

It all computes for Huntly man

By Pat Scott

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A HUNTLY computing student has been awarded a prize in recognition of his outstanding academic achievements for the second year in a row.

Andrew Maclean (24), who is studying business information technology at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, was presented with a £100 Conoco Phillips award at the school of computing science and digital media's annual prizegiving ceremony for his performance in the second year of the course. He picked up the same prize in 2015 for his work in first year.

The former Gordon Schools pupil said: "I said last year that winning the prize in first year had set a high target for me to aim for this year, which definitely helped me to achieve the grades that I did.

"It has again boosted my confidence that I can achieve my goal of finishing with first class honours, although I know this won't be easy and I can't get too complacent.

"I've really enjoyed second year. The computing courses that for the most part did the same modules in first year have started



Andrew Maclean with the certificate recognising his outstanding academic achievements.

to branch out and focus more on their particular area of study.

"In the last semester we got into the business part of business information technology which was quite a change from the usual coursework-driven computing modules.

"This brought new challenges as people you usually worked with were no longer in the same classes as you, the projects were more advanced, and having our first written exams certainly put on a bit more pressure.

"So I'm happy to have got

through it all and I'm so pleased to have been awarded the Conoco Phillips prize again for my efforts."

Andrew has been elected president of the university's photography society and is also on the equestrian team committee, so he will have a number of additional responsibilities to juggle.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge, and can't wait to see what third year brings," he said.

As part of one of the projects this year, Andrew and some of his course mates developed an app which helps students to plan meals with ingredients they have to hand.

"We chose to combine two things that students love - food and saving money," he said. "Our Pocket Pantry app allows you to enter food that you have lying about in your cupboards or fridge, and it will suggest recipes that make use of what you have, with the intention that you won't have to buy as much when you go to the shops.

"This will save you money and also reduces waste by suggesting uses for food you may have ended up throwing out.

"We presented it at the end-of-year computing show and got a lot of positive feedback."