



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Perth College

Development
Trust



Annual Report 2020

www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/development-trust



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Chair's Report

I wrote the last Chair's report just after we entered the first Coronavirus lockdown, and I now find myself writing as we begin to emerge from a year of severe constraints on normal life.

Unfortunately I expect there will be more to the Covid story, and the world as we knew it will not return in the short term. Our society has changed, as have the immediate needs of our students and will continue to do so as a different normality settles. It is essential that Perth College UHI assesses and reflects the impact of the changes in the way we deliver our core activities and we have already made significant progress towards that end. I am pleased that the Development Trust continues to provide flexible, proactive and invaluable support to the College in these challenging times. This support is essential and will become increasingly important as expected financial sustainability challenges emerge.

During the last year, Dianne Simpson retired from the Development Trust Committee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her efforts during her time with the Trust. We have also welcomed Richard Dorman and Karen Donaldson to the committee, both of whom bring a wealth of experience in different spheres and are well-connected to our community.

Despite the difficult environment over the last year I am encouraged by the continued vital contributions from the Development Trust. A student hardship fund appeal resulted in the raising of £13,000, that was then awarded to students facing significant hardship due to the Covid situation - this was a significant uplift to the welcome funding from Scottish Government. The success of this activity has resulted in an examination of ways we can promote regular giving and we expect some conclusions on this in the near future. It is also notable that we have maintained the level of individual scholarship awards, despite the difficult circumstances.

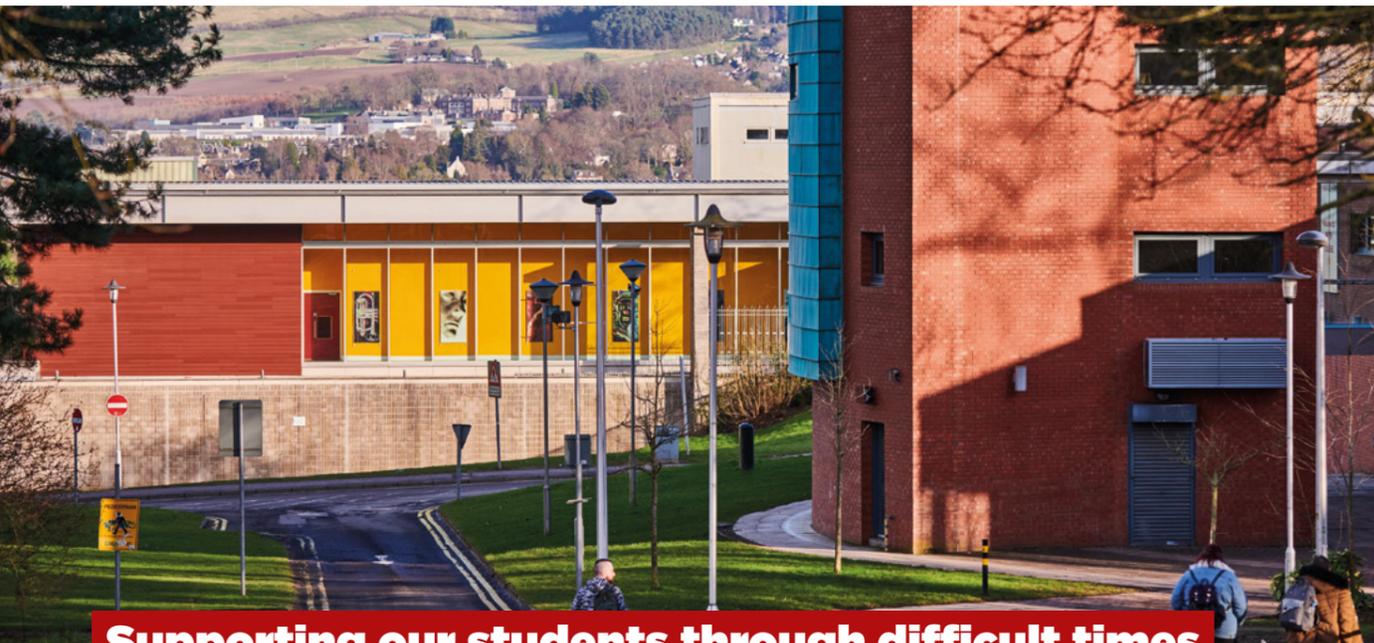
Progress continues with plans to build a Wellness Garden on the College campus, and we see this as an important component (along with the continuing development of the Academy of Sport and Wellbeing) in enhancing the overall ambience of the campus as a community focal point for social activities and healthy living.

