

UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING



Stirling MINDS

FOR ALUMNI, STAFF AND FRIENDS

2019

Welcome

Dear alumni and friends: if you haven't been back for a visit recently you may not recognise the campus. Work is well underway on Campus Central, which will transform the atrium, and on the refurbishment of the Sports Centre. A further endorsement that we are Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence came with the recent accolade of *The Times* and *Sunday Times Good University Guide UK Sports University of the Year 2020*.

Inside this magazine, you'll see evidence that our life-changing research is tackling fundamental issues from global food security, housing, support for an ageing society, through to projects to achieve clean economic growth and seize climate opportunities. These themes speak directly to the critical challenges facing the world. Our commitment goes beyond the content – this magazine is wrapped in potato starch, a compostable alternative.

The Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to position the region as an economic and cultural powerhouse. The Deal will drive the creation of Scotland's International Environment Centre and a new Aquaculture Innovation Hub, bringing renewed energy to our thriving research culture and boosting economic growth through innovation.

Unprecedented flash flooding and the chaos it caused on the eve of summer graduation, brought the realities of climate change closer to home.

Throughout this issue, there are examples of inspirational people – alumni, students and staff – embracing opportunities to tackle the climate emergency. To help reduce our collective carbon footprint, we are encouraging you to opt in to our electronic communications programme at alumni@stir.ac.uk. Work is ongoing to ensure our complex relational database doesn't fall over when tasked with sending only one magazine to a household of alumni!

If you have any feedback on *Stirling Minds*, the City Deal or the University please contact me at DirectorAdvancement@stir.ac.uk.



Kerry Bryson

Kerry Bryson
Director for Global Advancement

The Advancement team send our best wishes for the season and wish everyone a very happy 2020.

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This publication can be made available in different formats. Contact the Directorate for Internationalisation and Partnerships for further information at alumni@stir.ac.uk.

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Lord McConnell installed as University of Stirling Chancellor

Former First Minister The Rt Hon Jack McConnell took up his official duties at a special ceremony in June, where he was installed by Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerry McCormac, before conferring degrees on students from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

Lord McConnell, who presided over a further four ceremonies, said: "The University of Stirling is a special place. The campus community, the innovative course design and assessment, and the commitment to wider access have given this place a permanent home in the hearts of those who have studied here.

"I feel truly honoured to return to the University to serve as Chancellor, and I am looking

forward to my first ceremonies this week when I can congratulate all graduates and honorary graduates on their achievements."

Lord McConnell studied Mathematics with Education at Stirling – where he served as President of the Students' Union and National Union of Students Scotland Vice-President – before going on to teach mathematics in local high schools. He received the degree of Doctor of the University

in October 2008, in recognition of his contribution to public affairs.

Between 2001 and 2007, he served as First Minister of Scotland before being appointed to the House of Lords as Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale in 2010. He became a Vice-President for Unicef UK in 2015.

See more from our photo galleries at <http://stir.ac.uk/2tw>.

An astronomical Walk to the Moon

Last February, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the historic Apollo 11 Moon landing, Joe Fitzpatrick, Scottish Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing, launched the 'Walk to the Moon' challenge for staff, students and friends.

The challenge was to collectively walk, run, cycle, swim or dance the distance from Earth to the Moon in just 150 days between February and Saturday 20 July, the date of Apollo 11's Moon landing. University Moonwalkers were delighted to 'arrive' five days ahead of schedule, having collectively travelled 238,855 miles!

Professor Maggie Cusack, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, developed the initiative alongside Cathy Gallagher, Executive Director of Sport, with the aim to encourage people to make small lifestyle changes.

An app was used to record the miles clocked-up by staff and students, cultivating a healthy rivalry between departments.

Former member of staff and alumnus, **Benneth Esiana** (PhD 2015, BSc 2011), gave up his car, walked to work every day and

contributed 17 miles per day to the challenge.

Benneth (kneeling, bottom left) aimed to complete 1% of the distance to the Moon (2,389 miles) which he accomplished ahead of schedule.



The Stirling Fund – supporting today's students

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni donors, the Stirling Fund supports a variety of projects every year, dedicated to enhancing the student experience.

Applications are encouraged from all corners of the University, and the panel were delighted by the diversity of submissions entered in this round of funding. Seventeen projects were successfully funded, supporting sports projects, student clubs, and activity across campus. The

library received support for an initiative to 'Liberate Your Library', celebrating authors from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, and the Division of Literature and Languages launched a new language project to develop linguistic and social skills in our international student community.

Mental and physical wellbeing were at the heart of a great many of the applications, showcasing the University's ongoing commitment to student welfare. See <http://stir.ac.uk/2lx>.





Stirling crowned UK Sports University of the Year 2020

The University of Stirling has been crowned the UK's Sports University of the Year in recognition of its world-class facilities and excellence across sports performance, research and education.

The landmark announcement – bestowed by *The Times* and *Sunday Times Good University Guide* – recognises the University's key role in producing a host of star athletes over the years – from Duncan Scott, Jane Ross and Colin Fleming, to Catriona Matthew, Marc Austin and Gordon Reid.

Professor Gerry McCormac, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, said: "The University of Stirling is tremendously proud to be named *The Times* and *Sunday Times* UK Sports University of the Year 2020. This prestigious designation

is important recognition of the hard work, enthusiasm and achievements of our students and staff.

"As Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence, our mission is to deliver the best for Scottish sport through the powerful and inspirational combination of sport and education – and to make a difference in sport and health globally through world-leading research and teaching.

"Through our world-renowned performance programmes, we are at the forefront of helping and inspiring athletes to fulfil their sporting and academic potential. We take great pride in having produced some of the finest British talent – including Olympic and Commonwealth Games medallists.



"We are currently laying the foundations for the future with a £20 million redevelopment of our sports centre. It will see the creation of an iconic new complex, integrated with existing world-class facilities, which will help nurture talent and provide a state-

Brig goes digital

Beloved Stirling institution, Brig, is going to be preserved for future readers thanks to support from the Stirling Fund.

A grant allowed the University's archive team to digitise the first 25 years of the paper, and upon hearing the news, the original editor, Paul Martin, offered to fund the following 25 years.

This ambitious project will see Brig's early years uploaded to a freely accessible digital archive later this year, preserving the paper for students, alumni, and readers for years to come.



Rosie Al-Mulla, archivist, said: "It's going to be so exciting opening up the Brig archive to a wider audience, enabling alumni and researchers from across the

globe to browse the history of this newspaper. We can't wait to see what uses the digitised archive will be put to!"

of-the-art setting for our students, staff and wider community."

Sport at Stirling

Stirling has been Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence since July 2008. During this period, the University has produced many world-class athletes who have gone on to win titles at the highest level. At last year's Commonwealth Games, University athletes won 11 medals – including six for swimming star Duncan Scott.

The Lawn Tennis Association recently set up a National Academy on campus, while the University is partner to Stirling County Rugby Club in the new semi-professional Super 6 league. The University is home to the National Swimming Academy, while **sportscotland**, Commonwealth Games Scotland, Scottish Swimming, Triathlon Scotland and the Scottish Football Association Central Area, are all located on campus.

Stirling remains at the forefront of supporting and inspiring talented athletes to fulfil their sporting and academic potential, offering sports scholarships across seven different sports. It also offers the perfect base for students, staff and members of the wider community to train, play and stay healthy. The new sports complex – due to open in summer 2020 – will unlock increased levels of participation and opportunities for sport and physical activity.

Sports research and teaching at Stirling

The University undertakes high-quality research that improves the management and governance of sport, enhances support for athletes and delivers public health benefits.

That work has included high-profile, multidisciplinary research looking at the risks associated with heading in football; providing the scientific evidence for the roll-out

of The Daily Mile initiative; and creating excellence and diversity in the sports workforce through the development of women coaches.

Stirling students benefit from innovative, award-winning undergraduate and postgraduate courses that equip students to work at all levels in sport management, coaching and sport and exercise science. Stirling's MSc Sport Management is in the top 10 courses of its kind in Europe and top 25 in the world. Notably, Noeline Taurua, the head coach of the New Zealand netball team – winners of the World Cup in July – and Gail Parata, who coached the Scottish Thistles team at the same competition, both graduated from Stirling's MSc Performance Coaching programme.

Find out more about the thoughts of figures in sport on the reasons behind the award. Visit <http://stir.ac.uk/2tx>.

Inappropriate housing causing disabled people physical and mental harm



The results of an 18-month study led by Stirling researchers has revealed concerning evidence that disabled home-seekers are experiencing mental and physical harm as a consequence of a shortage of suitable housing.

The *Match Me* study, conducted in collaboration with Housing Options Scotland and Horizon Housing Association assessed the experiences of 28 disabled home-seekers in three local authority areas. The majority received inappropriate housing offers, or no offers at all.

The research team was led by Professor Isobel Anderson, Chair in Housing Studies. Encouragingly, Professor Anderson noted “a proactive approach from local housing providers”, but this

was tempered by “distance between their aspirations and the experiences of disabled people”.

Supported by a research grant from the Disability Research into Independent Living and Learning (DRILL) programme, the *Match Me* study also uncovered important evidence that the assessment of the suitability of a property should not only consider the access and internal features of the home, but should also look at the accessibility of the external environment and opportunities for the applicant to maintain local support networks. Previous research has drawn attention to the physical and mental harm caused by inappropriate housing, but this research adds to the concerns by highlighting the significant impact of a stressful allocation period and long wait for housing.

The Stirling Network for Curriculum Studies



The Stirling Network for Curriculum Studies was established in 2016 with the explicit aim of developing better quality conversations about curricula in Scotland and further afield. The network brings together Stirling curriculum scholars, colleagues in other universities and educational practitioners and policymakers.

The network has engaged in a wide variety of activities, including:

- **Curriculum policy formation in Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland.** This includes Professor Mark Priestley’s membership of the national Curriculum and Assessment Boards in Scotland and Wales, and the development of the ‘refreshed narrative’ for Scotland’s Curriculum for Excellence, which has been heavily influenced by research undertaken at Stirling (see <http://stir.ac.uk/2tz>).
- **School-based curriculum development in Scotland and Wales.** This includes collaboration with the Education Achievement Service for South East Wales, the Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Collaborative

in Scotland, and several Scottish local authorities, applying a methodology, *Curriculum Development through Critical Collaborative Professional Enquiry*, developed by Valerie Drew and Mark Priestley. This approach has been adopted by the Welsh Government to support its new curriculum.

