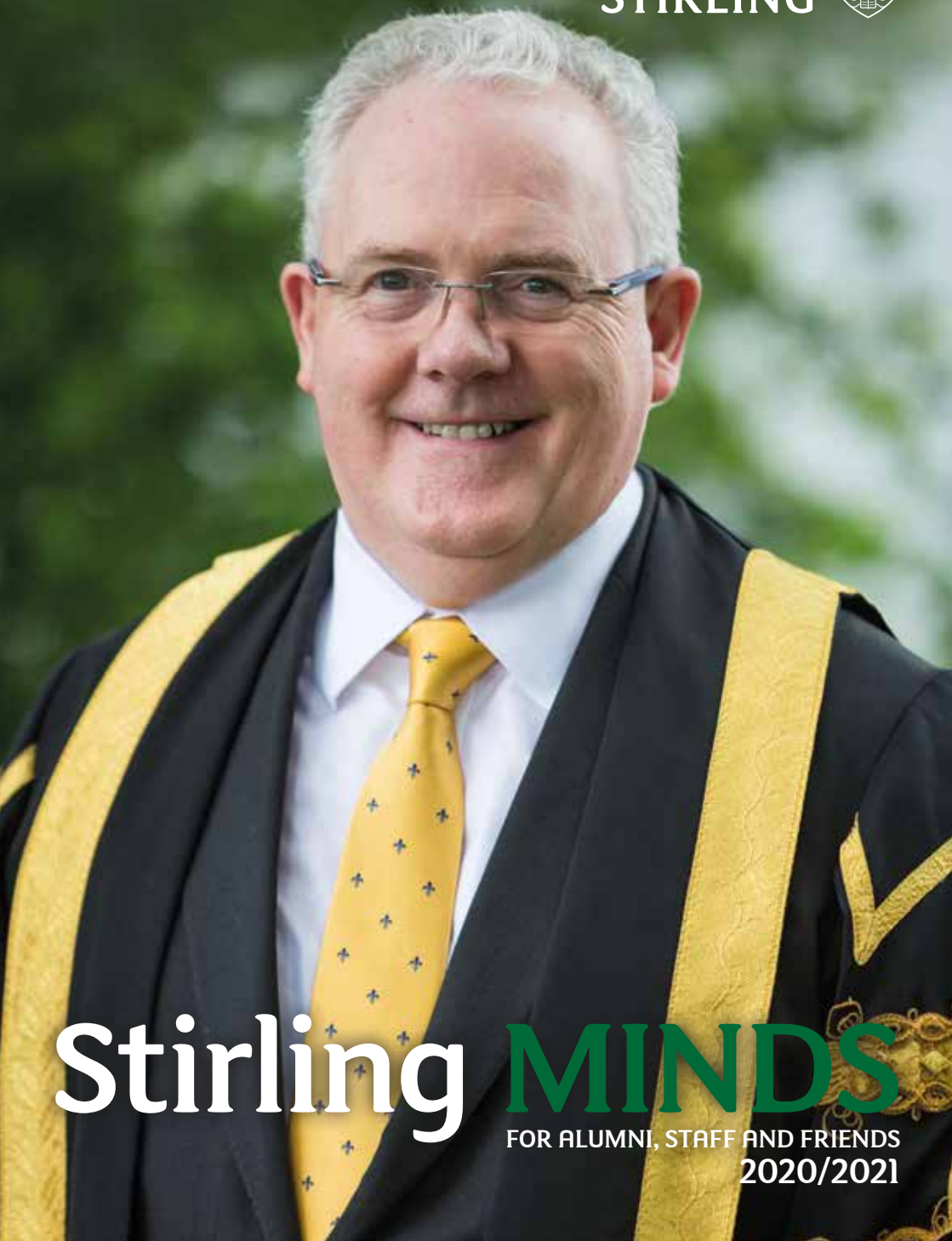


UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING



Stirling MINDS

FOR ALUMNI, STAFF AND FRIENDS
2020/2021

Letter from the Director



Dear alumni and friends:

Welcome to the latest edition of *Stirling Minds*, and a special welcome to the most recent cohorts, whose Graduation ceremonies were postponed.

This year marks my tenth year at the University and it has been a difficult one – socially, emotionally and financially. Every part of the institution

has adapted at speed despite the knowledge that, like for many businesses, there would be a funding gap. Stirling has an important role to play in providing the solutions to make a successful and sustainable recovery and throughout this edition there are inspirational stories of how staff, students and alumni have responded to the pandemic and post-Covid economic recovery plans – you will see there are many reasons to be proud of your association with the University.

In other news, the University moved up 57 places to be ranked 18th in the UK National Student Survey and moved up to 28th place in *The Guardian University Guide*. The Sports Centre opened and Campus Central (an extension to the atrium) will be completed at the end of this year. Professor Sir Gerry McCormac was

recognised in the New Year Honours, becoming the first Principal at Stirling to be knighted whilst in office. The accolade recognised in part the positive economic impact the University has had on the region over the last decade. These achievements, in such an unusual and difficult year, are testimony to our commitment to deliver a world-class education and student experience.

If you have any feedback on *Stirling Minds* or any aspect of the University please contact [✉ alumni@stir.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@stir.ac.uk).

Wherever you are in the world, stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry Bryson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kerry Bryson
Director for Global Advancement

Keeping in touch

Remember to let us know when you change address! You can do this by completing the form at [✉ http://stir.ac.uk/21d](http://stir.ac.uk/21d) or by emailing alumni@stir.ac.uk.

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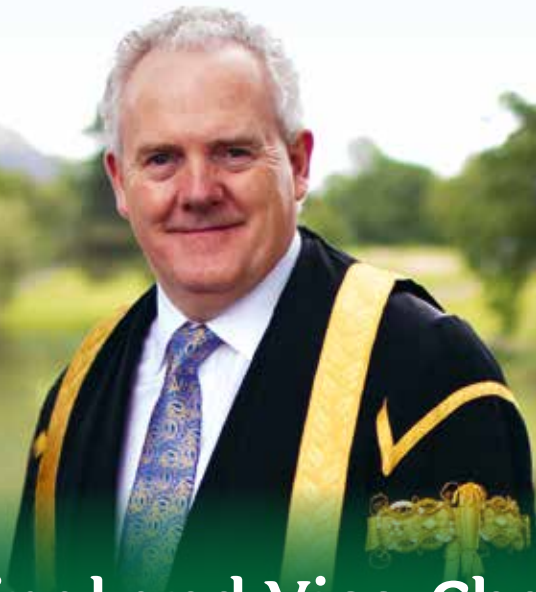
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Principal and Vice-Chancellor honoured by knighthood

Reflecting on his inclusion in the New Year Honours list, Professor Sir Gerry McCormac said he felt very honoured to receive this recognition and is indebted to the staff and students whose hard work and dedication have made the University what it is today.

He said: “Stirling is an international university with a pioneering spirit and a global reputation for high-quality teaching and research. Most importantly, it is a place where ability – not background – is valued. Our successes are testament to the tireless work of our wonderful campus community – our passionate and dedicated staff, our talented students and our inspirational alumni. The enormous challenges posed by coronavirus over the past year have shone a light on the togetherness, resilience and unwavering support of our

community. I would like to express my gratitude to all of those who have supported – and continue to support – the University.”

The accolade recognised the contribution the University makes to the local and regional economy. Today, the University generates around £380 million per annum for the economy which was an increase of 90% on an impact review carried out in 2011.

Over the last decade, Professor McCormac has overseen a significant improvement in Stirling’s research and

international presence, and has led the regeneration of the University estate – including new student accommodation, the redevelopment of the world-class sport facilities, and the ongoing Campus Central development. In addition, he has led the transformation of the student experience, with the University ranked top 20 in the UK in the latest National Student Survey.

He has served as the University’s Principal and Vice-Chancellor since May 2010 and was elected Convener of Universities Scotland in August 2020.



Queen's Anniversary Prize awarded a second time

In February 2020 the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall bestowed the UK's highest academic honour – the Queen's Anniversary Prize upon the University's Institute of Aquaculture, at a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace. The prize was awarded in recognition of the Institute's pioneering work in one of the world's fastest-growing food production sectors in a bid to tackle global hunger.

Congratulations!

We are delighted to congratulate the following alumni who were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours and the New Year's Honours:

Professor Muffy Calder OBE, BSc (Hons) Computing Science 1980,
Vice-Principal & Head of College of Science & Engineering at University of Glasgow
DBE for services to research and education

Sophie Dunnett, PGCE Tertiary Education 2001, Athletics Coach
BEM for services to amateur athletics in Scotland

John Loughton, DipHE Politics 2009, CEO Scran Academy
BEM for his services to the community during Covid-19

Andrew Miller, BA History 1988, Arts Consultant and Broadcaster
MBE for services to disability awareness in the cultural industry

Eve Muirhead, DUniv 2018, Scottish curler
MBE for services to curling

Patricia Ritchie, BA (Hons) English 1981, CEO of Newcastle City Council
CBE for services to local government and to public service reform



City Region Deal

The University is a central partner of the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal, and is leading on three City Deal projects: The National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub, Scotland's International Environment Centre and the groundbreaking Intergenerational Living Innovation Hub and Village in Clackmannanshire. These developments will ensure the University continues to be a renowned international centre for world-class research.

Read more at <http://stir.ac.uk/5xc>.

Research news

The University's reputation for research that makes a difference has positioned us on the frontline of the UK's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and we were awarded over £3.6m across a number of research projects.

The research considered the effects of the virus on society, using our expertise to search for answers with impact. Projects include an exploration into the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable children and young people; the nature and number of ambulance call-outs; the impact of loneliness and other mental health challenges; and research into the possible spread of Covid-19 through sewage. Latest research shows that the change in UK regulation of the AstraZeneca vaccine – recommending an alternative for those under 30 – has had no effect on the general public's intention to get vaccinated. Stirling economists have warned that fiscal frameworks of UK devolved governments must be made more robust in future crises.

As well as rising to the immediate challenges presented by Covid-19, we continue our work to fight against tobacco-related harm, feed communities through sustainable aquaculture research and improve the lives of people with dementia. All our research is conducted to the highest standards of quality and integrity, allowing us to support and improve life across the world.

Doors open to £20m sports facilities

The new facilities welcomed their first users at the end of 2020 briefly before the country went into another period of lockdown.

The new building includes a purpose-built studio space, an innovative fitness suite with add-on multi-use studio, a three-court sports hall, strength and conditioning area, as well as a new state-of-the-art high performance suite.

Members will benefit from enhanced changing facilities and communal spaces. The existing 50m swimming pool, six-court indoor tennis courts and eight-court sports hall have been integrated into the new building. It's been kitted out with top-of-the-range equipment from world-leading brands such as Technogym, BLK BOX, Eleiko and Outrace. Stirling's Executive Director of Sport, Cathy Gallagher, said:

"After more than four years in the making, this project has delivered a stunning new complex that will transform sport, health and wellbeing at the University.

"The past year has been an incredibly challenging time for everyone and we hope, when fully operational, the new facilities will offer a hugely positive experience for our students, staff and local community."

Do Better

Following the death of George Floyd and the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement, the University's Art Collection participated in the Scotland-wide Black Lives Matter mural trail created by Wezi Mhura.

Alloa-based artist, Suzanne Williams was commissioned and created a sculptural piece *Do Better*, which is designed to highlight those who have experienced and strived against injustices.

Art Curator Jane Cameron said: "*Do Better* is designed to make us think about our thoughts and actions. It is sited at the end of the loch bridge in the heart of the University campus where it will be passed on a daily basis by current students. We hope that the installation will have an impact and inspire positive action."