The plans for the Aviation Academy of Scotland (AAS) are nearing completion and will soon come to the board for decision. Should the AAS receive board approval, then it will become the major Development Trust activity over the next few years and we have planned on that positive assumption. We shall have funding to build, but we shall need to buy equipment and there may be a need to augment the building fund. This is an important venture that can make an important contribution to skills provision on a national scale. Attraction of sponsors and donors to fully fund the AAS will be a challenge but will present clear benefits and rewards for those who choose to contribute.

I noted last year that times are uncertain, and that we must plan accordingly. Therefore, we have embarked on a review of our fundraising strategy on the 5-10 year timescale, and this will run in parallel with the development of the College plans for short-term recovery and longer term strategy definition. These are challenging times, and I am grateful for the competencies that Trust and Committee members bring to these activities.

Finally a very big thank you to all Development Trust and Committee members, management, staff, students who have engaged so positively in fundraising - this is a great contribution to binding the College community together as we meet continuing challenges.

Dr. Brian Crichton,
Chair, Board of Management,
Perth College UHI



Supporting our students through difficult times

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the lives of so many of our students, causing some of them to face serious financial difficulties and others being pushed into further hardship. The loss of essential, part-time work and income has left many struggling to cope financially. Thanks to the help of Perth College Development Trust, Perth College UHI COVID-19 Student Support Fund has been established to support students who, through no fault of their own, are battling to make ends meet. The fund aims to provide assistance for Perth College UHI students impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and, since the start of the pandemic, we have helped over sixty students who were suffering from severe financial difficulties.

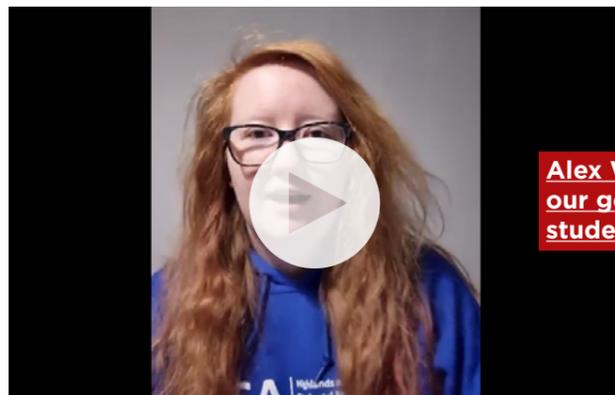
As the pandemic took hold, many students were faced with losing their part-time and full-time jobs – something they relied on heavily to support them and their families throughout their studies. This is particularly devastating for those who cannot access government support, resulting in many students being unable to pay their rent, bills, food and essential expenses. Others do not have the necessary equipment to work from home and cannot afford to buy essential technology to complete their course.

The COVID-19 Student Support Fund provided funding up to £500 to assist with essential support, for example:

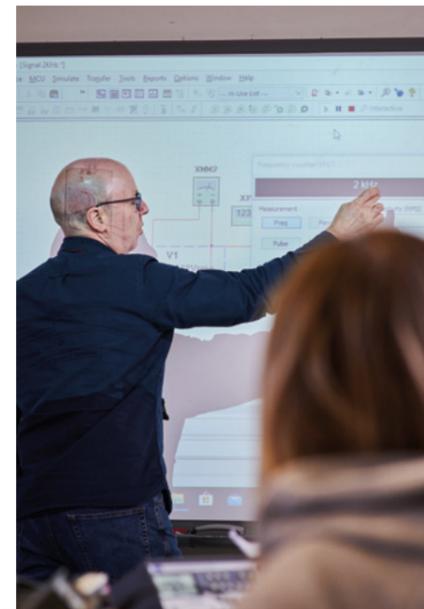
- **Housing and food bills**
- **Rent**
- **Technical assistance/equipment to enable remote coursework including laptops and broadband connections.**

We would like to thank all those who kindly donated to this fund and supported struggling students. For those who would like to offer or continue to support our students and help deal with the longer-term impacts of the pandemic, please donate now to our student hardship fund via the donation form on page 11. Email to fiona.leslie.perth@uhi.ac.uk.

For further information please contact Fiona
Tel: 07825 004 612



Alex Wilson, HISA Perth President thanks our generous donors who kindly supported students in hardship during COVID.



Help future generations of students to enjoy the rich benefits of an excellent education.

