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elcome 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

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Moving up the rankings

QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY (QMU) has climbed seven places in the Complete University Guide 2020

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

PROFESSOR CHRIS MCVITTIE (PhD, CPsychol, AFBPsS) has been awarded Fellowship of the



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

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 benefited 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



WHEN PROFESSOR PETRA WENDFRSE 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.



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.

geographically and socially, in order to realise the full potential of the institutions with which she has been associated.

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



Paramedic Science being awarded at QMU

QMU is delighted to announce that it has been awarded a three year ordinary BSc Paramedic Science degree, which will be awarded to all paramedics entering the profession from 2021.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP with the Scottish Ambulance Service, this new three year ordinary BSc Paramedic Science degree, which will be awarded to 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

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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 discuss how the course is vital in today's society and





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 : ntká] kk 'Æ f gnYlægf Rgf] ž AR! [Yf 'g [á'ðlj` Yæð 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.

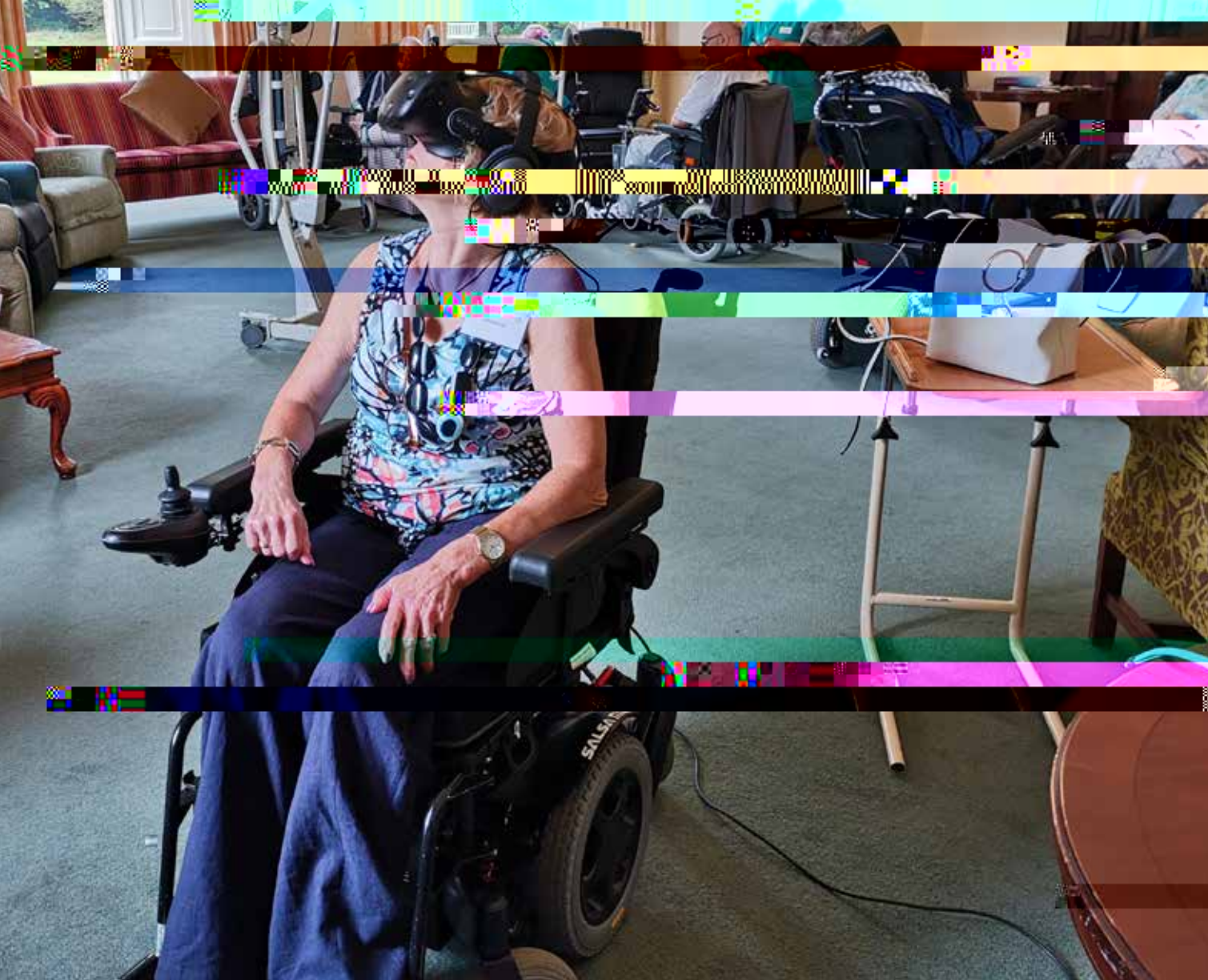
The framework will be of interest to any individual working in a health-related field such as allied health professionals, nurses, nutritionists, other professionals such as medical practitioners, pharmacists, dentists and those working in areas such as public health, the community and the voluntary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

RESIDENTS OF AN EDINBURGH hospice facility were the first palliative care patients in Scotland to experience the stunning effects of



YOUNG OFFENDERS IN SCOTLAND could be set to

come to fruition. The project, which aims to help young offenders in Scotland, is set to be implemented in the next few months. The project is a collaboration between the Scottish Government and the private sector. It is a pilot project that will be evaluated over a period of 12 months. The project is a collaboration between the Scottish Government and the private sector. It is a pilot project that will be evaluated over a period of 12 months.

