

NEWSLETTER

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AYRSHIRE COLLEGE
FOUNDATION



Meet the Trustee

MALCOLM SIMPSON



Can you tell me a bit about yourself and a brief history of your career?

I am long-time married to Karen, who is also my partner in our business. We have two boys, who are both grown up now and working within the business. Lee graduated at Herriot Watt, and has just recently returned from a two-year sabbatical travelling where he reached the delights of the Far East, Australia and New Zealand. Jack has just this year graduated and is about to go travelling too – following in the footsteps of his brother.

I was educated at what was previously Ravenspark Academy in Irvine, now known as Irvine Royal Academy. I left school with a handful of 'O levels' and took up an apprenticeship in engineering. I attended Kilmarnock College, went onto Galashiels College in the Borders then Caledonian University in Glasgow.

I worked as an engineer for about 10 years and then decided on a career change (as did Karen, who worked locally in travel). We joined Whitbread PLC as a trainee management couple and developed with them, opening and operating hotels and restaurants from Yorkshire to Aberdeenshire, Edinburgh, Glasgow and back to Ayrshire. We learned all aspects of hotel,

restaurant and pub management. I then branched out into human resources, training, personnel and area management.

In the late nineties we decided to break out on our own and started our hospitality business, SimpsInns. The Old Loans Inn near Troon was our first property, followed by The Gables and the rest followed. We have grown, expanded and diversified into hotels, restaurants, weddings, conferencing and banqueting and golf and leisure. All of our businesses are here, in Ayrshire.

Why did you decide to get involved with the Ayrshire College Foundation?

I was approached by John Rainey, who was the Chair of The Ayrshire College Foundation. John had been in conversation with Willie Mackie, the current chair of the Board of Management at Ayrshire College and he had suggested I may be interested in getting involved. Willie and I had worked on previous initiatives like Taste Ayrshire and the North Ayrshire Regeneration Board. I was very naive to the role and purpose of the Foundation but the more I looked into it, the more interested I became. It is a great opportunity to contribute, give something back and be part of an incredible new plan to have some of the best college facilities in Scotland. I am still in awe of the fabulous projects that have been undertaken and delivered with outstanding results. These are a great credit to the College management team and staff and not forgetting some amazing contribution from the students themselves.

Are you looking forward to this year's Mission Discovery? What's the highlight for you?

I can't wait, if it is half as good as the past years, it will still be amazing and if history tells a story it's looking to be twice as good as last year! Without a doubt the highlight is bringing together the school pupils and giving them the opportunity to interact and hear directly from astronauts and scientist from NASA. What an opportunity - to be inspired by people who have worked hard and reached the pinnacle in their chosen career! Not forgetting the fabulous competition to design a mission patch that could potentially end up in the far reaches of outer space! On a more 'down to earth' note, the collaboration between scientists, astronauts, students, teachers, private businesses and public sector is inspiring. I love the 'can-do' attitude displayed from all involved throughout the week.

I understand the Foundation has now provided funding for various projects at Ayrshire College as part of the Innovation Fund, what advice would you give to anyone else thinking of applying to the Innovation Fund?

Everything starts with a great idea. If you are passionate and committed, go for it. Always remember to do your research, take advice and be prepared for challenges. Ask yourself, can you convince and demonstrate to others your project's potential to succeed and if someone brought it to you, would you invest?

Reflecting on the achievements of the Ayrshire College Foundation, what are you most proud of?

I have enjoyed working with an amazing range of people from different disciplines, with a great focus and common goal. It is fantastic and fascinating to hear different perspectives on projects and then coming together in unity for the better good. Also, reflecting on the completed development and upgrades of student facilities that have been carried out across the various campuses, we now have an incredible resource across all the Ayrshire College campuses.

Ayrshire College's new training restaurant at its Ayr Campus is officially open for business.

The 'Inver' restaurant was opened by Ayrshire College Foundation Chair, Tracey Stark, and Bill Costley, Ayrshire College board member and owner of the Costley & Costley restaurants and hotels.

Inver is now available for public reservations every afternoon from 12pm-1:30pm and during some Tuesday and Thursday evenings for special events during term time.

The restaurant allows the College's hospitality students based at the Ayr Campus to hone their cooking and serving skills on a daily basis in a real-life restaurant environment.