Leave a gift in your will to Perth College Development Trust and help transform the lives of student by giving them a future and opportunities where they can reach their full potential. This could be the most significant gift you ever make.

- **Pledge to help future generations of students**
- **Transform the lives of individuals in our community**
- **Leave a lasting legacy**

For further information, please contact:

Perth College Development Trust
07825 004 612 | fiona.leslie@perth.uhi.ac.uk



Help Transform Lives - provide a Scholarship to enrich the student experience

A scholarship is a gift which could make an enormous difference to people's lives.

By supporting a student through the Scholarship Programme, you can transform their lives and create employment opportunities to help them succeed in their career. The awards are designed to support students who are committed to their studies and keen to develop their skills to reach their full potential. A gift of this nature will make a great impact on our students - and for our supporters, the ability to help individuals to realise their full potential is extremely rewarding. Each year we offer an increasing number of awards across the curriculum.

For more information on this year's scholarships you can look on our website:
www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/scholarships

By providing a scholarship, you:

- Transform the lives of successful students
- Invest in Scotland's economic future
- Gain a diverse opportunity to promote your business
- Recruit the best graduates to meet your business needs
- Enjoy an enhanced company perception
- Get a fresh insight into your business

To find out more, visit:
www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/scholarships
or contact: fiona.leslie.perth@uhi.ac.uk

Scholarship Spotlight - Terry Flynn

A scholarship is a gift which could make an enormous difference to a student's life.

The scholarship opportunities available at Perth College UHI are designed to support students who are committed to their studies and want to develop their skills to reach their full potential. A gift of this nature has a great impact on our students and, for our supporters, the ability to help individuals to realise their full potential is extremely rewarding. Some awards also offer a unique experience, such as professional mentoring or additional training to help gain experience and achieve their dreams. Terry shares his story of how his scholarship opportunity at A S Wealth Management gave him a new-found confidence.



What is your name, and where are you from?

Terry Flynn. I was originally born in Zambia, but I'm currently living in Perth.

What were you doing before you came to college?

I was in full time employment at Gleneagles Hotel, working in the main bar.

What course are you currently studying?

HNC Accounting

Why did you choose this course?

I have always loved maths! Maybe it's because that's how my dad and I spent some of our time together. As I got older, I realised being financially educated was a step closer to financial freedom. I decided to combine my interest in maths, and my new-found meaning for freedom, hence why I choose Accounting.

Why did you decide to come to Perth College UHI?

I previously studied Aircraft Engineering at Perth College UHI, before dropping out in my second year. So naturally, I continued my studies here.

How did you hear about the scholarship opportunities available at Perth College UHI?

I had a look on the Perth College UHI website, but never acted on it. Not long after that, I received an email from my PAT with a link to apply for various scholarships. I took it as a sign, and applied QUICK!

How did you find the scholarship process? Was it easy to apply?

It was very easy, and honestly didn't feel stressful or nerve-racking at all

What scholarship did you apply for?

All of them, even the ones I didn't qualify for, but I ended up being awarded the 'A S Wealth Management Scholarship'.

Did you learn a lot during the scholarship?

I learnt more than I bargained for. Positions I never knew existed were introduced and this helped me widen my search, and understand how to go about attaining the relevant requirements to achieve the positions.

Did you get lots of support from the staff at your scholarship?

I know the staff would've been helpful if need be, but support was given first-hand from my sponsor which gave me a feeling of confidence - which continues to flow inside me until this day.

What was your favourite thing you did, during the scholarship?

Due to the current pandemic, I haven't been able to go into the business but I have attended webinars and had fruitful discussions with partners and other figures in the organisation.

Do you think your scholarship experience will help you with your studies, and your future career?

The experience has already helped - as I have gained confidence, applied for positions I wouldn't have thought of, and got interviews. Resulting in three job offers at the same time! A record so far! Never once did I think I'd stress about which job to accept/decline.

What would be your advice for anyone thinking about applying for a scholarship?

Apply without hesitation. Don't be scared. Don't give up before you even start, like I nearly did. The outcome might surprise you.

What do you plan to do after you leave college?

I planned to progress to HND Accounting, but the opportunity being offered closely matches my studies. So, I guess, this calls for some re-evaluation.

Alumni Spotlights

To celebrate International Woman's Day we showcased and celebrated women's achievements.

#IWD2021 #ChooseToChallenge

We spoke to student Iliana Dimitrova Dimitrova, currently in Year 3 of her BEng (Hons) Aircraft Engineering course. She describes her determination to gain an engineering career - as a female student in a STEM field.



