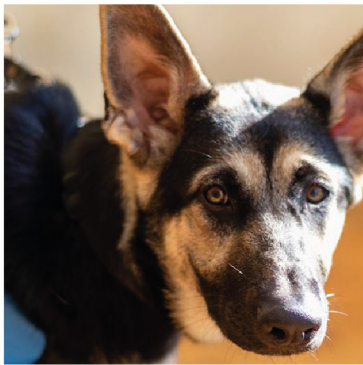


ANNUAL REPORT

2019 -
2020





CONTENTS

▲ COVID-19 . . . 1 - 7

▲ dealing with difficult times

▲ lockdown in numbers

▲ STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION . . . 8 - 9

▲ life before lockdown

▲ students' association structure

▲ VOICE . . . 10 - 18

▲ introduction

▲ councils

▲ src members

▲ education achievements

▲ teaching awards

▲ academic representation

▲ elections

▲ SUPPORT . . . 19 - 26

▲ introduction

▲ stand together

▲ wellbeing

▲ equal opportunities

▲ sustainability & the environment

▲ community relations

▲ accommodation

▲ alumni

▲ ACTIVITIES . . . 27 - 38

▲ introduction

▲ ssc members

▲ subcommittees

▲ societies and fayres

▲ societies awards

▲ honorary life memberships

▲ SPACES . . . 39 - 42

▲ introduction

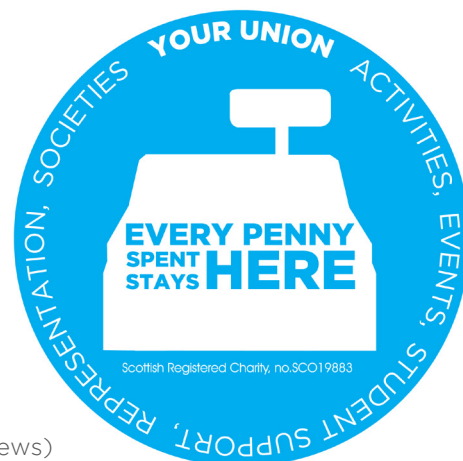
▲ freshers & refreshers

▲ entertainment

▲ CLOSING . . . 43 - 44

▲ postword

▲ sabb team 2020/21



DEALING WITH DIFFICULT TIMES

Like every other charity, business, organisation and family, The St Andrews Students' Association has been greatly affected by Covid-19 so we felt it fitting to start this year's Annual Report with a short summary of how we as an Association are tackling the challenges created as a result of this devastating pandemic.

Up until the start of March, our year was on track. Our commercial arm was continuing to flourish, with catering services organically growing and our internal and external events expanding and developing successfully.

We were lucky in the respect that the majority of our main external bars such as Starfields, Christmas Ball, FS & DRA Ball had already taken place (we will expand on our events in our "Spaces" section if you'd like to know more). However, we feel strongly for the students who were unable to carry out their events they had put so much time, effort and emotion into. Events missing from this year's calendar included On The Rocks - the UK's biggest student run Arts festival, the annual sell-out LGBT+ Glitterball and of course our own Graduation and Summer Ball.

Covid-19 has brought significant changes and challenges. Indeed, the majority of our staff are now furloughed. We have retained only eight members of permanent staff and five sabbatical officers. The sabbaticals continue to be the backbone of the Association, its achievements and a window into the services we offer. The remaining staff are focussing their efforts on planning ahead, following guidance from government and close collaboration with the University. Freshers' Week, the pinnacle in many new students' year: a unique opportunity to socialise, make brand new lifelong friends and create a springboard for their University experience will look very different to usual. However, we are striving to ensure that it will still bring students unique, creative and collaborative events to enjoy from their own home or in St Andrews.

As a Students' Association we will have many obstacles to overcome in the coming months but we're confident that with the continued support of the University we will still be able to offer students a supportive, interactive and engaging experience of life beyond lectures.

Our message to students from the outset has been that the Union building may be shut but our services are still very much open. Although we are not surprised by the continued commitment and creative solutions students and sabbaticals promptly implemented to allow many essential tasks to still take place, we continue to be thankful for such dedication. As our President Jamie Rodney says in his weekly email to all students: "... St Andrews is more than a place, it's where our people stand."

Anything that can be done remotely has continued, for example, our Accommodation and Education Advocate is still working full-time to offer advice, we publish a weekly interactive pub quiz, regular wellbeing and informative posts, as well as showcasing all our annual awards ceremonies online to ensure our dedicated volunteers get the recognition they deserve.

The sabbaticals replaced their weekly student radio show, hosted by one of our subcommittees STAR, by using a live streaming platform Twitch to allow them to continue talking directly to students. They also took the opportunity to raise money for the Tayside Health Fund and the National Emergencies Trust. Jamie even shaved his eyebrows and then his head to help in fundraising efforts!

We are delighted by the heightened levels of student engagement via our social media channels from our continued commitment to inform and entertain our students and hope that come the end of lock-down, this will manifest itself into continued physical engagement as well.

In the following pages we hear directly from our sabbatical officers about their experiences in dealing with the last few months.

Shaina Sullivan - Director of Student Development & Activities

Amy Bretherton - Director of Education

Flora Smith - Director of Wellbeing

Jamie Rodney - Association President

Mika Schmeling - Director of Events and Services

Leah Allcock - Athletic Union President



JAMIE RODNEY, ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

I think it's fair to say that this report is being written in a radically different world from its predecessors. The past few months have been marked by- to use a common phrase unprecedented change, disruption and hardship for a lot of people. I've sometimes found myself wondering if anything the Student's Association does actually matters, in the face of such chaos. Certainly, a lot of the work we're doing right now is totally unrecognisable compared to what we were doing a couple of months ago. As you'll read below, more or less every aspect of the Students' Association's activities has been completely overhauled and remade in a new, socially-distanced image. Much of this report will touch on this drastic change, but before I go into that I think it's appropriate to mark the work done by the whole Students' Association in keeping our organisation afloat. From Sabbatical Officers to staff to student volunteers, every member of the "Union family" is responsible for our success this year, and for the titanic effort required to realign ourselves to our new reality. If nothing else, I hope we've managed to provide at least a semblance of normality and security to students. Because in the face of so much chaos, I think that really matters.

One of the best things about our student body is our willingness to help others out, so I'm doing the exhausting but inspiring task of matching dozens of student volunteers to causes that need their support in St Andrews and beyond. I've been working on triaging students towards jobs in the local community, working with my counterparts at Fife College to recruit a "Student Land Army" to help bring the harvest in around Fife. I've also been running a lot of online campaigns, whether to get over three thousand responses on our accommodation survey, boosted our number of reviews on Marks out of Tenancy by 20%, and successfully lobbied Purpose Built Student Accommodation Providers to allow early contract release. We're now working on making sure the economic impact of Coronavirus on students doesn't go unnoticed, an unsurprisingly huge project. While I'm sad to be leaving during it, I'm reassured by the talent and work ethic shown by our newly elected Councillors- my successor Dan Marshall, Community Relations Officer Anna Young, Widening Participation Officer Tooba Shah, Rector's Assessor Papa Obeng and Accommodation Officer Sophie Bickerton.

The impact of the virus is unprecedented, but we've made an unprecedented effort to meet the challenge it poses.

SHAINA SULLIVAN, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT & ACTIVITIES

While COVID-19 has put a hold on many of our semester two activities and activities still to come, our dedicated student volunteers have worked with the sabbatical and management teams to ensure we remain as functional and engaging as ever.

When faced with 160+ society AGMs waiting to occur - now remotely - our former Societies Officer wrote a programming code to process the results in a quick and constitutional way. When faced with their subcommittee interviews needing to commence remotely, our new Councillors diligently arranged timetables around numerous international time zones. Countless societies and subcommittees continue to engage with their members through online meetings and socials.

Thanks to our new Societies Officer and our marketing team, the Societies Awards moved online - through an uplifting video which gave the Association's social media some of its highest ever online engagement. It was so successful that we are now looking at recognising several of our other award ceremonies in a similar way. Importantly, our Society Affiliations Officer continues to receive numerous new society requests each week, showing that while our activities may look a bit different, our students still have their eyes set on the future, and overcoming any obstacles on the way.

