

Class Notes News

Welcome to Class Notes News Online! Hopefully, the entire alumni magazine will be online soon; in the meantime, we hope you enjoy catching up on the doings of your old friends and classmates in the second online instalment of Class Notes News. As always, thanks for sending your news in! If you would like to submit your news, or contact someone who hasn't given their details, please contact the Alumni Office on 01382 308043, or email alumni@abertay.ac.uk - we'll be happy to help you get in touch!

The Editor apologises to STEVEN FENTON, whose submission in the Class Notes News Section of the Autumn/Winter 2004 alumni magazine was incorrect. Steven's submission has been corrected and can be found below in the 1990s section.

2004

Anne PACK (*BA Hons Information Management*) achieved her dream of a degree after five years with the help and support of her husband and two sons, aged 16 and 20 (the oldest is a third-year computing student at Abertay), and understanding employers who allowed her time off work to attend lectures.

In addition to running a home and holding down a full-time job as PA to the Director of the Scottish Crop Research Institute (which has links with Abertay), Anne is a professional singer/guitarist.

What began as a hobby almost 15 years ago evolved into a second career, with Anne involved in close to 70 performances in Scotland each year. She has toured Canada six times, including a tour of Ontario as the guest singer with an orchestra. Other Canadian tours included Vancouver and Vancouver Island in British Columbia. Anne enjoys Canada. As the Canadian-US border is largely populated by Europeans, including many Scottish people, she finds many of the concerts she plays to be even more Scottish than Scotland. She has been made to feel very welcome everywhere she's performed in Canada, and has been asked to organise another performance for next year.

Anne is currently gathering and writing material for her eighth album. For more information on Anne's musical life see www.annepack.co.uk.

Alex Philip HUGHES (*BSc Sport Coaching & Development*) went back to sea and skippered a Prawn Trawler out of Fife for 13 months while looking for work in the Sports Development area after graduating.

After seven interviews, his persistence paid off and Alex is now busy in his new post as the Active Steps Officer for the West Lothian Youth Action Project. The Active Steps programme

2003

aims to engage young people - particularly those at risk of criminal behaviour - through physical activity, using a positive approach to sport, promoting teamwork and fair play.

Alex works with ages 11 to 21, and is involved with existing programmes such as football evenings, snowboarding trips (currently dry slope), organising day and evening trips and residential trips.

Alex is also a newlywed: he and Pauline Truscott were married in Switzerland last August. The couple went to Tahiti on their honeymoon, where they stayed in a water bungalow on the South Pacific.

Alison JOHNSON (*MSc with Distinction Industrial Environmental Management*) feels as if she's packed a lifetime into the year since she has graduated. She continued to work with the company with which she did a placement for her dissertation, and thereafter worked for the University in the new Abertay Centre for the Environment advising small businesses on environmental issues.



Alison Johnson

Alison is now working for the public sector as a Waste Awareness Coordinator for the Perth and Kinross Council. Her role covers a wide breadth of activities which include dealing with public enquiries, manning waste awareness stands, speaking on the benefits of recycling to community groups and schools, developing awareness material and website content, participating in networks for business waste awareness, waste training for business and assisting with media campaigns.

She enjoys all the face-to-face contact with the public and the fact that no two days are alike. Alison says she never thought she would have an opportunity like this, but her Abertay MSc has opened doors that would have never been available otherwise.

Lesley Anne MACLEOD (*BSc Hons Nursing*) is working as a staff nurse in the orthopaedic trauma unit of the Blackburn Royal Infirmary in Blackburn, England. Lesley has recently taken on extended roles as the liaison nurse in infection control, and she serves as a moving and handling facilitator.

Paul McGREAVEY (*BSc Hons Applied Chemistry*) has just completed nine months of world travel. He is now looking for employment within the chemical industry.

Deborah Leigh PEEBLES (*BSc Hons Psychology w/Biology*) worked for a year after graduating, and then began Masters studies in Cognitive Neuropsychology at Oxford Brookes University. Deborah hopes to pursue a career in Cognitive Neuropsychology once she finishes her studies.

Fiona Elizabeth RAE (*BA Hons Law*) has been working as a Training Manager for Tesco. Fiona recently gained her postgraduate diploma in Human Resource Management from Dundee College.

