



SCOTLAND'S RURAL COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

2022

2023

**Produced by Roz Asli
Co-written by Claire Williams and Liam Thorpe**

Who We Are

SRUCSA is a student-led organisation that exists to ensure the best possible experience for all students at SRUC.

Just by enrolling at SRUC, students automatically gain free membership of SRUCSA! We exist to support the student population and encourage student to contact us with any college-related issues - if we can't help you, we'll make sure to find someone who can.

We are made up of three full time elected sabbatical officers and two full-time staff members!



Liam Thorpe
Central Co-President

This year, we also hired temporary staff members to work on specific projects - such as the elections - and we have also hired a part-time community coordinator for the coming year using money that was saved during the teaching strikes!



Claire Williams
North Co-President



Roz Asli
South and West Co-President

Liberation Officers

Damson Ellen

LGBT+
Students' Liberation Officer

Emily Collie-Harper

Women's Liberation Officer

Max Jarvis-Evans

Disabled Students'
Liberation Officer

Student Academic Board Members

Endre Putyora
Katya Okay
Myrtle Myrewood

SRUCSA Staff Members

James Bamkin

Students' Association
Development Lead

Douglas Jardine

Students' Association
Development Assistant

Laurie Clarke

Students' Association
Development Assistant Cover
May 2023 - July 2023

Jeroen Herk

Students' Association
Community Coordinator



INTRODUCTION

Each year, the current SRUCSA teams must wrap up projects and begin the handover process for the new team of elected co-presidents.



This booklet contains some highlights from the 22-23 SRUCSA Team - from Welcome Week until the End of Year events, we hope you are inspired by our magical journey.



Last year, we decided to put together a document called 'SRUCSA's Year at a Glance!' This document gave us a chance to share what the team had achieved over the year and was also a really nice keep sake for our hard-working co-presidents.

It was so successful that we decided to do it again this year!

Welcome to SRUCSA's Year at a Glance 22-23!



WELCOME WEEK 22-23

The SRUCSA Team worked extra hard to put on a social event at every faculty for this year's new students. Claire and Roz delivered a Garden Gathering at SRUC Barony.



We teamed up with staff on campus to ensure we delivered a successful event for students. We opened the event up to staff as well as students to ensure there was a community feel. The sun was shining, even in the first week of September!

SRUC BARONY



We hired a SRUC Alumni called The Spitting Pig to serve a hog roast and we had live music from the talented Jamie Clark! The atmosphere was warming in the courtyard and its safe to say a lovely evening was had by all. We were over the moon with the turnout of both staff and students and want to extend our thanks to everyone who helped make it happen.



WELCOME WEEK 22-23

SRUC BARONY



We received donations from Morrisons in Ayr, Lantra, Dear Green and lots more! Wild and Kind also produced our lovely notepads for the occasion! I mean who does not love a freebie!?



It is important that students get the opportunity to socialise at the beginning of the year, and we wanted to do something that everyone could get involved in. This was a big focus in all of our projects this year, and we did really well in pulling it off. We hope everyone had a fantastic time!

#SRUCSAGARDENGATHERING



WELCOME WEEK 22-23

Liam put on a 'SRUCSA Social' at the Kings Buildings campus on the Friday evening of Welcome Week. The event included a free meal for every attendee (and a takeaway box full of leftovers since way too much food was orderd!), live DJ set and soundsystem, pop-up bar and a campfire!

Since this was the first academic year that was to be fully unconstrained by covid-19, Liam felt it was super important to create a chance for classmates to meet each other and have a bit of a boogie at the beginning of their new / second or third year courses.

SRUC EDINBURGH



WELCOME WEEK 22-23

Claire and Roz entertained Students at SRUC Craibstone with live music from Katie Whittaker and food from SRUC Alumni - The Spitting Pig. There was also a photo booth marque for Students to take selfies with the instax camera and keep them as a memory from their first week on campus!

SRUC CRAIBSTONE



Claire managed to secure a range of freebies including the Alcohol Free Spirit - donated by Feragaia, which allowed Students to try a ginger beer mocktail.



WELCOME WEEK 22-23

Katie played a range of classic pop tunes from past and present and it brought life to the event! We were also joined by Aberdeen Sports Village and Dyce Rugby Club.



SRUC CRAIBSTONE



Thanks to all who came along and we hope you had a fantastic welcome week event!



#SRUCSAGARDENPARTY



WE LIT THE PATH!

