

# Class Notes News

Thanks to everyone who sent their news and photographs to the Alumni Office for the Class Notes News section of the alumni magazine. All information is correct at the time of going to print. Do you want to contact someone who hasn't given his or her details? Just send your correspondence in a sealed and stamped envelope with the name of the person for whom it is intended on the front to the Alumni Office – we'll be happy to forward it on your behalf.

2004

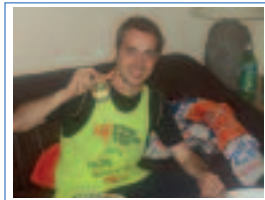
MUNRO, Elaine [BSc Hons Mechatronics] joined the Merchant Navy. She did a nine-month tour of the Caribbean on a free trade vessel that embarked from South Africa, and then joined a vessel which sailed from the Netherlands to Benin, Port Elizabeth and Durban, South Africa, then off to St Petersburg, Russia. She



dry-docked in Gdansk, Poland for a month. Elaine has completed her 12 months sea time and is currently studying at Glasgow College of Nautical studies for the January oral exams, which will allow her to sail as a third engineer. Says Elaine, "I've got the travelling bug and I don't think I will stop!"

Elaine is grateful to Abertay for accepting her into their summer school project in 2000. She says, "If it was not for Abertay giving me that chance, I would not be where I am now."

LEACOCK, Neil [BA Hons Business Studies] ran the New York Marathon in support of Cystic Fibrosis on 6th November 2005, completing the marathon in 4 hours and 36 minutes.



Neil says he definitely plans to go back next year and do it again, as he found the entire experience amazing, describing the crowds, support, weather and the scenery that he witnessed whilst crossing the bridges between the five boroughs of New York as magnificent.

Neil is still collecting donations for Cystic Fibrosis, and is around £450 short of his £1500 target. If you'd like to help Neil reach his goal, visit [www.justgiving.com/neilleacockmarathon2005](http://www.justgiving.com/neilleacockmarathon2005).

2003

ANDREWS, Michael A [BSc Hons Computing] remains a regular fixture in Dundee due to his work. Michael is still employed with Arnold Clark, but in the new position of IT manager.

CARRERA, David [PGDip Information Technology] of Spain writes, "My two years in Dundee were the most exciting experience that I ever had. Dundee and Abertay gave me experience, friends, culture

and the knowledge of one of the most beautiful countries in the world, Scotland. Thank you for everything!" David is a newlywed, having married his fiancée Miriam in August 2005.



WILSON, Sylvia [BSc Food Product Design] received her full certificate of registration from the General Teaching Council for Scotland qualifying her as a teacher of Home Economics in August 2005. She has initially taken up a supply post at Perth High School.

THOMPSON, Helen [BSc Hons Forensic Psychobiology] and her partner Colin McKelvey successfully completed their 'Trek for Children Challenge' along a section of the famous Great Wall in China. Their trip began in Beijing, where they found even the simplest of tasks such as buying a bus ticket or finding a toilet a challenge.

Accompanied by 40 fellow trekkers of all ages, Helen's first glimpse of the wall came at Mutianyu as she climbed up through Trout Valley. The views were stunning and she and Colin found it hard to believe that they were actually on the Great Wall of China. Although the section they were on had been fully restored, it didn't mean the going was easy, as they soon discovered that the Chinese version of a gentle walk was anything but gentle!

Helen found the views to be even more stunning once she began walking on the unrestored and rarely explored sections in Gubeikou, Jinshanling and Simatai. The walking got progressively harder with the steep climbs and descents as she followed the Yanshan Mountains along the Chinese/Mongolian border. But despite the difficulties, Helen had a fantastic time in China, the group raising just over £75,000, of which she and her partner raised £6000.



2002

LYKOS, Praxitelis [MSc Electrical Power Engineering & Management] worked for the Olympic Games in Athens 2004, which he followed with a seven-month rest. Telis is now working in the Project Department of Vastas Hellas, where he supervises wind farms in Greece. He has good memories of former lecturer Mr Hamilton, whom he credits with helping him to understand what he wanted to do in his working life, and would like to come back to Dundee for a 'burger and a pint !'



GORMLEY, Yvonne [BA Hons European Business Management with Languages] is kept busy with her secretarial duties at the University of Dundee. She enjoyed her holiday to Spain this year, and is still attending her Spanish classes in the evenings.

MCFARLANE, Lynda [BA Tourism] had loads of fun during her two years working for Disneyland Paris. Lynda will be in Orlando, Florida for the next year, working at Walt Disney World as the UK Cultural Representative.

ROBERTSON (née Bertram), Emma Louise [BSc Hons Medical Biotechnology] is a newlywed, having married Craig on 9th July 2005. She and her husband make their home in Cumbria, where Emma-Louise works as a laboratory analyst for NNC Ltd.

