Happy 50th birthday Stirling!

Welcome to this special edition of Stirling Minds, in this, our golden jubilee year. The University of Stirling received its Royal Charter on 27 December 1967, after the students had completed their first semester.

The activities to mark this important milestone began in January 2017 with a Burns Supper and an Innovation & Excellence lecture on cyber security. By December, thousands of staff, students and alumni will have attended over 100 events to mark the University’s achievements and impact, which have celebrated our people, research, community engagement and international outlook.

On 13 November, 50 years exactly since the announcement of the Royal Charter, the Earl of Wessex opened the new international student facility, the University of Stirling INTO Building, and launched ‘Fifty’ – a new history of the University told through 50 objects. The first 50 years have established a remarkable inheritance, but it is clear that the University is ready to pursue and realise truly global ambitions as it moves into its next 50 years.

Kerry Bryson
Director for Advancement
New INTO Building opens its doors
The Earl of Wessex formally opened the new £6.5 million University of Stirling INTO Building in November.

Students at the INTO Building undertake preparation courses for progression to degrees at Stirling, as well as other universities.

The building boasts a state-of-the-art lecture theatre, 10 teaching rooms, a café and capacity for up to 420 students, as well as an ‘A’ rating for energy efficiency.

Centre Director for INTO University of Stirling, Sandy Tippett, commented: “We are proud to have been in partnership with the University of Stirling since 2014, with more than 1,000 international INTO students having already enjoyed the experience of studying on such a beautiful campus.

This new, bespoke building will further enhance our partnership and the student experience.”

Aviva Scholarship to assist students from Asia
Stirling is one of 11 leading universities in the UK to partner with Aviva in a new scholarship programme, which aims to promote British education in Asia. The programme will assist outstanding students in six Asian countries to further their studies at partner universities in the UK and is open to Aviva customers in Asia and their children for the duration of all applicable undergraduate and graduate courses. Stirling looks forward to welcoming its first cohort of Aviva scholars next year.

For more information, go to: ➡️ http://bit.ly/2hTPnPg

Retailers and manufacturers should promote healthy choices
Shops should be transformed to drive customers towards buying healthy food and drink, according to a recommendation in a Food Standards Scotland-commissioned study, co-authored by the University’s Leigh Sparks, Professor of Retail Studies and Steve Burt, Professor of Retail Marketing.

Professor Sparks said: “The environment confronting consumers is not a neutral one. Promotions and product information shape choices and behaviours: the time to consider altering the architecture of in-store choice may now be upon us.”

For more information go to: ➡️ http://bit.ly/2A74JdE
Judging by Stirling’s sizeable haul of accolades in 2016/17, we’re going to need a bigger trophy cabinet! Here are a few of the highlights…

Computer scientist Carron Shankland was awarded a Suffrage Science award at Bletchley Park (of World War Two fame), as part of an initiative to celebrate the achievements of women in maths and computing.

**University of Stirling computer scientist Professor Carron Shankland** was awarded a Suffrage Science award at Bletchley Park (of World War Two fame), as part of an initiative to celebrate the achievements of women in maths and computing.

**Award joy for Joy**
Congratulations to Singapore Sports School alumna Joy Yap Jing Ying, who won a gold and two silver medals at the 2016 Asian Intercity Bowling Championships, and was also named the Singapore Institute of Management’s ‘Sportswoman of the Year’.

**Innovative Scottish rural network wins European Broadband award**
Dr Marwan Fayad, a lecturer in Computer Science at Stirling, was part of the HUBS team that won the European Broadband award for bringing transformational connectivity to the Scottish Highlands and Islands.

**Herald Higher Education Award success**
The University and the Students’ Union have picked up the Partnership award at the Herald Higher Education Awards, for their collaborative work to develop the ‘Preventing and Tackling Sexual Violence and Misconduct Strategy’.

**Brig voted best website**
We are also delighted to announce that Brig has won the ‘Best website of the year’ award at this year’s Scottish Student Journalism Awards!

**Awards hat trick for talented student television-makers**
At the Royal Television Society Scotland’s annual Student Television awards, Yana Ivantcheva, Josh Bird, Derek Sigurdsson, Tommaso Aglietti and Phil McVeigh scooped best factual crown for *Under the Skin*. Derek Sigurdsson and Phil McVeigh were also recognised for their editing on the film, while David Kotai won for his work with sound on *Beloved Sinners*.

**Data students’ fly-tipping solution bags national award**
Master’s students Cynthia Morel, Peter Henriksen and Robert Hamlet have won the inaugural Data Lab MSc Challenge Competition. They worked with Zero Waste Scotland to analyse data from three local authorities to develop a prototype that will detect, predict and prevent fly tipping across Scotland.

**University of Stirling student Kieran Skelton has been named ‘Marketing Student of the Year’ at The Marketing Society’s STAR awards 2017**
That’s two years in a row that a Stirling student has claimed the title!

**Stirling celebrates double win at Nursing Times Awards 2017**
Congratulations to Student Nurse Sophie Cameron of our Highland Campus, who won ‘Student Nurse of the Year’ in the Adult category and to Mental Health Teaching Fellow Ivor Smith, who won ‘Educator of the Year’.

**Kieran’s a real star!**
Stirling poet recognised by Royal Geographical Society
Professor Kathleen Jamie, Chair in Creative Writing at the University, received the Royal Geographical Society’s ‘Ness Award’ in June, for ‘outstanding creative writing at the confluence of travel, nature and culture’.

She joins a prestigious list of recipients, which includes Sir David Attenborough.

**For they are jolly good Fellows!**
Congratulations to Alison Bowes, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and Professor of Social Policy, and to Kirstein Rummery, Professor of Social Policy, Co-Director of the Centre for Gender and Feminist Studies and a Senior Fellow of the Centre on Constitutional Change. Both have been conferred with the ‘Award of Fellow’ by the Academy of Social Sciences.

**Stirling moves up THE and Guardian rankings**
Stirling has been named in a global list of top universities under the age of 50 by Times Higher Education (THE), climbing eight places to break into this year’s top 50 at number 46 in the world and number two in the UK.

The University has also moved up the Guardian University Guide rankings for 2018 – rising to 54th in the UK, and 8th in Scotland. Improving on last year’s overall UK ranking by four places – and up one place in Scotland, Stirling’s Criminology course performed particularly well, while Media and Film Studies, Social Policy, Sociology and Education were also highly-rated.

**Alumnus of the Year Award**
The Alumnus of the Year Award is an annual University honour to recognise and celebrate the achievements of alumni, who have made a major contribution to the community, arts, science or business. Established this year as part of the University’s 50th celebrations, the award will be presented to the winning candidate at an event in 2018.

If you would like to nominate a Stirling alumnus for this award, please provide a testimony in 500 words or less, stating the reasons for your nomination and send to: alumni@stir.ac.uk

More information will be available in the next e-newsletter.

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Stirling Minds

Health and research

Ageing well in Scotland

Stirling alumna Dr Elaine Douglas is working alongside Professor David Bell on the Healthy Ageing in Scotland (HAGIS) pilot study – the first in Scotland to follow individuals and households over time. Elaine commented: “Although the average life expectancy of Scotland’s citizens is increasing, it is still the lowest in the UK and Europe. Our health record is also relatively poor, with high levels of income inequality producing large variations in health status across the country. The survey data collected from over 200 households provides a detailed picture that can inform health and social policy for years to come – with the ultimate aim of helping people in Scotland to lead long, happy and healthy lives.”

Did you know...?