2002

Andrea J L DIXON (*PG Dip Information Technology*) began her studies at Dundee University for a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) in Primary Education. When not occupied with her studies, Andrea can be found working part-time at The Lighthouse.

Laura May LAIRD (*BA Hons Tourism*) got engaged on her birthday last August to her partner of two years, software developer Steven Russell. The couple are currently looking for a new house, and then they will set a date for their wedding.

2001

Leanne Muriel ALEXANDER (*BA Hons Business Studies*) is looking forward to happy days ahead: she is engaged to former Abertay student John Macdonald (*BSc Mathematical Science, 1998*), and the couple plan to get married in January 2005.

Maria Elba CARRERA-ANDRES (*MSc International Marketing*) is busy with her work as a Public Relations representative for the Rioja Wine Company in Viana, Spain. Maria says "felicidades!" to her friend Sabine Thieme, who was recently married and is expecting her first child at the end of this year.

Elaine Christine FYALL (*BA Hons Tourism*) continued her studies after leaving Abertay by undertaking a Masters in Scottish Studies at Strathclyde University. For the past year Elaine has been working at Perth College, where she is a Lecturer in Tourism.

Alison Elizabeth (nee Downie) LOUDON (*BA Hons Tourism*) married former Abertay student Craig Allyn Loudon (*BA Hons Economics 2002*) this past summer on 24 July. Alison is working as a primary teacher in Falkirk, and the newlyweds live in Dunfermline.

Sabrina (nee Morrison) McMULLEN (*BA Hons Marketing*) has been happily married to Owen McMullen since September 2003. Sabrina works as a Payroll Clerk for Sainsburys. The couple's second child was born in October 2004.

2000



Kirsty Jane (nee Philip) PRICE (*BA Hons Business Administration*) married her fiancé Richard in July 2003 at Barnhill St Margaret's Church followed by a reception at Crieff Hydro Hotel; the couple honeymooned in Sorrento, Italy. Several of Kirsty's former classmates attended the wedding, among them Stephen Fyffe (who introduced her to Richard), Susan Noble, Sarah Anderson, Jennifer McKay and Ross & Claire (nee Lynch)

Jamieson, who were married the month before.

Graeme J STEVENS (*BA Hons Commerce, 2000*) did a Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) in Information Technology at the University of Brighton. Graeme is now the Head of IT at The Edron Academy, a British college in Mexico City and loves every minute of his job.

He is planning to attend a java-programming course in the summer of 2005 at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

1990s

Iain Forbes BEAT (*BA Hons Applicable Mathematics, 1990*) joined the NHS after graduating. Over the next 12-13 years, Iain worked as a statistician in the Information Services field in Fife, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee and Guys Hospital, London.



Marie & Iain at Milford Sound, South Island New Zealand

He left in 2002 to travel the world with his partner Marie Wilson. Iain is currently back in Edinburgh, having worked with a management solutions company since returning from his travels. He and Marie are about to embark on another world travel experience.

Zoe FAIRFULL-SMITH (*BA Hons Business Studies, 1995*) went to work for the Clydesdale Bank as a graduate entrant after leaving Abertay, where she continued her education by achieving Member status of the Chartered Institute of Bankers in Scotland. After working for two years in Clydesdale's Corporate Banking Office in London, she quit her job, sold all her possessions and relocated to Australia, arriving in Melbourne in June 2000, where she found employment with the National Australia Bank (the parent company of Clydesdale Bank).

She worked 18 months for the Bank of New Zealand Australia (another division of the National Australia Bank) in a business banking analyst role. After seven years she left NAB Group and is currently with HSBC as a Relationship Executive in their Corporate Banking area.

Zoe enjoys life down under, especially the summers. She has become a fan of Aussie cricket but not Aussie football, and attended all the Scotland rugby games when the world cup was on last year. She manages to make it home once a year to catch up with her family and friends. Zoe is also continuing her education, having almost completed her conversion exams to be a Chartered Accountant in Australia.

Steven Thomas FENTON (*PG Dip Information Technology, 1992*) has been married to his wife Jane for eight years now, with two additions to his family in the last four years: Gina (4) and Adam (2). Steve and his family recently moved to a new house in Invergowrie. He received a MSc in Nutritional Epidemiology from the University of Dundee before landing a new job as Product Manager for the Internet Company ScottishGolf.com, which is owned by Scotland on Line.