20-22 North Co-President Cara led the Gender Based Violence Project. Along with 20-22 Central Co-President Amy and Roz, the team completed a series of walk rounds at each campus to identify any areas students may feel unsafe.



One of the recommendations we made to SRUC was lighting the path between Barony and Parkgate, which was a common route used by students to access the bus stop. It originally had no lighting at all and was really dark in the winter. Initially the proposal was rejected, however the proposal was then re-looked at and the outcome was fantastic!

SRUC BARONY



This is a significant result for our students, and we are absolutely delighted. We would like to acknowledge and thank The Campus & Estates Services for supporting our project and listening to the students.



ONE OF OUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE!

WE LIT THE PATH!



The feedback from Students and Staff has been positive so far, and it honestly makes such a difference, which makes it all the more rewarding!



SRUC BARONY

We would also like to acknowledge and thank Nick Sparks, Fiona Mackay, Malcolm Crowe, Alex Reynolds, Pearl Edgar, and the contractors involved in lighting the path.




We strive to build positive relationships with staff, and this is a great example of the results we can produce when we work together. A long-term legacy that SRUCSA can be proud of!

#WELITHEPATH

WINTER WONDERLAND

Claire and Roz ran a successful event back in December – Winter Wonderland. Claire led this project with the vision of bringing the Staff, Students and the local community together to spread some festive cheer. This is an event that had not been done before as it was previously thought to not be achievable. This was a lesson learned for the SRUCSA Team, that we can aspire and achieve anything if we put our mind to it!



Well... that's exactly what happened and what an amazing success it was! The event included student and staff craft stalls, external crafters and bakers, and two amazing musical acts. 

SRUC ELMWOOD



“

Great event, well attended. Chatted with various stall holders and shoppers. Organisers very helpful on the day, help with WIFI, table layout etc. Appreciated the free table very much and also the tasty treats throughout the afternoon! - Community Exhibitor

”



WINTER WONDERLAND

We were overwhelmed with positive comments, and it was a delight to see our students exhibiting their crafts, baking and lots of other festive treats! Some of the Students had never done anything like this before and were keen to get involved. Students also liked the idea of travelling to another campus and socialising. This event was supported by Elmwood staff including the estates team and the lovely lecturers.



'I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the both of you and of course SRUCSA for organising the winter wonderland at Elmwood campus. The event provided a much needed moral boost among staff and students alike. It was great to see a buzz around the campus again, great effort from you all!!!!'

SRUC Elmwood Lecturer

SRUC ELMWOOD

'It was extremely well run, and the staff were so unbelievably helpful. The live music and the baking demonstrations were amazing. Best fare I have attended'
Community Exhibitor



Massive thank you to SRUC Board member Mike Smith for coming along and supporting our project.



Bravo to SRUCSA – this event lifted everyone's spirits and brought us all together with the community -

Community Exhibitor

SRUCSA OWLS

Claire had a vision of creating a generic social club with a focus on positive mental health and wellbeing. By creating a safe space on campus and online that residential and non residential students have an opportunity to socialise and develop a student community.



SRUC ELMWOOD



Claire successfully established an Elmwood OWLS Club led by two students called Joe and Neil. They are currently organising fundraising stalls for the Elmwood Open day on Sunday the 11th of June 2022. The OWLS meet up regularly and SRUCSA often support by buying them a meal or facilitating the meeting.

The Organisation for the Wellbeing of Learners



SRUCSA OWLS ONLINE

As well as the Elmwood OWLS, Claire and Roz have developed an online OWLS Group which consist of the Elmwood OWLS and SRUC Students from all campuses including distance learners. This was to give all students an opportunity to get involved and be part of a wider social group. There is currently a teams page that is monitored by SRUCSA and members of the Elmwood OWLS.

As part of the online OWLS, we ran an online talk called Restoring the Balance from the Barn Owl Trust. This was delivered on Wednesday the 3rd of May and we had a whopping 19 people in attendance including staff and students.



SRUC OWLS BARONY

Roz has also been working closely with a group of students at Barony to establish an OWLS group. The main focus is to establish a wider social group, that brings students together no matter what their interests are, with a focus on positive mental health and wellbeing.



This could mean students organise a walk together or an outing or event, or get guest speakers in to talk about a range of subjects. The whole point is to encourage community building on campus. OWLS will work well if we are able to establish champions at each campus with the hope of rolling out OWLS at every campus in the future. Roz kitted them out with OWLS Merch!

