-graduation?

After graduating from QMU, I went to the University of York to study an MA in Theatre: Writing, Directing and Performance, before further study at Stockholm University. I also worked for the Carnegie Trust for the

Universities of Scotland for a couple of years; they fund students and research at Scottish universities.

I have also been working as a playwright and have had my work performed at the Theatre Royal York, the Outwith Festival, and by Lyceum Youth Theatre and Strange Town Youth Theatre. I also wrote one of the Breakfast Plays for the Traverse Theatre in 2019. In 2018, I had a play shortlisted for the Young Pleasance

Playwriting competition, and in 2019 I became a mentored playwright with Playwrights' Studio Scotland.

What was the most valuable lesson that you learned while at Queen Margaret University?

If someone suggests you read something, just read it and don't worry about what other people are doing. Always focus on yourself. □



It pays to have women in business - EntreprenHER

“If you start with an optimistic nature, it doesn’t matter if you fail. Start with an idea that you really care about – that’s what matters.”

THOSE WERE THE WORDS of leading entrepreneur, businesswoman, television personality – and Queen Margaret University (QMU) Chancellor – Prue Leith CBE at an exciting event at QMU on Tuesday 19 March 2019.

The event, EntreprenHER, formed part of QMU’s celebrations of International Women’s Day which took place earlier that month, and focused on women in business and the challenges facing female entrepreneurs. The Alison Rose Review of Female Entrepreneurship, commissioned by the UK government and launched on 9 March 2019, states that up to £250bn of new value could be added to the UK economy if women started and scaled new businesses at the same rate as men.

Women do not lack ability or ambition yet only one in three UK entrepreneurs is female. At QMU we are proud to be bucking the trend; of the 37 start-ups in the University’s Business Innovation Zone (BIZ), 20 are run either solely or in partnership by women.

A survey of companies by Unilever Foundry found women who started their own businesses often encountered discrimination such as investors being less willing to invest in their firms on gender grounds.

EntreprenHER provided a platform for a panel of female entrepreneurs based out of the BIZ to take centre stage and provide real-life experiences of the challenges – and discrimination – they have faced in establishing and running successful businesses. Chaired by Elaine Jackson from East Lothian Business Gateway, the panel discussion covered a range of topics including finding time for self-care, the self-perceived lack of ability some women hold, and the role of universities in supporting and developing entrepreneurs at all stages of the process.

QMU is the only university in Scotland to have a Business Gateway facility on campus, and is an excellent example of partnership working to simplify the entrepreneurial ecosystem. The sold-out event also gave the audience the opportunity to gain insight into the world of business as experienced by Prue Leith.

While perhaps best known today as one of the judges on the hit television show, The Great British Bake Off, Prue is no stranger to the world of entrepreneurship. She launched events and contract catering company Leith’s Good Food in 1962, opened her restaurant Leith’s in 1969 which earned a Michelin star, before going on to establish Leith’s School of Food and Wine in 1974. She also launched Prue Leith’s Chef’s Academy in South Africa in 1997, was a journalist, a teacher, and has written 14 cookbooks, eight novels and one autobiography. A far cry from humble beginnings catering for people’s dinner parties where one hostess – in an effort to take credit for Prue’s efforts – told her guests, “The girl in the kitchen? Oh, she’s just here to do the washing up!”

“I found that the best marketing tool at my disposal was to do my job well,” said Prue. “Talk to your customers, find out what they want and do it better than they expected. That’s the best advice I can offer you.”

Kim Stuart, Head of Research and Knowledge Exchange Development at QMU, said: “The prevalence of ingenious, innovative and ambitious women is a prized strategic strength of QMU. As society challenges existing cultural bias, QMU in partnership with the East Lothian Council Business Gateway is



committed to creating the conditions that will strengthen and fuel the foundation for personal and economic growth in the region and beyond."

QMU's work in this area has been supported by the Scottish Funding Council's (SFC) University Innovation Fund (UIF) which encourages the promotion of interactions between universities and the wider world, maximising advantage to the Scottish economy and society. This has also reinforced QMU's partnership with the East Lothian Business Gateway in streamlining access to innovation support.

Dr Stuart Fancey, Director of Research and Innovation at the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), said: "Growing female entrepreneurship is important for Scotland's future prosperity and I am delighted that QMU was joined by Prue Leith and other successful women entrepreneurs at this event.

"SFC's University Innovation Fund exists to help universities make a difference to our economy and society and QMU is to be congratulated on its work in supporting women to set up businesses to do just that." □



Top: Chancellor of QMU, Prue Leith CBE, addresses the audience. Middle: The panellists, in conversation. Above: Elaine Jackson of Business Gateway.



A YOUNG START-UP LED by tenants of QMU's Business InnovationZone (BIZ) can officially hail 2019 as a year of tremendous success.

S'Wheat, founded by QMU graduate Jake Elliott-Hook (BA Psychology and Sociology) and partner Ameer Ritchie, is an ethical and sustainable brand which produces eco-friendly, reusable water bottles. The S'wheat bottle is the world's first reusable water bottle made from plant-based material, making it fully biodegradable, and was created out of a passion to stop single-use plastics from ending up on landfills or from entering our oceans.

Through QMU's partnerships with East Lothian Business Gateway, Edinburgh Merchant Company and Santander Universities, Jake and Ameer have been supported and mentored to realise their idea by maximising opportunities offered by Scottish Institute for Enterprise, Converge and Scottish Edge.

In August 2019, the company successfully crowdfunded £21,437 in just 30 days to finance production of the first run of S'wheat bottles. Jake also won a cash prize from the Scottish Institute for Enterprises's (SIE) 'Fresh Ideas' initiative, and together, he and Ameer took S'wheat through to the finals of Converge 2019, Scotland's leading entrepreneurial development programme for Higher Education. Ending their year of success on a high, Jake and Ameer also scooped the top award in the Young Edge category of Scottish EDGE - the UK's biggest small business funding competition - winning a cash prize of £15,000 in December 2019.

Turn to page 21 to find out more about the BIZ and its tenants. To find out more about S'wheat or place an order for your very own S'wheat water bottle, visit www.swheat.co.uk □

Advancing Practice in Health

QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY QMU) has launched an exciting and practice-relevant postgraduate Advancing Practice in Health Framework, designed to support individuals who want to make a difference to the lives of others locally, nationally and globally.