Iliana explained:

"Before coming to college, I had just graduated from secondary school in Bulgaria, where I studied French and Physics. I also took part in plenty extracurricular activities such as Astronomy Classes, Physics and Maths clubs and even taught French to pupils.

I was determined I wanted to pursue engineering studies abroad - and more specifically in Scotland. I have always been interested in science and was also born in a family of engineers. My mother is an Aircraft Engineer, my grandfather was an Air Traffic Controller, so I was brought up aspiring to be part of the aviation industry. The development of aircraft design during the past few years has shown an impressive future, including complete electrification, research on more bio fuels, increasing the fuel efficiency and innovative designs. My ambition is to take part of a project which will further improve the current state of the aviation industry.

During my first two years of study, I gained the knowledge which enabled me to apply for an internship with a world-renowned university, KAUST, Saudi Arabia. During my collaboration with KAUST, I carried out research on 'Engine Detonation', allowing me to connect with a number of researchers and grow my network. It improved my communication skills as well as giving me confidence in setting up high goals for my future. Thanks to the preparation I had from my course in Perth College UHI, my CV now includes some impressive features!

One of my projects involved designing, 3D printing and testing an aircraft wing in the wind tunnels in the hangar on campus. This was truly inspiring because the practical work we do in college creates new skillsets for the students. Being able to witness the theory of aerodynamics in practice in a controlled environment is definitely exhilarating. Additionally, the first time I was introduced to the flight simulator in the hangar hinted to me that I might have an interest in pursuing a pilot license after graduating from BEng Aircraft Engineering.

Perth College UHI's campus is situated close enough to the town and is surrounded by nature. For me, this is a huge advantage over other universities. It consists of four different buildings which are well-equipped to meet the needs of students. My two favourite places on campus are the hangar, where a light aircraft is available for practical work, and the library with its vast collection of books, journals, films and even music. The library is a place where brainstorming is carried, great projects are planned and where support is provided. There are many places for gatherings indoors and out, which allows for meeting new people.

My experience at Perth College UHI is very positive, and what mostly contributed to this was that my high expectations in regards to the quality of teaching were met by the staff. I am also very happy to have extremely creative and bright classmates. Due to the small class sizes, the dialogue between staff members and students is easier. It is very helpful to have that as a resource, because in a case of difficulty with a subject, I can rely on my tutors to respond to my request of additional support. The events organised by students in Perth College UHI, such as quizzes, competitions and fundraisers help people meet and explore their interests together.

Being a member of a few societies and organisations related to STEM and Women in Engineering, I have the opportunity to attend interesting conferences and seminars. Recently, I have also started spending time learning coding, as I believe it is an important skill for anyone that wants a future in engineering.

The knowledge and skills obtained during my degree in Perth College UHI will give me the ability to apply for a prestige Master's program. My plan has always been to study in Toulouse, France, also named the Aviation Capital of Europe. As a female student in a STEM field, I find it of utmost importance to aim high and work harder. Perth College UHI fuelled my passion for engineering and motivated me to pursue post-graduate studies. The university enabled me to carry world-class publishable research in collaboration with two other



Former Perth College UHI student Jamie MacKinnon delivered a cookery demonstration to our Professional Chef students in March, offering them a valuable industry insight.

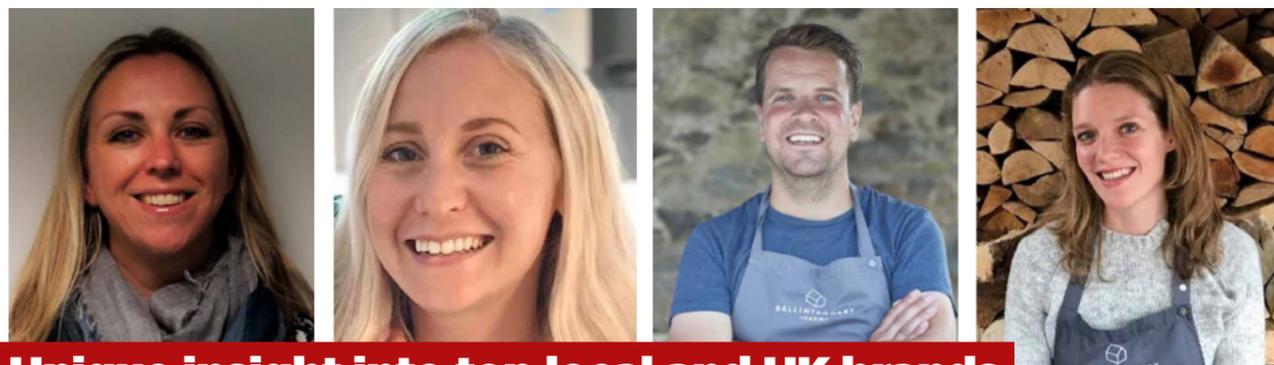
Jamie completed his Modern Apprenticeship level 3 work-based qualification with us while working at Murrayshall Country House Hotel and Golf Club. Now Head Chef at The Seafood Ristorante in St Andrews, Jamie is currently competing for Scottish Chef of the Year.

