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To our valued friends and donors

Welcome to the 50th anniversary edition of Your Stirling, our supporters’ newsletter. It highlights a history of giving to the University of Stirling which has been both inspirational and powerful.

A Treasury Minute in the House of Commons on 5 August 1965 records the formal gift of the estate to the University. From inception, the generosity of private funders, has helped shape the University of Stirling into what we are today. In the 1960s Lord Polwarth, Lord Ogilvy and Mr AK Davidson led an Appeal to ensure the University had resources of its own to safeguard the new University’s academic independence and to fast track the development of new buildings and student amenities.

The target was to raise £2m and it exceeded its target raising some £2.2m. Donors included the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen Mother. The donations enabled the building of the Gannochy Sports Pavilion, the MacRobert Arts Centre, the Nuffield House for visiting staff, student accommodation and the Chaplaincy Centre. Across the campus evidence of philanthropy is everywhere, from the collection of the University paintings in the University Art Collection to the Robertson swimming pool and the Iris Murdoch Building, to the refurbished Library and the redesigned Garden of Time. Thousands of students have benefited from named scholarships, prizes and internships, and many more from the constantly expanding lists of alumni who give up their time and expertise to give masterclasses and provide one-to-one mentoring.

Today the advancement team continue to nurture relationships with alumni, donors and friends. Your generosity is allowing us to make a positive difference, everywhere, from the collection of JD Ferguson paintings in the University Art Collection to the Chaplaincy Centre. Across the campus evidence of philanthropy is everywhere, from the collection of the University paintings in the University Art Collection to the Robertson swimming pool and the Iris Murdoch Building, to the refurbished Library and the redesigned Garden of Time. Thousands of students have benefited from named scholarships, prizes and internships, and many more from the constantly expanding lists of alumni who give up their time and expertise to give masterclasses and provide one-to-one mentoring.

With my sincere thanks and best wishes

Kerry Bryson
Director of Directorate for Advancement

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The University of Stirling’s commitment to our donors is detailed in our Donor Recognition Guide available at www.stir.ac.uk/allofus/thank-you

The University of Stirling is a registered charity (number SC 011159).
The Stirling Fund – Making a positive impact

Since its launch in 2001, the Stirling Fund has helped enhance and enrich the student experience for thousands of students. Your donations have not only supported clubs and societies, but improved facilities and purchased equipment. You have helped establish student-led initiatives that enhance job prospects, build confidence, tackle the stigma of mental health, alleviate unexpected hardship, inspire entrepreneurialism and much more. Whilst the grants may have been relatively modest, many have supported ambitious and often transformational projects, which have a long lasting impact on our student community.

Students Getting to the Heart of Key Scottish Election Issues

The ‘No’ Vote in the 2014 Scottish Referendum, the landslide victory of the SNP across Scotland in the General Election, the 2016 Scottish Parliament Election, and then Brexit. During this period of unprecedented change in the political landscape, your donations enabled the Scottish Political Archive and the Students’ Union to organise a series of events to engage our student community in current politics.

A key event was ‘Stirling Question Time’ – the University’s Scottish Parliament Election Hustings – which provided an opportunity for students to put their questions to the candidates for the Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituencies. This was followed by a keynote lecture by Lord Jack McConnell, from Student President to First Minister covering his career in politics from his time as Students’ Union President to his current work in the House of Lords.

Students experience life on the trading floor

Students from Stirling Management School’s Accounting and Finance Division were able to experience life on the trading floor during an intensive Boot Camp thanks to the support of the Stirling Fund. Fourth year students from Accounting and Finance joined the MSc cohort in a week of innovative teaching and educational training delivered by the London-based firm Amplify Trading. Students benefited from invaluable hands-on experience on how to trade in financial markets.

Investment in Triathlon club

The triathlon club recently benefitted from a range of equipment including a road bike, strengthening equipment and a supply of trisuits to wear at national and international events and competitions. Without the generous support of the Stirling Fund, we would not have been able to expand the Boot Camp to include our 4th year undergraduate cohort, enabling a greater number of students to gain valuable experience to help them in their future careers.”

Professor Graeme Acheson
Head of Stirling Management School’s Accounting and Finance Division

During the Boot Camp, students attended lectures on macroeconomic trends, trading strategy and psychology, and then became traders using Amplify Trading’s bespoke trading software.

The software is linked through the internet to live market prices of futures contracts traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) enabling students to trade in real time, but with virtual money.

The Boot Camp culminated in a closing ceremony where some students received recognition as ‘Top Traders’ based on a combination of their trading performance and risk control.

Catriona Matthew, 2010 World Duathlon Champion, visited campus recently to attend an event to celebrate the students’ ongoing successes.