FLORA SMITH, DIRECTOR OF WELLBEING

As we all went into lockdown we felt it was essential to provide students with information on how to protect their mental and physical wellbeing. A new "Wellbeing" section was added to the all-student email, containing weekly tips on how to navigate lockdown, and information on the resources available to students through the University. The Wellbeing Subcommittee also posted endless resources, tips and ideas for students who may have been struggling with the new government guidelines, as well as creating a "Weekly Positive News" segment to help keep up morale. Maintaining a sense of community was an important part of protecting student wellbeing, which the sabbaticals aimed to achieve through increased virtual contact with students. All sabbaticals have shared their personal experiences of lockdown through the Sabbatical Social Distancing Diaries.

Ensuring that students could continue to access support was another priority. Whilst it was incredibly sad when Nightline was forced to stop providing its telephone service for safety reasons, they showed admirable perseverance and resilience to ensure that their instant messaging and email services continued to run. Peer Support has also continued to provide its services, supporting students one to one over video calls, the telephone and through emails.

AMY BRETHERTON, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

In the move to online learning and assessment, Faculty Presidents and School Presidents worked exceptionally hard to facilitate communication channels between students and staff in order to address any issues or concerns arising from this change. Virtual communication channels took the form of Student Staff Consultative Committees held via Teams, message forums internal to Schools in which students could post their concerns directly and whole-School surveys from which reports were sent to module coordinators. Common concerns, as well as good practice were shared between academic representatives at Education Committee and with the Deans and Proctor at School Presidents' Forum, which continued to meet virtually. School Presidents continued to host School socials and community-building events online.

I was heavily involved in planning the delivery of remote teaching and assessment through membership of University working groups and assisted in the creation of online surveys which enabled students to offer feedback on their experience of online teaching and examinations, with the aim of enhancing future delivery. Both myself and the Academic Representatives made frequent use of their respective communication channels to ensure that students were kept consistently informed on adjustments to their learning experience.

MIKA SCHMELING, DIRECTOR OF EVENTS AND SERVICES

COVID-19 has had quite an impact on the role of the DoES. We unfortunately had to cancel most of our Semester 2 events, however we are working hard to continue to provide a virtual student experience. Through this crisis I have worked closely with the University and the Digital Communications team to discover new ways to bring the St Andrews experience and traditions to students around the world.

We have launched Spring Sessions, which asks students to submit their song requests and have linked up with many local and student musicians to make covers. In June, we will also introduce Summer Sessions which will culminate in a virtual Battle of The Bands!

My successor and I are also working together to use this time to prepare the Union for when all the students can return. We have created a survey which was sent out to all students to find out how we can reimagine our Friday Nights and we hope that using this time reflectively as well as proactively it will help make Union events, whether virtual or in person, better than ever before.

250+ HLM
nominations

1238 responses to
the Bop Survey

£400 worth of café
stock donated to
Fife Women's Aid

160 Society AGMs
held online

3048 responses
for the
Accommodation
Survey

LOCK - DOWN IN NUMBERS

14,000+ people
reached by our
Societies Awards
video

141 St Andrews
students signed up
to help on farms

14 hours of
interviews for the
Society Awards

31 School
Presidents trained
virtually

£1250 raised for
Coronavirus relief
in the sabbaticals'
fundraiser

Over 8000 people
viewed our Your
Year film

8 car loads of
items arranged for
refugee camps in
Calais through
Refugee Action
St Andrews

An average of
2500 people
viewed each
sabbatical diary
entry

50+ subcommittee
positions filled via
online interviews

507 nominations
for the Teaching
Awards

LIFE BEFORE LOCKDOWN

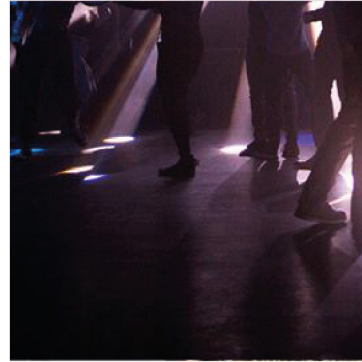
Our mission: The University of St Andrews Students' Association is dedicated to delivering an excellent student experience in co-ordination with the University and Athletic Union. We are student-led and student-run, dedicated to promoting an inclusive and progressive environment for students to develop into well-rounded and fulfilled individuals.

We represent students on all topics, ranging from areas such as **educational experience, social responsibility and student wellbeing** to the University and wider community.

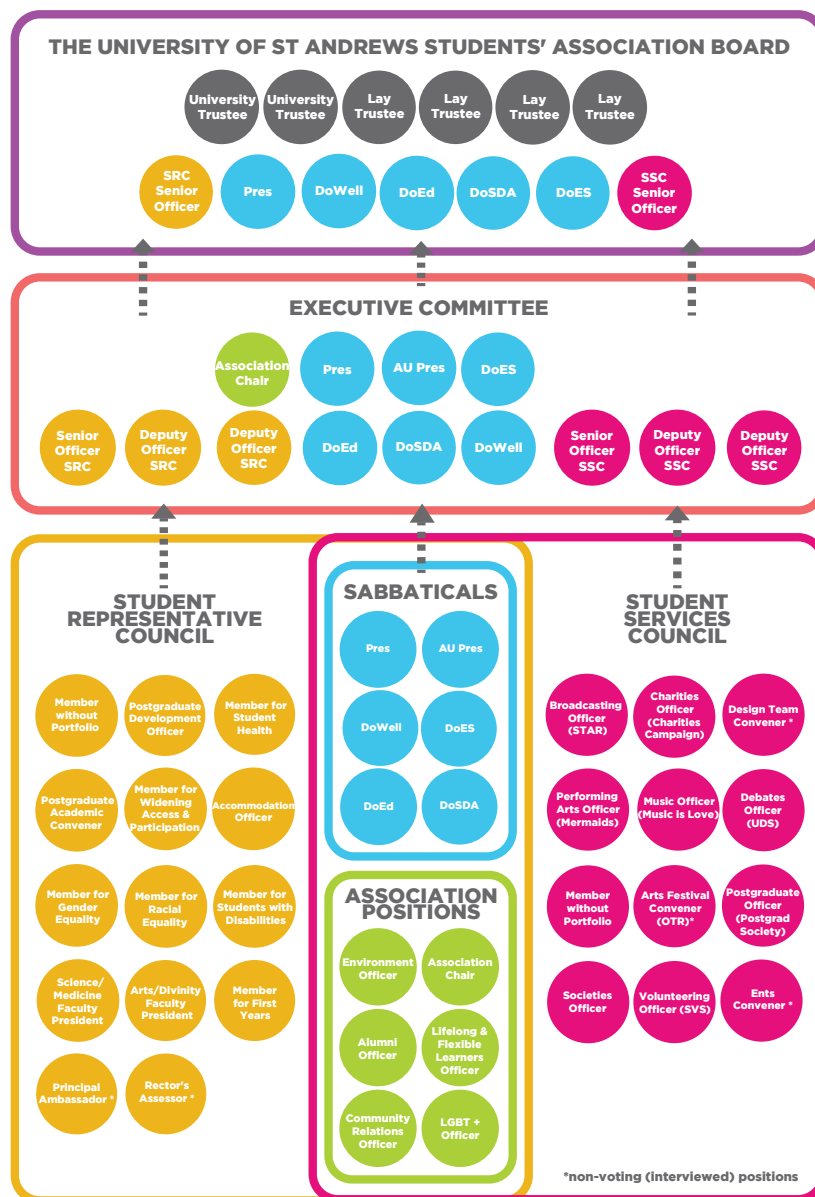
We deliver and facilitate **student development and charitable** work through our wide range of subcommittees and societies.

We provide and support a wide range of **events and facilities** for students that caters to a diversity of preferences and needs.

We hope you enjoy dipping into some of these topics and learning more about our achievements this year.



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION STRUCTURE



VOICE

The Students' Association is the student voice to the University, the local community and the wider world. From the Students' Representative Council (SRC) to School Presidents and Class Reps, we are the home of student activism and ensuring that students' concerns are heard.