- **International networking with curriculum scholars in Cyprus, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand, Canada and Jamaica.** This resulted in collaborative bids for research funding, joint publications and journal editorship. In 2018, Professor Priestley and international colleagues took on the editorship of the *Curriculum Journal*.

Anupama Gadicherla MSc Dementia Studies 2019

After her husband was diagnosed with early-onset dementia, Anupama was determined to learn more about the condition. Upon securing a scholarship, she started studying from her native India.

Anupama said: “I wanted to understand what my husband was going through so I could care for him better. Stirling had the best designed course, covering compelling subjects that I knew would help increase my knowledge.”

Studying over three years, Anupama overcame a number of challenges to complete her course.

She said: “My knowledge of dementia was purely through first-hand experience. I was way behind my fellow students and

probably put in double the hours, while caring for my husband and, as the main breadwinner, working full time.

“The death of my father, and the end-of-life stage leading to the death of my husband in my final year, took an emotional toll. The teaching staff were hugely supportive.”

Following graduation, Anupama has plans to open a care home. She said: “I want to use my knowledge to create a one-of-a-kind experience for those in need.” She is working to secure the necessary investment to realise this dream and remains committed to raising awareness of Alzheimer’s. Anupama recently organised a high profile walkathon which was covered on national media in India.



New courses for 2020

MSc Criminology

Study at Scotland’s #1 Uni for Criminology (*Times Good University Guide, 2020*) and explore a range of employability enhancing subjects like:

- Rehabilitation and criminal justice work
- Drug policy and interventions
- Criminalisation, social control and human rights

MSc Substance Use

Learn from staff who are members of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research while exploring this complex issue. Modules include:

- Housing
- Public health
- Rehabilitation
- Impact on users, families and communities

For more information on these new courses, visit <http://stir.ac.uk/2ty>.

Meet the 2019 honorary graduates

The class of 2019 will join an alumni community of more than 92,000 located in 170 countries. For more graduation photos and stories, visit <http://stir.ac.uk/2u0>.

As the magazine went to print, we welcomed James Jopling, Alan Shearer and Shelley Kerr as our latest honorary graduates.



Hamish Hamilton

Hamish received the award of Doctor of the University in recognition of his outstanding contribution to television producing and directing.

A double-BAFTA award winning British director, Hamish has produced and directed many of the biggest live shows on the planet and is best-known for productions like the Oscars, MTV Video Music Awards, Brit Awards, Emmys and the Super Bowl Halftime Show.

In 2012, Hamish and his company executive produced and directed the coverage of the Olympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies.



Pete Cheema OBE

Pete Cheema OBE received the award of Doctor of the University in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the convenience store sector in Scotland.

He was appointed to the role of Chief Executive of the Scottish Grocers' Federation in 2015 – having previously served as President between 2006 and 2008 – and has transformed it into a modern, relevant and highly influential trade body. In addition, Mr Cheema is a board member of the Scottish Retail Consortium and Scotland's Town Partnership.



Alison Brittain CBE

Alison received the award of Doctor of the University in recognition of her outstanding contribution to business and leadership.

She is Chief Executive of Whitbread plc, the hospitality conglomerate whose brands include Premier Inn, Brewers Fayre and Beefeater. Appointed as CEO of Whitbread plc in late 2015, Alison is one of just five female chief executives to be listed on the FTSE 100.

In recognition of her successes to date, Veuve Clicquot named her as their 2017 Businesswoman of the Year.



Professor John Dawson

As the leading scholar in the field of retail geography, Professor John Dawson worked as Professor of Distributive Studies at the University of Stirling – where he founded the Institute for Retail Studies – and later as the first Professor of Marketing at the University of Edinburgh, where he remained for two decades.

Professor Dawson is recognised for his outstanding contribution to the establishment and pursuit of retail research in the UK and internationally.



Lilian Thuram

Lilian received the award of Doctor of the University in recognition of his outstanding contribution to football as well as his commitment to education against racism.

Lilian – who played for Barcelona, Juventus, Parma and Monaco – is the most-capped French footballer, with 142 appearances for the national team between 1994 and 2008.

In 2008, he set up the Lilian Thuram Foundation, which educates against racism and promotes equality.



Sam Heughan

Scottish-born Sam is best-known for his role as Jamie Fraser in the global television series, Outlander. In addition, he starred in 'The Spy Who Dumped Me' and the upcoming 'Bloodshot' and 'SAS: Red Notice'.

In 2015, Sam established his own charitable foundation, My Peak Challenge, to motivate people to get out of their comfort zones, whilst also raising money for blood cancer research.

He is recognised for his outstanding contribution to acting and charitable endeavours.

Our alumni make the difference

Stirling graduates and students continue to make the difference globally. These awards are presented to graduates and students who have made outstanding contributions to their profession or community through hard work, determination and perseverance. Here are our inspiring, talented and worthy winners for 2019.



Ardak Berdibekov
 Founder, Neupusti.net
 MSc Energy Management 2011

When Ardak discovered that fewer than 7% of students in Kazakhstan were able to access scholarships to fund their international higher education studies he decided to make a difference. He founded Neupusti, an award-winning start up and knowledge-sharing community.

Neupusti serves young people, students, professors, researchers, university officials, youth NGOs and all those involved in the educational process in Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

His achievements were recognised this year when he was selected as a global finalist in the British Council Alumni Awards for Social Impact.



Dale McEwan
 Freelance Investigative Journalist and Video Editor
 BA (Hons) Journalism Studies 2009

Dale worked tirelessly to make a documentary exposing counterfeit medication for macular degeneration. The drugs were smuggled into Kurdistan with devastating consequences for patients who lost their sight. He faced intimidation on his quest to uncover the truth after the Kurdish government tried to cover up the story.

His one-hour film has been awarded 4 stars out of 5 by UK Film Review and was described as a 'wonderfully informative piece of investigative journalism'.

Over the past year Dale has been investigating the alleged exploitation of young journalists.



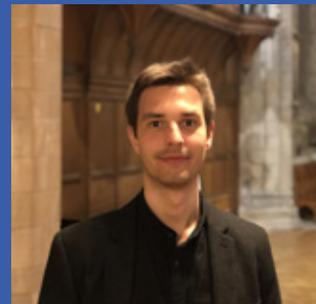
Nicola Walters
 Founder and Managing Director, Organisational Elephant Ltd
 BA (Hons) Business Studies and Management Science 1996

Nicola has won awards for entrepreneurship, represented Team GB in Le Trec (orienteering on horseback) and starred in Channel 4's Dangerous Jobs for Girls. Last year she won THEHEAT18 entrepreneurship award with her invention, onits, reusable dry wipe magnetic notes.

Nicola launched her company on campus in 2018 with an event entitled 'The Courage and Creativity to Change the World'.

She also supports postgraduate students at the 'Industry Solutions Day' for those studying International Business and Strategic Sustainable Business.

Our students of the year



Stefano Intropido
 Faculty: Arts and Humanities
 BA (Hons) International Politics and Languages

Stefano graduated in June 2019 with 1st class Honours. He secured a place at the prestigious Sciences Po in Paris for his semester abroad and was awarded a Stevenson Exchange Scholarship to undertake research on the integration of refugees within the Sciences Po community.

In addition, he volunteered in a range of school outreach activities, including acting as a Language Ambassador visiting local secondary schools, encouraging younger pupils to see the benefits of studying a language.

Stefano is recognised for his energy and commitment to helping others feel part of a welcoming, inclusive academic community.



Garry Foster
 Faculty: Stirling Management School
 BA(Hons) Accounting and Business Law

During his teenage years Garry missed a lot of his school days due to severe challenges with his mental health.

He began his journey with a small step out of his front door, then a walk to the end of the street followed by a trip to the local shop. Since then he has rebuilt his social skills and progressed to college and onto University. Garry graduated with 1st class Honours this summer, and his extraordinary academic record featured 1sts in almost every module as well as completion of a work placement at the Royal Bank of Scotland.

He has been an inspiration to others in the way he overcame his personal challenges.



Emily Hencher
 Faculty: Arts and Humanities
 Bachelor of Laws (Hons)

Emily is President of Stirling's Uni Boob Team (UBT), the society that raises awareness of signs of breast cancer and encourages people to check their breasts and pecs.

Awarded 'Most Innovative Idea' at the Clubs and Societies Awards, UBT has collaborated successfully with a number of Union-run, student-led campaigns on the environment, Fairtrade and health and wellbeing.

Emily's achievements as UBT President alone are worthy of recognition but when combined with her role as STEER Captain and her position on the Communities Zone Executive Committee, she is a shining example of what our students can achieve.

To find out more about how you can nominate someone or be nominated, email alumni@stir.ac.uk or visit <http://stir.ac.uk/2u1>.

Anup Mysoor

MSc Investment Analysis 1990

Position:

Board Member, Enterprise Development Programme (Oxfam)

Briefly summarise your career for us please...

Most of my career has been in banking, where I led businesses in alternative investment management, corporate finance, corporate banking and investment banking, or as a successful entrepreneur. Over 21 years were with Citigroup in London and Hong Kong, finishing in 2015 as MD and Head of Aviation, Power & Utilities investment banking in Asia-Pacific.

What is your current role and its challenges?

Since 2018, I've been a Board member of Oxfam's Enterprise Development Programme (EDP), which supports entrepreneurs in some of the world's poorest countries. EDP supports enterprises in the 'missing middle' of finance – too big for microfinance or too small for traditional lenders – helping them become sustainable businesses providing vital jobs that allow people to lift themselves out of poverty.

Can you tell us about the exciting projects you're working on at the moment?

Women's economic empowerment, through the education of girls and sustainable development in lower income countries, is an objective close to my heart. Towards that goal, I founded the Pink and Purple Rainbow Scholarships, for Shanti Bhavan students. Scholarships enable underprivileged women and LGBTQ+ candidates from India to pursue advanced degree programmes overseas. Scholars receive expenses, including living costs and an allowance for family income support, and are mentored to help them realise their career objectives.

One scholar, **Chaithra Vijaya Kumar** (MSc Investment Analysis 2018), loved her time at Stirling! After graduating she went to work in Berlin, and has ambitions to be a start-up entrepreneur in India.

This year, we are supporting three candidates, two studying MBAs at the Asia School of Business in Malaysia and another pursuing a ballet degree in Scotland.

What are you reading at the moment?

Girl, Woman, Other by Bernardine Evaristo – the first Booker Prize won by a black woman deserves to be read.