Today, 8.5% of people worldwide (617m) are aged 65 and over – and this figure is projected to jump to almost 17% (1.6bn) by 2050.

There are currently 2m people aged over 50 in Scotland – equal to 38% of the population.

Ageing well together

Academics from the University’s Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) will work with the Tokyo Metropolitan Geriatric Hospital and Institute of Gerontology (TMGHIG) to share expertise in supporting older people, and to promote inclusive and personalised approaches to dementia care.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed at a ceremony in Tokyo, attended by Fiona Hyslop MSP, Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, in the spring.

Scotland and Japan are remodelling their approach to care of older people due to ageing populations, with a particular emphasis on dementia.

Stirling’s Dr Louise McCabe said: “By creating dementia-friendly communities and promoting social citizenship for people with dementia and their families, we aim to establish a society where people with dementia are supported to make choices about their own lives and to live well with dementia.”

Find out more at: www.hagis.scot

Ageing well with a disability

Dr Karen Watchman, Senior Lecturer in Ageing, Frailty and Dementia at the University, is leading a three-year research project funded by Alzheimer’s Society, focusing on people with learning disabilities and their experience of dementia – an area which she believes is chronically under-researched.

Karen said: “Most people with a learning disability now have a longer life expectancy than ever before. In addition to typical age-related conditions, we know that some people with a learning disability, particularly Down’s Syndrome, are at increased risk of dementia at a younger age and it can be challenging to diagnose. For that reason, the research is inclusive and considers different perspectives i.e. not just the individual with dementia but also their family and friends.

“The aim of our research project is to implement non-drug interventions (reminiscence work, music groups, environmental changes etc.) tailored to individuals with a learning disability and dementia.

Taking a collaborative approach and including co-researchers with a learning disability, we hope to challenge the notion of ‘hard to reach’

Bridging generations

How can over one billion people age well across the globe? With the world’s older population and age-associated illnesses increasing at an unprecedented rate, we take a look at the advances being made by University of Stirling researchers to help secure a brighter future for us all.
Health and research

IRIDIS: Ageing well with technology
The first free app of its kind to assess how suitable a home is for someone with dementia, which will also recommend changes, is being developed by the University’s Dementia Centre.

Lighting, colour, contrast and noise in the home can all affect people who are living with dementia, so users will be asked questions about their surroundings and asked to take photographs. In the case of a two-bedroom home, the app will then take about 20 minutes to make an assessment and recommendations from a dementia database named IRIDIS – ranging from changing a light bulb to reconfiguring bathrooms.

Ageing well in Tokyo
Two buildings within a senior living development in the Tokyo suburb of Setagaya have received recognition from the world-renowned Dementia Centre. Designed by Tokyu Land Corporation, the development comprises 176 living units, a 75-bed care residence accommodating people with dementia, and a multi-functional long-term care service to support patients who want to live at home.

Ageing well with animal assistance
Paws for Progress – developed from a postgraduate research project at the University – is collaborating with the Scottish Prison Service on a new scheme to train assistance dogs to help people living with dementia.

Based at HMP Castle Huntly, the innovative Dementia Dog project enables men in custody to complete an introductory dog training and care course, before training dogs to help people living with dementia in the community.

The University has been working with the company and their partner Mediva Inc. over the last 18 months, advising on design. The accreditation process was undertaken by the Centre’s Chief Architect, Lesley Palmer and its Learning Development Officer, Lynda Hutton. The Gold Certificate was awarded by Professor Alison Bowes, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, during a recent visit to Tokyo.

Donate to Stirling’s Dementia Fund at: http://bit.ly/2hGYi9N

10 Stirling Minds

11 Stirling Minds
Have you always been involved in academia?
Yes. On completing my BA, I went straight on to do a PhD in Social Policy.

What do you like most about your job?
I really enjoy the variety of the roles I have, but it can make finding time for everything a challenge.

What’s your style of working?
We are a strong team and it’s all about collaboration. I enjoy supporting staff to integrate research with impact into learning and teaching activities so that students are actively involved in this work, and gain an understanding of the positive contribution the University makes to society.

What has been the highlight of your career to date?
My involvement in the first NHS study on smoking cessation and tobacco control in 1999 is one. You still hear a key research finding quoted today, ‘that with support, smokers are four times more likely to quit’.

What’s the most important advice you’d give to students?
Collaborate, collaborate, collaborate!

What do you do in your spare time?
I don’t have a great deal of spare time – but I do enjoy exercise.

Meet the academic,

Linda Bauld is Professor of Health Policy, Director of the Institute for Social Marketing and Dean of Research (Impact) at the University of Stirling, as well as Deputy Director of the UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol studies, a UKCRC Centre for Public Health Excellence, covering 13 universities.

Since 2014, she has also held the post of Cancer Research UK’s Cancer Prevention Champion (The CRUK/BUPA Chair in Behavioural Research for Cancer Prevention), with a brief to lead their £6m research initiative focusing on the lifestyle and behavioural changes that can prevent cancer. This year, Linda was also elected as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, for her contribution to cancer prevention and public health, and has just secured £3.4m in funding to tackle tobacco-related harm in Asia and Africa.

Stirling top in Scotland for welcoming international students

The International Student Barometer (ISB) showed that more than 92% of overseas students at Stirling invited to participate in a recent survey were ‘satisfied’ with their overall experience. This places the University top in Scotland for welcoming international students and also above Scottish, UK and international averages.

Isha Sudan (30) relocated from New Delhi to enrol in the Stirling MBA in 2016. She tells us about her experience of swapping South Asia for Stirling...

“I enjoyed a fantastic career in the auto trade industry in India, but getting a degree was always at the back of my mind. Many countries don’t allow you to study for a Master’s degree without an undergraduate qualification, so I was delighted when I discovered that the UK accepts students from lots of different backgrounds. “Coming from Delhi to the quiet, beautiful campus was a big change, but the people at Stirling are very generous and helpful and the Faculty support staff make life very comfortable and make sure that everything is easy to access. I’m really enjoying student life here; it’s a very warm and welcoming environment for anyone who is studying for the first time.

“Stirling top in Scotland for welcoming international students”

It’s important to me that the knowledge I gain at University also relates to real life, so meeting inspiring global business leaders and getting practical advice about how to shape my career, has been invaluable.

“The University of Stirling has made my dream of studying for a degree come true and has shown me that it’s possible to do what you’ve always wanted. Everyone has different skills and experiences and if you want to get a postgraduate qualification, you can do it.”

Read more about Isha’s student journey and that of Palestinian student, Awaatif Mustafa, at: http://stir.ac.uk/bw
Meet the Honorary Graduates of Summer 2017

Professor Steve Peters
Stirling alumnus Professor Steve Peters received his Honorary Doctorate in recognition of his contribution to Psychology, Health Sciences and Sport. Originally a Maths teacher, he then changed direction to study Medicine at St. Mary's Medical School, and an illustrious 20-year career in the NHS followed. This included roles as a consultant psychiatrist, hospital director and assignment to the Home Office to work on murder cases, all while completing a PhD in Medicine at the University of Sheffield. In 2001, he became involved with elite British cycling, working with Sir Chris Hoy, Victoria Pendleton and others, during an unprecedented period of success for the sport. He has helped elite athletes in other sports, providing mechanisms for emotional stability and supporting performance ambitions. He has also developed a popular cross-disciplinary model of mind management and made a significant contribution to the anti-doping movement in sport.