The Students' Representative Council (SRC) has been the legally recognised voice of St Andrews students since 1889. The functions of the SRC are devolved into seven different subcommittees who meet regularly: Accommodation, Alumni, Community Relations, Education, Environment, Equal Opportunities, Wellbeing and Life Long and Flexible Learning.

The Students' Association has a very strong system of academic representation at both Undergraduate and Postgraduate level, through which students and staff work in partnership to enhance the academic experience. Each academic School has a School President who serves as the key liaison between students and staff within their School. They chair their School's Student Staff Consultative Committee, attend their School's Learning and Teaching Committee, and provide leadership to the Class Representatives within their respective School. The 350+ Class Representatives are elected to represent students at every level of Undergraduate and Postgraduate study and work with academic staff to improve learning resources, curriculum, assessment and student support to enhance education at St Andrews.

All members of the Students' Representative Council, Student Services Council and the School Presidents are elected each March by the student body. The Class Representatives are elected in September.



ASSOCIATION COUNCILS

Obviously, the most significant change in the functioning of Association Councils has been moving online in order to accommodate social distancing. However, even before this, it's been a tumultuous year, and Councils have proved invaluable in representing students' interests during this time. We've had two periods of strike action, which prompted robust debate among councillors about how best to represent students' interests. We've significantly reformed almost every area of our internal representation structures, reshaping our Societies, Accommodation and Union Debating Society Subcommittees, allowing more efficient chairing of our Wellbeing and Education Subcommittees and making it easier to remove underperforming subcommittee committee members. We've also passed a variety of motions articulating the Students' Association's position on different issues. The significance of these campaign motions shouldn't be underestimated. Some of them, such as taking our position on Fife Council's proposed new HMO charges, have successfully lobbied for changes of policy. Others, like our motion on bullying and harassment related to police violence in Hong Kong have sparked significant debate across campus. Still others, like our motion on Lecture Capture, have been brought to us by students who weren't on councils and let people from outside Union structures influence positions. And some, like our campaign on Washstation, have done all three.

I like to think that this is all evidence of the robustness in student democracy that allowed us to adapt so well to the challenges posed by Covid-19. I honestly thought that social distancing would make it impossible to pass motions and deal with student concerns. However, the willingness and ability of our councillors, ably lead by Association Chair Morgan Morris, to rise to the occasion has been really impressive. Not only were we able to successfully co-opt new members for our board, executive and different committees (not the most dramatic sounding, but crucial for institutional continuity), but we've also passed nine motions on subjects as diverse as the Entertainments Subcommittee and the Kenly Wind Farm, all without setting foot in the large rehearsal room. We don't know what the future holds, but I'm confident in the ability of Joint Councils to deal with it.



JOINT COUNCILS 2019 - 2020



Photo: Joint Councils

STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Association President
Athletic Union President
Director of Events and Services
Director of Education
Director of Wellbeing
Director of Student Development and Activities

Association Chair
Association Alumni Officer
Association Environment Officer
Association LGBT+ Officer
Association Community Relations Officer
Association Lifelong & Flexible Learners Officer

Arts & Divinity Faculty President
Science & Medicine Faculty President
Postgraduate Academic Convenor
Postgraduate Development Officer

Member for First Years
Member for Gender Equality
Member for Student Health
Principal Ambassador
Member without Portfolio
Rector's Assessor
Member for Racial Equality
Member for Widening Access & Participation
Accommodation Officer

Jamie Rodney
Leah Allcock
Mika Schmeling
Amy Bretherton
Flora Smith
Shaina Sullivan

Vacant
Olivia Wiggins
Lauren Davis
Parker Hansen
Morgan Morris
Sandra Mitchell

Sophia Rommel
Dennis Goodstov
Emma Cate Whitefield
Ana Neferu

Polina Sevanstyanova
Leo Capelier
Emma Walsh
Ben McCauley
Rowan Wishart
Camilla Duke
Zoe Ruki
Britt McArdle
Lucy Allatt (acting)

EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS

The Students' Association has representatives on over 60 University committees and working groups relating to academic matters. The Director of Education, Amy Bretherton, has oversight of all our education activities and is your voice to the University. Amy also focuses on employability and Postgraduate affairs, as well as overseeing all Academic Representatives. We have over 380 Academic Reps who have worked hard to ensure that learning at the University of St Andrews is the best it can possibly be! Here's a selection of the things that we've achieved this year:

- The 'St Leonard's Postgraduate Lecture Series' was launched, to enable Postgraduate students to showcase their research and gain valuable experience in delivering lectures. Over 100 students and staff attended the inaugural lecture.
- Employability Representatives were introduced in each School. The representatives assisted the School Presidents in the organisation of careers events, and gathered evidence of entrepreneurial and enterprising activities in their School's curriculum. This evidence was collated to create good practice guides on enterprise in the curriculum.
- New support mechanisms were established for School Presidents, including the creation of a new Senior Class Representative role and the overhaul of the Faculty Presidents' remit.
- The School Presidents Advisory Group was set up to enhance partnerships between Academic Representatives and the Careers Centre, and a new system of routinised careers events was pioneered in the School of International Relations.
- The School Presidents held over one hundred careers, community-building and wellbeing events, including: the Humanities Internship Fayre, the inaugural Psychology, Neuroscience and Biology Student Conference and a "Let's Talk about Mental Health" event.
- There has been a special focus on events which promote diversity and inclusion. The Faculty Presidents helped to organise a "Queer Academia" event and a panel discussion with the Minorities in Philosophy Charter, and the School President of Medicine hosted an event focused on creating supportive environments for transgender medical students.
- Engagement with the Postgraduate Executive Forums has continued, which have remained an important environment for the discussion of Postgraduate issues. A new training session has been introduced for PG representatives to support them in organising events for PG students.

TEACHING AWARDS

The Students' Association has recognised excellent teaching at the University of St Andrews since the Academic year 2009/10. This year, we received 507 nominations from students, highlighting staff members' wonderful contributions to teaching.

The shortlist:

Outstanding Teacher (Arts/Divinity)

Ruslan Tuneshev (Winner)
Walter Pedriali
Sam Haddow
Taryn Shepperd

Outstanding Teacher (Science/Medicine)

Brian Chalmers (Winner)
Gerald Prescott
Verena Dietrich-Bischoff
David Harrison

Outstanding Teacher (Evening Degree)

Will Eves (Winner)
Sarah White (Winner)
Karen Lane

Postgraduate Student Who Tutors

Robin El Kady (Winner)
Laura Roe
Preston Hill
Antonia Niehuss

Academic Mentorship

Andrea Brock (Winner)
Malcolm Petrie
Nikolay Chernyshev
Claudia Kreklau

Dissertation or Project Supervisor

Faye Donnelly (Winner)
Jeffrey Murer
Gozde Ozakinci
Akira O'Connor

Innovative Teaching

Maggie Ellis (Winner)
Margaret Leighton
Predrag Bjelogrljic

Commitment by a Support Staff Member

Gillian Fleming (Winner)
Cat Wilson
Gary Barclay

ACADEMIC REPRESENTATION

The Proctor's Award recognises excellent commitment to enhancing learning and teaching at the University. This year, the Award was presented to Nathan Titterton for his incredible achievements as School President of Medicine: particularly for his work on community building and his efforts to ensure all students in his School, including ScotGEM students and those on clinical placements, were properly represented.



The Students' Association's School Presidents meet with the Faculty Presidents, the PG Academic Convener, and the Director of Education regularly at Education Committee meetings to address concerns and issues that are identified in multiple subjects across the University. It also serves as a forum for collaboration and general discussion and furthers the community of Academic Representatives. Twice in each semester, the School Presidents also meet with the Proctor, the Deans of Arts and Science, and the Rector at the School Presidents' Forum. The two Faculty Presidents and the PG Academic Convener also sit on the SRC and the Faculty Presidents sit on the University's Academic Council.