Catriona said: “Student athletes have a unique challenge in trying to combine studies with training and competing at the highest level in their respective sports. Having benefitted from the University’s scholarship programme, I know that it ranks highly in the UK Higher Education sector, providing important academic flexibility alongside professional, high quality support for sport.”
The Vice-Chancellor’s Fund

The Principal, Professor Gerry McGormac, launched the Vice-Chancellor’s Fund in 2013 to support projects which enhance and enrich the student experience – particularly one-off or start-up costs for new projects. The Fund, made possible by a generous personal contribution from the Principal, supported a variety of initiatives, including grants for fencing, lacrosse and American football as well as support for ‘Lunch with a Leader’, a project aimed at facilitating connections between students and businesses furthering understanding of entrepreneurship and enterprise.

“I am grateful to the Principal, whose generous personal gift, not only funds projects that enhance the student experience, but also highlights the importance of philanthropy.”

Kerry Bryson
Director for Advancement

Enhancing career goals for Arts and Humanities students

In order to enhance employability and improve confidence levels amongst Arts and Humanities students, a group of student volunteers were commissioned to make a short film showcasing a range of career options available.

The students interviewed various Stirling alumni including a professional tennis coach, an MP, and an international operations manager, giving a flavour of some of the career opportunities available to them.

Professor Alison Green, Director of Learning and Teaching, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, commented: “The film was previewed at the Final Year Conference to great acclaim and is being used to motivate students to consider a range of careers.”

Students support local community

This project supported local charities through weekly fundraising activities, raising awareness and increasing student participation in volunteering both on campus and within the local community.

Some of the local charities to benefit from the students’ support:

I. Good Green Fun, a local children’s charity: students raised funds through regular bucket collections, pub quizzes and chocolate sales.
II. Scribblers Picnic Music Festival: student volunteers assisted the organising committee.
III. Start-Up Stirling, a local food bank charity: over 1,000 local families have received donated items collected by the students.
IV. A three day “Can-Paign” Can Drive for Start-Up Stirling raised over 300 donations from students and staff at the University of Stirling in three days.

Scholars’ and Prize Winners’ Reception

In the autumn, students, staff and donors gathered to celebrate the achievements of over 150 of the University’s best and brightest young people – our 2016 scholars and prizes winners. The reception, which has become a regular fixture in the University calendar, gave donors the chance to meet the students who are benefitting from their generosity and the students an opportunity to thank them in person.

Scott Reid Memorial Prize

The Scott Reid Memorial Prize was established in 2016 by the family of Scott Reid, who graduated from Stirling in 1996 with a BA Hons in History.

Scott had a successful career working for several high profile Scottish museums, before moving to Wales to become curator of Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery. He tragically passed away aged only 40.

Scott was respected and well-liked, described as a ‘kind and generous colleague’ who was always willing to share his enthusiasm and expertise with others.

As a lasting tribute to celebrate Scott’s achievements and remember his selfless support to his friends, his family established the Scott Reid Memorial Prize.

“I was extremely proud to receive the award and incredibly grateful that such wonderful people recognised my hard work.”

Benjamin Anderson
Scott Reid Memorial Prize Winner

British Film Institute donates £7.5k to the Macintosh

1970
Gift of 14 paintings by JD Fergusson to the University Art Collection

1973
Pioneering Scottish documentary maker John Grierson’s archive is donated to the University by his widow

1976
Supporting Stirling through the decades

The University of Stirling has benefitted from loyal supporters who share our vision and have continued to support us over the years.

The Gannochy Trust

The Gannochy Trust, established in 1937 by Arthur Kinmond Bell, whisky distiller and philanthropist, has provided significant contributions to a wide range of University projects throughout the last five decades. The Trust first supported the University in 1968 with a donation of £100,000 to build the Gannochy Sports Pavilion.

The Trust also supported the development of Scottish National Tennis Centre. The centre has expanded over time and has been a training base for Commonwealth Gold Medallist, Colin Fleming. It also provided a training base in the 1990s for a young local school pupil who would go on to become two-time Olympic Gold Medallist, Sir Andy Murray.

Gannochy Trust supported the University again in 2002 with another significant donation to sport through the University Swimming Academy. In 2009 the Trust supported the University’s Library Refurbishment Project with a donation towards the establishment of an assistive learning suite. The Gannochy Trust Disability Team Rooms have had a positive impact on teaching, learning, studying and research at the Library.

Other projects supported include the redevelopment of the Macrobert Arts Centre and the Iris Murdoch Centre, home to the Faculty of Natural Sciences. Over five decades, the Gannochy Trust has helped improve facilities, enhance student experience, widen access and enhance opportunities; all having a positive impact on the lives of students, staff and local communities. Gannochy Trust – we thank you.

