



Strategy 2020

University Leadership Team

University News



Colleagues,

We are now almost at the end of trimester two which means that focus has turned to exams. This is obviously a very important time for our students and I wish the best for all in the forthcoming exams. It is also an important time for staff; thank you for your work throughout this year and for your dedication to our students' success.

I would like to share some news with you from the last few weeks.

Internationalisation

After my trip East to China and Hong Kong in March, last month I flew west to New York to take part in the annual Scotland Week celebrations, and to meet alumni, friends, supporters and potential partners. They were extremely positive about the ambition articulated in our Strategy 2020, and are 'champing at the bit' to help us achieve our goals. Over the next few months colleagues in IDEA will be developing a 'menu' of ways in which alumni can support us as we celebrate our 50th anniversary and launch our fundraising campaign.



The alumni I met included Magnus Orr, who created the first ever New York Tattoo, which I was lucky enough to attend; Mike King, a Civil Engineering graduate who is the Programme Director for Helix and the Kelpies, which was showcased during Tartan Week (including two 30ft Kelpies located in Manhattan's Bryant Park); and Alex Tedford, a graduate who now owns a highly successful bespoke shirt business inspired by the landscape of his native Ayrshire and the west coast of Scotland.



The University took part in the Tartan Day parade, a first for me, and quite an overwhelming experience - particularly as we turned on to 6th Avenue and saw so many people cheering. This was equally exciting for my eldest daughter, Sinead, who is studying for a PhD in the USA and who seemed quite delighted to join me for the weekend in Manhattan to carry the Edinburgh Napier banner alongside our design student Jo Myerscough! Jo had won the competition to design an outfit for the 50th Anniversary, and travelled to New York to undertake a short internship with couture designer, Michael Kaye.



I then travelled on to Toronto to visit Ryerson University, with whom we have a long-standing student exchange programme. I was particularly interested in their approach to innovation and enterprise, which is a core strand of our own strategy. Karen Cairney and Thanos Karatzias joined me and we visited the University's digital media and other enterprise zones and talked to many students from all over Toronto who had set up enterprises. We met staff from the Faculty of Community Services and discussed themes of social innovation and social enterprise. Our own Faculty of Health, Life & Social Sciences will be following up on this visit with a range of joint opportunities.

Strategy 2020

The University Court approved Strategy 2020 at its meeting at the end of March and the University Leadership Team (ULT) are working with colleagues across the University to develop our supporting strategies, associated investment plans and programmes of work which will bring the strategy to life. All ULT members are keen to discuss the first phase of our programme of work with you at the next round of Campus Conversations which will be run in May, while the Academic Strategy will be discussed at the relevant faculty and university forums and be approved through Academic Board. More information about the events can be found on the [Strategy 2020 intranet pages](#).



People

I am pleased to let you know that Simon Belfer has accepted the role of Finance Director and will be joining us from 1 July. Simon intends to spend some time between now and 1 July learning about the University, meeting colleagues and attending some meetings where appropriate. Simon brings extensive Board level finance and operational experience, spanning over 20 years in a range of businesses, most recently as Director of Finance for NHS National Services Scotland. Andrew Jefferson will continue in the role of Interim Finance Director until Simon starts. I am very appreciative of Andrew's leadership of the Finance team and his significant contribution to the strategic development of the University in the short time he has been with us.

National Student Survey

As you may be aware, our participation rate for the National Student Survey now stands at 76 per cent - some 8 per cent ahead of overall participation last year. This level of participation is fantastic and I would like to thank all of the staff and the NSA who have been involved in

encouraging students to fill in the survey and to help 'fill the pig' for charity. The survey is now closed and I look forward to seeing the responses in late summer.

Postgraduate Open Evening

The Postgraduate Open Evening held on 10 April across all of our campuses was very successful with an increase of over 70 people on last year's event which was held at Craiglockhart. Many thanks to all of those staff and students that help make these events happen and who give such a positive experience of the University.

50th Anniversary

Finally, we will be celebrating 50 years of learning on 28 June. I'm delighted to report that over 900 alumni have already signed up to attend the Alumni and Family Day. The Staff and Student party will follow on from this event and start at 6.30pm. I look forward to sharing the day with colleagues, friends and alumni. Do pencil it in your diaries. You can **book your free ticket here**.



If you would like further information about any of the items above or wish to comment on any issues, please drop me an email at principal@napier.ac.uk.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea".

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