The installation is supported by the University of Stirling, UCU, Students' Union, the Macrobert Arts Centre and a number of individual donors. For more information visit <http://stir.ac.uk/5xf> or to donate please contact artcollection@stir.ac.uk or alumni@stir.ac.uk.





Designing homes for healthy cognitive ageing

The old saying ‘time waits for no one’ is certainly true with one in 12 people in the UK now over the age of 75. By 2040, it will be one in seven. Predictions are that one third of children born today will reach their 100th birthday and that half of everyone aged 65 will live the rest of their lives with a disability.

We need to find sustainable solutions on how we can remain active, productive, independent and socially connected for as long as possible. Professor Alison Bowes is leading a team of experts at the University on a major new research project to design and build virtual and real demonstrator houses as test-beds for innovations to support healthy cognitive ageing.

The designs will be evaluated by older people – using virtual reality developed by Stone Paper Scissors – in collaboration with builders, architects and housing providers to identify practical, realistic and affordable designs that can support healthy cognitive ageing, and

therefore a longer healthy, independent life in one’s own home. Our partners include Robertson Group, Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, Faithful and Gould, Holmes Miller Architects, Inch Architecture, Space Group, Kingdom Housing Association,

Housing LIN, Mediva (a medical consultancy in Japan), the UK-Japan international network on Designing for Ageing and Dementia, Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils, BoKlok/IKEA and Silviahemmet, a foundation established by the Queen of Sweden.

Pictured from left to right: Volunteer Ro Pengelly, Professor Alison Bowes, volunteer Jean Gibson and Dr Grant Gibson



The project has been awarded £1.6m through the UK Research & Innovation's healthy ageing challenge, part of the Social, Behavioural and Design Research Programme. The project will feed directly into an Intergenerational Living project and the City Region Deal for Stirling and Clackmannanshire, providing groundwork for local housing developments. The challenge is to innovate and scale up products and services that will help people as they get older, and this project is vital if we are to future-proof housing to meet the needs of the world's ageing population. CIPFA, RICS Scotland, the Institution of Civil Engineers Scotland and other professional bodies will use the research findings to develop CPD programmes for their members. If you are 50+ and would like to find out more contact [✉ grant.gibson@stir.ac.uk](mailto:grant.gibson@stir.ac.uk).



A new home for mentorship

No part of the University was unaffected by the consequences of Covid-19, and the impact of lockdown was felt particularly keenly by students with mandatory placement requirements, including our Housing students. To address this, course coordinator Dr Vikki McCall introduced an elegant solution – professional mentorship.



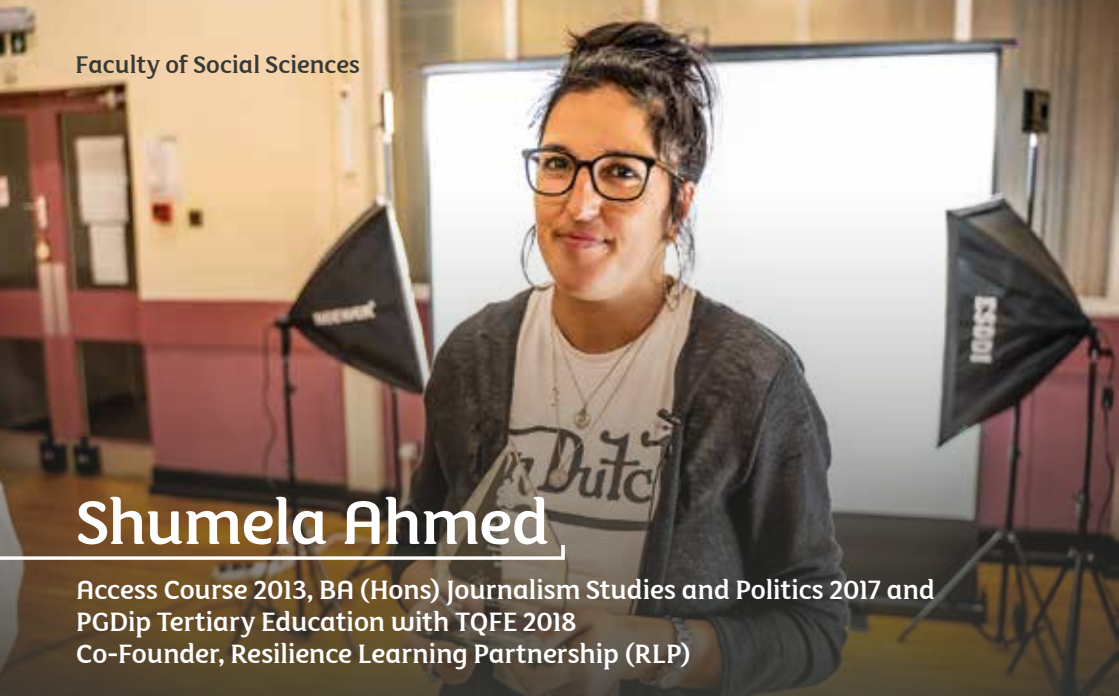
Housing programme – a testament to the calibre of Stirling graduates in the field.

Dr McCall said: “The postgraduate internship placements are a key element of building student experience and knowledge with employers. Making the personal and informal links into the housing sector and having those ‘water-cooler’ conversations is an extra challenge for students at the moment due to Covid-19, so linking our graduating and current placement students to key professionals in the sector helps career development and building those important informal networks. The housing sector is incredibly supportive of the University and our students, and the enthusiasm and motivation of mentors has been amazing.”

In another triumph for the Housing programme, the University's graduate trainee programme in partnership with Kingdom Housing Association was shortlisted for a Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland award for “Excellence in working in partnership”.

Twenty four mentors joined the programme to share invaluable knowledge gained from their work in the sector. The students benefit from real world experience, upholding the commitment to professionalism which is embedded in the course. Students discuss a range of contemporary issues and challenges with skilled practitioners during the mentorship programme, and most of these mentors are alumni of the University's

Contact [✉ vikki.mccall1@stir.ac.uk](mailto:vikki.mccall1@stir.ac.uk) about becoming a housing mentor.



Shumela Ahmed

Access Course 2013, BA (Hons) Journalism Studies and Politics 2017 and PGDip Tertiary Education with TQFE 2018
Co-Founder, Resilience Learning Partnership (RLP)

What brought you to Stirling?

I'd moved to Dunblane from Glasgow a couple of years previously, and my best friend said "you've got a uni just up the road, you really should try an access course." I was taught by amazing academics, such as Kevin Brosnan, so there was no other option for me other than more study! The education and the campus community meant that for the first time in my life, I felt a sense of belonging, something I had never felt anywhere else before.

Can you tell us about your organisation, RLP?

I always describe us as an organisation with a dual purpose: first to provide learning, development and training services for professionals across health, criminal justice, social care and education. How we do

this is our second purpose – our facilitators, educators and project leads all have lived experience as well as the relevant academic or professional skills needed to fulfil their roles. Where people might not be at the stage of holding those qualifications yet, we've found new, innovative ways of working directly with them to develop their skills.

A growing area of work for us is trauma-informed policy design consultation. We co-authored the National Trauma Training Plan with NHS Education for Scotland and we work with organisations to implement those recommendations and requirements. It's a huge piece of work which will take years to be fully realised, but it's so significant to be starting this journey.

We show that people with lived experience are more than

their experiences, and don't have to be defined by them. Lived experience is being used in more meaningful ways. Take the Care Review – I sat on that, and it was a really different way of undertaking a review. There were 140 care experienced people involved, 14 working groups, each co-chaired by someone with lived experience and a professional, and sometimes by a professional with lived experience. This movement is growing and is so much more than just participation and consultation – we're way beyond that. This is true co-production.

Why are you so passionate about trauma-informed services?

Trauma-informed services bring down barriers of engagement. It's so important to have people like dental receptionists, doctors'

receptionists, cleaners in schools, the people doing maintenance for housing associations and local authorities to have an awareness of trauma. How they interact and communicate with the people using their services changes based on trauma awareness – being trauma-informed changes how you see things. If someone presents at reception shouting and swearing, we don't think what's wrong with them, but what happened to them? This simple shift removes so much judgement.

RLP are introducing the TIER programme this year – what's involved in that?

Trauma Informed Education and Recruitment (TIER) is a six month programme that's one full day a week and is completely co-produced by me and eight other facilitators – seven of whom are third year Stirling students! These are students with lived experience, and we've co-produced this based on our own experiences of being adult returners, and the barriers we faced along the way. Our goal is for participants to have a place at Forth Valley College, the Stirling access course, or be in further training leading to meaningful employment, and we're working with these institutions and Clackmannanshire Council to do this. We'll have 12 people in each cohort and we're

supporting them with their self-discovery, aspiration and ambition.

The Crafty Kids initiative has been a lifeline to local families struggling to keep kids entertained, motivated and creative this year – can you tell us about the impact?

As the pandemic hit, we could see organisations supporting people with food, and we wanted to do something similar with crafting materials for children. We spoke to Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface, and the Chief Executive, Anthea Coulter, supported us with start-up funding. From there, it snowballed! We gained coverage on social media, local and national media, and pulled in more funding.

We have a nice big space in our base, letting us socially distance and assemble the boxes. We had an army of volunteers on furlough who helped with delivery – and we found another

unintended consequence. Our goal was to drop off the boxes, but we started so many conversations and connections with people who were isolated. Also, we could plug them into other services like foodbanks and financial support. We've delivered 3,300 boxes so far. The growth of Crafty Kids has also meant that people who were involved in our projects pre-Covid could also get paid for their time, and very quickly we started giving four people part time work. Organisations have started coming to us asking for boxes for young people in their area, which is helping us keep people in employment and makes it a sustainable model – we give away a box for every one we sell.



Crafty Kids box

YouTube channel <http://stir.ac.uk/5xi>. For more information <http://stir.ac.uk/5x3>. Visit our blog for our full interview <http://stir.ac.uk/5x6>.

Alumni families

Stirling may be a youngster on the UK higher education scene, but we're growing up fast, and delighted to see younger generations following in their parents' footsteps.



Alice and Pat



Pat on her graduation day

Meet the Ritchies

Pat BA (Hons) English 1981

Alice BA (Hons) Professional Education (Primary) with a specialism in Early Years 2017

Why Stirling?

Pat: I was the first in my family to go to university and was offered a place at Edinburgh and Stirling. I wanted somewhere different and Stirling was modern and edgy – and when I visited the campus I was hooked. The best decision I've ever made. I made the best friends of my life and six of us, all women, are still in touch.

Hardships or memories?

Pat: I was lucky to get a full grant and was reasonably

solvent, though I can remember buying clothes and albums when I got my grant cheque (including my first Bruce Springsteen bootleg in pink vinyl!). I was part of the first intake to Geddes Hall and I thought it was luxurious. I'd never had my own room, it was warm and I didn't have to fight my siblings for hot water. Greatest privilege was to be taught by Norman MacCraig – I still have my essays with his handwritten comments. I was a panellist at an Innovation & Excellence event on Housing during the 50th birthday celebrations – being in Pathfoot again brought back memories of Echo and the Bunnymen, Simple Minds and the 'All Nighter'.

Alice: My first year in Murray Hall was a shock to the system

– sharing a bathroom and kitchen with 18 other people. I remember travelling to the University, frightened of the unknown, but as soon as I met the other people in my halls, including my boyfriend, I felt a huge sense of relief – I knew I would be okay. My favourite spot was a picnic by the loch – I wish I could go back and visit more.

Favourite student meal?

Pat: My Auntie Norma's cheese and onion bridies. She would send me off at the beginning of every semester with a big box of them, I was very popular at the start of term.

Alice: Macaroni cheese and curly fries from the Students' Union – cheap and delicious. A close second was an egg and tattie scone roll.