What song takes you back to a favourite memory and what is that memory?

Memories of Stirling come flooding back when I hear Tanita Tikaram's "Twist in My Sobriety" or Tracy Chapman's "Talkin' 'bout a Revolution".

If you were going to do it all again, would you do anything differently?

Someone from my Stirling year touches me every day of my life – as I write these words, I am seeing WhatsApps from a Cypriot friend in Kerala – I wouldn't change a thing. It was magical!

If you could give Stirling students one piece of advice, what would it be?

People who go to Stirling are special. Focus on the people and everything else will figure itself out.



BIG SMEs (Business Improvement & Growth)



Over the past two years, 14 Scottish universities have collaborated with the Scottish Funding Council, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to identify the resources, activities and actions needed to deliver a world-leading, entrepreneur-led support programme for Scottish scale-ups. The Stirling Management School

(SMS) has been an active member of this group and holds one of the six governing places on the Steering Board (represented by Professor Kevin Grant, Dean of SMS).

Scotland's universities are internationally recognised for their excellence, global connections, and cutting edge, evidence-based research. They are committed to making Scotland more entrepreneurial, supporting inclusive growth, and promoting business productivity for the well-being of Scotland, yet, there are too few scale-ups and too few of them grow to become market leaders.

Stirling has been instrumental in shaping the features and benefits of this initiative by focusing on developing confidence and 'swagger' in our SME

leaders by offering a long-term programme that is shaped in response to Scottish scale-up needs. Key features of the offer are experiential education; blended learning, flexible teaching, an integrative approach and a one Scotland Campus.

This commitment to Stirlingshire SMEs and the City Deal is illustrated by SMS's continued desire to promote and retain the Small Business Charter (SBC). In addition to providing business schools with a nationally recognisable kite mark award, SBC also facilitate valuable knowledge sharing networks for business schools and promote the value of the business knowledge, management expertise, and enterprise education offered by our business schools to SME audiences.

To Insendi and beyond



One of the strands of the University's Digital and Learning Strategy was to deliver and develop online learning programmes via an e-learning partnership called Insendi.

Insendi – a spin out company from Imperial College London – is a learning experience platform which mixes online and blended learning while emphasising the human aspects of learning, balancing care, craft, relationships, mentorship, tutor support, personalisation and regular feedback to learners.

Stirling's focus on online learning helps to eliminate borders and barriers, both social and physical. Online courses are a creative solution to the challenges some students face as they deliver high quality education while being flexible and therefore accommodating geographic and time commitments.

SMS is taking the lead on this, working with the Faculty of Natural Sciences to develop

an online MSc Data Science for Business. This new course builds students' knowledge, skills and experience of and in data analytics while balancing data driven decision-making and analytical acumen. The first Masters course in Scotland to be co-designed with SAS, a global leader in business analytics solutions, HSBC and The Data Lab, it meets industry needs and will be launched online in January 2020.

This is the first step toward delivery of Stirling courses online and through flexible learning, and this portfolio is likely to include a new International Doctor of Business Administration and a course with an entrepreneurship focus.

For more SMS news, visit <http://stir.ac.uk/2ux>.

Landscape Legacies of Coal

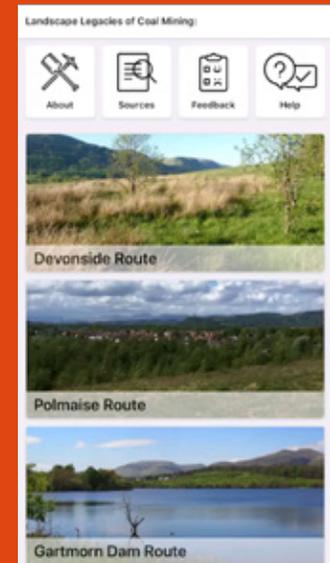
As an area with a rich coal mining history, Stirling's local landscape was once dominated by the industry.

Rapid decline from the 1960s brought closure of the pits, demolition and subsequent redevelopment of the colliery sites, erasing much of the industrial archaeology of one of Scotland's foremost industries.

Visible traces of coal mining remain today, ranging from sunken hollows, patches of colliery waste and piles of building rubble through to communication networks, housing and reclaimed bings. Dr Catherine Mills, Lecturer in History, has developed an app that encourages active engagement with this often hidden legacy of the industry.

In a series of curated heritage walks, the 'Landscape Legacies of Coal' app aids the user in the identification of the visible traces of coal mining and uses these physical remains and landscape features to narrate the story of coal and the communities that depended on it. Catherine said: "By adding in historic maps, plans and images, memories and sound clips it brings the history to life but importantly the app provides a permanent record of this rapidly disappearing legacy."

To find out more or volunteer, visit <http://stir.ac.uk/2pg>.



Scotland's energy future



"The eyes of the world will soon be focussing on Scotland when we host the UN climate change summit in 2020. The challenges that Scotland faces as we decarbonise our energy systems to mitigate climate change could

provide major economic and social opportunities, and position Scotland as a global innovator," Gavin McLeod Little, Professor of Environmental and Public Law in the Division of Law and Philosophy, tells *Stirling Minds*.

Gavin is also a co-author of the inquiry's recent report, Scotland's Energy Future. The report found that difficult compromises and trade-offs will need to be made by government to balance our conflicting needs for energy security, affordability and low carbon energy systems. It also found, however, that Scotland has an opportunity to explore and develop world-leading energy solutions.

The report recommended the need for timely and well-considered decisions by the Scottish and UK Governments on how and in what to invest; prioritisation of climate protection targets; further investment in low-carbon energy generating capacity; effective decarbonisation of transport; and improved standards for lowering the net energy consumption of housing and infrastructure that are enforced and regularly updated.

For the report <http://stir.ac.uk/2u4>.



Martin Gallagher BA (Hons) Philosophy 1994

Position: Chief Inspector, Police Scotland (pictured right)

Why did you choose Stirling?

I visited Stirling during the 'open day' rounds during my 6th year, and was hooked by the campus at first sight. My university aspirations were pretty much based on watching 'The Young Ones'... Stirling didn't disappoint!

Did you have a favourite lecturer, or member of staff at Stirling?

The sadly departed Murray McBeth was my 'mentor' I used to call on at the start of each term. His humanity and general good humour really put me at ease. Antony Duff and Peter Lamarque were also really influential on my academic development.

Tell us about your early career as a police officer...

I was a member of the UOTC and then TA while at Stirling, and the leadership skills I gained there, along with developing an inquisitive approach through the study of philosophy got me off to a good start in the police.

However, nothing can really prepare you for being thrown into the deep end as a response officer in a busy urban environment. I started in uniform in Wester Hailes, Edinburgh and, after finding my feet for my first few years and displaying an aptitude for investigation, quickly found myself in the CID as a detective.

What do you like most about your job?

Variety. I've been a response officer, detective, surveillance officer, intelligence manager, national planner and liaison to senior civil servants and parliamentarians. I've managed officers in all of these disciplines, travelled widely and seen my efforts make a real positive difference to the lives of others.

Aside from policing, what other interests do you have?

Over the last few years I've continued to develop my lecturing and writing skills. I've worked with the UN, and been published in

numerous journals and websites on a variety of topics including Terrorism, Organised Crime and Leadership. I was the main speaker at my first ticketed event recently, and regularly lecture at a number of universities.

Any dangerous situations you can share with us?

The most dangerous situation I've been in was when, as a young cop, I came across a block of flats on fire. I rescued a number of the occupants, and my colleague (who arrived on scene after me) rescued a woman and her baby. Neither of us realised the roof of the building could have collapsed on us at any moment. We both received an award for outstanding bravery from the Police Board.

What are you most proud of in your career?

Seeing the officers who have worked for me develop and forge their own careers. They make me proud.

Home thoughts from afar, by Professor David Bebbington

I retired from Stirling on 31 August but I have come to Waco, Texas, to teach at Baylor University during the autumn.

I am acutely conscious of parallels between Britain and the United States. Much of it was summed up in an anecdote by Jim Naughtie, former Chancellor of Stirling and a perceptive observer of American affairs, at his last graduation ceremony in 2018. He was visiting an elderly friend who was getting on in years but was still interested in public affairs. What she asked him, was this person she was hearing so much about – Boris Trump?

The Prime Minister and the American President, though far from clones (the President did

not attend Eton), are nevertheless very similar. They like breaking conventions, making pithy phrases and appealing to mass prejudices.

The United States media, noticing the affinity, are fascinated by the twists and turns of contemporary British politics. The absence of a written constitution is a frequent theme, the dragging in of the Queen is another and the expulsion of the grandson of the (half-American) Winston Churchill was especially noticed. Americans are also intrigued by John Bercow's guttural way of declaring, 'Order! Order!'

The media in the United States do not always get it right, being mystified by prorogation and, in a piece on Boston, Lincolnshire, the most Brexit town in Britain, attributing to the town views of the ocean. Living in a two-party system, American commentators often ignore the part played in present-day developments by the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party.

At Baylor, I have discovered no supporters of President Trump, even among registered Republicans, and so sympathy for the Prime Minister is limited. Beyond the University, however, in the Texas heartland, Trump is applauded – and, I have no doubt, so is Boris.



The University of Stirling proudly supports academic freedom, and these views do not necessarily reflect those of the institution.

Tell us about your voluntary work...

I am an ambassador for the charity Police Care UK. I secured funding from the charity for a refit of welfare facilities at Paisley, where I was Area Commander, and have assisted a number of colleagues in obtaining similar funding.

The main focus of my role is ensuring my colleagues are aware of the support the charity can provide them, and referring them on for assistance as appropriate.

If you could give Stirling students one piece of advice, what would it be?

University isn't just about what

you learn from lectures. It's about learning to be an active participant in seminars and developing your own views. Equally important is taking part in campus life, get involved! The friends I made at Stirling have stood shoulder to shoulder with me through all life's ups and downs.

How has being a mentor helped you?

Giving something back to the University was really important to me. Think on how much your time at Stirling shaped you as a person – helping others in similar circumstances is great for them, and really good for you.

What are your plans for the future?

I have a number of projects, both academic and professional, which are heading towards fruition. In five years I can retire from policing if I wish. Not sure if I will yet, but intrigued to see what life afterwards might be like!

In my spare time my two boys keep me busy, and we are regular hill walkers. I also enjoy film, reading and fitting in a catch up in the pub with my fellow Stirling alumni when the opportunity presents!