ELECTIONS

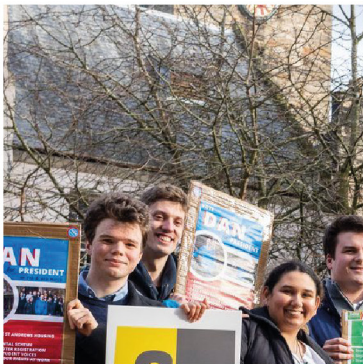
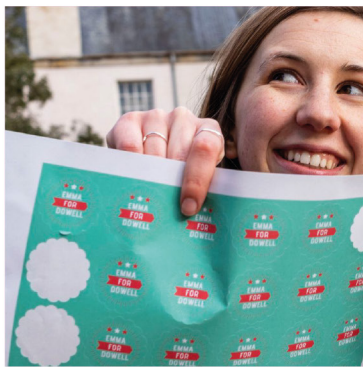
The Students' Association Elections were held over a 12-day period, with nominations opening on Monday 24th February and results being announced on Friday 6th March. 107 candidates competed for 61 positions, including 13 candidates for our 6 Sabbatical Positions.

This year we had a particular focus on candidate support, introducing Elections' Skills Sessions in partnership with CAPOD to help candidates with key skills such as manifesto writing, public speaking and managing a team. A member of the University's Digital Communications Team also ran a social media drop in to support candidates with their online campaigning. This support continued into campaigning, with the introduction of a "Paws Against Stress" event specifically for candidates and their campaign teams during the campaign period to provide a break from Elections.

Through our publicity, we also continued to emphasise the importance of voting, as seen in the previous year. We provided incentives to vote, running a prize draw where those who voted could win Rectors and Main Bar vouchers, as well as free BOP tickets. The Nudge Button was launched in January to allow students to anonymously nudge their friends to run, and had 235 uses before the close of nominations.

Thanks to the hard work of the Elections' Committee and staff, we maintained our standing as one of the most engaged Students' Associations in the country. We received 2976 votes, representing 28.25% of the student body. By percentage turnout, we appear to be top in Scotland and top three in the UK.

Our 350+ Class Representatives were elected and trained in September 2019. This year the elections were a great success and we received 719 nominations in total (491 in Arts and Divinity and 228 in Science and Medicine). Although not every position was filled during the election process, these were quickly filled in the aftermath, during which expansion packs were also selected (library, social, minutes, employability and PG exec). Our most contested races occurred in the Schools of International Relations, Geography and Sustainable Development and Chemistry – with some posts receiving up to 15 candidates! The Class Representatives have done an amazing job this year, from fresh ideas for careers events to the excellent collection of feedback for Student-Staff Consultative Committees, and will be recognised for their dedication during the School Class Representative of the Year Awards and the subsequent Students' Association Class Representative of the Year Awards.



SUPPORT

At the Students' Association, we work hard to ensure that our students experience a supportive environment throughout their time at university. This culture of support can be found throughout our activities, whether it's our Peer Supporters helping students to feel a part of the community, our Education Advocate supporting students through Academic appeals or our representatives working to ensure every student has a positive university experience. We aim to keep our students well informed with the knowledge they'll need to navigate life as a student, from renting their first private flat to accessing healthcare through the NHS. Through events and campaigns, we are also able to promote an inclusive environment where all students feel respected and valued, as well as ensuring students are aware of the services available to them. This also extends to lobbying the university to make the learning environment more inclusive, which we have achieved this year through the development of pronoun training for staff and students.

We also continue to foster strong working relationships with the University and external groups to ensure students can access the best possible support. St Andrews is lucky to have one of the best Nightline branches in the UK, and we are proud to support them wherever possible. Our relationship with Student Services also ensures the student voice is heard at even the highest levels of decision making, and this relationship has only been strengthened by the introduction of the Student Mental Health Agreement. This is an agreement between Student Services and the Students' Association to work on a number of key issues, ensuring student concerns are constantly being addressed. Through the Student Mental Health Agreement, this year we developed a sustainable form of listening and signposting training for students, created more comprehensive resources on how to access support, as well as working to create an inclusive environment around alcohol and addressing stigma around mental health. The Students' Association has also used representation as a tool to influence the University's support provisions and create a supportive environment across the whole university community.

Through this important work, we ensure that all students can have the best possible university experience.

STAND TOGETHER

StAnd Together is a joint project between the Students' Association and Student Services, designed to create a supportive environment for our students. It focuses on wellbeing and mutual support, and is currently made up of 2 projects: "Got Consent?" and "Got Support?". StAnd Together is a key component of the strong working relationship between Student Services and the Students' Association and has created numerous volunteering opportunities for students, whilst also allowing them to develop important skills, in the pursuit of a safer and more supportive St Andrews.

The "Got Consent?" initiative raises awareness around and educates students about sexual consent. The main focus of GotConsent? is the provision of bystander intervention workshops run by student volunteers in halls of residence and with other student groups. These workshops aim to encourage our students to engage in a constructive conversation around consent, and to step in to support each other. This year saw the highest ever number of students trained in halls of residence, with at least 1700 students receiving training in the first semester. GotConsent? is also continuing to lobby the university to make this training mandatory to all incoming students. Beyond providing bystander intervention training, this year's GotConsent? committee also developed a new training, designed specifically for student leaders, ensuring that they promote a positive environment.

"Got Support?" runs the "Peer Support Network", typically referred to as "Peer Support". This network provides a one-to-one meet up service for any students looking for extra company and support from a friendly peer during their time at St Andrews. Its volunteers are trained in listening and signposting skills, and can support students in numerous ways, whether that's providing a listening ear over a coffee, helping students to practice language or social skills, or providing some company at an event. This year, Peer Support has been developing an exciting new training for its volunteers, which will allow them to train student groups in active listening and signposting. It is hoped that this will give students more confidence when supporting their peers.

This year, we have also begun development of a possible new StAnd Together project, tentatively called "Got Limits?". This project will focus on creating an inclusive and healthy environment around alcohol, encouraging student groups to run events which are inclusive to those who don't drink.



WELLBEING

The Wellbeing Subcommittee brings together interviewed members with remits covering mental, physical and sexual health, as well as invited representatives from StAnd Together, Nightline, Sexpression and SRC. This allows for a collaborative and holistic approach to wellbeing.

This year, the Subcommittee has continued to go from strength to strength, hosting events and campaigns to benefit student wellbeing. “Academic Family Finding”, run in Freshers Week, was the one of the most well attended wellbeing events in memory, with over 150 students taking part. Sexual Health and Guidance Week, commonly known as SHAG Week, was also hugely successful with events runs by GotConsent?, Sexpression, Saints LGBT+ and FemSoc. There was also an increased emphasis on education, with students provided with information on how to maintain their sexual health through SHAG Packs and Drop In sessions. #TakeCare Week, run alongside the Association President and Community Relations Subcommittee, returned for its second year, encouraging students to stay safe over the Raisin Weekend through an online video campaign as well as hall talks. Finally, for Revision Week, a new “Realistic Self Care Mailing List” was introduced, providing students with ideas for looking after their mental wellbeing during revision, and the usual Revision events continued, therapy dogs included!

Entering into the second semester, the Subcommittee’s key focus, Wellbeing Week, was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19. This did not stop them from supporting students through these difficult times. Wellbeing Week was replaced by online resources to mimic planned events, such as doggy de-stress, mediations and dance classes. They have continued to provide information on how to maintain your wellbeing during lockdown, with posts on how to create a routine, stay active and cope with anxiety and they have been posting “Positive Weekly News” to try and keep up the spirits of students, and encourage positivity in these trying times.

The Wellbeing Subcommittee has also found new purpose this year, helping students to develop new initiatives. The Subcommittee has supported the development of a student led Mental Health Support Group. It is hoped that this can continue in future years, and the Subcommittee can continue to grow.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Equal Opportunities Subcommittee is made up of a subsection of student representatives from the SRC and Association Councils. Its key aim is to promote diversity and equality in the St Andrews community through lobbying, events and informational campaigns. This year, the subcommittee held a number of successful events, as well as working with the University to improve student experience and increase the diversity of the student body in St Andrews.

