The University of Stirling ranked in the top 2.5% of global universities

The QS World Ranking
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Outstanding progress has been made this year across a wide range of activities. In this annual review, I would like to highlight and share with you some of these activities and commend the individuals and teams whose efforts have enhanced our reputation on the world stage.

This year saw significant improvement in many of the league tables. In the Times Higher Education 100 universities under the age of 50 league table, we retained our position as the leading institution in Scotland. We also secured a place in the Telegraph’s ‘Top 12 universities for getting a job’, recognition that our graduates remain highly sought after by employers. Our inclusion in the 2013 QS World Rankings for the first time in the University’s history reflects the enormous progress we have made recently on the world stage.

In November 2013, we were awarded the prestigious Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education for our ground-breaking research in social marketing. Our Institute of Social Marketing, led by Professors Gerard Hastings and Linda Bauld has conducted research that shows how commercial marketing of alcohol, tobacco and junk food endangers young people’s health. This prize, which will be presented to the University by the Queen at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace is the most prestigious in the UK, and is recognition of the invaluable contribution our research is making to society. We also received an Athena SWAN Bronze award – in recognition of our ongoing commitment to advancing women’s academic careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine. At the 2013 Times Higher Education Awards, we won the ‘Most Improved Student Experience’ award, and also the Outstanding Employer Engagement Initiative Award for our Making the Most of Masters (MMM) scheme in partnership with the universities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen.

The University’s research performance in 2013 showed sustained progress, with research awards continuing to exceed the £10m threshold. This upward trajectory of research awards and expenditure was achieved in a challenging period for research funding; most other institutions are experiencing significant decreases in research income. A particularly prolific research area in 2013 was health. In the field of cancer care, Dr Liz Forbat, from the University’s Cancer Care Research Centre, led a pioneering study funded by Prostate Cancer UK to investigate the benefits of offering post-surgery relationship counselling to prostate cancer patients and their partners.

Dr Gill Hubbard began a 21-month study with NHS staff – looking at whether joint-rehabilitation sessions for bowel cancer and cardiac patients can be more sustainable in rural areas and improve the outcomes for patients.

Dr Carron Shankland from Computing Science and Mathematics launched a £1.2m project to explore a tailored approach to cancer care, bringing together expertise in biology, computer science, mathematics and physics. Other cancer research included two complementary studies led by the University’s Occupational and Environmental Health research Group which won a prestigious American Public Health Association (APHA) Scientific Research Award.

Workplace health was again the focus of Professor Rory O’Neill’s landmark study which investigated the deadly consequences of workplace sectors operating without inspectors. The project highlighted that the majority of workplace deaths occur in sectors excused from unannounced safety regulator inspections.

Research funding by the Scottish Government to our School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health saw progress in the UK’s largest ever study into patient experience and the delivery of frontline healthcare.

In finance, our research looked at the nature of the economic issues faced at both a national and international level. Professor Johnston Birchall in Applied Social Science authored an International Labour Organization report, which examined why financial co-operatives fared better than
The prestigious Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education was awarded in recognition of our ground-breaking work in social marketing research.

In English Studies, the Centre for International Publishing and Communication launched a new Gaelic publishing scholarship in partnership with the Gaelic Books Council, while Dr Padmani Ray Murray was awarded an AHRC-funded Unbox fellowship to work on projects in India that encourage sustainable innovation for Indian businesses and society.

The University’s Art Collection received a major boost, gaining £100,000 worth of awards from the Scottish Funding Council, Museums Galleries Scotland and the Robertson Trust. These funds are helping to ensure the Art Collection is accessible and enjoyed by everyone in the University and members of the local community. In the spring, we welcomed our first Artist in Residence, Alec Finlay – an artist, poet and University of Stirling alumnus. He has been working with colleagues across various academic disciplines to create new bee-themed public sculptures for the Art Collection.

Our cultural outreach programme was enhanced last year with the creation of a new Quartet in Residence. The Edinburgh Quartet has performed a series of concerts on campus and collaborated with various departments to foster musical engagement. Some particularly interesting workshops were held with students in the School of Education, to explore the benefits of music in school classroom settings.

It was also a year of notable developments for the University’s Archives and Special Collections. The Archives received a tremendous boost when one of its collections – an archive of early documents from the Royal Scottish National Hospital in Larbert – was recognised as being of outstanding historical importance by UNESCO.

In Applied Social Science, researchers began a five-year, £2.5 million study into the welfare system. The ESRC-funded study comes at a crucial time, as the UK faces a major overhaul of its existing welfare benefits system, and examines the ethics of current benefits and services. Dr Jim Smyth and Dr Michael Penman in History and Politics made progress on their five-year project to create a digital catalogue of all forms of memorialisation of Scotland’s contribution to the Great War (1914-18).

In preparation for the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn in 2014, environmental scientist Dr Richard Tipping has studied the topography of the historic landscape to help recreate the battle site within the visitor centre. Historians, Professor Richard Oram and Dr Michael Penman and our Chair in Creative Writing, Professor Kathleen Jamie, have also contributed to the Bannockburn preparations; Professor Jamie having won a national competition to have one of her poems inscribed on the site’s iconic Rotunda Monument.

In March, First Minister Alex Salmond announced Stirling aquaculture researchers and partner organisations had been awarded funding to work with fish farmers in Malawi – to improve fish production practice. In another important aquaculture project, Stirling researchers began work on a multi-partnered, €3 million EU-funded study – to look at how flies could become a cost-effective alternative for animal feeds.

Investor-owned banks during the global recession.

Closer to home, Professor David Bell’s ESRC-funded research has been looking at fiscal aspects of constitutional change.

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In addition, we received the Archives of Commonwealth Games Scotland and will work with Creative Scotland and Glasgow 2014 to create a public exhibition of the extensive collection of photographs, correspondence and memorabilia documenting more than 80 years of international sporting competition. We were awarded a grant from the National Cataloguing Grants Scheme to catalogue and preserve the papers of former Scottish First Minister Jack McConnell. Although deeply saddened by the death of Stirling alumnus Iain Banks in June, we were also honoured to become custodian of the Iain Banks Archives.