Bernard Gallacher OBE
Bernard Gallacher is one of Scotland’s most successful golfers and received his Honorary Doctorate for his outstanding achievements in the sport. In 2001, he became involved with elite British cycling, working with Sir Chris Hoy, Victoria Pendleton and others, during an unprecedented period of success for the sport. He has helped elite athletes in other sports, providing mechanisms for emotional stability and supporting performance

Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain
Award-winning Kuwaiti poet Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain received his Honorary Doctorate for philanthropy, creative writing and poetry, as well as for promoting peace and humanitarianism. He enjoys great popularity both within and outside the Arab world, and has written several collections of poetry, including Intimations of the Deserts (1995) and Wastefarer (2004).

Emeritus Professor Angela Smith
Professor Smith received her honorary doctorate in recognition of her work establishing and chairing the Stirling University Retired Staff Association (SURSA). A former Professor of English Studies at Stirling, she is an internationally acclaimed authority on the work of Katherine Mansfield, as well as a founding member and previous Director of the University’s Centre of Commonwealth Studies. SURSA also developed an oral history project which saw SURSA members interview past and present staff and students. For more information visit: www.oralhistory.stir.ac.uk

Congratulations... to Singaporean Dr Benedict Tan, who received his Honorary Degree in October. The Advancement team also congratulates Dr James Robertson and Anthony Phillips, who received their Honorary Degrees as the magazine went to print.
The Leadership Development Programme (LDP) is an innovative result of a new partnership between Stirling’s business support organisation, STEP and SMS.

The programme moves away from a traditional classroom-intensive based approach to executive education, focusing instead on the real, strategic challenges facing today’s business leaders, such as individual resilience, strategy and responsible leadership.

Professor Dave Mackay (pictured far left), Director of Executive Education at SMS commented: “In collaboration with STEP, we are delighted to be working with a selection of the region’s current and future business leaders through this new programme. Participants will gain practical leadership insights and skills of high relevance to their daily lives and the LDP will provide long-term benefits to participants, their organisations and the local business community, as this learning is put into practice.”

Further information
Charles Leleux,
Researcher, Centre for Research into Information, Surveillance and Privacy.

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T: @CrispSurv
W: www.crisp-surveillance.com
T: @smartgovproject
H: http://smartgov-project.com

For more information on the LDP on Sustainability, visit: http://bit.ly/2ApqKAu

The numbers add up for Stirling Management School

As Stirling Management School (SMS) celebrates the one-year anniversary of its double AMBA (Association of MBAs) accreditation – an accolade shared by only 14 business schools in the UK – we take a look at how the latest stats stack up for the School.

One of the UK’s top 25 institutions for Business and Management

Ranked in the top 5 in Scotland

1st for teaching quality in Scotland for Marketing
2nd in Scotland for Economics

64% of our research outputs were classified as world-leading and internationally excellent

Ranked 14th in the UK for research impact with over 60% judged to have outstanding reach and wide-ranging impact on the policies of public, private and governmental organisations

Read more at: www.stir.ac.uk/management

Global reach extends to Hong Kong

SMS is proud to announce a new international partnership with Lingnan University of the Liberal Arts in Hong Kong. Students can study for either a BA (Hons) qualification in Management or Marketing. The news follows the successful expansion of existing partnerships with the Singapore Institute of Management, and Muscat College in Oman.

Our students at Singapore’s Institute of Management can graduate with UK degrees in Retail Marketing and Sports Studies and Marketing from our University, and we also offer over 20 courses through Tongji University in Shanghai, and five undergraduate courses through our partnership with Muscat College.

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management@stir.ac.uk

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/stirlingmanagementschool

SMS on Twitter
twitter.com/StirManSchool

Blogs
www.stir.ac.uk/management/blogstwitter

Smart thinking

SmartGov (Smart Governance of Sustainable Cities) is a four-year collaborative research project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, taking place through the Centre for Research into Information, Surveillance and Privacy (CRISP), based within SMS.

The project focuses on the value of ICTs (information and communication technologies) for engaging citizens in the governance of sustainable cities. These new technologies are also being used to transform the delivery of public services, providing opportunities for citizens to participate in decision-making and helping public bodies to establish how best to use new ICTs to become more sustainable, safer and attractive places to live and work.

Further information
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Blogs
www.stir.ac.uk/management/blogstwitter
A reputation worth preserving

From the Forbidden City to a forgotten Scots burial site, Stirling’s international reputation for heritage conservation is bringing some headline-grabbing projects the University’s way…

As reported in The Times, 2 April 2017 edition, on alighting from the plane in Beijing last year, Professor Richard Oram, Head of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities at Stirling, was whisked straight to the Forbidden City; the reputation of Scotland as a centre of expertise in the restoration of cultural heritage sites preceding him.

Situated at the heart of the Chinese capital, the Forbidden City is an impressive 72-hectare UNESCO World Heritage Site, comprising some 980 buildings. Serving as the country’s Imperial Palace and centre of government for almost 500 years from 1420 to 1912, it now houses the Palace Museum.

In recent years, climate change, chronic air pollution and the relentless wear and tear caused by millions of tourists, have had a major impact on the fabric of the Forbidden City. In an attempt to manage and remedy deterioration, officials at the Palace Museum approached Scottish experts from the University of Stirling and Historic Environment Scotland to discuss a collaboration, resulting in a Memorandum of Understanding being signed in October last year.

“They [the Chinese] had identified that we had expertise which would be useful for the restoration of the Forbidden City to help them safeguard the phenomenal site,” explains Richard, “and they also have a whole range of skills which we don’t have.”

The Chinese are known for their expertise in ceramics, tiles and paintwork, while Scotland has a growing reputation for combining leading-edge technology such as microwave moisture imaging, with traditional skills such as stone masonry, to protect and restore heritage sites like Stirling Castle, the project which led to the initial approach by Chinese officials.

Teams from China and Scotland are currently establishing joint training programmes, with staff and student exchanges also planned.

Meanwhile, closer to home, something more sinister is set to be unearthed…

The burial site of Scots monarch James I of Scotland, who met a brutal end almost six centuries ago, is set to be explored in an excavation led by Professor Oram and colleagues. The project aims to locate the city of Perth’s Charterhouse, a monastery of Carthusian monks commissioned by James I as a showcase and future mausoleum for his dynasty.

Experts in archaeology, Scottish history and 3D visualisation from the University of Stirling, the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), and The Glasgow School of Art, announced the joint venture in February, which will see the soon to be unearthed site recreated as a virtual museum for the 21st century.

In other heritage news…

A Memorandum of Understanding to create an educational partnership between the University of Stirling, Historic Environment Scotland and Forth Valley College was signed in January 2017. The partnership will promote and develop expertise in managing Scotland’s heritage assets (a £2.4 billion sector) and provide new training pathways, from apprenticeships to postgraduate opportunities.

Read more Faculty news at: http://stir.ac.uk/1ej
50 years of memories

1964
Stirling is chosen to be the first ‘new’ Scottish university site in 400 years.

1967
The University of Stirling opens its doors for the first time to 164 undergraduate and 31 postgraduate students.

1971
Sir Elton John plays his only Scottish gig of 1971 on campus.

1972
HM the Queen officially opens the University. The central courtyard is named ‘Queen’s Court’ in her honour.

1987
Rehanging ceremony to mark the restoration of the JD Fergusson collection.

1988
Stirling Management Centre opens in 1988 (renamed Stirling Court Hotel in 2014).

1991
HRH The Princess of Wales officially opens the Scottish Tennis Centre.

1992
The University celebrates its 25th year and is designated as a ‘historic garden landscape’.

1995
The European Gala Premiere of Braveheart is held at the MacRobert Arts Centre.

2003
Andy Murray opens a £1.3m extension to the Scottish National Tennis Centre.

2016
Stirling is Scotland’s most successful university at the Rio Olympics, with its swimmers winning three silvers!

2017
Fabulous at 50! Stirling celebrates its 50th anniversary year.

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“50 years is a relatively short period of time and yet there have been great advances over the first five decades.”

