Thank you to all our supporters in 2015 - we couldn’t have done it without you.

Aberdeen Asset Management, Accenture, Alzheimer Scotland, Campus Clothing, Carnegie UK Trust, Celebrate BLF Scotland, CR Smith, The Donations received between 1st January and 31st December 2015
To our valued friends and donors

Welcome to the latest edition of our supporters newsletter, Your Stirling, which showcases the extraordinary impact that your support, during 2015, has had on the University of Stirling and its students.

Every gift you make touches the lives of many students and staff across the University. In the following pages you can read how your contributions are making a real difference and changing lives every day.

This is our opportunity to say ‘Thank You’ to everyone who supports us.

With my sincere thanks & best wishes

Kerry Bryson
Director of Directorate for Advancement

Contents

4 Snapshot of the amazing things you made possible

6 The Stirling Fund and Sport

8 Scholars and Prize Winners Celebration

9 Developing Global Citizens

10 Supporting our Future Leaders

12 Making a difference in our Global Community

14 Lasting Legacies

15 The University of Stirling Donor Charter
SNAPSHOT

Your support over the last year has made a real difference to the students and staff at Stirling and had an impact in the wider community.

Snapshot of the amazing things you made possible
HERE’S WHAT YOU HAVE MADE POSSIBLE:

568 alumni volunteered their time through the alumni ambassador programme, helping students by providing valuable insights and experience.

55 students were helped to achieve their full potential, through scholarships funded by donations.

452 donors from 7 countries donated a total of £2,655,332.

35 students were trained as exhibition tour guides, engaging over 1,000 visitors and hundreds of local school children.

£25,000 was raised through our annual alumni telephone campaigns for the Stirling Fund and 2,542 students benefited from 25 Stirling Fund projects.

You supported the world-renowned golf programme providing vital equipment, a new putting surface and supporting scholarships. Scholars Cormac Sharvin and Jack McDonald played in the 45th Walker Cup.

Thank You!
The Stirling Fund has a wide-reaching positive impact on the student experience at Stirling. Last year your generosity raised over £33,000 for projects, which directly benefited over 2,500 students. Here are just a few of the projects you supported in 2014/15:

Wheelchair Basketball Gains Traction

Thanks to an enabling grant from the Stirling Fund, the Sports Union, in partnership with Basketball Scotland and Scottish Student Sport, hosted the first Scottish Universities & Colleges Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.

Since then enthusiasm for the sport continues to grow which has led to the creation of the first dedicated disability sport club at Stirling. The Sports Union is also working with partners to form a university and community club, offering wheelchair tennis and basketball.

“We hope that this initiative will break down barriers and encourage more disabled students to participate in sport at Stirling. This project highlights the inclusivity aspect with able bodied and disabled students playing sport together”.

SCOTT CHAPLAIN
Sports Development Co-ordinator
The Union

Scottish Contemporary Writers Series

The Scottish Contemporary Writers Series welcomed writers with local connections to the University to give public readings of their work. Undergraduate, Masters and Doctoral students packed out all four of the free events, which were made possible by a grant of £840 from the Stirling Fund.

Dr Liam Bell, lecturer in Creative Writing, said: “The quality of writing emerging from Stirling, as demonstrated by both our alumni and our current MLitt students, is superb and these events were the perfect opportunity to showcase that we are very grateful to our Alumni for their support.”
Dominant Clansmen Earn Widespread Support

Thanks to a committed group of donors and supporters the reigning British University and College Sport (BUCS) Champions in American Football, the University of Stirling Clansmen, have had a lot to celebrate in recent years.

The club, whose activities off the field include coaching beginners in local schools and supporting international student recruitment, have received widespread support from alumni, local business, former players, the Students’ Union and the Vice-Chancellor for a range of projects. The funds have been used to make key equipment purchases, including new helmets, cold weather gear and a bespoke scoreboard, and have also contributed towards funding high performance scholarships which enable talented student athletes to complete their studies at Stirling whilst excelling at the sport.

“On behalf of the club, I’d like to thank everyone who has donated directly or indirectly to the Clansmen over the years. Your support is helping us to attract the best players to Stirling and to give them the best experience while they’re here.”

ROB ORR
Former Head Coach

£1,000

grant towards the club’s Stirling-wide safety campaign.

The Cycling Club: Promoting Student Safety and Accessibility

The University of Stirling Cycling Club was recently launched and needed support to make the club more accessible to all students, and to support the club’s Stirling-wide safety campaign.

The Club promoted a safety campaign at Fresher’s week 2015 where they distributed safety information, high visibility snap bands and lights to over 500 students with bikes. The Club also purchased a tandem bike for less able cyclists, including those with visual impairments and other disabilities, to ride with a more experienced member of the Club and build up their confidence.