The framework will be of interest to any individual working in a health-related field such as allied health professionals, nurses, nutritionists, other professionals such as medical practitioners, pharmacists, dentists and those working in areas such as public health, the community and the voluntary sector.

Based on a model of collaborative multi-professional learning aligned to expectations of the four pillars of advanced practice (Clinical Practice, Leadership, Education and Research), the framework aims to foster and develop QMU's vision of ideas and influence and its mission of cultivating intellectual capital with both a theoretical and practical focus. Learning and teaching is underpinned by research, evidence and scholarship against a background of the current and evolving political and social landscape for health and wellbeing.

With learning opportunities in areas such

as fundamentals of advancing practice, critical analysis, evaluation and research methodologies, as well as a number of more specific modules, the framework also draws on expertise across the University on subjects such as leadership, social science and education.

Dr Sara Smith, Senior Lecturer in the Division for Dietetics, Nutrition and Biological Sciences, Physiotherapy, Podiatry and Radiography, said: "At QMU we recognise that career opportunities transform over time. In response to this, we can offer a personalised flexible learning journey. This journey can lead to a variety of awards in advancing health in practice.

"We also offer a number of named PgDip or master's awards in areas such as community health and wellbeing, medical imaging, physiotherapy and podiatry."

A modern, flexible approach is also available in terms of modes of study at QMU. "We know that life is often demanding and trying to juggle your studies with work can be challenging. That is why we offer all of our modules online so that they can be studied at a distance," said Dr Smith. "We also offer opportunities for part-time, full-time, in-the-workplace learning, or studying at home, and we can support those who are new

to study or are returning to studying after some time.

Named PgDip/MSc awards include:

- MSc/PgDip Advancing Practice in Community Health and Wellbeing;
- MSc/PgDip Advancing Practice in Medical Imaging;
- MSc/PgDip Advancing Practice in Physiotherapy;
- and MSc/PgDip Advancing Practice in Podiatry.

Individual modules can also be taken for the purposes of continuous professional development (CPD).

To find out more about Advancing Practice in Health at QMU, visit www.qmu.ac.uk/study-here/postgraduate-study, or contact Dr Sara Smith by email at SSmith@qmu.ac.uk. □

“We can offer a personalised flexible learning journey, leading to a variety of awards in advancing health in practice.”



QMU alumni awarded MBE for services to migrant women

AN ALUMNI OF Queen Margaret University (QMU), Edinburgh, has been awarded a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to migrant women.

Gambian-born Fatou Baledh, who studied an MSc in Sexual and Reproductive Health at QMU, is one of Scotland's most well-known and knowledgeable female genital mutilation (FGM) activists. Fatou was forced to have the procedure herself at the age of seven in her home country.

As a long-standing campaigner against FGM in Scotland, and having researched NHS Scotland obstetric care for women who have experienced FGM, she has worked on FGM in Gambia and is a change-maker within her community.

She is a women's rights advocate and founder of Women in Liberation and Leadership (WILL) – a non-profit organisation with experience addressing violence against women and girls, sexual and reproductive health and rights, psychosocial support, gender justice, advocacy, research and implementation in Gambia.

Fatou also serves as a Trustee with the Dignity Alert and Research Forum (DARF) in Edinburgh, which works to uphold the dignity and human rights of African women, children and young people.



Fatou said: "Studying an MSc at QMU challenged me to look at the socio-cultural issues that affect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women around the world.

In doing so, it gave me the lenses to look deep within my culture including a practice that was entrenched in my beliefs from a very young age as a religious obligation that was necessary for girls to undergo FGM."

"I am pleased that the work I have been doing has been recognised and I feel very honoured about the MBE award.

"This means so much for all survivors of FGM and it's very encouraging for activist who are involved in fighting against sexual and gender-based violence."

Oonagh O'Brien, Lecturer at the Institute of Global Health and Development (IGHD) at QMU, said how proud all the staff at the Institute are of Fatou's work.

"Her dissertation on obstetric care in Scotland and FGM made a strong contribution, along with other activists, to the development of a Scottish Action Plan to prevent and eradicate female genital mutilation (FGM), and changes in the law which have brought Scotland into line with the rest of the UK on protecting young girls from FGM being carried out," said Oonagh.

"Fatou's own personal commitment to the issue resulted in her giving enormous amounts of personal time and attention to affected women and families, and this MBE is very well deserved." □

LGB cancer patients' care to be investigated

THE SPECIFIC NEEDS of lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people who have experienced cancer is to be the focus of a new national study in Scotland.

Currently, information about the sexual orientation of patients who have undergone cancer treatment is not captured by the NHS. This study will be the first research project in Scotland to look at the experience of LGB people who have received treatment for cancer. The aim is to better understand the experiences that LGB people have had during their cancer care journey and to

establish if services need to be adapted to meet LGB patient care needs.

Gareth Hill, Head of Therapeutic Radiography at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee is conducting this research as part of his PhD at Queen Margaret University. He is looking for 12 people over the age of 18, who have undergone cancer treatment in the last 10 years in Scotland, to participate in the study.

He explained: "Statistic show that LGB people are more likely to experience isolation and mental health problems than heterosexuals, so LGB individuals may have care and support needs that are not being met by our current service provision.

"We want to encourage people to reflect on their experience of cancer treatment. We need to treat people as individuals so that we can truly develop services that focus on person-centred care rather than a 'one size fits all' approach."

He continued: "Homosexual acts were only decriminalised in Scotland in 1980 and same sex marriage was just legalised in 2014. Therefore, many LGB people will have spent large proportions of their lives not being open about their sexuality. Over the last decade,

there has been a massive cultural shift, but there are still people who struggle to discuss their sexuality and its impact on different aspects of their lives. We need to be mindful of people's individual circumstances relating to possible lack of family support, loneliness, isolation and other health issues."

Gareth has been delighted by the enthusiastic reception his study has received from health professionals and different organisations. He explained: "It is NHS policy in Scotland to deliver person-centred care. If LGB people's sexual orientation is an important part of the cancer care experience, we need to understand their values, beliefs and culture to better support individuals through the process."

This study has been made possible by a grant of £25k from the College of Radiographers Research Industry Partnership Scheme (CoRRIPS). Gareth was successful in securing one of only two doctoral fellowships provided by the CoRRIPS each year.