The year saw the introduction of St Andrews Multicultural Week, a celebration of cultural diversity in St Andrews, which was coordinated by the SRC Member for Racial Equality. The week included a range of successful events, including an Art and Fashion Exhibition and a Film Festival, as well as a Food Festival which attracted the interest of over 1000 people. After the amazing success of the inaugural St Andrews Multicultural Week, we're all looking forward to seeing what can be achieved in future years.

The SRC Member for Gender Equality collaborated with numerous student groups to run a Panel discussion on the importance of addressing the global issue of sexual and gender-based violence in the St Andrews community. Run in the build-up to the 5th annual Reclaim the Night, this event brought together speakers from student groups, leading voices from within University and representatives from external organisations to answer the question "Is sexual and gender based violence a pressing issue in St Andrews?".

The Subcommittee has also been able to bring about important changes in the University, improving equality and diversity on a large scale. Members of Saints LGBT+, along with trans and non-binary students, have successfully lobbied for the development and introduction of pronoun training for University staff. This training, currently being developed in consultation with numerous student representatives, will help to create a more inclusive environment for trans and non-binary students at St Andrews. The Member for Racial Equality has also been working with the university to develop a new outreach programme, which will allow students to go back to their old schools and speak about their experiences of coming to St Andrews. It is hoped that this will increase the number of students from widening access backgrounds, considering St Andrews as a viable option for their education.

Following the Students' Association elections, we have already seen the development of some exciting work by the new members of the Equal Opportunities Subcommittee.

SUSTAINABILITY & THE ENVIRONMENT

(Written by Lauren Davis, Environment Officer 2019-2020)

I'm honestly quite proud of the Environment Subcommittee this year because I feel it has become a great point of contact for all students who want to make a difference in St Andrews. In the past, it's been hard and people haven't known much about the committee, but with a lot of work from a big committee, people recognise it as an over-arching, centralised group that can help facilitate change University/town-wide.

I'm also proud of Green Week, the week's CLIMATE theme, the high attendance rates, and the numerous events pulling speakers from Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Further, I think it was great that the subcommittee was involved in helping the Environment Team roll out a group of Sustainability Reps for 90% of departments. After trialling it for only part of the semester, it was highly successful in getting more student feedback on inter-departmental changes that need to be made.

The Environment Subcommittee has established itself as a platform to communicate student and community wide concerns. It has always comprised of a strong group of students who work hard to ensure demands are met, voices are heard, etc. I am excited to see what happens with the committee in the years to come, and I know it will be even stronger with the development of the Environmental Sustainability Board!

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

(Written by Morgan Morris, Outgoing Association Community Relations Officer)

This year the Community Relations subcommittee has taken great strides to improve and develop town and gown relations in St Andrews. It began over the summer with the production of the second annual 'Your St Andrews' booklet that detailed many different topics that are essential for the student body to be aware of, such as traditions and cycling amongst other topics. We also began preparations for a busy semester ahead, over the summer.

Once back in St Andrews in September, we had a very successful Freshers' Fayre where we spoke to new and current students about all things St Andrews. Once we had held our first committee meeting, plans had been put in place for the upcoming 'Community Relations Week' and 'St Andrews Day celebrations' in November. We continued to work with many different student groups in St Andrews, as well as BID St Andrews to bring these events to light. This was the second time a week like this had been put together, and it was the most successful yet. Events included, a Wine and Cheese with Community Councillors, and a foodbank collection that all led to St Andrews Day celebrations which consisted of the Student Market and Street Ceilidh.

Throughout the year we also continued our support for 'St Andrews in Focus' by providing copies in Rectors café that students and locals alike enjoyed. The Community Relations Officer continued the presence of student representation at the Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council and Association Councils. Community Relations at the Student Association went from strength to strength this year, with increasing engagement and events. I look forward to seeing where the new Community Relations Officer, Anna Young, takes the vision this next Academic year.

ACCOMMODATION

(Written by Lucy Allat, Acting Accommodation Officer 2019-2020)

It's been a tumultuous year for the Accommodation Subcommittee, going through three handovers in the space of a year. However, that hasn't stopped us from doing a lot for students in different ways. We've had a really successful Accommodation Week, where we distributed hundreds of How to Rent guides, hosted a really great private Letting Fair with hundreds of students coming to The Union to have a chat to letting agencies about renting. There were also successful How to Rent talks, which showed the large variety of options that St Andrews students have in terms of accommodation. These were paired with how to rent drop-in sessions within each hall of residence. All told, we must have spoken to, helped, and distributed information for more than a thousand students over the course of the week, which I'm really proud of.

We have also helped with and contributed to a wide variety of campaigns, from liaising with the Campaign for Affordable Student Housing (C.A.S.H), to working alongside the so-called Detergent Insurgents on their campaign to lobby for better laundry services in halls. These have been great ways of trying to broaden the range of accommodation issues we focus on.

Lastly, SRC accommodations partnership with Marks Out of Tenancy is going from strength to strength. This is a website that allows students to rate houses and flats that they have privately rented. This partnership and working with and promoting MOOT has really allowed students to get a greater understanding and a larger voice in the subject of accommodation within St Andrews. We've currently got more reviews in St Andrews than Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen put together.

Finally, we're working on a report into the affordability of accommodation in St Andrews. We've got over three thousand responses in our preliminary survey, which will hopefully be of great help to next year's Accommodation Subcommittee in influencing the University Accommodation Strategy.



ALUMNI

(Written by Olivia Wiggins, Alumni Officer 2019-2020)

This year the Alumni Subcommittee worked hard on new events to help us assert our presence beyond Alumni Festival Weekend. Over the year we laid the groundwork to continue increasing the opportunities for engagement between current and former students.

‘Climate Crisis: Perspectives’ was our biggest event of the year. This panel event brought together former students who have established careers in a diverse range of fields across the world. Our speakers were united in their focus on tackling the impacts of climate change. Over seventy students, alumni and local residents were in attendance and participated in the lively question and answer session. The response from the wider alumni network was fantastic and many people who were unable to speak at the event themselves offered their mentorship to students interested in careers in policy and sustainable finance.

Beyond this, we also hosted a coffee morning in collaboration with Community Relations and helped out at the Alumni Carol Concert. Unfortunately Covid-19 halted our other plans for the semester which included an Alumni pub quiz, a production workshop with Times audio producer, a creative careers panel, and a library display to commemorate J.M Barrie’s time as Rector. Whilst the year didn’t meet the busy end we had anticipated, we as a subcommittee are proud of our hard work and the experience we gained.

ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities are at the heart of the Students' Association and the St Andrews student experience, whether this be performing on stage with Mermaids, hitch-hiking to Valencia with the Charities Campaign's Race2, or volunteering in the community with SVS. We always say we truly have something for everyone, and with over 160 affiliated societies - and more affiliating by the week - this has never been more true.

This year our Freshers' and Refreshers' Fayres were especially popular, with more stalls than ever lining the corridors of each of our venues, perfectly illustrating the vast and diverse array of activities that makes us so unique. From the Folk and Traditional Music Society to the Dog Walking Society, each of our student groups put their best foot forward in making the Students' Association feel welcoming, inclusive, and lively to this year's incoming students.

Put simply, we would not be able to offer these incredible extracurricular opportunities without our dedicated and hard-working student volunteers. From our Ents Crew to our Design Team, many of our student volunteers spend as much time helping to run the Students' Association as they do on their own Academic degrees! With this in mind, one of our main priorities this year within student activities was to ensure our volunteers felt recognised and valued, in accordance with their truly vital contributions. With the help of the Proctor, we have worked to allow all of our Association Councillors, who are critical to the running of our key subcommittees, to receive recognition for their efforts on their Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) transcripts. We have also expanded our Volunteer Portal to allow all students who have logged fifty hours or more to receive recognition on their HEAR transcripts, and made the process for doing so immensely more simple. This year, for the first time since its launch, we will have graduating students who have achieved the Platinum Award on the Volunteer Portal, meaning they have impressively logged over 500 volunteer hours.

The subsequent pages illustrate exactly what our subcommittees have achieved this year, and what they have their sights set on for the coming year. While our activities may take different shape for the foreseeable future given the current circumstances, we have no doubt that, with the continuous support of our creative and dedicated volunteers, we will maintain our excellent engagement with extracurricular activities and the student body.

