



## Welcome St. Andrew's Class of 2014/2015

A very big welcome to all the 2015 recent school leavers. It is an exciting time in the Alumni Association's history with all the networking capacity available to us now, particularly via social media. I would encourage you to use it over the coming years to the best of your advantage as a method of keeping connected with your school.

We hope to see you at our many networking events, business lunches and other alumni events - your support is crucial to our continued success.

We wish The Class of 2015 all the best in the future. They should be proud to have been a part of the St. Andrews College community. Welcome to SACA and warmest wishes for a bright happy future.

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## SACA Cheque Presentation to the Rugby Programme

A massive thank you to all Alumni who came to the rugby evening and helped raise funds for the schools rugby programme.



# Old pals, new adventures.

Natasha Murtagh (Class of 2010) - May 25, 2015

I don't know if this is just an Irish thing, or maybe even a Dublin thing, but when you meet someone from Ireland in another country one of the first things you always ask is; 'so what school did you go to?'

Secondary school plays a huge part in all of our lives and quite frankly some of my favorite memories are from my 6 years in St. Andrew's College Dublin.

I remember my first day at age 12, getting the dart all the way in from Greystones and I was so excited, excited about this new start, excited about this new independence, and even excited about my uniform. I remember I had got my hair cut short just before starting and when I got into school and saw all my fellow class mates with long luscious locks I thought to myself, 'dam, why do I have short hair! I'll never be cool!'

It doesn't take long before you find yourself a handful of people you think you might like and before you know it you are doing everything together. But in St. Andrew's there was this lovely feeling of togetherness throughout my 6 years there, we were all friends really and the older we got, the closer we got.

Then comes college and you think oh no, I'll miss all my friends so much, but sure half of us all end up in either Trinity or UCD anyways! But either way, I think the people you meet in your years in secondary school, are your friends for life, that's the case for me anyway. St. Andrews gave me a solid batch of brilliant people to spend my early years with, helping shape the person I am today.

Now I am 23, graduated from University and living in Central America. I haven't been home in nearly a year, I haven't seen my friends or my family in the longest stretch of time ever, I miss them deeply.

I love it when I get a message from home and best when it is unexpected. I have had a huge number of emails on facebook from my pals from the St. Andrew's school days, asking me where I am, that they are loving following me around the world, am I working, when am I home etc. I have even got a number of mails from friends asking me how I have managed to financially sustain myself for this long and that they need my secrets to help plan their trip!

One message I got recently enough was from a very dear friend, Charlotte Murphy. I remember I first became friends with Charlotte after a trip to the Aran Islands. We stayed in some kind of Gaeltacht and did lots of 'outdoorsie' things and that's when we became close. I ended up spending my 6th year holiday with her and a few other pals, interailing around Europe for a month.

Anyways, I got a message from her asking me how I was doing and how I was enjoying Guatemala. I gave her my little update and she mentioned how she was nearly finished her medicine degree and was planning a holiday to Peru. She mentioned that a few of her other classmates were planning a trip through Guatemala and that they might pass through where I was living, Antigua. Two of the people in that group were Matthew Hainbach and Charles Julianne, two boys who were in my year in St. Andrews. Unfortunately I thought I would miss them, my plans then were to finish up in Antigua and head to the lake.

However, there I am a few weeks down the line, standing behind the bar in the hostel I was working at, about to close up. My Australian best friend here in Antigua and manager at the time Beth, came up to me with a long face and a huff; 'I just got a confirmation for a booking of 10, so keep the bar open until they get here,' she told me. Dam, I thought to myself, I had planned on going out with some friends but saw this as impossible now. So time went by and I was chatting away to a customer when all this noise arrived at reception and I heard that familiar accent, the Irish are here. I squinted my eyes a little at the dark huddle of people that had ambushed reception, yup they were Irish. I carried on my business as they all checked in and then I took another glance up. I saw this little familiar face, looking right back at me and smiling, it was none other than the wonderful Matthew Hainbach.