To find out more about the study contact Gareth Hill at ghill1@qmu.ac.uk. □

Hospice trials new virtual reality experience to help patients in pain

RESIDENTS OF AN EDINBURGH hospice facility were the first palliative care patients in Scotland to experience the stunning effects of virtual reality in an exciting new university research project.

The interactive initiative, which can virtually transport patients to locations on the other side of the world, will look at the impact of virtual reality (VR) on patients' health and wellbeing.

An initial group of six patients at St Columba's Hospice benefitted from the transformative effects of VR when they were offered the chance to revisit some of their favourite places or explore a part of the world they had never seen. Using the latest high-tech VR headsets, one individual was transported to Jerusalem, a place he had always dreamed of visiting. In another session, a lady who was 101 years old, was thrilled to revisit her childhood home in Darjeeling and indulge in a trip up the Amazon river for the first time. The experience triggered happy memories with the opportunity to reminisce about old times, as well as encounter new places.

The patients also took the chance to immerse themselves in an undersea adventure. Through the use of VR, the patients could explore a sunken wreck with beautiful fish circling overhead whilst an enormous whale passed by. The colours were so vivid, and the experience so joyful, that one resident joked that it was almost worth being admitted to the hospice to have the experience.

The initial virtual reality taster was run by Billy Agnew, Founder of Viarama, the world's first virtual reality social enterprise. Viarama, which is based in East Lothian, uses the innovative power of VR as a force for good within communities across Scotland. Billy set up Viarama so he could focus on creating unique VR experiences that would improve the lives of senior citizens, school children and young people. Billy is now working in collaboration with Queen Margaret University

(QMU) and St Columba's Hospice on a research project involving 20 hospice patients. The project will look at the potential benefit of VR with a focus on patients' mood, pain and stress levels, as well as overall wellbeing.

Dr Erna Haraldsdottir is a Senior Lecturer in Nursing at QMU and Director of Education and Research at St Columba's Hospice. Having observed patients at the taster session she is now keen to explore the use of VR in palliative care. She said: "The patients loved it. They were thrilled by the experience. One family member said it was the first time her mother had smiled in months! It was wonderful to see the immediate impact on individuals."

She continued: "The VR experience essentially transports individuals to another world, removing them from the reality of their situation and absorbing them in a positive experience. It's liberating and exciting for them to revisit a place that sparks happy memories or to indulge in an activity that once exhilarated them. It is exciting now to progress to a research project to gather the evidence of potential benefit.

"There is little evidence of VR being used in palliative care, with no published research which identifies its potential in this important area of healthcare. We now need to establish the facts with more in-depth research to understand the immediate effects and the possible longer term impact on wellbeing and physical health. We are particularly keen to learn if VR sessions have the potential to alleviate symptoms in patients receiving palliative care, such as pain and anxiety levels."

For five out of the six patients who experienced the taster session, choosing to visit their 'happy place' or doing a favourite activity was a very positive experience. However, one patient was tearful at the end of the session, following the realisation that she would never be able to revisit her favourite place in person ever again. Despite



this, the following day, she reported that the experience had helped her come to terms with her current situation as she approached the end of life.

Billy Agnew said: "Viarama is delighted to be, once again, working with St Columba's Hospice and QMU. We look forward to giving many more hospice patients in Scotland the opportunity to enjoy the best VR experiences available, whilst exploring and measuring the many ways in which we believe VR helps people receiving palliative care".

Dr Haraldsdottir concluded: "QMU and St Columba Hospice are passionate about developing person centred palliative care and are delighted to pioneer this ground-breaking research project with such an innovative social enterprise.

"Thanks to a grant from the Margaret Murphy Charitable Trust and generosity from Viarama, St Columba's Hospice and QMU are excited to introduce a group of 20 patients to the exhilarating world of virtual reality at such a significant stage in their lives. This important research will help us better understand the benefits of using VR and identify future interventions which may improve the quality of life of patients receiving palliative care." □



Viarama working on plans to incorporate virtual reality into the prison system

YOUNG OFFENDERS IN SCOTLAND could be set to benefit from the use of virtual reality (VR), if work from the world's first virtual reality social enterprise comes to fruition.

Billy Agnew, founder of Viarama - a resident of the University's Business Innovation Zone (BIZ) - has been working behind the scenes with a number of organisations to identify whether rolling out VR in prison settings might prove beneficial in the rehabilitation and education of young offenders. He also recently met with former Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Kenny MacAskill, to talk in depth about the project.

Billy explained: "VR is a trojan horse - it's not the message, it's the delivery system. A lot of kids we've worked with have had very limited life experiences. They've never had the chance to travel abroad or experience new things.

"With VR, we're able to offer young people the chance to experience settings like job interviews, but with the added benefit of being in a safe environment where the stakes aren't real. It's a place where they can 'fail' without fear of being judged, and build resilience. This is something that I'm really keen to investigate further in terms of how we can introduce VR to young offenders' institutions."



Having seen first-hand the real impact that VR has on the lives of children from various backgrounds, it's no wonder that Billy is keen to see this technology used to help rehabilitate and upskill young people who've entered into the prison system.

"We've worked with kids who have a wide range of developmental problems, and it's incredibly rewarding to see the positive effect VR has had on their lives. I've seen a child with autism, who is non-verbal, experience VR and all of a sudden they start to talk. It's so rewarding." □



New partnership helps students and graduates make the 'SHIFT'

THREE OF SCOTLAND'S LEADING arts institutions have joined forces to help students and recent graduates make the move from higher education to their professional careers.

Recognising the importance of collaborating across institutions and disciplines, QMU, The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and the Glasgow School of Art established a new, innovative partnership called SHIFT earlier this year. This collaboration is part of CAN DO Scotland – a vision developed in 2014 by members from Scotland's entrepreneurial support ecosystem and supported by the Scottish Government.

CAN DO is Scotland's vision to become a world-leading entrepreneurial and innovative nation, a place where growth and innovation go hand in hand, leading to wider benefits for all. The creative industries will be a key factor in achieving sustainable economic growth to allow Scotland to flourish.

In recognition of higher education's important role in creating a supportive creative environment for entrepreneurship and innovation, especially among our students and graduates, SHIFT will deliver a range of specialist events and resources for budding creative entrepreneurs, freelancers, artists, designers, producers and performers. The landmark programme of the partnership is the SHIFT Summer School, which was held in Glasgow in September 2019.