STUDENT SERVICES COUNCIL 2019/20

This year's Student Services Council (SSC) members have been incredibly busy organising our incredible line-up of student activities, and we thank them for their continued enthusiasm and dedication throughout the academic year.

This year's Student Services Council Councillors were:

Association Chair	(Vacant)
Association Alumni Officer	Olivia Wiggins
Association Community Relations Officer	Morgan Morris
Association Environment Officer	Lauren Davis
Association LGBT+ Officer	Parker Hansen
Association Lifelong & Flexible Learners Officer	Sandra Mitchell
Broadcasting Officer (STAR)	Tom Groves
Charities Officer (Charities Campaign)	Frankie Borderie
Debates Officer (UDS)	Toni Valencia
Design Team Convener	Edward Spencer
Ents Convenor	Paul Lancaster
Member without Portfolio	Gavin Sandford
Performing Arts Officer (Mermaids)	Manaal Mahjoub
Postgraduate Office (Postgraduate Society)	Blake Purchase
Societies Officer	Markus Lee
SSC Arts Festival Convenor (On The Rocks)	Holly Scrivener
Volunteering Officer (SVS)	Lisa Marie Husby



THE DESIGN TEAM

The Design Team is a small group of incredibly talented volunteers who dedicate their time to helping societies produce high quality graphics, as well as providing workshops for anybody who wants to learn more about Adobe, photography and many other skills. This year, they continued their growth, and assisted in 80+ projects! They continued their design and photography workshops, but also started a new photography service for all the other subcommittees. They continue to offer an amazing service to all the students and their societies, and they have done a great job doing it!

ENTS CREW

From Beats N' Bargains to Freshers' Week, the Ents Crew are the heart of all events in the Union. From everyday maintenance to setting up for our all building events, the Ents work tirelessly to make sure that both society events and events run by the DoES go as smoothly as possible. They have had an outstanding year, assisting in over 200+ events, including multiple fashion shows and club nights. Ents are a vital part of the services the Union has to offer, and they have worked hard over the last year to make many others events come to life! They continue to outdo themselves and transform the venues from event to event, and they deserve a massive thank you from everyone in the Union.

STAR

STAR has had a spectacular year, expanding on their student outreach and the services that they offer. The team worked tirelessly to offer live music in St. Andrews, running their Bell Pettigrew Sessions and assisting in all aspects for Sounds of Sandy's every Saturday. They also have compiled a STAR archive, which keeps a great log of everything STAR has done over previous years. Their music magazine, Hearing Aid, has also been doing very well, and continues to be a student favourite for all. STAR continues to grow, and we can't wait to see how they continue to expand next year!

CHARITIES

It has been another busy year for the Charities Campaign. The student body elected Women for Women International, CALM and The Yard Fife as their nominated charities for 2019/2020 and we have returned to put on bigger, and better, student-favourites, such as Race2 and CATWALK, as well as trying new ventures.

We continue to have our charitable efforts recognised nationally, coming highly commended in the National Student Fundraising Awards 2019 'Best Local Impact Project' category, and being shortlisted for three other awards.

We hosted our first ever training day in collaboration with Got Consent, the Careers Centre and CAPOD to help induct this year's committee members - over 75 of them across our various committees! In January, Race2 ventured to Valencia and building on the success of last year's race, raised over £50,000 - more than the previous six races!

In Semester 2, RAG Week 2020 saw the Union building turned purple as we worked to make more students aware of the many charitable ways they could get involved. We had wonderful participation again from societies, sports clubs and other student groups who all came together to raise money for several good causes. Indeed, throughout the year, our collaborations proved successful, and we were particularly excited to work with budding student entrepreneurs to raise funds from their products. We were then thrilled to have our community impact recognised in the Principal's speech at a reception for student societies.

CATWALK Charity Fashion Show had a fantastic year too, bringing some much-needed fun to the student body with their theme of 'Playtime'. We have also advanced technologically and are delighted with the engagement the launch of our campaign to donate whilst shopping online has received. Going forward, we hope to build on the successes of this year, even if we face uncertain times.

DEBATING SOCIETY

It has been another successful year for the Union Debating Society (UDS)! Our weekly public debates had guest speakers coming from a wide diversity of backgrounds. Some notable events were “This House Supports the BDS Movement” and our annual “This House Has No Faith in Her Majesty’s Government” with Members of Parliament as guest speakers such as Ms Lesley Laird, Mr Stephen Gethins, and Mr Stephen Kerr. We also had more panel discussion with themes such as a collaboration with Nightline for a Mental Health Q&A and a Disabilities Panel.

On the competition note, the UDS has excelled as we won the Scottish National Championships and made it to the semi-finals and finals of many competitions throughout this Academic year. This year’s group of novices have shown excellent commitment which resulted in St. Andrews continuously reaching the novice finals at many competitions across the UK. Most notably at Strathclyde President’s Cup, Durham IV, and the Oxford IV. We hosted this year’s Scottish Novice Championships (Bogwall). We also sent a team and a judge to the World University Debating Championships 2020 in Thailand.

This year, we focused on making the UDS more inclusive and accessible to the wider university student body. For example, we’ve implemented more novice workshops to ensure that there is always an entry way for beginners to join the debating society at any point of the year. We hosted more non-alcoholic socials, such as board game night, and provided non-alcoholic options at public debates and other UDS events. Lastly, we implemented a bursary scheme to help low income students attend debate competitions across the UK and internationally at Worlds and European University Debating Championships.

It’s been a great year with the UDS and we’re very excited for the upcoming year to be filled with more discourse and debates!

SAINTS LGBT+

Saints LGBT+ had a good year, focusing on creating as welcoming a community as possible. The committee worked to put together an amazing calendar of wellbeing, academic, and social events, with many attendees saying they'd never felt so comfortable being themselves at our events, let alone any others, before.

For wellbeing events, we supported many smaller communities within our larger LGBT+ one, from the postgrad community to the asexual community, and from the transgender community to Faithfully LGBT+, a discussion group for LGBT+ people of all religious backgrounds. Drag Walk returned for its 7th year, bringing in a larger audience than ever, and Queer Academia brought LGBT+ students together with role models in STEM disciplines.

We also worked hard on wellbeing initiatives, ensuring our own committee was supportive, and working with the University to ensure that LGBT+ students are supported as best they can be. This included working with Got Consent to make sure consent training is LGBT+ inclusive to highlight the fact that consent is not just an issue for heterosexual people, to extensive work with student services, registry, and the Principal's office to ensure transgender and non-binary students do not face additional hurdles.

The committee was also very focused on campaigns this year, with much support for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, an amazing exhibition featuring stories from LGBT+ staff and students, and the resurrection of an LGBT+ magazine from 20 years ago, The Gay Saint. This project has been providing members of the community with a chance to showcase their creativity, humour, and academic skills, and is set to become a larger project in the coming year.

Unfortunately, the year was brought to an end early before our big Pride parade, which expected to see 500+ participants and Glitterball, our largest, most glamorous event (and source of income). But the committee has finished strong, continuing its social media presence, seeing many applications for the committee in the coming year, and looks forward to what next year has to offer, focusing on overcoming coronavirus hurdles.

MERMAIDS PERFORMING ARTS FUND

Mermaids has had as busy a year as ever, albeit a shorter one than anticipated. Having just funded four productions at the 2019 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, we began the year with St Andrews Night Live, a variety show showcasing acts from Mermaids and its affiliate societies, demonstrating the large scope of talent in St Andrews. This year Mermaids funded 19 productions and supported other independent shows as well, ranging from student writing to 1930's drama to contemporary theatre. Some of our productions are funded by our annual Christmas Ball, a sell-out event that raised nearly £14,000 this year.

One of Mermaids greatest assets is the Barron Theatre, the only student-run theatre in the U.K. Our Freshers' Drama Festival, which was held in November and consisted of 6 productions organised, directed and performed by Freshers, demonstrated the vast possibilities of what can take place in the Barron. Outside the Barron, Mermaids had two shows in the St. Age in the Union ("Copenhagen" and a student-written adaption of "Edward II") as well as two shows in the Byre ("One Man, Two Guvnors" and a student-written adaptation of "Oedipus Rex"). Working with the Byre, in particular, provides students with the unique experience of working in a professional theatre setting and we are very grateful for our continued relationship with them.