Jack Selby, Sports Studies student and Club President, said: “In our second year as a club our ambitions to be bigger, better, safer and more accessible have been made possible by a grant of £1,000 and I’d like to personally thank the many generous donors who support the Stirling Fund”.

The Gift of Education

The economic downturn saw most people having to tighten their purse strings and this is no less true of students. The University – and many of our alumni – are keen to ensure that students who experience unexpected financial hardship are supported and do not have to drop out of their studies. Over £17,000 has been provided through the Stirling Fund and your support is making a huge difference to someone experiencing hardship, both financially and emotionally.

On National giving day (#GivingTuesday) last year...

£4,000

was raised to support students in need.

“You have helped me and my children in so many ways and I can’t thank you enough. Without your help and support this year I don’t know if I would have been able to stay at University.”

“Thank you so much for the grant. It will be a massive help to my circumstances, so thank you so much, it is a big relief!”

£1,000

You have helped me and my children in so many ways and I can’t thank you enough. Without your help and support this year I don’t know if I would have been able to stay at University.”

“Thank you so much for the grant. It will be a massive help to my circumstances, so thank you so much, it is a big relief!”
Scholars and Prize Winners Celebration

The University held its second scholars and prize winners event in October 2015. The event provided the opportunity for our donors to meet the students they are supporting and be entertained by a number of student performers.
Developing Global Citizens

In implementing the University’s Internationalisation Strategy, opportunities are sought to enrich Stirling’s intellectual environment, strengthen our research performance, enhance our student experience and enable the University – and its people – to make a contribution on the global stage. Our partnerships and donors have been helping to develop international experiences and broaden horizons.

Expanding Horizons with Santander Universities

Santander Universities supports four key areas: scholarship, enterprise activities, mobility grants and internships. In the last year 55 students have benefited from Santander matched-fund mobility grants to participate in Stirling’s Study Abroad Programme in Australia, Canada, USA, Israel and Brazil. The financial support is vital as it removes the major barrier to take part in an experience that expands the mind, improves employability prospects and enriches the student experience.

“We’ve been consistently impressed by the Stirling scholars and interns who’ve taken advantage of Santander’s support in recent years, and we look forward to further developing our relationship with the university community in future.”

JONATHAN POWELL
University Regional Manager

Bringing an International Festival to Campus – Turkish Airlines

To celebrate our diverse community, with 120 nationalities on campus, the OneStirling University initiative hosted an International and Cultural Festival. The event received seed funding from the Stirling Fund and was delivered in partnership with Turkish Airlines.

The festival was designed to increase awareness and understanding of different cultures through the provision of activities focusing on food, language, art, culture and music. The Festival promoted the University’s #WeAreInternational social media campaign which celebrated international students and alumni. The campaign, run in collaboration with Education UK, Universities UK and NUS, provided a platform for students to share why they chose to study in the UK, as well as their experiences of studying in Stirling.

“Turkish Airlines is committed to creating more international links in Scotland – partnering with the University has been a fantastic opportunity for us to do that in Stirling and we very much look forward to the future.”

MR AHMET SERHAT SARI
General Manager for Edinburgh
Supporting our Future Leaders

In the last year over 265 Scholarships were supported by the University, alumni, Trust and Foundations, individuals and companies. Scholarships provide the opportunity for students, from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines, to not only achieve their ambitions but use their knowledge and expertise to support the wider community, highlighted by these examples.

Ian and Lindi Ward established the Nancy Ward Memorial Prize and Scholarship in memory of their daughter Nancy, a Stirling student who passed away in 2010 during her second year of study.

Being accepted onto the Social Work course at Stirling was a major achievement for Nancy, and one of the happiest moments in her life. It was the beginning of a journey that should have led to her reward for all her hard work and undisputed determination. She loved her time at university and while she was passionate about her studies, she was also starting to feel that Stirling was becoming her home.

Ian and Lindi Ward

Nancy Ward Memorial Prize and Scholarship – Ian and Lindi Ward

Ian and Lindi wanted to maintain a connection with Nancy’s cohort, the course and institution that Nancy felt so passionately about. To celebrate Nancy’s life and her time studying at Stirling, the couple created two new awards to recognise the work of and open new opportunities for current Social Work students. The Nancy Ward Memorial Prize and Scholarship are the first such awards specifically for Social Work students at Stirling. The awards have enhanced the prospects of recipients, developed the reputation of the department and made sure that Nancy’s commitment to her studies will long be remembered and celebrated.

“Everyone who knew Nancy would recognise the dedication she showed towards her work. She would forgo so much in order to succeed.

We feel that Nancy’s passion to succeed and her loyalty to the course and fellow students should be recognised. Her life story, though short, is inspirational. Even though Nancy is no longer here, we feel that she still has so much to give.”