Ronald Miller CBE – over 30 years of support

The University of Stirling has had a longstanding relationship with Alexander Ronald Miller (or AR as he was most often known) – initially in his role as Chairman of Motherwell Bridge (Holdings) Ltd and later when he became a trustee of the Miller Foundation.

Ronald trained at the Royal College of Science and Technology, later becoming the University of Strathclyde, before joining the family firm Motherwell Bridge (Holdings) Ltd. Under Ronald’s direction, the family business became one of Britain’s leading international private companies, and in 1970 he was awarded the Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to export.

In 1986, the Ronald Miller Foundation donated £3,000 to help facilitate research in Management Science. Since then, the foundation has supported various projects, including the construction of the Stirling Management Centre (now the Stirling Court Hotel), the purchase of video conferencing facilities, and the refurbishment of a seminar room.

In 1998 the ‘Ronald Miller Fellowship’ scholarship was established and now supports postgraduate students each year studying in the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

Ronald received an honorary degree from the University in 1986, but sadly passed away in 1996. The impact of his vision and generosity continues to benefit students of the University of Stirling today.

The Robertson Trust – sharing our vision for nearly 20 years

The Robertson Trust is a long standing and valued supporter of the University of Stirling, funding capital projects and scholarship programmes. Established in 1961 by the Robertson sisters Elspeth, Agnes and Ethel, The Robertson Trust is now the largest independent trust in Scotland, distributing over £15 million each year.

In 2001 the Trust’s gift of £750,000 supported the construction of the Scottish Swimming Academy based at the University. Named the Robertson Swimming Pool, the Academy continues to be used by our elite athletes, local community groups, students, staff and members of the public.

Since 2013, the Robertson Trust has supported the employment of a Learning and Engagement Curator in the University Art Collection. The Curating team has successfully engaged the local community and school children with the University Art Collection though art classes, workshops, tours, seminars and lectures. Outreach activities have included the annual art summer school with ARTreach, which supports adults with learning difficulties, Create and Curate, a project working with female prisoners at Cornton Vale, and hosting ARTiculation Scotland, a public speaking competition for 16 to 19 year olds.

The Trust’s scholarship programme enables up to 10 new students a year to attend the University. The funding, which is matched by the University, is targeted towards students from challenging backgrounds.

Each student supported by the Trust also takes part in a dedicated training and mentoring programme – Journey to Success. This programme has been devised to ensure students maximise their potential at University and gain the confidence to compete successfully for graduate level jobs. The Robertson Trust has also supported the Macrobert Arts Centre and the Dementia Services Development Centre.

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“The Robertson Trust has been an outstanding supporter of the University over the past 30 years, supporting building developments, research and scholarships.”

Owen Adams
Faculty Manager, Faculty of Natural Sciences

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“Like the University of Stirling, The Robertson Trust is committed to helping people in Scotland realise their potential and we are pleased to have been a long-standing supporter of the university’s work. In addition to the projects we have provided funding for, we are proud that the partnership with our Scholarship team is helping more young people gain all the benefits – educational, social and cultural – that university life can offer as they begin to formulate their own ambitions.”

Kenneth Ferguson
Director
The Dr Dee Amy-Chinn Gender Studies Scholarship

Dr Dee Amy-Chinn was a lecturer at the University of Stirling and instrumental in founding the Gender Studies MSc/MLitt programme.

Following her tragic death of cancer in 2016, her family established the Dr Dee Amy-Chinn Gender Studies Scholarship to support students with diverse life experiences that have marked their journey to postgraduate study.

The inaugural award was made to Laura Wylie, who is studying MLitt in Gender Studies.

― Laura Wylie, Scholarship recipient

INTERVIEW: Laura Wylie

Who is your inspiration?

I was studying languages at the University of Edinburgh when I chose a module about gender, sexuality and ethnicity in German film. My tutor was an inspirational role model who encouraged me to believe that issues (class, gender and sexuality) I had previously thought would hold me back, could actually be positive tools.

Why the University of Stirling?

Stirling offered one of the very few taught programmes on gender studies. Other universities offered courses, but they focused on gender history. Whilst I appreciate the value of history, I want to focus on contemporary issues and to make an impact now! The course is also very student-focused, with students from all backgrounds and cultures, and Stirling has a beautiful campus.

What has this scholarship meant to you?

I’m fascinated by gender and sexuality in the media. This scholarship is allowing me to research the intersection of ‘fem’ and ‘class’ in queer film. I can’t thank Dee’s family enough.

What does the future hold?