Engagement within Mermaids and the further performing arts community in St Andrews is increasing each year, with more shows being proposed and audience attendance going up. This is a testament not only to the hard work of the Mermaids committee but also to the exceptionally creative and passionate students who choose to be involved with Mermaids each year. It is students such as these who contribute to the success of Mermaids and will continue to do so for many years to come.

ON THE ROCKS

This year has been a peculiar one for On The Rocks. Whilst we were disappointed that the outbreak of Covid-19 meant our festival this year had to be cancelled, the committee has been working on a number of other events and projects across the academic year.

We were really pleased with the successful return of On The Pebbles, our mini festival, in November. The day featured pop-up performances from Bells A Capella group all over town, an evening of jazz and comedy in Sandy's, as well as the chance for our audiences to get involved themselves with creative workshops. Our watercolour workshop had queues out of the door with people wanting to get involved, whilst the clothes upcycling and embroidery workshop focused on creative sustainability.

We have continued our large and varied community and outreach programme this year, with workshops in schools and community groups, as well as projects with local care homes. Engaging with the local community through the arts is one of our biggest passions at OTR, so we were also delighted to run a sock puppet stall at the St Andrews Day celebrations too!

Although the cancellation of the festival was a huge shame, I'd also like to highlight some of the projects we had been working on. This year's committee had worked really hard to expand the reach of OTR beyond Fife, and were ecstatic to have secured performances from a number of professional theatre companies, including YesYesNoNo, who were due to join us with a performance and workshop, following their critically acclaimed run at The Pleasance at Edinburgh Fringe 2019. We hope that the festival's development into the world of professional theatre will continue in the coming years.

ST ANDREWS VOLUNTARY SERVICE

It has been another successful year for SVS! We provide many different outlets to allow students to engage with the wider community. Not only does this benefit the community, but many of our volunteers report it is helping their personal wellbeing. This year we have had numerous active projects, across our eight project areas- ranging from youth, to animals and to the environment with hundreds of active volunteers.

One big highlight this year was our very successful dementia training that we hosted together with Dementia Friends Scotland and Alzheimer Scotland. Almost 40 students got their 'Dementia Friends' certificate and because of the great turn-out we hope to run another training session again next semester.

Some of our volunteering highlights this year includes weekly trips to the dog and cat shelter, offering learning support at local schools and helping out at the foodbank. One of our projects, TechnoSmart, an initiative which runs weekly with the aim of improving older people's technology skills while also socialising over tea and coffee, has also been very popular. In addition, our collaboration with Hope Park Church has been successful and lets volunteers work with members of the local community to re-wild the church gardens, host eco fayres and come up with new recycling plans. This is a great way to get members of the student and local communities to come together to make St Andrews more sustainable.

We appreciate St Andrews students lead very hectic lives, therefore we have facilitated more one-off volunteering opportunities than ever, this includes: Planting trees at Cambo Gardens as part of the Woodland Trust's Big Climate Fightback Campaign, weekly arts and crafts sessions at Rymonth House and a monthly social event with ENABLE. We are incredibly proud of our volunteers, and without their dedication and goodwill SVS simply wouldn't function. We truly feel that volunteering is a fantastic experience for both the volunteers and those whom we help and are always keen to get more people and projects involved.

SOCIETIES & FAYRES

This has been a busy year for the Societies Committee (Socs). In the 2019-20 Academic year, Socs processed reaffiliation for 166 societies, funded over 40 grant requests and affiliated 15 new societies. This is all thanks to every single Socs member who has given up countless hours supporting, training, and advising our student societies.

This year Socs has undertaken several new projects. The first and foremost is to ensure the safety and integrity of all student activities under different societies. New regulations have been put in place regarding GDPR and risk assessments, as well as a complete overhaul of the reaffiliation process. Training for society committee members have also been rewritten to ensure accurate information was given to all societies.

One of our goals is to facilitate collaborations between societies. In October, Socs held a large-scale networking event, attracting over 60 societies and Union subcommittees to attend. University departments and union councillors attended as well, to showcase the University and the Union's support in student activities. The event was successful in connecting societies with vastly different aims, and we received over 50 collaboration event proposals from the event alone, many of which have received funding from us.

In the spirit of accessibility, Socs trialled Access Hours at Refreshers' Fayre in collaboration with the SRC Member for Students with Disabilities. Access Hour enforced a quiet and spacious environment for the first half-hour of the fayre for any students who required such arrangement. While there were small issues to work out, feedback was mainly positive and Socs will continue this arrangement in future fayres.

In celebration of the amazing work that individuals have put in for the betterment of their societies, we have decided to add the Award for Exceptional Individual Contributions. With a total of 55 nominations received on the very first year of this award, we are incredibly humbled to read about all of the amazing work that students have done for their societies and have given the award to 14 nominees.

This has been a very positive and engaging year for Socs and for societies. We are very proud of the great achievements that societies have made throughout the year. Socs will continue to strive to be an accessible resource for societies and support them in their endeavours.

SOCIETIES AWARDS

With over 160 affiliated societies, almost every student will be involved in a society at some point in their studies. Our societies work tirelessly throughout the year to put on amazing events, increase engagement, and provide a variety of opportunities to students. While a physical awards ceremony could not be held, we are pleased to be able to honour and reward their efforts through a virtual ceremony.

Best Society:

1st Place: Folk & Traditional Music Society, Runner Up: Art Society

Best Event:

1st Place: Gilbert and Sullivan Society, Runner Up: Rock and Metal Society

Best New Society:

1st Place: Dog Walking Society, Runner Up: Wilderness Medicine Society

Best Contribution to Student Life:

1st Place: Democrats Overseas, Runner Up: Philosophy Society

Most Collaborative Society:

1st Place: Craft Society, Runner Up: Amnesty International Society

Most Innovative Society:

1st Place: Pool & Cue Sports Society, Runner Up: Maths Society

CAPOD Professional Skills Award: Winner:

Enactus St Andrews

Best Charitable and Volunteering Society:

1st Place: CoppaFeel, Runner Up: Refugee Action St Andrews

Town and Gown Award:

1st Place: Sexpression, Runner Up: Music Society

AKOB Award for Consistent Excellence:

1st Place: Dr Who Society; Runner Ups: Bute Medical Society, Students for Global Health, Celtic & Ceilidh Society

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Honorary Life Membership is a gift given by the Students' Association to individuals in recognition of their outstanding contributions to enhancing the St Andrews student experience. This recognition is not bestowed lightly - we looked carefully for evidence that nominees have shown extraordinary determination in their appropriate field, and have gone above and beyond in their duties.

This year, the HLM deliberation process was especially challenging - not only due to the current circumstances, but because the Class of 2020 boasts an abundance of impressive and deserving candidates, making it all the more difficult to select fifty recipients from hundreds of nominations. This certainly speaks to the calibre of this year's recipients. Congratulations to them!

**Alice Foulis
Amanda Jacobs
Amy Addinall
Amy Gallacher
Andrew Orr
Anoushka Kohli
Auguste Navickyte
Caitlin Sutherland
Calum Kennedy
Cameron Wyper
Camilla Duke
Charlotte Crowe
Chloe Ashley**

**Claire Fenerty
Dan Marshall
Edward Prendergast
Emma Rose Walsh
Frankie Borderie
Gabriele Uboldi
Harry Parker
Henry Memmott
Holly Scrivener
Isi Webb-Jenkins
Joanna Stewart
Katherine Frost
Lauren Davis**

**Leah Allcock
Leo Song
Linus Erbach
Lisa Marie Husby
Lucy Allatt
Manaal Mahjoub
Margaret Crawford
Marina Haldopolous
Markus Lee
Max Holtzman
Miriam Eyre
Paul Lancaster
Robin Legg**

**Rowan Wishart
Ruth Batten
Sarah Crawford
Sarah Julia Greenberg
Seamus Bonner
Sophia Rommel
Tom Groves
Tom Harley
Valeria Ryabchina
Will Thompson
Zoe Nengite**

In addition to receiving an Honorary Life Membership, the Sandy Mackenzie Award is annually awarded to a member of the Association. Dedicated to our late Bar Manager, this award is given to a student who has truly gone above and beyond in their activity/activities to the Association. This year the award was given to two students:

Winners of the Sandy Mackenzie Award: Markus Lee and Paul Lancaster

SPACES

It has been a wonderful year in terms of spaces in the Union! Students have been coming up with new and inventive ways to diversify our spaces and transform them into their visions. The StAge and Club 601 have been used for all kinds of events, from club nights to dance shows and a host of shows by many of our performing Arts groups.