Pictured from left to right: Jordan, Scott and Blair



Scott at the Sports Union Ball in 1980

Meet the Haldanes

Scott BA (Hons)
Accountancy 1981

Blair BSc (Hons)
Environmental Geography/
Professional Education 2008

Jordan BAcc (Hons)
Accountancy 2010

Why Stirling?

Scott: I remember the day vividly. It rained when I visited Glasgow and Strathclyde and it was a glorious day when I came to Stirling. As I walked across the bridge towards the residencies, I knew I belonged.

Blair: I chose Stirling as my dad never tired of telling me how brilliant it was. Also the campus life and the football – two things I was looking for in my University experience!

Jordan: Stirling had a great reputation for accountancy and finance, and I found the subject to be wide and varied. After

graduation I carefully selected my graduate placement – I've been with the firm ever since.

Best memory?

Scott: Trying to throw the late, great John Martyn out from the refectory thinking he was trying to sneak in, only to be told he was actually the headline act that night. Or roading for Simple Minds and Siouxsie and the Banshees – and I got paid to do it. Excellent! And playing for the University first 11 football team.

Favourite student meal?

Scott: Anything from a Vesta cardboard box.

Blair: Chicken kiev's and chips with brown sauce.

Jordan: Chilli – easy to whip up and plenty left over for lunch the next day.

How are you involved with the University today?

Scott: I've been a member of University Court since 2012 and have really enjoyed 'giving back'

over the years. To this day, I still get that same 'buzz' when I attend meetings on campus as I did the very first time I came to Stirling.

Blair: I have returned three times to do a guest lecture spot for the Education programme to hopefully inspire teachers in training for life in the profession. Best advice I got was "do a job you love and you'll never work a day in your life."

Younger alums: will there be a 3rd generation coming to Stirling?

Alice: Never say never!

Blair: With two kids now, I certainly hope so. The decision will be theirs but I will recommend Stirling and will fill their heads with as many positive stories as I can!

Jordan: Absolutely! My wife went to Stirling too and loved it. If my daughters ask me for advice I know where to recommend.

Read the full interviews at <http://stir.ac.uk/5x6>.

We'd love to hear from other generations so contact us at alumni@stir.ac.uk.

National recognition, local recovery

Throughout the pandemic, Stirling Management School (SMS) has worked in partnership with Strathclyde Business School and The Hunter Foundation on ways to help Scottish SMEs to survive and thrive beyond Covid-19. Professor Kevin Grant and his team have extended the Scottish scale-up project and supported our local business community through popular applied consultancy projects, their business sanctuary approach and with the support of our entrepreneur-in-residence.

Calling all local SMEs



Professor Kevin Grant, Dean of SMS, speaking at an alumni event in China in 2019

The University is supporting small and medium sized enterprises in the Forth Valley region through a management training programme as part of Help to Grow, the

UK Government's flagship business recovery programme. Announced by Chancellor Rishi Sunak, the programme is part of a £520 million initiative which will support 130,000 SMEs and boost productivity by providing access to one-to-one support and training from the UK's top business schools.

SMS is one of only two business schools in Scotland to have the Small Business Charter – accreditation needed to lead the programme. The training is 90% funded by the UK Government reducing the cost per participant to £750. SMS will offer a 12-week programme, designed to allow participants to complete it alongside full time work, which will help senior management boost their business' performance, resilience, and long-term growth.

Acknowledging the need for targeted recovery support, Professor Kevin Grant said:

"SMEs are the backbone of our economy and the last year has been really tough for them. This is a valuable opportunity for small firms who want to re-evaluate the way they operate, expand, upskill and help strengthen the local economy. Through a mix of online teaching, masterclasses and interactive sessions, this training programme will help business leaders to develop leadership and management skills and provide them with the knowledge, tools and confidence to implement change and adopt new and improved business practices."

Open to SMEs who have been in operation for at least a year and employing between five and 250 staff members, the programme represents Stirling's commitment to supporting local recovery.

The courses will start in June 2021. To book your place, visit <http://stir.ac.uk/5xl>.

Introducing the Inaugural Entrepreneur-in-residence

Stirling Minds caught up with Honorary Professor Scott Brady to ask him about this new role.



“The brief is to use my experience to support and counsel staff, students and doctoral researchers with an interest in entrepreneurship.

But in practice, it’s been much more than that: the creation of the role has been a call to action for aspiring student and alumni entrepreneurs to engage with the University’s Innovation and Enterprise programmes that are already well established and delivering tangible results. I often signpost individuals to the Enterprise Programme which supports those seeking business start-up and skills-development. My role is to nurture these pathways.

“I came to Stirling because I had identified keen researchers, committed leaders, innovative programmes and strong values of delivering the best range of programmes I’ve seen in Scotland. For example, the student society LEEP (Leadership,

Entrepreneurship, Employability and Personal Finance) has a community platform to nurture the skills and talents of future leaders. I support and encourage seminars and frequent interactions wholly focussed on developing our students. I and other guest speakers share our journeys and knowledge to the society members. The essence of a successful story of past success will foster future successes. LEEP creates that future for Stirling.”

Scott Brady is a successful businessman with extensive international experience. He is Managing Director of ecos and SB Global HR and Legal LLP. He also sits on the SMS Business Advisory Board.

For more information or to be a guest speaker contact Fiona McMillan via

✉ alumni@stir.ac.uk

Star Marketing Student of the Year 2020

Holly Millward (BA Hons Business Studies and Marketing 2020), won the award at the prestigious Marketing Society Awards – the third Stirling student to triumph in the competition in recent years.

As part of her prize, Holly entered into a three-month paid internship at Edrington-Beam Suntory UK (E-BS), and then secured a role as their Marketing Graduate in the Insights & Reporting Team. Holly told us that she was very grateful for the Marketing Society’s Star Award and the support of E-BS and the University – “entering the world of work as a graduate is challenging at the best of times and was (especially so) with the added difficulties presented by Covid-19, and the impact it has had on the job market.”





Dan Brown, BA (Hons) Retail Marketing 2014

Position: President, Scottish Grocers' Federation (SGF)

From an early age Dan Brown worked alongside his father in various different convenience stores. After graduating, he completed his store manager training at Scotmid Co-operative. In 2018 he became Managing Director for Lothian Stores Ltd, who operate Nisa Pinkie Farm Convenience Store in Musselburgh. He has the distinction of being the youngest President of SGF.

Congratulations on winning the Scottish Grocer Innovation Award. How did you achieve this?

We improved the customer experience at Nisa Pinkie Farm Convenience Store by incorporating a kitchen in-house – our chef makes meals for customers using products that we sell in the store. We also use local suppliers, customers like to know the origin of their food and how it's been prepared. Finally, we constantly seek ways to improve: how can we tell the story through digital platforms and how can we make the shopping experience faster. We've won quite a few other awards too. It's been a lot of hard work – I can't say it's

always been easy! You have to make sure you have the right people around you and not be afraid to ask your team or extended network for help.

How did your studies at Stirling prepare you for a career in retail?

'Learning to learn' was a phrase that my lecturers used and at the time I found the phrase somewhat annoying! However, this was actually one of the most useful things I learned – you have to be able to question something, have the ability to research it and then confidently make fact-based decisions, all whilst trying to hit tight deadlines and budgets.

How have you coped in the last year?

The main challenge has been adapting to a more digital world and overcoming various different technical issues. Covid-19 has had an impact on networking as so many helpful conversations come from physically being out and integrating with others.

Who do you most admire and why?

My father – always. He taught me from an early age to face everything with a can-do attitude and has provided me with the encouragement and support to do so no matter how big the challenge.

What's next for you, Dan?

At Lothian Stores the goal is to redefine convenience retailing. We're hoping to create a model that allows us to do so and then hopefully get a few more stores under our belt using the same model. Within my role at the SGF, I hope to ensure that the opportunities are there for every retailer to be able to do the same.

How do you like to unwind when you're not working?

Unwinding is an incredibly important part of life and I've only just discovered this in the last year or so – and in finding the time to spend on other interests, I've found myself 10x more productive when I am at work. Being involved in busy shops and offices all day makes it difficult to clear your head and take time to reflect. Exploring the silence of the outdoors allows me to relax and keep a steady head.

Do you have any advice for Stirling students?

Make the most of it! The real-world hits you hard and fast. I rushed through my four years and if I could do them again, I would definitely involve myself in more of the extra-curricular opportunities and fully interrogate the knowledge and experience of my lecturers.



Pandemics: then and now

Across the world Covid-19 has created unprecedented social and economic challenges. To the historian, however, the challenges of contagion, curfews and travel restrictions are all too familiar.

Professor Richard Oram, Dean of the Faculty, has been highlighting many of the comparisons through his excellent contributions to the James I: King of Scotland blog. Richard positions Scotland as one of the most advanced northern European states by passing basic legislation between 1456 and 1462

empowering local authorities to take all necessary steps to 'staunch' the epidemics – years before Henry VIII's government did the same in England.

Dogs, pigs and children

By examining burgh council records, Richard has found extensive evidence of

'lockdown', with restrictions put in place across Scotland during times of plague, dating back to earlier government acts passed in Edinburgh in 1499. These limited the movement of people and goods and called for the closure of spaces where people gathered – including schools. He notes: "along with school-closures came the instruction

that all children under the age of 15 were to remain indoors, along with dogs and pigs, revealing the three main groups believed to be the most likely vectors of disease transmission through their common attraction to filth!"

Hefty fines and death penalties for breaking the rules

Edinburgh was a community dependent on trade, but the fear of contagion was so severe that the councillors, who were all leading merchants themselves, effectively stopped the flow of goods to and from towns and districts, even where infection was just 'suspected'. In a step which echoes recent restrictions on commerce, they suspended Edinburgh's markets and halted all trading within the burgh. Again, when we think of the identified risks of transmission of Covid-19 from one infected person within a larger group, in crowded or confined spaces, these steps are now very familiar in the modern world. A century later, Glasgow's 1574 enactments are a chilling record of a very local response to epidemic within a community that felt beleaguered and fearful of 'what was happening out there'. Glasgow's councillors identified 'suspect places' where they knew plague was already raging and barred entry to Glasgow for all folk



from Leith, Kirkcaldy, Dysart and Burntisland. Glaswegians were prohibited to travel under pain of death to those places. They believed that Edinburgh itself was largely plague free, so Glaswegians could travel to there if they had secured a testimonial from the council that they were 'clean' of disease. On their return, they were required to present another statement from the bailies of Edinburgh to the council in Glasgow to prove that they were still 'clean'. Reciprocally, no-one from Edinburgh was to be received into Glasgow without a testimonial; those who tried faced a hefty £10 fine (which equates to c. £4,300 in 2020 currency)!

Places of worship were included in the most recent lockdown rules and this was also a concern in the past. A considerable amount of detail in the 1456 act of parliament

was devoted to religious arrangements. One of the acts extended the King's protection to clergy who breached quarantine rules to conduct services in the hopes that divine intervention would staunch the spread of plague. Like all diseases, plague was believed to be a scourge sent by God to punish humanity for its sins, a spiritual malaise that manifested itself externally in the corruption of the victim's body. Prayers and devotions were believed to be a more certain cure than prophylactics or any medical treatment. Religious practice remained a feature of plague control measures in Scotland to the mid-seventeenth century, with every epidemic outbreak being accompanied by instructions from the King's council for a re-application of the 1456 act and the enforcement of a strict regime of prayer, fasting and abstinence from sexual activity,



Then: image of graveyard in Edinburgh



Now: city streets during lockdown

group festivities and general excess of celebrations. Our collective experiences over the last year would show that social distancing and

restrictions have slowed the spread of Covid-19. A historian might argue that it is simply the enforcement of centuries-old policies that were known to work.