Global connections, global citizens

Internationalisation is integrated into the University's teaching, research, and innovation business model. Rising awareness of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals reflects growing concerns for global challenges, inequality, social justice and mutual intercultural understanding.

Did you know that our academics co-authored 2,500 papers with colleagues from 1,778 institutions worldwide?

- A research partnership with the Brazilian Institute for Space Research, Brazilian Institute for Amazon Research, São Paulo State University and the Mamirauá Sustainable Development Reserve has combined satellite images, data science and ground ecological data to better understand ecosystems and their resilience to climate change in the wet and dry tropics. Dr Thiago Silva, (pictured left), Lecturer in Environmental Informatics, studies the Brazilian Savanna ecosystems, recognised biodiversity hotspots and critical carbon sinks.

- Funded by the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme, Dr Hee Jung Hong, an expert in career transition/life after sport, is working with colleagues in Europe on support for 'dual career' athletes – those who balance their sporting, education and future employment. The three-year study will compare international support for junior athletes to identify best practice and develop a toolkit of resources.

- Research led by Professor Richard Oram in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland is helping to conserve the Forbidden City in Beijing. Recently the partners exchanged 3D models of Stirling Castle and the Forbidden City, and Scotland hosted an exhibition of detailed replicas of famous Chinese artefacts, including two Terracotta Warriors. The project brings together international expertise on climate and environmental change whilst advancing British and Chinese intercultural relations.

- The challenge of an ageing society is being tackled by collaboration between researchers from the Faculty of Social Sciences (FoSS) and Japanese partners.



Professor Alison Bowes, (pictured back row, centre), Dean of FoSS, said the research group will explore design principles that can enable people affected by dementia to live the lives they wish, at home, in care facilities and in communities.

Did you know that Stirling has ten education partnerships in seven countries and six articulation agreements in three countries?



- Professor Paul Freathy from Stirling Management School travelled to Muscat College, Sultanate of Oman, to deliver the commencement speech at the award ceremony which was presided over by His Highness Dr Adham Al Said, Chair of Muscat College Board of Trustees. The 2019 graduation at the Singapore Institute of Management celebrated ten years of the partnership.

Did you know that 200 students had a study abroad experience across 16 countries this year?

- Cypriot student Irina Nakonechna studied for a semester at the University of Alaska Anchorage, combining her love for the Inuqiaq language whilst gaining broadcasting and public communications experience. She hosted a public radio show, 'Dropping Anchor in Anchorage', and presented the weather on KTUU, a local TV station.



- Every year Stirling welcomes international students for bespoke English Language Programmes. Students have formal lessons each morning before practicing their skills during visits to Scottish tourist attractions and at special social integration events.

Did you know there are over 92,000 alumni living in 170 countries?

Many alumni ambassadors organise events, and last year reunions were held in America, China, Cyprus, France, Greece, India, and Malaysia.

Contact alumni@stir.ac.uk if you need help promoting a reunion – and remember to forward the photographs afterwards – they always bring a smile to our faces!

The enterprise programme

Exciting skill-building workshops, mentorship and incubation services are offered as part of the Student Enterprise Enhanced Development (SEED) programme. SEED, supported generously by Santander Universities, plays a vital role in developing our students into highly skilled, work ready graduates. We discussed SEED's impact on his business with Ryan Carenduff (MSc Sport Management 2013), CEO of Turtle Pack.



What's the story behind Turtle Pack and the enterprise programme?

Turtle Pack was created by Michael Harkins in 2015 whilst he was studying and working as a swimming teacher. He spotted a gap in the market for swimming aids offering a complete package to support kids' learn-to-swim journeys in a way that was safe, efficient and fun.

Turtle Pack's unique design allows for the buoyancy to be adjusted so each child feels comfortable and secure in the water and has fun.

I joined as CEO in 2018 after previously heading up the University's sports-business incubator. Trading began in January 2019 and we now have customers in 20 countries. Dr Lena Wilson CBE – former head of Scottish Enterprise – joined as Chair of our Board, and we are currently seeking external investment to help us realise our goals.

The enterprise programme was incredibly useful in helping Michael during the early stages of the company's development.

When you're first starting out with a business idea it's vital that the correct support is out there. We were very lucky that there was a huge amount of advice and assistance available on campus.

Turtle Pack has won a number of awards and Richard Branson is a fan! Can we ask what you are proudest of?

Awards have helped us get where we are, but I'm proudest of the feedback from customers – from emails from parents telling us their little ones are no longer afraid of the pool, to posts on Instagram

where children are having an absolute blast in the water.

Did your time at Stirling prepare you for your role? Definitely! My time at Stirling really emphasised the importance of communication and building a network of people around me; something that's vital when you're growing a business. Sport is a real passion of mine – from participation, academic research and right through to the business side of things – the University really supported and nurtured that passion.

For more information on SEED, visit <http://stir.ac.uk/2vz>.



Santander Universities SEED successes continue

Focus and passion are embedded by the SEED programme, an initiative designed to build student entrepreneurial skills and provide access to expert advice.

Alena Rogozhkina (MSc Behavioural Science for Management 2017), is an entrepreneur whose business, Sonas, offers a suite of products focusing on workplace based behavioural science tools and services. Alena praised the programme, saying: "SEED has given me a vital opportunity to accelerate an early stage idea to the next level and develop a proper business concept." She describes the peer networking as being "very inspiring and uplifting!" Following SEED, Alena has progressed to the semi-final of Converge Kick Start Challenge; been accepted onto the RBS Accelerator; secured a By Design

grant of £5,000 and received an Interface Innovation Voucher of £5,000.

Another successful SEED graduate is **Mohsin Laginaf** (MSc Investment Analysis 2017), who has big ambitions for his sports performance energy drink, True Potential. Mohsin says of his five to ten-year plan: "I hope True Potential will be one of the leading brands in the UK energy drinks market and that the business will have developed a further portfolio of products that improve consumer choice in the sports nutrition space."

Mohsin credits the programme's business lessons: "I have learned that the small details

in running a business are just as important as the bigger picture. In order to succeed you need expert advice, rather than trying to do everything yourself, as there is a great deal of time saved and potential problems avoided."

Alena and Mohsin attended a celebratory event to thank Santander Universities for sponsoring a programme that has been hugely influential in shaping their foundations for success in the future.



Use the Stirling connection: Join *The Stirling Network*

We introduced *The Stirling Network* in last year's issue of *Stirling Minds*, and we've been building on feedback from our alumni and student communities in order to deliver the service you deserve.

By scaling up the potential for mentoring to reach the entire Stirling family, wherever they are located and whatever their interests, this platform makes mentoring, networking and personal development accessible to alumni and students around the world.

Registration is simple, easy and free – join the site by visiting www.thestirlingnetwork.com and your existing LinkedIn details will quickly connect you to a growing community of Stirling alumni. Use these trusted connections to ask advice about your sector, explore new markets

and develop the skills you need. No matter how far your journey from campus has taken you, *The Stirling Network* is a reminder that Stirling is a welcoming, supportive place – over 76% of our users have opted in to offering help and advice.

What do our students think of mentoring?

"My mentor provided me with valuable expertise and tools to help me develop myself. This included knowledge about developing a business, the entrepreneurial spirit needed, how to approach finances, project management, and marketing."

"Mentoring gave me the motivation to keep going."

"I enjoyed most that someone who is very busy and experienced took the time to share his knowledge with me and provide very good feedback."

"Being involved with other professionals outside the University gave me a much clearer sense of how life is going to be when I graduate."

If you have any questions about *The Stirling Network*, email the Alumni Relations team on tsn@stir.ac.uk.

Meet a mentor

Joe Shipperbottom (BSc Hons Environmental Geography 2015), is a younger member of our alumni community and is already making an impact. Upon graduating, Joe began working as an Environmental Scientist for Envireau Water, who encouraged him to participate in Stirling's mentoring programme.

Why did you get involved in mentoring?

Initially the University contacted me regarding the programme led by the Faculty of Natural Sciences, and I thought: "Wow, I wish I had that when I was a student!" I engaged with the programme and I had great pleasure in offering my advice and experience to a like-minded individual.

Did you have a mentor at university?

I didn't, and this is exactly why I wanted to commit to something I know would have been highly beneficial to me. I deliberated at first because I thought I didn't have enough experience to offer any substantial advice. You don't have to have 20-odd years' industry experience to advise someone on how to get their foot in the sector, while conversely, that experience was still fresh in my mind and I wanted to share that before I lost it.

What have you learned from being a mentor?

I've learned that you're never too young to offer advice to those who are following a similar career pathway. I've also learned that such relationships increase your

network of like-minded people, benefitting all parties. I'm only moving in to my second year of the mentoring programme and I have already made some invaluable connections (i.e. lovely characters!).

Did anything surprise or challenge you about the process?

Sometimes it can be challenging to offer advice when you feel you don't have it. I quickly learned that sometimes giving no advice is just as beneficial to those seeking it. It also surprised me that my mentee had so many of the questions I had in my head at that time, and it wasn't until I reflected on the thoughts I'd been having just a few years prior that I realised I had some of the answers.

What advice would you give today's students?

Please engage with mentoring programmes, and make the most of resources while they're all around you. With the alumni network I've found you'll always have people to learn from, but after university they are most likely to be an email or call away rather than sharing your coffee-break.



From Logie to Lallybroch: Outlander at Stirling

Our new honorary graduate, Sam Heughan, isn't Stirling's only connection to Outlander. Several alumni have worked on the production, students have written their dissertations exploring the impact on Scottish tourism and the campus has been used as a location many times.

18th century Ivy Cottage

Featured during season 1 village rent collection scene.



Academic residence

3 Airthrey Yard featured as Geillis' house in season 2.

Nearby locations:

Falkland, Aberdour Castle and Culross, where Jamie's ghost appeared.

The Link Bridge

Appeared as a walkway in Boston Airport during season 4.



Nearby locations:

Callendar House, Linlithgow Palace and Muiravonside Park.

Nearby locations:

Doune Castle – Castle Leoch in Outlander – and Deanston Distillery.

Did you know?

Every year our students undertake internships with TV production companies, with many pursuing media careers. What might a student do for your business?

Find out here <http://stir.ac.uk/2qt>.

The Pathfoot Building

Provided the interior and exterior setting for Inverness College during season 2.



Did you know?

Castle Leoch was also Winterfell in Game of Thrones. Explore the filming locations at the University and in the local area by staying on campus! Accommodation is available at Stirling Court Hotel all year round and in the residences outwith semester time.

