Dear alumni and friends: welcome to the 2018 edition of Stirling Minds, which offers a glimpse into an incredibly exciting time at the University, during its 51st year.

In May, planning permission was received for two projects: Sport and Campus Central, and the UK and Scottish Governments announced that the University would receive £22m towards a new Institute of Aquaculture and the creation of Scotland’s International Environment Centre.

After conferring degrees on 20,000 graduates from 2008, Dr James Naughtie retired. The University announced that the next Chancellor would be distinguished alumnus, Lord Jack McConnell, who received his honorary degree 10 years ago at the installation of Chancellor James Naughtie! New faces include Professor Neville Wylie, Deputy Principal for Internationalisation, Dr Lee Zhuang the Executive Director for Internationalisation & Partnerships, Hazel McIlwraith joined as Head of Fundraising and Debbie Miller MBA 2013 returned to the University as Head of Alumni and Business Engagement.

Thank you to everyone who put forward nominations for the inaugural Graduates and Students of the Year awards. The winners are highlighted on the front cover and pages 12 and 13 and you are encouraged to put forward nominations for 2019. A further thank you to everyone who help with career mentoring opportunities for our students. On pages 24 and 25, you can read about the ambitious plans to increase this activity through a new business engagement platform, The Stirling Network.

I hope to meet you at a future event but in the meantime would wish everyone a very happy 2019.

Kerry Bryson
Director for Advancement

If you liked Stirling Minds, or have suggestions for future issues, please email us at alumni@stir.ac.uk and let us know – it’s your university and we need your involvement and feedback.

Produced by the Directorate for Advancement:
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This publication can be made available in different formats. Contact the Directorate for Advancement for further information at alumni@stir.ac.uk.

University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA is recognised as a Scottish Charity with number SC011159.
Campus news

Staff, honorary graduates and friends attended a special event in September to mark the retirement of Dr James Naughtie. Jim took over as Chancellor from Dame Diana Rigg in 2008 and since then has conferred degrees on 20,000 graduates. Jim and his wife Ellie were presented with a pair of silver candlesticks crafted by Dr Graham Stewart, also an honorary graduate of the University. The newest portrait in the University’s Art Collection, painted by Guy Kinder, was unveiled at the event.

The Rt Hon Lord Jack McConnell, DUniv 2008, BSc DipEd 1983, will be officially installed as the sixth Chancellor in June 2019. An alumnus and former Students’ Union President, he served as First Minister of Scotland between 2001 and 2007, and his political papers are curated in the University’s Scottish Political Archive. Lord McConnell said: “I feel deeply honoured to be asked to serve the University as their Chancellor. I will do all I can to help the University continue to grow and develop, while retaining the essential values that have helped build its success over the past 50 years.”

The 2018 Queen’s Birthday Honours

Huge congratulations go to economics and management science alumnus Mark Russell CBE (pictured), who was recognised for services to business and to the economy.

Honorary graduate Sir Craig Reedie CBE (President of the World Anti-Doping Agency) was awarded a CBE for services to sport.

Finally, Jonathan Burton, the community pharmacist in the Right Medicine Pharmacy on campus, received an MBE for services to healthcare.

Naughtie steps down

Homecoming for Stirling’s new Chancellor

The 2018 Queen’s Birthday Honours
Every year, thousands of children in Scotland become ‘looked after’ due to concerns about their welfare. Researchers from the Universities of Stirling, York, and Lancaster, in collaboration with Adoption and Fostering Alliance (AFA) Scotland, led a groundbreaking study investigating decision-making, progress and outcomes by tracking over 1,800 children. For the first time data sources were linked to get a more complete picture, and researchers discovered that processes can come before the needs of individual children. The findings were presented at a conference in September and Scotland’s Makar, alumna, honorary graduate, and author of The Adoption Papers, Jackie Kay (DUniv 2000, BA English Studies 1983), pictured second from left, returned to the University for the event. For more information contact lead academic Dr Helen Whincup on helen.whincup@stir.ac.uk or alumni@stir.ac.uk

National Teaching Fellow award for Dr Ruth Watkins
Dr Ruth Watkins, Head of Student Learning Services at the University, is one of five people in Scotland named as a National Teaching Fellow by Advance HE. Dr Watkins was recognised for her work enhancing the student learning experience.

Other staff received an array of external awards and honours.
Professor David Bell was awarded a CBE in the New Year’s Honours list for services to economics and public policy, and Professor Kathleen Jamie, Chair of Poetry, was elected to the Royal Society of Edinburgh.
Professor Herve Migaud, of the Institute of Aquaculture, was made President-Elect of the European Aquaculture Society, and Kirstein Rummery, Professor of Sociology/Social Policy and Criminology, won the Equality Champion of the Year award at the inaugural Scottish Diversity Awards. This funding is part of the £90.2 million UK City Region Deal for Stirling and Clackmannanshire. These new initiatives will position cutting-edge academic research alongside industries, local authorities, regulators and policymakers – and the enhanced collaboration will create more opportunities for further development and investment. The Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell MP (pictured centre), visited the campus on Thursday 31 May to mark the announcement.

City Deal: £22 million for international research hubs
In May, the UK and Scottish Governments announced that the University will receive £17 million towards a new Institute of Aquaculture and Global Aquatic Food Security and £5 million to create Scotland’s International Environment Centre. This funding is part of the £90.2 million UK City Region Deal for Stirling and Clackmannanshire. These new initiatives will position cutting-edge academic research alongside industries, local authorities, regulators and policymakers – and the enhanced collaboration will create more opportunities for further development and investment. The Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell MP (pictured centre), visited the campus on Thursday 31 May to mark the announcement.

Celebrating Stirling’s success
Here are a few of the highlights over the year.
Hidden costs in education system impact on Scotland’s poorest families

Dr Morag Treanor
Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Social Policy & Criminology.

Hidden costs in the Scottish education system – such as school trips and uniforms – are impacting on children and families living in poverty, a University of Stirling report from the Faculty of Social Sciences has found.

Instead of preventing and mitigating poverty, inclusion in the education system privileges the better-off and brings costs that are often unseen and misunderstood by educators – particularly at secondary school level – report author Dr Morag Treanor found.

The study, ‘Falling through the cracks: the cost of the school day for families living in in-work and out-of-work poverty’, looked at how the costs of the school day are experienced and managed by low-income parents, and how these impacts on their wider financial situation and vulnerability.

“There is much that has been done to facilitate poorer children’s participation in school-related activities; however, there is more that can be done,” said Dr Treanor. “Research shows that children are acutely aware of the deprivations they experience in relation to school.

“The research shows that parents are also aware of children’s school-related privations and do their best to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts.”

The study found that difficulties in affording school uniforms, school trips and school lunches are constant features of life for low-income families.

The report recommended that local authorities impose a maximum limit for the cost of school trips; issue guidance to schools encouraging them to allow more time for paying for activities; and use pupil equity funds to ensure inclusion of all pupils in school trips and activities.

It said teachers should be offered continuing professional development on the nature, causes and consequences of poverty, similar to the City of Edinburgh’s 1-in-5 project and Glasgow City Council’s Cost of the School Day project – two initiatives aimed at mitigating the effects of poverty on children’s full participation in education.

It also called for the practice of withholding clothing grants from pupils on an Educational Maintenance Allowance, to be stopped.

This research was conducted as part of wider research with the Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland.

For a copy of the report http://stir.ac.uk/214

Claudia Cruz De Salgado
MSc Dementia Studies 2017

Claudia is an architect and Vice President of Design at Amica Mature Lifestyles, the leading operator of high-end retirement living in Canada, and came to Stirling because of our leading reputation in the field of Dementia Studies.

The Canadian based company, Amica Mature Lifestyles, was entering a new venture into dementia care and Claudia wanted to upskill specifically into how the built environment can affect people with dementia. She visited the University of Stirling and the Dementia Services Development Centre, and decided to sign up for a distance learning course.

Claudia says she was impressed with the level of support she received over the duration of her three-year course. She said: “Through technology, great professors and tutors, group discussions and challenging assignments, I discovered a whole new world which I have been able to put into practice at home.”

Completing the course was a poignant moment for Claudia, who lost her mother to Alzheimer’s. She explained: “I felt that by advancing my practice through furthering my understanding of how I could design better environments for people with dementia, I would be honouring her memory.”
Honorary Graduates

Meet the 2018 honorary graduates

The class of 2018 will join a budding alumni community of more than 88,000 located in 170 countries around the world. Photos and stories from the graduation ceremonies are available at http://stir.ac.uk/210

The Right Honourable Dame Anne McGuire DBE

Dame Anne McGuire received the award of Doctor of the University in recognition of her public service to the people of Stirling and to people with disabilities.