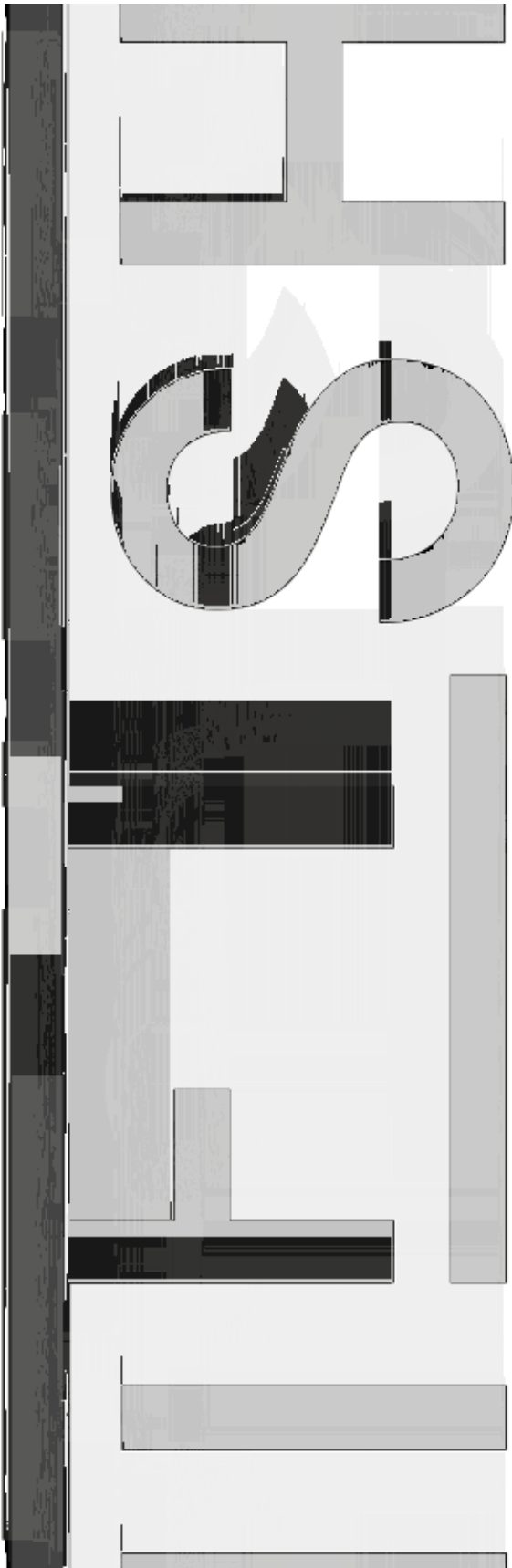
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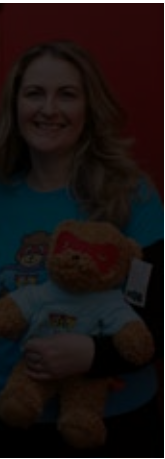
THREE OF SCOTLAND'S LEADING arts institutions have joined forces to help students and recent graduates make the move from higher education to their professional careers.

Scotland is an entrepreneurial and innovative nation, a place where growth and creative industries will be a key factor in achieving sustainable economic growth. The creative industries sector is a key driver of economic growth and innovation in Scotland. The creative industries sector is a key driver of economic growth and innovation in Scotland.

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Who's who in the Business Innovation Zone?



professionals, as well as safe and tailored exercises they can do in the

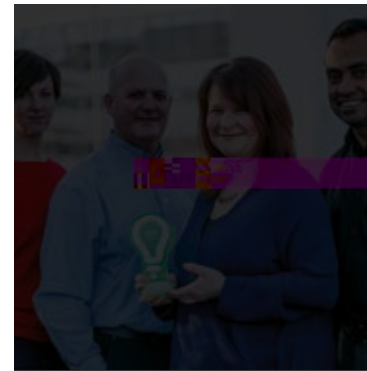
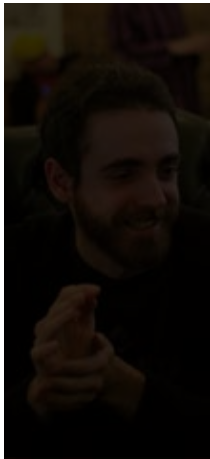
Horror Writing. Over one weekend and beyond to share ideas, create

content for businesses and organisations, specifically the

which explore the unusual and unconventional creation of the

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Welcome to Thomas Kelly,

Head of Development and Alumni Relations

HAVING RECENTLY JOINED the University as Head of Development and Alumni Relations, 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!