As it is a training environment, guests of the restaurant are able to benefit from the pricing structure in place at the restaurant. Three courses start from only £8.50 at Inver, which uses the freshest local ingredients.

The town of Ayr was historically known as 'Inverayr', meaning "mouth of the River Ayr". The College took this into consideration when naming the restaurant 'Inver' - as the restaurant's position within the Dam Park building offers beautiful views of the river.

The restaurant was funded by the Ayrshire College Foundation. The Ayrshire College Foundation was set up to advance education by providing financial support for projects and activities carried out and supported by Ayrshire College.

Bill Costley said "We're delighted to be part of these inspirational college facilities. It's a wonderful opportunity for young people to develop their skills. The Inver restaurant will be the perfect environment to showcase their abilities."

I N V E R O P E N I N G





LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE OPENING

Ayrshire College has officially opened new learning spaces at its Kilwinning Campus for students and partners in the community.

Major renovations have been made to the Learning Resource Centre (LRC), and a new Partnership Centre and Student Association office have been created. Improved breakout areas on the first and second floors of the campus provide students with social spaces for learning.

These major improvements were possible as a result of funding provided by the Ayrshire College Foundation.

The Learning Resource Centre is now a more welcoming space and has been expanded to provide greater resources for the students.

The College's partners can use the new Partnership Centre for meetings and events when they are engaging with the College or for their own purposes.

A larger, more prominent Student Association office, visible from the moment students enter the campus allows easy access to the Student Association team.

Val Russell, Trustee of the Ayrshire College Foundation and Chief Executive of the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce, performed the opening ceremony in front of students and invited guests including local politicians.

Val said "On behalf of all the trustees, I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this happen. I know these new spaces will make a difference to the students, and I would like to congratulate you all on achieving such an amazing transformation.

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Today I have been inspired by these new facilities and, from speaking to students and staff I am delighted to hear about the impact these exciting new areas are already making.

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Heather Dunk OBE, Principal of Ayrshire College, said "I am delighted that our students have access to a range of new and improved learning and social spaces. I would like to thank the Ayrshire College Foundation for the funding that made these developments possible."

Lainey McKinlay, Student President of the Ayrshire College Student Association, said "From speaking with students we know they are delighted with the new facilities. Throughout the first week of the new term we kept hearing students say the space and facilities were amazing. These top quality facilities will benefit many students for years to come."

These new facilities have also made an impact with partners in the local community. North Ayrshire Council in partnership with Ayrshire College has established their Employability Hub in the Learning Resource Centre to help them reach out to the community. This is a one stop shop offering students and the wider community access to support finding employment, career advice, training and volunteering opportunities. There is also support available for managing debt, applying for benefits or housing, and developing skills in literacy, numeracy or computer skills.

MISSION DISCOVERY

2018 LAUNCH

Mission Discovery, a week-long space school that gives Ayrshire youngsters the opportunity to work alongside NASA leaders, will take place from 11-15 June at Ayrshire College's Kilmarnock Campus.

The announcement that the International Space School Educational Trust's (ISSET) Mission Discovery programme will return to Ayrshire this summer was made at a special launch event held at the College.

Two hundred secondary school pupils will work in teams this summer to design space experiments. The winning idea will be sent to space where it will be tested by NASA astronauts.

The Ayrshire College Foundation is the main sponsor of Mission Discovery Ayrshire 2018. Local aeronautical businesses, National Air Traffic Services (NATS) and the Glasgow Prestwick Spaceport are sponsoring the event, as are DYW Ayrshire, Ayr Rotary Club and East, North and South Ayrshire councils.

Heather Dunk, Principal of Ayrshire College, said "We are thrilled that Mission Discovery will return to Ayrshire this summer. The programme is a tremendous experience for young people, giving them a once in a lifetime opportunity to work with an astronaut and NASA leaders on a live space project.

"I have no doubt that this year will once again be a spectacular event and I would like to thank the Ayrshire College Foundation, Glasgow Prestwick Spaceport, NATS and the three Ayrshire councils for sponsoring Mission Discovery Ayrshire 2018."

A competition was organised for Ayrshire primary schools to design a Mission Patch for Mission Discovery Ayrshire 2018.

Eight-year-old Eilidh Cooke of Annanhill Primary School won with her half-Mars, half-Earth design, which will be used throughout the week and which will accompany the winning experiment on its journey to the International Space Station in 2018.