Anne was Stirling’s Member of Parliament for 18 years. In 2002, she became a Minister at the Scotland Office, where she steered the legislation on civil partnerships for same sex couples through Parliament. As Minister for Disabled People, she oversaw the implementation of the 2005 Disability Discrimination Act and a year later the Disability Equality Duty for the public sector.

Patrick McGrath

Patrick received the award of Doctor of the University in recognition of his support of academic research and the University of Stirling archives. Patrick has written short stories and a series of critically acclaimed novels including The Grotesque (1989), Spider (1991), Asylum (1996) and Trauma (2008). His most recent novel is The Wardrobe Mistress (2017).

Patrick is fascinated by the human mind and by those spaces in which psychic healing may take place, and his work is taught as part of the University’s MLitt course on ‘The Gothic Imagination’.

Dr Lee Kwok Cheong

Dr Lee, Chief Executive Officer of SIM Holdings, received the Degree of Doctor of the University in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the IT industry and education sector in Singapore. At the National Computer Board he transformed the organisation into a regional IT and communications engineering powerhouse, with the Civil Service of Singapore being the most IT-efficient in the world.

Since 2011, SIM has been instrumental in the successful operation of the University of Stirling Honours degree programmes in Retail Marketing, Sports Studies and Marketing, Sports Business Management and Sustainable Events Management.

Mark Daly

Mark received the award of Doctor of the University in recognition of his outstanding contribution to investigative journalism.

A graduate of Stirling, with a degree in Film and Media studies, Mark is a multi-award winning investigative journalist for the BBC and contributor to the BBC’s Panorama programme. He has a Bafta and two Royal Television Society (RTS) awards for his work on racism in the police, and four RTS awards, two Scottish Baftas and a Foreign Press Association award for work involving the financial collapse of Rangers and child sex abuse in the Catholic Church.

David Strang

David Strang received the award of Doctor of the University in recognition of his outstanding contribution to ensuring due process, quality and integrity of public services and for his championing of the rights and wellbeing of vulnerable people in prison.

David was a Chief Officer in Scottish policing for 15 years and then HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland from 2013 until 2018. He is Chair of the Independent Inquiry into NHS Mental Health Services in Tayside and champions the rights and wellbeing of people living with vulnerability in institutions such as prisons.

Martin Valenti

Martin Valenti received the award of Doctor of the University in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the protection of our environment.

He has successfully delivered high-profile projects for the Scottish Government on climate change and environmental issues. He played an instrumental role in setting up Scotland’s 2020 Climate Group and co-created the award winning 2050 Young Leaders Group. Martin is Head of Strategic Initiatives at the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and currently seconded to the Scottish Land Commission, to help Scotland deal with its vacant and derelict land.
Graduates and Students of the Year

Yuanyuan Qiu
President, Jiangsu Broadcasting Corporation International Company Ltd (JSBCI)
Degree: MSc Media Management, 2005

Yuanyuan is President of Jiangsu Broadcasting Company’s international arm, JSBCI, where she oversees the distribution of original Chinese TV formats globally, in addition to importing international formats for broadcasting in China. She also leads the development of international co-production and broadcasting with companies such as the BBC and Channel 4 in the UK, Arte in France, NHK in Japan, and PBS in the USA.

Yuanyuan, who gained an MSc Media Management from the University in 2005, was shortlisted for the British Council’s Professional Achievement Award – an accolade she in no small part attributes to her UK education and University of Stirling experience.

Angela Sterling
Managing Director, Lingotot Ltd
Degree: BA DipEd Education and French, 2001

Angela is the founder and Managing Director of Lingotot Ltd, which provides language classes for children aged from 0 to 11 years old, working in primary schools, nurseries and community centres across the UK. Founded in 2010 and based in Co. Durham, Linguotot now teaches more than 10,000 children each week through a growing network of franchises and tutors.

Angela, who graduated with a BA DipEd Education and French in 2001, reached national attention in 2017 following an appearance in an episode of Dragons’ Den, supported by a team of students who sang to the Dragons in four different languages.

Duncan Scott
Faculty: Health Sciences and Sport
Degree: BA (Hons) Business Studies and Sports Studies

Duncan is an Olympic medalist in swimming. In 2017, he won a gold medal as part of the 4x200m Freestyle relay team in Budapest, representing Great Britain at the FINA World Championships in Budapest, which he won gold in the 4x200m Freestyle and silver in the 4x100m Medley Relay.

His latest successes come two years after he won two silvers as part of relay teams at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Ashley Cameron
Faculty: Arts and Humanities
Degree: BA (Hons) History and Politics

Ashley has championed the rights of care experienced young people in Scotland. A care experienced student herself, Ashley has appeared on TV and radio, and with the First Minister and other politicians to lobby for support for care experienced students. Ashley, who graduated with a BA (Hons) History and Politics in June, has overcome personal challenges to achieve considerable success, both academically and in public affairs activities. The First Minister’s decision to introduce a bursary for care experienced students was influenced by Ashley’s work.

Kelsey Blemings
Faculty: Health Sciences and Sport
Degree: BA (Hons) Sports Studies

Kelsey serves as Faculty Officer for the Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport and is in her second term as Sports Union Communications Officer. Kelsey was involved in sports volunteering during her first year of studies and has a specific focus on encouraging and increasing the number of student volunteers. As Sports Union Communications Officer, the third-year BA (Hons) Sports Studies student has been vital in growing the Sports Union social media presence, by creating engaging content on fixtures, results and clubs’ activities.

To find out more about how you can nominate someone or be nominated, email alumni@stir.ac.uk

Graduates and Students of the Year

Doug Allan
Wildlife Cinematographer, Biologist and Research Diver
Degree: BSc Marine Biology, 1973
Honorary Doctorate, 2007

Doug is best known for his work as a cameraman for world-renowned BBC documentaries. His credits include the iconic Planet Earth and Blue Planet 2 series. Doug, who in 1973 received a BSc (Hons) Marine Biology and – in 2007 – Honorary Doctorate from the University, holds several awards, including eight Emmys and five Baftas.

He won the Fuchs Medal and two Polar Medals, in recognition of his work, and is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and the Royal Geographical Society.

Ashley Cameron
Faculty: Arts and Humanities
Degree: BA (Hons) History and Politics

Ashley has championed the rights of care experienced young people in Scotland. A care experienced student herself, Ashley has appeared on TV and radio, and with the First Minister and other politicians to lobby for support for care experienced students. Ashley, who graduated with a BA (Hons) History and Politics in June, has overcome personal challenges to achieve considerable success, both academically and in public affairs activities. The First Minister’s decision to introduce a bursary for care experienced students was influenced by Ashley’s work.

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Our alumni make the difference

Stirling graduates and students are making the difference globally in all spheres of life – from business and industry, to politics and public sector, to culture and sport. To celebrate their achievements, and make that important link between student and graduate, we launched a special set of awards as part of the 50th anniversary commemorations. The inaugural Graduates of the Year, and Students of the Year were:
Nicola Walters  
BA (Hons) Business Studies/Management Science 1996

Current occupation:  
Founder and Managing Director  
at Organisational Elephant

What convinced you that Stirling was the right choice?  
The combination of the campus setting and the locality to my five part time jobs meant I could juggle work, study and show jumping. The only way I could afford to buy my first horse and start competing was to live at home and work my socks off.

What is your favourite memory?  
The walk across the link bridge into the Atrium space where everyone came together into one space combining study, socialising and sustenance. Also sing-alongs in MacRobert and many an iced bun in the café.

Did you have a favourite lecturer at Stirling?  
I read her book General Principles of Scots Law during my Business Law module. She always brought her two dachshunds to work and now I too bring my dog to work every day.

How did your University experience prepare you for life/career?  
The One Computing Science module that remains relevant today was learning the basics of programming in Pascal. The lack of an “;” can wreak havoc in code development and even now I can identify with the words “it was working a moment ago and I have no idea why it is not working now”!

Living off-site and working many jobs proved I could juggle priorities.

Can you tell us about your current role?  
I am the founder of Organisational Elephant and the creator of onits. I started my journey as a start up entrepreneur, now I'm harnessing all my trouble-shooting experiences and launching my new company and product range from home.

What are the main challenges of your job?  
I need more time to engage suppliers and consultants, time to build momentum in a crowded market place. Taking my eye off the ball could have significant consequences so working long days is a given and working seven days a week is a must!

What are onits?  
Onits are dry wipe magnetic notes perfect for brainstorming, workshops, personal planning, idea generation, strategy building, reminders, shopping lists, revising, or even leaving notes on your fridge. Onits stick to any metal surface – for months if you need them to. They won’t fall off, get lost, or end up crumpled in a bin. But like magic, they’re also really easy to move around. They’re smart, wipeable, and reusable.