For more insights to the life and times of King James 1 including a link to the blog and a plan to discover the lost tomb of King James visit <http://stir.ac.uk/5xo>.

Expert governance for Scotland's environmental future



Leading environmental law expert Dr Annalisa Savaresi has been appointed to serve as a member of the board of Scotland's new environmental body – Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS).

Dr Savaresi is a renowned expert in climate change law and the interplay between human rights and environmental law, with extensive experience working with international and non-governmental organisations.

Launched in January 2021, ESS is tasked to ensure the effectiveness of environmental law in Scotland and prevent

enforcement gaps following the UK's departure from the European Union.

When fully established as a statutory body, ESS will monitor and investigate public authorities' compliance with environmental law and will be vested with powers to secure public authorities' compliance.

Dr Savaresi said: "I am delighted to have been selected to serve in one of the most important public bodies set up in Scotland since the devolution settlement. I look forward to working with the ESS Board to support Scotland's environmental ambitions."

Reinterpreting through radar – the secrets of Dunfermline Abbey

Led by University historian Dr Michael Penman, an innovative three-year project with the Abbey Church of Dunfermline, Fife Council and Historic Environment Scotland used ground-penetrating radar to study Dunfermline Abbey. The results allowed the team to create a speculative plan of the lost medieval choir – an area left ruinous following the Protestant Reformation in 1560.

This allows visitors to re-envisage the medieval church as a whole, with many elite tombs and a symmetrical pilgrimage ambulatory arranged in veneration of a northern Lady Chapel and the east-end shrine of Scottish queen, St Margaret (d.1093). The combination of cutting-edge radar technology and archival evidence also raised questions about the true gravesite of Bruce, Robert I King of Scots (1306-29).

Dr Penman said: “In 1818, architect William Burn uncovered a grave and a lead-encased skeleton, which was generally accepted as being

Bruce’s remains. However, combining our radar evidence with measurements taken by local historian Ebenezer Henderson in 1854, raises the likelihood that the position of this original gravesite was too close to the screened high altar for it to have been the original burial site.

“One possibility is that this site was a ‘rescue’ burial by monks who reportedly stayed on at Dunfermline until around 1580, in defiance of the Reformation, and who perhaps saved these remains after a box tomb was destroyed. That would explain why this skeleton was found covered in a late 16th- or 17th-

century ‘anthropomorphic’ lead shroud in quite a shallow, crude grave slot.

“Through this study, we also found potential evidence of the existence of double tombs, and it could also have been the case that Bruce was originally buried within the northern central presbytery of the choir, together with his Queen, Elizabeth de Burgh.”

Dunfermline was founded as a priory before becoming an abbey under David I, and ultimately a royal mausoleum – some of Scotland’s most famous monarchs have been laid to rest in the grounds.



Michael Hines

BA (Hons) Film & Media 1989

Michael Hines (centre) with Ford Kiernan (left) and Greg Hemphill

Position: Television and film director

What made you choose Stirling?

It was the only university that offered me a place to do English and Education at the time. I'd foolishly applied elsewhere to do Computing Science – a very daft move!

Who was your favourite lecturer?

I took music in the first semester and there was this bonkers brilliant Music lecturer called Otto Karolyi who made a real impact on me. I've not chosen any single Film and Media lecturer as that would be unfair!

Congratulations on the BAFTA for Outstanding Contribution! What was it like to receive such an accolade?

Enormously proud – BAFTA awards are for excellence in the industry, and to be recognised by your peers for the body of work (*Still Game* in this case) was lovely.

Are you missing Jack and Victor?

Ha! I miss the banter and the great fun we had filming but not standing outside in Maryhill in the rain waiting for a couple of neds to stop shouting "Ya couple of fannies" at us.

What was it like doing the stage show?

Terrifying at first! On TV you can do another take if something messes up, but here you have to trust the cast to fly with it. I'd not really directed stage before, so to be directing a 10,000 seater arena and the seven cameras for the big screens simultaneously was a big task, but I loved it and each of the three shows we did stuff you'd never be able to do on TV.

Which was your favourite *Chewin' the Fat* sketch?

The one that makes me laugh every time is where the One-Man Band tries to go to the toilet. Greg Hemphill backs into

a cubicle and all the noise of the instruments etc. It's hysterical.

I note that you're also a celebrant! That sounds so rewarding – tell us more?

I've been a humanist celebrant for a few years, it's such a lovely privilege to be able to marry couples. I don't do many but it's a lovely thing to do.

What have you read over the last year that you'd recommend to us?

A Stirling alumna, Sara Evans, has written a wonderful book about lions called *When The Last Lion Roars*. It's melancholy but deep-felt.

What do you have planned for the future?

I've just signed a deal for a very exciting project that will take me six months of next year so I'm looking forward to that. I'll let you know more about it when I can!



Spotlight on humanitarian careers

Where can a Stirling degree take you? Worldwide into conflict and disasters. Ten Stirling graduates are working for victims of war and disaster in some of the most difficult places on earth.

They are caring for traumatised refugees from the conflict in Syria; managing projects for displaced people in the Democratic Republic of Congo; working on malaria prevention programmes in Myanmar; bringing clean water to the people of the Punjab; building resilience in earthquake zones; and advocating safe sex in Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Professorial Fellow Sir George Reid – former Director of Public Affairs of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent in Geneva – has taught the UK’s first module in Humanitarian Action for six years at the University as part of

the MSc International Conflict and Cooperation programme.

“Humanitarian action is not for the faint hearted,” he said. “The module is all about testing theory against actual case studies. It’s about how to care for the most vulnerable people on earth. And accepting that you may have to eat goat meat for ten days in a row, while scratching heat rash and finding sand in the most unlikely parts of your body.”

The module offers one-to-one coaching on placements in the United Nations and international aid agencies. “There are many different

routes into a career in humanitarian work,” says Sir George. “Managing relief and rehabilitation projects, healthcare, conflict resolution, human rights, advocacy, global warming, communication and governance.

“No matter how good you are academically, however, you need people-to-people skills. One student – teetering on the border of a re-sit – simply got on a plane, knocked doors and volunteered. But he could fix a broken water pipeline or rundown radio system. He went on to run a relief programme in Gaza.”



Mathilde Ligneau (pictured above) went from Stirling to UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) in Geneva and then to Jordan, working for the Syria mission. Now running a \$14m programme for displaced people in the Democratic Republic of Congo, she says: "The MSC programme gave me a complete overview of humanitarian action."

Tanaka Musakambeva (pictured right), now a UK civil servant

awaiting transfer to the Department for International Cooperation, went to Zambia and worked on STI and AIDS prevention programmes, says: "There is enormous satisfaction in helping poor people live better lives."

Mimosa Hedberg (pictured far left) was selected, out of several hundred applicants, for an internship with United Nations Office for Project Services in Myanmar, working on health projects, mainly anti-malaria and work against tuberculosis. She now is based in Nepal with Finnish development cooperation organisation Felm. She says: "The Stirling module was crucial in launching my career. Sir George didn't just teach theory. He challenged students, in actual case studies impacted by politics



and ethical dilemmas, to say what we would actually do when disaster strikes."

The **Rt Hon Sir George Reid** is a former MP, MSP and Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament. Between Westminster and Holyrood, he worked for 12 years in wars and disasters worldwide. Since his retirement from politics, he has engaged in conflict resolution in Bangsamoro, the Caucasus and Moldova/Transnistria.

New Global Management programme launched in China

The Stirling Management School and University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (UCASS) have launched a new Doctor of Management (DMan) programme in Beijing.

The programme aims to develop top level managerial talent for a global economy whilst also being in tune with local needs, conditions and perspectives, and will be delivered by leading academics from both institutions.

The DMan is the first of its kind to be delivered in partnership in China and the first professional doctoral programme to be



approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education in many years, indicating a high regard for University of Stirling awards in this overseas market.

It can be completed part-time over three to five years depending on the participants' pace of learning. Students will be

expected to conduct research on a novel aspect of management and to make an original contribution to knowledge in their field of professional practice.

Alumni in China interested in the programme should contact Miya Wang on 13810619620 or register via <http://stir.ac.uk/5xu>.



Developing careers

The need for the University to play its part in the economic recovery, address the skills gaps in industry, and ensure we have employer-ready graduates, has never been more important.

Microcredentials – go further faster

This year the University launched a series of free online short courses to meet the needs of people wanting to develop their careers and employers looking to upskill their workforce.

Microcredentials are short courses which deliver specialist knowledge and develop skills

in critical areas, improving workplace competencies and supporting career advancement. Hundreds of places were available to individuals living in Scotland to undertake courses in project management, data analytics, and leadership in the age of AI. The upskilling project was supported by the Scottish Funding Council's Upskilling Fund.

New BSc Graduate Apprenticeship in Data Science

The Faculty of Natural Sciences has welcomed the first students to its flagship Graduate Apprenticeship (GA) programme.

GAs are an innovative new learning model designed in collaboration with industry to blend academic and work-based education. With tuition

Pam Crawford
(MBA 2012) pictured with
Thomas Tierney (BA Hons
Business Studies 2017)



fees covered by Scottish Government funding, this new programme provides an attractive and cost-effective route for organisations to upskill their existing workforce or recruit motivated new talent. Spending 80% of their time in the workplace and 20% engaged in study, our apprentices learn to collect, manage and analyse big, fast-moving data, while solving

the problems unique to each organisation.

Programme Director Dr Mario Kolberg (pictured) said: "We are delighted at the response to the launch of our BSc Graduate Apprenticeship in Data Science, and we welcome those students who have joined us. The launch is timely and will upskill and develop apprentices in the workplace, ready to make a positive impact in their company and the Scottish economy."

This first cohort includes apprentices from the Student Loan Company, Abellio, and several local authorities amongst others. Apprentice James McKenna from Scottish Fire and Rescue said: "As a full-time employee whose last experience of further education was over 12 years ago, this GA programme has been a fantastic opportunity. I applied to further my knowledge, skills and confidence as a Data Analyst. The programme's flexible and collaborative approach to learning, along with the support of my employer, has allowed me to study and attend classes with minimal impact on my day-to-day job. I have also enjoyed being welcomed as a full member of the University of Stirling."

Virtual placements, real experience

Industry placements and work-based projects provide valuable



employability experience to students, and they also make a hugely positive impact on the organisation. However, with Covid restrictions bringing new challenges to employers and preventing students accessing workplaces, the University quickly had to introduce virtual alternatives.

Pam Crawford, Head of the Careers and Employability Service said: "University staff, students and our contacts in business have responded in such a positive, innovative and agile manner to the introduction of virtual placements, projects and internships. Home working actually opened up opportunities for students and businesses to work more flexibly without location or geography being a barrier. We aim to offer virtual opportunities as an alternative to traditional placements and hope to engage more businesses globally to work with us."

For a discussion about the benefits of GAs, hosting a student internship or placement or engaging a student in a consultancy project, email Fiona McMillan on alumni@stir.ac.uk.



€9m Horizon funded project to clean up the Black Sea

Can the planet's most polluted sea be saved?

Fish stocks and species diversity in the Black Sea are under severe stress as a result of decades of human-induced pressures from pollution and eutrophication, the impacts from which have been compounded further by climate change.

The water quality deteriorated to such an extent that many wondered whether the Black Sea might become the first major sea devoid of life. Despite the fragility of its ecosystem, if managed effectively the Black Sea can recover and present important regional Blue Growth opportunities for the economies of the Black Sea countries.

The Black Sea is bordered by Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine with a rich cultural heritage, biodiversity and natural

resources. It is supplied by major rivers including the Danube, Dnieper and the watersheds of many countries drain into the sea beyond the six that share its coast. In order to address and reverse the environmental impacts, there needs to be a common understanding across countries of the problems and then a framework to effect real behavioural change across the Black Sea's complex geo-political and governance landscape.