institutions, Edinburgh Napier and KAUST. I believe this will make me stand out from the crowd when applying for future studies or jobs in the industry.

As an Aircraft Engineering female student, I can vouch for the professionalism, inclusiveness and quality of teaching taking place in Perth College UHI. Prior to applying for the course, I was anxious I wouldn't be accepted by my colleagues or tutors, but my experience by far has showed that Perth College UHI is an institution which uplifts one's confidence and boosts their chances of success. My advice to anyone who wants to apply for Perth College UHI is to be self-assured, ready to be challenged and most importantly- to be ready to make a difference. It is all worth it, because at the end, the skills and knowledge offered will stay with you and will open many doors from which to choose.

Project: Aerodynamic Wind-Tunnel Testing

One of the most exciting projects I have worked on in college was in Year 2: Aerodynamics and Propulsion. After printing the 3D design in the hangar, the wing's aerodynamic properties were evaluated in a wind tunnel to investigate the drag, lift and boundary layer separation characteristics. After an extensive study, I was able to suggest modifications which would improve the airflow over the wing. This assignment expanded my curiosity towards aerodynamic behaviours and the design of aircraft wings, as well as giving me the chance to practice 3D design.



Unique insight into top local and UK brands

Students were given a unique opportunity to hear from local and UK-wide companies and brands about the secrets of their success.

The 'Food, Nutrition and Textiles Education' students usually enjoy work placements as part of their course, but due to Covid restrictions, lecturers adapted their curriculum and introduced an exclusive virtual 'Industry Insights Programme'.

Student Hazel Marshall said:

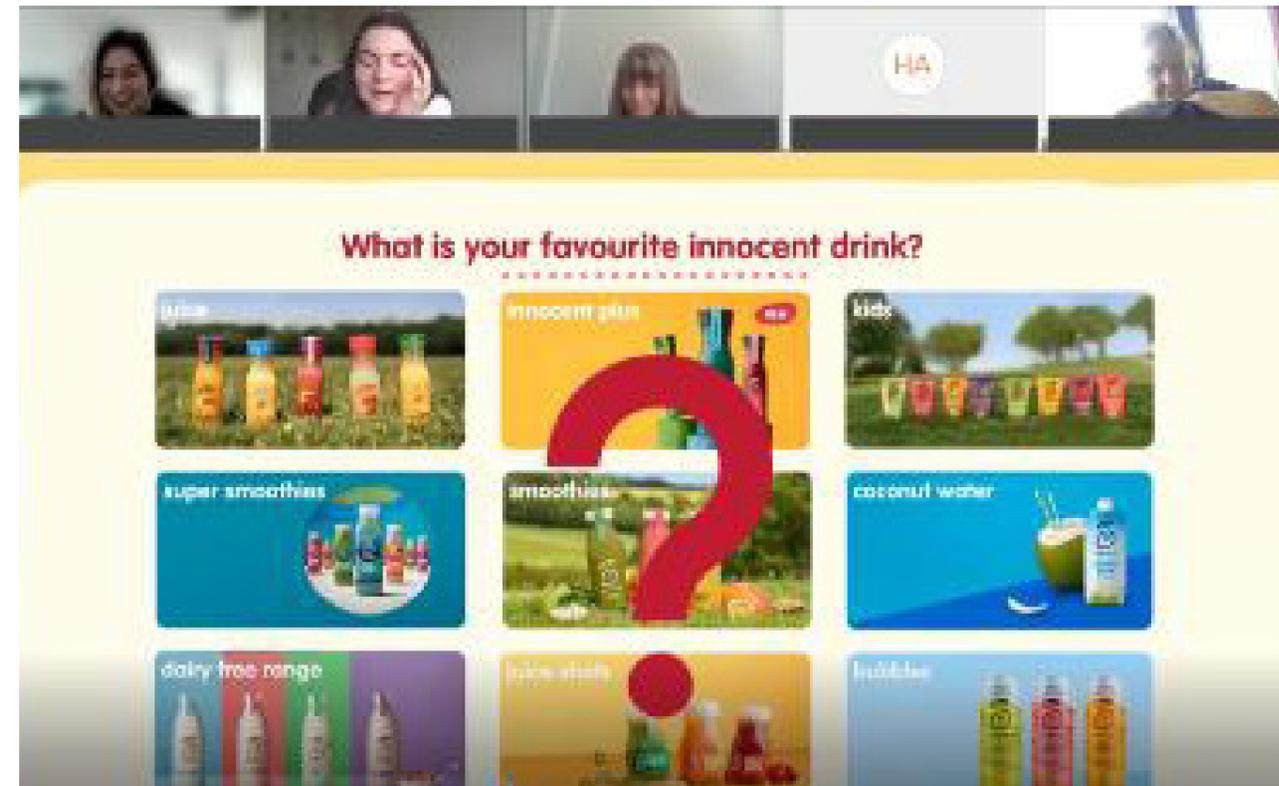
"This programme was a fascinating insight to these very relevant sectors. I feel my strengthened knowledge and understanding will ultimately enhance my teaching practice - to the benefit of my future pupils."