Visit <http://stir.ac.uk/2qd>.

Scotland's International Environment Centre

Inclusive growth: It's in our nature

Debbie Miller, Head of Global Alumni and Business Engagement, sets out the University's response to climate change and highlights the Scottish context for its work.

Emotions are running high in relation to the global climate emergency. No one hearing Greta Thunberg's impassioned challenge to world leaders at the UN's Climate Action Summit could remain untouched, regardless of their individual views on the extent of the crisis or the level of human responsibility for the issues being faced. One factor in her ability to mobilise people is the articulate and accessible way in which she provides scientific evidence for her convictions.

The Environmental Change

research programme at Stirling conducts ground breaking research into the fundamental issues surrounding climate change and contributes to the body of global evidence that organisations like the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change rely on to inform governments and policymakers. Stirling researchers have been identifying issues and developing socially-inclusive practices for environmental protection, conservation, economic growth and social wellbeing for nearly four decades.

The Stirling Students' Union is the first carbon neutral Students' Union in the UK. It is a champion for improving sustainability on campus, promoting biodiverse spaces and creating learning

opportunities for both students and staff. Created in 2014, the Green & Blue Space is at the heart of all the Union's environmental activities.

With a long-term, demonstrable passion to make a difference for the environment and sustainability for future generations it should come as no surprise that the Scottish and UK governments have selected the University to host Scotland's International Environment Centre. The Centre, which aims to be a safe space for collaboration, will follow the principles for inclusive growth, and seeks to work with partners, stakeholders, businesses, governments and NGOs to find collective solutions to the climate crisis. Scotland's International Environment Centre is being

developed alongside its Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal project partner, the University's new Aquaculture Innovation Hub. The Hub builds on the expertise in the University's Institute of Aquaculture and, by co-locating with industry partners, the Hub will translate ground-breaking scientific research into practical, applied solutions that support economic development in communities from rural Scotland to South America, Africa and the Middle East.

The Scottish Government was one of the first to declare a climate emergency and amend emissions targets accordingly. Scotland is also at the forefront of creating a supportive ecosystem for businesses that have embedded sustainable accounting practices

in their companies' DNA and are determined to be part of the solution to the climate crisis. The proposed new Scottish Stock Exchange promises to list only those companies that demonstrate they are making a positive impact on society and the environment in the course of doing business, and the Scottish National Investment Bank will make investments that support sustainable, inclusive growth across Scotland.

Scotland will host a major United Nations climate change summit, the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) in December 2020, and this is expected to be the most important climate change event since the Paris agreement was signed in 2015. COP26 will see up to 200 heads of government

and 30,000 delegates, including climate experts, business leaders and citizens, meet to draw up a new climate change strategy.

Scotland has laid the foundations to be a leading nation in rising to the climate change challenge, and the University is one of the key building blocks. Everyone can do their part, however small, everyday sustainability heroes can be the difference. Show us what you did today to help! **#StirSustainability**

If you want to know more about The Centre or the City Region Deal, contact Kerry Bryson on **DirectorAdvancement@stir.ac.uk**.

Inspiring people

Mike Robinson
BA Business Studies 1988



Position: CEO of Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS)

Kerry Bryson caught up with Mike Robinson to discuss his memories as a student, and about finding his passion for protecting the world we live in.

Tell me about your time at Stirling:

Extremely positive – friendly, fun and active. I wasn’t an elite athlete but I enjoyed sport, and including athletics as one, I represented the University in at least 14 sports (*Ed: this is probably a record!*) with my favourites being squash and canoe polo.

Special memories?

One was when the canoe polo club hired a minibus to compete in

the UK university championships in central London. It was a 12-hour journey but we figured it would be good practice for the Scottish competition the following week. We hadn’t realised that it was a straight knockout so within ten minutes we were back on the bus heading home!

Perhaps my favourite was when I was persuaded last minute to help some friends competing at a Scottish University athletics tournament in Falkirk. On the

bus, it was explained that the elite athletes would concentrate on their sports, and that I would be the sole competitor across 12 other events in order to get additional entry points. I’d seen the hammer throw and pole vaulting on television, that’s all, so little wonder I kept fouling. On the latter I bottled my first attempt, did pretty well in my second after some coaching from the side, thought I was a natural, but my bravado failed on the

third attempt and I found myself hanging at the top of the pole with the crowd urging me to jump onto the mat. Instead I fell onto the concrete, broke my arm. Later that night, and buoyed up on painkillers, I met fellow student Katrine, who would go on to become my wife.

And after graduation?

I did the milk round like everyone else but the next step was not obvious to me. I took a sales and marketing job with Unilever, but only during a leave of absence to join a Raleigh International project in Borneo, did I realise my core strengths, passions and career ambitions: volunteering, project management, fundraising and the environment.

I worked with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for ten years before moving on to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh where I led on fundraising to create the John Hope Gateway Biodiversity Centre. I’ve been CEO of RSGS since 2007. My experience with Raleigh had had a profound effect on me. I took my first board position with them, partly due to a promise to Felix, a friend in Borneo that I’d help protect the forest and his environment.

Climate change is one of the biggest threats to human existence, and I realised that one way to effect change was to accept other board positions on organisations and charities to keep the agenda cohesive. It was a huge privilege to found and chair the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland coalition of over 40 organisations, which secured the Scottish Government’s commitment to a 42% reduction target by 2020. The crux was to form a coalition that was credible to politicians, could agree a common agenda and set of aims that would win public support, and then to collaboratively campaign on climate change. It was a proud moment when the Climate Change (Scotland) Act was passed unanimously by the Scottish Parliament on 24 June 2009.

I am still involved today and hold around ten other voluntary roles.

Scotland continues to lead the way in implementing change. On 25 September, the Scottish Parliament voted to support a Climate Bill that commits Scotland to net zero emissions by 2045 and agreed to a 75% reduction of greenhouse emissions by 2030. What do we need to do next?

I think we need to reimagine the way we do things. Rather than take the car to work I prefer to cycle or run, taking a slightly longer scenic route from the house that takes me away from the main route for cars. It reduces my own carbon footprint, helps me de-stress so is good for my physical and mental health. A train journey to London enables me to do four hours of work, a benefit not afforded through flying, or opting to travel by train to Europe for the family vacation means the holiday begins almost immediately after leaving the house.

As a society, we also need to address what I call ‘strategic transitional change’ by which I mean that we need to address how it is too easy to object to change. As Robert Redford once said “climate change is in everyone’s back yard” so if we set a vision, and agree an ambition, then each of us must also create the political space for change, by giving permission for that change to happen, without objections and barriers.



Focus on aquaculture

Professor Selina Stead loves sharks, snorkeling and Shotokan karate. Her passion for elasmobranchs led to being a scientific diver for an underwater television documentary. She's also the new Director of the Institute of Aquaculture (IoA) and the UK government's chief scientific advisor for the Marine Management Organisation.

Selina has held several high-profile positions including President of the European Aquaculture Society. She was awarded their highest honour, the Distinguished Services Award, for notable contributions to global food security using systems-thinking to link aquaculture, fisheries, marine protected areas, integrated coastal management, marine policy and governance to better contribute to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. She was chair of the Scottish Government's Marine Science Advisory Board and a Ministerial Scientific Adviser to the North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee. Selina joined Stirling in March, from Newcastle University, following the announcement of £17 million in City Region Deal funding for a new aquaculture facility at the campus. Here's what she has to say:

"Stirling has always had an excellent reputation, so I feel privileged and honoured to be here. I've been wowed by the breadth of research into virology, bacteriology, nutrition in developing countries and sea lice. What is also striking is the enthusiasm of the students, that and the number of visitors from all over the world. There's a real buzz about the place and we could spend every minute of every day showing people around.

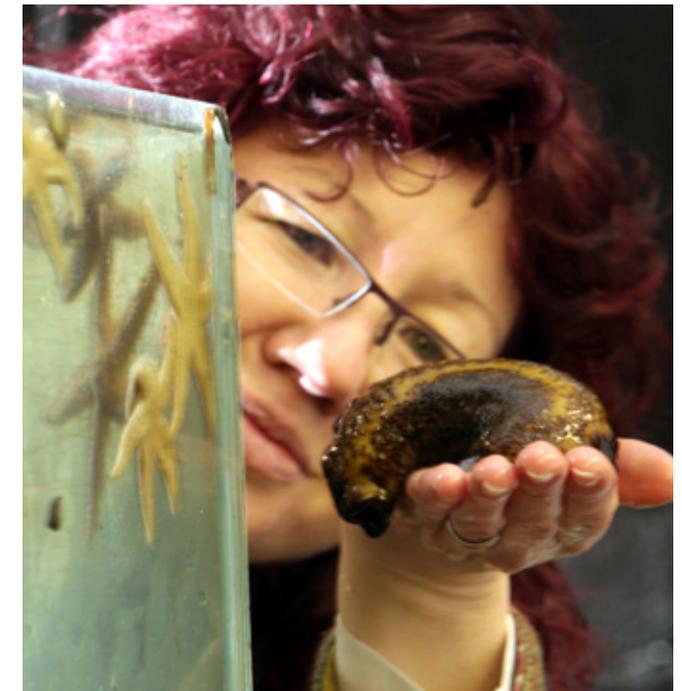
"My goal is to redefine aquaculture and its global perception – not only do we transform aquatic life but we also support environmental conservation and food security. I'm keen to diversify the portfolio of current research to include work on emerging species in new habitats, answer critical questions

of food security, and widen the application of aquaculture in conservation efforts to improve aquatic habitats. Going forward we will do more work with engineers and new technologies, examining biomaterials and transparency sensors in tanks. We also have to try to influence policy to increase the visibility of benefits afforded by aquaculture and ensure the sector can flourish. Blue-sky research is fundamental especially in relation to new diseases and ensuring future species are resilient against climate change. And we need to ensure that the UK stays ahead of the curve. Other countries are investing significant amounts in aquaculture and we need to attract funding too to ensure we have state-of-the-art facilities here. We'll be teaming up with new

partners – locally, nationally and internationally. I can guarantee there'll be exciting times ahead."

For almost five decades, the IoA has played a key role in tackling disease amongst fish, pioneered genetic innovations to improve yield, and delivered economic benefits to the UK and in developing countries. Now, as the issues of global food security, the health and wellbeing of populations, and climate change move to centre-stage, the work of the Institute is more crucial than ever.