Delivered by industry partners including the BBC and Cultural Enterprise Office, the Summer School offered 60 students and recent graduates from all three institutions a week-long, intensive series of interactive workshops, small break out conversations, creative activities and one-to-one clinics.

Guest speakers included entrepreneur and TV presenter Amar Latif, BBC Content Editor Sharon Mann, and Jamie Jefferson from digital agency Equator.

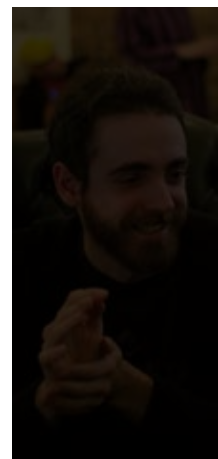
Working with peer groups from across a range of disciplines and with different skills, these activities equipped participants with the collaborative, practical, creative and entrepreneurial skills that will support them in making the transitional shift from being a student to becoming an independent professional practitioner in the cultural and creative industries.

Miriam Smith, Business Development Manager at QMU, said: "The week was an outstanding success and feedback from the participants has confirmed that the programme has motivated and inspired them to achieve their creative ambitions. □



Who's who in the Business Innovation Zone?

THE BUSINESS INNOVATION ZONE (BIZ) is home to the on-campus Business Gateway team — the only one of its kind in a Scottish University — who partner QMU in The BIZ, a unique programme of practical business support and mentoring for enterprising staff, students and recent alumni. We currently have more than 40 start-ups in theatre and film production, healthcare, and food and drink companies. More than half are founded or co-founded by women, and many of them are award winners. Here's a glance at some of our BIZ tenants...



Eadaoin McCormack - Mums

Empowered: The first pre- and post-natal healthcare app of its kind, Mums Empowered aims to revolutionise women's health, helping mums regain control of their body and embrace motherhood. It offers mothers easy access to advice and education from healthcare professionals, as well as safe and tailored exercises they can do in the comfort of their own home to improve their physical and mental health.

Bob Winton and Yoana Nedkova - Pinescope

Productions: Pinescope is an emerging film production company creating a range of promotional content for businesses and organisations, specifically the creative and cultural sectors. Recent commissions include the creation of several short documentaries which explore the unusual and unconventional creation of the The Grey Area, which was one of the first dramas broadcast on the new BBC Scotland channel.

Ann Landmann - Cymera

Festival: Based in Edinburgh, Cymera is Scotland's annual Festival

of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Writing. Over one weekend in June, Cymera brings together writers and readers from Scotland and beyond to share ideas, create stories and celebrate their enjoyment of those genres with a series of workshops, talks and social events such as a quiz and a ceilidh.

Louise Duncan and Anton

Winters - Naka Media: Naka Media creates innovative media products, primarily for advertising, with a focus on videography, photography and graphic design. Their goal is to empower local businesses and charities by using our understanding of digital culture to deliver content with a contemporary look and mindset.

Vikash Kumar - Research

Journal: Designed by Vikash Kumar (PhD Global Health) this hard copy research journal aims to connect academic research with external stakeholders, to drive innovation and to build meaningful relationships with enterprise both instrumental in the commercialisation of research. Vikash believes that research is an investment that can solve complex issues; that consumer involvement

ensures research-informed decisions; that engagement must extend beyond the academic sector.

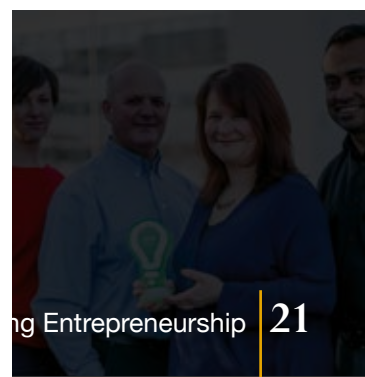
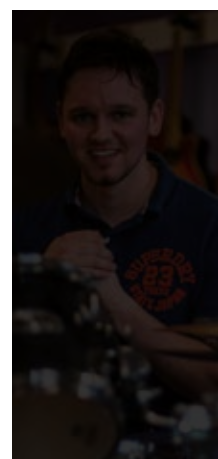
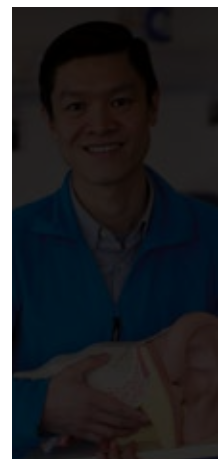
Amy Edler - Elderberry Arts:

Amy Elder founded Elderberry Arts shortly after graduating with a BA (Hons) in Drama & Performance. Elderberry Arts believes in creating memorable moments. Their goal is to spread passion and enjoyment for performing arts across generations by delivering fun and stimulating experiences during interactive musical theatre classes.

Hannah Gordon - Crossroad

Games: Crossroad Games is a Community Interest Company founded by Hannah Gordon while undertaking a BA (Hons) in Film and Media. The company provides a client-based, visual-novel games development service with tailored illustrations and interactive, dialogue-driven storylines that are highly informative and engaging. Hannah's aim is to create compelling storylines to motivate players to develop emotional connections and engage with the messages being portrayed.

To find out more about The BIZ, visit www.qmu.ac.uk/services-for-business-and-industry/ □





Welcome to Thomas Kelly, Head of Development and Alumni Relations

HAVING RECENTLY JOINED the University as Head of Development and Alumni in December 2019, I'd like to offer a warm welcome to all of our alumni and friends. As a QMU graduate myself, I am incredibly proud to be part of our University again.

As graduates, we are much more than part of the QMU history, we can also have a key role in our future. I encourage you all to update your communication preferences with us, either on our website or by giving us a call, and help us to stay in touch. Staying in touch will allow us to share all of the amazing opportunities to get involved and also hear about the great things our university is achieving today.

As I find my feet over the next few months, I hope to meet many of you and hear your unique QMU story – we all have one! ☐

Are you interested in exploring the different ways you can support QMU?

Get in touch at development@qmu.ac.uk

Santander Universities funding enables Podiatry students to travel to Greece

TEN STUDENTS FROM Queen Margaret University's (QMU) BSc (Hons) Podiatry course travelled to Athens last summer to gain an understanding of some of the different techniques and treatment plans that are currently on offer in Greece.