Gemma McKenzie, Module Leader and Tutor explained:

"Like many students, the Food, Nutrition, and Textiles Education degree students (trainee home economics teachers) at Perth College UHI cannot do their industry work placements given the Covid-19 restrictions. Ordinarily they would be working in professional kitchens, hospitality environments, or in textiles organisations."

"In order to continue to offer valuable industry knowledge, we looked at a virtual alternative to what should have been their industry placements. We're really grateful to the industry professionals and their companies who were generous with their time and gave our students a priceless exposure and insight into their sector."

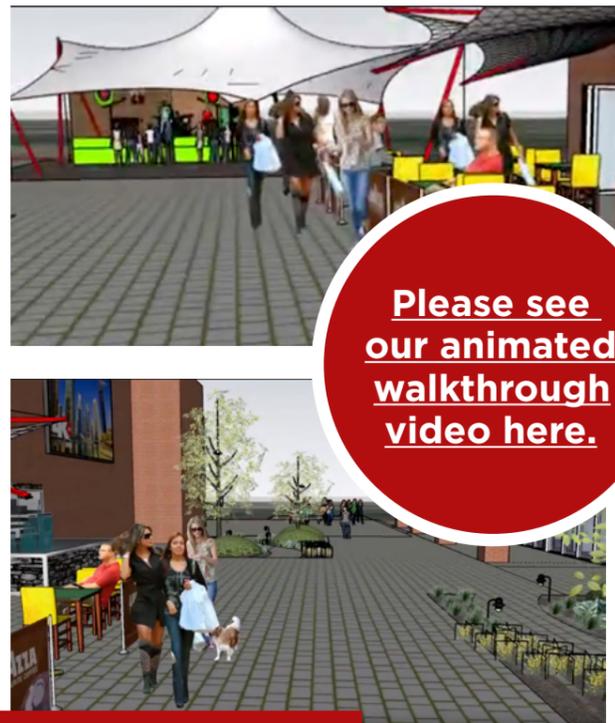
"The trainee teachers will soon be teaching the next generation - and workforce pipeline - of pupils who want to work in our much-needed food, drink, hospitality and textile sectors, which have been hard hit during the pandemic. The course is an interesting mix in terms of students - some are young, and some are career changers. They all learned a great deal and we're very grateful to everyone involved for sharing their fascinating stories and expertise."



Florence and Louisa from Innocent shared the top brand's story with students.

Company representatives that shared their experiences with the students included:

- Taystful: Shona Sutherland who discussed the preparation, planning and execution of team competition work for the Culinary Olympics.
- Comrie Croft: Andrew Donaldson who offered a live walk through of the premises and an overview of the business.
- Glasgow City Council: Karen Gunn from the Environmental Health department who offered an overview focusing on compliance and specific health concerns especially relevant to students operating in a food and drinks environment.
- Innocent: Florence, Louisa, and Tim who introduced the Innocent brand, history and culture, products and nutrition.
- Loch Leven Brewery: Gareth and Brian provided a brand introduction, exploration of career journeys, manufacturing and production processes, and talked about ingredients, nutrition/chemistry, and quality control.
- Ballintaggart: Chris and Rachel Rowley explored their experience setting up and running a kitchen, their business success, and how they have adapted business during lockdown by offering an essentials shop and takeaways. They also provided a live tour of their premises and introduced some of the team.
- Summer Harvest Oils: Mark Bush shared the farming process, production, sustainability, followed by an overview of Mark's background, the business, challenges, and aspirations.
- Prickly Thistle: Clare Campbell offered an overview of the business and explored their values and ethos in relation to sustainable fashion. Clare also provided a live tour of the mill.
- Combat Chefs: An insight into the role 167 Catering Support Regiment plays in catering support to The British army.
- Alex Begg: Sarah Marshall (Textiles Technologist) and Barbara Birnie (HR Director) gave an overview of the textile organisation and their role as a sustainable, luxury manufacturer.