An international research team from 17 countries, led by Romania, with detailed knowledge of the whole Black Sea Region and its needs is embarking on a new project to develop an optimised open research support system for the Black Sea and create a framework to overcome the barriers to advancing the Blue Growth agenda. The

consortium, involving the collaboration of 37 partners – including the University of Stirling – will combine its regional knowledge with state-of-the-art capability in: marine science and observation; modelling; social and economic studies; Blue Growth and entrepreneurship; societal engagement and environmental stewardship. The €9m project, entitled Developing Optimal and Open Research Support (DOORS) for the Black Sea, has secured funding from Horizon 2020. It will bring together existing fragmented monitoring efforts, deliver state-of-the-art observation capability, engage individuals through citizen science and provide a harmonized 'fit for purpose' information system and capacity building framework. The aim is to ensure it is valued by the users because it maximises



benefits to policy, business and Black Sea communities.

Real change can only be brought about by the close cooperation between science, policy and industry. DOORS will engage stakeholders from inception, share knowledge and best-practice and work on co-developing and co-creating innovation action across the key actors. Challenges will be turned into opportunities and the

environment will be at the heart of decision making. The approach will facilitate and encourage buy-in from external investors and stimulate enterprise to support the Green Recovery and Blue Growth opportunities. The aims are growth and job creation in the marine and maritime sector in the Black Sea region, prioritising the sustainable development of solutions and those companies oriented towards zero-polluting,

circular and blue economies and marine-based solutions and technologies.

The DOORS legacy will be to ensure the Black Sea is highly valued by creating a culture of opportunity between environment, inclusion and economic growth. Stirling's research and impact continue to ensure our planet is better tomorrow than it was yesterday.

Pictured on page 26, DOORS bid team from left to right: Carlos Loureiro, Kerry Bryson, Armando Marino, Professor Andrew Tyler, Peter Hunter and Evangelos Spyrakos (not pictured but very much part of the team). The bid was led by Professor Adrian Stanica, Director of GeoEcoMar in Romania and Honorary Professor at Stirling. It was also supported by BT and members of the alumni family including Chancellor Lord Jack McConnell, wildlife presenter Gordon Buchanan, creative director Michael Rea and BAFTA award-winning cameraman Doug Allan.



Helping elephants tackle climate change

In 1980, Caroline Tutin, a University researcher who completed her doctoral studies under venerated behavioural scientist Dr Jane Goodall, went to Africa to carry out a pioneering census on how gorillas and chimpanzees interact in the wild.

Gabon was the natural location to study ape ecology and how they search for food. Caroline

also meticulously documented month by month the forest's behaviour and the production of leaves, fruit and flowers of over 1,000 individual trees. She noted the temperature, humidity and rainfall every day without fail. At the time no one else was engaging with nature in this way but these small actions have had major significance in creating the data for understanding and predicting climate change. In 1993, Caroline published her analysis showing that temperature was controlling flowering in several species,

and she predicted some significant effects of global warming.

The research team in the Faculty of Natural Sciences, together with colleagues from the Gabon National Parks Agency, have continued to collect the data. The resulting datasets held at *The Station d'Etudes des Gorilles et Chimpanzes* at Lopé are now recognised as a precious global asset, as the only unbroken record of 40 years of local weather and concomitant ecological change in the whole African tropics.



In 2020, Stirling and Gabonese partners published a paper in the leading journal *Science*, showing that fruit production has crashed across the Lopé forest, with climatic drivers being the most likely cause of the change. Elephants now have to search five times harder for fruiting trees and find less fruit when they get there. Elephants are generally thinner than they were 20 years ago, which is likely to result in fewer pregnancies, higher infant mortality and lower longevity. Disease, parasites and stress all also increase as

body condition drops. Current research is concentrating on understanding these impacts. Although a tragic story, it is an important one. Today the national Elephant Protection Strategy is changing to include focus on assessing the impacts of disease and nutrition, and on ensuring landscape connectivity, so that elephants can search for their food. Crop raiding mitigation measures include habitat enrichment rather than relying on elephant barriers. Anti-poaching strategies must identify and protect key feeding grounds. Stirling now has PhD

students working on all of these issues, to support the Gabonese government's aim to find effective management solutions as rapidly as possible.

This case study is testimony to Stirling's engagement in Gabon. The long term approach and our attention to excellence in natural history ensure that we ask the right questions and use our quantitative science to answer robustly, using our outstanding datasets. Our research has produced relevant evidence that is informing proactive policies on the ground.

Meet the academic

Andrew Tyler, Professor of Environmental Science FRSE



Andrew Tyler is the academic lead for the new £22m Scottish International Environment Centre.

Andrew leads the Earth and Planetary Observation Research Group, pioneering the use of Earth observation technologies for quantifying water quality and water quantity at local and global scales. He also leads the ISO 17025 accredited Environmental Radioactivity Laboratory, which supports the activities of SEPA and other UK Environment Regulators. He was recently appointed to the Scotland Hydro Nation Chair.

Andrew joined Stirling in 1994. He studied Geological Sciences at Aston University, completed his MSc in Remote Sensing & Digital Image Processing at the University of

Dundee, and his PhD is from the University of Glasgow, developing helicopter-based gamma spectrometry capability in the wake of the Chernobyl accident.

What motivates you every morning?

Working with my phenomenal colleagues on research and innovation projects including carbon-related research from the mountains of tropical Asia to Arctic tundra and projects on forest restoration and climate change impacts in Latin America, West Africa and Europe. We are world-leading in research into water quality,

pathogens and microplastic pollution and the development of pioneering methods exploiting satellite-based Earth observation for assessment and change detection in forest biomass and water quality. We monitor over 50% of the world's freshwater lakes to understand how these environments are responding to climate changes. Our teams and partners tackle global challenges on a daily basis, and knowing that we are making a real difference in communities, the environment, policy and industry is truly motivational and inspiring.

Hobbies

Music – piano, cooking, cycling, running (although I'm slower than my wife), hillwalking, gardening and family time.

Favourite book?

Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons. I think this is the book that made me genuinely laugh out loud!

If you had a superpower, what would it be?

The power of laughter! It brings people together, builds bonds and benefits our health and wellbeing.

Who is your hero?

There is no other, Sir David Attenborough.

Proudest moment?

Getting married of course and the birth of my two sons.

How about 'career highlight' to date?

Receiving the Order of Cultural Merit from the President of Romania for leadership in building the DANUBIUS-RI pan-European Research Infrastructure on River-Sea Systems.

Your passion to tackle biodiversity and zero carbon challenges is clear. What are you working on right now?

We have a number of European, ESA and UK funded projects that drive our science and its impact. One exciting project is Scotland's first Green Recovery

Platform, where we are scaling down our satellite Earth observation capability to the catchment scale of the Firth of Forth. The technology coupled with sensors, modelling and AI is enabling us, for the first time, to deliver near real time now-casting and forecasting of water quality and quantity thereby bringing environmental intelligence into the heart of decision making. This new knowledge is driving solutions to climate resilience, innovation opportunities for net zero, promoting biodiversity and driving the Green Recovery.

It is only by collectively co-developing solutions that we will unlock the climate challenge so our work with industry, statutory agencies and communities is really important. On a larger scale, we are now the key partner on a new EU Horizon 2020 project working with 37 partners around the world on a project to clean up the Black Sea, and ensure the 'once most polluted ocean in the world' is valued and can drive Blue Growth opportunities. This too will deliver real innovation opportunities for Scotland and the UK.

Andrew with **Matthew Blake**
(BSc Hons Environmental Science 2014)



New research into resilience of Scots pine

As extreme droughts are expected to become more frequent and bring greater consequences, it is vital that we understand how trees respond to and recover from such events. PhD researcher Tom Ovenden has explored the impact of drought on Scots pine in the British Ecological Society's *Journal of Ecology*.

Tom's research used dynamic regression to capture each tree's relationship between climate and growth before drought. This relationship was then combined with post-drought climate data to forecast tree growth annually for the drought year and nine subsequent years, representing a scenario where no drought had occurred. This allowed the team to compare observed annual growth with forecasted growth to calculate tree-level recovery times, quantify drought impact on tree growth and understand the implications for the wider forest over time.

Tom said: "Crucially, we documented a pattern of compensatory growth in the latter stages of the nine-year post-drought period we considered, after the trees had already recovered. As a result, some trees actually grew faster during this post-recovery period than would have been expected if drought had never occurred – meaning that the wider forest also recovered some of its lost biomass."

This compensatory growth was sufficient to reduce estimates of drought-induced losses of radial growth, meaning that the total impact of drought was less after nine years than after four years – the most commonly considered post-drought period. Tom cautioned that there was a need to establish if compensatory growth mechanisms are more widespread in other species, regions and conditions before drawing wider conclusions as to their importance in mitigating drought impact, warning that "even if found to be more widespread, as compensatory growth necessarily

occurs post-recovery, increases in drought frequency and severity could overwhelm any benefits."



Enjoy Tom's findings here:
🔗 <http://stir.ac.uk/5xx>.

Remembering an inspirational lady

Kate Howie was a much loved teacher and respected colleague who sadly died in January 2020. During lockdown a fund was established to create the Kate Howie Memorial Prize for the best performance in a statistics module in Mathematics, and congratulations go to the first recipient, Annie Sinclair BSc 2020.

Kate joined the University in 1993 and had 27 years' service. Her teaching covered the theoretical and practical application of statistics. As a statistician she contributed to, and provided evidence for, many interdisciplinary research publications. She was a former member of Academic Council and University Court. Above

all, Kate will be remembered with affection by her family, her friends and the generations of students she taught.

The University received a gift from her Will which has been used to purchase additional defibrillators and the Faculty will plant a tree in the Garden of Time later this year.



Anyone who would like to contribute to the fund, or be invited to the tree planting ceremony should contact alumni@stir.ac.uk.

A clearer picture of facial blindness

Researchers at the University have launched a three-year study into a little-known phenomenon which prevents people from recognising members of their immediate family or sometimes even their own reflection. Judith Lowes, supported by colleagues Professor Peter Hancock and Dr Anna Bobak, is leading the study into developmental prosopagnosia – sometimes referred to as ‘face blindness’.



They are seeking children, aged between seven and 17, to take part in the online study – and are appealing to parents, teachers and educational psychologists to get in touch with potential participants. As well as testing children with

self-reported face recognition difficulties, the team are also seeking children with no recognition problems.

Ms Lowes said: “We know that face recognition abilities vary widely between individuals – some are ‘super recognisers’, who rarely forget a face, and at the other end of the spectrum, between two and four children in every hundred have real trouble with face recognition.

“‘Face blindness’ affects an estimated 300,000 children in the UK. It is unrelated to vision, intelligence and memory – but those affected by it can

have severe, lifelong problems recognising familiar faces. In some cases, people cannot recognise their immediate family, or even their own reflection; it can cause difficulties in making friends; and could pose a risk to children, if they mistake a stranger for someone they know. Our research will be the largest published study to explore the rehabilitation of children with developmental prosopagnosia.”

Find out more about the study at <http://stir.ac.uk/5y0> and if interested in participating contact judith.lowes@stir.ac.uk.



Suzanne with her dog Phoebe

What brought you to Stirling?

I moved to Montrose from the South of England when I was 17, spending my last year of school in Scotland. Although I was devastated to leave my friends behind, in retrospect I wouldn't change a thing as I have completely fallen in love with Scotland, plus the move led me to apply to the University, leading me to Paws for Progress!

I had a particular interest in mental health and enjoyed my Psychology class at school, so I decided to study Psychology at university. When I came to an open day at Stirling I quickly knew it was the place for me. I loved the way you were surrounded by nature on campus, and as an animal lover seeing all the swans, rabbits and squirrels around the loch really sold me!