For more information on aquaculture and the City Region Deal, email DirectorAdvancement@stir.ac.uk.



Lorenzo Scala

BSc (Hons) Marine Biology 2006

Co-Founder & Technical Director,
Whalefish and Project Manager, Seiche Ltd

Tell us about your early career...

When I completed my masters, an opportunity came up with an offshore energy consultancy and within a year of graduating I had worked on several environmental monitoring projects in the North Sea. I was offshore near Libya when I first came across passive acoustic monitoring technology which enabled me to combine my interest in marine mammals with bioacoustics. I now work at Seiche Ltd as a project manager in their bioscience group.

Around the same time, I co-founded a marine documentary production and media outreach organisation called Oceanus Explorers with fellow Stirling graduates. We managed to create a completely self-funded documentary called 'Whales of Patagonia'. The film followed a small team of scientists who were researching the effects of

increased coastal development, tourism and pollution on Southern Right whales and Bottlenose dolphins in the Rio Negro province of Argentina. Oceanus Explorers opened the doors to other exciting opportunities and collaborations which led to the founding of Whalefish. I continue to work there as technical director alongside my friend and colleague Niru Dorrian (also a Stirling graduate) and Dr Els Vermeulen who is based at the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

What are some of the main challenges of your job?

It can be a challenge to be away from loved ones and inevitably I occasionally miss out on some of the things taken for granted. However, there are some wonderful advantages to travelling with work – seeing new parts of the world, meeting and working

with colleagues from different cultures and backgrounds and spending time on the world's oceans.

Can you tell us what exciting projects you're working on at the moment?

Over the past year I have been involved with The Ocean Cleanup project, which aims to develop technology which will remove plastic from the ocean. Seiche partner with The Ocean Cleanup to provide independent environmental monitoring during the offshore testing campaigns of the first cleanup systems. I have taken part in two offshore trips to monitor marine wildlife using passive acoustic drift buoys and an AutoNaut unmanned surface vessel to gather metocean and environmental data which The Ocean Cleanup use to better understand and model the behaviour of the cleanup system.

Mission to examine Arctic food chain



They might be small, but they are mighty. Copepods, the tiny crustaceans no larger than a grain of rice, are a vital piece of the global food chain and our carbon cycle. Found in almost every salt

and freshwater habitat on the planet, copepods positively impact the environment by feeding near the surface before releasing sinking faecal pellets throughout summer, and by hibernating in the ocean's depths during the winter, where CO₂ is released from their respiratory activity. This activity removes carbon from the atmosphere, storing it deeply in the ocean which prevents its release as harmful CO₂. Copepods are crucial to the food chain and are considered the most important animal plankton, feeding small fish, jellyfish and some whales.

In August, Dr David Pond of the Institute of Aquaculture

set off on an arctic cruise to gain a better understanding of how one of these copepods, a tiny creature known as *Calanus*, fuels itself to survive hibernation at these extreme depths. The importance of his work is made clear in his comments that: "Due to the reliance on a single type of zooplankton as a vital source of food, the Arctic food chain is precarious in the face of climate change." Dr Pond is the lead investigator on the DIAPOD project – part of the £20m Changing Arctic Ocean research programme funded by the Natural Environment Research Council.

What are you most proud of in your career?

At Whalefish, we managed to take an idea and follow it through to create an organisation that has grown in parallel with our own careers and has enabled us to share our collective knowledge and experience to help young science graduates find the pathway to kick start their careers in marine science.

How would you advise a new mentor?

Being a mentor brings great satisfaction because you can help someone get on the right footing to start out in their career. When I think back to when I was a student, I know that it would have been great to have someone to look up to who had been through the same things I was going through. It's nice to know that some words of encouragement

from me can make a difference to that person who looks up to me.

What are your plans for the future?

I want to take on more senior responsibilities and continue to work at the forefront of advancing

ocean technology. I hope to make changes to live a greener life and continue to inspire the next generation of marine scientists. We have lots of plans to do this with Whalefish and I'm excited to see where that leads us.



Valuable breakthrough in asteroid composition

Dr Axel Hagermann is the only UK-based member of the Japanese led Hayabusa2 mission to study Ryugu, an asteroid currently more than 230 million kilometres from Earth. As a C-type asteroid, the 870m diameter Ryugu is rich in organic material and minerals containing water. Few meteorites of this type are found on Earth as the fragile nature of these asteroids prevents their fragments surviving entry to Earth's atmosphere.

The 600kg Hayabusa2 spacecraft was launched in December 2014, carrying the Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout (MASCOT) lander to the asteroid.

MASCOT was dispatched on October 3 last year, and the lander has returned data from a variety of on-board equipment including an infrared imager and a camera.

Hayabusa2 also carried an explosive device to create an artificial crater to expose fresh material for sample collection. As co-investigator on the Thermal Infrared Imager, Dr Hagermann studies the temperature and thermal inertia of the asteroid.

Dr Hagermann said: "The link between asteroids and meteorites found on Earth is important for understanding the early evolution of the solar system – and it is also very important to understand the potential risks posed by asteroids colliding with Earth."

Hayabusa2 is expected to return to Earth with samples by 2021, allowing the team to clarify interactions between minerals, water and organic matter in the primitive solar system.



Positive impact of intergenerational research



The very young and the elderly aren't typically thought of as part of the University community, but all are welcome at Stirling. Dr Line Caes and Dr Rachel Crockett from the Division of Psychology led an innovative study reviewing the impact of intergenerational research on older adults and

children. Our campus is host to the Dementia Services Development Centre and a kindergarten within the Division of Psychology. These parts of the University came together with Town Break Stirling to deliver sessions engaging users of both services collaboratively in gardening, music and art.

The study revealed that the programme had a positive impact on both groups of participants, and was well received by carers and parents alike. Intergenerational programmes play a crucial role in reducing social isolation, increasing mutual understanding and empathy, and are hugely beneficial to people living with dementia.

The Psychology Kindergarten is unique in the UK, providing rich, challenging and meaningful learning experiences for children, as well as granting the opportunity for staff and students at the University to study child development. Graded 'excellent' for quality of care and support, it provides a curriculum tailored to suit the needs of the children.

Children and their parents participate in mindfulness, yoga and classical music sessions, as well as regular visits to the nursery garden.

To find out more or to join the kindergarten, contact psychologykindergarten@stir.ac.uk.

Hannah Sheridan MSc Sport Nutrition 2014

Position: Nutritionist, Tottenham Hotspur Football Club

Tell us about your early career...

When doing my MSc, I had the opportunity to work with professional athletes while shadowing at the Scottish Institute for Sport – but the early days of my career required many hours of unpaid work. After graduating, my first full time role was at the High Performance Centre in Birmingham where I worked across a variety of different sports.

You've worked with many sports including football, hockey and diving – are there differences in nutrition issues?

Due to the different physiological demands of different sports, there will always be more common issues within one sport compared to the other. Nutrition to help injury rehabilitation and prevention is an area which I spend a lot of time focusing on. The most common types of football injuries will not be the same as athletics, as the nature of the sports is so different. However, each athlete is individual so even when you work in a sport such as diving, you may also find that you come across the same issue in a team sport athlete, such as football.

What are some of the main challenges of your job?

I would say athlete adherence is always a challenge for practitioners in sport. You have to understand each individual, find out what motivates them and what will encourage them to buy into your plan. It's difficult, but if you get to know your athletes well, you will find different ways of making it work!

What do you like most about your job?

The pace and intensity of it – there is never a boring day! Sometimes I wish there was less travelling involved, but when we have one match a week, the week can feel very long. The match days are the exciting part and the day everyone works towards – we are never short of these in football.

What are you most proud of?

Definitely my persistence and determination on the journey towards becoming a Sports Nutritionist at the highest level. When I graduated from my undergraduate degree, most of my peers got full time jobs and I knew it would take me some time to build up experience and complete extra qualifications before I could be doing what I really wanted to do.



Any favourite memories of Stirling?

I was friends with a fantastic group of post graduate students. On the rare sunny day, we would go to Loch Venachar or walk up Dumyat. I joined Stirling Athletics Club so I trained with them often at the university track.

Share your advice with today's students...

Always go in pursuit of what you want to do and work hard for it. At Stirling, you also need to make the most of your surroundings! There is so much natural beauty in Scotland, so make sure you take time to get out and enjoy it.

In my spare time...

I still run and am part of an athletics team in London, although I no longer compete as much as I would like.

Half of young drinkers are unaware of health messages on alcohol packaging

Research published in the *Journal of Public Health* revealed that only half of 11-19 year olds who self-identified as 'current drinkers' were aware of warnings or health messaging on alcohol packaging.



This innovative study was headed by Dr Nathan Critchlow, Research Fellow at the University's Institute for Social Marketing (ISM) and included members of Cancer Research UK. These startling findings are likely to play a crucial role in shaping the future debate around the design and regulation of alcohol labelling, and whether it should continue to be self-regulated by the alcohol industry.

Although alcohol use among the younger age group has declined in recent years, it remains

important that health messaging on the packaging provides clear and visible information for those who chose to consume.

Alcohol's place as a 'cool' product is reinforced by high profile celebrity endorsements, sophisticated advertising through social media, availability of branded merchandise and through sponsorship of musical and sporting events, a concept explored in Dr Critchlow's wider research with young people.

This study builds on over 35 years of research into commercial determinants of health by the ISM, and helps to extend the outstanding work on the impact of marketing on the health of young people, for which they were awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2014.

For more information
<http://stir.ac.uk/2u7>.

Boxing and the brain



In 2016 the Stirling Brains multi-disciplinary research team produced ground-breaking research on the consequences of ball heading while playing football. The team has expanded this vital work by exploring the impact of sparring during boxing training.

Led by Dr Thomas Di Virgilio, Lecturer in Sport, this study is amongst the first to reveal that routine impacts in sport – previously thought to be innocuous – result in measurable changes to the brain. The team assessed the motor control and cognitive function of 20 boxers and Muay Thai athletes alongside 20 healthy control group members before and after a nine-minute sparring session. Measurements

were taken immediately after the session, then repeated at intervals. One hour after sparring, participants showed impaired brain-to-muscle communications and decreased memory performance relative to the control group. After 24 hours, these effects returned to baseline.

Dr Di Virgilio commented: "As with our previous research into heading footballs, it is not possible to say whether there is a 'safe' threshold when it comes to the level of impact in sparring. Further research is required to help sports people – and the academic community – fully understand the dangers posed by sub-concussive impacts, routine in sport, and any measures that can be taken to mitigate against these risks."