## Old pals, new adventure continued....

I think I nearly gave the whole hostel a heart attack as I screeched with joy and ran out of the bar across the lounge to Matthew where we squeezed the death out of each other. As I paused to take a look at his face, Charles comes around the corner into view where I repeat my squeal and we all embrace.

I hadn't seen either of these boys for about two years. They both studied in Trinity and I was in UCD, maybe seeing each other briefly on a night out, but nothing more. Of course after calming down, I took them out on the town to all the little places I had managed to break down as my usual go to spots, finishing the night off with a late night street side sandwich from Eduardo, the young Guatemalan with a fierce talent for sandwich building.



It was so lovely to catch up, to hear what they had been up to, to see where they were in life now; both graduated doctors, how amazing. To think we all started off together, not knowing much about ourselves or about the person we wanted to be in life. Not knowing what we would study, where we would go to university or where we would have our first job. Fast forward 11 years and here in a small hostel in a town called Antigua Guatemala, three of us stand, two of which are qualified doctors and the other, a year into her big adventure around the world writing.

They say it's a small world, but really it isn't, it's huge and it's full of millions of people going millions of different places doing millions of different things, but the good ones always find each other, no matter how far the distance.

## A St. Andrew's connection with the Lusitania

Following the centenary of the loss of the 'Lusitania', we should remember Albert Alfred Bestic who survived the sinking while serving as Junior Third Officer. He attended St Andrew's for several years in Stephen's Green before going to sea as an apprentice in 1908.

His first voyage was on the sailing ship 'Denbigh Castle' bound for Peru. After failing to get around Cape Horn, they reversed direction and sailed past South Africa to Australia, reaching Freemantle after 8 ½ months at sea - some say a record amount of time between ports. They finally reached Peru 13 months after leaving Liverpool - again some say a record of sorts.

Bestic later worked for Irish Lights and was in command of the lighthouse tender 'Isolda' and survived when it was sunk off Waterford by German aircraft in 1940.



Albert Alfred Bestic died in Bray in 1962. To read more of Albert's fascinating life story go to <http://www.rmslusitania.info/people/deck/albert-bestic/>

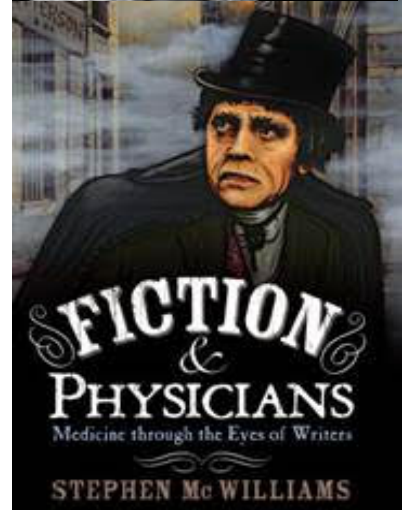


Congratulations to Vicky Taylor (Class of 2005) who, as an Assistant Producer with the Graham Norton Show, was on the stage with Graham Norton and the Show's team when they won a BAFTA award for Best Comedy Entertainment.

## SACA Profile - Stephen McWilliams (Class of 1993)

Despite taking mostly science subjects for the leaving certificate, I think English was my favourite pursuit at school. Not only was my father a columnist for the Irish Times (and thus I grew up in a house full of books) but I had a couple of encouraging English teachers going through St Andrew's College. I also used to read a lot of fiction in my spare time. I still do. Notwithstanding, I studied medicine after leaving school, went through a decade-or-so of postgraduate exams and long hours at work, and I'm now a consultant psychiatrist. I have written my own fair share of articles along the way – some in the medical press and others in more mainstream periodicals.