Jennifer Donegan, Jennifer Durey, Linda Ferry, Aideen Hanna, Emma Hogg, Megan Horne, Lucinda Lock, Aisling McHugh, Rachel McLaren and Alison Pringle were able to experience the different styles of teaching and learning - and engage with fellow podiatrists in training - whilst visiting Metropolitan College (AMC), located in the Athenian suburb of Marousi.

The trip was funded by Santander Universities, whose £6000 investment supported the group of 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students in their learning and understanding of podiatric practice abroad. This funding enables QMU to increase the number of students who gain international experience as part of their degree programme, which in turn enhances a student's overall experience during their academic journey. The group were accompanied by John Veto and Dr Carla McArdle, lecturers in Podiatry at QMU.

While on placement at Metropolitan College, the QMU students were shown around Athens by their Greek counterparts – but the trip was also an opportunity for the students to bond with fellow trainee podiatrists from different course year groups back in Edinburgh, who they didn't know before going to Greece. Emma Hogg remarked: "We all got together to eat out every night. I particularly enjoyed this as I had never met many of the QMU students on the trip before."

Students at both QMU and Metropolitan College were able to benefit from the mutual exchange of teaching practices and experience; third-year student Lucinda Lock said that the opportunity gave her "a perspective of what podiatry can be like outside of the NHS and in a different country". In addition to learning about how techniques and equipment differed between countries and institutions, the group were also able to treat patients within a new environment. A standout experience for many of the students was visiting a gait lab, where they were able to analyse a teenage boy with cerebral palsy, using highly technical equipment that they had not yet

used back home. "This was one of the most interesting parts of the trip" according to second-year student Megan Horne, who also said she felt that "the discussions we had around this afterwards were really beneficial" to her learning.

Not only were the QMU students able to experience working and learning in another country, they also had the opportunity to make a new group of friends and got to know them outside of an academic environment. A couple of students from Metropolitan College have since visited QMU on a similar placement.

Dr Carla McArdle said: "The trip was an excellent opportunity for our students to experience a day in the life of an AMC podiatry student, not only from a teaching and learning perspective but also from a cultural viewpoint. John Veto and I were very proud of our students and the way in which they integrated with the students at AMC. We feel that the experience gained by learning from, and with one another will no doubt contribute to their overall knowledge of podiatry. Finally, we would like to sincerely thank Santander for allowing this opportunity to happen." ☐

Santander Universities support celebrated

IN NOVEMBER, OVER 50 guests attended a special event on campus to celebrate the partnership between QMU and Santander Universities UK, and to thank Santander for their generous support over the last 12 months.

The event also allowed Santander Universities Director, Matt Hutnell and other senior members of the Santander team to hear first-hand how much their support has had a transformational effect on the lives of our students, graduates and local communities.

The significant financial support that QMU receives from Santander enables us to make higher education more accessible, provide our students with the means to travel and study abroad, encourage student and graduate entrepreneurship and enhance employability prospects for our students and graduates.

The funding also allows us to develop links with local communities and supports a number of outreach and community engagement projects including a week-long summer school programme for local Primary 6 and Primary 7 school children, and awards for local charities in which our students volunteer.

Guests at the reception included recipients of widening access bursaries and continuing student scholarships, students who benefitted from mobility funding, students, graduates and local businesses who recently participated in the Santander Universities SME Internship Programme, local charities who received Community Awards, children who took part in last year's QMU Summer School, and student and graduate start-ups who have benefitted from entrepreneurship funding.

At the event, first year BA Hons Nursing student and young carer, Aleena McMonagle, described how the Santander Universities bursary that she will receive over the next four years has made her university dreams possible,

"Nursing is something that I have always wanted to do from a young age after helping my Mum care for my father who is disabled.

I love being a student nurse but it is challenging. I am either in class, out on placements or studying, and this commitment – along with my caring responsibilities – leaves no time for a part-time job, which I would otherwise need to help with the costs of studying such as transport, books and other equipment.

This is why I am so incredibly grateful for the financial support that I receive. It allows me to reach my potential as a student nurse and also care for my Dad and support my Mum with my younger siblings without having financial worries."

Sir Paul Grice, QMU Principal said,

"Santander's commitment to QMU, and more widely to Higher Education in the UK and around the world, is simply remarkable.

The support that QMU receives from Santander has such a positive effect on student experience, the University and our local communities.

It's inspiring and motivating to hear how Santander has helped our students and graduates fulfill their potential by either accessing education, completing paid internships that are relevant to their studies and chosen career paths, or turning their business ideas into a reality. " □

Crerar Hotels bursary makes **the university dream a reality** for two QMU students

TWO QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY (QMU) students have received bursaries that will allow them to pursue their careers goals in the hospitality industry.

Callum Taylor and Sabrina Mitchell, both studying towards a BA (Hons) in International Hospitality and Tourism Management, were the recipients of the 2019 Crerar Trust UG Access Bursaries.

This is the third year in which these bursaries, made possible through the generous donations of The Crerar Hotels Trust, have been awarded to QMU students. The awards allow those who have the ability and potential, yet may not have the financial means to take up a place at QMU, achieve their academic and career goals by alleviating some of the financial pressures associated with full-time study.

The bursaries will support Callum and Sabrina over the four years of their degree programme. Both students had already experienced working in the hospitality industry prior to starting the course: "I discovered my passion for hospitality when I began working at the Prestonfield Hotel at the age of 16, as well as taking a part-time course in hospitality and events at Edinburgh College, which was partnered by QMU" said Sabrina. She added that "the bursary will help me balance work and study, so I'll have more time to focus on passing my assessments and exams to the best of my abilities and achieving my goals."

Callum was born and raised in the Scottish Highlands, a region that is economically reliant on the hospitality industry. He said: "Coming from a difficult family environment, I felt that it was highly unlikely that I would have the grades to go to university. However, I was very fortunate to get a job at the Mackays Hotel in Strathpeffer, and from there I was able to gain an SCQF level 8 in Hospitality Management.

"The bursary from The Crerar Hotels Trust has been a significant help, especially with some of the costs of living away from home.

"The financial support also means that I can work less hours in my part-time job whilst I'm studying, allowing me to concentrate on my education with the goal of gaining my degree with good grades." □

Philanthropic support for CV-enhancing opportunities for students



FIVE STUDENTS FROM the BA (Hons) International Hospitality and Tourism Management programme have recently returned to Queen Margaret University (QMU) after completing five-month industry placements in some of the world's most prestigious hospitality and tourism venues.