Ultimately I would love to do a PhD focusing on gender and sexuality in film. I still have a passion for research.
Japan Foundation – Japan Week

From traditional arts to contemporary pop, Japanese culture is rich and diverse. Building on established links with Japan, the University was able to extend its annual popular Japan Week to offer a series of lectures from Japanese academics, artists and intellectuals.

Between September 2016 and March 2017, the Japan Foundation’s Intellectual Culture Lecture Series included: from Nagasaki University, Professor Nakata presented on a Future Perspective on Environmental Management for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Production in the Japanese Coastal Waters; and, President Katagiri from Future University entertained an audience spanning all generations on his topic: The Future is Not Yet Invented. Before going on to deliver an equally enlightening presentation at a Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) industry leaders networking event; and, Professor Textura Matsuzawa from Kyoritsu University gave a lecture on chimpanzee cognition, Dr Mike Lacktorin from Yamanashi Gakuin University gave a keynote address on cultivating humanity in Japan through the liberal arts; and Professor Testuro Matsuzawa from Kyoto University gave a lecture on Zen Way.

We thank the Japan Foundation, the Japanese Consulate in Edinburgh, the Japan Scotland Association in Tokyo and our other Japanese partners for their generous support. Engaging with other cultures is a central feature of the University’s approach to learning and teaching. More importantly, it is a signal to Japan, our partners and students, that Stirling is a place that values them, their traditions and their culture.

Japan Week also presented an opportunity to remind students about their study abroad opportunities, and explored many different aspects of culture: from how to grow a Bonsai, the arts of Japanese embroidery, manga, calligraphy and origami. Audiences were able to enjoy a tea ceremony, a fashion show of traditional kimono and demonstrations from karate to koto. The Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh, Mr Daisuke Matsunaga, a long standing practitioner gave his insight into the Zen Way.

Audiences were able to enjoy a tea ceremony, a fashion show of traditional kimonos and demonstrations from karate to koto. The Consul General also generously sponsored a lecture on saki.

Your Stirling invited Ian to reflect on golf, a core sport within the International Sports Scholarship Programme (ISSP) and the winning students’ network. The University of Stirling Golf Club is unquestionably Britain’s most successful student golf club. Stirling has won the Scottish Universities and British Universities Team Championships on more occasions than any other University.

Golfing success continues today and in 2016 produced two further Walker cup players in Jack McDonald and Cormac Shevlin (following Richie Ramsay in 2006) as well as adding Edilith Briggs to the Curtis Cup roster. At the last count, 22 golfing alumni were playing professional golf and more than 120 had represented their respective countries in international golf competitions. A history of committed staff at different levels, excellent working relationships with governing bodies and funders and the hard work and determination of our student and alumni golfers – one thing is certain – golf is in a very good state in this 50th year of the University.
Lasting Legacy

The Garden of Time – where the past, present and future of the University meet

The garden was originally conceived in 1986 when Anthony, Lord Cochrane of Cults, sought the help of Professor John Forty, the then Principal, to create a tribute to his mother who loved beautiful gardens. Lord Cochrane’s generous donation enabled the University gardeners, together with John’s wife, Blanche, to lay out a garden.

Today the University continues to work with Professor Forty to enhance and redevelop the garden. The Garden of Time will be a place where nature meets art, where students, alumni, staff and friends can celebrate a special memory or anniversary, recognise a loved one or achievement.

The garden is being transformed and will be brought to life by the University gardeners, together with John’s wife, Blanche, to lay out a garden. Today the University continues to work with Professor Forty to enhance and redevelop the garden. The Garden of Time will be a place where nature meets art, where students, alumni, staff and friends can celebrate a special memory or anniversary, recognise a loved one or achievement.

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This year the University is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. To mark the occasion the Directorate for Advancement has relaunched a new giving circle to thank anyone donating £1,000 or more to the University in any 12 month period.

As a founding member, you will be helping to transform the spaces that make our campus unique, and will be enhancing the everyday experience of students who live, study and work here. It is hoped that many of the University’s alumni and friends will accept the invitation to become a member of the 1967 Circle. Payments can be made monthly by Direct Debit at £67 per month, or through an annual gift of £800, supplemented by the UK Government’s Gift Aid Scheme.

Donations to the 1967 Circle will be used to fund projects that enhance the student experience and will also help leverage funds for other capital projects. Payments can be set up online via www.stir.ac.uk/1967circle or by contacting the University at alumni@stir.ac.uk.

“We arrived as young students in the earliest years of the University and it transformed and shaped our lives. Joining the 1967 Circle offers an ideal opportunity to give back to the institution and support the next generation of Stirling Students.”

Kevin and Linda Clarke, Founding Members of the 1967 Circle

Shaping Stirling’s Future