In many ways, writing and medicine are similar pursuits. Doctors write all the time – the day job involves the constant penning of medical notes, letters, reports and papers. The narrative voice of the storyteller is developed in every medical student when they learn to take a patient's history. The American bioethicist Edmund Pellegrino once observed of medicine and literature that “both are moral enterprises”, in essence both involving the empirical observation and description of the human condition. Of course, the reason I know this is because of my book, *Fiction and Physicians: Medicine through the Eyes of Writers*, published in 2012 by the Liffey Press. It explores a couple of dozen famous novelists and poets who also happened to be medical doctors, in addition to some fictional physicians vividly portrayed by their various authors. Reviewed in *Publishers Weekly* and the *Sunday Independent* among other periodicals, the book also yielded an interview with Sean Moncrieff on *Newstalk*. Daunting? No – I guess four years of Model United Nations at St Andrew's College permanently banished any fear of public speaking.



## NEW Business - Zoe Donohoe Fitness

All the best to **Zoe Donohoe (2010)** in her new venture Zoe Donohoe Fitness.

A deep desire to help others led Zoë into the area of health and fitness where she could join her passion for training and educating others in the pursuit of health and wellness. Zoë's passion lies in helping people to achieve their personal goals and helping them to discover a healthier, happier lifestyle.

Zoë tailors her training and coaching to suit each of her clients and their specific need. She is focused on educating her clients to achieve life-long fitness goals, rather than quick 'yo-yo' style fixes.

Zoë believes that small steps can lead to big changes.

See [www.zoedonohoefitness.com](http://www.zoedonohoefitness.com)



We love diversity of achievement at SACA. With this in mind, iconic punk band Paranoid Visions with Peter Jones (class of 84) on guitar have been confirmed for Rebellion 15 in the UK along with the Boomtown Rats, Sham 69, the Buzzcocks, The Damned, the Outcasts, Hugh Cornwall (Stranglers), UK Subs, the Ruts and many more. If punk's your thing Rebellion is where you need to be.



Andy Balbirnie (Class of 2009) visited the school to present a signed Ireland Cricket jersey to the cricket teams. SACA President, Linda, and members Andy and Alan Lewis were there for the presentation as well as Headmaster, Peter Fraser and Head of Cricket, David Feery.

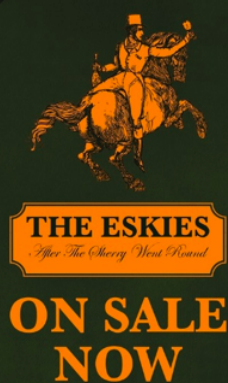


## SACA Social Media - Join Us!

If you're a visitor to our social media sites you are not alone. We have over 5000 people connected by our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) in 46 different countries – assuming each school year has 180 students, that's the equivalent of 28 years of pupils! These people are of all ages and on good weeks we can get 20,000 people visiting and looking at our pages – for perspective that's about 25-30% of the circulation of the Irish Times. Not only do they visit our pages but they interact by liking, sharing, retweeting, commenting and posting pictures. This idea is called “engagement” and our engagement rates are WAY higher than those for global megabrands like Coke or Starbucks. Social media is really important to keep past pupils connected, particularly given the international nature of our alumni. It is also an important way to support the way people think about the school and to maintain connectivity with the school so that they can continue to support St. Andrew's and our reputation. If you haven't already, please get involved in the conversation on social media!

Like our Facebook Page [here](#) Find us on LinkedIn [here](#) Follow us on Twitter [@StAndrewsCoDub](#)

Here is a snapshot of what you are missing out on!



More musical talent coming out of St Andrew's with Tim George (Class of 2005), bass player with The Eskies! Their long awaited debut album went on sale recently and can be bought in Tower Records and HMV stores around Ireland! And of course on iTunes! It's a fantastic album and highly recommended! Their album launch in Whelan's was a sell out and they will be touring around the country at various festivals during the summer such as BARE in the Woods, Body and Soul, Sea Sessions, Groove Festival and Knockandstockan. See more at [www.theeskie.com](http://www.theeskie.com) or find them on Facebook.