Innovating for Learning Fund Outcomes

Ayrshire College Foundation will provide £250,000 over three years for an Innovating for Learning Fund, to recognise creativity and improvement in curriculum and service design, content or delivery.

In the first year, grants of between £5,000 and £25,000 were offered to assist with implementing innovative practice to support learning and teaching, or enhance service delivery to increase student success.

The fund was developed to provide start-up funding for innovative or exploratory projects, and bids focused on new approaches or initiatives that will enhance learning and teaching, service delivery and/or the student experience.

The Foundation has so far approved nine applications, with funding totalling £61,295.80. These projects include:

Hospitality and Tourism

Delivery of work experience in College training restaurants

The department are in the process of recruiting interns for the summer delivery of this project, and then plan to organise their team of volunteers for the work experience placements. This will give students at the College real work experience to prepare them for going out into the hospitality industry.



Creative AC Productions

AC Productions has been set up to allow students to volunteer to work with a range of clients out with the curriculum to produce original content for film and media.

AC Productions has now received all of the equipment included in the bid and have begun producing content for various projects. The first video of a cookery demonstration has been filmed.



Health and Social Care

Enhanced CPR and First Aid training equipment

The Health and Social Care department have been using new QCPR mannequins to teach CPR skills. Feedback from the students has been very positive as the new equipment gives immediate visual feedback on the practical application of CPR skills. This has led to a definite consistent and continued improvement in the specific CPR quality metrics of chest compression depth, compression rate, adequate chest recoil, correct hand positioning and quality of rescue breaths.

Scottish Fire and Rescue have also utilised the new mannequins for CPR revision training. As it is proposed that SFAR in the near future will be called out to deal with out of hospital cardiac arrests (OHCA), the visual feedback offered by the new equipment allows them to further develop high quality CPR skills.

Creative

Sun Turtle Records

Sound Production students at Ayrshire College are making big noises in the music industry by running their own record label and PR company from the College's Ayr Campus.

The project has been, and continues to be, a big success. Both Sun Turtle Records and High Tide PR are integrated into the HNC curriculum providing a rich educational experience for the students. The label has signed a local indie pop band 'Mannequin Mannequin' who have already recorded, mixed and mastered their double A-Side single: "Sunburn/Chiaroscuro" in the College studio. This record was released digitally and physically on the 19 May, supported by an exclusive launch night event in Kilmarnock.

A significant part of our funding application was to equip the studio with a range of analogue and digital processing units. This equipment has been successfully installed and commissioned and is responsible for the clear and powerful sound heard on the recordings. This new level of professionalism is validated by the press and radio plays already received.



In addition to the curriculum integration, we asked the students to apply for studio internship positions. The successful students attended a number of production masterclasses that provided them with the skills to be credited as assistant recording engineers on the official release. Marketing, events and web design evening masterclasses have also taken place, providing the students with the specialist knowledge critical to running the label.



Inclusive Learning

Promoting access and inclusion through technology

The C-Reader pens allow the College to promote inclusion, develop students' independence and enhance access to support and guidance through the use of technology. All of the C-Reader pens have been out on loan to students this session. Students have been using the pens regularly in class and at home and feedback has been extremely positive.

Live Chat

The Live Chat facility is available for students to use as a means of communicating with Inclusive Learning, Student Services, the Learning Resource Centre and Learning Technologists. The software has now been installed on Moodle and the link will be added to the College website over the summer. Staff will monitor the number of students who use Live Chat through reports which are built in to the software.



Student Services

Installation of MDM server in order to better improve the usage and maintenance of iPads

The funding is being used to install a Mobile Device Management System which will enable full remote management of the class sets of iPads which are bookable from each Learning Resource Centre. Having this system will enable Learning Technologists to access and control multiple devices at the one time. The funds requested will cover the cost of a year's licence for 20 iPads per campus.

The solution went live on the 8 December 2017 with an initial test bank of 40 devices in order to test the functionality. The remaining devices were added March 2018 so we now have all Learning Resource Centre bookable iPads on the system, and we have also extended the coverage to include Inclusive Learning iPads which the advisors use for completing PLSPs with students.

We are seeing major cost and time savings from the ability to remotely update both the iPad operating systems and apps, as well as the ability to add new apps remotely. We are also able to easily remove saved photos etc. remotely without having to access each iPad.