2001

COEGO RIOS, Miguel [BA Hons Economics] spent two years in Glasgow working for Shell after graduating. He was recently appointed as Chief Accountant for the water supply company Gestion y Tecnicas del Agua in Madrid.



Miguel says he had the best year of his life in Dundee, studying hard, working every weekend in the take-away Pegasus and discovering what he refers to as 'the most genuine, funny and party-animal people of the world!'

FABROWSKI, Mark [BA Hons European Business Management with Languages] received his MSc in Applied Computing from the University of Dundee in 2003. He soon discovered working in industry wasn't for him, and two serious illnesses led to a change in his goals and perspectives. It was while tutoring at an Italian university that Mark decided he should aim for his childhood dream of being a doctor. He gained experience in hospitals working as a hyperbaric unit assistant, shadowing surgeons, being an auxiliary porter and cleaner and after achieving distinctions in all subjects on an Access to Medicine course, he has started the Medicine and Surgery course at the University of Leeds.



GORDON, Andrew [BA Hons Marketing with Retail Management] has had an exciting time the last couple of years, quitting his job in April 2004 and heading to North America as a professional folk singer. He has lived in Kalamazoo, Toronto and Grand Rapids, managing to survive on nothing more than a song. He returned to Scotland in August 2005, where he is currently living in Perth and working in Stirling, although he continues to work semi-professionally with his music. You



can check out Andrew's music career at [www.andrewgordon.co.uk](http://www.andrewgordon.co.uk).

2000

ELBA CARRERA, Maria [MSc International Marketing with Languages] has many good memories of Abertay and Dundee. Maria and fiance Alfonso Perez [BA Hons Business Administration, 2001] currently make their home in

Have you visited the new Student Centre yet?

Photos can be found at [www.abertayunion.com](http://www.abertayunion.com)

And don't forget to sign the guestbook at

[www.abertay.ac.uk/About/SCentre/Comments](http://www.abertay.ac.uk/About/SCentre/Comments)

the La Rioja wine country. In May 2005 they flew to Erfurt, Germany to attend Sabine Thieme's [Advanced Certificate in Management] wedding. Maria would love to hear from her old friends and classmates - you can email her at [elvagallega@yahoo.es](mailto:elvagallega@yahoo.es).



FLEMING, Steven [BEng Hons Mechanical Engineering] relocated to Perth, Australia in September 2005, where he will be working for Halliburton as a directional driller. Steven expects to be in Australia until 2009.

SPIROPOULOS, Eleftherios [MSc International Marketing with Languages] has finished his tour of duty with the Greek Army. He is currently working for PLUS Hellas in Greece, developing retail chains for a multinational German supermarket company.

VON GRAEVENITZ, Sophie [BA Hons European Business Management with Languages] is currently working as a German Teacher at a school on Orkney. She is happily living with her partner Bob, a science teacher, and is hoping her Labrador "Frodo Baggins" will soon join them.

Sophie has been back to Dundee several times since completing her PGCE Modern Foreign Languages at Canterbury Christchurch University College and is looking forward to attending Jenny Stewart's [BA Hons Business Studies with HRM 2001] wedding to Stuart Grubb in June next year.



Sophie is also part of the regimental association of Tayforth University OTC and keeps in touch with many of her international friends made during her time spent as president of Dundee International Student's Association in 2000.

In February 2005 her travels took her to Canada to see Amjad Farooq [MSc Mechanical Engineering], who is currently working as an engineer and property developer in Calgary/Alberta. Sophie greatly enjoyed the Rockies!

This year has seen two reunions of Sophie's Abertay friends - a group known as the "Dundee 10", most of whom were able to attend the reunion in Brighton last July and in Bath last October. The next reunion is expected at Sophie's in Canterbury in April 2006!

## 1990s

DINNING, Anthony [PhD Applied Microbiology 1996; BSc Hons Biotechnology 1992] moved to Oslo, Norway in 2001 where he worked for the private consultancy Aquateam AS as their consultant microbiologist in offshore microbiology. He and wife Kirsti were married in 2004 and they are currently awaiting the birth of their first child, due in January 2006.

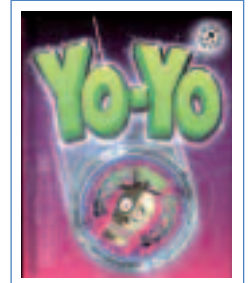


Tony has changed jobs from reservoir and offshore microbiologist with Aquateam in Oslo, and is now working for Industrikemikalier MITCO as their consultant microbiologist in water treatment and Legionella prevention. He enjoys skiing and cycling when he's not working.