IAN WARD
Robertson Scholarship Trust – Widening Participation

In 2015 the University of Stirling partnered with The Robertson Scholarship Trust, to offer bursaries of up to £4,000 each to ten students who have a background of social and financial disadvantage, which may have precluded them from attending university. The University’s Wider Participation Manager has worked closely with local schools to help to identify and support the most suitable candidates, for whom the funding would have the greatest impact.

In addition to the bursary, each student is also required to take part in a dedicated support and leadership programme called ‘Journey to Success’. This structured programme aims to help the students during their time at the University of Stirling, to develop their confidence and increase the ‘soft skills’ they will require upon completing their studies and then looking for their first job.

“I made new friends that will be attending the same university. Discovered new things about myself such as the level of determination I have to complete activities. I feel more confident to move to university.”
- Successful Student, 2015

Scholarship Saves Lives in Malawi

The Rotary Club of Bridge of Allan and Dunblane and the Limbe Club in Malawi supported student Christine Mbiza, a senior midwife, to study research methods to counter puerperal sepsis, which accounts for over 280,000 annual maternal deaths worldwide.

Christine will look to implement clean birth practices back home upon completion of her MRes in Health Research.

“My time at Stirling was very rewarding. The research at the University of Stirling is world leading and internationally recognised. The environment is very friendly, the lecturers were approachable and I have really enjoyed my time here. My main goal was to come up with evidence-based solutions to improve maternal and neo-natal health in Malawi. I have also learned about the complexities of research and the importance of stakeholder involvement when conducting health research.”
- CHRISTINE MBIZA

Dementia Scholar’s Experience – Clare Morgan

“I was grateful to receive the award of the Stirling Dementia Fund Scholarship to study on the MSc Programme in Dementia Studies at the University of Stirling, commencing in August 2014. I value the experience of studying at an international centre of excellence, at a time when dementia is at the forefront of policy agendas. I thoroughly enjoyed the two modules I completed in the first year – Dementia and the Environment and Critical and Creative Approaches to Dementia. The modules have enabled me to develop specialist knowledge, considering current research and enhancing my critical thinking and analysis skills of key issues within dementia care. My learning has also led me to further consider the challenges of using evaluation methods in practice.

I am motivated to contribute to the future development of the service we offer to people with dementia, and engaging in this course has strengthened my reflective practice, contributing to person-centred, safe, effective care, ultimately enhancing the lives of people with dementia. Having now finished the first year of studies, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for the kind donation towards my studies.”
- CLAIRE MORGAN
Specialist Occupational Therapist
Recognising Holocaust Memorial Day

In 2015 the Art Collection hosted the internationally acclaimed ‘Anne Frank: A History for Today’ exhibition along with a diverse programme of sessions for visiting school groups and tours for members of the University and the wider community. Over 1,000 visitors participated in the guided tour conducted by 35 student volunteers. The project was made possible by the generous support of the Anne Frank Trust, the Martin Connell Charitable Trust and the Stirling Fund.

“Being part of this project has not only helped me in developing my learning and communication skills within a tour environment, it has also taught me to reach a new personal connection with the Holocaust. I always knew that the Holocaust was a devastating event in history but it felt distant and desensitised as I’ve only ever looked at it from an academic point of view. This project broke those barriers not only for me but with the schoolchildren and teachers I came into contact with.”

ZOE POLLOCK
MSc student
Intern with the Art Collection as part of her Environment, Heritage and Policy course
Zambia IDEALS

Last year you helped raise over £10,000 to support three students to take part in Zambia IDEALS programme. Their programme helps hundreds of young Zambians improve the quality of their lives through sport.

In addition the IDEALS programme offers the students the opportunity to add value to their University education, enhance their global awareness, develop their leadership skills, improve their teaching abilities and develop the skills of the young Zambian people. The students use sport as a development tool to promote the benefits of physical activity. Educating and empowering young people, with a key focus on HIV and AIDS education.

Working in partnership with local non-government organisations in Zambia, UK Sport and 6 other UK universities, Stirling is leading the way in supporting this life changing cultural exchange.

David and Jillian Scott met as students at the University of Stirling – David was a member of our second intake in 1968, with Jill (née Chandler) arriving on campus the following year.

David BA and MSc in Economics, has had a career in risk management, culminating in establishing his own Financial Risk Consultancy in 2001. Jill graduated with a BSc in Biology, became a teacher and directly involved in a range of charities, as well as bringing up their young family.

David and Jill have made a series of gifts to Stirling over the years in support of the Library appeal, the Stirling Fund, as well as our scholarship programmes. However, it wasn’t until a visit to campus in 2014 that the couple were able to explore their greater philanthropic interest, and started making plans to support students with disabilities. The University provides a range of support mechanisms to students in need of some extra help, but it was the provision of specialist IT equipment and software for students with disabilities that David and Jill chose to support.