We are now gathering feedback from curriculum colleagues and students regarding the use of the iPads since the system went live in order to quantify any benefits to learning and teaching.

Student Services

The use of drones in education

The drone will enhance learning and teaching provision as well as emulate the increased use of this technology in industry. This will contribute to improved learning and teaching by adding a different element to some subjects.

The drone arrived on the 15 May 2018. We have already had representatives from NATS based at Prestwick Airport visiting the College to provide guidance on its use. We have been working with Health & Wellbeing colleagues to begin the creation of a Policy and Operations Manual which are required for us to fully utilise the drone. We have also had initial meetings with curriculum colleagues around the specific projects we have in mind for academic year 18/19 and these are progressing well.

We plan on using the drone during the summer break to create induction material (flyovers of each campus showing boundaries for the no smoking policy, and a flythrough of each Learning Resource Centre). We will then use the drone within several curriculum areas after the summer, confirmed so far are Sports & Fitness, Construction & Trades and Photography/Media. Further details will be provided as these projects are finalised.



Health and Social Care

Ageing Suits

This resource will enable students to experience, through simulated learning, the physical and psychological impact of ageing. The sensory equipment provides realistic experiences of what it's like to be elderly and conditions associated with dementia, including poor balance, stiff joints, weaker eyesight, extra weight, difficulty in walking, back pain and problems with lifting.

Marketing

Digital Upskilling Project

The funding has been used to recruit creative and digital marketing interns and give them an opportunity to be part of the Marketing team. The project will create and inspire exciting careers that will shape their digital future.

To achieve cutting edge digital marketing, diverse skills and perspectives are needed. Young people bring creativity, enthusiasm, fresh ideas and problem

solving to our teams. Ayrshire College creative and business students can help with this.

Over the summer, the interns will have big challenges, real responsibilities and a great network of support to develop their employability skills.

This project will take talented young people who are showing great potential on their course, and give them an opportunity to be part of our team and make an impact. This experience will help shape them, push them forward and leave a lasting impression.

FOLLOW US

COMPLETED PROJECTS

2015 Improvements to Ayr and Kilwinning campuses of Ayrshire College

Improvements to Student Services, the Student Association and the Learning Resource Centre on the Ayr Campus and Student Services on the Kilwinning Campus made the services more accessible and welcoming for students.

Ayrshire Traditional Music Summer School

The Music School took place in Kilmarnock in July 2016, with 18 participants aged between 11 and 17 attending.

Celebration of Success/Graduation Ceremonies 2015

We supported award ceremonies for both Ayrshire College staff and students. In 2015 over 600 students graduated with HNC/HND awards and over 200 staff were given awards, recognising outstanding achievement for innovation, partnership, empowerment, respect, communication and equality.

West Coast Varsity Project

This project was proposed by the Ayrshire College Students' Association and the event was held on 27 April 2016, with over 300 students from Ayrshire College, UWS and SRUC taking part in sports across three venues.

Mission Discovery 2016 and 2017

The International Space School Educational Trust's (ISSET) Mission Discovery Ayrshire 2017 programme began on Monday 19 June for around 150 secondary school pupils and college students.

The participants of the educational programme work in mixed teams to design a suitable experiment to be tested at the International Space Station.

Newmilns Primary School Trim Trail

The Trim Trail makes playtimes more active, challenging and fun for pupils. The educational play and sports equipment also encourages the children's active, social and imaginative development.



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HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

2017 Improvements to the Ayr Campus

Work has just been completed on a new hospitality suite on the Ayr Campus. These exciting learning spaces include an impressive training restaurant and bar with 70 covers, two industrial kitchens and specialist hospitality and tourism classrooms.

2017 Improvements to the Kilwinning Campus

Students on this campus will benefit from a new Learning Resource Centre with more computers, digital presentation areas, quiet study areas and library facilities. There is a more accessible Student Association office and a new Partnership Centre encouraging closer links with the community.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Ayrshire College Modern Apprentice: Digital Marketing Assistant

We are helping to develop Ayrshire's young workforce by funding an apprenticeship. Catriona Cook was appointed in July 2016 and supports the Foundation with digital marketing, raising awareness of projects and the impact on young people in education in Ayrshire.



AYRSHIRE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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The Ayrshire College Foundation is a company registered in Scotland (Company Number: SC466366) and a registered Scottish charity (Charity Number: SCO44627).