“50 years is a relatively short period of time and yet there have been great advances over the first five decades.”
Jane Ashcroft CBE  
Charity CEO  
BA History, 1988

Jane is Chief Executive at Anchor, England’s largest not-for-profit provider of housing and care for older people. Jane’s rise to CEO began with a graduate training scheme in the electricity industry, followed by roles in governance and HR. She then moved into the not-for-profit sector, becoming Personnel Director of Care First in 1997.

Following a move to BUPA, Jane began working for Anchor in 1999 and a decade later, was appointed CEO. Jane was awarded a CBE for Services to Older People in 2013.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Jack McConnell of Glenscorrodale  
Politician  
BSc DipEd Mathematics, 1983

Lord McConnell took over the running of the Scottish Labour Party in 1992. He was Labour First Minister between 2001 and 2007 and was appointed to the House of Lords in 2010 as Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale. He was the Prime Minister’s Special Representative for Peace-building from 2008 to 2010, and also Education Adviser to the Clinton Hunter Development Initiative in Malawi and Rwanda. As First Minister, he established the Fresh Talent Initiative and Scotland’s International Development Policy, including the unique co-operation agreement with Malawi.

Hamish Hamilton  
BAFTA-winning director  
BA (Hons) Accountancy, 1989

Hamish is a double-BAFTA Award winning British director, who also has a Peabody and multiple Moonman awards. He has produced and directed the Oscars, the MTV Video and Music Awards and the Super Bowl halftime show (six times), working with stars such as Lady Gaga. His name is featured on over 30 million DVD boxes, as he has directed live concert DVDs for U2, The Rolling Stones, Madonna, and many others. Additional credits include directing and executive producing the televising of the opening and closing ceremonies for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games.

Jackie Kay MBE FRSE  
Author and poet  
BA English Studies, 1983/Honorary Doctorate, 2000

Jackie writes extensively for children, stage and screen. Her first book of poetry, The Adoption Papers, won the Saltire Society Award for best first book in 1992 and in 2006, her memoir, Red Dust Road, won the Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust Book of the Year award. Jackie was awarded an Honorary Degree from Stirling in 2000 and an MBE in 2006. Currently, she is Chancellor and writer-in-residence at Salford University, as well as Professor of Creative Writing at Newcastle University. Last year, she became the new Scots Makar.

Ross Murdoch  
Olympic swimmer  
Future alumnus!

Ross won gold in the 200m breaststroke at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and in 2015, formed part of the GB squad that won gold in the mixed 4 x 100m medley relay at the 2015 World Aquatics Championships. The following year, Ross qualified for the 100m breaststroke for the GB team in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio. He later won his first European title with a gold medal in the 200m breaststroke, also claiming silver in the 100m breaststroke and bronze in the 50m breaststroke.
World-class minds

Allison Brittain

**What were your Stirling highlights?**
The chance to spend a year at Washington State University really broadened my thinking and the friendships I made at Stirling are also very important to me. Two friends I met on my first day are godparents to my children.

**Current role and responsibilities**
I lead the Scottish Parliamentary Service, which is responsible for delivering services to the Parliament and its Members, and is the Parliament's principal adviser on procedural and constitutional matters.

**How did your Stirling experience enhance your career?**
I worked hard to get a good degree, so didn’t think about a career until after graduation. Initially, I worked as a motorcycle dispatch rider, before applying for the Civil Service Fast Stream in 1984. My time at Stirling has had a massive impact on my career – letting me fulfil my potential in education and also develop strong skills, which I’ve used throughout my career.

**What’s your advice for current students?**
Remember that a university is first and foremost a place of learning, and study should be engaging and challenging. Make sure you are passionate about your course, if not, then change. Get the balance right, and take advantage of the student clubs and societies to enjoy a once in a lifetime experience.

Fiona Connel

**What were your Stirling highlights?**
I have fond memories of the red plastic teapots and rock buns at the McBob, and rocking over to the Spar on Sunday mornings to buy provisions for our post-Gannochy hangover breakfast: sausage sandwich and Irn-Bru.

**Current role and responsibilities**
I act as Global Lead on key strategic client relationships. My responsibility is to grow revenue, profitability and client satisfaction and engagement with Hogarth through our global advertising, content creation and production services.

**How did your Stirling experience enhance your career?**
It developed my independence, resilience, adaptability and curiosity. I also participated in the US Exchange Programme, which gave me a real point of difference in interviews and the confidence to move to NYC years later, enabling me to progress my career far beyond my expectations.

**What’s your advice for current students?**
Remember that a university is first and foremost a place of learning, and study should be engaging and challenging. Make sure you are passionate about your course, if not, then change. Get the balance right, and take advantage of the student clubs and societies to enjoy a once in a lifetime experience.

Sir Paul Grice

**What were your Stirling highlights?**
I had to work hard and remember many ‘all-nighters’ to cram for exams, but I loved every minute. It was an intense campus experience, where I partied, developed self-confidence and fell in love with my wife.

**Current role and responsibilities**
I lead the Scottish Parliamentary Service, which is responsible for delivering services to the Parliament and its Members, and is the Parliament’s principal adviser on procedural and constitutional matters.

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**What’s your advice for current students?**
Enjoy the experience of being at Stirling highlights?

Peter Pritchard

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**How did your Stirling experience enhance your career?**
I remember handing my dissertation in to the Post Office and telling them to take good care of it, as it represented nine months of my life! When I received a Distinction, I felt like I’d won the lottery. It was a massive confidence boost and gave me a real ‘can do’ attitude. All my Stirling memories are happy ones – I even named my cat Stirling!

**What’s your advice for current students?**
Take time to enjoy what you do – it’s a special moment in time. Learning should be challenging, but it will also be rewarding.

Current role and responsibilities
I’m responsible for the Pets at Home estate of 430 stores, which employs 8,500 colleagues and serves 5m customers, as well as for the Commercial, Operations, Marketing, E-commerce and Logistics functions.

**How did your Stirling experience enhance your career?**
In my mid-20s I began a part-time degree in MBA Retailing at Stirling – it was a good fit and the course was specifically aligned to my career. My Stirling MBA has definitely been a game changer in terms of my career.

**What were your Stirling highlights?**
I remember handing my dissertation in to the Post Office and telling them to take good care of it, as it represented nine months of my life! When I received a Distinction, I felt like I’d won the lottery. It was a massive confidence boost and gave me a real ‘can do’ attitude. All my Stirling memories are happy ones – I even named my cat Stirling!

**What’s your advice for current students?**
Take time to enjoy what you do – it’s a special moment in time. Learning should be challenging, but it will also be rewarding.
A year to remember

In this, the University’s 50th year, Stirling’s academic and social calendar has been brimming with events to mark this significant milestone.

From Innovation & Excellence Lectures and special reunions in Stirling and around the world, to events to showcase our research impact such as a Community Open Doors Day and a series of events covering Challenges of our Time, the University marked its Golden Jubilee in style. Thank you to all our alumni who supported these events. To see more photos visit the 50th microsite gallery at:

http://www.stir.ac.uk/anniversary/events/gallery.

Chancellor James Naughtie delivers the Hetherington Lecture.

The panellists at The Future of Cyber Security lecture are pictured with Kerry Bryson (far left), Director for Advancement.