Write – do – repeat, it really is easy to move around. They’re smart, wipeable, and reusable.

Innovation is core to our success and a project involving recycled materials is the next phase.

What are the main challenges of your job?  
I need more time to engage suppliers and consultants, time to build momentum in a crowded market place. Taking my eye off the ball could have significant consequences so working long days is a given and working seven days a week is a must!

Can you tell us what projects you’re working on just now?  
Launching a crowdfunding campaign. Organisational Elephant is more than a company – it’s a global community of people coming together to solve problems. We call them The Herd, and we develop, manufacture and sell organisational tools based on their needs. Crowdfunding is an extension to the crowd sourcing vision where the people with the need contribute towards the development of the solution. We are developing the next generation of onits to ensure a product development pipeline.

In my spare time...  
Horses and hiking recharge my soul. Married to Andrew and living in Kippen, I have travelled the world and ended up married to a Scot, Andrew, and living a short distance from where I was born and close to the University where I started my journey.

Three words to describe Stirling:  
Campus, International, Haven.

To find out more, visit http://stir.ac.uk/211

Stirling announces new partnership in Singapore

On 3 October the University signed a new agreement with Amity Global Institute, a leading education provider, to allow students in Singapore to enrol on University of Stirling degree courses – BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance, Master of Business Administration, BSc Management, MSc Banking and Finance, and MSc Data Science for Business.

Dr Aseem Chauhan, Chancellor of Amity Global Institute, welcomed the launch of the MSc Data Science for Business course in particular, as part of Singapore’s drive to become a ‘Smart Nation’. He said: “It is with great honour that we are working with the University of Stirling to deliver this course, providing a learning platform for young people in Singapore to develop one of the most sought-after skills for employment in this digital age.”

Further information on the courses is available at http://stir.ac.uk/212
Faculty of Arts and Humanities

SME business owners need support to adapt to Brexit

Research led by Dr Oliver Mallett, Associate Professor in Work and Employment at the University of Stirling, looked at how regulations affect SMEs. The report, co-authored by academics from the University of Sheffield, identifies the importance of stability, reliability and continuity of regulation post-Brexit and flags that owner-managers and entrepreneurs will need support to gain confidence in the new regulatory environment.

Dr Mallett said: “In developing a ‘better regulation’ agenda, policy makers must consider both the negative and the beneficial effects that regulations can have on SMEs. This is less about new regulations and more about how businesses engage with the processes involved in compliance and how these can be linked to wider agendas, such as improving productivity.

“Regulation can bring benefits from maintaining competitive markets and protection from unfair competition but also through improving employment practices, such as in managing conflict, and indirectly developing management competence through the creation of formal and equitable policies and practices. Monitoring, negotiating, and adapting to changes, are vital business skills that go beyond regulation.”

For a copy of the report visit http://stir.ac.uk/213

Stirling student scoops top industry award

Student Debbie Maltman, (BA (Hons) Economics 2002), has been awarded the Data Lab MSc 2017-18 Project Award for her data analysis project with Volunteer Scotland. The MSc Data Science for Business student was praised for her work which looked at how to increase digital engagement on the website using data science and statistical tools. She helped provide new insights into why and how often people volunteer, and what a typical volunteer looks like.

Debbie has a first class degree from Stirling, and had worked in HSBC, before returning for postgraduate study. The University’s MSc Data Science for Business course was the first of its kind to be launched in Scotland, and has been designed to teach students how to use data to drive value for organisations whilst also connecting closely with industry. More than a third of the course involves students working directly with companies and organisations on real-world projects.

Debbie is the third consecutive Stirling student to win the award. The runners-up were fellow students Mark Wallace and Laura Hepburn.

To find out more about the University’s business engagement programme please contact Debbie Miller on alumni@stir.ac.uk

MSc Media and Communications Management programme celebrates 10th anniversary

Vietnam National University - University Of Social Sciences And Humanities (VNU-USSH) is one of Vietnam’s most prestigious institutions, with the largest social sciences and humanities faculty in the country. The University of Stirling partnered with VNU-USSH more than a decade ago to develop a unique course jointly delivered in Ho Chi Minh City. The programme is also delivered in Hanoi and was established in Danang for several years. The collaboration has now seen more than 100 graduates of the MSc Media and Communications Management.

Seven graduates from the University of Stirling were recently awarded their certificates at a ceremony in Ho Chi Minh City attended by Dr Pham Tan Ha, USSH Vice Rector and Professor Richard Oram, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Stirling.

SME business owners need support to adapt to Brexit

MSc Media and Communications Management programme celebrates 10th anniversary
Dave Broom
BA (Hons)
English 1981

Current occupation:
Spirits writer, consultant, trainer.

Why Stirling?
A few things. The course looked fascinating, continual assessment suited me, and it was a chance to get away from Glasgow (I know it’s not far, but it’s psychological).

What is your favourite memory?
Brig, the Grange, various gigs and friends.

Did you have a favourite lecturer, or member of staff at Stirling?
Angela Smith, Rory Watson, and John Izod.

How did your University experience prepare you for your career?
Initially not at all as I worked in a wine merchants, then ran a pub. English language skills and meeting deadlines were revisited when I began writing about music and booze. The grounding in Scottish literature has helped immensely in ongoing whisky projects.

Can you tell us about your current role?
I spend 50% of my time writing and the rest on talking, training, consulting, travelling and more recently making films. I’ve just finished a film of Scotch’s influence on Scottish culture, called ‘The Amber Light’ which will be out in spring 2019. There’ll also be a soundtrack and, maybe, a book as well.

What are the main challenges of your job?
Juggling a stupid number of projects means the biggest challenge is achieving a decent work-life family balance.

What is a Master of the Quaich?
A rather grand award given by the whisky industry for services to Scotch (other than just drinking it). There are not many of us and it is a great honour to be one.

My advice to current students is:
Use your time to broaden your mind.

Three words to describe Stirling:
Life-changing, hedonistic, inspiring.

In my spare time...
Walking, sailing, reading and listening to (what my wife and daughter call) “weird music”.

Over the past few months, there have been some outstanding awards given to Stirling’s students. At the Scottish Student Journalism awards, Rozlyn Little (pictured) won both Scoop of the Year and News Story of the Year, while Douglas Matheson won Broadcast Journalist of the Year and Ryan Peteranna won Column of the Year. There were commendations for Ryan Carroll in The Calum Macdonald Memorial Award, Sirri Rimppi for Feature of the Year, Katie William for Broadcast Story of the Year and Kieran Daly for Podcast of the Year.

Maria Craig, Josefin Dahlén, Hannah McKeilv and Joel Rock won in the ‘undergraduate factual’ category of the Royal Television Society Student Television Awards 2018. Dario Sintorini, Head of Production Teaching at Stirling, said: “Stirling has a strong track record in production, having picked up 10 Scottish national awards for factual work in the past five years.

Importantly, this prize means that the production team of Maria, Josefin, Hannah and Joel made the best undergraduate documentary in the UK last year – a fantastic achievement and beating off competition from a host of prestigious institutions.”

And Florence Breitstadt received the student prize in the Ian Bell ‘New Writing’ competition for an unpublished piece by a writer under 30. The award was presented to Florence at ‘The Importance of Good Journalism’ event at Glasgow’s Aye Write! Book Festival, held in the city’s Royal Concert Hall.

Next year, a series of historical themed experiences will be offered. Led by an academic guide, they will initially focus on Medieval and Renaissance Scotland.

• These will involve small-group historical themed visits to central and eastern Scotland either as a 1-day experience or a 6-night all-inclusive package.

• The 6-night experiences combine fascinating day visits with outstanding accommodation and culinary experiences at the Stirling Court Hotel.

• Designed to be informative and enjoyable, all the tours incorporate cutting-edge research in the field of Scottish History, combined with a relaxed atmosphere.

• The itinerary for the tours includes less well-known and off the beaten track sites, as well as better known locations such as Stirling Castle.

For more information:
http://stir.ac.uk/215

History Tomorrow

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History Tomorrow
Business engagement

Businesses benefit from working in partnership with the University of Stirling across research, the student experience, commercial activities and governance. How might your organisation benefit from working with us?

What is typically an organisation’s biggest cost? Human capital, yes, their staff. Whether scaling up a new venture or downsizing a resource-intensive R&D function, businesses often turn to universities to access support for research and innovation in intellectual property, laboratory and test facilities including prototyping, and building innovation capacity and capabilities. The University has successful innovation partnerships with organisations covering areas as diverse as food production and security, fintech, health and social care, sports technologies and sportswear manufacture, IT and digital, and management and leadership.