The Organisation for the Wellbeing of Learners

FORESTRY LEARNING EVENT



Claire and Roz were lucky enough to attend the Institute of Chartered Foresters Conference - Connecting Trees Farmers and Foresters, in Birmingham in April this year as part of their Continuous Professional Development.



Claire and Roz delivered an online Forestry Session for SRUC Staff and Students, Guest speakers included: Prof Davy McCracken (SRUC), Joyce Dickson (SRUC), Ben Law (SAC) Andrew Vaughn (Tillhill). It was a fantastic turnout and we hope everyone enjoyed their event.



They wanted to distribute their learning and ran an online Forestry Learning event for Students and Staff across the whole of SRUC.

Around 28 Students and Staff members turned up which is a really good turnout!

RESIDENCIES

Whilst we love to shout about what is good at SRUC and SRUCSA, sometimes we have to fight for the less good parts. The problems we discovered with SRUC residential facilities was one of these parts.

Conversations about this issue were initiated with Liam by a group of residents from Oatridge campus. Surveying and reporting was carried out and used to present the issue in various committees and meetings. This work was then replicated for SRUC's other residential campuses (Elmwood and Barony) by Claire and Roz.

We met with representatives from the Campus and Estates Service (CES) and agreed to bring a "wish list" of requests from residential students.

We have seen some of these priority request met since this project began – more washing machines at Oatridge – and the CES have assured us that budget will be directed to these requests.

We wrote and presented a proposal to embed three annual meetings in the academic calendar where student residents can meet with representatives from the CES, academic and residential teams to feedback on what is/isn't good about their time living on-campus.

Claire carried out a very successful in-person focus group with Elmwood residents, which generated important and useful information about the residential situation there. We hope that this can be used to fight for improved conditions by future SRUCSA projects.



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF APPRENTICES

Liam collaborated with Ben Kinross from the National Society of Apprentices (NSoA) by bringing him over to Oatridge campus to meet with some of our engineering students!

A massive thanks to Fraser Wilson – the senior Engineering Tutor at Oatridge campus – for facilitating our meetings with his classes of Engineering apprentices!

Ben ran his 'sweetie game' workshop, in which apprentices use Starbursts as a 'currency' to assign value to which issues they feel are the most important to them.



Every group that we met with (and indeed every group that Ben has EVER met, which accounts for over 10,000 apprentices) chose apprentice pay as their number one issue!

Fortunately, later in the academic year, we managed to get the local Member of Parliament – Hannah Bardell – to visit the college and listen to what the apprentices had to say... Perhaps we'll get to hear her pose a question about apprentice pay to the prime minister at some point in the not too distant future.

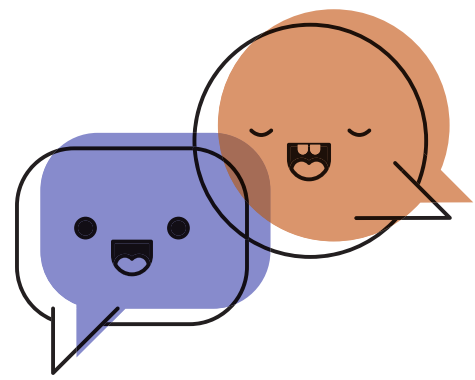


ANNUAL DIALOGUES

In September 2022, right in the middle of welcome week, SRUC ran their annual institutional-led review (ILR) - also known as 'Annual Dialogues'.

This is a week-long process by which every subject area (or 'board of studies') within the college submits a report about how the last year has gone. A panel of colleagues is then formed who read all the annual reports, decide what the main themes of the reporting are and form questions based on these themes (an example theme being: career opportunities and industry connections, an example question: what plans does the agriculture (or other) board of studies have to develop its capacity for industry connections?). The panel then spend around 3 hours per board of studies asking questions to teaching staff and course leaders and in the process, a set of actions for development in the coming year emerges.

SRUCSA members were part of this panel and fed into the process at the same level as any other SRUC colleague. Liam was also given the chance to chair one of the meetings which meant running the timings, ensuring everyone got the chance to speak and generally steering the meeting to productive ends.



This was a very good opportunity for the co-president's to feed into the highest level of institutional reporting and strategic planning and whilst it was a herculean effort to participate in, especially alongside welcome week, we felt very privileged to be involved.