Steve is involved in marketing the concept of Internet booking for golfers. More information can be found at <http://www.scottishgolf.com/news/>.

Elizabeth Ferguson FORDYCE (*PG Dip Information Technology, 1999*) was re-elected as Councillor for Electoral Ward 25 in May 2003; she also serves as the SNP Spokesperson for Social Work on the Council.

Liz became a Granny for the third time with the birth of Abbie in May 2004, and officially became an OAP on 16 August 2004, although "18 going on 60" is how she prefers to describe herself.



Cllr Liz Fordyce with baby Abbie

Philip GIBBARD (*BA Hons Retail & Distribution Management, 1998*) rediscovered his University girlfriend Orla O'Brien (*BSc Hons Behavioural Science, 1998*). Now engaged, Philip and Orla are planning to marry in September 2005.



Phillip & Orla

Linda Mhairi GIBSON (*PhD Psychology, 1999*) has had a busy year working between the NHS and an independent practice in adult and occupational health psychology in Aberdeen.

In addition to that, Linda managed to start her own company – Apex Psychology – last year.

Sarah-Ann Louise (nee Davidson) MACDONALD (*BA Business Studies, 1995*) can't believe it is nearly 14 years since she entered the doors of the then Dundee Institute of Technology. Since graduating in November 1995 Sarah-Ann has been employed at The Wright Group (formerly Robert Wright & Son Ltd) in Northern Ireland, where she is steadily working her way up through the ranks. She is now Company Secretary for the Group and its three subsidiary companies. In April 2000 Sarah-Ann married Ewan Macdonald (*BSc Engineering, 2003*), a joyous event that was attended by their family and many friends, including Fiona and Andrew Brunton, also Abertay alumni. May 2002 brought more cause for celebration with the arrival of Ellen Macdonald. Sarah-Ann and Ewan would be pleased to hear from anyone who graduated from Business Studies in the same year or anyone else who knows them.

Kennedy Bruce MANYOZO (*BSc Hons Building Engineering & Management, 1997; HND Construction Management, 1995*) left Dundee shortly after graduating for the Republic of Malawi, a long and narrow country covering more than 1000 km from North to South. The country is well known for its friendly people, golden shores and stunning natural scenery, but its biggest attraction is Lake Malawi, which borders the west of the country.



Lake Malawi

Ken works for GOPA Consultants, a German firm that assists with the implementation of Malawi's Primary School Education Programme.

The programme includes elements of community participation in the construction of primary schools, teacher's houses, teacher development centres and the maintenance of existing classrooms and Teacher Training Colleges. Ken began as a Field Manager and is currently the Deputy Programme Manager.

Ken is currently studying MSc Strategic Management with the University of Derby, Derbyshire Business School, and is looking forward to graduating in October 2005.

Angus McKenzie MARSHALL (*BSc Hons Computer Studies & Microsystems, 1991*) is a former staff member in addition to being a graduate: he lectured in Computing for four years before moving on to the University of Lincolnshire & Humberside as course leader for their HND & BSc computing programmes in 1997. He has also worked for the University of Hull's Centre for Internet Computing as a lecturer.

Angus has worked in the field of forensic computing for the past four years, returning to Abertay in 2003 to present a seminar on the subject. He advised novelist Val McDermid (of 'Wire in the Blood' fame) on digital evidence for her latest novel, 'The Torment of Others', receiving an



Angus & Shirley Marshall in front of the Swan Theatre

acknowledgement in the book, a speaking turn at this year's Harrogate Crime Writing Festival, and an invite to return to the Festival in 2005 as a panellist. He soon moves to the University of Teesside to become a full-time forensic scientist,

with the aim of launching BSc and MSc forensic computing programmes in 2005.

Angus also got married this year, tying the knot with Shirley Thomson on the stage of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Swan Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon on 27 March 2004. It was the first time that the theatre had hosted a real wedding. Angus and Shirley have been regular visitors to Stratford for the last seven years and chose the Swan as their wedding venue because of its special atmosphere and the many happy memories the place holds for them.