The arrival of Industry 4.0, otherwise referred to as “the fourth industrial revolution” or “the Internet of Things”, has connected more and more technologies which collect data for analysis from homes, businesses and communities. This creates big challenges. The human capital landscape is changing, with predictable, repetitive or low level tasks becoming automated whilst other new jobs are emerging in design, digital technologies and data analytics. These new jobs create technologies and analyse society’s daily interfaces to make sense of, and draw insights from, the increasing volumes of data available.

Whilst businesses can train existing staff in the latest workplace technologies, they also need a future pool of talent with the right combination of high level skills in data analysis, critical thinking, evaluation, problem solving and collaboration, underpinned with knowledge from a degree. The University is working to deliver well educated and – by working in partnership with businesses – ‘work ready’ graduates. The importance of guest lectures, master-classes, placements, internships and collaborative projects cannot be underestimated in preparing graduates to be ready to contribute from day one of their working lives. Work based opportunities, locally, nationally and internationally, allow students to apply their learning to the real-world, gain knowledge and build their professional networks. However, it’s not a one-way street. Organisations also see benefits through getting a resource, fresh perspectives and ideas, and opportunities for developing existing staff, such as employees mentoring students.

“We brought in skills we didn’t have in the company. We shared what we wanted to achieve and the intern helped us to target our audience and get the messaging right. It worked really well for us. We were delighted.”
Kevin Wilkinson, Director, Ethical Maintenance.

Additionally, hosting or mentoring a student can enable you to identify potential future employees and sell your company to them as their first choice for a job when they leave university reducing recruitment costs.

“Everyone we’ve taken on so far through the University of Stirling has always been given a job because they have been so exceptional.”
Sandy Robertson, Production Executive, Raise the Roof.

Could a research and innovation project and/or a student internship be an affordable solution to your business need? Contact Debbie Miller alumni@stir.ac.uk to find out more.

Business challenge? University solution

We knew we needed a really bespoke solution to our problem, and our academic partners at Stirling are an enthusiastic, knowledgeable and resourceful team, and we are looking forward to continuing our collaboration.

Fiona Houston
Marketing Director, Fishbox

Fishbox, a Scottish aquaculture business, needed to:

Create an algorithm to predict exactly what they needed to order to satisfy every aspect of customer demand. Working in partnership with the University the company were able to fulfil a higher number of orders without sacrificing freshness or customer service; avoid wastage and enhance sustainability by purchasing fish based on precise data, including substitute quantities, and overall scale up (no pun intended!) the business to confidently welcome and support a number of new customers.

Fiona Houston, Marketing Director, Fishbox
Investigating the Effect of Recent Peatland Restoration on Water Quality

Flanders Moss National Nature Reserve, one of the largest and least damaged lowland raised bogs in the UK, has been engaged in a large scale project spanning 20 years to restore the peatland habitat by returning the water table to the bog surface. Scottish Natural Heritage, who manage the reserve, view Flanders as both a designated site and an important feature in the landscape. The restoration of the moss has delivered benefits to the local area in mitigating climate change by locking up carbon and providing natural flood management through releasing rainfall more slowly. As a result being able to measure the quantity and quality of the outflow of water off the moss is now of great importance. The Nature Reserve recruited an MSc Environmental Management student to work on a collaborative project during summer 2018.

The University of Stirling’s Making the Most of Masters programme provided us with the opportunity to work with the University and their researchers in this area. This student project allowed us to establish a baseline of water quality measurements that could be revisited in future years and provide an indication of the effect of the restoration works carried out on water flowing off the moss.

David Pickett
Scottish Natural Heritage, Reserve Manager
The great screenwriter, director and film producer, Steven Spielberg, once said: “The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves.”

Networking and mentoring relationships can help people realise their ambitions by unlocking business development opportunities, careers development and access to expertise and skills. Whilst recognising the value of mentoring, alumni and students often tell us they don’t know how to go about finding a mentor, how to approach them and what they and their mentor should expect from the relationship. The University of Stirling is launching an exciting new way for alumni and students to connect through The Stirling Network, which aims to connect the Stirling family no matter where they are across the world.

Mary Barra, Chairman and CEO of General Motors Company once said: “Different people see different aspects of us as we progress in our careers and handle the opportunities and challenges along the way.” She notes that whilst some executives credit one or two key people for coaching them to success, she believes effective mentoring takes a network. Stirling’s alumni network is 88,000 strong across 170 countries and many of them already support students and the University through mentoring students, giving masterclasses and guest lectures.

Debbie Miller, Head of Alumni and Business Engagement explains: “One of the benefits of the new Stirling Network will be the ability to access a wide range of knowledge and expertise from fellow alumni and mentors, whatever stage you’re at in your career. Even the most experienced people can benefit from mentoring and access to expertise. Lessons learned from one sector can be applied to others through innovation projects, collaborative working and best practice sharing and The Stirling Network can help you identify and make those connections. It can facilitate any mentoring relationship: alumni to alumni; student to alumnus or even student to student mentoring.

“As a Stirling alumnus, staff member or student you will be able to register on The Stirling Network and control what you share, what you see and you can ask for the support that would be of most benefit to you. You will also be able to mentor others and share your expertise, to help students and other alumni to develop themselves and their careers, enhancing your own management skills in the process. “Registration is flexible – you can be the mentor, the mentee, or both. And you only have to put in as much time as you are comfortable with. Sometimes a quick answer to a question will make all the difference. The international nature of our alumni community is also likely to mean that whenever you have a question, a problem or a challenge, someone, somewhere in the network will be awake, online and willing to help. The Stirling Network can help you build your network. Membership is free and you can use your LinkedIn login to register, it’s simple and easy. Unlike other social media networks, if you join The Stirling Network, you’ll know whether someone is interested in being a mentor, what their areas of expertise are and that they are motivated to help you. We’re looking forward to connecting you to your future source of inspiration and support – your fellow alumni!”

Contact alumni@stir.ac.uk for more information.
A £21m Campus Central project will create a new three-storey building at the heart of campus and give students, staff and visitors a host of new study and social spaces.

The project includes a refurbished atrium and improved retailing and catering. The first phase of the project has already been completed and saw the Queen’s Court area becoming pedestrianised and the relocation of the transport hub to the Logie entrance of Cottrell. Campus Central will significantly enhance the student experience at Stirling – delivering facilities that match our ambitions of being a top 25 university in the UK. It will help the University remain competitive and attractive to future generations of students and staff. Building work on Campus Central is due to be complete in September 2020. If you would like to find out more, or donate to the Campus Central project, contact Hazel McIlwraith on alumni@stir.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1786 466649.

Access will be rationalised by the new link building.
Meet the academic

Professor Neville Wylie has joined the University with responsibility for building global research collaborations and education programmes.

Professor Wylie is a graduate of Kings College London and received his PhD from the University of Cambridge. Previously he worked at the University of Cambridge, University of Glasgow and University College Dublin where he lectured in Modern History and International Relations.

His research bridges the fields of international history, politics and law, and focuses on the study of prisoners of war, humanitarianism and small-state neutrality. He has published more than 40 research works including books, papers and articles in peer-reviewed journals, as well as leading numerous research projects. Before coming to Stirling, he was Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement at the University of Nottingham.

From 2010 to 2014, he was seconded to Nottingham’s Malaysia campus as its first Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences.

Describe yourself in three words.

Now that’s tricky: three ‘threesomes’ come to mind. Firstly, courtesy of Teresa May, I’m a ‘citizen of nowhere’; in homage to Billy Connolly I’m ‘fab, groovy and windswept’ (though that’s four words); or in a nod to Thomas Hobbes I’m ‘nasty, brutish and short’!

What attracted you to Stirling?

Lots – its size, the spread and quality of its curricula and research, its traditions and the location. I felt that the University could have a better profile outside the UK and I was excited by the prospect of working with colleagues to shape Stirling’s ‘offer’ internationally.

I’ve been involved in global engagement over the last decade, but relish the opportunity to develop an international footprint for a Scottish university, drawing on all the distinctive advantages of being part of the Scottish university network.

Stirling is a very different institution from the one I have left – roughly a quarter the size, and without the depth or breadth of global engagement – but it possesses some really interesting and unique programmes, and undertakes research that is genuinely world leading. All this makes Stirling a really exciting proposition.

Why is it important that universities embrace internationalisation?

There is a danger that people view internationalisation as ‘nice to have, but not really important’. This view is not valid. Everything we do is enhanced if done from within an international context: study abroad opportunities enrich the students’ experience, improve academic performance and, critically, make our graduates more ‘employable’.

The experience is particularly beneficial for those coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. Today the world is a smaller place, and we would be failing our students if we didn’t provide the ‘global competencies’ needed to thrive in today’s global workplace. It is equally clear that research conducted with international collaborators, is read more widely and cited more frequently than that conducted with colleagues up the corridor, or, for that matter, down the M9 or M80.