This process was repeated later in the year but with a more specific remit: student support services. In early 2023, SRUC carried out another annual reporting process. This process is the same as the annual dialogues but rather than drawing data from all the academic boards of studies, it focusses on one element of the college and spends around 3 full days delving into it alone. 2023 saw SRUC delve into its student support services.

Liam got the opportunity to sit on this ILR and off the back of one of his suggestions, a new role within SRUC has emerged - a Student Support Services Lead - who will have strategic and operational driving force for all student support staff across SRUC. This will take a significant amount of pressure and responsibility from the Academic Liaison Managers (ALM's) at each campus and free up their time to focus on academic matters.



SUPPORTING STUDENT SEX WORKERS

In January 2023, SRUCSA was invited to participate in a campaign dedicated to supporting student sex workers at Scottish universities and HE colleges.

Here at SRUCSA, we neither promote nor discourage students from entering sex work. However, we believe that any individual considering sex work should be able to make an informed decision.

Studies show that this is an increasingly prevalent issue for students in the cost-of-living crisis with as many as 20% of students considering engaging in sex work.

You can read our full article about this work by scanning the QR code.



Thanks to the light we shone on this issue, SRUC's executive leadership team have committed to providing institution-wide access to a nationally-recognised qualification - delivered by University of Leicester - which will educate SRUC support staff on how to provide assistance specifically to students involved in sex work.

We encourage any SRUC student in need of mental health support (for this reason or otherwise) to contact SRUC Student Support Services at studentsupportgeneral@sruc.ac.uk for further guidance.

More specialised support and information can be accessed at one of the following charities dedicated to the rights and advocacy of sex workers:

- Support for Student Sex Workers
- ScotPep,
- National Ugly Mugs (NUM)
- SWARM.

SOCIAL MEDIA

142 37 27

The SRUCSA Team have worked hard over the last couple of years to increase our engagement on social media. We have done so by posting a weekly post to let students know what we are all working on each week.



We also post success stories, events and lots of other useful information that students need to be aware of. Instagram is where we have the most engagement and that's where our efforts have been focused over the past year.

WE FREEBIES

WE LOVE FREEBIES! The Team have worked tirelessly to secure freebies for our students for a range of projects and events.

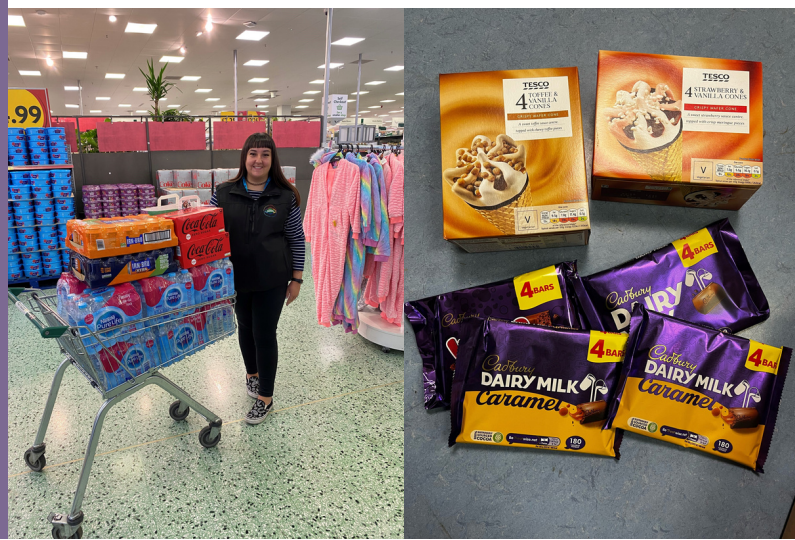



We have been lucky enough to have been supported by various local businesses and larger organisations such as supermarkets. We are really grateful for all the donations we have received and wanted to say a big THANK YOU!

SRUCSA UPDATE
5th - 9th December

- 1 The SRUCSA Team have submitted a funding application to the National Community Lottery Fund.
- 2 Our Winter Wonderland Event kicks off on Tuesday, please come along and say hi!
- 3 We held a briefing session for our Student Ambassadors who will be working at our event.
- 4 Check out our latest post on OWLS, launching in the new year. Get in touch if you are interested.
- 5 We met with two Students from Elmwood keen to set up a club to bring Students together.

WANT TO CHAT? GO TO
SRUCSA.ORG.UK/TALK-WITH-US



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

The growth of new student-led communities was a priority for all of us this year. As well as the one-off events we organised, we have managed to get several new clubs and societies started.