Silence in Suicide

The Silence in Suicide study indicates that children and young people experiencing suicidal thoughts and feelings don't know where to access help, and feel they aren't heard by health professionals.

Research led by Lynne Gilmour of the Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Research Unit (NMAHP RU) at the University has identified a silence around suicidality within conversations between mental health practitioners and children and young people – and within academic research reporting. The team involving Professor Margaret Maxwell, Director of NMAHP RU, and Dr Nicola Ring, Associate



Professor at Edinburgh Napier University, found that use of the term 'self-harm' to encompass suicidal behaviours was potentially contributing to this silence by avoiding the explicit use of 'suicide'.

Ms Gilmour said: "Suicide

is the second leading cause of death in young people globally, however, there is no agreed treatment model for treating those attempting or considering suicide. We need to listen to young people to be able to develop appropriate interventions."

By applying a systematic comparison of primary qualitative data to four studies conducted in three different countries, the team were able to analyse the view of suicidal individuals aged between 11 and 24. This new understanding of their views and experiences will play a vital role in shaping future mental health provision.

Where are they now?



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

Steven Watson BA (Hons)
Business Studies and
Marketing, 2016



I've been working as the Digital Marketing Manager at Fountain Court Apartments for over a year. In March, I received a global award for Best Use of Social Media at the Serviced Apartment Awards 2019, the largest international awards event in my industry.

Lei (Ray) Yu MSc
Media Management, 2014



Thanks to the course, I got a job as a journalist in London after graduation, but in order to achieve more, I devoted myself to education. There are a hundred million reasons to revisit Stirling, but the most important is my Stirling story is life changing. Be the difference.

Emma Javaid (née Polak)
BSc (Hons) Environmental
Science, 2012



After graduating, I moved back to Cheshire with my husband and volunteered on a range of local projects to gain experience. In 2014, I was accepted on to the Local Government graduate scheme for two years, during which time I also mentored a third year Stirling student. This year I started my own business, Just Add Wellies, to inspire the next generation of environmental scientists. I still think of Stirling fondly and we visit often as a family!

Fiona McMillan BA (Hons)
History and Politics, 2005



After graduating I started a long and happy career in academic bookselling, working throughout the UK and Africa. I left bookselling to explore other options, but missed working with students too much, and I'm delighted to be back at Stirling! I returned to the University as a member of the Study Abroad team before joining the fabulous world of alumni relations. Old friends are welcome to get in touch
 ✉ fiona.mcmillan@stir.ac.uk.

I am currently Vice-President in New Delhi Television Limited. It's India's largest News broadcaster. I live with my wife, Trishna and daughter, Anaya, in New Delhi and can be reached on rohit.jais@gmail.com.

1990s

Graham Mannerings BSc (Hons)
Psychology, 1995



After ten years living in Cyprus, I moved to Shepton Mallet, Somerset in 2016. I'm now running my own entertainment company under my stage name John Lime. See <http://stir.ac.uk/2v0>.

2010s

Ashley Cameron BA (Hons)
History and Politics, 2018



Since graduation, I moved on from working as an MSP Staffer to working part-time for Clan Childlaw, a unique legal service for care experienced children and young people in Scotland. Recently, I took the decision to leave the sector and start up my own dog treat business inspired by my rescue dog, aptly naming the business Hana Treats (<http://stir.ac.uk/2uz>). I am also delighted to be engaged to fellow Stirling alumnus Frank Toner after three years together. We are very much looking forward to getting married in 2023.

Erin Brisco BSc
Biology, 2014



2019 has been a big year of change! In May I started my new position as Database and Alumni Coordinator at the University and I'm looking forward to the new challenges it brings. Tom and I have also bought our first house and adopted our new family member, Jack the dog.

William Purdie MSc
Environment, Heritage and
Policy, 2014 and BSc (Hons)
Environmental Geography, 2013



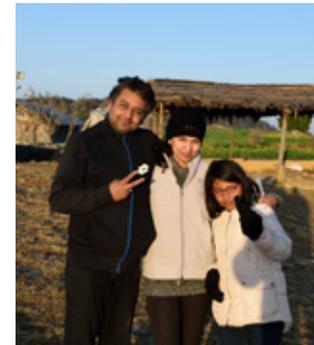
I have written a book for my Army Reserve unit – *A Squadron, Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry*, on their ancestor, the Ayrshire Yeomanry. It saw me research, prepare and present the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion at Dunblane Museum. This was followed by a few other small exhibitions at the Museum and which then came to the ears of an old comrade who wished to have a new book written. I am very proud to have attended the University and would love to express my thanks to all who work there.

2000s

Man (Frankie) Ho BA (Hons)
Tourism Management, 2008



Rohit Jaisual MSc
Media Management, 2004



Chris Hudson BA (Hons)
Philosophy, 1994



I left Accountancy and began work as a Compliance Officer for a gambling company. Much better already! I published hundreds of my poems and short stories on my website <http://stir.ac.uk/2v1>. I went to the Dolomites for a hill-walking holiday, went up 3,000 metres, saw Edelweiss flowers and ate bilberries.

Dr Donn Tilson PhD
Film and Media Studies, 1994



When I retired from the Public Relations faculty of the University of Miami's School of Communication after 27 years, I knew I would not be content merely watching re-runs of *Father Brown*. I remain active on campus (Catholic Student Association, Friends of the Libraries, guest lecturing in PR courses of former colleagues) and assist the marginalised in our community through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. I also continue with my research of the ethical practice of public relations in ancient civilisations and have been invited to publish and to present my work at the International History of Public Relations Conference at Bournemouth University.

Dr Liz Birchall PhD
Sociology and Social Policy, 1993



The last act of my working life was to gain a PhD, following a child protection research project jointly with Professor Christine Hallett, subsequently University Principal. Then a busy retirement involved various voluntary activities in the social policy arena in Oxfordshire, and a long-standing interest in writing and appearing in many poetry magazines. My forthcoming autobiography, *Pinnacles and Pratfalls*, reflectively chronicles a highly mobile life from the 'hungry thirties' into old age, via chaotic teenage jobs, four years as a Wren air mechanic, universities and a chequered career in social work. Book available from liz@birchall.myzen.co.uk.

Kwong Kee (Eric) Lok MBA
Management Information Services, 1991



I gave up my full time IT project manager work four years ago, and now work mainly on music and Chinese ink paintings. Last July I was happy to bring along 30 students to attend the singing classes at the University of Stirling with Alistair Warwick, conductor of the University choir. When I returned to Hong Kong, I started to complete my paintings based on outdoor sketches done in Scotland, and just finished my painting exhibition (pictured with my wife) in mid-April. See my paintings at <http://stir.ac.uk/2w0>.

Sean Kane
Visiting Student, 1991



My baseball glove art has become part of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's collection in Cooperstown, NY. I know this is a very North American sort of art/sports subject, but I'm proud of my time at Stirling (distracted by the J D Fergusson paintings when I should have been studying!) and this career milestone. My painting of Dizzy Dean on a vintage 1930s glove was voted into the Hall earlier this year by their Acquisitions Committee. The artwork featuring the Cardinals pitching ace officially became part of the collection and was presented to Hall of Fame President, Jeff Idelson (pictured right), in March. More info <http://stir.ac.uk/2v3>.

1980s

Andy Borland BA
Business Studies, 1989



Having been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes on 1 June 2018, I subsequently shed five stones in six months and put my diabetes into remission thanks to the Keto Diet last year. This resulted in me setting up a new business for the first time at the ripe old age of 52! Andy Borland's Keto Diet Club is based in Callendar Square in Falkirk and I host diet, slimming, weight loss and lifestyle classes to help others on their weight loss journeys. Stirling and the University is very dear to me, and, like most graduates, holds a special place in my heart.

Professor Kim Fam MBA
Retail Management, 1989



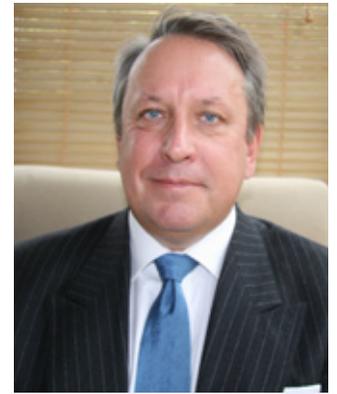
I visited the campus in May with my daughter and we both enjoyed our visit. I walked around the loch after so many years away. It brought back beautiful memories of my time in Stirling. Meeting my ex-porter, Hammy, was the crowning moment of my visit. The notes we shared such as me

Steve Maher BA
French and Spanish, 1985



When I graduated, there were two paths I had no intention whatsoever of going down: teaching and sales. As a result, I found myself taking up a teaching contract in Galicia and then moved directly into International Sales with Adolfo Dominguez, one of Spain's leading fashion brands. Twenty-eight years later after an exciting international career, I changed brands and moved to CH Carolina Herrera and Purificación García where I have been operations manager for the past five years. Moral: Keep your options open!

Petter Berge BA
Business Studies, 1984



With my firm Corum in Oslo, I'm launching a new fintech, insurtech and medtech venture, with EU backing, to bridge the European gender social and economic protection gap. It's exciting, and the first time the kids take any notice of what dad is doing!

Alasdair Reid BA
English, 1984



I lived in London from 1984 to 2002 and now in Hertfordshire and Norfolk. I'm formerly a journalist, magazine editor, feature writer, and book reviewer; and now currently a freelance copywriter.

Doug Evans BSc Environmental Science and Biology, 1982



I recently retired after some 20 years working for part of the European Environment Agency in Paris. Paris was supposed to be a one year secondment! I am now living in the southern French Alps and enjoying being close to the mountains again. I would love to hear news of others who were students in Environmental Science or Biology from 1978 to 1982.

Neil Robertson BSc (Hons) Management Science, 1981



The Airthrey Open took place on Friday 18 October at the Dunblane New Course. This was the 20th anniversary of the event with eight alumni from the late 1970s to early 1980s attending. Geoff Spencer won the event beating local alumnus John Gibson into second place. On Saturday morning, we visited the Garden of Time on campus to remember Gary Welsh. Gary died in April 1982 just before graduating and a few months before his wedding to Janet. Gary was vice-captain of the rugby club from 1979 to 1980 and, like most of his peers, he would have been 60 this academic year. We also remembered Nevin Whiteley and Mike Stewart who died in the last 20 years. The recently planted lime tree looked over by the imposing Dumyat is a wonderful tribute to Gary and provides a peaceful campus environment for quiet contemplation for existing students and any visitors.