Recruiting overseas students is not just about diversifying our student body, enhancing our learning environment or improving the university’s bottom line – it’s about providing life changing opportunities for people from around the world, and creating a global community of Stirling graduates who have the skills, appetite and empathy to make a real difference.

How do you see alumni contributing to this work?

Alumni are the University’s most precious resource, and I plan to reach out and invite them to inform and execute Stirling’s international strategy. There are UK-based alumni who work in the international sector, or who have contacts, ideas and interests that will help enhance our activities. And there are those living overseas who already tell everyone about the quality of education they received at Stirling, but could introduce us to people who would like to partner with our researchers and tackle some of the world’s most pressing problems.

And finally, what do you do in your spare time?

Dog walking (two year old border-collie) and taxi-driving (three children).
The team, from the Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport, analysed the case of a woman who developed breast cancer after spending 20 years working as a border guard at the busiest commercial border crossing in North America. The woman was one of, at least, five other border guards who developed breast cancer within 30 months of each other and, at another nearby crossing, a cluster of seven other cases was noted.

Dr Michael Gilbertson (right), who worked with colleague Dr Jim Brophy (left), said their findings “infer a causal relationship” between breast cancer and very high exposures to traffic-related air pollution containing mammary carcinogens. A link between nightshift work and cancer was also identified. Dr Gilbertson said: “This new research indicates the role of traffic-related air pollution in contributing to the increasing incidence of breast cancer in the general population.

“With this new knowledge, industry and government can plan for new designs for industrial and commercial facilities to cut down on the occupational exposures to traffic-related air pollution and for scheduling shift work to minimise disruption of sleep patterns.”

Reflecting on the findings, Dr Gilbertson added: “This kind of forensic research depends on asking new questions based on conclusions from the existing evidence and a willingness to follow leads into unfamiliar areas of science.”

University of Stirling experts have discovered new evidence of the link between air pollution and cancer as part of a new occupational health study.

Dr Christine Habeeb, PhD Sport Psychology 2017

Position: Lecturer | Organisation: University of Stirling

Drawn to Stirling by the lure of working with a renowned expert in Sport Psychology, Christine Habeeb has enjoyed her own success in the field, during her three-and-a-half years at the University.

Christine, who relocated from Florida to work alongside Professor Robert Eklund, was a Young Researcher winner at the European Sport Psychology conference in 2015, and her research into team confidence and dynamics was published in the prestigious Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology. She has also had the opportunity to work with young footballers at the Forth Valley Football Academy.

“At Stirling, I had the opportunity to extend my knowledge into a practical setting, learning how to communicate theories and models to help athletes, coaches and organisations,” Christine said.

Describing her Stirling experience as “focused, enlightening and rainy”, Christine has not allowed the weather to put a dampener on her time in Scotland – and has recently accepted a job at the University as a Sport Psychology lecturer.

“I am more than delighted to continue doing what I love.”

A breath of fresh air?

The road ahead

Moving from the Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport to the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the interdisciplinary nature of solutions to societal challenges that affect the health of us all, like pollution, is evidenced by the appointment of Dr Annalisa Savaresi, Lecturer in Environmental Law to the steering group that will oversee the review of the Scottish Government’s air quality strategy, ‘Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future’.
Stirling student wins The Queen’s Nursing Institute Scotland (QNIS) Postgraduate Community Nursing Prize

Graduate Outcomes Survey. Where has your journey taken you?

Knowing the career destinations of our graduates is of vital importance, not only to the University, but to any prospective students who are thinking about studying the same course as you, at Stirling.

Fifteen months after you graduate, you will be contacted to complete the Graduate Outcomes survey. This is a national survey capturing information about what you have done since University. This information will help current and future students gain an insight into possible career destinations following the completion of their degree. Your responses will also help the University to evaluate and promote our courses, and help employers understand the value of the qualifications to their organisations.

The survey will be sent to you via an email, or you may be contacted by phone. Please ensure that we have your correct contact details and let us know if you change your details following your graduation. A useful FAQ, and further information, is available on the Graduate Outcomes survey website at http://stir.ac.uk/21k

The Graduate Outcomes survey...

- contacts graduates
- 15 months after graduation
- by email or phone
- to learn about your activities and views

Find out more www.graduateoutcomes.ac.uk

QNIS has a mission to promote excellence in community nursing. They offer an annual prize to one post-graduate community based student each year who is worthy of recognition. This may be someone undertaking District Nursing or Health Visiting training or another post-graduate qualification, which is enhancing community nursing practice, be that in mental health, children’s nursing, occupational health nursing, advanced practice or research.

Bethan Murdoch, who graduated in MSc Early Years Practice (Health Visiting), received her award at the graduation ceremony in June.

She said: “Receiving the QNIS award is a great honour, to receive such recognition for the hard work undertaken in order to complete the Masters of Early Years has just reinforced my drive to learn, however it is important to acknowledge those that I studied beside and under. Without them I wouldn’t have been eligible to receive the award.”

Bethan Murdoch (centre), receives the award from Jane Walker from QNIS.
Tell us about your early career...
After graduating, I was prepared to enter the professional world as I had undertaken essential internship experiences during my student summer breaks in the USA. I established myself as a freelance environmental consultant specialising in marine mammals and from there on opportunities snowballed and I setup a not for profit conservation organisation with fellow Stirling graduates. We went on to make a documentary in Argentina on Southern Right Whales and human impacts to their population.

What is one of the main challenges of your job?
Working in the oil & gas, marine construction and renewable energy industries has been challenging but more so in the earlier days of my career as attitudes to environmental responsibility were hard to change. Now, companies are more prepared and attitudes are greatly improving.

Can you tell us what exciting projects you're working on?
For the past 14 months, I was with Sakhalin Energy Investment Company as the 2018 Central Commander of Environmental Operations, managing an endangered Gray Whale population monitoring and mitigation programme in far eastern Russia. I'm now working as an Environmental Advisor and department manager for SBGS in Abu Dhabi. I'm developing and delivering an environmental management programme including; environmental scouting surveys, pre/post evaluation of key areas and habitats (mangroves, bird and turtle nesting sites) and water quality sampling.

What would your advice to Stirling students be?
You must get a head start with your CV before graduation. Seek out relevant internship and volunteering opportunities now and don’t leave it too late! It is your responsibility to prove your interest in your field of study and interning is a great way to get that initial experience and great for networking!

You're one of our alumni mentors – what advice would you give to anyone wishing to become a mentor?
Sign up now! It is incredibly rewarding to observe your student develop professionally. You will feel a great sense of accomplishment knowing you have helped steer someone who was in your very shoes at one point and provide them with some direction and new skills.

In my spare time...
I am the Chairman of the Marine Mammal Observer Association and I assist the British Divers Marine Life Rescue as one of their Advanced Marine Mammal Medics. I also undertook a performing arts degree in Circus Arts in 2010 and I still enjoy aerial acrobatics.

Niru Neil Dorrian
BSc (Hons) Marine Biology 2006

Position: Environmental Manager
Organisation: Seabed Geosolutions (SBGS)
The buzz of pollination: Nature’s role in food security

In the UK, the British Beekeepers Association estimates that around a third of our food is dependent on pollination. Mario Vallejo-Marin, Associate Professor at the University of Stirling, examines the importance of the types of bees in pollination.

The giant orange and black bumblebee, Bombus dahlbomii, once ruled South America’s southern tip. But, now endangered in the IUCN Red List, in the last ten years its population has more than halved. Whilst causes for its demise are still being investigated, the collapse is closely linked to the arrival of the buff tail bumblebee, B. terrestris, from Europe. Introduced to pollinate crops, the European bee has quickly taken the place of its predecessor.

But are all bees equal when buzz pollinating or do characteristics, like size, affect the vibrations they can produce? Generously supported by The Leverhulme Trust, The Royal Society of London’s Newton International Fellowship, NERC-IAPETUS and National Geographic, Mario’s collaborative group, including Bahamas and Lincoln Universities, aims to find answers.

During buzz pollination, female bees produce high frequency vibrations that are transmitted throughout the bees’ bodies to the flowers they visit. The vibrations help bees to remove pollen from nectar-less flowers, like tomato flowers. Bees, like honeybees, that cannot buzz-pollinate usually ignore them. Bumblebees are excellent buzz pollinators and the only efficient way to pollinate some of our crops.

Does the replacement of one native bumblebee with a smaller, introduced one matter for pollination? For further information contact: Eunice Atkins on FNSBusinessLink@stir.ac.uk

Collaborate to succeed

In recent years the Faculty of Natural Sciences has significantly increased its business engagement with private, public and third sector organisations. Many academic staff now recognise the importance of collaboration with businesses and the only efficient way to pollinate is through joint innovative projects. Mario’s collaborative group, including Bahamas and Lincoln Universities, aims to find answers.