Professor Herve Migaud, Consul General Mr Daisuke Matsunaga, Kerry Bryson, Professor Kuo Yamamoto (Nagasaki University) and Professor Malcolm Macleod at the Robotic Fish lecture.

Honorary Graduate Dr Jim McCoI GBE (centre) gave the final lecture in the Innovation & Excellence lecture series, which began in January on entrepreneurship.

Congratulations to all who graduated at October’s ceremony at SIM GE in Singapore.

(L:R) Graduate Terry O’Connor, British High Commissioner Scott Wightman; University Secretary, Eileen Schofield and Principal, Professor Gerry McCormac, at the Singapore Reunion.

Recent graduates at the Singapore Reunion, held in the British High Commissioner’s Residence.

(L:R) Kerry Bryson, Ian Sutton and Saj Anwar at the House of Lords.

Dr Richard Jennings, MD, Castle Rock Edinvar (centre) with attendees at his ‘Innovation in Housing’ lecture.

(L:R) Graduate Terry O’Connor, British High Commissioner Scott Wightman; University Secretary, Eileen Schofield and Principal, Professor Gerry McCormac, at the Singapore Reunion.

Fiona Sandford, Chair of Court; Ross Tuffee, DOGFI.
SH; and Kerry Bryson, University of Stirling, with John Goodwin, Lego (2nd from left).

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A year of events

Co-hosting an event for former Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Sports Presidents, Honorary Presidents and Trustees of the Students’ Union.

Over 100 graduates and friends enjoy a drinks reception at the Stirling Court Hotel, hosted by Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerry McCormac.

Preparing to march up New York’s 6th Avenue as part of the Tartan Day Parade.

The first class to join the University in 1967 celebrates with a reunion and book launch. ‘Stirling, the Student’s Tale’ is available to purchase from Alastair Gentleman at: 67group@mybtinternet.com

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Alumni Relations Manager, Jen Forman (2nd from left) celebrates Tartan Week with (from L to R) graduate Kevin Condron and previous visiting students Shawna Rice and Peter March at New York’s Norwood Club.

David Scott from the Advancement team hosted an informal gathering for Southern California-based alumni.

Tommy Geddes and Michael Connary at the Sabbatical Officers’ Reunion.

Martin Gallagher, Gill Blyden, Douglas Watt, Jane Lethbridge and Alan McDonald (Class of 1994) reunite in Stirling.

Professor Dave Mackay (far left) from the Stirling Management School hosts an alumni event in Lily & Bloom, Hong Kong, arranged by alumni volunteer Jaki Spen’s (5th from left).

Harrieth Steedman (Class of 1980) with Jen Forman at the Stirling 50th Reunion.
Our celebrations kicked off in January with a Burns Supper for alumni, students and staff.

Events during Japan Week in February included: a traditional Japanese tea-ceremony; kimono makeover and fashion show; language classes; calligraphy workshops and a concert.

In May, over 160 SURSA (Stirling University Retired Staff Association) members were invited to a special lunch hosted by Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerry McCormac.

The sixth annual AnsAm golf fundraiser took place at Marr Hall Golf & Spa Resort in September. The event involved joining our Scottish, British and European universities Champions (including first year student, Mirren Fraser pictured) for a day of challenging and light-hearted competition.

The Community Open Doors Day in March offered hands-on science fun for children; engaging short talks by experts; a chance to explore the history of the University and record your own memories; a guided tour of the Art Collection and our own Daily Mile Challenge around the campus.

In May, Fab@50 event: Transformational Women in Business. (L,R) Hazel Miller, Golden Charter Ltd; Dr Sam Smith, C-Change Scotland; Celia Tennant, Inspiring Scotland and Dame Denise Coia, Healthcare Improvement Scotland.

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‘The importance of Children’s Rights: policy and research in Scotland’ with (L,R) Jackie Brock, Children in Scotland, Dr John l’Anson, University of Stirling and Professor Alison Bowes, University of Stirling.

‘Tobacco harm reduction: how e-cigarettes and vaping devices have transformed tobacco control’ with (L,R) Professor Jayne Donaldson, University of Stirling; Sir Kenneth Calman, University of Edinburgh; Martin Dockrell, Public Health England and Professor Linda Bauld, University of Stirling.

‘How to feed a growing population’ with Professor Tim Benton, University of Leeds, pictured 3rd from the right.

‘The importance of Children’s Rights: policy and research in Scotland’ with (L,R) Jackie Brock, Children in Scotland, Dr John l’Anson, University of Stirling and Professor Alison Bowes, University of Stirling.

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‘Climate change: greatest human rights challenge of our times?’ with (centre) Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale and Dr Andrea Schapper, University of Stirling.

As the magazine went to print, ‘Chick Whittington’ plays at the macrobert. Stirling Stella is under attack. It’s been fifty years since The Great Christmas Rat Race of 1967 that almost destroyed the pantosphere and now Queen Rat is back!

The Booker Prize Foundation Universities Initiative: Graeme Macrae Burnet on ‘His Bloody Project’ in November.

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The Booker Prize Foundation Universities Initiative: Graeme Macrae Burnet on ‘His Bloody Project’ in November.
Stirling alumnus Paul Lewis is an award-winning financial journalist and broadcaster. On the occasion of our 50th anniversary, he shares his views on why alumni should consider leaving a legacy to the University.

“On the face of it, you might question why Inheritance Tax is so unpopular. After all, when it is due you are dead and someone else pays it.

The answer almost certainly lies with your heirs, who will more than likely end up hating it too if you are lucky enough to be able to leave them a valuable home worth over £325,000, the threshold from which Inheritance Tax applies in the main.

One of the nicer ways to reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax due is to leave money to a charity close to your heart, such as our alma mater. This is taken from your estate without any tax being deducted and reduces the overall taxable amount that is left.

I remember being shocked when I was a teenage Stirling undergraduate in the late 1960s to hear about the Foundation Fund Appeal. Surely the Government paid for universities? Of course it did and still does… to an extent. But there has always been a need for more funding, which Stirling puts to good use in many inspiring ways.

Nowadays, one of the University’s main sources of extra funding is the legacies left by former students. Putting the University in your Will is straightforward and you will be joining over 100 of your fellow graduates, who have informed the Advancement team of this intention.

If you would like to leave a legacy, just add the University of Stirling to the list of gifts in your Will. The last six legacies alone have brought in more than £1.5m and if you gift at least 10% of the taxable amount of your estate, the overall tax rate for the rest of your estate is cut from 40% to 36%. That means a little less tax for the Government of the day and a little more to smile about for your heirs.”

Paul Lewis

 камер@paullewismoney

Find out more:
• For more information on leaving a legacy to the University of Stirling email: alumni@stir.ac.uk
• For more information on Inheritance Tax, go to: http://stir.ac.uk/1ek

Inheritance Tax: the basics
The standard Inheritance Tax rate is 40%. It is payable on estates of over £325,000 (on the part of your estate that is above the threshold) unless you leave everything to your spouse or civil partner, a charity or amateur or community sports club. If you give away your home to your children (including adopted, foster or stepchildren) or grandchildren, your threshold will increase to £425,000.

We have published a new book to mark the University’s 50th anniversary. Fifty tells the story of Stirling through 50 objects.

Writers, academics, poets, alumni and students respond to objects that give a unique insight into Stirling’s journey through the last five decades. The publication will retail at £20.00 with a special offer of £9.99 for alumni, staff and students.

Order alumni@stir.ac.uk or http://bit.do/FIFTY
We depend on water for hydration, irrigation, fishing and aquaculture. Without it, humans can survive no longer than three days and ecosystems perish.