We created a Dungeons and Dragons club, and the Organisation for the Wellbeing of learners (OWLS) at Elmwood, and a foraging club and a hiking club at Edinburgh.

We are super grateful to the students who stepped up to lead these groups. Taking a risk with a new club is a courageous effort that we always admire.

We devised and ran a new workshop for helping get societies started. The workshop got the group to work together to think about the priorities of the new club in a way that also taught them about the leadership roles within a club. We then asked attendees to reflect on the roles and themselves so they could imagine themselves in the leadership roles and understand what they could get out of them.



MY JOURNEY

South and West Co-President Roz wanted to put together a portfolio of videos that enabled Students to get an idea of potential career paths, and also relaying the message that no career path is simple or straight forward and that sometimes you have to take risks - sometimes they will work out and sometimes they will not.

This led to Roz reaching out to Staff, Alumni and Board Members from across SRUC to produce a video that would be called My Journey. The aim of these videos were to illustrate each individual person's career journey, and include all the twists and turns, and adventures they have been on, to inspire Students at SRUC

Roz was able to secure 20 videos, which is a really positive outcome. I then worked with Staff and Students to get the videos edited and ready to share. A current SRUC Student, was able to make an advertisement video to enhance the project allowing a sneak peak of what these videos entailed.



A MESSAGE FROM ROZ

I want to say a massive thank you to everyone who got involved from myself, and on behalf of the SRUC Students' Association Team. We are more than grateful to everyone who took the time to contribute and help make this project happen.

I hope that these videos will help encourage young people to follow their dreams, and grab those opportunities when they swing around the corner. It can be tough, and some times not everything will work out for the best, but stay focused and some day you will be able to reflect back and look at your own journey

Find us on social media to view these fantastic videos.



SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION

Cara Sangster

North Co-President 20-22

Amy McLuckie

Central Co-President 20-22

Claire Williams

North Co-President 22-23

Liam Thorpe

Central Co-President 22-23

PROJECT MANAGEMENT



Daniel Anderson

SRUC Student

William Ancell

SRUC Digital Manager

James Bamkin

SRUCSA Development Lead

Douglas Jardine

SRUCSA Development Assistant

Anouska Curzon

SRUC Marketing & Student Recruitment
Lead

BOARD MEMBER MY JOURNEY STARS

Peter Downs

SRUC Board Member

Chris Sayers

SRUC Board Member

Mike Smith

SRUC Board Member

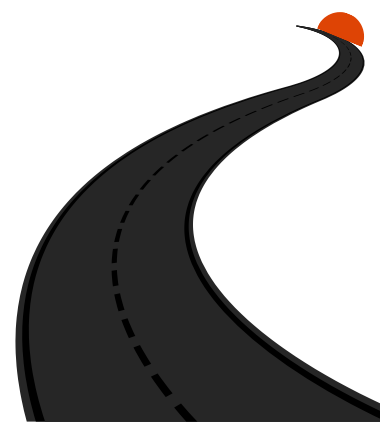
Elma Murray

SRUC Board Member

Graeme Miller

SRUC Alumnus

*Find us on social media to
view these fantastic
videos.*



STAFF MY JOURNEY STARS



Cath Seeds

Senior Lecturer

Jennifer Volk

Business Intelligence Manager

Wallace Currie

Lecturer

Alison Boyle

Academic Enhancement Lead

Hannah Grist

Lecturer

Craig Davidson

Senior Lecturer

Ruth Tudor

Student Support Tutor

Claire Donaldson

Lecturer

STAFF MY JOURNEY STARS



Lucy Thornton

Lecturer

Alex Reynolds

Academic Liaison Manager

Julie Van Der Driesche

Advancement Manager

Davy McCracken

Head of Department

Joyce Dickson

Careers Advisor

Jonathan Kermath

Data Officer

Bridgit Edmonstone

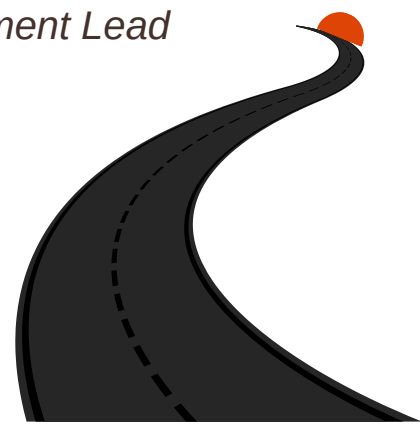
Alumni Relations Manager

Mike Smith

Executive Policy Advisor

James Bamkin

SRUCSA Development Lead



CAREERS EVENTS

Barony Campus

November 2022

Roz worked in partnership with Joyce Dickson (South and West Careers Advisors) and Alex Reynolds (Academic Liaison Manager) to run a small careers event for Students at Barony. The event was a huge success and we had around twenty employers come along and exhibit.