Collaborative projects are a ‘win-win’ – businesses get help with research, problems can be resolved, whilst students enhance their employability (as well as their CVs). Placements (in applied biology, computing, environmental science and psychology), and internships with local businesses deliver benefits for both parties with many of our students sourcing graduate jobs with their providers. In addition, the mentoring programme works with mentors from our alumni and businesses to help all the way down to smaller pieces of work through honours or masters dissertation projects. The award-winning Making the Most of Masters scheme (www.stir.ac.uk/mmm) allows businesses to work alongside our MSc programmes, its success evidenced by a doubling of project numbers in five years.

Credit: Mario Vallejo-Marin

New directions in Computing Science and Mathematics

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Celebrations as 106 graduate with Stirling degrees in Oman

New graduates are celebrating their achievements after receiving their degrees from the University during a special ceremony at Muscat College in Oman.

Professor Neville Wylie, Deputy Principal (Internationalisation) travelled to Muscat to celebrate the students’ achievements, along with Dr Mario Kolberg, Associate Principal (Internationalisation) for the Faculty of Natural Sciences, and Dr Andrew Perchard, Academic Partnership Director (Muscat) at Stirling Management School.

“We are proud of our partnership with Muscat College and it is a privilege to be part of the students’ graduation ceremony, which provides recognition of their commitment and hard work,” Professor Wylie said.

“The time that the students have spent with us will prepare them for a wide range of exciting and successful careers. We look forward to welcoming them into our global family of alums and watching their lives and careers flourish.”


For more graduation photos go to http://stir.ac.uk/1z8

University launches partnership campus in United Arab Emirates

The University of Stirling Ras Al Khaimah campus has opened to students in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in partnership with Planet CORE.

Students will be able to take courses developed by expert academics from the University and delivered overseas in the UAE.

They include undergraduate courses in Management and Accounting and Finance, or postgraduate courses in Finance and Investment Analysis. Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Gerry McCormac, said: “We have launched our Ras Al Khaimah campus, in partnership with Planet CORE, and are proud to offer students the opportunity to gain Stirling degrees while studying in the United Arab Emirates.

“We are proud of our vibrant, diverse and international community of students and look forward to welcoming them into our global Stirling family.”

Mr SR Velanand, Managing Director of Planet CORE International Education, said: “We are delighted to partner with the University of Stirling and provide all non-academic resources to ensure that students have a world-class academic experience in state-of-the-art facilities.”

The inaugural event was presided by Professor Gerry McCormac, Principal and Vice-Chancellor. Mr Andrew Jackson, HM Consul General, British Embassy Dubai, delivered the keynote address.

University of Stirling launches partnership campus in United Arab Emirates

For more graduation photos go to http://stir.ac.uk/1z8

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

2010s

Brett Borthwick BA (Hons) Spanish and French, 2018

I graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Spanish and French and in August, I moved to Tottori, Japan to teach English through the JET Programme. Many thanks to Atsushi Kanayama, Daisuke Suzuki, Noriko Tabner and Kerry Bryson for all of your help.

Lesley Dugan BA (Hons) Sociology and Social Policy, 2017

As a student, I worked for the Advancement team on three telethon campaigns and then as a 50th anniversary intern, I thoroughly enjoyed raising funds for the University and was encouraged to apply for the CASE Europe Graduate Scheme. I was chosen as one of 12 graduate trainees for the 2017/18 programme and spent 12 months gaining experience in fundraising, campaigning and event management in Dublin City University and Queen's University Belfast. I'm now Donor Relations Officer at the University of Aberdeen. I am extremely proud to be a Stirling alumna and to have worked for the Advancement team.

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

I have a new job as a full-time HR Assistant at the Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) at the University of Warwick, one of the UK’s leading education, research and manufacturing industries, focusing on global manufacturing, innovation and technology. #MyStirling #IAmStirling

Andreu Kinnell BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology, 2015

In September 2018 I arrived in Shijiazhuang in northern China to work as an ESL teacher with English First. Living in a city with a population exceeding 10 million is quite a change from living in Scotland, but the people, the culture and opportunities for career development are fantastic.

Solomon Opore MSc Investment Analysis, 2015

I'm currently an Assistant Lecturer and also doing my PhD, both in Accounting at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Dr Stephanie Derrick PhD History, 2014

I live in Los Angeles and my first book was published in August. The book is called The Fame of C. S. Lewis: A Controversialist’s Reception in Britain and America (Oxford University Press). Visit my website http://stir.ac.uk/216

I have a new job as a full-time HR Assistant at the Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) at the University of Warwick, one of the UK’s leading education, research and manufacturing industries, focusing on global manufacturing, innovation and technology. #MyStirling #IAmStirling

Where are they now?

Class notes
Class notes

Xioothen (Miles) Guo MSc
Sports Management, 2013

In September, I travelled to India to visit some Indian friends from University. I met Stirling friends in Delhi, Mumbai and Varanasi! It was amazing and India is very special and beautiful. There are changes in all our lives but the friendships have never changed. Here I am far left with Shweta and Ankit in Delhi. We all studied for our Masters together.

Indibor Ghosh MSc
Energy Management, 2012

I have been moving ahead in my profession and am now a certified Lead Auditor for ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management Systems). Also, I am currently pursuing a Post Graduate Diploma in Training & Development from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Feel free to contact me if I could do anything for the University, in either a personal or professional capacity, via indibor.biotech@gmail.com.

George Vekic BA (Hons) and Claire Vekic BA (Hons) (née Gilmore)
Business Studies and Marketing, 2011 and Marketing, 2011

My wife Claire and I both graduated on the same day in June 2011. We got together in July 2012, married in 2015 and both now work in the University. On 29 January 2018, we welcomed our wee girl (possible future alumna?) Poppy Francesca into the world.

Cletus Baalongbuoro MSc
Energy Management, 2011

I teach at Tamale Business Senior High School where I formed a young entrepreneurs club and I help students with their business ideas and how to implement them. I get a lot of fulfilment from being a tutor and mentor to these wonderful students and I’m grateful to the University of Stirling for making me who I am today. I’m also a co-founder of Clean Coal Power in Ghana where we recycle waste materials of agriculture into clean smokeless alternative charcoal called briquettes for homes and businesses.

Stéphanie Hochard BA (Hons)
Tourism Management, 2009

I first worked as a Sales & Marketing Consultant in New Zealand’s tourism industry for two years. Upon my return to Paris, I decided to set-up my own business, which offers photography & cultural walking tours. http://stir.ac.uk/217 for more information. Subjects studied at Stirling such as entrepreneurship and marketing provided me with the necessary skills to succeed.

Niru Neil Dorrian BSc (Hons)
Marine Biology, 2006

I teach at Tamale Business Senior High School where I formed a young entrepreneurs club and I help students with their business ideas and how to implement them. I get a lot of fulfilment from being a tutor and mentor to these wonderful students and I’m grateful to the University of Stirling for making me who I am today. I’m also a co-founder of Clean Coal Power in Ghana where we recycle waste materials of agriculture into clean smokeless alternative charcoal called briquettes for homes and businesses.

2000s

Yue (Vicky) Guo MSc
Marketing, 2009

After graduating, I stayed in Edinburgh for two years and worked with an education institute in charge of processing student applications and interviews. In 2011, I moved back to China and settled in Beijing. I am now working with Mercedes-Benz China, as a manager in Retail Operations, Customer Services. I am in charge of setting Service Processes and Dealer Standards. This job requires knowledge in customer segmentation, marketing research and critical thinking, which I learnt at Stirling. I am on Facebook if anyone wants to contact me.

Julian Richter
Dip Public Relations, 2003

I received the 2017 Central Pennsylvania Chapter Public Relations Society of America’s highest individual honour, the Frederick E. Leachner Award, for outstanding leadership to the chapter, the community, and the profession. I have served the public relations profession for more than 30 years, and spent countless hours giving back to the community through volunteer work, both within the Central PA PRSA Chapter and in many other organisations. I currently work in the communications department of TeachBeyond, a mission organization that connects educators with learning institutions around the world. I am pictured on the right.

Véronique Koch BSc (Hons)
Marine Biology, 2001

I was selected as one of 12 women for the prestigious ‘In the Company of Women’ award in the category of Science and Technology. My diverse multi-lingual background and experience of living and studying abroad has helped me to rise above the confinement of cultural modes of thought. I began my career interning for South Florida PBS and the Discovery Channel, moving on to work as production assistant, associate producer and then created my own production company. I’m an Emmy-winning producer and the series Changing Seas also won a science communication award from the National Academies of Sciences.