MAUCH (née Bongartz) Susanne [BA Hons Commerce 1995] has been married for almost two years now and is the mother of a 16-month-old daughter. She says that she "always looks forward to receiving AD Class Notes so she can remember the good old times in Dundee", and is delighted to have re-discovered her room mate from those days.

MAWSON, Mary [BA Accounting 1992] has been continuing her education, receiving her HND in Office Administration and Information Management from Ayr College in 2005. Mary is now looking forward to her next course, BA Management at the University of Paisley.

THOMSON, Steven William [BA Hons Information Management 1999] is now concentrating fully on his professional juggling career, having done this jointly on a freelance basis along with website design since 2001. He performs and runs workshops all over the UK at major festivals, parties, corporate events and store openings. Steve runs the Stirling Juggling Project and is building up a growing community of jugglers in the Stirling area who meet every Wednesday to practice together. He also has an online juggling equipment and novelty items store, which stocks over 120 items and has tripled its sales and turnover since its inception in 2002. Additionally, Steve has written one book on yo-yo tricks that was published in 2004. Find out more about Steve and the art of juggling by visiting [www.jugglingworld.biz](http://www.jugglingworld.biz).



1970s

LANG, John C [BA Hons Business Studies 1972] joined the management trainee intake at GKN (Guest Keen and Nettlefolds) in Birmingham after graduating, having done three six-month placements with them during the sandwich elements of his degree. He worked in the Transmissions Division in Erdington on the marketing side before accepting a position as an International Executive with the venerable Asian



trading and services firm of Jardine Matheson and moving to Hong Kong in 1974. John laughingly recalls that long ago flight and how the plane had to

stop four times en route, unlike the 747 jumbo jets of today, which hadn't been invented then.

He spent 30 years with Jardine's, based not only in Hong Kong, but also Hawaii for five years and the Philippines for two years. He held eight different jobs within the firm, primarily on the Engineering and Construction side of the business, with a five-year spell running a group of security services companies. John's last job – which he retired from in August of 2004 - was Chairman and Chief Executive of The Jardine Engineering Corporation, which employed over 2,000 staff in seven different Asian countries. He remained in Hong Kong for another year after retiring, during which time he worked as the interim head of Hong Kong's SPCA, which he found to be quite a change from the corporate world, but very interesting.

John has now returned to Scotland, together with his wife and family, all of whom are studying in the UK, his 19-year-old son doing an Engineering/Architectural degree at Bath University and 17 and 10 year old daughters both at Fettes College, which is not only his former school but where he now works as the Foundation Director from September 2005.

1960s

FERME, William [Associateship with High Commendations Mechanical Engineering, 1965] former secretary of the Student Union, remembers the engineering students of the "Tech" as a social bunch who looked forward to heading to the pub when classes were finished.

Bill has been living in Australia since 1973. Although he specialised in manufacturing, he's had a varied career as an engineer, manager and consultant, working for companies such as Cap Gemini, International Harvester, and Coopers & Lybrand, in addition to a three-year stint as a lecturer in Manufacturing Management at Monash University.

Currently the President of the Manufacturing Society of Australia, Bill still does public lectures, and writes that he hopes to work as long as he can.

# Introducing...

The Alumni Office is pleased to introduce

Elena Drexli-Schegg

MSc International Marketing with Languages, 2001  
as the newest Alumni Contact



Hello!

When I started university, I never thought that my academic career would climax in a degree obtained in Scotland. After my A-levels, I studied business at the University of Nuremberg. A mandatory part of this programme was studying a semester abroad. Scrutinising the available options, I figured Abertay would suit me best. And oh boy, it was perfect for me!

From my first minute in Registration until my last day in Dundee, I was impressed by the friendliness and helpfulness of everybody at Abertay - staff, lecturers, and students. When my exchange semester came to its end, the idea of returning home wasn't at all enticing. Through friends in the International Students' Association, I learned about the MSc International Marketing with Languages course and happily enrolled. Not only was I able to finish my degree earlier than I would have had I gone home, but compared to my former classmates I can't help but feel I learned things that I can use in real-life work situations and not just theories.

The International Students' Association helped me a lot in settling in when I first came to Abertay. Once I felt at home in Dundee I wanted to pass this assistance on to other international students and became president of this association myself. To this day, I benefit from this experience as I run a language centre in the heart of Munich, working with people from all over the world.

I'm sure I will always work in an international business environment to further build upon the knowledge and experiences I obtained at Abertay. As an alumni contact, I would like to bring my alma mater to the attention of students wondering where to spend their respective semesters abroad or even where to "properly" enrol abroad to have them benefit most from this special period of their lives.

Best Wishes,

Elena Drexli-Schegg

## in our thoughts

With sadness we record the death of the following alumni:

Mr George Martin FRICS  
Honorary Fellow 2002  
University Court 1989-2001

The University offers its deepest sympathy to the family.