In our commitment to ensuring all University employees have access to the same opportunities, 18 female members of staff across the University were selected for the Aurora initiative. This women-only leadership programme encourages women to engage with leadership development at an earlier stage of their careers.

In another development, our STEER mentoring scheme – which helps new students settle in as quickly as possible and make the most of their time at University – was rolled out across schools and now includes Alumni Mentors. This provides our graduates with a much greater involvement in the life of the University after graduation.

In sport, the University was treated to another year of extraordinary success, with 67 students gaining international honours. Stirling’s International Sports Scholarship Programme supported more students than ever before, with a further 38 gaining support from the Stirling-run Winning Students national sports scholarship programme.

Our long-standing University golf programme, which enables students to benefit from access to high-level coaching and outstanding facilities on campus went from strength to strength. The men’s team successfully defended its position as European Universities’ Team champions, adding to the Scottish and British university strokeplay titles. They were also invited to represent Europe at Prestige, the world’s premier collegiate competition run by Stanford University and the University of California.

On the international stage, Sports Studies student Cormac Sharvin was crowned Irish Amateur golf champion and Business Studies student Zander Culverwell followed in the footsteps of Stirling’s Jack McDonald, when he was crowned 2013 Scottish Amateur Champion.

In swimming, another key strand of the University’s International Sports Scholarship Programme, we had several reasons to feel proud. We were delighted to cheer on four Stirling swimmers at the World championships in Barcelona and the celebrations continued when Sports Studies student Lewis Smith collected a Bronze medal at the World Universities Championships in Russia.

The University Football club also had an exceptional season and promotion to the Scottish Lowland Football League provided a gateway to compete in the Scottish professional leagues. The club remain the Scottish University champions and several players returned to the professional ranks following completion of their studies. In addition, nine female students gained full international honours, representing Scotland in European and World Cup qualifiers.

Triathletes Marc Austin and Grant Sheldon put themselves in contention for Commonwealth Games selection having ranked second and third respectively at the World Junior Championships. Graduate David McNamee is already Glasgow 2014-bound, having finished 16th in the international world triathlon series rankings.

In American Football, our Clansmen team retained the Scottish Universities Championship, while graduate Hannah Stone’s winning performance at the Home International Regatta, on Scotland’s coked four rowing team, was also cause for celebration.
Collectively, the achievements of these individuals and teams have made us very proud and highlight precisely why we are designated as Scotland’s University for Sporting Excellence. Our sporting successes directly support our outstanding research in sport, raise aspirations, and encourage students, staff and the wider community to benefit from the sporting facilities the University offers.

In February, we officially opened the Santander bank on campus. This development was another example of the beneficial relationship we have forged with Santander since joining the Santander Universities worldwide community. Our membership of this global network enables students and staff at Stirling to benefit from excellent exchange and study opportunities – enhancing the student experience and contributing to our Internationalisation strategy.

Developing our internationalisation strategy has been a major initiative over the past year. A key focus has been ensuring internationalisation is embedded in all our activities, from research and teaching to cultural engagement and overseas enterprises.

During the year, we established several new international partnerships, including those with Atomi University in Japan and the University of South Florida’s College of Nursing. These affiliations enable us to build upon our international research reputation and strengthen the Stirling brand overseas.

We have also made great strides in improving the campus infrastructure. In September we completed the first phase of our £38 million student residences, which on completion will see the replacement of 40 per cent of our campus accommodation. It is the largest capital development programme undertaken by the University since it was founded in the 1960s, but in an increasingly globalised and competitive world, it is an essential component of our ambitious strategy.

We launched new undergraduate degree programmes with Forth Valley College, increasing our intake of students from some of Scotland’s most deprived areas.

Additionally, in line with our commitment to being a welcoming university for international students, we launched a programme of events to celebrate our institution’s multicultural heritage in conjunction with macrobert Arts Centre. These included Balkan, South Asian and Chinese film and dance events. We also launched an annual ceilidh evening and Burns Supper event, to provide students from all corners of the globe with a taste of traditional Scottish culture.

In March, the University launched a week-long, public programme of events dedicated to Japanese culture to highlight the value of intercultural engagement in higher education. Japanese Week celebrated the University’s particularly strong relationship with Japan and offered students, staff and members of the public the opportunity to participate in Japan-themed sessions covering culture, art, dance, calligraphy and film.

I am enormously proud of what we have achieved and grateful to the staff, students, alumni and partners of the University for making 2013 another successful year. Crucially, our progress prevailed in the face of continued sectoral instability; including further funding reductions, competition from expanding international markets and increased immigration restrictions. Our success in difficult times demonstrates how well-placed we are for continued growth, in both national and global contexts.

Looking ahead to next year, our engagement with the Research Excellence Framework, our ambitious plans to create broader links with industry and international partners, and our investment in campus facilities, will enable us to continue making a difference in the world.

Celebrated graduate and Honorary Graduate Iain Banks sadly passed away in 2013. The University is honoured to become custodian of his archived manuscripts and other papers, which form a rich and fascinating body of work for literary study.

The Stirling Clansmen: Scottish Champions for the second consecutive year and undefeated in the 2012/13 season.
Cabinet Secretary visits Dementia Centre

Alex Neil, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Well-being, praised the University’s contribution to improvements in dementia care in Scotland during a visit to the Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) in December.

Mr Neil toured the Design and Technology suite and facilities at the DSDC, accompanied by University Principal and vice-chancellor Professor Gerry McCormac, Professor June Andrews, Director of the DSDC, Kevin McGeever, member of the Dementia Services Development Trust Board.

Mr Neil said: “The Scottish Government values and supports the DSDC’s work to improve dementia services in Scotland. As part of Scotland’s second National Dementia Strategy, the Scottish Government continues to focus on key areas such as diagnosis, post-diagnostic support and improving hospital care.”

Apprentices start work on multi-million pound University project

Two local apprentices were given a second chance to cement their future careers in the construction industry by starting work on the University’s student accommodation project.

Christopher Kerr and Sean Karte, both of St Ninians, Stirling, are working for GRAHAM Construction, which won the contract to build and fit out the first phase of a three year multi-million pound development – providing just short of 800 new bed spaces.

Christopher, 22, was made redundant at the end of his second apprentice year in joinery as a result of the poor economic climate.

Through Stirling Council Youth Services, GRAHAM was able to offer Christopher the opportunity to complete his training as an apprentice joiner.

Fellow joinery apprentice Sean, 21, was struggling to find an employer to allow him to complete his apprenticeship after being laid off by two companies due to a lack of work.

GRAHAM offered Sean an apprenticeship through the Young Working Lives programme and now he has the chance to complete his training this year and become fully qualified.

Karen Plouviez, Director of Estates and Campus Services, said: “The contract to develop the University’s new residential accommodation included a community benefit clause which enabled GRAHAM to provide opportunities for the local community.

“These apprenticeships are life changing for the individuals concerned – and particularly important when the construction industry is struggling.”

Climate change fund

As part of our Carbon Management Plan, the University aims to reduce CO2 emissions by 20%. In April last year we secured £2m towards the installation of a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant.

The University was one of three institutions to attract an allocation of the £20m climate change fund administered by the Scottish Government.

Innovative new degree programmes introduced

Last August the University joined forces with Forth Valley College to offer two new undergraduate degree courses; a BA (Hons) in Heritage and Conservation Management and a BSc (Hons) in Applied Biological Sciences.

Increasingly employers seek recruits with applied skills and a better understanding of the business in addition to graduate qualifications. These integrated courses offer just that.

Both courses are linked to key growth areas for Scotland, offering increased employment opportunities in the future.

ESRC funding was secured for three collaborative projects, developed in partnership with external bodies. The projects were: Forecasting macroeconomic conditions using consumer sentiment survey data (Dr David Comerford – Office of the Chief Economic Advisor, Scottish Government), Investigating Risk & Resilience in Scottish Charities (Dr Alasdair Rutherford – Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) and studying Institutional Innovation & the Housing Pathways of Young Householders on Scottish Hebridean Islands (Dr Madhu Satsangi – Rural Housing Service). Furthermore, five funded studentships were won in the highly competitive Scottish Graduate School of Social Science (ESRC-DTC) studentship competitions.
Researchers study use of drugs in sport

Athletes are less likely to be tempted to take drugs if they are part of a team, according to research published in 2013 by the University of Stirling.

The study, commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency, compared the responses of 200 Scottish athletes competing in team, individual and hybrid sports.

Sport doping researcher Dr Paul Dimeo – who led the Stirling study – said: “It emerged that the team environment and the sense of belonging to a “team” of some description protects athletes as they fear both the shame of being caught and banned as well as the likely social marginalisation that would follow. We also found that there was a perceived distinction between individual and team sports with regard to the pressures influencing athletes to dope, particularly in terms of the influence or otherwise of a coach.

“Some team sport athletes were of the opinion the coach-athlete relationship may have a slightly different emphasis in individual sports as a result of greater one-to-one contact time, the coach may exercise more influence over the athlete.

“Team athletes may in part be ‘protected’ against doping because of the coach-created motivational environment focusing more on mastery and development than purely outcomes.”

Stirling researchers support sustainable aquaculture project in Malawi

Aquaculture researchers from the University are part of a major project which has received £337,000 to develop small-scale commercial aquaculture in Malawi.

In 2013 Aquaculture Enterprise Malawi is one of 15 projects announced by the First Minister Alex Salmond to receive support from the Scottish Government’s International Development Fund through the Malawi 2013 funding round.

The three-year project brings together the Scotland Malawi Business Group with researchers from the University’s Institute of Aquaculture and the Microlan Foundation.

Together, they will work with private sector partners and existing fish farmers to develop the technical aspects of fish production, market chain communication and networking, focusing on fish farmers located in close proximity to Blantyre, Malawi’s business capital.

George Finlayson of the Scotland Malawi Business Group, a former British High Commissioner to Malawi, said: “This funding has the potential to make a significant contribution to improving nutrition and food security in and around major urban areas of Malawi.

“The demand for fish in both rural and urban areas is booming, but largely unmet. We look forward to bringing a business, microfinance and markets-based approach to producing more fish, whilst also developing the communication and networking skills of key entrepreneurial fish farmers.”

Commonwealth countdown starts at Stirling

In October the University hosted a special event to launch the search for “baton bearers” – people to carry the Queen’s Baton on its way through Scotland before the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in July.

The baton, which carries a message from Her Majesty the Queen, is being carried through 70 nations and territories of the Commonwealth before arriving back in Scotland this summer.

The University’s main campus is home to Commonwealth Games Scotland – the lead body for Commonwealth Sport in Scotland – responsible for selecting, preparing and managing Scotland’s team at the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games.

To follow the baton, visit: www.glasgow2014.com/batonrelay

University research shows athletes are less likely to be tempted to take drugs if they are part of a team.

Fish farmer Ishamel Amadu and colleagues harvesting fish in Chingale, Malawi. Photo: WorldFish Center.

Commonwealth Athletes Russell Weir (Rugby 7’s), Marc Austin (Triathlon), Ross Murdoch (Swimming) and Beverly Campbell (Netball) at the University of Stirling with the Queen’s Baton. Marc and Ross are University of Stirling students.
In brief

Success at Times Higher Education Awards
The University of Stirling won the Most Improved Student Experience award at the 2013 Times Higher Education Awards.
Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerry McCormac and Director of Development and External Affairs Kerry Bryson received the award from presenter Sandi Toksvig.

Saltire scholarships
Scotland’s Saltire Scholarships is a programme of scholarships, offered on a matched funding basis between the Scottish Government and Scottish Higher Education Institutions.

Stirling’s Saltire Scholars are pictured with Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland’s Languages at a Scholars’ reception hosted by Dr Allan at Edinburgh Castle.

Honorary Graduate presents new University silverware
Internationally distinguished gold and silversmith Dr Graham Stewart presented a new work, the Globe Candelabra and four silver candlesticks, to the University Art Collection in November 2013. Dr Stewart’s work is recognised throughout the world and is included in a number of renowned Scottish, UK and international collections, and the University is privileged to hold this magnificent new piece in its collection and to use it at formal occasions such as the Chancellor’s Dinner. Dr Stewart was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of the University (DUniv) from Stirling in 2010 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Scottish arts and crafts.

First Artist in Residence creates a buzz
Artist, poet and alumnus Alec Finlay returned to his alma mater in 2013 as our first Artist in Residence with the challenge of creating new, bee-themed public sculptures for the University art collection.

Alec – funded by the Leverhulme Trust – has been working collaboratively between Stirling’s Schools of Natural Sciences and Arts and Humanities to research the subject of apiculture, the science and culture of beekeeping.

Tasked with developing a ‘creative survey’ of the UK’s bee population, he translated his research into poetry and sculpture, inscribing functioning bee nests with his words. They have become permanent artworks (and hopefully homes) across campus.

He said: “Stirling is renowned worldwide for its scientific bee research, particularly its work on the destructive impact of insecticides on wild bee populations, so I [drew on] this expertise and used it to inform my work.”

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The Edinburgh Quartet
In September 2013 The Edinburgh Quartet was established as the Quartet in Residence at the University of Stirling.
The Quartet was founded in 1960 and quickly became established as one of Britain’s foremost chamber ensembles.

Since taking up residence they have delivered educational music workshops to primary teaching students, participated in our Japan week celebrations and supported a number of concerts and events on campus involving staff, students and the local community.
The prestigious Impact Fellowship programme provides positions for outstanding early career researchers.

The fellowships help participants embark on an independent research career, with a view to progressing to lecturer upon completion.

Professor Edmund Burke, Deputy Principal for Research at the University said: “Each Fellow is required to plan and execute a research project during their Fellowship, applying for, and winning research funding appropriate to the discipline that will allow them to continue with their research after the end of the Impact Fellowship.

“The Fellows develop the skills required to lead research – and to supervise research students. They are also allocated an academic mentor to support them.

He added: “We’re delighted with the progress of our Impact Fellowship programme and the high calibre of people we have working with us.”

Dr Shane McLeod
FROM: Australia
BACKGROUND: I have a BA (Hons) in Medieval History with Archaeology, University of Western Australia (2004), Master of Viking and Early Medieval Scandinavia, Uppsala University (2006), and a PhD in Medieval History, University of Western Australia (2011). Following my PhD, I worked as a lecturer and research assistant.
TOPIC OF RESEARCH: Viking Migration and Acculturation in Scotland: a landscape perspective.
WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?: My project investigates the landscape settings of Scandinavian burials in Scotland, with an emphasis upon viewsheds and visibility, and their location in relation to other natural and man-made landscape features.
ON IMPACT FELLOWSHIPS: The scheme is fantastic and I am still in awe to find myself at the University of Stirling, doing what I love.

Dr Orly Razgour
FROM: Born in London and grew up in the Middle East
BACKGROUND: In conservation biology, ecology and population genetics.
TOPIC OF RESEARCH: I study the genetics of global change. My fellowship research title is: ‘Fight or flight? The spatial genomics of bat species response to climate change’.
WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?: My research looks at the genetic and ecological response of bats to future climate change, from identifying genetic adaptations to warm and arid climatic conditions, to mathematically modelling range shifts and dispersal patterns in response to climate change, determining long-term population viability and developing conservation management guidelines.
ON IMPACT FELLOWSHIPS: It has been a great opportunity for me to develop my independent research and create new collaborations and research avenues.

Dr Elizabeth Anderson
FROM: Born in England, grew up in the USA and have lived in Glasgow for over a decade.
BACKGROUND: In literary studies and theology – an undergraduate degree in English from Kenyon College (Ohio, USA), an MLLit in Modernities from the University of Glasgow and a PhD in Literature, Theology and the Arts and English Literature from the University of Glasgow.
TOPIC OF RESEARCH: The spiritual life of things: materialism and spirituality in the work of Virginia Woolf, Mary Butts, H.D. and Gwendolyn Brooks’.
WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?: While Modernist Studies has been increasingly concerned with material culture, spirituality has also begun to receive attention. What remains under-researched is a feminine spirituality based in the everyday relationships of things, domestic and public space. This programme examines connections between things, spirituality, domestic and public space through the work of four modernist women writers.
ON IMPACT FELLOWSHIPS: I am delighted to have the opportunity to contribute to Stirling’s research culture. I appreciate the collegiality and support of colleagues at Stirling.

Dr Andrew Dobson
FROM: Brought up in Cambridgeshire, England.
BACKGROUND: Read Ecology at Durham University, then completed a PhD in the ecology of Hen Harriers at Nottingham. As a postdoctoral research associate in the Zoology department at the University of Oxford, I first developed an interest in the ecology of vector-borne disease, and in particular the tick-borne infection, Lyme disease.
TOPIC OF RESEARCH: I’m interested in the way that tick-host dynamics influence pathogen spread; my work is mainly focussed, therefore, on understanding the complex population dynamics of the sheep tick, Ixodes ricinus.
WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?: My research interests lie with the epidemiology of tickborne disease and specifically Lyme disease (or Lyme borrelelosis), and the ways in which pathogen, vector and host interact with the environment to influence disease risk in humans.
ON IMPACT FELLOWSHIPS: I feel extremely lucky to have been awarded this fellowship; it’s a fantastic opportunity to get established within my scientific discipline and, to produce high quality work in a stimulating and productive environment.

IMPACT FELLOWS 2013
• Mr Robert Trueman
• Dr Orly Razgour
• Dr Mohamed Abdelaziz-Mohamed
• Dr Sarah Parker
• Dr Elizabeth Anderson
• Dr Christian Schröder
• Dr Hannah Cornish
• Dr Andrew Dobson
• Ms Margaret Cunningham
• Dr Shane McLeod
• Dr Luisa Vera Andujar
Student view: world of opportunity

The University supports and encourages students to study abroad – spending part of their course on a foreign campus and getting great skills for life in return.

Cameron Bell, who’s in his fourth year of BA (Hons) in Business Studies, talks about his experiences studying overseas.

I wanted to push myself and throw myself completely into the unknown and Study Abroad offered an opportunity to live independently as well as create a network of international friends from across the globe.

I have a passion for travelling so when applying for universities, study abroad was a huge part of my university choices and by being able to make this a reality at Stirling was fantastic.

Due to my Business major I always thought of China as the new and emerging market, with unlimited opportunities. I knew the opportunity to study in Hong Kong would allow me to network and learn a completely new culture and so it was my first choice. City University Hong Kong was also within the world top 100 rankings so I thought it was also an opportunity to prove myself academically as well as culturally. I was also in the fortunate and unique position to be able to also study in the United States at UNCW in North Carolina for a semester. I have always wanted to try the American college experience and I could not believe I was also able to study there. UNCW was located within Wilmington (NC) and it was on the beach. The business school also has fantastic facilities and the opportunity was too good to turn down as it offered another completely different cultural experience to both China and Scotland.

The selection process involved a written application asking about my reasons for wanting to study abroad and I had to show how passionate I was about the programme. Once my written application was approved I was then involved in a panel interview.

Overall time spent on the applications and interview preparation is worthwhile, passion shines through and I think this is what the panel saw during my selection.

During my time abroad I met people from all over the world and now have great friends in numerous US states, Europe and Asia (I have even been to stay with some of these friends abroad since my return!). During my time I had unbelievable travelling experiences in Asia such as scuba diving in the Philippines, visiting Singapore, going to the Venetian casino in Macau. Travelling whilst on exchange in the US was also amazing, this involved going to the Bahamas for spring break as well as a US tour to Philadelphia, Chicago, LA, San Francisco, Boston and New York at the end of my studies. The best moment was definitely sitting on the original Friends sofa in Central Perk whilst on the set during a Warner Brothers tour in Hollywood!

The key learning outcomes from study abroad were learning to live independently, adapting to new cultures, learning different academic teaching styles and learning about myself more as a person. I feel that by throwing yourself in the deep end and...
pushing yourself allows you to develop and grow.

Having returned from exchange my chances of getting into graduate jobs has vastly increased. It has been the main taking point from employers in job interviews I have completed so far and my CV looks great as a result. Getting jobs is all about making yourself different from the rest of the applicants and what better opportunity to say you have lived and studied abroad, employers seem to value this experience.

I have already recommended study abroad to so many people since returning and can’t emphasise how much of an opportunity this is for students to both learn about themselves and become much more independent. If you want to have amazing travelling experiences, meet a network of great friends all over the world and put yourself at the top of the pile when applying for jobs, this programme is for you.

In brief

Lund link-up

Summer 2013 saw the completion of the first year of a new MSc in Strategic Public Relations – delivered jointly by the University of Stirling in partnership with Lund University, located just north of Malmo in Sweden. Students spend semester one at the University of Stirling and then move to Lund University for semesters two and three, before deciding if they would like their dissertation supervised by Stirling or Lund. The course is taught completely in English and offers students the chance to get an international perspective on the public relations’ industry.

Barcelona bound

In the autumn the University launched a joint degree with Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain. The one year MSc in Strategic Communication and Public Relations allowed students to share study time on both campuses and get the necessary skills to deliver PR at a managerial level.
Stirling student named Scotland’s Young Sports Person of the Year

Promising triathlete Marc Austin was named Scotland’s Young Sports Person of the Year at the Sunday Mail sportscotland Scottish Sports Awards 2013. Austin, from Scotstoun, received the award in recognition of a stunning final season racing as a junior, winning the silver medal at the World Championships and bronze at the European Championships.

Austin was shortlisted alongside British Boys Amateur golf champion Ewen Ferguson and Stirling Sport & Exercise Science student Ross Murdoch. Murdoch, from Stirlingshire, broke the Scottish breaststroke record and posted the third fastest time in the world this year en route to qualification for his first FINA World Swimming Championships.

While Austin and Murdoch will now be competing in qualifying events to make the Commonwealth Games, Accountancy graduate David McNamee has been confirmed in Team Scotland for Glasgow 2014. The former World U23 silver medallist qualified after finishing 16th in the ITU World rankings last season.

Nursing success for Lorraine

Lorraine Armstrong, who graduated in 2012, won the “Student Nurse of the Year: Adult” title in the Student Nursing Times Awards last year.

The University’s School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health also won the “Teaching Innovation of the Year” award. This recognised the work led by Teaching Fellow/Senior Student Support Officer John Gavin, supporting students with disabilities to achieve their potential in clinical placement.

Stirling student golfer is the fairest of them all

From slow play to improper drops, golfers are often castigated for flouting the rules of the game, but one of our students was last year recognised for his fantastic sportsmanship.

Cormac Sharvin, a second year Sports Studies student, was awarded the Enno Harms Fair Play Award by the European University Sports Association following an exceptional piece of sportsmanship at last year’s European Universities Golf Championship in France.

Sharvin called a penalty on himself with three holes left to play in the 72–hole tournament in Saint-Saens, despite still being in contention for an individual medal. He comments: “Obviously I would have liked to have won the tournament outright, but thankfully we still won the team title and it’s nice to be recognised by EUSA for playing in the spirit of the game.”

Sharvin is one of 160 gifted athletes supported by Winning Students, Scotland’s national sports scholarships for students.

Dedicated University staff presented with long-service awards

Fifteen long-serving members of University staff were presented with special awards at an event on 21 March – to celebrate and honour their commitment and contribution to the organisation.

Three employees – John Gavin, a Teaching Fellow and Senior Student Support Officer in the School of Nursing Midwifery and Health; Professor Randolph Richards, Professor of Clinical Pathology in the Institute of Aquaculture; and William Struthers, Technical Manager in Aquaculture – were recognised for 40 years of service.

Collectively, the dedicated members of staff have given more than 420 years of service to the University. Twelve individuals received awards for 25 years’ service in a diverse range of roles, including cleaning, technical support, lecturing and maintenance.
Developing future leaders

To further support the professional development of its female staff, the University recently adopted the Aurora programme, a new initiative which encourages women to engage with leadership development at an early stage of their careers.

Set against a backdrop of declining numbers of women in senior posts in higher education institutions, the programme encompasses a mixture of education, mentoring and project work to develop potential and build confidence. With the aim of enabling greater numbers of academic and professional female staff to progress to management and leadership roles. The programme is targeted at those in the earlier stages of their career, rather than those already in senior roles.

The University of Stirling was one of the first in Scotland to adopt the programme and currently has 20 female staff enrolled, with a further 20 University staff acting as mentors, providing in-house support to the participants.

The programme is delivered by the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education. Many of the work based projects are directly related to the Athena SWAN initiative.

Advancing women’s careers

Last year the University of Stirling’s commitment to promoting equality in its workforce, leadership and aspirations for the future was recognised by Athena SWAN, a nationally-respected charter for equality in academia. Athena SWAN specifically recognises commitment to advancing women’s careers in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (collectively known as STEMM).

The University received the Athena SWAN Bronze Award following rigorous examination of our policies and activities by a special task group.

As part of our work towards the Bronze Award we consulted with staff and students to come up with a clear action plan and outcomes to promote STEMM careers to women.

This plan – the Gender Equality Plan – was launched last year with several skills-specific workshops and seminars and coaching for women in STEMM areas.

Dame Julia Higgins, Athena SWAN Charter Patron (centre) pictured with Kerry Bryson (left) and Dr Carron Shankland at the Athena SWAN awards ceremony at Imperial College.
New Head for Stirling Management School

Professor Sharon Bolton became our new Head of Stirling Management School in February 2013.

Professor Bolton joined us in 2012 as Director of Research and Professor of Organisational Analysis and was previously Head of the Department of Management at the University of Strathclyde.

Professor Bolton said: “Research and scholarship at Stirling Management School is known for being creative, bold and distinctive in the way it challenges current orthodoxies and finds new ways to address a range of dilemmas. It is therefore an exciting prospect to lead such a vibrant scholarly community and build on these existing firm foundations.”

Stirling Professor joins Economic and Social Research Council

Professor Tara Fenwick from the School of Education was appointed to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) last year. She will serve until July 2016.

Her appointment – along with other council members – was announced by David Willetts, the UK Minister for Universities and Science.

Professor Fenwick said: “I’m delighted and honoured to be appointed to the Economic and Social Research Council.

It’s the UK’s largest organisation for funding research on economic and social issues, supporting independent, high quality research which has an impact on business, the public sector and the third sector. At any one time the ESRC supports over 4,000 researchers and postgraduate students in academic institutions and independent research institutes.”

Bannockburn success for Kathleen

A poem written by our very own Chair in Creative Writing, Professor Kathleen Jamie, was inscribed into a beam crowning the Bannockburn monument near Stirling following selection by public vote and the deliberations of a judging panel.

Professor Jamie, from our School of Arts and Humanities, is one of a remarkable clutch of Scottish writers picked out in 1994 as the ‘new generation poets’.

Also an essayist and travel writer,Jamie is well known for her ability to evoke a landscape in prose. She became Professor of Creative Writing at Stirling in 2011 and in 2012 won the Costa Poetry Award.

She said: “As Bannockburn is so important in Scottish history, it seemed proper to acknowledge our cultural traditions, especially poetry and song about landscape. Of course I’m pleased ‘my’ poem was chosen, but I don’t think of this work as ‘mine’ any longer. It’s built from traditional materials, so to speak, and it’s spun into the future, and like the land it describes, it belongs to everyone that appreciates it.”

Shirley wins top title at Nurse of the Year Awards

Shirley Law – the Director of Practice Development at our Dementia Services Development Centre – scooped the Mental Health Award at the Nurse of the Year Awards last year. The awards are organised by the UK’s best-selling nursing journal, Nursing Standard, to highlight and celebrate excellence in nursing.

Shirley accepted her award for setting up ground-breaking workshops to help carers of people with dementia.

The three-year project – helping people right across Scotland – is supported by a £100,000 grant from Comic Relief.

She said: “Thousands of people are nominated for these awards, run by the Royal College of Nursing’s journal Nursing Standard. To be a category winner is a great honour and it was quite emotional when my name was read out. I care for my mother, who has Alzheimer’s so I’ve personal experience of dealing with dementia, making the project and its impact particularly important to me.”
New Director of Commercial Services

Liam Spillane joined in November as the new Director of Commercial Services.

He heads up a new directorate which includes the award-winning Stirling Management Centre, Commercial Services, and the provision of University catering.

Mr Spillane said he was delighted to join the team at Stirling. “It’s a wonderful institution with great links into the local community and business sector. I’m excited about my role and the opportunity it presents to build on the University’s success to date; and to improve on what we offer to staff and students, and to businesses using University facilities.”

Mr Spillane has over twenty years’ experience in corporate hotels in both national and international roles across the Hilton Hotels Corporation and Intercontinental Hotel Group.

He has previously held senior roles at Hilton’s Edinburgh Airport Hotel and the Crowne Plaza in Glasgow. He was also Director of Operations at the Hilton Sharks Bay Resort in Egypt.

Stirling Professor leads new Dementia Research body

Professor Emma Reynish, Chair of Dementia Research at the University, became the co-chair of Scotland’s first Dementia Research Consortium. The new body aims to bring a new, collaborative approach to dementia research in Scotland.

Professor Reynish said: “A co-ordinated collaborative research effort has the potential to have a larger impact than that of individuals alone.

“Nowhere is this truer than in the field of dementia research where the spectrum of research activity spans the extremes of the biomedical and social science practice and involves an ever increasing multidisciplinary, multi-skilled workforce. Effort across this whole spectrum is crucial to the overarching goal of realising benefits for people with dementia and their families and carers.”

World’s first for Stirling Professor

Stirling Professor Robert Eklund has co-authored the world’s first Encyclopaedia of Sport and Exercise Psychology. Together with Dr Gershon Tenenbaum of Florida State University, Professor Eklund created the 880-page, two volume tome containing more than 300 entries penned by the world’s leading sport psychologists.

The Encyclopaedia covers everything from why athletes suffer ‘burnout’ to how sport builds character and addressing the notorious golfers’ ‘yips’ – the involuntary movements known to affect golfers when chipping and putting.

Professor Eklund, Editor of the Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology, said: “Hopefully the encyclopaedia will help to demystify sport psychology – to show people that it is logical common sense, grounded in research.”

A former Canadian collegiate wrestling champion, Professor Eklund is a renowned expert in sport psychology and joined Stirling’s School of Sport in 2013, having previously worked in the USA and Australia.

Healthier lives for everyone

A study of cyclists by scientists at the University of Stirling and University College Dublin has uncovered the secret to successful training. It’s all about combining high intensity training sessions with low intensity ones.

Twelve cyclists were put through their paces during a 29-week trial to determine optimum athletic training intensity. Dr Stuart Galloway from Stirling said: “We found in these cyclists that if you can make the hard sessions harder and the easy sessions easier then you will likely see better progress. Amateur athletes tend to spend a lot of their training in a moderate intensity bracket which in our study showed much smaller improvements.”

Dr Angus Hunter, who co-authored the research, said: “Muscle fatigue can be detrimental to a successful long-term exercise programme, but our study suggests that a much quicker recovery occurs when adopting the low and high intensity combination.”
Stirling Alumni

Muffy Calder and Terry O’Connor share how the Stirling experience has helped to shape their careers.

Muffy Calder OBE FREng FRSE, Chief Scientific Adviser to the Scottish Government

Muffy Calder OBE is Professor of Computing Science at the University of Glasgow and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Scottish Government. She is a Royal Society Wolfson Merit Award Holder and before becoming Chief Scientific Adviser she was a Royal Society Leverhulme Research Senior Fellow and Dean for Research in the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Glasgow.

It wasn’t just Stirling’s world renowned reputation in research which attracted her to the University – it was the hills too, as she explains: “I originally chose to come to Stirling because I liked hills and running, but for some perverse reason I stopped running and spent too much time in the pub. As soon as I left Stirling I started hill running again, but I confess I have never done the Dumyat race. One day…”

Calder developed the research bug, as she remembers: “I got a taste for research during my final year dissertation, which was entitled “Applications directed theory: parser generators based on heterogeneous algebraic structures”… perhaps I am better at choosing titles now, though I am still studying algebraic structures.”

Calder’s research is in modelling and reasoning about the behaviour of complex software and biochemical systems using computer science, mathematics and automated reasoning techniques. She has developed and used a variety of process algebras, temporal logics and model checking techniques to solve problems in a range of systems, from telephone networks and communications protocols, to domestic home care systems and intracellular signalling transduction pathways that contribute to diseases including cancer.

But the intricacies of algebra are nothing to her most recent challenge: “I was delighted to be chosen to represent the University of Stirling in a special Christmas edition of University Challenge. I am so glad we did it and it was lovely to represent Stirling and meet other graduates who collectively spanned several decades. None of us were at Stirling at the same time so it was interesting to share stories of our experiences.”
Terry O’Connor OBE, Group Chief Executive Officer of Courts Asia

Terry O’Connor is the Group Chief Executive Officer of Courts Asia, one of Asia’s leading electrical, IT and furniture retailers. Hailing from Liverpool, England, Terry started his career in retailing in the ruthless UK electrical retail marketplace with Colorvision PLC, rising to the post of Buying Director at the age of 23.

Terry studied a Master of Business Administration in retailing and Wholesaling at Stirling: “Stirling’s MBA in Retailing was wonderfully flexible, enabling me to focus on my studies outside of the peak retailing months of October to December... I found the academic study both relevant and stimulating, providing me with a firm basis for future strategic decision-making. I maintain contact with other local alumni on the programme, and it is always good to meet Stirling staff when they visit Singapore.”

In 1993, Terry was hired by Courts to spearhead its acceleration into the electrical retail market in Singapore, then following the private equity-led buyout of Courts operations in Southeast Asia in 2007, Terry assumed the role of CEO for Courts in Asia and has since led a turnaround of its operations in Malaysia. Terry is a leading figure in the wider British community in Singapore. Under his leadership at the BritCham, it grew to become an active organisation with over 1,000 members, delivering valuable services to the British business community in Singapore.

An active member in public and community service, Terry is a regular commentator in both the local and regional media on retail issues. He and his wife have been actively involved in charitable activities and have helped raised funds for causes such as Down Syndrome, Breast Cancer, Cerebral Palsy, Red Cross Home for the Disabled and Riding for the Disabled.

Terry was conferred the award of Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty The Queen of England in June 2010. He says of his success: “Most of the time, success comes only after tremendous effort, hard work and perseverance, so it is important to take the time to acknowledge and enjoy your achievements when they come – celebrate success with your team, your family, however you want to. It’s ok to pause to raise your hat to a job well done.”

Stirling graduate wins award for best screenplay

A moving film adaptation written by Stirling alumnus Malcolm Campbell – who graduated from a BA (Hons) Film and Media Studies in 1996 – won the London Evening Standard British Film Award for Best Screenplay in 2013. What Richard Did follows a group of privileged Irish teenagers over the course of the summer between the end of school and the beginning of university. The screenwriting was commended by the judging panel for its power, with panellist Anthony Quinn describing it as “screenwriting of a very high order”. Malcolm said: “When I heard I had won the award I was shocked, then elated and proud. It was a tough category and nobody expected a small Irish art-house film to beat James Bond. It was terrifying, having to make an acceptance speech in a room full of people I admire and I still can’t remember what I said.” He praised his time at the University: “The lecturers at Stirling were passionate about their subject and made me appreciate films, think about them on a deeper level and realise I wanted to be part of that world.”
Honorary Graduates

Recognising the contribution made by distinguished individuals in the world of academia, sport, the arts, conservation, business and entrepreneurship, the University of Stirling conferred the following Honorary Degrees in 2013.