Nikos Sfakianos BA
English Language Teaching, 2001

After my graduation and military service, I started teaching in September 2003 as an English tutor. I’m married to Niki and we have two daughters, Nasia and Mimi (six and three years old). I came back to Stirling on our honeymoon in 2010 and I’m planning to come again to run a marathon or half-marathon which has been my main hobby for the last 18 months. I do that in honour of my mum who died of brain cancer and I’ll soon be running for the Greek charity ‘the Child’s smile’ and the Big Hearts Charity (The Heart of Midlothian). Find me at http://stir.ac.uk/218

Paula Gilbert-Haworth MSc
Retail Management, 2000 and BA (Hons) Marketing, 1997

For the last 20 years, I’ve worked in London, Paris and Hong Kong. I’ve travelled the world and worked for a Formula 1 team, and couldn’t have done it without the course and friends at Stirling University.

Paula Gilbert-Haworth MSc
Retail Management, 2000 and BA (Hons) Marketing, 1997

After graduation I worked for Microsoft and returned to education three years later as I wanted to learn about the retail supply chain. I then moved to London and worked for a few major retailers in various positions throughout their supply chains, including a project to manage the team who delivered M&S Food to Order online for the first time. I married Jonathan who I met whilst studying for my Masters degree and we moved back to Scotland. I now support the University by mentoring management students and I enjoy being an alumni ambassador.

91990s

Ali Bullock BA (Hons)
Marketing, 1999

After graduation I worked for Microsoft and returned to education three years later as I wanted to learn about the retail supply chain. I then moved to London and worked for a few major retailers in various positions throughout their supply chains, including a project to manage the team who delivered M&S Food to Order online for the first time. I married Jonathan who I met whilst studying for my Masters degree and we moved back to Scotland. I now support the University by mentoring management students and I enjoy being an alumni ambassador.
I started a new job in April as National Coach Elite / U23 with Swiss Triathlon based in Zurich. I have worked as a coach/team manager at the Irish, Scottish and British Triathlon federations as well as being Scottish Athletics National Event Coach for Endurance as well as having been National Event Coach for Steeplechase.

Kathryn Jackson (née Sharpe) BA (Hons)
Human Resource Management and Sociology, 1995

I have just completed five years’ service at Jaguar Land Rover where my new role is Deployment Manager for Future Customer Experience. I oversee the deployment of various Global and Regional projects as our company seeks to enhance the experiences of our customers in the future. In March I completed my aerobatics rating on my pilot’s licence so I am now qualified to fly rolls, loops and stall-turns. The ‘class of 94’ (plus or minus a year or two) is planning a 25-year reunion in Stirling from 23rd to 24th February 2019! If you’d like to stay on campus, call Stirling Court Hotel on 01786 451666.

Heidi Williamson (née Camish) BA (Hons) French, 1994

I've retired early and look forward to spending my time travelling and doing reenactment dressing up. I'm currently working for energy supplier SSE. I still play the guitar and write poetry. In 2006 I won the Colloquy Bonhoeffer Centenary Poetry Competition. I recently published The Campus of Love, a sonnet cycle set against the backdrop of the University of Stirling.

Dr Rajendra Prasad MSc Technological Economics, 1985

My article on ‘Patents for SMEs’ is published by International Network for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (INSM) and can be accessed here: http://stir.ac.uk/21c

Lesley O’Hare BA (Hons) History, 1984
Steve Broun BA DipEd English and Education, 1985
Mike Nolan BA (Hons) Film & Media Studies and English, 1995

I received my PhD last year, nearly 34 years to the day I received my MSc from Stirling. I am Editor of CSR Sustainability, Ethics & Governance and Editor in Chief of the International Journal of Corporate Social Responsibility and the American Journal of Economics and Business Administration.

Nigel Randell BA Computing Science and Management Science, 1982

I am retired and have been living in Ireland since March 2017. I currently volunteer in Carlow Museum. I’ve no plans to return to England but still return occasionally to visit friends and relatives. My last visit to Stirling was in September 2013 and I was amazed at how much had changed – and that was before they demolished my first residence, AKD!

Hamish Steedman BA Economics, 1980

Following on from the success of the film Tommy’s Honour, where St Andrews Golf Company provided all the clubs and props, Jason Connery recently returned to St Andrews to film with me in our shop for his latest series, The Golf Explorers. Having previously appeared with Michael Portillo in his Great British Railway Journeys series I see a new career beckoning!
John Scott BA (Hons)  
History, 1971

On 19 April 2018 I had the honour of being elected by my colleagues as the Chief Commoner for 2018-19. The nearest equivalent is being the Mayor of a city in that I am the civic leader of the Court of Common Council, which is the elected local authority responsible for the Square Mile. The civic team comprises the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs and myself and it is our job to promote the policies and values of the City, and more broadly, of the financial sector in the UK. If any alumni are visiting London and would like a guided tour of Guildhall I will be in office until 25 April 2019 and they should contact me on john.scott@cityoflondon.gov.uk.

Alastair Gentleman BA  
(Hons) Biology, 1971

I gave up full time employment over 10 years ago after having taught in secondary schools since 1972. I continued to work for the SQA, the Scottish exam board, as a marker, an examiner and as a setter, writing material for the S Grade Biology paper. I was also a co-author for a biology revision guide. This latter venture helped with my formal links with the University. I retired from Lauder in 2013. To Lauder Technical College a few years later. I retired from Edinburgh and am now General Director in Scotland. I was part of the First XV, and President of the University’s early days.

Craig Mair BA (Hons)  
History, 1971

I gave up full time employment over 10 years ago after having taught in secondary schools since 1972. I continued to work for the SQA, the Scottish exam board, as a marker, an examiner and as a setter, writing material for the S Grade Biology paper. I was also a co-author for a biology revision guide. This latter venture helped with my formal links with the University. I retired from Lauder in 2013. To Lauder Technical College a few years later. I retired from Edinburgh and am now General Director in Scotland. I was part of the First XV, and President of the University’s early days.

Rev Colin Sinclair BA (Hons)  
Economics, 1974

I was Head of History at neighbouring Wallace High School for nearly 30 years, and co-founded the Bridge of Allan Local History Society in 1985. Bridge of Allan – A History, recently published, has already sold 90% of its print run. The book includes much about the University’s early days.

On my retirement from my post as Performance Lifestyle Adviser at the sportscotland Institute of Sport after 20 years, I was presented with an inscribed quaich at the 20th Anniversary National Conference Dinner in Dunblane on 6 June in recognition of my service. The award was presented by Susie Ellis, the Head of Performance Lifestyle.

Colin Gallacher BA  
DipEd English, 1975

I taught at Mainholm Academy in Ayr from January 1974 until November 1976 when I moved to North Wales with my husband. We returned to Scotland in 1979 and in 1983 I worked at Kirkcaldy Technical College, moving to Luder Technical College a few years later. I retired from Luder in 2013. We were very lucky during our time at Stirling because the only fully completed building was Pathfoot and most of our classes and tutorials were small. In semester one we lived in Dollarbeg Guest House in Dollar and were picked up by bus to go in for classes because the halls weren’t finished. This meant that we were into brand new halls in semester two which was great! Many good lasting friendships made and many happy memories!

Alice Little (née Brounlie) BA  
DipEd Mathematics and Education, 1974

In May, five Muirhead flatmates were altogether for the first time since 1975. We are Maureen Connolly, Morag Gilmour, Anne Hall, Joan Hood and Jane Tozer. We all met in Edinburgh for tea and a chat.

Colin Gallacher BA  
DipEd English, 1975

I taught at Mainholm Academy in Ayr from January 1974 until November 1976 when I moved to North Wales with my husband. We returned to Scotland in 1979 and in 1983 I worked at Kirkkaldy Technical College, moving to Luder Technical College a few years later. I retired from Luder in 2013. We were very lucky during our time at Stirling because the only fully completed building was Pathfoot and most of our classes and tutorials were small. In semester one we lived in Dollarbeg Guest House in Dollar and were picked up by bus to go in for classes because the halls weren’t finished. This meant that we were into brand new halls in semester two which was great! Many good lasting friendships made and many happy memories!

Rev Colin Sinclair BA (Hons)  
Economics, 1974

I was part of the first XV and President of the Christian Union. I spent three years in Zambia with Scripture Union, later General Director in Scotland (1988-1996) and International Chair (2004-2017). I’m a Church of Scotland Minister in Edinburgh and am now Moderator Deaconate of the General Assembly from May 2019 to May 2020.
A year to remember

From informal pub gatherings to tartan parades and ‘class of’ reunions we thank all alumni who have supported these events. For more information, visit http://stir.ac.uk/21e

Alumni events

Hong Kong – 16 January
Thanks to Jaki Speirs (centre) for organising and establishing the Hong Kong WhatsApp group!