Inland waters are the world’s main source of fresh water, with 84% of the world’s supply derived from surface inland waters that cover 3.7% of the world’s non-glaciated land surface.

Inland waters such as rivers and lakes, however, are particularly sensitive to nutrient and chemical run-off from agriculture and sewage management, invasive species and the effects of damming, mining and other industrial activity, leading to changes in water quality that are potentially damaging to human and ecosystem health.

Professor Andrew Tyler, Head of Biological and Environmental Sciences at the University of Stirling, is leading a project that has made significant inroads into understanding the impact of such hazards on the world’s fresh water supply. He explains: “The project has been made possible by the latest generation of Sentinel satellites launched by the European Space Agency. It uses state-of-the-art global Earth Observation data processing and interpretation to improve the accuracy with which we can record and then interpret water quality data for around half the world’s inland waters through a global observatory.

“Earth observation techniques focus on biogeochemical indicators of water quality with optical properties that allow them to be imaged from space using the appropriate sensors. These include chlorophyll-a, Y and Z, providing early warning of the presence of harmful algal blooms.”

University welcomes new Dean of Natural Sciences

Professor Maggie Cusack has joined the University of Stirling as Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Professor of Biomineralisation, from the University of Glasgow.

Professor Cusack is a great advocate of multi-disciplinary research, which is fundamental to Natural Sciences and the exploration of the complex inter-relationships between human behaviours, technologies, biological, environmental and aquatic systems.

She said: “We’ll be seeing many more exciting collaborations over the next academic year, including the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) funded project that I’m leading, on what happens when isotopes fail to clump.”

First prototype of hearing aid that can ‘see’ unveiled

One in six of the UK population suffers from hearing loss; so the recently unveiled online prototype of the world’s first next-generation hearing aid – a device that can ‘see’ as well as ‘hear’ – will come as welcome news to many.

Professor Amir Hussain, Director of the Cognitive Big Data Informatics Research Lab at the University, said: “Hearing aid technology is currently limited by audio-only processing. This new approach aims to intelligently track the speaker’s face for visual speech cues, like lip-reading, facial expressions and gestures. Our system can also distinguish pitch. Try it out here: http://cogbid.cs.stir.ac.uk/cogavhearingdemo

Data scientists are in big demand!
The University of Stirling one-year, full-time taught MSc in Big Data could be your passport to your dream job in data sciences. All you need to join us, is a degree in a numerate subject and you could soon be well on your way to making big discoveries.

Find out more at: http://stir.ac.uk/je or email k.m.swingler@stir.ac.uk

Shearer helps show dementia the red card
Academics from the Faculties of Natural Sciences and Health Sciences and Sport welcomed football legend Alan Shearer to campus to film a new BBC documentary on football and dementia earlier in the year. Alan Shearer: Dementia, Football and Me aired in October and saw Dr Magdalena Letswaart and Dr Angus Hunter speak to the ex-England Captain about how heading a football can cause instant changes to brain function and memory, putting footballers at increased risk of dementia in later life.
Student Golf Championships in March, dominating the event at the Old Course at Moray Golf Club in Lossiemouth. The same month, Stirling golf scholars Chloe Goadby and James Wilson secured victories at the annual Dundonald Tournament in Ayrshire, taking home the two individual awards at the event, part of the British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) programme.

Stirling athletes have won medals at national and international competitions this year, including the FINA World Championships in Hungary, the Deaflympics in Turkey and the British Summer Championships. Congratulations to all our swimmers, plus a special mention for Danielle Joyce (pictured), who won two golds and three bronze medals at the Deaflympics.

Victory at Sixways, is fourth for Clansmen
Stirling’s Clansmen saw off conference rivals Durham in the final of the BUCS American Football National Championship 2016/17 at the superb Sixways Stadium in Durham in March. This is the third time they have brought home the Neil Reynolds Trophy in four years.

String of student titles for golfers
University of Stirling golfers took four titles at the 95th Scottish Student Golf Championships in March, dominating the event at the Old Course at Moray Golf Club in Lossiemouth. The same month, Stirling golf scholars Chloe Goadby and James Wilson secured victories at the annual Dundonald Tournament in Ayrshire, taking home the two individual awards at the event, part of the British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) programme.

Stirling students dominate sporting success

Every year, Stirling’s elite athletes make their indelible mark in many sporting disciplines – 2016/17 has been no exception…

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More info: Keep up with the latest sporting achievements at: [https://en-gb.facebook.com/SportatStirling](https://en-gb.facebook.com/SportatStirling)

As the University enters its sixth decade, our reputation for sporting excellence is well established. In order to keep advancing however, and to support our aim of becoming a top 25 UK University by 2021, we are embarking on an ambitious campaign to transform our sports infrastructure, following the appointment of Director of Sport, Cathy Gallagher, last year. Cathy said: “Our ambition is to provide new, world-class sports facilities, which will inspire pride and enable increased participation by students, staff and community users, at the level of their choosing.”

“A world-class University, with sport, health and wellbeing at its heart must have the best sporting facilities. We have engaged the award-winning architectural practice FaulknerBrowns to develop a concept that has recently been approved by University Court. “We need an innovative design that will also facilitate new research opportunities and cultivate groundbreaking programme development, as well as setting industry standards. It’s a very exciting position to be in as the University celebrates its 50th anniversary.”

MSc students in Sports Management have united with the Sports Development Service to help get at least 50% of Stirling students participating in physical activity. A new inter-halls table tennis tournament, a ‘Stirling Jam Basketball’ event and the inaugural Campus 5K, have all seen the University and local community getting a sweat on.
Queen of the green

What’s been your proudest golfing achievement?
Winning the English Women’s Open Match Play Championship in July 2016 at Holme Hall Golf Club in Lincolnshire.

What do you have your eye on for 2018?
Selection to represent Scotland at an international level and maintain a consistent level of golf throughout the season.

What has your Stirling scholarship meant for you?
It’s changed my life! I’ve received incredible support from everyone and enjoyed the use of the amazing sporting facilities, as well as the chance to compete regularly in the BUCS leagues.

How many hours do you practise a day?
At least two in term-time to maintain my swing and to work on putting and pitching. In the summer season, it goes up to around six.

How do you stay motivated?
My family and friends keep me motivated, as does showcasing my skills at tournaments, where I see all the hard work paying off.

Why golf?
Growing up, golf was very much a family affair and I was encouraged from a young age to try the game, which I quickly fell in love with.

Have you found golf to be male-dominated?
It is male-dominated but opportunities for girls and women are steadily increasing at local clubs. I was often the only girl in my group but this only spurred me on. Introducing golf into schools would get more girls involved.

Quick-fire round
My handicap is:
I currently play off -2.

The golfer I most admire:
Laura Davis.

My favourite Scottish course is:
The New Course, St Andrews.

The international course I’d most like to play is:
Augusta National Golf Club.

My top motivational tune is:
Geronimo by Sheppard.

Before a big competition I eat:
Porridge with honey.

If I had to sum up Stirling in three words:
Active, supportive, friendly.

A fifty-fifty share

Alumni Rep on Court Kevin Condron celebrates turning 50 this year. He speaks to Alumni Relations Manager Jen Forman about sharing his special birthday with the University he devotes so much time to...

Belated Happy Birthday! How did you spend your big day?
Attending the official opening of the INTO building on campus and fittingly, the launch of the University’s 50th anniversary book!