Suzanne Ruby

BA (Hons) Psychology 2014

Operations Manager at Paws for Progress

When did you first get involved with Paws?

In my final year my studies took a particular focus on animal behaviour and welfare, with my dissertation focusing on the capuchin monkeys at Edinburgh Zoo. My dissertation supervisor, the incredible Dr Hannah Buchanan-Smith, also happened to be one of the supervisors of Rebecca Leonardi's PhD.

In partnership with the Scottish Prison Service at HMP & YOI Polmont, Rebecca had developed the UK's first prison-based rescue dog training programme and was evaluating the impact that the programme had for both the rescue dogs and the young people taking part. To ensure that this incredible work was sustained beyond the PhD period, Paws for Progress had recently registered as a Community Interest Company.

When Hannah mentioned that Paws for Progress were looking for a research assistant to work on the dog data that had been collected through the PhD I jumped at the chance! This was the perfect combination of my interest in Psychology and my passion for animal welfare.

Having worked as a Research Assistant for Paws for Progress for a few months after graduating, I was then successful in securing an internship

with the organisation which eventually led to me stepping up into the role of Operations Manager at Paws for Progress. Six years on, here we are!

Can you tell us a little about what Paws for Progress does?

It's a pioneering organisation dedicated to improving the lives of both people and dogs. We achieve this through providing educational, therapeutic, and interactive dog-assisted services for people most in need of support, in prison and community settings. We are providers of the UK's first prison-based rescue dog training programme, which is mutually beneficial for the



Ambassador Mojo



Ambassador Maddie



Ambassador Paisley

rescue dogs involved, and specialise in working with young people who are involved in the criminal justice system, or at risk of offending behaviour.

Our mission is to improve the lives and futures of vulnerable people and dogs in Scotland. Our beneficiaries experience a host of positive outcomes through engaging with our services; we particularly focus on building resilience, improving mental health, developing employability skills, engaging in education to achieve qualifications, and building positive relationships with peers, staff, and family. All these outcomes are achieved through working with our team of dogs whilst learning about dog training and care, building empathy, and improving animal welfare more widely.

What makes a good Ambassadordog?

A good Ambassadordog thrives on meeting new people, loves interacting with them, and is confident going into different places and settings. All our Ambassadordogs have their own unique personalities and strengths, and we tailor the sessions that they take part in to suit them.

The most important thing for us at Paws for Progress is that the dogs actively enjoy taking part in the sessions and activities that they are involved in – it's not good enough for us if the dogs are merely tolerating taking part, we want them to be actually benefiting too.

How many Ambassadordogs do you work with?

We have six wonderful Ambassadordogs at the moment,

who originated as rescue dogs before being adopted into their families. They are pet dogs first and foremost who live with our staff and volunteers. The one exception is Bravehound Paisley, who is an assistance dog in training – find out more about her here

👉 <http://stir.ac.uk/5y3>.

How can people get involved in supporting your work?

We could not do our great work without the support of our volunteers, who support us in areas such as finance, community fundraising, communications, HR and impact measurement.

If you are interested in more information contact Suzanne at
 👉 info@pawsforprogress.co.uk
 or via social media
 👉 [@PawsforProgress](#).

Students' vital role to help fight the pandemic

Four hundred of our nursing students stepped up and joined the NHS frontline to put their healthcare skills to use during Covid-19. Professor Jayne Donaldson, Dean of the Faculty, said that the students could take confidence from the training they received during their time at Stirling.

The University is very proud of all the students, and we asked three of them – Andrew, Liam and Nicola – to share their experiences:

Andrew Hilson (above) spent over five years as a performer at the Edinburgh Dungeons before enrolling as a BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing student. Now in his third year he has gained placement experience in community nursing, elderly inpatient wards, dermatology clinic, surgical inpatient wards and in the theatre department at Forth Valley Royal Hospital (FVRH). His acting skills have not gone to waste as he says: "I put on a cheery, happy, flowery persona and I can make anyone laugh. I found that useful on the elderly wards. It's not about the illness. It's about the patients themselves – patient-centred care." Andrew is very

proud to be a student nurse and is appreciative of both the University staff who enabled the placements and the FVRH staff who have very much made him feel like part of the team.

Liam Middleton is a third year student on the BSc (Hons) Nursing Mental Health programme. Liam's first placement was in the community and whilst not working directly with Covid-19 positive patients, he says:

"The effects of isolation and lockdown on peoples' mental health was clear to see. We had to contact people over the phone rather than seeing them in person which makes it more difficult to assess someone's mental health. Throughout the year it has definitely been a balancing act of caring for people's mental wellbeing, taking into account

their physical health, and weighing up the risks of each." His current placement is in an acute 65+ mental health ward in FVRH.

"These were some of the toughest times I've experienced in my training however the amazing resilience and support of my colleagues has kept me going. I have learned so much in the last year including clinical skills, therapeutic skills and my confidence has grown immensely. Knowing that I have worked through this pandemic and been able to put my skills and knowledge to good use is a huge confidence boost and I am ready to qualify later this year."

Keen blogger, Nicola Phillips, has featured regularly in the media during the pandemic. She shared an extract from her blog: "One minute we

Liam Middleton



are just student nurses, going on placement, stressing over essays, and dreaming of the day we graduate. Then without warning we are dropped into a worldwide health pandemic! It put all health professions and nurses in the forefront of the fight. We felt fear and helplessness, we cried, and we cared. We faced challenges

beyond our stage, but we rose up and put ourselves forward. We fought with our peers and we mustered every bit of strength we had to nurse beside our qualified colleagues and complete our duties as students at the same time. We overcame, we adapted and now we are still students but about to become nurses who

Nicola Phillips



will be able to combat what the world throws at us. Covid-19: you came along 12 months ago and you changed our world as we know it, but you never took our love of nursing: you only enhanced it. This will be one of the reasons we will not forget you when you are gone." To read more, visit Nicola's blog [Ⓞ http://stir.ac.uk/5y6](http://stir.ac.uk/5y6).

Elite athlete turns entrepreneur

Jack Oswald BA (Hons) 2020 who was awarded a sports scholarship, was a competitive tennis player, whilst also completing a degree in French and Spanish.



Now back studying an MBA, he has founded a new company Cancha (Spanish for court), and developed an innovative tennis/sporting bag. The company launched in December 2020 and already has seen a promising start to trading. Jack has benefited from the University's Enterprise Programme which helps new-business start-ups and entrepreneurs. He is a member of the current Student Enterprise Enhanced

Development (SEED) accelerator cohort, and is supported in The Hive, the institution's campus-based student/graduate start-up business incubator. He has been selected as Stirling's 2021 representative for the Santander Universities' Entrepreneurship Awards, a national student/young graduate start-up competition. The final round takes place in Autumn 2021 and the successful entrepreneurs will benefit from a prize pot of £75,000.

For information on the Enterprise Programme, contact Sasha at [Ⓞ s.a.hird-saunders@stir.ac.uk](mailto:s.a.hird-saunders@stir.ac.uk).



Catherine Kerr

BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science 2014
Senior Fitness Officer



Amy Beattie

BA (Hons) Sports Studies 2012
Student Sport Experience Officer

We talk to two sports graduates who have been instrumental in the University's #BeConnected programme of events, activities and resources for staff and the community throughout the pandemic.

What brought you to Stirling?

Catherine: I'm originally from Leicestershire, so the thought of going on an adventure and living away from home is what drew me to Stirling. That, coupled with Stirling's reputation for sport and the campus environment, made it a firm decision for me.

Amy: As Stirling was and still is the place to be for studying and getting involved with sport, it was always my number one choice. After visiting the campus, I was blown away with how beautiful it was and knew that was where I wanted to be for my university experience.

What was it like to go from studying at Stirling to working here?

Catherine: My working life started during my 2nd year; I applied for a part time Sports Assistant and I continued to

work in this role and as a Receptionist until I graduated. I was considering doing a Masters, so I volunteered to help collect data in the sports labs. I was soon seconded into an administrative role which I did alongside studying for my Gym Instructor and Personal Trainer qualifications.

An opportunity for a part time Fitness Officer came up whilst I was completing an MSc degree, but unfortunately I was unsuccessful. My resilience and patience paid off later down the line and I was successful when I applied for the position of full-time Fitness Officer. Not long after, I was promoted to Senior Fitness Officer and have since played a key role in the development of the University's fitness offering, and designed the brand new fitness suite and strength & conditioning area that has recently opened.

Amy: After working within an American Summer Camp as a Watersports Leader, I secured a job as Sports Staff on board Royal Caribbean International Cruise Ships which I fulfilled for three years. I was also given the opportunity to be one of the first staff to be trained as an Indoor Skydiving Instructor. With these skills, I later took a position with Indoor Skydiving Australia, moving to the Gold Coast for a year.

After a great experience living in Australia, I made a move back to cruise ships, before deciding to return to Scotland. I made this decision as a back injury was hindering my enjoyment and ability to carry on instructing. I also had the desire to seek a career in sport where I could make a real difference to others and wanted to rekindle my passion for student sport.

How did #BeConnected come about, and what was it like to be involved in?

Catherine: Just before the first lockdown in March, the fitness team and I were thinking of ways in which we could help the University community stay engaged in physical activity. With the prevalence of a global pandemic, it was apparent that it was even more important for people to look after their

health and wellbeing. It was a monumental effort from everyone involved to move to an online world. As we designed our virtual offering we were approached by Student Support Services to contribute to the #BeConnected programme, which focuses on the five ways to wellbeing including Get Active.

Amy: #BeConnected was a collective effort across university

services and departments to ensure our staff and students had opportunities to connect via a programme of online events during the initial lockdown. It was great to assist our fitness team with any support that was needed, to ensure that we could provide an opportunity for our staff, students and community to stay active during such a difficult time.

For the full version of this, visit <http://stir.ac.uk/5x6>. Find out more about #BeConnected at <http://stir.ac.uk/40e>.

Go with the flow – menstrual health in sport

Scotland is a global leader in the emerging ‘menstruation movement’, passing bills to fund menstrual products for all in public spaces. However, policies and research on how menstruation impacts engagement in sport and physical activity is still scarce. At Stirling, Dr Sarah Zipp and her students have become a leading voice in the movement, shining a light on menstrual health in sport.

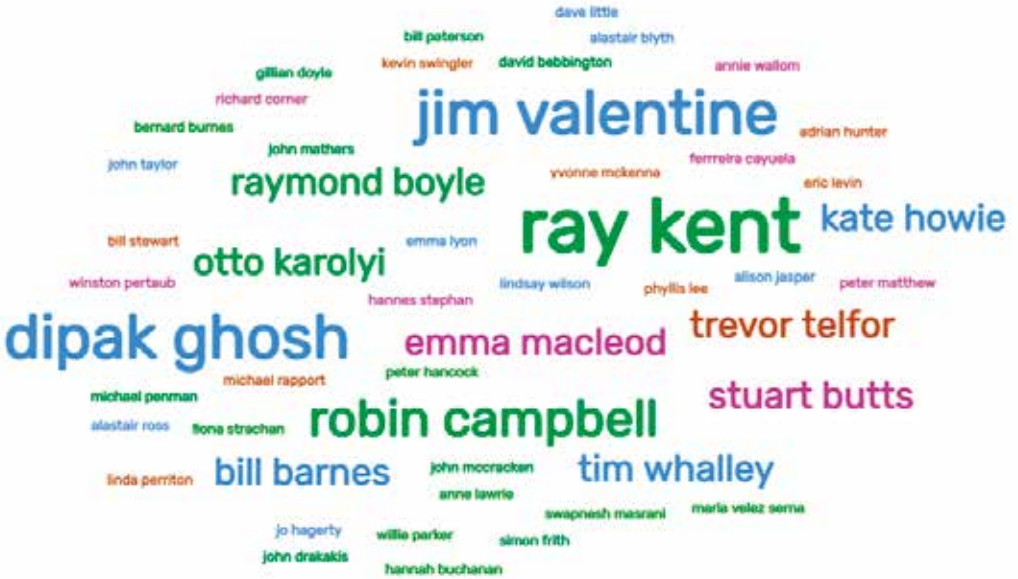


In 2020, Sarah hosted the UK’s first workshop on menstruation in sport, funded by the Wellcome Trust. Coaches, researchers, entrepreneurs and students gathered to discuss how menstrual health impacts performance, participation and coaching. Leaders from all four UK sport institutes and several national governing bodies of sport contributed. Presenters shared their ground breaking work on sport and menstruation in the UK, across Europe, India, Japan, Nepal and Zambia.