New York – 5 to 7 March
Alumni volunteers Melissa Schmidt and Steve Bedwell prepare to march up Sixth Avenue.

Gold Coast – 6 March
‘Hosts and Champions: Scotland in the Commonwealth Games’ was a touring exhibition. Graduate Alexandr Akimov (left) pictured with Karl Magee, University Archivist.

Shanghai – 15 April
Jen Forman (far right), Alumni Relations Manager, with some of our guests.

Dr Kevin Campbell (centre) with some of his Investment Analysis students.

By far one of our most successful alumni reunions.

Annie Fu recently moved to NYC from Hong Kong and was delighted to take part.

Beijing – 14 April
Professor Richard Oram (second from left), Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities welcomed guests and highlighted the importance of building relations with our Chinese alumni community.

Forthcoming events

Class of ’94 (give or take a couple of years) reunion – 23 to 24 February 2019
The ‘Fab 4’ – Jareth McCready, Stan Shires, Chris Jackson and Tim Stevenson are organising this reunion weekend on campus. To book your accommodation and join in the festivities, email Jareth on jareth_mccready@hotmail.com

New York Tartan Week Celebrations – 5 to 6 April 2019
If you would like to join in the tartan day parade or meet at an informal reception, email alumni@stir.ac.uk

Open Day – 8 June 2019 (9:00am – 4:00pm)
Our Open Days offer campus tours, presentations and talks. Staff will be delighted to speak with prospective students and parents and answer your questions. Visit http://stir.ac.uk/1pa

Come along!
All are welcome to attend events at the University and they are free to staff, alumni, students and the wider community. For further information, visit http://stir.ac.uk/21e

Hong Kong – 24 October
The Globe was the venue again for another informal gathering. Professor Dave Mackay (centre), and Dr Darren McGuire (second from right) from the Stirling Management School, were delighted to meet their guests.

Athens – 11 October
Alumni volunteer Elpida Dimitriadi (second from left) with some of her cohort from the early 2000s.

Nigeria, Abuja and Accra, Ghana – 3 and 5 May
Eight Scottish universities invited alumni to these social and networking receptions. Over 50 graduates attended – one of our graduates had travelled over 450km to attend, whilst others were new alumni and recently graduated.

HCMC – 10 November
Graduates and staff at the 10th anniversary reunion of MSc Media and Communications Management.

Alumni volunteer and organiser Yannis Eliomarkakis, centre, with some of his guests.

1968 intake reunion weekend 1 to 2 September
Forty graduates and their partners enjoyed a weekend on campus. Activities included a tour of the University’s art collection in Pathfoot, dinner in the Stirling Court Hotel and having their memories captured for the Retired Staff Association Oral History project.

1688 intake reunion weekend 1 to 2 September
Forty graduates and their partners enjoyed a weekend on campus. Activities included a tour of the University’s art collection in Pathfoot, dinner in the Stirling Court Hotel and having their memories captured for the Retired Staff Association Oral History project.
Save the Date – Don’t miss our fantastic event!

Join University of Stirling’s AM AM Golf Fundraiser at the stunning Mar Hall Golf & Spa Resort
Friday 24 May 2019

Join our Scottish, British and European Universities Golf Champions on this magnificent course for a day of challenging and light-hearted competition.

Cost per team is £495 – Teams of 4 (3 Amateurs, 1 University of Stirling ISSP Golfing Athlete)

To book your team please contact alumni@stir.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1786 466649

Advancement update

Student Managed Investment Fund

A new Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) is teaching students how to manage risk. Students get vital experience of equity analysis and portfolio management through investing real money and then having to report back to University donors on the outcome of their decisions. It has a real-world investment fund structure, with input from industry experts and academic staff. Students learn the process of pitching stock recommendations to their peers, careful management of risk and efficient portfolio diversification, while also developing sound communicative, evaluative and reflective practices. Already it is making a significant difference to the professional experience of the students, differentiating them in the job market, and helping the future of the financial sector.

The University has already established the SMIF, created a boardroom with access to a Bloomberg Terminal, Thomson Reuters DataStream and S&P Capital IQ databases. The aim is to raise a further £30,000 from alumni and corporate donors by autumn 2019 enabling the students to build a diversified portfolio of around 20 to 30 securities. For more information, or if you are interested in supporting the SMIF, giving a masterclass and/or offering an internship please contact: Hazel McIlwraith or Kerry Bryson on alumni@stir.ac.uk or +44 (0)1786 466678; Kevin Campbell on kevin.campbell@stir.ac.uk and Isaac Tabner on isaac.tabner@stir.ac.uk

Widening Access Bursaries

Shumela Ahmed, PGDip Tertiary Education with TQFE 2018 and BA (Hons) Journalism Studies and Politics 2017, said: “The biggest challenge I faced coming to university was the constant feeling that I did not deserve to be there. As a mother, I felt like I was being selfish in pursuing education at times. However, my family supported me every step of the way and they will now benefit from the experience just as much as I will. Whenever I felt like giving up and walking away, the University staff were supportive and encouraging. I could not have completed my degree without their support.”

Stirling is committed to being a fully inclusive institution, open to anyone who has the talent to succeed, regardless of background. We need to significantly expand our Widening Access Bursary Programme to help those students with promise and ambition but who cannot afford an education, to secure an undergraduate place and provide further professional and personal support during their studies and on into their early careers. Widening Access bursaries help these students take up their university places, and allow the university experience to change their lives. The value of each bursary is £4,000 per annum.

Scholarships change lives

Last year 375 Stirling students benefitted from privately funded scholarships and bursaries but there is a need to do much more.

Elite Sport Scholars Fund

Former world duathlon champion and Stirling alumna, Catriona Morrison, PGCert Environmental Management 2007, said: “Student athletes have a unique challenge in trying to combine studies with training and competing at the highest level in their respective sports. Having benefited from a scholarship, I know Stirling ranks highly in the UK Higher Education sector, providing academic flexibility alongside professional, high quality support for sport.”

The University was the first university in Scotland, and the second in Britain, to offer sport scholarships, which combine academic flexibility with elite level sport support. These scholarships, introduced in 1981, have supported thousands of talented sportspersons in pursuit of both academic attainment and performance in their chosen sport. Support is needed for athletes in triathlon, golf, swimming, tennis, curling and football.

If you are interested in supporting a Widening Access Bursary for 2019/20 or the Elite Sport Scholars Fund please contact Hazel or Kerry on alumni@stir.ac.uk or +44 (0)1786 466678.
The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on 25 May 2018 and required changes in our data management processes. This may have impacted our ability to include you in alumni communications, particularly by email.

As a result, we may be unable to let you know when we are introducing new free services for our alumni family. For example, The Stirling Network, featured in this edition of Stirling Minds, is a mentoring and advice-giving platform that will give you direct access to the professional expertise within our global alumni network, and give you valuable support as you develop your career and build your business network. When the service launches in the spring of 2019, we would like to send you information about how you can register. If you haven’t provided an up to date email address and permission to contact you, we may not be able to do that.

It’s easy to reconnect with us – just use our update form www.stir.ac.uk/keepintouch and we’ll make sure you don’t miss out.

You can check out the legalities by reading our privacy policies at www.stir.ac.uk/privacy.

The University of Stirling is committed to respecting your wishes in the way we communicate with you.

Dr Elizabeth Rose, a highly respected consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist. Her legacy funded the Best for Babies research project in the Centre for Childcare Wellbeing and Protection.

Leaving a Legacy

A legacy to the University of Stirling could help fund research into climate change, ageing and dementia or global food security. A legacy could support student hardship, endow scholarships or contribute to a capital project to improve the student experience. Even the most modest legacy, left to the University’s area of most urgent need, could make a difference, ensuring Stirling can continue to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Leaving a legacy to the University of Stirling, after providing for family and friends, is the highest honour the institution will receive. For those who have done so, it was their way of thanking Stirling for giving them so many opportunities. Your gift can create opportunities too.

If you are thinking about making a will and would like more information, please contact Kerry Bryson +44 (0)1786 466678 or alumni@stir.ac.uk
This book celebrates the 50th anniversary of the University of Stirling with a variety of colourful stories: writers, academics, poets, students and alumni respond to objects that give a unique insight into Stirling’s journey through the last five decades.

From unforgettable concerts in Pathfoot to the swans on the Loch, while turning the pages you will discover familiar and unexpected things about the University of Stirling! You can get your copy from the outlets below.

- [bit.do/FIFTY](http://bit.do/FIFTY)
- [alumni@stir.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@stir.ac.uk)
- Available to buy in the atrium from the Students’ Union Shop and John Smith’s bookshop.

£9.99 +p&p

Retail price is £20 with a special offer of £9.99 for alumni, staff and students.