The couple had three children. Their youngest, Moira, was born blind and with a severe brain injury. David and Jill spent many years developing initiatives and supporting charities that championed people with disabilities to live as full and independent lifestyles as possible, including setting up a house in their home town which now houses eight people with a wide range of disabilities. Their objective was always to allow Moira not only to participate, but to enjoy everyday life. Sadly Moira passed away in her early 20s in 2009 having lived a very fulfilling life and touching many lives in return.

In recognition of their gifts to Stirling and in memory of their daughter, an IT training room in the Student Development and Support Service has been named ‘Moira’s Room’.

“It was wonderful being able to visit Stirling last year and talk with the Development and Support staff who are able to support students – students who may otherwise not have the opportunity to achieve their full potential at university.”

DAVID AND JILLIAN SCOTT
LEGACY

Lasting Legacy

It has been over 2 years since the University launched its legacy programme and over 100 Alumni and friends have indicated that they plan to remember the University within their will. We are honoured that so many people choose to remember the University of Stirling in this way. Leaving a legacy can ensure that Stirling remains a well-resourced, successful and vibrant world class University.

You can choose which part of the University is to benefit from your gift; for example, student scholarships, academic research, the Art collection or you can support the Stirling Fund ensuring your bequest is directed to an area of urgent student need.

In the last year the impact of one particular legacy was delivered through The Rose Project: Best for Babies research. This research will now inform decision makers to support mothers with babies who are serving a custodial sentence.

The Rose Project: Best for Babies

The Rose Project: Best for Babies was a collaborative research project delivered by the University of Stirling, in partnership with Aberlour Child Care Trust. The key aim of the Rose Project: Best for Babies was to identify existing and new ways that Scotland’s custodial estate could support babies of imprisoned mothers to ensure these children had the best start in life.

Information was collected through one-to-one interviews and with small focus groups involving both mothers and professionals. The interviewees had a range of experiences, including being pregnant in prison, living in prison with their new baby, and being separated from their baby for the duration of their sentence. The range of prison-based and community-based professionals who were interviewed worked across a variety of disciplines, including social work, health and child development. The interviews provided valuable insights into the processes, and the practical and emotional realities of supporting a baby in a prison environment.

The conclusions in the final report are that Scotland’s prison system could better support babies to stay with their mothers whilst they served their sentence, through improved physical environments, staff support, or by offering alternatives to a custodial sentence. The Rose Project also recommended that mothers and babies should be given the opportunity to stay together whenever possible, if in the best interests of the baby.

Going forward the research will be used to inform decision makers on future practice regarding mothers and their babies involved in Scotland’s criminal justice system.

The research was funded through a generous legacy of £53,000 from the estate of Dr Elizabeth Rose. Elizabeth was a highly respected obstetrician and gynaecologist, who worked at the Airthrey Castle Maternity Hospital, which now forms part of the University’s estate. Elizabeth Rose passed away in 2011, 3 days before her 95th birthday. The Rose Project: Best for Babies is named in her honour.

If you would like any further information about Legacies or would like to discuss an area of the University you would like to support please do get in touch on 01786 467364

£53,000

legacy from the estate of
Dr Elizabeth Rose helped fund the research.
The University of Stirling Donor Charter

1. To be treated by all Stirling’s staff and volunteers involved with the solicitation and receipt of donations in a fair, transparent, accurate, respectful and honest manner in accordance with all applicable laws and the professional code of fundraising ethics and good practice.

2. To inform donors of the way we intend to use funds donated to the University and emphasise our commitment to use their funds effectively and for their original intended purpose.

3. Be consulted if for any reason that the donation cannot be used for its original intended purpose and agree for an alternative use.

4. Ensure unrestricted donations are used for such purposes as the University deems the greatest need.

5. To keep our donors updated and informed by providing regular updates and reports demonstrating the impact of their donation in their area of support and to the University.

6. Invite donors to relevant annual events which highlight their philanthropy and the University’s evolving needs and priorities.

7. Appropriately and promptly acknowledge, recognise and publicise donations in consultation with donors. If requested we will respect anonymity.

8. Respect donors’ rights to privacy and fully comply with the data protection act of 1998.

9. Provide access to the University’s most updated financial accounts.

10. To resolve any complaints by a donor or prospective donor about any matter relating to the University’s fundraising activities, within 5 days. Unresolved matters will be resolved through the University’s complaints procedure and responded to within 20 days.

The University of Stirling welcomes support from individuals, trusts and foundations and corporate organisations. We are happy to discuss ways in which relationships may be fostered with potential donors.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the Donor Charter or any other aspect of development activity at the University of Stirling, please contact us on 01786 467364.
In 2017 the University will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. To Mark the occasion the Directorate for Advancement has launched 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