# SACA Sports News

## Rugby

Congratulations to **Ben Marshall (2009)** who has been selected for the Emerging Ireland Squad for the World Rugby Tbilisi Cup in June and lined up for the full Irish Squad for the game against the star studded Barbarians! He was also signed by Connacht Rugby!!



**Andrew Porter (2014)** was named in Ireland's Under-20 Squad for the World Rugby u20 Championship. Ireland are in pool C with Argentina, Scotland and New Zealand and open their tournament against Argentina on Tuesday, 2nd June in Parma.

**Danny Joyce (2014)** played in the u20 World Rugby Trophy final against Georgia. Unfortunately they lost this one but his international rugby with Canada is flourishing!



## Cricket

A fantastic month for St. Andrew's College cricket as the Senior Girls and Boys won the Leinster Senior Cricket Championships and the Junior Boys won the Leinster Junior Cricket Championship. An amazing achievement lead by Head of Cricket, David Feery and Head Coach, Nicky Kenny.



## Golf

Congratulations to current students **Ziggy de Boe Agnew, David Nolan and Geoff Cole** on being selected for the Irish U-18's for the European Golf Championships in July. **Rob Browne** has been named among the reserves.

Also congratulations to current student **Sally Campbell** who has been named in the Under 18 Euro panel travelling to the European Championships in Italy in July.

## Athletics

Congratulation to **James Meier**, a TY student who was placed second at the Leinster Athletics Championships on Saturday 16th May in the Senior Boys Javelin with a massive throw of 48.33m. Not only has James secured himself a place in the All Ireland Athletics Championships, on Saturday 30th May, he has also broken our 4th year school record. Well Done James!

## Irish Swimming

The St Andrew's girls put in a great performance recently and came home with 2 bronze medals! They finished 3rd in both the 4x50 Medley Relay and the 4x50 Free Relay in the Irish Schools Relay competition. Well done **Amelia Johnston, Emma Forbes, Lykke Liljeberg & Maya Blair**.



## SACA Sports News - continued

### Hockey

Congratulations to **Gillian Pinder (2011)** and **Chloe Watkins (2010)** who are both travelling with the Senior Irish Ladies Hockey Team tour to the USA and Canada where they will play 7 test matches in the team's preparation for the World League Round 3 in Valencia in June when Olympic places will be decided.

Congratulations to **Alan Sothern (2006)**, who marked his 100th international match in style, by scoring 2 goals in the Men's Senior International Challenge match versus Germany. Sadly though with 6 minutes to go Germany scored twice leaving the final result 3-2. Also in the squad were **David Fitzgerald (2005)**, **Stuart Loughrey (2009)** and **Stephen West (2010)**. This tour is in preparation for the Olympic qualifiers.




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## Dates for your Diary

### SACA Golf Outing

**Date:** 18th September 2015

**Venue:** Edmondstown Golf Club, Rathfarnham

**Time:** TBC

### SACA Annual Dinner

**Date:** 9th October 2015

**Venue:** 7pm Drinks Reception at St. Andrew's College

**Venue:** 8:30pm Dinner at Radisson Blu, St. Helen's Hotel, Stillorgan Road

### 10 & 20 Year Reunion for Classes of 2005 and 1995

**Date:** 14th November 2015

**Venue:** 7pm Drinks Reception at St. Andrew's College

**Venue:** 8:30pm Dinner and Music at Dublin City Hilton, Charlemont Place, Dublin 2

## Announcements

### Congratulations to the following on their Engagements:

Niamh Murphy (2003) to Tim

Helen Morrogh (2002) to Meisonas

### Congratulations to the following on their recent Weddings:

Michelle Byers (2001) to Philip Reynolds

Jeanie Tomkin (2000) to Alan O'Brien

Niall Doyle (1998) to Laragh Larsen