Please see our animated walkthrough video here.

A Place to relax, reflect and rejuvenate - proposed new Community Wellness Garden

Over the last few months we have been seeking funding for our latest project: a Community Wellness Garden. The proposed garden will be created between the Academy of Sport and Wellbeing (ASW) and the Webster building on campus - and will provide a great outdoor space to host a variety of wellbeing activities.

Perth College UHI is committed to the health and wellbeing of its students, staff and community, and the garden will offer a fantastic space which will provide opportunities to participate in outdoor activities in many different ways, creating areas to relax, reflect and rejuvenate and subsequently improve health and care practices.

The garden will offer quiet space to exercise and for social interaction, events, tranquility and reflection, supporting a range of curriculum areas to enhance the student experience. We see the garden playing a pivotal role in the wellbeing of our campus community and at the same time enriching the experience of the wider community in which we live. As the area surrounding the College is classed as being in the 5% most deprived areas in the UK it will give the people we serve the opportunity to escape from daily pressure and gather their thoughts in a quiet and peaceful corner of the campus. Breaks from studies, workshops, meetings and lunch hours could be spent enjoying the tranquility of the garden, gathering their thoughts and renewing their energy.

Approximately one in four of us in the UK will experience a mental health problem. Within today's society we are all aware of, and appreciate, the huge pressures of life which at times can be hard to bear.

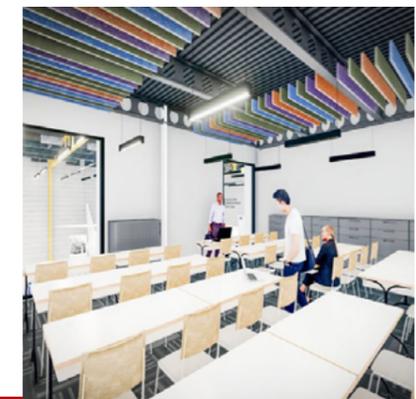
In many instances this leads to young people going "off track" sometimes developing more serious issues such as thoughts of suicide and disengagement. Furthermore, as humans, we need to socialise to maintain psychological and emotional health through interacting with one another and the proposed café area linked to the communal gardens would provide an ideal space to meet with each other, enhancing the garden's sense of community.

The garden would be created by horticultural students who would design the layout and incorporate a variety of flowers and herbs which will add to the wellness impact of the garden. We believe it will add significantly to the quality of work we carry out and enhance our capability of supporting our students even further, ensuring they maximise their potential.

The cost of the Garden will be £50,000 and although we have already raised some funding, we still need more to reach our target. We are seeking help to complete the garden either through donations or gifts in kind by contributing materials for the reconstruction of the area.

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic a growing number of people will suffer from stress which can lead to mental health issues. By addressing this issue and helping those affected we can make a real difference to people's lives creating a space to relax, relieving their anxieties and improving their health and wellbeing.

Please don't wait - Donate TODAY!



Aviation Academy for Scotland (AAS)

The Aviation industry continues to be adversely affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, however industry outlook reports highlight that the industry expects to return to pre-pandemic levels in the next 3-5 years.

We have commissioned our own report to examine the demand for aviation industry training over the next five years. The initial report indicates that despite the pandemic, there will still be an increase in demand for aviation training - especially as a result of the loss of skilled personnel from the industry due to retirement. To guarantee that we have a trained workforce, we need to enhance the current skills level and train more people to meet the needs of the industry - ensuring an ability to keep our aircraft well-serviced, safe and secure. We are asking for your support to play a vital part in the next major phase of the College's history.

This centre will provide large modern facilities to accommodate increased student numbers and allow us to augment traditional training methods by introducing increased simulation, moving towards virtual reality which is more current and economic.