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 insight into podiatry techniques and treatment plans that are used in Greece.

The students, who were funded by Santander Universities, spent time in Athens and visited the Acropolis, the Parthenon and the Temple of Athena Nike. They also visited the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the National School of Podiatry.

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

FIVE STUDENTS FROM the BA (Hons) International Hospitality and Tourism Management programme have recently returned to Queen Margaret University after completing their 12-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 Mofat Trust Scholarship Fund towards the cost of their overseas industry placement. The Mofat Charitable Trust's

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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."



SIX STUDENTS FROM Queen





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.

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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

NEWSLETTER

By Elaine Acaster, Graduates' Association President

QMUGA

CONTACTS

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Sylvia Northcott

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Treasurer

Anne Scagell

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Social Secretary

Cecilia Young

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T: 0131 445 1718

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.

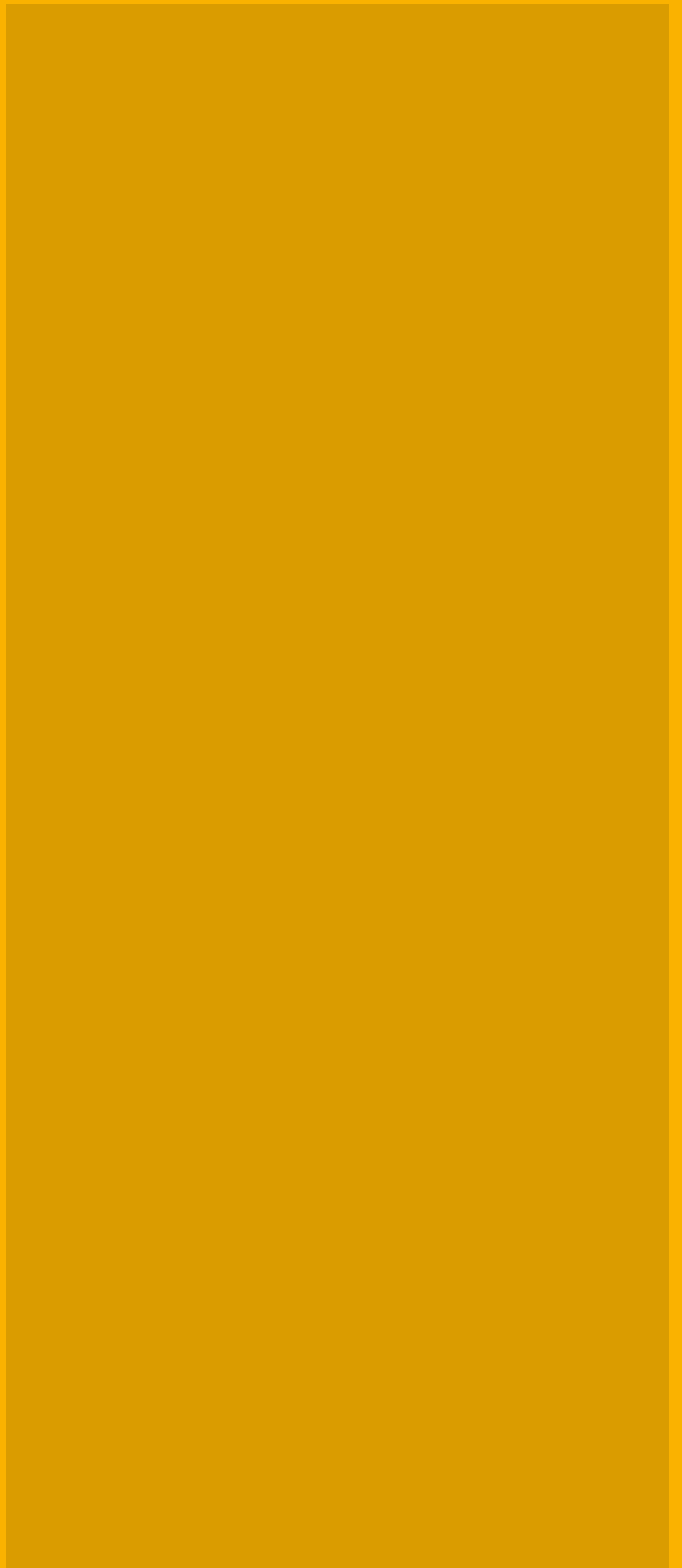
BOOKING: Note option of two dates due to limited capacity - book by 4 February or 3 March via Cecilia Young, Social Secretary, celyyoung@outlook.com

An email NEWSFLASH will provide details of the following events:

<afjjshj]hYj]\ZqI E Mklm\]fIk at Edinburgh New Town Cookery School - 24 March

BYhYf]k] ?Yj\]f\$Cowden, near Dollar, visit to beautiful historic garden - May TBC

9ffmYd?]f]jYdE]]lf_\$5 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh - Friday 5 June



EVENT:

