2012
ALUMNI, STAFF AND FRIENDS

MEET AUTHOR ALAN BISSETT
THE 2011 GLENFIDDICH SPIRIT OF SCOTLAND WRITER OF THE YEAR

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS
OUR STIRLING SPORTS SCHOLARS

THE STIRLING FUND
WE SAY THANK YOU
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Let us entertain you
Welcome to the 2012 edition of *Stirling Minds* which provides a glimpse into what has been an exciting year for the University – from the presentation of the new Strategic Plan in the Scottish Parliament last September to the ranking in a new THE (under 50 years old) league table which sees Stirling placed 1st in Scotland, 8th in the UK and 50th in the world.

In addition to the ever popular class notes (pages 31 to 35), this issue features interviews with graduates Alan Bissett (page 8), Hazel Irvine (page 12), Hamish Hamilton, (page 38), Mark Cousins (page 40) and Sophie Jones (page 42) – a testament to the quality of our alumni and Honorary Graduates.

I would like to thank all of you who responded so positively to the end of year alumni survey. Your ideas are already shaping the alumni relations programme and if you would like to find out more, sign up to receive our quarterly e-bulletins by emailing alumni@stir.ac.uk. I’d also like to thank everyone who supported the recent Stirling Fund appeal, making it the most successful Stirling Fund telephone appeal in our history. I would like to add a special thank you to retired lecturer Peter Meech for his professional editorial assistance in the production of this magazine.

*Stirling Minds* only provides a snapshot into recent successful developments at the University. I urge you to come back and visit the campus and see for yourself or check out the future events section on page 46.

I hope you enjoy reading *Stirling Minds*, however, please let us know by completing and returning the attached mailing sheet, or by contacting alumni@stir.ac.uk. It’s your magazine and your feedback is important to us.

With every good wish,

Kerry Bryson
Director of Development & External Affairs

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**10 reasons to keep in touch**

With over 44,000 Stirling alumni in 151 countries around the world there are many reasons why you should keep in touch:

1. Maintain lifelong friendships.
2. Network. Connection with alumni in similar fields, positions and locations.
3. Invitations to events, workshops, lectures, presentations and reunions.
4. Lost touch with your friends? Maybe we can help you find them.
5. Utilise the Career Development Centre for professional development and continuing education opportunities.
8. Receive e-newsletters and *Stirling Minds*, and stay informed about what is going on.
9. Get involved and share your expertise – maybe you could be a mentor or provide a career profile.
10. It’s fun and it’s easy – one click of the mouse will take you to: www.stir.ac.uk/alumni

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www.stir.ac.uk/alumni
The University is ranked number one in Scotland and eighth in the UK in The Times Higher Education 100 Under 50 table, which ranks the world’s best 100 universities under 50 years old. Stirling was established by Royal Charter in 1967, the first new university to be established in Scotland for 400 years. Since then, a number of new universities has been founded throughout Scotland and the UK, and there has been substantial growth in the development of new universities throughout the world.

Universities are judged against performance indicators, such as teaching, research, knowledge transfer and internationalisation.

**Campus developments**

Building work begins this summer on a three-year, multi-million pound project to replace 40 percent of the University’s student accommodation on campus. The new residences will provide students with well-designed study bedrooms, spacious kitchens with dining space and increased social space. All the new accommodation will have either en suite facilities or, in the case of townhouses, facilities shared by only two students. The first building should be completed in September 2013 and the finished project will provide 788 new bedrooms, while cutting carbon emissions due to innovative design. During the three phases of the programme, Murray Hall, Geddes Court and A.K. Davidson Hall will be demolished.
02 Honorary Graduates
In the summer 2012 graduation ceremony, Baroness Sally Greengross of Notting Hill (pictured top left) was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of her campaigning work in the field of ageing and dementia. The Lord Davidson of Glen Clova (pictured bottom left) received an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Scots Law and Public Affairs.

Mr Graeme Simmers (pictured bottom right) was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the University as a lay member of the University Court. Professor Christine Hallett (pictured top right), former Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Stirling, received an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of her leadership and outstanding contribution to the development and re-shaping of the University.

Robert Steedman OBE and Professor Donald Worster were awarded Honorary Doctorates in the winter graduation ceremonies. Bill Culbard was awarded the degree of Master of Arts at the ceremony in Inverness.

03 An evening of remembrance
Deputy Principal Professor John Gardner and Dr Taeko Seki, a distinguished alumna of the University, attended a ceremony of Remembrance, Gratitude and Hope at St John’s Church, Edinburgh, on 11 March to mark the first anniversary of the Japanese tsunami. An evening of poignant music, dance and song was rounded off by a moving rendition of Auld Lang Syne by a young Japanese piper.

Almost 16,000 people were killed in the tragedy, which had a major impact throughout the world. Individuals, groups, governments and nations everywhere came to the assistance of the Japanese people. Professor Gardner (pictured middle) with Dr Seki (pictured right) and Mr Masataka Tarahara, Consul General of Japan.
Hello to...

John Gardner (pictured on page 5), Professor of Education and Deputy Principal (Education and Students), joined the University in January 2012. His main research and teaching interests include policy and practice in all sectors of education, particularly in relation to assessment and information technology.

Professor Edmund Burke (pictured above), Deputy Principal for Research, joined the University in December 2011. His research interests lie at the interface of Operational Research and Computer Science. He has secured research funding of over £2.3 million to establish a new University research group to develop a ground-breaking software project.

The University has appointed Jocelyn Prudence (pictured above), currently Chief Executive of the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA), as University Secretary. Jocelyn has been Chief Executive of UCEA since 2001, where she has transformed the organisation and made a significant contribution to employment issues in higher education.

Scotland in 2014

2014 is the second Year of Homecoming and Scottish ancestry from across the world will visit Scotland. It is also the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, the year Glasgow will host the Commonwealth Games and Gleneagles will host the Ryder Cup. These events offer a unique opportunity for Stirling to put itself at the centre of the celebrations during 2014.

A wide ranging programme of events is planned in and around Stirling in 2014 to mark the anniversary of the battle. The National Trust has announced that a new state-of-the-art Bannockburn Heritage Centre will be completed early in June, and a celebration of Scottish Youth involving all schools in the area is planned.
The Scottish team for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games will be based in Stirling, taking advantage of our excellent sporting facilities. In September, golf’s Ryder Cup will be at Gleneagles. These major events, plus the many others already in the calendar as ‘hardy annuals’, mean Stirling will be the destination to visit in 2014.

Come back and make 2014 a year to remember! For more information, visit: www.homecomingscotland.com

**06 Celtic Film Awards**

A moving documentary about blind and visually impaired golfers created by students from the University scooped three prestigious awards this year. *A Bunch of Gentlemen* won the Royal Television Society Student Award and the Student Award 2012 for Best Factual Film in the Greenlight Section of The Celtic Media Festival in Dublin. It was also the winner in the Documentary Section of the Half Cut Short Film Festival in St Andrews.

Louise Begbie, Milla Harju, Fatima Heldu, Claudia Lorenz, Nadin Mai and Amanda Jayne Naughton created the film as part of their final year coursework.

**07 Musicians’ Union**

The 100th anniversary of the Titanic disaster highlighted the material held by the Musicians’ Union Archive, currently being catalogued by the University. The extensive collection of magazines, photographs, posters and artefacts dating from the early 20th century captures an important slice of history, including accounts of what happened to the eight Titanic musicians who played on as the ship sank. The records of the Union provide a detailed account of the political and technological challenges which have faced performing musicians over the last century.
Putting words on paper and on screen

Alan Bissett, the 2011 Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Writer of the Year, reflects on becoming one of Scotland's leading young literary figures

Name: Alan Bissett
Studied: BA DipEd (Hons) English & Education 1998 and MLitt English 2002
Occupation: Author
“I can definitely say that my writing talent was incubated at Stirling.”
"I’d always wanted to be a writer and that’s one of the reasons I studied English. I was always good at reading and doing book reviews, and English seemed like the natural thing to do. I wanted to expand my mind and I knew going to university would do this and give me a career.

"When I graduated in 1998, I got a teaching job at a secondary school in Elgin. Although I was only there for six months, I really enjoyed it. But I wanted to become a writer. I tried to look into the future and plan what I’d be doing, and I always saw myself as a writer and not a teacher. Although I was expanding my mind, the writer in me became stronger. Unfortunately I didn’t finish my PhD, but I was awarded a Master’s at the same time as my first novel, *Boyracers*, was being published (2001). I can definitely say that my writing talent was incubated at Stirling.

As mentors David Punter, Grahaeme and Angela Smith, Rory Watson, Glennis Byron and John Drakakis were all great for me. The Smiths were lovely people – they’ve got Stirling in their blood. Both Grahaeme and Rory saw that literature had a connection with the real world and that was important for me. They could connect to where I’d come from, a working class background.

*Boyracers* is loosely autobiographical. It’s about a young teenager, Alvin, and his friends, who grow up in Falkirk. They spend their time boy-racing in a car called Belinda, having discussions about film and music. Alvin then goes on to study at Stirling University. The
sequel, Pack Men, which came out last year, is about Alvin going back to Falkirk ten years later, having been away for many years.

I’m working on the second draft of a screenplay of Boyracers right now. Depending on how that goes and if we can secure funding, I think the project is a goer. Optimistically, I think it could be on screen by 2014. I would imagine some of it would be based in Stirling. The novel was set at the turn of the millennium, but we’ve adapted the story to have it set now. With that in mind, Alvin is a teenager in 2014, which makes his dad the same age as me. I’m hoping to play his dad in the film! That’s a shock for me, where I’m at the stage in my life where I could play the parent of a 16-year-old.

“The first year at University was one of the happiest of my life.”

Death of a Ladies Man is set in Glasgow and is about a middle-class English teacher. It’s a book about sex rather than class. This man likes women too much for his own good. To a certain extent, it’s a comedy but his life is spiralling out of control. I used a lot of the culture around me for ideas – music, fashion, drugs. My play and one-man show, The Moira Monologues, is about the women I grew up with in Falkirk. There’s Moira, who is a single mum and works as a cleaner, and her long-suffering pal Babs, their children and what they get up to.

The next few months are going to be a busy time for me. The BBC has the script for The Moira Monologues and hopefully it will be developed into a sitcom. I’m also performing at the Edinburgh Fringe in my new play, The Red Hourglass, at the National Library of Scotland.

In January I published a poem ironically titled Vote Britain, and the response it generated caught the attention of the SNP, with whom I’m now working on the ‘Yes’ campaign. Also, Scottish theatre is becoming more political, like it was in the 1970s, so I’m getting involved in political activism through my work in the theatre.

Peter Mullan, Ken Loach and Lynne Ramsay are great Scottish directors and I’d love to give them one of my scripts. I also really admire the theatre actress Maureen Beattie. I saw her in The Cherry Orchard and thought she was amazing. But I have to say I’d love to work with Lorraine McIntosh from Deacon Blue. I had such a crush on her, and to have her saying my lines would be incredible.

Favourite memories of Stirling? I was in the Musical Society and it was a great experience. We were the cohort who staged Grease, West Side Story and Little Shop of Horrors. There was an energy between us. The first year at University was one of the happiest of my life. I’d not enjoyed school and suddenly here I was surrounded by this freedom, where it was okay to be clever. Sometimes the simple things make the best memories, like walking around the campus at 4am with my flatmates."

Alan released his first novel, Boyracers, in 2001. His Death of a Ladies’ Man was shortlisted for the Scottish Arts Council Fiction of the Year prize in 2009 (now The Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust Novel of the Year prize); Pack Men has been shortlisted for this year.

To find out about Alan’s public appearances, visit: http://alanbissett.com
An Olympic career

Sports broadcaster Hazel Irvine on preparations for London 2012
This year’s Olympics was Stirling Honorary Graduate Hazel Irvine’s twelfth as a television presenter.

“Of course I have moments of self-doubt, but when the starter’s gun goes – or in my case the red light comes on – you rely on instinct and all your preparation.”

After 25 years broadcasting from some of the biggest sporting events on the planet, it is fitting that Hazel Irvine draws parallels between her life and that of an athlete.

Viewers are always treated to a thoroughly professional performance from Hazel, whether it’s chewing the fat post-match with Steve Davis and John Higgins at the World Championship snooker or standing at the 18th hole of the Open golf.

But just how does she keep on top of her game? Hazel said: “The more flying hours, as I call it, you have under your belt, the more capable you are of dealing with the different situations when they come up.

“For every sport I work on, it’s like opening drawers in your mind. I can only do one at a time. Fortunately, when I open them, all the information is there and you start to remember things again.”

Originally from Helensburgh in Argyll and Bute, Hazel, 47, now lives in London with her New Zealander husband and young daughter. “People always ask how my golf is and my answer is ‘I have a three-year-old’.”

The London 2012 Olympic Games in Hazel’s adopted home were the twelfth winter and summer Games she has presented at, each of which has a unique place in her heart.

“The Olympics launched my interest in sport and I would not be doing what I’m doing without them,” said Hazel, whose first Olympic memory was tuning in to watch Munich 1972.

“They are gargantuan events and they get bigger every time. Yes, there are things that can be tweaked, but I am a disciple of the Olympics and, in their purest form they’re about young people giving their best.

“I was absolutely thrilled when London got them. If it had been Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester or Norwich, anywhere in the UK, they would still have benefited the country in terms of sport.

“I can speak with confidence having seen what the Games do for the countries who host them. Take Vancouver in 2010 for example, they brought the whole country together. I’m certain London has inspired a generation, to use the popular phrase.”

Hazel cites interviewing Stirling graduate Catriona Matthew following her 2009 Ricoh Women’s British Open title win as amongst her proudest moments. It was extra special given the fact Catriona that was the subject of her first ever television interview, then discussing her University golf bursary.

Hazel said: “I salute Stirling for the work it has done for Scottish sport. A career in top level sport is a marvellous thing, but to have an education behind you is essential. The combination of education and access to excellent sporting facilities and top class coaching, that’s where Stirling scores so highly.

“Britain’s coaching system is now the envy of the world. We have not been afraid to ask for help. We’ve learned from others and have fostered some excellent young coaches. Keeping them after London 2012 is the next challenge.”

Back at the start of her career, Hazel’s own personal challenge was to make her way in a male dominated domain. Today, she describes the redressing of the balance as ‘drip, drip, not an avalanche’, but considers it ‘no longer an issue’.

As online coverage of sport grows apace and new media take over, she has some ‘old school’ advice for any students considering a career in broadcasting. “Read, read and read some more,” she said. “Do your homework and get to know your interviewee, as there is a lot of preparation that goes into being able to turn up and say hello.”

Hazel Irvine was awarded an honorary DUniv in 2005.
Thirty years of success

For some, turning 30 can be a daunting prospect, but for the University’s International Sports Scholarship Programme its anniversary year has been one of real highs.

There were ace performances from the tennis players, cup winning results for the footballers and course record breaking golf scores, further proof of an excellent option for students to stay in Scotland and develop their talent.

Just ask Graeme Robertson, one of 20 golf scholars at Stirling and part of the all-conquering men’s team which swept the board in Scottish, British and European University events.

“I went to America for a year before I came to Stirling so I know what it’s like across the pond,” said the Sports Studies & Marketing student.

“It’s only my experience, but Stirling is ten times better. We are coached by Dean Robertson, a former European Tour professional who knows what it takes to get to the top of the game. And we play matches at Gleneagles, a stunning venue.

I know it won’t be easy, but the ideal for me would be to reach the pinnacle of the amateur game then turn professional.”

This achievement would see Graeme follow in the footsteps of such golfing alumni as current European Tour player Ritchie Ramsay and LPGA star Catriona Matthew.

While golf has been a staple Stirling sport since the programme was first established in 1982, a more recent addition has been women’s football. The campus-based Scottish FA National Performance Centre for women’s football is home to 14 players, such as Scotland international striker Jane Ross.

Jane arrived with one senior international cap, but now has almost 40, as well as double figures of goals scored.

The 22-year-old said: “To get the opportunity to train every day, sometimes twice a day is something you have to make the most of. Women’s football in Scotland has moved on a lot recently and much of this is owed to the centre at Stirling”.

Investment in facilities, such as the High Performance Sports Science and Sports Medicine facility, which opened in June, ensures the programme continues to push the boundaries, supporting as it does around 100 scholars each year.

Sports Performance Manager Raleigh Gowrie said: “The University has been innovative in not only enhancing and improving its facilities, but also staying at the forefront of science and technology. Unquestionably 2011-12 has been our best year to date, rich reward for the huge amount of effort and dedication shown by our athletes every day.”

For more about the International Sports Scholarship Programme, visit: http://stir.ac.uk/8a
01 Nick Hatchett, part of the British Universities Championship and League winning tennis team.
02 Graeme Robertson pictured with the Craigmillar Park Open Trophy.
03 Scotland international footballer Jane Ross.
STIRLING RESEARCH INTO SCOTLAND’S CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

Dr Mark Priestley and Sarah Minty of the School of Education published their research into the implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) in Scotland.

The CfE is generally viewed as a landmark development in Scottish education. It calls for a shift in classroom practices towards more pupil centred approaches to education and a renewed view of teachers as professional developers of the curriculum and agents of change.

Dr Priestley says: “Despite the far-reaching implications of this innovation, there has been little systematic research to date on the new curriculum. Our study partially fills this gap, primarily exploring teachers’ views of the new curriculum and the nature and extent of implementation.”

The research was conducted in tandem with a Scottish Government funded partnership project, established between a Scottish local authority and the University of Stirling. The project contributed to the development of CfE within the authority by providing explicit support for curriculum development to a number of different networks of practitioners.

STIRLING RESEARCHERS LEAD REVIEW OF TOBACCO PACKAGING

Professors Gerard Hastings and Linda Bauld from the University’s Stirling Management School have conducted a systematic review of plain tobacco packaging. This has led to the UK government’s consultation on whether tobacco should be sold in standardised or plain packaging.

The review of evidence focusses on whether cigarettes should be sold in plain packs to reduce the attractiveness of the brand packaging and to make the health warnings more clear.

Professor Hastings says: “Just over three dozen studies were identified and these show that plain packaging can help smokers in three ways: by increasing the prominence and effectiveness of health warnings; by making the pack, and thereby smoking, less appealing, and removing the confusion about relative harm which pack design can cause.”

Professor Bauld adds: “This systematic review forms the basis for the UK-wide consultation on whether plain packaging should be introduced. The studies we identified and describe in the review were remarkably consistent in their findings and clearly set out what effect plain packaging could have.”

From smoking and teaching to fitness and bumblebeeing, recent studies demonstrate the continuing contribution made by University researchers across a disparate range of areas.
INSECTICIDES USED ON FLOWERING CROPS HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON BUMBLEBEES

New research from Stirling has shed light on the causes of bee declines, which threaten crop yields and the survival of many wildflowers.

Flowering crops are treated with neonicotinoid insecticides as a seed dressing to protect them against pests. The chemicals are systemic, travelling through the plant, and low levels are found in the nectar and pollen. The new research shows that bumblebee nests exposed to such low levels for just two weeks subsequently grew more slowly and showed an 85 percent reduction in the number of new queens they produced.

Bumblebees forage over a kilometre from their nest to find food, so most bee nests in agricultural areas will be exposed to neonicotinoids.

The work was supervised by Professor Dave Goulson at Stirling, who says: “Our work suggests that trace exposure of our wild bees to insecticides is having a major impact on their populations. Only queen bumblebees survive the winter to build new nests in the spring, so reducing the number produced by 85 percent means far fewer nests the following year. Repeated year on year, the long-term cumulative effects are likely to be profound.”

WALK YOUR WAY OUT OF DEPRESSION

Walking could play an important role in fighting depression, according to a study led by PhD student Roma Robertson.

Physical exercise is recommended as a treatment option for people with mild depression, which affects as many as one in 10 British adults at some point during their lives.

Roma says: “We found that walking has a statistically significant, large effect on the symptoms of depression in some populations and is as effective as other forms of physical activity.

“There’s a big movement towards encouraging people to walk for physical health reasons, but this study recognises its role in mental health and highlights a widely acceptable and safe treatment option.”

Dr Ruth Jepson, Co-Director Centre for Public Health and Population Health at Stirling says: “This research is one of a number of key studies at the University around outdoor physical activity and health.

“Other examples include looking at the effects of outdoor activity on health and mental wellbeing, such as buggy walking for post natal mums, green gyms, health walks and community gardens.”
Meet the Principal

Professor Gerry McCormac, who became Principal of the University in 2010, has had a distinguished research career in both space physics and carbon dating. Two years into post, journalist Olga Wojtas met him to find out more about the person behind the position, the individual who is the Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

Perhaps surprisingly, Professor McCormac didn’t plan a career in academia. He describes his career as ‘essentially a series of opportunities’ whereby tasks he enjoyed, and had an aptitude for, presented themselves in the form of job offers. Born in Belfast, he was the first in his family to go into higher education. He enjoyed science and liked practical, hands-on activities and being out doors.

When asked as a teenager what job he would like to do in the future he always replied “anything, as long as I don’t end up in an office.”

On completion of his undergraduate degree he was persuaded by one of his lecturers to consider studying for a PhD. The project that was suggested involved measuring light from the Aurora Borealis at a research station in Spitzbergen, Norway. It combined the outdoors with long stints in the high Arctic, just the ticket for someone who didn’t want to spend time in an office. The results of his PhD were presented at a conference in Norway that was also attended by a research team from the University of Michigan. They had conducted similar research using spacecraft data and offered him the opportunity to work with their team.

He spent several years in Ann Arbor, Michigan, working on the NASA Dynamics Explorer satellite programme before returning to Belfast with his young family to take up post as lecturer in environmental monitoring at Queen’s University. He literally, ‘came back down to earth’, specialising in carbon dating and archaeological chronology. At Queen’s his colleagues, impressed by his methodical approach, asked that he put himself forward to be head of department.

“I had no ambition at all to get involved in academic administration. I was happy carrying out my research and saw that as my future,” he said.

The department prospered under his leadership, winning the Queen’s Anniversary Prize in 2000 and dating a number of high-profile archaeological sites, such as the Bronze Age Dover Boat, Tintagel Castle,
Stonehenge and Sutton Hoo. He became Director of Queen’s Radiocarbon Research Facility and established the CHRONO Centre, and is particularly proud of successfully bidding for an accelerator mass spectrometer, which is still in continual use for carbon dating and geophysics research.

His success as a head of department didn’t go unnoticed by the university’s senior management and not surprisingly he became pro-vice-chancellor. After nine years in that role, he had covered the entire breadth of the portfolio, including economic development, external relations, public affairs, research, learning and teaching, and planning.

During this time, he had received a number of approaches from head-hunters for posts elsewhere, but the timing was not right. Just as his youngest son left home to take up a place at Imperial College to study Theoretical Physics, the post of Principal at the University of Stirling became available.

He had never foreseen the career path taken and if he had been asked at any point if he had an aspiration to become a vice-chancellor, the answer would have been an emphatic ‘no’.

“I absolutely didn’t set out to do this; I enjoy it, but I could never have foreseen it,” he said.

He has already demonstrated his capacity for hard work. As well as leading the development of the University’s Strategic Plan, which sets the institution’s objectives through to 2016, he has, at the request of the Scottish Government, carried out the McCormac Review, an independent review of the terms and conditions of teacher employment in Scotland.

He also plays hard, making frequent use of the University’s sports facilities.

And while he may have broken his teenage vow never to work in an office, there are compensations to having an office at Stirling.

“This is an excellent university, offering a first class education and conducting research that responds to the needs of society. I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to contribute to its success and delighted with the progress we have made in the past two years.”
The lost generation?

Professor David Bell talks about graduate employment prospects in the recession and Lesley Grayburn says we are here to help
You may have heard about the 'lost generation' of young people with little prospect of employment in the current recession, but you may not have realised that the phrase was coined by Stirling’s Professor of Economics, David Bell.

David has advised the UK government on youth unemployment – attending the Prime Minister’s Youth Unemployment Summit at 10 Downing Street – and has some key insights into graduate employment now and in the near future.

“It’s much more difficult for graduates to find employment than it was in the middle of the last decade,” says David, “especially for those who want to go into the public sector. But graduates are in a better position than young people in the labour market who do not have qualifications.

“Even during recession, graduates do better in terms of getting a job and the wages they receive. The gap between graduates’, earnings and the earnings of others has not yet narrowed.

“But some graduates take on jobs that they would not have considered if the labour market was stronger. This can start them off on the wrong trajectory, where they never get back to the level they would have reasonably aspired to when they began their course of study.”

So, should graduates take whatever job they can get? David advises caution: “If they are in a position to do so, graduates should look for prospects rather than wages.”

David is more optimistic about the future employment prospects of graduates: “There’s a positive outlook for graduates in the next few years as baby boomers like myself retire: the good news is that there will be more vacancies; the downside is that they will be contributing to our pensions!”

With the introduction of tuition fees, David has seen undergraduates focusing on courses which are more likely to enable them to find a job when they graduate.

No matter what future career undergraduates wish to follow, Stirling’s Career Development Centre (CDC) can help them. As soon as students arrive at Stirling they are encouraged to maximise their employability prospects with courses, workshops and events run by the CDC.

What many graduates may not realise is that the CDC will help them with career advice throughout their working life. Lesley Grayburn, joint Head of Career Development, says: “We offer a lifelong service to our graduates. That means they can access any of our services, and speak to any of our advisors, at any stage of their career.

“And if they cannot come in to see career advisors in person or to browse the Service’s extensive library, we can assist them through the e-guidance information service.”

For more information, visit: www.careers.stir.ac.uk/eguidance.php

“Undergraduates should take on internships, work placements and volunteering while taking their degree to boost their CV and their portfolio, and help them get in front of potential employers at interview.”
Stirling goes wild

“Wheeling a giant tiger skeleton across the link bridge on a trolley certainly got us some funny looks.”
A tiger stalks his unsuspecting victims in the University Library. His jaws are shut tight but his fiendish fangs jut down, warning students and staff of his ferocity.

Fortunately (or unfortunately, depending on your stance) the beast is no longer alive; his skeleton intimates what once would have been a hulking, living predator, roaming the Siberian taiga or Bengal forests. Now he no longer prowls in the wild but reigns over campus, surveilling a daily scene of academic study. So what “immortal hand or eye” would dare frame this Tiger’s fearful symmetry?

The tiger is in fact just one of many objects presented in the University’s latest exhibition, Going Wild in the Archives, a remarkable display of objects from the Natural World; some magnificent, some peculiar and all fascinating.

“The new exhibition is a great opportunity to open up hidden collections,” says Karl Magee, the University Archivist. Some of these objects, he says, have been buried away in dusty cupboards for 20 years and it was a tricky job getting them out and moving them safely. “Wheeling a giant tiger skeleton across the link bridge on a trolley certainly got us some funny looks,” he laughs.

Karl coordinated the exhibition’s installation (funded by The Stirling Fund and supported by the University’s Division of Biological and Environmental Science), and students were given the opportunity to get involved too. Their participation provided them with valuable experience of all aspects of curating an exhibition, from the initial research and planning through to the display of material. “Their knowledge and enthusiasm was infectious,” says Karl, “and their eagerness highlighted the value of our archives for the study of natural history.”

The exhibition is scattered across campus, giving it a real wildlife trail feel. Karl hopes this will encourage staff, students and members of the public to come and see the collection.

His favourite exhibition piece? The tiny frog skeletons are “really cute”, but he’s been particularly touched by some beautifully illustrated Victorian wildlife texts which reveal, sadly, “just how much the environment has changed”. Many species featured in them are now rare or extinct. For instance, J.G. Millais’ The Mammals of Great Britain and Ireland (1905), bears the poignant image of a red squirrel on its cover, once clearly commonplace but now so unusual. This power to hold a looking glass to the environment today is, for Karl, the exhibition’s raison d’etre.

The exhibition runs until the summer, but the project will have a life beyond the exhibition. Some objects will be displayed permanently in the Cottrell Building and a gallery of digitised images from the collections are on the University Archives’ Flickr website: www.flickr.com/photos/40937572@N08/collections/72157629641944181/
A celebration of colour and spring was held in Pathfoot in April, when the School of Arts & Humanities hosted a unique dual book launch to celebrate the work of two University figures, Kathleen Jamie and J.D. Fergusson.

The book launch, entitled ‘Sightlines – a Celebration of Colour and Light’ marked the official launch of Sightlines, a new collection of essays by Professor Jamie, and Colour, Light, Freedom: Fergusson at Stirling, a reworked catalogue of the Scottish Colourist’s paintings in the University’s art collection.

At the event Kathleen Jamie, the University’s Professor of Creative Writing, read from Sightlines. The collection had been recently published to great acclaim, the Telegraph calling it ‘a work of quiet genius’ and BBC Radio 4 choosing it as Book of the Week.

Her association with Fergusson is not solely related to their mutual University ties but also to her personal enthusiasm for his art, which has led her in the past to feature his paintings on her book jackets.

Professor Jamie says: “Launching my book here in Pathfoot is a joy because the building is already full of art, life, colour and lively minds. Being surrounded by Fergusson’s paintings makes it particularly special as he’s an artist whose work I greatly admire.”

The event welcomed home several of the large Fergusson paintings, which had been on loan elsewhere and rehung in time for the publication of the catalogue.

From left to right: Professors Rory Watson and Angela Smith; University of Stirling Art Curator, Jane Cameron; and Kathleen Jamie.
A BIG THANK YOU

In this section, we acknowledge the generosity of those who have already responded to our appeals. Every donation, whatever its size, makes a valuable contribution to the student experience and welfare.
NEW AGREEMENT WITH SANTANDER
Stirling students, researchers and young entrepreneurs will now benefit from a new agreement with the global bank Santander.

Through the Santander Universities Global Division, the bank will fund student scholarships and mobility grants to support staff and students taking part in academic exchanges, conferences and symposia. There is also funding for initiatives that further stimulate entrepreneurial activity. Stirling is the eighth Scottish university to sign an agreement with the bank.

Principal Professor McCormac said: "The University of Stirling is delighted to have joined the prestigious Santander Universities network. The agreement opens up all kinds of opportunities, and Stirling looks forward to playing a full role as an active member of this worldwide community. It ties in with our new International Strategy to further develop our strategic partnerships around the globe."

"The agreement opens up all kinds of opportunities and Stirling looks forward to playing a full role as an active member of this worldwide community."

KEVIN CLARKE FUND
Kevin Clarke, the University Secretary, retired after 17 years at the University. To mark his retirement the University asked colleagues and friends to donate to the Kevin Clarke Fund to support student scholarships. The response was fantastic, with almost £6,000 raised. These scholarships will be awarded annually at the winter Graduation ceremonies.

Luis Juste, Director of Santander Universities UK, said: "We would like to welcome the University of Stirling into the big family that is Santander Universities. We look forward to working together in promoting international collaboration and the transfer of knowledge in Stirling's areas of expertise."

Kerry Bryson, Director of Development & External Affairs at Stirling, added: "We are grateful to Santander for their generous support, which ties in directly with the University's commitment to enhance the student experience and produce world class graduates."

If you wish to donate to the Kevin Clarke Fund please contact:
Khlayre Cairney
Head of Development Services
Development & External Affairs
University of Stirling
Stirling FK9 4LA

Tel: +44 (0)1786 466675
Email: k.l.cairney@stir.ac.uk
THE STIRLING FUND, MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our alumni have shown once again how generous they are in supporting the University. We have just finished a five-week calling campaign and would like to say a huge ‘thank you’ to everyone who participated, helping us to achieve a campaign total of £58,000.

CALLING ALUMNI, A STUDENT’S PERSPECTIVE

Becky Mann (main image), a student working with the Development Team on the campaign, says:

“I remember the trepidation leading up to the first night of work. I had never worked on anything like this before and it was a brand new concept phoning people I did not know. I was so relieved to learn at the training day for the campaign that there was to be no ‘hard sell’, as there was nothing to sell. This was all about relationship building, asking for feedback and consideration of a donation. Nevertheless, the prospect of phoning a stranger felt a very daunting task, in spite of the excellent training we had received. The clock ticked, inevitably bringing the start of the first shift.

“A collective weight was lifted from our shoulders when our calls were answered warmly. On the whole, people seemed pleased that the University was taking an interest in staying in touch with its graduates. After making the last call on that first night, I found myself looking forward to my next shift. The atmosphere was much more relaxed than I had been expecting. People were happy to chat about their time at Stirling, they were interested in hearing about our experiences and we were equally interested in hearing about theirs. I began to relish striking up these telephone relationships.

“Recent graduates were most aware of the need for the campaign and the benefits it would bring. On the other hand, I spoke to some alumni who had attended Stirling in the late 1960s and found it fascinating to learn about the University as it was then. They were equally keen to hear how things had changed, and of its future plans.

“I believe the telephone fundraising campaign firmly cements links between the University of the past and the future. In its own way it helps the University to advance confidently into the future.”

Continued >
A TRIBUTE TO A BENEFACtor, COLONEL ANDREW RAMSAY BAIN
Born in 1892, Andrew Bain moved around the Stirling area as his father was a colliery manager. After graduating in Engineering from the University of Glasgow he joined the Armed Forces and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry.

After retirement he continued his army links through the Territorial Army but focused on his new civilian life as a businessman, managing the William Simpson Home for ex-servicemen. He was also Honorary Sheriff Substitute and Deputy Lieutenant for Stirling.

Andrew Bain never married and when he passed away in 1976 he left his property to various beneficiaries, requesting a portion of it to go to “charitable institutions or societies as my Trustees may from time to time select”.

The University was fortunate to receive this money in honour of a man who gave great service to the Stirling area.

JIM WELLS, BA ENGLISH 1981, AN ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE
"Thirty years have flown by since I graduated from the University of Stirling yet the memories remain intact. Political protests; occupying the Cottrell Building; student activism; Jack McConnell running SUSA; Pathfoot – once the ‘whole university’ – a venue for the annual debauchery of ‘The All-Nighter’; gigs by Queen, Tom Robinson and The Glitter Band, who failed to go on stage because the lead singer was incoherently drunk; the unforgettable resident campus rock band ‘Bone and The Haemorrhoids’.

The allure and mystery of the campus never fade, I realised on a recent visit. How many universities have a castle (used in the 1980s as a home for two Bechstein grand pianos), a horse’s skeleton, hunting trophies and a collection of botanical specimens? The beautiful loch with fish, swans and, one winter, thick ice, which meant skating and driving onto it in an A35 ‘Baby Austin’ (after countless pints at the Allangrange student bar). Ah, the Grange – a Gothic revival house, with ‘disco’ and ‘heavy’ served at 18p a pint from a door laid across two wooden trestles, or wine served by the venerable Maisie in the turreted third storey.

All under the patient, watchful eyes of Dumyat, the Wallace Monument and Stirling Castle.

At 50, I understand the value of my days at Stirling. The education and experience shaped the rest of my life. The University has always been in me, running like a background programme, unnoticed but essential. What did all this cost me? Nothing! No tuition fees or student loans. I even had a student grant. What’s it been worth to me? Everything! Education, friends, experiences and evocative memories to last a lifetime.

How could I give something back for all this, I wondered? I reached for my cheque book. If I can do it, I bet you can.”
Last summer we launched an ‘Adopt a Book’ campaign to celebrate the newly transformed library. So far just under £2,000 has been raised for the library Special Collections.

Kerry Bryson, Director of Development & External Affairs, was first in line to adopt, selecting Chancellor James Naughtie’s book *The Rivals*. There are many reasons why people are participating in the scheme, including as a ‘thank you’ to specific people.

Some have adopted in memory of their favourite lecturers and professors, such as one alumnus who chose four books by way of tribute to the great staff in the Philosophy department. Another did so to thank her husband and daughters for their support during her time as a student.

One alumna made a donation for herself and her four flatmates. They apparently shared a flat for three happy years at Stirling and asked if they could collectively adopt, symbolising their friendship.

Other book plates have been made in memory of a loved one. We were contacted by the brother of a Stirling student who had sadly passed away shortly after graduating. Being older he had always been an inspiration to his younger brother and encouraged him to achieve his goals. So he adopted the book as a gift for their mum on the anniversary of his brother’s death.

For every £30 you donate, we will recognise your support by placing a bookplate inside the front cover of a library book. You can even specify your subject area. You will receive details of the book together with the classmark should you wish to view it on the shelf.

We hope that you will support this initiative and thank you, in advance, for your support.
Adopt a Book
Thank you for your kind offer to Adopt a Book at the University of Stirling. Your gift will be used to support the Special Collections Fund to help us purchase valuable papers and material when they become available.

Name: 
Home address: 
Town:      Postcode: 
Email address:      Tel: 

I enclose my cheque/Charities Aid Voucher for £30.00 payable to ‘University of Stirling’ ☐
I wish to make my donation of £30.00 by credit card (except American Express) ☐

Card number: XXXXXXXX
Start date: ☐☐☐☐ Expiry date: ☐☐☐☐ CCV No: ☐☐☐ (3 digits on reverse of card)

Name on card (if different from above): 
Bookplates
To recognise your gift, the University will place a bookplate in a book in the library. You can (a) choose to have a name printed on the dedication; or (b) you can have a bookplate sent to you to inscribe a personal message and sign your name, before returning the bookplate to us.

I would like to select option (a). Gifts in memory of a loved one should be referenced here. The name I would like on the bookplate is: 

I would like to select option (b). Please send the bookplate to me and I will personalise and return to you: ☐

What book? Please specify a subject area, e.g. management, nursing, etc: 

If you are a UK tax payer and you Gift Aid your donation, Stirling will receive an extra 25% from the Inland Revenue at no extra cost to you.

If you wish to ‘Gift Aid’ your donation please confirm that you have paid enough UK Income or Capital Gains Tax to cover all of your charitable donations (other taxes such as Council Tax and VAT do not qualify): ☐

Is your gift anonymous? Yes / No

Signed: ___________________________     Date: ___________________________

Please send your donation back using this Freepost address (no need to attach a stamp)
FREEPOST RRSE-TJAK-BETH
Development & External Affairs
University of Stirling
Stirling FK9 4LA

For further information please contact:
Khlayre Cairney, Head of Development Services,
Development & External Affairs, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA
Tel: +44 (0)1786 466675 Email: k.l.cairney@stir.ac.uk
Thank you for sending me your class notes. If you have news to share, email Jennifer Nicol, Alumni Relations & Development Manager, at: jennifer.nicol@stir.ac.uk

Where are you working? What have you been doing since you left the University? Who would you like to get in touch with? Let us know and we’ll spread the word in the magazine and online.

**2010s**

**ANILA AHMAD, PGDIP HOUSING STUDIES 2011**
I am a Corporate Governance Officer at Fairfield Housing and won the Chartered Institute of Housing’s award for best Housing Dissertation. I’m on the Board of Directors at Fife Housing Association, I volunteer for Islamic Relief, and I’m getting married in September.

**AJIT JACOB JOHN, PGDIP BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION 2011**
I have missed Stirling so much since I left last year! I got a job with HSBC Bangalore as Research Analyst in their Global Banking and Markets division within two months of my job search. I’m looking forward to my next chance to be in Stirling again. I would love to get in touch with everyone, so please search for me on Facebook as ajitjacobjohn@facebook.com.

**2000s**

**STEVEN REYNOLDS, BSC (HONS) PSYCHOLOGY 2008**
I established my own business which aims to combat the rising obesity epidemic. Having been in operation for only a year and a half, it has rapidly grown and provides services for schools, youth groups, nurseries, day care centres, commercial organisations and private events. The website is www.microfitness.co.uk and we are the only company in the UK that offers a unique mobile gym service.

**CHRIS MARTIN, MSC SPORTS STUDIES 2008**
I have been teaching English, English Language and Media Studies at a secondary school in Dorset since 2009.

**LANLAN ZHANG, MBA 2008**
I really learned a lot from university, not only business knowledge, but also the way to work in a group. I miss the beautiful campus, kind friends and tutors.
GIORGOS GERAŞIMIDIS, MSC MEDIA MANAGEMENT 2006
I am an executive with experience and expertise in television productions. Since graduating I have been blending my interests with my work as a director of Livemedia.gr, a web TV channel that specialises in live broadcasts of events over the internet. Livemedia services have recently gone global with the launch of Livemediaworld.com, which means more travelling opportunities for me and the Livemedia team.

DOUGLAS BRITON, PG CERT TQFE 2005
I work freelance as an expedition leader taking school groups to remote places. Past destinations include India, Peru, Botswana and the Scottish Highlands. Environments range from rainforests to deserts, plains to mountains. I am also studying for my Doctor of Education at the University of Edinburgh, looking at how educational professionals and institutions respond to crises.

LAURA BROMLEY, BA (HONS) ENTREPRENEURSHIP & MARKETING 2004
I’m an associate on the global marketing and communication team in APCO Worldwide’s Washington, D.C. office. I coordinate advertising, award submissions, sponsorships and event management in addition to developing credentials, case studies and new marketing materials for the company.

KHLAYRÉ CAIRNEY (NÉE MULLIN), BA BUSINESS STUDIES 2004
I’m currently Head of Development Services at the University of Stirling – can’t seem to tear myself away from the old alma mater! Also got married to Joe last September at Glenskirlie Castle in Banknock.

MARIA ZAROTIADOU, MSC MARKETING 2003
I have recently been selected by the European Institute for Gender Equality to feature in their 2013 calendar as a part of the ‘Women Inspiring Europe’ initiative. My work at the political office is good and since last summer I’ve been writing a blog http://eleutherifoni.blogspot.com about women and their lives.

YANNIS ELIOMARKAKIS (NÉ KOUTSOUNADIS), MBA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS 2001 AND BA (HONS) BUSINESS & SPANISH 1999
I spent five wonderful years in Stirling. After graduating, I joined our family’s health insurance business, which has represented Bupa International in Greece for almost 30 years. In 2010, I got married to Aspasia and in 2011 we were blessed with a healthy, beautiful baby boy, Alexandros.

MICHAEL KASSOTAKIS, MA MARKETING 2001
I started up E-BCR www.ebcr.com, focusing on business consulting, research services and online shopping. I am the President and Managing Director and also a full member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing.
1990s

DAVID COCHRANE, BA (HONS) POLITICS 1999
I did a Master’s at Strathclyde University in 2009-2010 and relocated to New Zealand with my wife Catherine, an anaesthetist. After 18 months in a private design practice I now lecture at UCOL, a large design-focused college on the North Island, and consult externally. Best to everyone from my year!

ROBERT WILSON, MSC PUBLIC RELATIONS 1999
I appreciate the efforts of Development & External Affairs. Greetings to years 1996-1999 MSc in Public Relations and the distance learning teaching staff, if any of them are still with ‘great’ Stirling.

STEVE PRENTICE, BACC ACCOUNTANCY 1998
I recently completed an MA in Management Practice from Coventry University. I’m now responsible for setting up a new central Rostering & Workforce Planning Unit for the second largest police force in the UK.

CAROL EDWARDS, BSC ECOLOGY 1998
Carol congratulates Kate Cullen and Graham MacDonald (better known as Mac) who will be tying the knot in October this year. Both were at Stirling from 1994-1998 studying Biological Sciences and that’s where they met. They only got together a couple of years ago after being reunited through Facebook!

SIMON HUGHES, BSC ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE 1997
I opened up a southern Africa regional office in Gaborone, Botswana, for the international environmental consulting company Hatfield Consultants, called Hatfield Consultants Africa (HCA). HCA offers environmental management, geomatics and ICT services for government and private sector clients in the natural resources sector. See www.hatfieldafrica.co.bw

NIKOS VLASTAKIDIS,
MSC BANKING & FINANCE 1996
I’m currently Sales Manager of Construction Companies in Lafarge Cement, Lafarge Group Greece.

NATASHA KIOURKATIOTI, MSC PUBLIC RELATIONS 1995
As an Alumni Ambassador, I helped the University at the British Educational Fair in Athens recently and I really enjoyed it! It was really nice to work with Scott Morrice and Ian MacLellan from Student Recruitment & Admissions and I am looking forward to doing it again.

HELEN DEMIRCI (NÉE BURGUM), DIP HIGHER EDUCATION 1995
Since 2011 I have been living in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) working as an English teacher at a men’s college. For the previous 16 years, I taught in Turkey. I spend time with my family when not working and enjoy volunteering to help events that take place in the UAE. I also volunteer as the treasurer for the TESOL Arabia Research SIG.

MANNY SINGH, BACC ACCOUNTANCY 1994
After a break of over 16 years I went back to the campus with my fiancée and proposed to her near the loch in September 2011. Now seven months later we got married in the city hall in Hiroshima on 30th March and we’re settling down here – for me any wish made on Stirling University campus comes true.

VANGELIS KATSAILITIS, MBA 1994
I am working on a new development of upmarket apartments overlooking the Parthenon in Athens. VANKAT’s latest project is an energy-efficient complex of six apartments located in the suburb of Nea Filothei, offering great views of Lycabettus Hill and Athens.
KAROLOS GROHMANN, BA FILM & MEDIA STUDIES 1993
I am a Berlin-based sports correspondent for Reuters covering Germany and Eastern Europe as well as the International Olympic Committee.

CATRIONA GLEN (NÉE BARBOUR), BA MARKETING 1993
I created ‘Child After Child’ – buying and selling new and gently used children’s items. With no fixed shop, the Child After Child Facebook page promotes items and I regularly visit local children’s groups as well as selling through the Auchterarder Parish Church Café.

BARBARA SCHINDELHAUER, MSC PUBLIC RELATIONS & BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION 1992
I enjoy living in the beautiful Black Forest in Southern Germany with my family, while my activities concerning playful early maths education are getting more international. With an English version of our concept called ‘Let’s Visit Numberland’, several projects are now running around the world. We found publishers in Poland, Estonia and the Netherlands but we are still at the beginning and looking for possible support.

www.numberland.net

TRACY THOMAS (NÉE SMITH), BSC (HONS) PSYCHOLOGY 1991
I wrote a book last summer called Dear Chums! I am in Kazakhstan! about the summer I spent in the country. I was the social convener on the Sports Union 1989-91 and also Captain of the Swimming Team for two years at Stirling.

ED HULINA, VISITING STUDENT 1990
After 1990 I returned to the US, graduated from the University of Illinois and worked in finance in Chicago for a few years before moving to London for a decade (loyalties still stayed with the Scots, though). I returned to the US in 2005 and still work in finance, but am taking a break after 20 years at UBS. Have kept in touch with a few former classmates despite the years going by fast!

GLEN MILLER, BSC BUSINESS STUDIES & COMPUTING SCIENCE 1990
I’ve finally settled down and am even a dad now. I’m still involved in IT contracting in Edinburgh. I still enjoy sports and catching up with friends, and I’m also an Alumni Ambassador and External Trustee on the Students’ Union Trustee Board.

BIRGIT KEMPFL, VISITING STUDENT 1990
I still love my job at a grammar school near Munich. Since 2012 I have been involved in the Alumni Ambassador Programme, so if you come to Munich and are looking for a travel guide, feel free to ask: stirlingalumnigermany@googlemail.com

KEVIN MCLEOD, BA ACCOUNTANCY 1990
After many years of training to be a Chartered Accountant & Insolvency Practitioner and having worked in Dundee and Glasgow, I have now set up a practice in Stirling.

1980s

BENOIT PARNET, MBA MARKETING 1988
I am Vice President of my Roller Hockey Club, HC Dinan Quévert Côtes d’Armor in Brittany – www.hcdinan.com. We are in the final four of the French Cup and leading the French Championship (first league). We have approximately 1,200 spectators on average since the beginning of the season, which is exceptional for a small sport.
ERIC TAN, MBA MARKETING & FINANCE 1987
I managed to find an old photo taken in 1986. A group of us decided to take a trek up the glen behind Pathfoot. It was a nice sunny day and we ended up late afternoon in an old café and had our afternoon high tea. From left Jimmy Soh; Eric Tan; Tan May Lin; Chee; Clive Senior; Annie; Kenneth Tay and Evina. We are from Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and England.

SIMON STOCKWELL, BA (HONS) HISTORY & SPANISH 1985
I’m continuing to work in the Scottish Government. Recently, I’ve been working on the consultation on same sex marriage and on the Long Leases (Scotland) Bill.

GRAHAM CLAYTON, BSC DIP ED 1985
I just took up the post of CEO at The Society of Dyers and Colourists based in Bradford on 1st February this year.

IMRAN AHMAD, BSC CHEMISTRY 1984
I finally got a US publisher for Unimagined, which was published in April by Hachette in New York as The Perfect Gentleman. (My US publisher came up with that title – it doesn’t mean that I actually am a perfect gentleman.) The subtitle is: 'A Muslim boy meets the West'. I’m also just back from a 50-city US speaking tour. See www.perfect-gent.com for details.

1970s
CHRISTINE DUNCAN, BA FRENCH & SPANISH 1979
I am back living in Scotland after 11 years in Upstate New York. I would like to hear from anyone who graduated from the French and/or Spanish department in 1979. My email is cmd3040@yahoo.com

PAUL MARTIN, BA GENERAL 1973
I left UK legal work far behind four years ago. I can now be messaged through Twitter on Yorkiepjim, where all contact is welcomed.

DR DOUG ALLAN, BSC BIOLOGY 1973
I’ve been busy filming, including one trip to the South Pole. I also wrote a book Freeze Frame that was published in January. Galapagos and Greenland now beckon, and I’ll be north to Scotland in November for several public talks. See all the info at www.dougallan.com

DR LESLIE SMITH, BA (HONS) CHEMISTRY 1973
I obtained my PhD in Chemistry from Cambridge Massachusetts (1973-1977) and Post Doc from the University of Geneva. I worked for Procter and Gamble in Brussels (1979-1983), in Geneva (1983-1991) then USA (Princeton, New Jersey) to follow my career in the fragrance industry. After 20 years in the US, I’m now in Geneva as Senior Vice President for Research & Development of the cosmetic/fragrance giant Coty.
Contacting friends

MARY MARKAKI, BA ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING 1998
Would like to get in touch with Deirdre Maire Moore, BA Politics 1999. Mary’s email is Mary_Markaki@yahoo.co.uk

Condolences

The University regrets to announce the following deaths:

IAN KING, BA HISTORY 1975
DAVID TUMELTY, BA ENGLISH 1976
HELEN WAUGH (NÉE CUMMING), BSC BIOLOGY 1981
JIM ADAMSON, BA FILM & MEDIA STUDIES 1988
DICKENS SICHINGA, MSC ACCOUNTANCY & FINANCE 1991
TERENCE CORCORAN, BA DIPED EDUCATIONAL STUDIES 1994
ANGELA IRVINE, PGDIP DEMENTIA STUDIES 2004
ROSS ARTHINGTON, BA POLITICS 2005
BILL BOLAND, RETIRED STAFF
MARGARET HENDRY, RETIRED STAFF

Keeping in touch

You can also catch up with old friends on our social networking groups. Simply follow the links from: www.stir.ac.uk/alumni

If you would like to see a region not mentioned here, email: alumni@stir.ac.uk
Universities are entities which are, arguably, not bounded in space and time. Students become and remain alumni for life and that special relationship provides benefits including access to a network of experienced professionals and an opportunity to put something back. I have yet to talk to an alumnus for whom retaining active links to the University has been fruitless.

Ian King was a good example of an engaged alumnus. A student of the politically turbulent 1970s, Ian went on to be Chief Executive of NUS Services where he established a multi-million pound trading arm which underpinned the union’s welfare and campaigning activities. At Stirling, Ian was a member of the Alumni Association Executive until 2008 and thereafter became an active member of the Students’ Union Trustee Board. Sadly, he lost a long running battle against a malignant brain tumour and passed away in January of this year.

In recognition of his services the Students’ Union renamed its main meeting room the Ian King Room at an official opening ceremony held on 12 May.

In January 2013 I will have served two terms as the alumni representative on the University Court, one of those as President of the association. It is time for me, however, to stand down and create an opportunity for a successor. The alumni representative on the Court has the same rights and responsibilities as other Court members and also becomes President of the association playing a pivotal role, in partnership with the Alumni Relations office, in alumni engagement activities. If you are interested in being considered for this role, or being an ordinary member of the Court, please contact Kerry Bryson, Director of Development & External Affairs by 31 October 2012 via maggi.holloway@stir.ac.uk. In the meantime, if you have any questions about being a Court member or the President of the association, please contact me on alumnipresident@stir.ac.uk and I’ll do my best to provide a speedy response. Alternatively see www.stir.ac.uk/contribute for further information.

My thanks for your support during my period as President particularly to those of you who are active Alumni Ambassadors and to those who responded so generously to the recent Stirling Fund appeal.
Hamish Hamilton
BA (Hons) Accountancy 1989
Director, Done and Dusted Ltd

Hamish Hamilton is a Grammy and BAFTA Award nominated British director. He is best known for directing concerts and award shows such as the Oscars, the Super Bowl half-time show and the MTV Video and Music Awards.

“I chose Stirling as the campus was beautiful and had a great energy. I wasn’t really a city boy and spent my teens walking in the Pennines and Lake District, so Scotland’s landscape just drew me. It’s weird since I now spend most of my time in cities like New York and London.

Stirling completely changed my life. I thought I’d become an accountant, because I was good at Economics and Maths. I got involved in Radio Airthrey and the Students’ Union, and began DJing at the Grange and the Gannochy not long after I started as a student. I became social secretary, or entertainments officer in those days, so I was quite active on the social side. When I got involved in the business side of the Union, I gradually realised accountancy was not what I wanted to do.

I had some incredible evenings at the Grange, the Gannochy, the Robbins and Pathfoot. Over the five years at Stirling there were always 10-12 of us in each other’s rooms – great camaraderie and a gang of people who had big dreams. They were very positive, really friendly, supportive and a loving crowd.

But in second year a ringing telephone changed my life. I was in Radio Airthrey and a lady from the BBC phoned looking for someone to help with a radio show. Along with some others, I got involved in a project for Radio Scotland. Strangely, two years later I applied for a job at the BBC as a trainee. When I walked into my interview, there was Caroline waiting to interview me. From that point forward I was in broadcasting.

My very first job was reporting on a fashion show, which, if you’d seen what I wore at University, you’d be shocked! I was in Glasgow for two years, stayed at the BBC for a further three years, then started to spread my wings and worked at MTV.

I’ve always had a strong work ethic but Stirling helped me to broaden my personality and social skills. Directing is all about getting your ideas and vision across to people who need to understand them, need to be motivated by them and need to believe in them. I went from a very shy, somewhat awkward teenager and came out more rounded and more confident in my early 20s.

A typical year for me would involve eight or nine events ranging from the glamour of a Victoria’s Secret fashion show to the madness of the video music awards. There’s a great deal of travel, crazy hours, a lot of talking and selling people ideas. You need to be able to understand technical, safety and financial issues. One of the best things is the variety of people I work with – some are crazy, some funny, but all are really talented and passionate about what they do.

I’m a big fan of U2 and have been since I was a teenager. It was strange to be in a Boston recording suite with them and a really special moment for me. I’ve worked closely with Robbie Williams over the years. He’s an incredibly good guy and a great performer. I’ve done some amazing shows with him and I’ve learned a lot working for him. Madonna is an interesting lady to work with, incredibly focused, highly creative, supremely demanding and someone who pushes you to be your best. When you work with her, you have to step up to the plate and beyond.
But it’s not all pressure. The most relaxing thing in my life at the moment is spending time with my son, lying on the sofa cuddling him, reading books, or playing in the sea.

I was a television director for some parts of the opening ceremony of the Olympics and working with Danny Boyle and Stephen Daldry. It was incredible. I was pinching myself every week!

I think it is easier for people today to carve a career in the media. You can rent or buy an amazing camera, edit the film and publish it on YouTube. That wasn’t the case in my day. My advice to students would be to have ideas – they’re the currency by which you make or break yourself. I’d also say you need to have belief in what you do and be passionate about how you sell those ideas. Be incredibly self-critical – and go for it!"

“Madonna is an interesting lady to work with, incredibly focused, highly creative, supremely demanding and someone who pushes you to be your best.”
Mark Cousins
BA Film & Media Studies/Fine Art 1987
Filmmaker, Author and Curator

Mark is a Belfast-born filmmaker and writer. His documentary subjects include neo-Nazism, the cinema of Iran and the first Gulf War. His book, *The Story of Film* (Pavilion, 2004), has been made into a 15-hour film for Channel 4 and he’s just back from a UK and worldwide tour. He is co-founder of the 8½ Foundation dedicated to introducing world cinema to children.

“Coming to Stirling to study Film & Media, and Fine Art was just wonderful for me. I wasn’t good at reading, but good at imagery, drawing and abstract things. I was also good at Maths, Chemistry and Physics. I picked Stirling as it was the only university you could do single Honours in Film & Media.

My first media job was with Channel 4. Sitting in a café, I wrote ideas for short films on a napkin and posted them off. They wanted to find young, cool people at the time, so I guess I fitted the bill. The film, called *Heavenly*, was about an angel who lives on Arthur’s Seat in Edinburgh.”
I always had a creative urge – it was so powerful I had to answer it. I started directing for Barony in Edinburgh with a range of projects. I travelled the world including the Soviet Union when it was still Communist. I then did a documentary about the first Gulf War and my first good piece of work about neo-Nazis for Channel 4.  

“My strong advice to film and media students is to be as creative as you can.”

*The Story of Film* took six years to make. We started filming in Egypt and finished in Moscow and throughout we visited West Africa, Iran, China, Hong Kong and all over Europe. We had very little money to begin with, but what kept me going was my love of film. Gradually more funders, such as the British Film Institute and Film4, came on board and it became an epic project. The film has been massively popular, especially with young people in China, and it was exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Iran was an amazing country. I studied art history but we didn’t learn the art and architecture of Iran. The scariest place I’ve been is Sarajevo at the time of the siege of the city in the mid-1990s. I was there for the Edinburgh International Film Festival and we spent the time being driven around in armoured vehicles and wearing bullet-proof vests.

A few years ago Tilda Swinton and I set up a charity for children aged 8½ (www.eightandahalf.org). We believe all children should have an eight-and-a-half birthday and it should be a magical movie day. We were at the mcrobrett in April and put on a show for children all over Scotland. The idea has really taken off and now the concept has been adopted in China and the whole of the Arab world.

I’d love to work with people in the music business. I’m collaborating with P.J. Harvey and have one of her songs in the new film. I’d also love to work with great composers such as John Adams, the Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer with strong roots in minimalism. And to work with David Bowie would be a dream come true.

Sean Connery is someone I got to know very well as he was patron of the Edinburgh International Film Festival when I was the Director. He came from a similar working class background and also encourages people who work hard. Through the BBC 2 series *Scene by Scene* I interviewed many accomplished actors and directors, such as Lauren Bacall, Martin Scorsese and Rod Steiger. I became good friends with the legend and 1950s sex symbol Jane Russell when she was in Scotland. We used to go out in Edinburgh together and she’d hang out in my apartment. I still have a glass with her big red lipstick on it!

My strong advice to Film & Media students is to be as creative as you can. I’ve always felt I was an outsider making unusual things such as creating a 15-hour film and working in Sarajevo. That ‘outsiderness’ has been the most creative thing about me. So my advice would be to try not to conform and not to do what other people are doing. Be a distinctive voice – and write your ideas on a napkin.

My memories of Stirling? I remember dancing a lot in the Grange; the brilliant posture of Professor John Izod as he stood and lectured; the passion of Professor Grahame Smith when he was teaching us Orson Welles; and climbing Dumyat three times while naked at night and hoping we wouldn’t bump into anybody! It was a golden age for me. I’d come from Belfast, which was still a conservative little place, and I came to this intellectual space and pleasure garden in Stirling.”
1. After your degree in French at King’s College, London, what did you want to do?
I was interested in politics and the creative sector. I got quite lucky through temping work and found myself working adjacent to the public affairs team at ITV. They generated a junior role and I got a trainee position. By the time I came to Stirling, I had had some work experience and wanted to do a postgraduate degree. The course came at the right time as I knew it was definitely a career I was interested in pursuing but also I wanted to broaden my academic achievements.

2. How did you get into the media industry?
I wanted to do something in the arts or creative industries and looked at arts administration, but it was really competitive and the pay wasn’t great. I was going for temp jobs in advertising agencies and broadcasting companies. Once I found public affairs and the combination of politics and the creative side, I knew I’d had my lucky break.

3. How did you progress through your career?
From ITV I went to ITN in a public affairs/policy/regulatory role. My manager was leaving, which left a position for me to move to, taking on the full corporate affairs brief. ITN is quite a small organisation, but the breadth of the role was very interesting and it was a good company to work for.

4. What future projects are coming up?
The big thing that will dominate the next few years is a new Communications Bill, which will show how you take a linear broadcasting corporation into a converged media organisation. There will be a whole load of issues to consider – how the media get regulated, developing new business models etc.

5. Were there culture changes between the organisations you’ve worked for?
There was a big culture change from ITV to Channel 4. Channel 4 really surprised me. It’s just really uncorporate. It’s young and informal, but there is also a serious side and it is hard work. Although they’re both public service broadcasters, Channel 4 doesn’t have as much shareholder pressure and is much more driven by creative output.

6. What’s a typical week like for you?
I spend a lot of time talking to our political stakeholders. My team will identify programmes of interest to them, for instance a documentary on Sudan or issues in international development. We read documents from Ofcom, we draft responses to Ofcom, and we prepare briefing documents and speeches for our senior executives. I also have an events team responsible for big press launches through to small debates with 20 people from political parties or charities, often discussing controversial topics.

7. What is your next goal?
I’ve been in this new job since last August and I’m really enjoying running the department and developing my staff. The political landscape is going to be very exciting over the next couple of years. It’s difficult to think of somewhere as interesting as Channel 4. If I were to move on, I’d look for something else with creativity at the centre of it or maybe I might set up on my own one day.

8. What advice would you give to students wanting to break into the media?
It’s a very difficult field to get into and you need as much work experience as possible. And, based on my experience, don’t expect to start off in the job you necessarily want.
Jim Fleming
Senior Concierge at Murray Hall

Jim has been in Murray Hall for 14 years and is due to retire in September this year. We spoke to him about his experiences at the University.

Jim left school at 15 admitting that he wasn’t “very bright”. When he first came to Stirling, he was in awe of everything. He soon got used to the work and the University’s traditions and has had a wonderful time working here. Jim says: “I’ve been fortunate to have a great team of porters and cleaners and we’re all here to serve the students. We have high standards and aim to keep the students happy.”

September is usually the busiest time of the year with the porters and concierges the first point of contact for students and their families. At the moment, there are students in the hall from Norway, Poland, Denmark, France as well as the UK, plus families from Spain, Mexico, Malaysia and Switzerland. Many students come back to see the staff once they graduate and Jim really enjoys meeting visitors who stay on campus.

Most of the students are usually very well behaved, with only a minority who get into trouble. There haven’t been too many fire alarms lately but when there were, “I would keep the students out in the rain for an hour until someone owned up,” Jim says. “I’m glad I haven’t had to do that for a very long time.”

Jim has lots of amusing memories. He remembers confronting squirrels in the kitchen – if a window had been left open – that were foraging around the bins and jumping out at him and his colleagues.

Although he remembers faces more than names, here are some alumni you might know:

- A student from Oman who brought his family to stay and was studying Aquaculture. Jim used to call him ‘my man from Oman’.
- Emma Archibald (class of 2002), who works at the University.
- Iain Paterson and Grant Cairns, who were Hall Assistants in 2004.
- Alistair Warnock, a member of the Scotland Rugby Squad, who used to come to the Halls with his pals and had to squeeze through the door!
- Phil Goodlad, who works at the BBC.
- Richard Pyle and his mum – Jim used to babysit her when he was a young lad.

The most memorable member of staff for Jim was Professor John Drakakis. He was friends with the porters and cleaners, and took a genuine interest in the welfare of the students. Jim recalls seeing some big lads going in to see him with a smirk on their face and coming out with tears in their eyes. But that was John’s style, and everybody loved him.
Hammy Glen
Senior Concierge at Andrew Stewart Hall

Hammy Glen, a University concierge with 27 years of experience, tells student Rachel Wilson, in his job, there is never a dull moment.

Hammy is from Cambusbarron, a village on the outskirts of Stirling. On his first day at the University, he was in Andrew Stewart Hall (ASH). He’d previously worked as an apprentice plasterer on the campus, so it was strange for him being back. After ASH, he moved to Geddes Court for a few years and then to A.K. Davidson. He has now worked in every hall of residence.

The best part of the job for Hammy is meeting people, especially young people. He says: “Students arrive from all over the world and all walks of life, but when they come into the University they’re all students. They’re all equal and can relate to each other”. As they become accustomed to their new life, he enjoys seeing them mature as they continue to study.

One of the biggest changes he has noticed over the years has been the increase in security. When he first started, the main entrance to the halls was never locked 24 hours a day, or at all.

From time to time Hammy has been asked to let people out of rooms they’ve been locked into, and sometimes it’s not even their own room! He says: “You try not to ask questions and get on with your job”. On numerous occasions he’s walked into a student’s room and had to close the door straightaway due to the mess. There’s always something different going on within the halls. It’s a very busy job, but being around the students helps keep him young.

He’s definitely known a few loveable rogues. In A.K. Davidson Hall there was a student from Malaysia who studied here for a number of years. By the time he left Hammy had renamed him ‘MacFam’ because he became as Scottish as anyone else. Then there was another boy who was really quiet when Hammy first met him, who had the affectionate nickname ‘Tartan Boxer Boy’.

He’s still in touch with many students after they graduate. He said: “I’ve had lots of them bringing their mothers, fathers and in-laws to meet us – and even their newborn babies! I think it makes the job even more enjoyable, and it’s definitely a highlight of working here.”
Events for your diary

FORTHCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

Edinburgh, Scotland – Thursday 30 August
Contact stirlingalumni_edinburgh@hotmail.com for further information.

Limassol, Cyprus – September
Maria Hadjivassiliou plans to hold the first reunion in Cyprus. Email her on m20_maria@hotmail.com for more information.

Athens, Greece – October
Date and location yet to be confirmed. Contact Yannis Eliomarkakis on yanniseliom@bupa.gr or Vangelis Katsaitis on vkatsaitis@vankat.gr

Tokyo, Japan – Friday 16 November
This annual event will be held at the British Embassy from 6pm – 9pm. Contact Dr Taeko Seki for details on taeko_seki@ybb.ne.jp

Edinburgh, Scotland – Friday 30 November
Contact stirlingalumni_edinburgh@hotmail.com for further information.

Abu Dhabi, UAE – TBC
Alumni ambassador Helene Demirci plans to hold an event in the near future. Email helenedemirci@hotmail.com if you’d like to take part.

Hamburg, Germany – Thursday 5 July
As the magazine went to print, Friederike Quantz was preparing to meet alumni at The Shamrock Irish bar. Email her on stirlingalumnigermany@googlemail.com for future dates.

RECENT ALUMNI EVENTS

Edinburgh, Scotland – Thursday 10 May
Vittoria’s Italian restaurant was the venue for another gathering in Edinburgh. Contact stirlingalumni_edinburgh@hotmail.com if you want to join them later in the year.

Denver, Colorado – Thursday 24 May
Unfortunately this event had to be postponed. Details of future events from carolina@medbergsmith.com

Mumbai, India – Saturday 2 June
The first reunion took place in Mocha Mojo and thanks to Sneha Saha for organising the event. You can email Sneha for future dates: snehasaha@yahoo.co.in
CAMPUS EVENTS

The Bloody Scotland Masterclasses –  
Friday 14 September

Sharpen your knives at a day of lively masterclasses and workshops designed to help aspiring crime-writers develop their talent, technique, and professional savvy. Price £75/£65 concessions (including morning/afternoon tea and lunch). For more information, email Paula Morris on paula.morris@stir.ac.uk

School of Arts & Humanities –  
Friday 14 and Saturday 15 September

The School of Arts & Humanities will be celebrating their official launch through a series of special events designed to showcase their teaching and academic research. In association with the Royal Society of Literature, Nobel Laureate and University Honorary Graduate Seamus Heaney will open proceedings. The programme includes talks on Jane Austen, the Scottish Political Archive, Criminal Law and Sectarianism as well as workshops in Radio Drama and Digital Filmmaking. All the events will be held in the University’s Pathfoot building, with the exception of Seamus Heaney’s event, which will be held in the Logie Lecture Theatre. Contact Lesley McIntosh on l.s.d.mcintosh@stir.ac.uk

In association with the The Royal Society of Literature

The John Damien Lecture –  
Thursday 11 October

This popular annual Psychology lecture will be held at 6.30pm in the Logie Lecture Theatre. The speaker is Professor Nicola S. Clayton, whose research is in Comparative Cognition and the interface between animal behaviour, experimental psychology and neuroscience.

An Evening of Lively Discussion –  
Wednesday 31 October

‘What father if asked for a fish ... could give his son a scorpion? – the legacy of the baby boomer generation.’

The University of Stirling and the Friends of Logie Kirk are pleased to announce an evening of lively discussion to debate the veracity of Jeremy Paxman’s recent assertion: “I am part of the most selfish generation in history and we should be ashamed of our legacy”. The event, chaired by BBC Scotland’s Bill Whiteford, will be held in the Logie Lecture Theatre. The panel includes eminent economist Professor David ‘Danny’ Blanchflower, formerly of the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee, the Rev Dr David Fergusson, Professor of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh, and Sam Gibbs, President of the Stirling Students’ Union. To secure your place at the event, contact: externalaffairs@stir.ac.uk

The Andrew John Williamson Lecture –  
Late November

The University’s long-running political lecture will be held in the Logie Lecture Theatre and will be delivered by a prominent politician. As this event is always popular we recommend that you RSVP to reserve a space at externalaffairs@stir.ac.uk

All are welcome to attend events at the University, which are free to staff, alumni, students and members of the wider community. For further information, visit www.stir.ac.uk/events/
Being an **Alumni Ambassador** is a great way to give back to the University, meet new people, gain experience and help students.

For more information email [jennifer.nicol@stir.ac.uk](mailto:jennifer.nicol@stir.ac.uk) or visit [www.stir.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-ambassadors](http://www.stir.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-ambassadors)
CALLING ALL BOOK LOVERS

Inside: your chance to adopt a book and support our special collections

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