What other 50th anniversary events have you attended?
I really enjoyed the House of Lords event. It was such a unique location and included guests from across all disciplines. Tartan Week in New York was great fun too, if cold! I’ll never forget walking up Sixth Avenue, past Radio City in between a contingent of West Highland Terriers in tartan coats and a pipe band!

You volunteer a lot with the University, tell us more...
It’s a chance to give something back to the University that gave me so much. I’ve been involved in the alumni mentoring programme for five years, mentoring students from Arts and Humanities and the Management School. I’ve also given guest lectures on B2B marketing for MBA and MSc courses. The University Court meets quarterly, and we also attend an annual strategy away day to focus on bigger issues, like employability, research and teaching methods.

What do you think the legacy of Stirling’s 50th anniversary is?
The year of activities has reminded us all what a unique place Stirling is, both geographically and academically – a space that allows people to grow and genuinely, ‘be the difference’. Stirling is in a great position to launch into the next 50 years.

More info:
Could you volunteer your time to support the University with mentoring, recruitment or next year’s Tartan Week events? Let us know by emailing: alumni@stir.ac.uk

38 Stirling Minds

Court update

UNIVERS
STIR

39 Stirling Minds
Where are they now?

2010s

Sebastian Sandgren
MSc Psychology of Sport, 2017

Completing my Master’s has given me the knowledge I need to build a career within research and academia. I have now secured a PhD studentship at Loughborough University, investigating disordered eating and exercise in athletes.

Scott Davidson
BSc (Hons) Mathematics and its Applications, 2017

I started studying for the PGDE Maths course in August at Aberdeen University. There is a major shortage of Maths teachers across the country, so I intend to contribute to easing this problem. I decided to teach Maths because it’s my passion and I want to promote it to the next generation.

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

Since graduating in June, I have gained part-time employment at the University of Warwick as an HR Administrator and as a Collections Support Assistant, with the ambition to gain entry onto an HR graduate scheme in 2018! Missing everyone at the University of Stirling! #myStirling.

Kathleen Anderson
BSc (Hons) Film & Media and Marketing, 2012

I have recently had my first book, ‘Sweaty Hugs’, published. It explores how free fitness is changing lives by examining the core benefits of engagement – community, culture and a positive mindset. Hopefully it will make you laugh, cry and inspire you to get your trainers on and seek out some free fitness. Visit www.sweatyhugsthebook.com to find out more.

Dr Majed Ababussain
PhD Education, 2016

I’m a faculty member of the School of Education at Majmaah University, Almajmah, Saudi Arabia and was recently appointed Head of the English Language department there.

Ali Bin Mochtar
BSc (Hons) Retail Marketing, 2012

I’ve been with the Singapore Prison Service for about four years now.

Ali Majed Abahussain

Over here we are also known as Captains of Lives. It’s a big switch from the retail sector, but an eye-opener. I’m very committed to inspiring people towards a society where re-offending does not occur.

James Millar
PG Dip Housing Studies, 2012

In June, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan announced the recipients of the Foreign Minister’s Commendation for 2017. I was honoured to be one of the recipients for my contribution to promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the United Kingdom.

Indibar Ghosh
MSc Energy Management, 2012

I got married to Anoma Basu on 3 February 2017. This is a photo taken during our wedding reception on 5 February 2017. If anyone wants to contact me, please do so via: indibar_biotech@yahoo.co.in or +91-9167484363.

Kathleen Anderson

Indibar Ghosh

After Stirling, Paul completed his MSc in Economics at the University of Edinburgh in 2012. He returned to the University of Stirling as an Economics PhD student and is due to finish later this year. Jennifer completed her MSc in History from the University of Edinburgh in 2015 and until recently, worked as a Database Assistant at the University of Stirling. In May 2015, Jennifer and Paul ‘tied the knot’ after three years together.

Daniel Gilbert
BSc (Hons) Retail Marketing, 2010

I joined Tesco plc in 2010 and have worked at the Tesco Head Office in North London for seven years. I’ve undertaken various roles across Property, Marketing & Space, Range & Display, and am currently Head of Customer Proposition and Trade Planning for Bakery, within the Commercial function across all 26,000 sites in the UK and the ROI.

Ashish George

Ashish George

Virginia Grose
MBA Retailing, 2008

After Stirling, I ran my own Cashmere Consultancy and became Course Director of the MA in Fashion Business Management at the University of Westminster in 2009. I am very involved in the UKFT Rise committee, working with small fashion brands to fulfil their potential, as well as acting as a mentor to some of them.

Adam Peat
MSc Information Systems Management, 2005

I live in Windsor with my partner Joanne. After graduating, I worked at Heathrow Airport before becoming part of a start-up business in 2013. In January 2017, I started an energy efficiency and renewables business called INECO Energy (www.inecoenergy.com), which focuses on helping the education sector make the most of relevant Government subsidies.

Dan Thompson
MLitt Religious Culture, 2005

After a number of years spent in England, teaching and working for a trade union, Scotland has called me back and I now find myself living outside Dundee, most recently recruiting members at Stirling. It’s great to be back and able to see the campus again. I got married in April in Gretna Green and am looking forward to starting a new chapter of my life.
I studied Japanese and French (though Japanese got knocked on the head after 2nd year) and progressed to a PGDip in Public Service Interpreting. In 2005, my husband and I bought a restaurant in Falkirk, where we have lived ever since. From 2005 to 2009 I ran front of house and then had children. Now that they are older, I’m studying Nat 5 Maths and applying for a place on the PGDE course at Stirling so could well be returning to my ‘home turf’.

Doris Fullgrabe
BR (Hons) Human Resource Management & Spanish Language, 2001

My wife Stacey Larson and I welcomed our first child, Ian, in April 2016. We recently moved from Washington, DC to the Boston suburbs. I am a market researcher and consultant specialising in politics and the legal industry, while my wife is a JD/PsyD working as a contract attorney for the American Psychological Association.

Katy Russell (née Keating)
BR English, 1998

My book, ‘No Man No Cry’, has just been published by Troubador under my maiden name, Keating. My desire to write was inspired by Iain Banks, and the seeds were planted as I studied, ‘The American Novel’, over one particularly hot and humid summer – that was when I knew I wanted to be a writer.

Christopher Baker
BR DipEd English & Education, 1997

Since graduating, I have completed a PhD in Remote Sensing and Ecology, got married and recently became a father to two twin girls. I worked for five years for a small satellite company and then, three years ago, I joined Airbus Group in Seville, supporting A400M aircraft operations.

Mike Meadowus
BSc (Hons) Ecology, 1996

I am currently a Natural England Senior Marine Ornithologist, working with partners across Europe on seabird conservation, and I advise on Marine Conservation Zones. From April, I will be the Senior Ornithologist advising on implementation of the English Coast Path.

Scott Fyfe
BR (Hons) Marketing, 1996

After Stirling, I returned to Germany to complete my studies to become a secondary grammar school teacher at the University of Bonn, Germany in 1998. I am now an established graduate secondary-school teacher (Studienrat) in English and History at a German grammar school. I have also completed my postgraduate studies in English and American literature, as well as History of 19th and 20th century Britain and the US, gaining an MA at the University of Bonn, Germany in 2001.

1990s

David Cochrane
BR (Hons) Politics, 1999

My wife, Dr Catherine Eckenley and I welcomed our beautiful daughter Zoe Ryley Cochrane into the world on 8 December 2016. She’s thriving and we are over the moon.