The Right Honourable Dame Elish Angiolini

The degree of Doctor of the University was conferred on Dame Elish in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the criminal justice system in Scotland and for her commitment to assisting vulnerable victims of crime.

A native of Glasgow, Elish Angiolini studied Law at the University of Strathclyde then trained as a Procurator Fiscal. Following her role as Senior Depute Procurator Fiscal, she was appointed Head of Policy in the Crown Office in 1997. In 2001 she was installed as Solicitor General for Scotland – the first solicitor, Procurator Fiscal and woman to be appointed to that post – and was installed as Lord Advocate in 2006. She has appeared as a Law Officer in some of the most significant Scottish legal issues in recent years and has provided legal advice to government on a wide range of issues.

Dr Judy Murray

The degree of Doctor of the University was conferred on Judy Murray in recognition of her outstanding contribution to sport and international tennis, to fostering sporting excellence in young people, and for her work with cancer care.

A local girl from Bridge of Allan, Judy Murray was a talented school tennis player, winning 64 junior and senior titles in Scottish tennis. As an adult, she once more became involved in tennis and worked as Scottish National Tennis Coach between 1995 and 2004. Judy Murray was appointed captain of the Great Britain Federation Cup team in December 2011 and is leading the drive to increase the number of female tennis coaches. Her current goals include the establishment of training centres to develop tennis players and coaches of the future in Scotland and the creation of a new tennis centre.

Dr Taeko Seki

The degree of Doctor of the University was conferred on Dr Seki in recognition of her outstanding services to the University of Stirling and to fostering links between Scotland and Japan.

A lecturer in English Language Education in several Japanese universities, Taeko Seki graduated from the University of Stirling in 1994 with a Master’s degree in Education and in 2004 with a Doctorate on Education. Dr Seki is a tireless and enthusiastic ambassador for the University. She established the Taeko Seki Overseas Scholarship programme, designed to assist Japanese students studying at Stirling, and heads the Japanese Alumni Association of the University and the Japan Scotland Association. She was appointed by the Scottish Government as the first female GlobalScot.

Professor James Smith

The degree of Doctor of the University was conferred on Professor Smith in recognition of his outstanding contribution to our understanding of economic and health issues associated with ageing.

Professor Smith is one of the world’s leading scholars in the area of ageing and a key contributor to the establishment of a worldwide network of longitudinal surveys of ageing, bringing together economics with other disciplines to help understand the challenges facing an ageing world population. For over twenty years he has led the RAND Labor and Population division, one of the main centres of ageing research, and has twice received the National Institutes of Health Merit Award. In 2011, Professor Smith was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science.
Dame Judi Dench
The degree of Doctor of the University was conferred on Dame Judi in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Arts, and acknowledges the important role she has played in highlighting dementia.

One of Britain’s most well-loved stars of film, theatre and television, Judi Dench began her career on stage, moved into television in *A Fine Romance* and *As Time Goes By*, and in film with roles in *Shakespeare in Love*, *Chocolat*, *Mrs Henderson Presents* and *Queen Victoria* in *Mrs Brown*. Since 1995 she has starred as ‘M’ in the James Bond films and her many awards include eleven BAFTAs, two Golden Globes and an Academy Award. Dame Judi has supported the representation of dementia through her Bafta-winning film *Iris* and through her campaign to improve the care of older people in our society.

Dr Iain Macdonald
The degree of Doctor of the University was conferred on Iain Macdonald in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the international co-operative movement.

Iain Macdonald’s early career was spent in London where he became a Trade Union, Labour and co-operative activist.

On his return to Scotland he joined the Co-operative Union and rose to become Director-General of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) in 2002.

Iain Macdonald raised the profile of the co-operative business model, working to resolve some of the world’s economic and social problems. Since leaving the ICA in 2010, Iain Macdonald has worked as a co-operative consultant and as a board member of Co-operative Development Scotland and the New Lanark Trust.

Sheikh Dr Ahmed Abdullah Al Ghazali
The degree of Doctor of the University was conferred on Dr Al Ghazali in recognition of his outstanding contribution to education in Oman.

Dr Al Ghazali is one of Oman’s leading figures and the Chairman and founder of Muscat College, one of the most highly regarded colleges in the region.

A visionary and a leader in education, he has established and shaped the renaissance of modern Oman. He established the first school for girls on Oman’s islands and the first educational supervision offices in the cities of Sohar and Sur. He was appointed to a series of government posts including Minister of Education, during which time he created regulations for governing schools and established a teacher training institute.

Dr Gordon Buchanan
The degree of Doctor of the University was conferred on Gordon Buchanan in recognition of his outstanding services to conservation and wildlife filmmaking.

Originally from the Isle of Mull, Gordon Buchanan’s career in filmmaking began in Sierra Leone, Venezuela and Brazil, where he helped document indigenous peoples and the spectacular animals of the regions. He was a major contributor to the 2004 Big Cat Diary series and helped to capture sensational footage of leopards. He also continues to work in Scotland, filming foxes in Glasgow for *Springwatch* and *Autumnwatch*, and eagles on Mull. He has also made his name as a presenter and in 2012 he was given a Royal Television Society award for his presenting work on *The Bear Family and Me*. 
Campus students 2012/2013

Scotland: 26%
Overseas: 58%
Other UK: 7%
EU: 9%

Key statistics

- Total: 12,619
- Undergraduates: 8,739
- Postgraduates: 3,880
- International reach: students from 121 countries represented on campus
- Alumni: 49,000+
- Staff: 1,500+
- Total value of research funding brought in by the University (2012/13): £11,248,000

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 July 2013

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<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
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1st in Scotland
9th in the UK
61st in the World

Top 3 in Scotland² for graduate employability

Queen's Anniversary Prize Winner 2013

Scotland’s University for Sporting Excellence

94%³ of Stirling students are in employment or further study within six months of graduating

Top 4 of global higher education institutions

1. Times Higher Education 100 Universities Under 50, 2013
2. The Telegraph, 2013
3. HESA, 2013
4. QS World University Rankings, 2013