Mary MAWSON (*BA Accounting, 1992*) is overjoyed to have received her Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Administration and Information Management from Ayr College. A true believer in lifelong learning, Mary continues her studies at Ayr College, intent on achieving a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Administration and Information Management.

Keith MCINTOSH (*BSc Hons Applied Chemistry, 1998*) did the usual backpacking trip across the USA, the Pacific Islands and Australia right after graduating. Since then he has worked in a number of Scientific fields: as a waste water analyst for a water testing laboratory in Coventry, testing polyethylene at the British Petroleum complex in Grangemouth and in pharmaceutical analysis with GlaxoSmithKline in County Durham.

Currently Keith is living in Watford, where he works for a company that makes handheld detectors that are used by the Army to test for chemical weapons and also by airport security to test for explosives in luggage. Keith jokes that he has "successfully managed to avoid the marriage/children pitfall" - something he hopes to continue to do for a few years yet.

He makes it back to Dundee on occasion to see a few non-uni related friends, as he doesn't hear from anyone from his class. Keith hopes all his former friends and classmates are doing well.

Kati Jane MCKEON (*BA Hons European Business Management with Languages, 1998*) has just completed an International Bartenders Course and is currently looking for work in the cocktail bars in Southeast Brighton. Kati is hoping to acquire some work experience before setting up her own bar. In a few years, Kati hopes to move to Australia and set up her bar on the sunshine coast.



Kati Jane McKeon

Stuart MCMILLAN (*MBA European, 1997*) landed a job in Greenock with IBM shortly after he graduated. He left the company in November 2000 to work as a researcher for the Westminster Parliament. Stuart returned home in November 2003 after his marriage to Alexandra, and is currently working as a Parliamentary Assistant to Bruce McFee MSP.

Edwin MUIRHEAD (*BEng Hons Mechanical Engineering, 1998*) has worked for an oil company in Aberdeen for the past three years. Ed supports engineers all across Europe, the United States and the Middle East. His job mainly involves troubleshooting 3D CAD (computer aided drawing) systems.

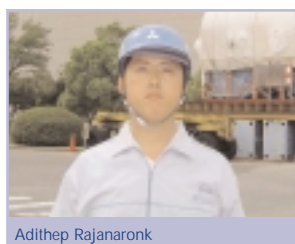


Edwin's award

Last summer Ed presented a paper at an international conference in Nashville, Tennessee and was awarded a plaque for "Best Presenter" (see photo on left). He is also on the committee of the Scottish Pro/User Group, which meets

at Abertay's MIST centre in Bell Street. Ed has been married to his wife Carol, a music teacher and graduate of Northern College for a year. The couple reside in Dundee.

Adithep RAJANARONK (*MSc Electrical Power Engineering & Management, 1996*) is currently employed as a Level Seven Electrical Engineer at the Barn-pa-kong Power Plant in the Charchoeng Sao Province of Thailand.



Adithep Rajanaronk

In August 2004 Adithep travelled to Kobe, Japan to witness function tests involving the vibration, speed and resistance of the new generator rotor at Mitsubishi Electric Corporation.

Rosanne REID (*BA Hons Commerce, 1993*) continued her studies after leaving Abertay at Robert Gordon University, where she gained a postgraduate diploma in Human Resource Management. After working four years in Aberdeen she then headed to London, where she worked as an IT Trainer and Instructional Designer for six years.



Rosanne Reid

In November 2003 Rosanne decided she'd had enough of "the rat race" and emigrated to Australia. She's been living in Sydney ever since and is now working as a contractor, remaining in the IT industry as an Instructional Designer. Rosanne says she has no regrets about leaving the UK, as Australia is a fantastic country to be in for the lifestyle and work opportunities.

Richard RUDD-ORTHNER (*BSc Hons Computing, 1997*) has been working with BAE Systems Avionics Ltd in Edinburgh since graduating from Abertay, holding the Senior Software Engineer post in the Advanced Projects group. Richard designs and implements Real-time Embedded Software for the defence market, and works in Research and Development of new technologies. His work takes him throughout the UK as a trouble-shooter on programmes with software or system design problems, and is conducted as an augmentation to his research work.