Dr Francisco Lozano Llanos
Visiting Student, 1999

Since leaving Stirling, I have taught in Thailand, Germany, and in New Zealand at Auckland University of Technology. Now I am semi-retired and in my spare time, I do long-distance hiking. I have hiked the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail, the Himalayas and recently in the South Island of New Zealand. If anyone remembers me, I can be contacted at cgb1953@yahoo.com

Mike Meadowus
BSc (Hons) Ecology, 1996

I am currently a Natural England Senior Marine Ornithologist, working with partners across Europe on seabird conservation, and I advise on Marine Conservation Zones. From April, I will be the Senior Ornithologist advising on implementation of the English Coast Path.

Scott Fyfe
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1980s

James (Jim) Terrell
Visiting Student, 1988

I was a Philosophy exchange student from St. Andrews Presbyterian College, North Carolina. I live in Charlotte, North Carolina and own a handyman business. I play traditional bluegrass music and enjoy time with my wife and three children.

Jon ‘JB’ Beckett
BA Business Law & Sociology, 1996

I am a Senior Manager at Scottish Widows and have been a fund selector for more than 16 years. I am UK Lead for the Association of Professional Fund Investors, an Ambassador for the Transparency Task Force, a Chartered Member and Senior Reviewer with the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investments, a member of the Z/Yen Long Finance think-tank and a regular columnist and presenter.

Gregor Hank
Visiting Student, 1995

I moved to Singapore in August 2016 to run Cribbuk’s Operations & Technology function across Asia Pacific. I’m really enjoying the opportunity, and I would love to connect with alumni in the region.

Heather Savage
BA General, 1987

Since June 2016 I have been the Community Development Co-ordinator for Greater Western Sydney with the youth mental health organisation, Headspace.

Pierre Verdeaux
BA DipEd French & Education, 1987

I started my teaching career in Hampshire, before moving to Dorset, progressing from teacher to Head of the Modern Languages department. Now, feeling disillusioned with the direction that education is taking and the relentless amount of conversions to Academies, I am taking early retirement to concentrate my efforts on raising my adopted son.

Robin Sheehan
BSc Environmental Science & Biology, 1983

I am UK Lead for the Association of Professional Fund Investors, an Ambassador for the Transparency Task Force, a Chartered Member and Senior Reviewer with the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investments, a member of the Z/Yen Long Finance think-tank and a regular columnist and presenter.
Since 1983, I’ve worked as a Climatologist/Agricultural Meteorologist; on environmental and space systems, as well as an Oceanographer. I have an MBA, and a Master’s in Natural Environments and Plant Growth and now work as a wilderness therapist and Director of Outdoor Programmes for www.eQeOUTDOORS.com, specialising in Prehistoric Hunter-Gathering, Survival, Bushcraft, and Rites of Passage.

Dr Elspeth Reid (née Clarke)
PhD German, 1983 and BSc German, 1976

I’m the Parish Minister at Menstrie Parish Church. As a Lay Member of the University Court, I visit the campus often and it’s great to see our University doing so well. As one of the alumni ambassadors for Central Scotland, I’d love to hear from anyone living in or near Stirling, who would like to meet up for any events. My email is: revmaggiersoderick@btinternet.com

Michael Teare
BSc Biology, 1975

I have recently co-researched and co-written a book, ‘The Post-Reformation Gravestones of Angus, Scottish Social History in Stone 1560-1715’, due out to Australia and we’re missing our only grandson but our first trip ‘down under’ is in plan!

Penny Dade (née Uatt)
BSc German, 1973

I was an academic librarian for 30 years in four academic institutions in London and the South of England. I retired nine years ago and after 42 years living down South moved to Glasgow, where I now volunteer at Glasgow School of Art Library, as well as at the University of Stirling in the archives.

Contacting friends

Freda Paterson (née Muir),
(BA French & German, 1981) is looking for Alan Middleton (BSc German, 1982); Ann Morrison (BA DipEd French & Education, 1983) and Pat Smith (BA DipEd French & Education, 1982).

Michael Harris (Visiting Student, 1991) would like to get in touch with Stephen/Steve Smith, who was at Stirling from roughly 1991 to 1995 and came from Elgin.

Michael Teare (BA Biology, 1975) is looking for Elizabeth Violet Mackay (BA Biology, 1975) and any others who graduated from this subject in this year.

Geir Samdal (MSc Entrepreneurial Studies, 1992) would like to get in touch with Eva Kemei (MSc Entrepreneurial Studies, 1993) and Rita Sau-King Kwan (MPhil Publishing Studies, 1992).

Condolences

The University regrets to announce the following deaths:

Stuart Cormack, BA (Hons) History, 2015
Thomas David Welch, BSc (Hons) Environmental Geography & Professional Education, 2010
Sean Maguire, DipEd Film & Media, 2009
Frank Hitchman, MA, 2006
Dr Tam Dalyell, DUniv, 2006
Gilla Helenglass, Cert Business Administration, 1999
Dr David Colvin CBE, DUniv, 1998

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

Follow us on Twitter
@StirAlumni

Facebook
Stirling University Alumni

LinkedIn
University of Stirling Alumni – Official Group
Fundraising update

**Student callers**
**Where are they now?**

This year, 14 students worked on our telephone campaign to secure feedback on the magazine and to raise awareness about our 50th anniversary events and the Stirling Fund, as well as to highlight the impact of alumni giving on student lives.

We raised just over £1,100 in a week-long campaign. Thank you to everyone who participated! Here’s an update on some of our previous telephone campaign callers, who have worked with us in recent years.

**Natalie Sweeney**
BA (Hons) English Studies (2015)
Natalie is the Regular Giving Officer within the Directorate for Advancement. She is a new stand-up comedian and comedy writer and plays basketball with the Stirling team.

**Damyan Kachulski**
BA (Hons) Journalism Studies and Politics (2013) and MRes (with distinction) Media Research (2014)
Damyan is currently studying for his PhD at Stirling and is teaching a journalism and media studies module to undergraduate students.

**Lesley Dugan**
BA (Hons) Sociology and Social Policy (2017)
Lesley has just joined the Council for Advancement and Support for Education (CASE) as a graduate trainee in Dublin.

**Mackay Clinic backs Stirling footballers**

One of the world’s leading sports surgeons, Professor Gordon Mackay has signed a three-year sponsorship deal with the University of Stirling football teams. The scholarship programme provides players with high performance training, competition and financial aid, alongside their studies. Professor Mackay commented: “I’ve worked very closely with the University over the years and have always been impressed with their ability to combine high performance sport with education.”

Highlights

**1967 Giving Circle**
To mark the University’s 50th anniversary, the Directorate for Advancement launched the 1967 Giving Circle to recognise anyone donating more than £1,000 (or £800 plus Gift Aid) in a 12-month period. Membership is open to all alumni and friends, and donations can be made by direct debit or in one annual payment. Your donations will be used to fund projects to enhance the student experience and will also help leverage funds for other capital projects.

**Scholarship update**
We are delighted to report that students benefited from more than 375 scholarships in total in the academic year 2016/17. This is thanks to the generous support of a number of individuals, Trusts, Foundations and corporate donors.

**Stirling campaign recognised at The Herald Higher Education Awards**
The University received a commendation in the ‘Campaign of the Year’ category for its Peter Mackay Archive Crowdfunding drive. The campaign secured financial support to make a historic archive chronicling the Scottish soldier’s support of independence in southern Africa, digitally accessible for the first time.

**Time for University Garden to shine once again**
Professor John Forty, former University Principal and founding donor to the Garden of Time, was joined by a number of other generous donors and supporters to officially mark the opening of the garden earlier this year.

More info:
To find out more about our fundraising plans, contact: alumni@stir.ac.uk.