Tuesdays are now used as multi-bar club nights with different music in both Sandy's and The Main Bar. Saturdays have transformed Sandy's bar into a small gig venue for live music. The Beacon Bar is increasingly becoming a more popular venue for society events, and we've seen even more use of Rector's for live lounges and A capella performances over the last year.

Rector's café remains a popular place for students and locals, and The Main Bar food services have continued to be a hot spot for students in between classes and before their events. For evening events, The Main Bar is the place to be! We have seen an increasing number of students coming out on Wednesday nights, and have started to open up Club 601 to increase the number of students able to come into the Union. Our all building events, such as Halloween and Winter Wonderland have transformed the spaces to show how incredibly versatile 601 and the StAge are, and we pushed it even further this year in terms of decorations for all the venues. Unfortunately the year was cut short and we didn't get to see the full use of the venue till the end. However, the times when the Union was open have remained extremely popular with our societies and subcommittees.



FRESHERS & REFRESHERS

All the Sabbs had an amazing time welcoming in the new Freshers and welcoming back returning students to St Andrews. Our President and DoED, Jamie and Amy, conducted hall introductory talks, the AU held multiple try-it-out events and their own Freshers' Fayre, and our DoWell, Flora, linked up multiple Academic families through the infamous Academic Family Finding Events. This year, there was such a high turn out that they needed to move it to the StAge just to fit everyone in!

The main goal for Freshers' Week was to ensure that the Union offered large, diverse events, providing a variety of nights out for all students depending on their personal preferences. With the vast majority of events selling out, we kicked off the week with none other than the classic "Welcome to The Bubble". In keeping with tradition, the second night of Freshers' Week was Clan Warfare and this year, John Burnet Hall were crowned the champions. We also featured a great DJ set from none other than The Vamp's drummer, Tristan Evans! Unfortunately, due to a last minute cancellation and a break-up, we weren't able to welcome Love Island's Belle and Anton but that didn't stop the show! Instead, we were happy to welcome in two cover bands of St. Andrews' favourites - "ABBA ARIVAL" and "This is QUEEN", bringing back live music to the StAge and 601. It was a delight to introduce the Freshers to some of our favourite St. Andrews club nights, with another sold out Sinners and Glow BOP. Finally, a definite highlight of the week, we must give a massive thanks to Mermaids for their wonderful production on the last night of Freshers and Celtic Society for bringing back our welcome Ceilidh.

Refreshers' Week kept up the hype by maintaining diversity and welcoming back other big name acts. We had an amazing show from none other than a live performance by Cascada, bringing her hits "Every Time We Touch" and "Evacuate the Dance Floor" to 601. The Athletic Union Hockey Team offered yet another successful Rodeo night with a mechanical bull! And Folk and Trad Society organised a fantastic ceilidh with Kilrymont Band. We welcomed in Dundee DJ group Legless for a Techno, House and Disco night, and students had a chance to meet and see a live performance from Ru Paul UK's very own Cheryl Hole.

We want to say a massive thank you to those who helped us put on these events, especially the volunteers who make all of this happen! To our duty managers, thank you for being so on top of it and taking time out of your Freshers' Week to help us out with ticketing and set up. And lastly, thank you to our Ents for all the help they provided us with in terms of tech and transforming the venue every night of Freshers.

ENTERTAINMENT

For the first time, The Union has introduced nightly events which span the course of the whole week and we have shown an increased versatility in the use of Union spaces. Monday night welcomed Games Night, including a new oversize Connect-4 and Chess Board. We reimagined Tuesday nights, introducing Beats N' Bargains with free entry, a Requests' playlist, student DJs and more drinks' deals. Thursdays introduced Jazz Nights with our favourite resident group Jazzworks. We had another great year of BOPs and Sinners, and we opened up 601 on some Wednesdays for more club nights! Saturdays were greatly improved by bringing back live music to St Andrews with the introduction of Sounds of Sandy's led by STAR.

Students continued to use the venues in new and reimagined ways and we introduced multiple new events to Beacon and Sandy's Bar. The theatres were used consistently by Mermaids and their affiliates, to put on some amazing student productions in the StAge, The Byre, and The Barron.

We welcomed back some of our favourite hit events such as: DRAG Walk, CATWALK, and multiple Dance Shows. All of our wonderful societies deserve a massive thank you for all the events and activities they have put on to better the student experience over the last year. We can't wait to see what cool new ideas and events the student body create over the next year to maintain and excel in the entertainment St Andrews has to offer.

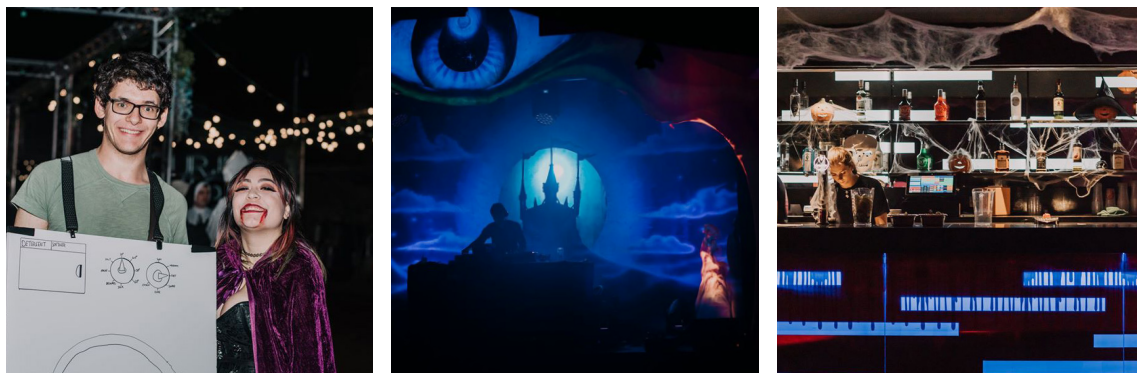


Photo credit: Lightbox St Andrews (All Building Fright Night)



Photo credit: Lightbox St Andrews (All Building Winter Wonderland)

POSTWORD

So, there you have it. We hope this has given as clear an indication as we can of how the Students' Association, its officers and staff have coped with this year, Coronavirus and all. We also hope it gives a good impression of just how much work has gone into everything the Students' Association has done this year, from representation to activities, from education to events.

Pulling together this report has been surprisingly emotional. Not just because it's reminded us of the kind of things the Union was doing, or would have been doing, before the Coronavirus hit; not just because we're proud of how we've reacted to this unexpected - not to mention, unprecedented challenge. Every Annual Report is a piece of the Union's history, a record of change and achievement and adaption through time, through different Sabbatical teams, Principals, and redevelopments. So this report feels especially significant if for no other reason than it describes the work done by a unique organisation to meet unique challenges.

The Sabbaticals and Staff 2019/2020

SABB TEAM 2020/21



President:
Dan Marshall



Director of Wellbeing:
Emma Walsh



Director of Student
Development and Activities:
Gavin Sandford



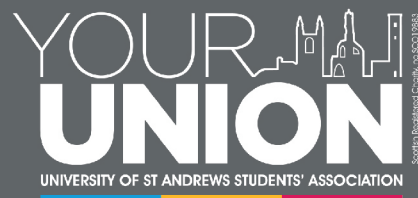
Director of Education:
Amy Gallacher



Director of Events
& Services:
Tom Groves



Athletic Union President:
Sophie Tyler



yourunion.net



@standrewsunion
@yourunionevents



@standrewsunion



@standrewsunion