The placements allowed students to gain valuable work experience and a perspective on the hospitality and tourism industry outside the UK, all of which will enhance their career prospects after graduation.

All five students received up to £1,000 from the Moffat Trust Scholarship Fund towards the cost of their overseas industry placement. The Moffat Charitable Trust's generous gift of £50,000 to QMU in 2015 has enabled QMU to set up a fund, to ensure that all second-year students from the International Hospitality and Tourism Management programme, irrespective of their financial means, have equal access to securing an overseas placement.

One of the students, Rosie Lyle, travelled to the United States of America to work in 'The Old Edwards Inn and Spa' in North Carolina. On her return, she explained how the financial support has transformed her learning and development in the most positive way.

"My overseas placement would have not been possible without the financial support that I received. My Moffat Trust Scholarship helped with many of the costs associated with my placement such as my passport renewal, my visa and my flights to America.

"I am incredibly grateful, that someone like me, who did not have the means, got the opportunity to travel and work in another part of the world." □

“

My overseas placement would not have been possible without the financial support that I received through the Moffat Trust Scholarship.”



THE QUEEN MARGARET LEGACY programme (QMLP) supports educational exchange opportunities for Queen Margaret University (QMU) students at our partner institution in Hungary, Corvinus University, with the programme delivered in partnership with the Hungarian Embassy in London and QMU. These transcultural learning opportunities are made possible through generous donations from programme supporters.

Launched in November 2014, the QMLP commemorates the lasting historical and moral legacy of QMU's namesake, Saint Margaret, and recognises and embraces the shared legacy of Hungary and Queen Margaret University.

Alexandria Brown, a fourth year QMU Public Sociology student, never imagined that she would study abroad. But when an opportunity to spend a semester in Budapest through the QMLP presented itself, Alexandria knew that it was just too good to let pass by.

Touching down in Budapest, to freezing early January temperatures, Alexandria admits that she felt a bit like a 'lost lamb'. Getting used to an entirely new currency didn't help either. What she didn't know then was that the next five months were going to be some of the best of her life.

Wasting no time in getting to know the city that would be her home for the next few months, Alexandria used her first day to walk around the Pest district. She spent time admiring its impressive architecture and observing local customs, such as friends greeting each other with a kiss on the cheek, and the popularity of scooters for getting people from A to B. With her apartment located in the city's Jewish quarter, Alexandria found herself in awe of the breath-taking synagogue on Dohany Street – the largest in Europe. She also discovered the city's famous ruin bars, where she would end up spending many an evening in the company of new friends.

Upon arriving at Corvinus University on her second day in Budapest, Alexandria was immediately taken by the beautiful gothic stone building in front of her. Although the first few weeks were a bit overwhelming, Alexandria found her

modules in Organisational Sociology, Terrorism and Political Violence, and Society and Culture in Saudi Arabia to be fascinating. She was relieved to find a wide range of social sciences books – in English – in the university library, too.

Alexandria also found that - despite some language barriers with other students on her course - shared personal values and political beliefs helped her to bond with her classmates. This would prove extremely useful for her life outside of university too as she only met three other people from the UK during her time in Hungary and none of them were studying at the same institution. However, this did prompt Alexandria to venture outside of her comfort zone and encouraged her to join the Erasmus Student Network, where she would end up making friends with whom she still keeps in touch with today. Back at the university, the prospect of an oral exam seemed daunting as it was something she had not yet done back home in Scotland, let alone in another country. Although the exam posed challenges, Alexandria was delighted to find that not only did it boost her confidence and public speaking skills, but she also got an 'A' for her presentation.

Reflecting on her time in Budapest, Alexandria said: "I was thrilled to go to Hungary for a variety of reasons; social, academic and personal. I am not the typical person who goes on an exchange, and it was never something that I believed was in my grasp. However, thanks to the Queen Margaret Legacy Programme and Corvinus University, it all became possible, and I would urge anyone who is presented with an opportunity like this to grab it with both hands! We only regret the things in life we didn't do." □

Students benefit from Lord Forte Foundation Scholarships

SIX STUDENTS FROM Queen Margaret University (QMU), Edinburgh, have each been awarded a £2,500 scholarship to help them excel in their penultimate year of study and prepare for entering the hospitality, tourism and events industry.

The students from QMU's BA (Hons) International Hospitality and Tourism Management course will benefit from the prestigious Lord Forte Foundation Scholarship, which carries with it a £2,500 award to pay living expenses and other costs to allow them to focus on achieving academic excellence.

Richard Cooke, General Manager of The Balmoral, a Rocco Forte Hotel, spoke to the award winning and other students from QMU's BA (Hons) International Hospitality and Tourism Management and BA (Hons)

Events Management programmes at a reception at the University on Thursday 3 October, detailing his career path which led him to roles at some of the world's most prestigious hotels in New Zealand, the USA and Singapore.

As well as fielding questions from students on a wide range of subjects which covered environmental sustainability, the role of general managers, and the international market, Mr Cooke had some words of wisdom for the final year students. "Find your moral compass to steer you on the right path," he said. "You have the biggest opportunity at your fingertips by working in this industry, and I wish you all the very best."

The six recipients of this award in 2019/20 are as follows:

- Chandhi Kumar Paudel (originally from Dandagaun Rasuwa in Nepal)
- Ewa Jaworski (originally from Jelenia Góra in Poland, now resident in Edinburgh)
- Heather Linn Fyfe (from Dalkeith)
- Martina Soos (originally from Tata in Hungary, now resident in Edinburgh)
- Roddy Lamont (from Banchory in Aberdeenshire)
- Iona Ross (from Aberdeen)

Ewa said: "I am delighted to receive the Lord Forte Scholarship. I am a direct entry student who joined QMU last academic year. I have to admit that university matters are different compared to college. There is much more self-study and self-management. As a mother of two girls,

Lily (5) and Hana (3), there are challenges in juggling everyday life and academia. This scholarship will give me extra time and a clear mind to focus on my assignments and dissertation project.

"Learning in another country - where English is my second language and with two young children at home - is not easy. However, I have already done a lot and I will continue to fight for a better life for me and my family. This award will make a significant difference to me."

Roddy commented: "It was such a relief finding out that I'd been awarded the scholarship, it means that I'll be able to focus on my studies without worrying about working to support myself, and the fact that it comes from such an acclaimed hospitality group is the icing on the cake!"