SOUTH WEST



Barony Campus

February 2023

Roz also got involved in the SRUC Wide Careers Events that were taking place by going along to the Barony one and supporting Joyce. We were joined by many exhibitors and Students found both careers events really useful, to help them on their future career journey.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Pool Evening - Barony Campus

April 2023

Roz supported students who wanted to organise a pool evening in the bar space at Barony. Roz secured donations of goodies, organised for the room to be free and supported students to encourage everyone to get involved.



SOCIAL SPACE BARONY



Barony Campus - Bar Room

May 2023

Roz and the SRUCSA Team donated items such as a TV/DVD player, board games, puzzle books, cushions and snacks to the Barony Bar. This was to encourage students to use the social space to study, listen to music, play a board game or have a play station night. This room isn't used enough and needed a little lift. SRUCSA was on it.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Fundraiser - SRUC Barony

May 2023

Roz in partnership with the South of Scotland Wildlife Hospital and Animal Care Lecturer - Nicola Porter organised a fundraising evening, with pizza, live music, doughnuts and tombola stalls. A great night was had by all!



'There should be more events like this'



COMMUNITY BUILDING

Student Meal - La Dolce Vita

May 2023

SRUCSA has supported many student-run end-of-year events. The focus of this project was to give students the opportunity to celebrate their achievements together as a class in a way of their choice. Vet nursing students at Barony had a fab evening! The meal was part funded by SRUCSA.



SOUTH WEST



Student Meal - La Dolce Vitta Dumfries

December 2022

Roz also supported the postgraduate Community by funding a meal for the students to go out and socialise together, as they spend a lot of time studying away from campus.

'Just wanted to say thank you so much for the meal last night! We all had such a great time'

SUCCESS STORY! ✨

'I cannot thank the Teaching Team at SRUC enough for their sheer passion, enthusiasm and commitment to teaching me the vital skills, knowledge and theory of business within the rural environment.'



The achievement of my BA (Hons) Rural Business Management degree, as well as the experience from becoming Student Representative, has allowed me the opportunity to go into a career with Savills UK as a Graduate Land Consents Surveyor, supporting the rural economy and infrastructure services within Scotland.

BEING A CLASS REP

'During my time studying a BA (Hons) Rural Business Management at SRUC, I was proudly elected as the Student Representative for the South West Cohort.'



This has undoubtedly been one of the key highlights during my time with SRUC, as I have effectively communicated with all levels within the organisation, liaised with students & the teaching team to further develop the student experience, allowing me to fulfil a leadership role.'

Shannon McLauchlan - Rural Business Management Student









A NOTE FROM THE TEAM!

Thank you to everyone at SRUC who supported us along the way. It is important for us to build and maintain positive relationships with staff and students in order for us to be efficient in our job role and carry out our manifesto aims.

THANK
YOU

We have also been really lucky and had huge support from external stakeholders, small businesses and local communities. Check out some of the amazing organisations who supported our projects!

Please visit our website at:

www.srucsa.org.uk



Follow us on social media to keep up to date with our projects!



Lantra
Spitting Pig
Morrisons
Quaker Oats
Fife
Fisher & Donaldson
Feragaia
Galbraith
Starbucks
Homebase
Ayr
Wild and Kind
Dumfries
Mountain Warehouse
Tresspass
Staff
Tesco
Cupar
Wickes
Sacred Ground Coffee
Dear Green Coffee

INCOMING 23-24 TEAM

Elected Co-Presidents

Jeremiah Chibueze

North Co-President

Catherine Stewart

South and West
Co-President

Damson Ellen

Central Co-President

SRUCSA Staff Members

James Bamkin

Students' Association
Development Lead

Douglas Jardine

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Laurie Clark

Students' Association
Development Assistant Cover
May 2023 - July 2023

Jeroen Herk

Students' Association
Community Coordinator
2023-2024





**SCOTLAND'S
RURAL COLLEGE
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**



@SRUCSA