1970s

Jim Meldrum BSc Management Studies, 1978



Forty four years after first meeting in Murray Hall, four 'lads' met up in Beech Court for a reunion over the weekend of 22-23 June. Lawrie MacDonald, Gordon Clark, Jim Meldrum and John McCaffery spent some time reminiscing and vowing to repeat same time next year.

Dr Michael Teare BA Biology, 1975

Eight alumni from the biology class got together for a reunion meal at Stirling Court Hotel on Saturday 15 June. In the afternoon, Technical Manager James Weir showed us around the biology department and the changes and some very shiny new equipment suitably impressed us. We held our first reunion two years ago and are already planning another in 2021 to celebrate 46 years.



From left to right: Jim Lawson, James Weir, Dave Peveril, Stephen Larkin, Mike Teare



From left to right: Stephen Larkin, Jim Lawson, Christina Wallis, Dave Peveril, Mairidh Bayne (Werbicki), Mike Teare, Robert Dixon, Deirdre Batson

Penny Dade BA (Hons) German, 1973



Fifty years after moving into 1/8/1 Donnelly, six friends reunited on campus to revisit their old flat. Known as Aly Arnott, Steph Granet, Marnie Sandys, Mary Brown, Judy Stone and Penny Watt during their studies, they enjoyed a wonderful catch up in the sunshine, and are happy to hear from old friends.

1960s

Professor Ken Gilhooly MSc Mathematical Psychology, 1968



In June 2018, students of the 1968 to 1969 MSc Mathematical Psychology course gathered on campus for a 50th weekend reunion and to remember the leader of the course, Senior Lecturer, Michael F Moore. The weekend began with a lunch at Willow Court and then a visit to Airthrey Castle and the sample student study bedroom. A visit to Pathfoot for the Fergusson Exhibition and other old haunts followed. In the evening, we gathered for a buffet dinner in Stirling Court Hotel and presentations started with an illustrated talk by former lecturer Angus Annan on 'The Life and Times of the University of Stirling' and then potted bios on 'What I did after the MSc' from everybody.

Condolences

The University regrets to announce the following deaths:

Walter Abbott, joined the University in 1969 as the first Careers Advisor

Dr David Bell, Cert Drug & Alcohol Studies, 1998

Eric Dickson, BA Biology, 1975

Margaret Duffy, Cert Business Administration, 2005

Annabel Fisher, BA (Hons) Religious Studies, 1996

Karol Gajewski, BA History/English, 1975

Ian Michael Gellatly, former Business Studies student, 2000

Dr Douglas Hall OBE, DUUniv, 2009

Alex Horspool (née Slinger), BA DipEd Education/English Studies, 1985

Dr Charles Jencks, DUUniv, 2014

Ray Kent, former Senior Lecturer in Marketing

Donald McCaffer, Cert Tertiary Education with TQFE, 2008

Professor David Mayes, retired member of staff from Accounting, Finance & Law

Andrea Mosely, BA Fine Art, 1982

Dr Leslie Murray, DUUniv, 1992

Jennifer Nichol, BA (Hons) Business Studies, 2000

Senator Feargal Quinn, DUUniv, 2012

Emeritus Professor Keith Smith, retired member of staff from Biological and Environmental Services.

Elizabeth Sweeney, BSc Psychology, 1981

Quintin Tan, BA Accountancy, 1984

Ian Ward, former Finance Officer

Dr Adam Watson, DUUniv, 1996

Contacting friends

Hannah Jefferies has lost contact with Anne, an Environmental Sciences graduate of 1999 to 2000 who now teaches in a forest school. Hannah can be contacted via fbh1985@hotmail.com.

Susan Brown, BSc Psychology 1998, is looking for Joanne (Joe) Mansfield, BA Business/Sociology 1999.

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 and update your contact preferences at <http://stir.ac.uk/21d>

Twitter



Facebook



LinkedIn



Instagram



A year to remember

From informal gatherings to overseas reunions, we thank all alumni who have supported these events. Visit <http://stir.ac.uk/2va>.



Bangkok – 15 February
Our guests enjoying their dinner at the Scottish Universities-McDucation event at the Food Loft.



New York – 5 April
Debbie Miller (right), Head of Global Alumni and Business Engagement, with alumni at the Scottish Universities reception.



New York – 6 April
The Stirling contingent flying the flag.



Guangzhou – 11 April
The first ever reunion to be held in Guangzhou.



Shanghai – 13 April
Another highly successful Shanghai reunion.



Beijing – 14 April
Jen Forman (right), Alumni Relations Manager with Dr Eddie Moran (second from left) and guests.



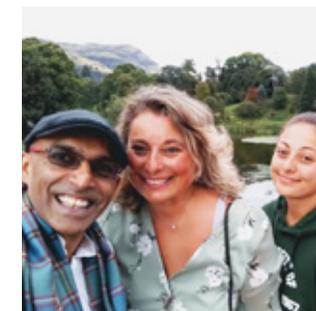
Limassol – 20 April
Thank you to volunteer Maria Hadjivassiliou (far right) for organising the reunion.



Delhi – 24 May
Professor George Burt (fifth from right) hosted our Delhi alumni reception.



Paris – 16 July
Alumni ambassador, Amanda Bouin (second from left) with guests at the British Embassy.



MBA Reunion – 23 to 26 August
Thank you to Bela Evers (MBA Marketing 1990) for capturing the weekend: Forty two alumni including a few family members got together on campus for a 30-year reunion weekend. The MBA, MSc Investment Analysis and MEd group from 1989 to 1990 was so special for many of us and we simply picked up from where we left off. It was amazing to see fellow ex-students from Hong Kong, America, and all over Europe. It was truly a special weekend with a fantastic group of people. We won't wait 30 years for the next reunion, that's for sure.

Forthcoming events in 2020

Royal Scottish Geographical Society – Inspiring People: Illustrated Public Talks

15 January – Lauren MacCallum, Activism Through Adventure

12 February – Leon McCarron, Journey to Xuefeng Mountain

11 March – Bruce Gittings, Chile: A Land of Surprises

The Stirling Network launch – 22 January (4:00pm – 6:00pm) Pathfoot Building

Sharpen your skills as a mentee or mentor with our parallel masterclasses, followed by a networking social event! Join us for a drink, learn more about what *The Stirling Network* can do for you, and build new connections. Email tsn@stir.ac.uk to register your interest.

Open Day – 6 June (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. <http://stir.ac.uk/2vb>.

University of Stirling Golf AMAM 2019

In May, 15 teams descended upon Mar Hall Golf Resort for the annual Stirling AMAM tournament in support of the University's performance golf programme.

Teams enjoyed glorious sunshine and stunning views across the River Clyde as they took on the challenging course, playing alongside the University's elite golf scholars.

Over £20,000 was raised on the day for our golf scholarship programme, cementing Stirling's reputation as one of the best performance golf programmes in the world.

Save the Date for 2020

Join us at Gleddoch Hotel, Spa and Golf on Friday 22 May for the University's 10th anniversary AMAM, with special guest Dr Bernard Gallacher OBE.



To register your team, please email Rory Traynor at philanthropy@stir.ac.uk.

The Sociology of Bridge and *Keep Bridge Alive* campaign

The Sociology of Bridge is a research project and emerging academic field exploring interactions within the mind sport. The project considers wellbeing, healthy ageing and social connection as experienced in the bridge world.

Fewer people are playing bridge and there is a fear within the bridge community that the game will become extinct if a new generation of players are not recruited. Last November, the University launched a global *Keep Bridge Alive* campaign to publicise the benefits of the game.



A *Keep Bridge Alive* Pro-Am event, including a special guest appearance by Victoria Coren Mitchell, takes place in February in London. The event will give amateur players an opportunity to play with professional bridge players, including Sabine Auken (Germany), David Bakhshi (UK), Dennis Bilde (Denmark), Boye

Brogeland (Norway), David Gold (UK), Fredrik Helness (Norway), Zia Mahmood (USA), Artur Malinowski (UK) and Roy Welland (USA).

For more information, email philanthropy@stir.ac.uk.

To donate to the campaign, visit <http://stir.ac.uk/2u8>.

Realising your potential – our approach

The University selects students based on both ability and potential. We don't just look at grades – we look at the information provided across the application form to assess the potential of each student.

Specific support is provided for young people with a background in care, as well as for students who have caring responsibilities. We also have specific routes into University for college students and mature students, and work closely with schools to raise the aspirations of young people who are less likely to consider continuing into higher education.

We already provide a number of funded scholarships for young people from a care experienced background, or who are suffering financial hardship, but for every student we are able to support, another ten apply.

Widening participation (WP) in higher education (HE) is a strategic priority for the UK and Scottish governments and the HE sector.

WP aims to address the large discrepancies in the take-up of HE opportunities between different social groups. The Scottish government has an ambitious goal to ensure that by 2030 students from the most deprived 20% of backgrounds should represent at least 20% of entrants to HE.

The University is committed to enabling students from all backgrounds to achieve their full potential. At Stirling, we believe that everyone has the potential to succeed and actively encourage applications from students who can be considered as coming from non-traditional groups. We work with students, their parents, guardians and advisers to help find the right route into university for them. We provide tailored

packages of support to make sure that their time at university is as rich and fulfilling as that of any other student.

We work to raise aspirations and educational attainment among prospective students from under-represented groups, to:

- Prepare them for HE
- Ensure success throughout their programme of study
- Improve their employment prospects
- Open possibilities for postgraduate study
- Inspire opportunities for lifelong learning

We are committed to helping every one of these students and will be launching a Realise Your Potential bursary fund this year to ensure that more students than ever before have the opportunity to study at Stirling.

If you would like to hear more about our WP programme or our new bursary fund, email Lesley Dugan at philanthropy@stir.ac.uk.





Dr Dee Amy-Chinn, a lecturer in Communication, Media and Culture at Stirling. Her legacy funds an annual scholarship on the Masters programme in Gender Studies, which she co-founded.

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, scholarships, or contribute to a capital project that ultimately improves 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, after providing for family and friends, is the highest honour the institution will receive. For those that have done so, it was their way of thanking Stirling for giving them so many opportunities. Your gift can create opportunities too.

If you would like a copy of the legacy brochure, please contact Kerry Bryson on DirectorAdvancement@stir.ac.uk or +44 (0)1786 466678.