Dr Majella Sweeney, Head of Business, Enterprise and Management at QMU, said: "We are delighted that the Lord Forte Foundation continues to work with us to support the development of the next generation of hospitality, tourism and events professionals.

"We are especially grateful to Mr Cooke for giving up his time to speak with our students about his impressive career and for his invaluable advice and insight into the hospitality industry.

"These scholarships are proving to be of significant benefit for our students. By helping to alleviate the financial burden associated with university study, a more level playing field has been established to help talented students - regardless of their background - to achieve their goals." □



Hospitality student presented with 'Future Leader' award from Apex Hotels founder



A HOSPITALITY STUDENT FROM Queen Margaret University (QMU) has been presented with a prestigious award from contemporary hotel group, Apex Hotels.

Mary Kelly, a retired firearms officer and student on the BA (Hons) International Hospitality and Tourism Management course, has been awarded the prestigious Dr Norman Springford Future Leader Award, which carries with it a £3,000 cash prize that can be used as a bursary or towards funding postgraduate study at QMU. She was presented with the award in November 2019, after delivering an impressive presentation to Apex's senior management team on the need for the hospitality industry to have a multi-skilled workforce.

Mary, who entered the BA (Hons) course in third year after completing an HND at City of Glasgow College - having previously served on the police force for 30 years - welcomed the prize, saying that "[It] will show prospective employers the passion and commitment I have for my second career in the hospitality industry."

Apex Hotels also award scholarships to students on QMU's BA (Hons) International Hospitality and Tourism Management and BA (Hons) Events Management pathways. These include a £1,000 bursary to help alleviate some of the financial pressures associated with studies, in addition to a three-month paid internship with the Apex Hotels group. The internship provides students with the opportunity to gain relevant work experience across a variety of departments such as housekeeping, reception and food and drink, as well as in head office disciplines such as finance, marketing and sales.

As a recipient of the scholarship herself, Mary made such a positive impression whilst on placement that she was offered a part-time position at the group's Glasgow-based hotel. She hopes to move on to a management role once she has completed her degree.

To date, QMU has received over £30,000 from Apex Hotels for student support. Dr Norman Springford, founder of Apex Hotels and honorary QMU graduate, said: "It's a real pleasure to present this award to Mary. We were so impressed with her presentation, and her passion for the hospitality industry is clear to see." □



Class reunions

LAST YEAR, AS with every year, a number of alumni groups got together to celebrate the anniversary of their graduation.

Class reunions are a great way for former classmates to meet up, reconnect and reminisce.

We were delighted to welcome graduates of the Edinburgh College of Domestic Science back to QMU last September. The Domestic Science Teacher Training Class of 1969 reunited to renew friendships and talk about about their student days at Atholl Crescent.

If you are interested in organising your own class reunion, please get in touch at alumni@qmu.ac.uk.

For upcoming reunion dates, see the back page of this edition of QMYou. □



Upcoming Class of 1958 reunion for 2020

DID YOU STUDY Institutional Management at Atholl Crescent and graduate in 1958? Your former classmates are having a reunion at QMU on Wednesday 6th May 2020. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pauline Noble at pjtyanna1@gmail.com □

Prestigious cultural events award funds Cultural Management student's research in Hamburg

CAMILLA CROSTA, AN MA Arts, Festival and Cultural Management student at QMU, recently put £1000 worth of funding she received as part of the Dr Chris Wang China Fringe Award for Cultural Events towards her travels to Hamburg, where she was researching the city's unique and experimental approach to culture and arts in public spaces for her dissertation.

Hamburg is investing heavily in urban culture-led regeneration processes, and Camilla's research looks at the role of cultural institutions in developing artistic programmes along the city's waterfront spaces.

The award also included a return flight to – and accommodation in – China, where Camilla had the opportunity to work alongside Dr Wang himself. Dr Chris Wang is based in Shanghai and is responsible for bringing some of the highest quality Chinese productions to Edinburgh each summer. He also produces the World Clown Festival, which is the largest gathering of clowns in the world!

QMU and Dr Wang are looking to create more exciting opportunities for cultural management students in the future, and are currently developing a partnership with Donghua University, which it is hoped will open up international study options for students at both institutions.

Reflecting on her experiences in Germany and China, Camilla said: "It was an invaluable opportunity for my personal and academic development. The award and the placement have allowed me to gain an insight into the cultural production system in both Hamburg

and China. The dialogue and the interviews with local producers and curators helped me to contextualise and reflect on what the master's has taught me.

"I learned about specific cultural demands and needs, and also came to understand some of the difficulties faced while producing cultural events and art programmes, and how to overcome them. I feel that I have added a rich international perspective to my practice, which I believe will help me to work cross-culturally in the near future." □



Conferences and Events at Queen Margaret University

CALLING ALL Queen Margaret alumni! Are you looking for a modern spacious venue for a conference or event? Your QMU experience goes beyond your time on campus so get in touch with the University's Conference and Events Team today.

We have a professional, dedicated team ready to deal with all of your conference needs, from small meetings or training workshops, to large residential international conferences attracting up to 250 delegates. You can be confident that QMU has plenty to offer to deliver a successful event in familiar surroundings.

Our alumni are a huge part of the QMU community and we would like to continue to contribute to the lifelong connection you have with us. Take advantage of the benefits of being a QMU alumni and book by 31 March 2020 to receive a 20% discount on room hire (please quote code: QMUALLUMNI20 when speaking with a member of our team).

We have an extensive variety of spaces available for hire, covering everything from state-of-the-art lecture theatres to clinical labs and drama studios. We deliver a great

service at very competitive prices and previous clients have included the Scottish Government, East Lothian Council, The Scotsman, the British Psychological Society, and the British and Irish Ombudsman Association.

Our team would love to hear from you and assist with any questions you may have. Get in touch via email at events@qmu.ac.uk or call us on 0131 474 0000 to talk through your requirements and receive a bespoke estimate based on your needs. □



GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

By **Elaine Acaster**, Graduates' Association President

Queen Margaret University Graduates' Association, founded in 1914, promotes friendship among graduates and salaried members of staff of the University and its precursor institutions. We welcome members to all our events, and hope to attract new members during 2020. Despite the power of social media, our members also enjoy meeting in person and joining in activities through our annual programme of events.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting in June 2019, held at 5 Atholl Crescent Edinburgh courtesy of Gillespie MacAndrew, was not only well attended, but a trip down memory lane for several members who had studied there as students of the Edinburgh College of Domestic Science.