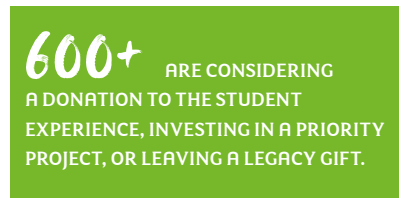
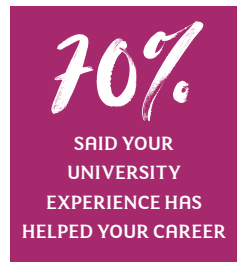
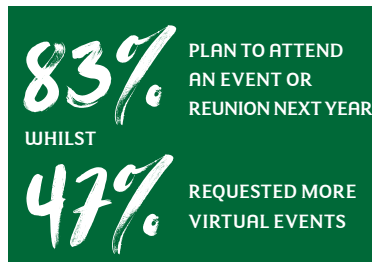
In collaboration with numerous sport organisations, including Scottish Swimming,

Sarah and her students seek to shatter the stigma of menstruation in sport. She has contributed work to Celtic Football Club’s ‘On the Ball’ campaign for menstrual products in football stadiums and an innovative campaign by an Indian Premier League cricket club to tackle the taboo of menstruation. She has also published her research on menstrual health in sport for development in low income countries. Sarah was named the 2020 Early Career Scholar of the Year by the *Journal of Sport for Development* for her work.

You said: we did



What do you think of our communication, volunteering, fundraising, business engagement and event programmes? Graduates from all over the world – from 83 countries to be exact – answered the call. The feedback is already shaping our advancement calendar ensuring we meet the needs of our alumni family.



Your feedback shaped this edition: culture and heritage, ageing and dementia, climate change, alumni profiles and class notes were the most popular requests. Thank you to everyone who responded. We loved reading the wonderful memories of your time as a student, and the people who inspired you. Our word-cloud is dedicated to all staff, past and present. The anecdotes will be captured on the alumni blog – covering camaraderie of student clubs and societies, enduring friendships, stories from various drinking establishments, the *Braveheart* film premiere, Japan Week – and many more.

Where are they now?



Thank you for writing your class notes. If you have news to share, please contact Jennifer Forman, Alumni Relations Manager, at jennifer.forman@stir.ac.uk

📍 2010s

Chau H V Nguyen, MSc Media and Communications Management 2019



Three months after my graduation, I secured a job as a media producer in Ton Duc Thang University in Vietnam. Then Covid-19 came. I was so lucky to have my time at Stirling to understand media foundation and learn how to adapt to this situation. I'm assisting to change the way people, especially the youth, consume media here and applying technology to help a developing country like ours.

Nadia Nur, MSc International Conflict and Cooperation 2018



Currently I am serving as a Researcher at the Center for Genocide Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. I am also working as a National Expert in several EU Monitoring Missions in Bangladesh.

Simron Kandola, BA (Hons) Human Resource Management and Law 2017



After graduating with a Distinction from a full-time MSc degree in HRM at the University of Strathclyde and working as a part-time HR Co-ordinator at the University of Stirling, I have a new job as HR Officer at Mercy Corps, an international, non-profit organisation, in Edinburgh.

Jacqueline Boland, BA (Hons) Journalism Studies 2017 and Joe Munro, BSc (Hons) Mathematics and its Applications 2017



We met at a flat party in third year, got together two weeks later, graduated together in 2017, moved to Dundee into full time jobs, and have been happy there ever since. We got engaged at Arbroath Cliffs and we're getting married in October 2022!

Dr Christopher Minty, PhD American History 2015



I became Managing Editor of *The John Dickinson Writings Project* at the Center for Digital Editing at the University of Virginia in March 2020.

**Essam Al Lawati, MSc
Marketing 2014**



I became Head of the Business Studies Department at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences – Nizwa and now I am doing my PhD at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

**Shuai Wang, MSc
International Business
(Finance) 2014**



After graduating, I went to Japan to pursue a PhD. Thanks to my learning experience at Stirling, my PhD application was well received by my Japanese supervisor who encouraged me to produce my thesis in English.

**Nicolas Mendoza, MSc
Sustainable Aquaculture
2014**



My journey to create a better seafood system started at Stirling: <http://stir.ac.uk/5y9>. I've recently Co-Founded a group intended to further focus efforts on changing the seafood industry for the better called <http://stir.ac.uk/5yc>. The education and global network I developed at the University of Stirling Institute of Aquaculture has been pivotal in this journey!

**Dr Brian Christopher
Jones, PhD Law 2012**



I was appointed Lecturer in Law at the University of Sheffield in January 2020. I recently had my first monograph published: *Constitutional Idolatry and Democracy: Challenging the Infatuation with Writtenness*. The book was published by Edward Elgar Publishing, and is available via Amazon, Google Play, or via the publisher: <http://stir.ac.uk/5yf>.

**Dr Robert Robertson,
PhD Management &
Organisation 2000**



I have been reappointed to a second term as President of the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute in Nassau. I was recently awarded a Graduate Diploma in International Development by the London School of Economics and Political Science.

📍 2000s

**Dr Charles Xuereb, MSc
Media Management 2005**



I graduated with a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Malta in 2013. My dissertation was published in two successive editions by the University of Malta in the space of six weeks in 2014 and hopefully the third edition will be coming sometime soon as it has long been out of print. I'm semi-retired although still lecture at the University of Malta and chair the University radio editorial board.

📍 1990s

**Vassiliki Mandelou, MSc
Banking and Finance 1998**



I am currently accepted by the Open University in Greece as a PhD student in Mentoring in Greek Universities. This is a dream since I was a postgraduate student, 22 years ago that will come true.

Graham Mannerings, BSc (Hons) Psychology 1995



I started Lime Entertainments in 2018, promoting my own live music and DJ nights. I founded Tribus Woda Digital record label in 2020 using my professional names John Lime and The Lords of Misrule. New album 'Aphrodite's Wish' released 13 November 2020 on all streaming services.

Dr Naomi Birdthistle, BA (Hons) Business Studies 1995



Since leaving Stirling I completed my Masters at the University of Limerick and I proceeded to do my PhD there. I am an Associate Professor in Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation, having lectured in Ireland, Finland and now at Griffith University, Australia. My niece, Daisy Davie is studying French and English at Stirling as part of the 2020 intake.

Stan Shires, BA (Hons) Marketing 1994



After 10 years living in the Cotswolds we sold our home and moved to a lovely village called Weston in Northamptonshire. My wife's job has led to the move and with Covid-19, Jaguar Land Rover are encouraging us to all work from home. My dogs love it as they have constant companionship. When this is all over there will definitely be one hell of a Stirling Reunion!

Tracy Sheard (née Smith), BSc (Hons) Psychology 1991



I'm currently taking a small break from working (most recently as HR Director for the Energy Business within Lloyds Register) in Aberdeen. In the year of lockdown I took up open water swimming – you might remember me from my days in the swimming pool? I'm keen to get a reunion organised in the next couple of years, so anyone who remembers me is welcome!

Bela Evers (née Kapoor), MBA 1990



More than 30 years after graduating from Stirling, having organised a few reunions and having worked in several international companies, I'm now up for my next challenge in life. In January, I rowed across the Atlantic Ocean with three other ladies from Holland for two causes – Plastic Soup Foundation and ALS Neuromuscular Disease. Catch up with our adventure or help with a donation via <http://stir.ac.uk/5yi>.

📍 1980s

John Law, BSc (Hons) Environmental Science 1988



I have had a fascinating and varied career in environmental work spanning research, regulation, consultancy and policy advice. I'm just about to embark on a new chapter having accepted a post as Climate Change and Environmental Project Officer at Ryedale District Council in North Yorkshire. I have three wonderful children and a wonderful partner and two springer spaniels. My time at Stirling remains precious to me. I made some great friends and had a really wonderful four years which helped set me up for a rewarding and fulfilling career doing my bit to take care of our world.

Heather Savage, BA General 1987



I've retired from my roles as a vocational trainer in community services and counselling, Community Coordinator Youth Mental in Western Sydney. I now live in Galicia, Spain, where I'm restoring an old farmhouse and teaching English part-time while I complete three literary projects.

Donald Stewart, BA Film & Media Studies and Philosophy 1986



After 30 years in retail management, and working in a clerical role for a major banking group I finally got a job in the heritage sector. I am a steward, and it is a job I love. I get to engage people with my enthusiasm for history, heritage, environment and wildlife.

Colin Campbell, BA (Hons) Sociology 1985



Since I graduated, after a year as Sports Union President, I spent over a decade in various parts of America, where I got a degree in Civil Engineering and travelled or lived and worked in over 40 States. I have also lived and worked in Nepal, the Philippines and Singapore. After a year in California, I ended up in Australia where my kids have grown up and I'm contentedly retired.

Jonas Berwick, BA English 1984



I came to Atlanta, GA in 1985. I started my own Private Detective agency, Delve Information, and have since retired. I have three great boys and I live a nice simple life, with a nice home, and a nicer dog. I am in regular contact with friends from Stirling, and all of us who are about to turn sixty cannot believe that it has been that long.

Neale Jennings, BA Religious Studies 1983



Amongst other things, I was a drummer on cruise ships. I developed my own dance method. Visit me at <http://stir.ac.uk/5yl>.

Billy Wilson, BA (Hons) Economics 1981



I'm currently enjoying the fruits of my labour after almost 40 years of toil with Wood Mackenzie, Bankers Trust and HSBC. Living in Bathgate, still looking back at a great period of my life – 'The Grange', Pathfoot discos, Two Tone Tours and Cottrell Building occupations.

Hamish Steedman, BA Economics 1980



I thought you might like this photo for class notes. Richie Ramsay (professional golfer and class of 2007) and I met up at the Sportsman's Charity Fundraising Dinner in Edinburgh before the Six Nations Rugby in February last year.

📍 1970s

David Lloyd, BA (Hons) English 1978



After a long career in public relations, I retired to Devon five years ago. I took a late MA at the University of Exeter and am now writing a novel and a short story collection.

Dr Janet Lee, BA (Hons) Sociology 1976



I'm a professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Oregon State University, where I teach courses on gender and feminism. My research focuses on early 20th century social and literary histories. I would love to connect with fellow classmates from the 1970s! Contact me on: jlee@oregonstate.edu and <http://stir.ac.uk/5yo>.

Rajesh Hiremath, Diploma Industrial Economics 1975



I completed my Masters in Agricultural Mechanisation at the National College of Agricultural Engineering at Silsoe. I live in Edinburgh and voluntarily teach robotics and computer programming to children from ages six to 12.

Very Rev Colin Sinclair, BA (Hons) Economics 1974



I just completed a year as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. For my last two months in office after my diary was wiped out in March last year, Ruth and I found ourselves presenting a daily reflection to an average of over 10,000 views – a different congregation!