Richard's field is Radar Signal Processing and control for the new brand of Electronically Scanned Helicopter Surveillance and Fixed-Wing Fighter Radars for Capabilities like Air-Air, Air-Ground, and both cooperative and non-cooperative detection, classification and identification of targets. In the last year and a half, he has been involved in the design and implementation of an Avionics suite that combines a number of different sensors together with a kind of fusion to produce a composite sensing image of the battle space.

Allan B. SWORD (*BA Hons Commerce, 1992*) joined the Corporate Finance & Advisory, Middle East South Asia region of Standard Chartered Bank as Associate Director, based in Dubai. Allan's main responsibilities include advising multi-national clients and governments on cross-border mergers and acquisitions, and capital market transactions and privatisations across 17 countries.

Prior to this Allan worked for HSBC Investment Bank, where he led their regional efforts in the region. Allan has lived in the Middle East for seven years, six of which have been in Dubai, is married to Evelyn and has 2 children: Gregor, 3 and Halle, 2. The family splits their holiday time between home in Scotland and a holiday home in South Africa.



Allan Sword

Kathryn Ann THOMPSON (*BSc Hons Environmental Science, 1997*) has put her transferable skills to use in the field of mental health as an Involvement Officer with PLUS (People Like US), a user-led mental health charity in Perth and Kinross. Her duties include representing the views of people who have experience of mental illness within Perth and Kinross, working with service providers to improve or change services to meet the needs of those with mental illness, providing information on pertinent mental health issues through newsletters and websites and strategic support of those who plan mental health services within the local government and NHS Tayside.



Kathryn Ann Thompson

John McNab WESTLAND (*BA Hons European Business Management with Languages, 1996*) spent a year in temporary jobs gaining work experience before joining Dewalt Power Tools, the industrial power tool division of the Black and Decker Corporation in July 1997.

During the seven years he has been with them he has held various roles within the sales organisation, including being part of the demonstration team, sales and national account sales. John was recently promoted to Trade Marketing Manager and will be relocating to Berkshire with his partner Maree, whom he has been with for six years. John says he and Maree are very happy together and are looking forward to the new challenge that awaits them.

1980s

Alasdair KINNAIRD (*BEng Hons Civil Engineering, 1988*) has lived in central London since graduating. His first job was as a trainee Chartered Accountant working on the Batman and Dry White Season films at Pinewood Studios. Eventually he returned to construction and became a Chartered Engineer in 1995 with Balfour Beatty.



Alasdair Kinnaird

The same year he married Christine Runnalls (*BEd Dundee 1988*), and the couple moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan so she could participate in a one-year Fulbright scholarship.

They travelled extensively in their motor home between Niagara, Seattle, Dallas, Charlestown and many points in between, witnessing the vastness and contrast that is the USA.

An earlier visit to the States saw Alasdair spending three months in Alaska with Operation Raleigh on a youth expedition, living in the wild out of a rucksack, canoeing, climbing, and assisting the Forest and Game Department.

He found catching wild salmon made a pleasant change from the army style dehydrated foods he carried. A long-time resident of bohemian Camden Town, Alasdair's neighbours included Alan Bennett, Ben Elton, Harry Enfield and Sven Goran Erikson. John Prescott and Easyjet's Stelios were also regular sights in his street. Alasdair recently moved to suburbia for a more relaxing life but still gets his excitement from his long-time interest in motorbikes, currently competing in 6-hour endurance road races with a team consisting of his brothers and a friend. He is part-owner of an urban clothing company with his brother and also works in the Transportation sector for a Consulting Engineer. Alasdair hasn't been back in Dundee for many years but maintains contact with a small band of Abertay Londoners for a few pints and a reminisce.

1970s

Sam MACKENZIE (*Diploma in Quantity Surveying, 1977*) went to England for a bit after leaving Abertay, then he travelled to the Arabian Gulf, Brunei, Singapore and Indonesia before settling down in London for 20 years. In April 2004 Sam, his wife and their three children moved to Glasgow, where Sam began his new job as the Managing Partner for Davis Langdon LLP, an international construction and property consultancy.

Gavin Robert SUGGETT (*HNC Digital Systems Design, 1979*) is a believer in lifelong learning. Having retired as CEO of the Alliance Trust Plc after 31 years, he is now studying a two-year distance-learning course in organic farming, which he says will be a fine addition to his MBA and degrees in Economics, Accountancy, Digital Systems Design and Financial Services.