Our agenda included the Annual Report of Queen Margaret University, while a presentation on the future viability of Madras Lodge was followed by approval of a sustainability plan. It was pleasing to be able to thank members of both QMUGA and Madras Lodge committees who were standing down, and to welcome new committee members. Such was the delight in returning to our roots in Atholl Crescent, the 2020 Annual General Meeting will be held there again.

Events

Our new initiative 'Let's Get Together for Coffee' has been very successful, normally meeting at 11am on the second Tuesday of the month at Burr&Co coffee shop, George Hotel, Edinburgh EH2 2PB. Please join us!

In September Pat Denzler (QMUGA past president, and past Master of the Royal Company of Merchants of the City of Edinburgh) hosted a visit by QMUGA members at The Merchants' Hall and gave an interesting talk on the rich history of the Company and its wide-ranging current activities. It was also a wonderful opportunity to view the hall, the exquisite silver in the vault, the paintings and a very comprehensive archive.

Christmas Lunch at the Edinburgh New Town Cookery School is an enjoyable fixture in our calendar, while supporting the work of students in the early stages of the BA International Hospitality and Tourism Management course.

QMUGA membership

If you are a graduate of QMU or any of its precursor colleges, or a salaried member of staff of the University, you are most welcome to join the Association. The cost of life membership is £45 or £35 in the year immediately following your graduation. The Association depends on participation by members at our events and also in booking Madras Lodge, which relies on income from rental by members who must be in residence for the entirety of the booking.

If you have not received recent Newsflash emails from the Association (via Sylvia Northcott, Membership Secretary), please ensure we have your current email address and that you are GDPR compliant. All membership and communication enquiries should be directed to sylvia@thenorthcotts.net. I look forward to meeting Members at our events, and suggestions for future events would be most welcome.

QMUGA

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Future events:

EVENT: Let's Get Together for Coffee

DATE: Resumes on Tuesday 11 February, 10 March, 7 April (due to Easter we are meeting on the first Tuesday in April), and 12 May. **TIME:** 11am

LOCATION: Burr&Co, George Hotel, George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PB.

BOOKING: Booking essential. Please come along and join us.

EVENT: New Register House

DATE: Tuesday 11 February or Tuesday 10 March

TIME: 2pm

LOCATION: 3 West Register Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YT.

DETAILS: A behind-the-scenes visit.

COST: There is no charge for this visit.

BOOKING: Note option of two dates due to limited capacity - book by 4 February or 3 March via Cecilia Young, Social Secretary, celyyoung@outlook.com

An email NEWSFLASH will provide details of the following events:

- **Dinner, prepared by QMU students** at Edinburgh New Town Cookery School - 24 March
- **Japanese Garden**, Cowden, near Dollar, visit to beautiful historic garden - May TBC
- **Annual General Meeting**, 5 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh - Friday 5 June

DATES for your diary

EVENT: International Interdisciplinary Conference on Gender Studies and the Status of Women

DATE: Sunday 8 March 2020 - Wednesday 11 March 2020

DETAILS: The second International Interdisciplinary Conference on Gender Studies and the Status of Women will be held at Queen Margaret University (QMU).

The brainchild of 'WomenBeing' - a women-led international research network for the promotion, and dissemination of contemporary and interdisciplinary women's and gender studies - the conference offers a platform for discussion relating to the current status of women.

LOCATION: Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh

FURTHER INFO: visit the events section of the QMU website: www.qmu.ac.uk/news-and-events

EVENT: BPS Scottish Undergraduate Conference

DATE: Saturday 4 April 2020

DETAILS: The British Psychological Society's Scottish Undergraduate Conference will take place at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh on Saturday 4 April 2020. Hosted in partnership with the BPS Scottish Branch, the conference invites final year undergraduate students from all over Scotland to participate.

LOCATION: Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh

FURTHER INFO: www.qmu.ac.uk/news-and-events

EVENT: Class of 1958 Reunion

DATE: Wednesday 6 May 2020

DETAILS: Did you study Institutional Management at Atholl Crescent and graduate in 1958? Your former classmates are having a reunion at QMU on Wednesday 6 May 2020.

LOCATION: Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh

FURTHER INFO: To find out more, please email pjtyanna1@gmail.com.



EVENT: Ride the Night (external cycle event)

DATE: Saturday 19 September 2020

DETAILS: For the second year in a row, QMU will play host to thousands of Ride the Night Edinburgh challengers who will come together to cycle 100km through Edinburgh at night to support three women's cancer charities; Breast Cancer Now, Ovarian Cancer Action and Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust. The event starts in the grounds of QMU with motivational speeches, music and warm-ups. Then thousands of women will ride a circular route around Edinburgh's historic landmarks leading to the finishing line back at QMU. The University is pleased to have a team taking part in this event.

FURTHER INFO:

www.dream-challenges.com

EVENT: UG Open Days

DATE: Saturday, 26 September & Saturday, 17 October

LOCATION: Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh

FURTHER INFO: www.qmu.ac.uk/open-days-and-meeting-us/

National Student Survey 2019

Top
in Scotland and
joint top in the UK
for student satisfaction
in **Sociology**



Psychology & Sociology
100%
satisfaction

Top
in Scotland and
joint top in the UK
for student satisfaction
in **Nursing**



Public Sociology
100%
satisfaction

2nd
in Scotland for
student satisfaction
in **Counselling,
Psychotherapy &
Occupational Therapy**



**International Hospitality
& Tourism Management**
100%
satisfaction

IN THE NATIONAL STUDENT Survey published in the summer of 2019, Queen Margaret University was pleased to announce that our scores have improved across most questions, with our score for 'Overall Satisfaction' remaining at 82.3%.

The NSS ran from 4 February to 30 April 2019, and was open to all eligible final year undergraduates. Feedback is also collected from all other taught students through the QMU Student Survey (QSS).

Improvements were seen in the following categories: Learning Resources (up 4.7%), Assessment and Feedback (up 4.3%), Academic Support (up 3.9%) and Student Voice (up 3.4%).

In individual questions, notable increases in scores include Marking and Assessment are Fair (up 6.7%), IT (up 6.1%), and Advice and Guidance in Relation to my Course (up 6.1%), which accounts for a number of improvements implemented in these areas following the survey results from the previous year. □