Within the building, there will be a space providing product development, design and business network connections. The space will be targeted at both the aviation and other engineering sectors developing areas of synergy and collaboration, including clean technology in energy and electric aircraft.

The AAS continues to gather momentum with the first stage of the building feasibility study for the Perth development having now been completed. Teaching teams have been involved in the development of the initial designs to ensure that the building is fit to deliver the skills for the future of the aviation industry.

Through AST and Perth College UHI, we continue to develop and expand our international presence and reputation with delivery in Zhengzhou University of Aeronautics commencing in September 2021 and further developments with existing customers in both Kuwait and Egypt.

The AAS project is engaging with other Tay Cities Deal projects where areas of synergy have been identified which will increase the scope and capability of the AAS.

Become a Friend of Perth College UHI – join our ‘Circle of Friends’

We are very grateful to our current donors who already support us, and would like to thank you so much for your continued support.

Your gift is extremely important to us at Perth College UHI. Gifts of any value, whether a modest or a major donation, will help to ensure future generations of students benefit from the best education and facilities the College has to offer. We want to help future generations of students benefit from the best up-to-date facilities and teaching possible, and so we need your help. Perth College UHI aspires to provide an excellent experience for our students but, in order to do this, we need to maintain and improve our great reputation and enhance our academic programmes to reach academic excellence.

Funding from alumni, friends and supporters has the potential to make a life-changing difference to many students every year. With this support, we will be able to plan our developments and better support our students. As a Friend of Perth College UHI, your continuing support allows us to raise funds for a number of exciting projects, develop key areas within the College and provide a first-class education.

Whether you want to make a single gift, set up regular donation, or make a major contribution - every single penny is vital to help our students, staff and the community. There are many ways to give:

- Single Gift: Cheques should be made payable to the Perth College Development Trust.
- Regular Giving: Join our “Circle of Friends” by donating to our regular giving programme, allowing us to provide the “margin of excellence” for our students. These unrestricted gifts establish a flexible pool of funds helping the College provide financial assistance to student and allows us to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Alternatively, they can go towards a specific project.
- In Kind: Many companies can give gifts e.g. equipment, books, auction prizes.
- Volunteering (to help).

Join our exclusive “Circle of Friends” and help fund the following:

- Aviation Academy for Scotland - A innovative TAYSIDE-wide partnership project to provide specialist training in Aircraft Engineering.
- Wellness Garden – creating a tranquil space to enrich the experience for students, staff and the wider community as well as playing a pivotal role in our wellbeing agenda.
- Student Hardship Fund
- Unrestricted funds to use where the need is greatest
- To support curriculum areas

Scholarships

- For those who excel in their studies
- For students from care-experienced backgrounds
- For those needing a helping hand

By giving a donation, you can make a real difference.

If you do wish to donate, there are a variety of ways you can give. All you have to do is complete the donation form and return to:

Fiona Leslie,
Development and Alumni Relations Manager.
indicating which method of payment you prefer.

For further information, please contact:

Fiona.leslie.perth@uhi.ac.uk

Annual Report Financial Activities

Income and Expenditure Account

31 July 2019	31 July 2020
£35,113	£31,890
in Donations	in Donations
+	+
£0	£0
in Investment Income	in Investment Income
+	+
£950	£162
in Merchandise Sales	in Merchandise Sales
Total Income =	Total Income =
£36,083	£32,052

31 July 2019	31 July 2020
£4,345	£3,956
in Charitable Activities	in Charitable Activities
Total Resources Expended =	Total Resources Expended =
£4,345	£3,956

Balance Sheet at 31 July 2020

	2019	2020
Current Assets		
Cash at bank	£52,592	£46,180
Debtors	£16,567	£4,686
Stock	£1,849	£1,716
Total	£71,008	£52,582
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	(£17,640)	(£6,459)
Net assets/ (liabilities)	£53,368	£46,123
Represented by		
Unrestricted	£17,835	£19,106
General funds	£35,533	£27,017
Total	£53,368	£46,123



President

Stephen Leckie, Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross

Trustees

Dr Brian Crichton

Dr Margaret Cook

Major General Adrian Freer

Hon Catherine Drummond Herdman

Mr Andrew Ritchie

Development Committee

Dr Brian Crichton

Dr Margaret Cook

Alison Gillies

Timothy Laing

Neil McKay

Dianne Simpson

Robert Stewart

Sue Warner

Development Trust as at 31st July 2020



Perth College UHI - Crieff Road, Perth, PH1 2NX

For further information please contact:

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Development and Alumni Relations Manager
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