Dr Leslie Smith, BA (Hons) Chemistry 1973



I went to the USA for PhD. Post Doc in Geneva then fragrance/cosmetic industry in Belgium, Switzerland, USA and France. Retired in Switzerland and now back in beautiful Princeton, NJ with my wife Leslie. Recently started work again as Chief Scientific Officer with a start-up fragrance company. Keeps a bit of the dust off my brain.

John Short (aka Sean), BA (Hons) Economics 1971



I was the Founding President of the Sports Union. I spent the first lockdown writing Applied Economics: Public Financial Management and Development based on my work in 60 countries. Now seeking a publisher! Regarding sport, I was inducted into the Newcastle Rugby Hall of Fame in April 2017. Here I am with my daughter Juliet.

Condolences

The University regrets to announce the following deaths:

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Founding benefactor to the University's Foundation Fund Appeal in 1966

Thomas (Scott) Morrison, BA (Hons) Politics 2019

Antonio Tchivela, MSc Sustainable Aquaculture 2019

Tony McDowall, BA (Hons) Business Studies 2013

Jolene Shortt, BSc Nursing 2013

Norman Whelan, MSc Dementia Studies 2012

Dr Graham Stewart, DUniv 2010

Adam Pattinson, BA (Hons) Sports Studies 2009

Dr James Bexley, PhD Philosophy 2006

Maureen Blair, BA General 2003

Bob Korol, MBA Public Service Management 2002

Dr Nikos Steiropoulos, MSc Aquatic Veterinary Studies 2001

William Clark, MA 2001

Wee Beng Yan, MBA Retailing & Wholesaling 2000

Dr Petra Susan Kidd, PhD Biology 1999

Dr Hamish MacInnes, DUniv 1997

John Deuchars, BA (Hons) German 1996

Bhaskar Dandona, BA (Hons) Film & Media Studies 1995

Alan Watson, MSc Technology Management 1994

Professor Sena de Silva, DSc Aquaculture 1989

Sterling Dlamini, BA Economics 1984

Dr Arfah Salleh, BA Accountancy 1983

Alastair Sime, BA (Hons) English/Philosophy 1982

Graeme Robertson, BA Business Studies 1981

John Hein, class of 1979

Dr Rachel Filinson, MSc Psychology 1979

Linda Quinn, BA Sociology 1974

Professor John Bowers, Stirling Management School

Helen Beale, retired member of staff from Department of Languages (French)

David Eccles, former football coach and player at the University in the late 1980s

Kate Howie, Teaching Fellow in Computing Science and Mathematics Division

Mrs Marjory McLachlan, former Lord-Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk and member of University Conference

Gordon Peacock, former University Librarian who worked at Stirling from 1966 to 1988

Dr Winston Pertaub, retired member of staff and former Head of Spanish Department

Dame Diana Rigg, former University Chancellor from 1998 to 2008

Jim Struthers, retired Superintendent of Gardens and Grounds

Contacting friends

Geri Fitzgerald, Visiting Student 1974 would like to get in touch with her fellow AKD housemates including Kate Wilde, Emma Fletcher and Margaret Cooper who were all first year students in 1973 and graduated in 1976.

Kevin Mulvey, BA English 1976 – looking for William MacLean, BA History 1976 and Deirdre Bruce (née Hill), BA DipEd Biology/Education 1976. William is from Aberdeenshire and relocated to Texas for work, and perhaps retired in Scotland. Deirdre is from Dunbartonshire and spent some time in Northern Ireland and Aberdeen.

Barbara Caras, exchange student 1987, is looking to reconnect with David Jackson, BSc (Hons) Computing Science 1987, and her former flatmates Judy and Morag who graduated in 1988.

Keeping in touch

You can catch up with old friends via social media. Follow the links from www.stir.ac.uk/alumni and update your contact preferences at <http://stir.ac.uk/21d> or email alumni@stir.ac.uk.

Twitter

 @StirAlumni

Facebook

 Stirling University Alumni

LinkedIn

 University of Stirling Alumni – Official Group

Instagram

 stiralumni

University pays tribute to Dame Diana Rigg: 1938-2020

We were deeply saddened in September with the death of our former Chancellor, Dame Diana Rigg. She is remembered as a significant figure in our history due to her unwavering support and commitment during her tenure as Chancellor.

Dame Diana was a Tony, Emmy and BAFTA award-winning actress of stage and screen, becoming a household name in the 1960s as karate-kicking Emma Peel in *The Avengers*. She went on to play the only woman who became Mrs James Bond in the 1969 film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*. More recently, she reached new generations of fans starring as Olenna Tyrell in *Game of Thrones*, and playing Mrs Pumphrey in the 2020 adaption of *All Creatures Great and Small*. She also starred alongside her daughter, actress Rachael Stirling, in the *Doctor Who* episode *The Crimson Horror* and again in the *Detectorists* series.

The actress moved to the Stirling area in the 1980s and was an active member of the local community; serving as Chieftain of the Bridge of Allan Highland Games and holding the roles of patron of the Stirling and District Association of Mental Health, and Chair of the Macrobert Arts Centre committee. She spearheaded Macrobert's fundraising



campaign before officially opening the refurbished Centre in 2002.

Dame Diana received an Honorary Doctorate from the University in November 1988 before being installed as the

University's fourth Chancellor in October 1998. Over the next decade she conferred degrees on over 23,000 alumni who remember her charisma and charm at their graduation ceremonies.

Promoting
excellence in
aquaculture



Leading
international
institute

- Providing
- High quality research
 - Teaching and training
 - Technology development
 - Consultancy



BE THE DIFFERENCE

A Royal reward celebration at the House of Lords

The University's Chancellor, Lord Jack McConnell of Glenscorrodale, hosted a splendid reception on 20 February 2020 to celebrate the University's Institute of Aquaculture being awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize.

It was a wonderful occasion with many reminders of reasons to be proud of the University. There was a lot of goodwill in the room to help the University with its vision for the next 10 years through direct support, networking and influence to ensure we fulfil our ambitious plans for the future. Little did we know this was our last physical reception before the pandemic affected us all!



Principal and Vice-Chancellor Gerry McCormac and Professor Selina Stead



Alan McDonald, Jen Forman and Dougie Watt



Billy Gilmour, Harry Adam and Mark Hagen



Colin Fleming, Catherine Cameron and Mark Wells



Eric Forward, Anna Marekwica and George Martin



Sir Michael Hirst, Kerry Bryson and Robert Kilgour



Aquaculture group

Zooming around

In a year like no other, all alumni events, reunions and even Graduation ceremonies were cancelled. As the world went online we realised that you don't have to meet in person to stay close. 2020 was the year that we acquired new digital skills and hosted a series of inaugural virtual career and networking events.

Graduating in tough times

Alumni from the Class of 2008/9 led new webinars. Carolyn Bishop (BA Hons Film & Media and Marketing 2009), Ryan Duncan (BA Hons Business Studies and Marketing 2009), Ally McCrae (BA Hons Film & Media 2009) and Dr Aleksandra Webb (MSc Management 2008 and PhD 2015) all entered the labour market in the aftermath of the financial crisis. Carolyn covered graduate schemes and her role at Skyscanner; Ryan, Head of International Recruitment and Marketing for The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts and discussed

how his role as a student ambassador helped kickstart his career; Ally talked about how he got his first job as a BBC Radio 1 DJ; and Aleksandra discussed continuing with postgraduate study. The session provided hope, inspiration and advice for the Class of 2020.

Shaken or stirred?

The Christmas Cocktail Hour was a lively chat with alumni experts from the drinks industry perfectly paired with our cheese specialist. Luke Fenton (BA Hons International Politics 2014) of Kinrara Distillery, Rachel Grant (BA

Hons Politics 2017) from The Grail, Scott Morrison (BA Hons Business Studies and Marketing 2019) from Budweiser and Cat Parnell (BA Hons Politics 2008) who owns The House of Mouse entertained an audience from USA, Canada, Nigeria, Germany and France, and those closer to campus. Topics ranged from favourite recipes, whether or not to shake a martini, recommendations for non-alcoholic tipples, and advice on storing your cheeses. Find our webinars on <http://stir.ac.uk/5zc>.

Launch of the Brig Digital Archive

Funded by the *Stirling Fund* and the generosity of founding editor Paul Martin (BA Hons 1973), this new resource is a unique student-focused history of campus life through the decades as seen through the pages of Brig, the student newspaper.

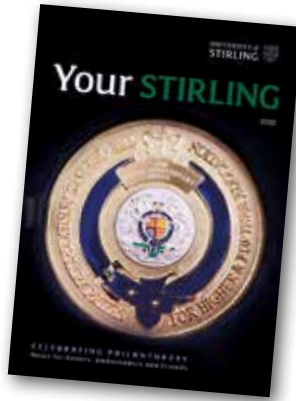
A team of student volunteers worked with University Archivist, Karl Magee, to digitise and catalogue the first 25 years of the newspaper, beginning with the first issue published in October 1969. During summer 2020 the #BrigInColour campaign shared highlights from the archive as part of the University's wider #BeConnected programme. Visit the digital archive at <http://stir.ac.uk/5yr>.

A huge thank you to all our alumni and friends who have donated to the *Stirling Fund*. Fourteen projects which enhance the student experience were supported in the last round.



Your Stirling: our thank you

Our alumni help us every day with their time, treasure and talent raising over £2 million last year. This year we held a virtual thank you celebration event to update and thank our donors and supporters using our new Stirling Alumni YouTube Channel. (note: we really did have to learn new skills, and proper lighting and a steady hand really are EVERYTHING!). You can view the thank you messages from staff and students around the University at <http://stir.ac.uk/5yu>.



£500k raised for Bridge: a MindSport for all



The Sociology of MindSport is an emerging academic field which considers wellbeing, healthy ageing and social connection as experienced through bridge. The intergenerational approach is already inspiring a new generation of players to engage with this stimulating mindsport. If you want to find out more or make a donation please contact Professor Sam Punch bamsa@stir.ac.uk

Santander marks a Stirling Sport achievement

To mark *The Times* and *Sunday Times* Good University Guide's Sports University of the Year, Santander supported 22 scholarships which were awarded to worthy recipients in football, swimming, golf, triathlon and karate. The Santander scholarships were linked to the widening access programme, and covered sporting competition expenses and living costs.



Calling all golfers



2021 marks the 40th anniversary of Stirling's Golf Scholarship Programme. To celebrate our Golf AmAm, a 4-ball competition (3 players + 1 Golf Scholar), will take place on 17 September 2021 at, and supported by, Gleneagles. It will be hosted by Ryder Cup Captain and European Tour Player Dr Bernard Gallacher, OBE DUniv 2017. All proceeds will be directed to the Golf Scholarships. Book your space with Alex on alumni@stir.ac.uk.

A gift for tomorrow

Leaving a legacy to the University, regardless of the amount, could fund research into climate change, ageing and dementia or global food security. A legacy could support student hardship, scholarships, or contribute to a capital project that improves the student experience. Leaving a legacy to the University is the highest honour the institution will receive. For those that have done so, it was their way of thanking Stirling for creating opportunities. Your gift would create opportunities too. Contact alumni@stir.ac.uk to request a copy of the legacy brochure.



smile.amazon.co.uk



You shop – Amazon gives

The University of Stirling is now a designated charity with Smile Amazon, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price of your purchases (excluding VAT, returns, shipping fees) to the University, at no cost to you.

It's the same Amazon products, prices and services but by shopping via <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC011159> you can opt to support a charity, including the University of Stirling.

The Advancement office will direct all proceeds from Amazon to the University's Student Hardship Fund. If you have any questions, please contact philanthropy@stir.ac.uk.