

UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING



Stirling **MINDS**

FOR ALUMNI, STAFF AND FRIENDS

2022/2023

Welcome



Dear alumni and friends,

A very warm welcome to our latest edition of Stirling Minds!

It has been two years since our last magazine was published. During this time, the world has been coping in a variety of ways with the fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, which presented a range of challenges to all economies around the world, as well as unprecedented changes to our lives. Without wishing to

play down the negative impacts which have been widely reported in mainstream media and social media alike, I am sure you would agree that we have all emerged from the pandemic wiser, more resilient and more tech-savvy.

The silver lining of Covid-19 is that it has no doubt expanded our capacity to be creative in the way we each continue with our work and life. As a University, we have continued to function effectively, albeit in ways we did not think possible, with more international students joining our communities of learning in a manner that works for them which makes a difference to the world and our ever-growing global network of alumni.

In this edition we have incorporated the Donor News, our magazine for donors, ambassadors and friends, which outlines how your donations have impacted student life

at Stirling. Every donation to The Stirling Fund and other campaigns really does make a difference. Thank you!

As we gradually leave the pandemic behind us and open a new chapter in our life, I would like to wish you and your loved ones continued success, happiness and fulfilment wherever you are and that you BE STIRLING in everything you do.

If you have any feedback on the magazine or any aspect of the University, please contact me at [✉ alumni@stir.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@stir.ac.uk).

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Zhuang', written in a cursive style.

Dr Lee Zhuang
Executive Director,
Internationalisation and
Partnerships

Keeping in touch

Remember to let us know when you change address!

You can do this by completing the form at [✉ www.stir.ac.uk/keepintouch](http://www.stir.ac.uk/keepintouch) or by emailing alumni@stir.ac.uk.

Contents

- 4 Campus news
- 6 Alumni news
- 8 Honorary graduates
- 10 Donor News
- 16 International focus
- 17 Opt in and keep in touch
- 18 UK Alumni Scholarship
- 19 Class notes
- 22 Condolences
- 23 Alumni events
- 24 The Stirling Fund

6



8



16



23



Produced by the Directorate for Internationalisation and Partnerships: Jennifer Forman; Gordon Leonard; Jack McCann; Alex McKenna; Michelle Ondah and Lee Zhuang.

Design: Arken Creative.

Photography: Jenny Beckett; Mark Ferguson; Jeff Holmes; Elaine Livingstone; George Vekic and David Wirawan.

This publication can be made available in different formats. Contact alumni@stir.ac.uk.

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



Advancement team from left to right: Michelle Ondah, Alex McKenna, Jennifer Forman and Jack McCann.

Coronation awards joy for Caitlin

Caitlin Turner, a 2021 BSc (Hons) Marine Biology graduate, was recognised by Their Majesties, The King and The Queen Consort as part of the official Coronation celebrations, recognising her outstanding volunteer work.

As founder of the University's Marine Conservation Society and serving as its President, Caitlin made a significant impact on marine conservation efforts and the student community. Additionally, she served as the Students' Union Sustainability Officer and volunteered with the Marine Conservation Society. Caitlin's dedication to sustainability and the environment led to her nomination amongst almost 5,000 entries.

On receiving her award, she said: "I'm grateful to have had my efforts recognised through my nomination as a Coronation Champion and will continue to do all I can to protect and conserve our seas."

Caitlin recently attended the Coronation Garden Party at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, where she received her official Coronation Champions pin and certificate.



Expert on ageing appointed to influential government taskforce

Professor of Gerontology, Judith Phillips, has joined the Older People's Housing Taskforce which will work across housing, health and care sectors to drive an increase in the volume and range of housing options and advise the UK Government.

Professor Phillips said: "I am delighted to be appointed to the Older People's Housing Taskforce to help shape recommendations for improving housing options for older people in later life.

"It is important that we have a robust evidence base, particularly in terms of what matters to older people and I look forward to contributing to the development of policy in this area."

The panel will include 19 members with expertise from the social and private retirement sector, local government, adult social care, and from investors and developers.

Professor Phillips is a leading researcher in the field of social, behavioural and environmental aspects of ageing. She has contributed to advancing the field of gerontology, both theoretically and empirically, and has guided UK policy and practice on ageing issues. She is currently Deputy Principal (Research) at the University where she is responsible for the strategic direction of research.

Read more about the University's research at www.stir.ac.uk/research.



Recognition for Campus Central

The University's Campus Central development has won a prestigious national architecture award as one of seven winners in Scotland at the 2023 Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) Awards.

It has also been shortlisted for the 2023 RIAS Andrew Doolan Best Building in Scotland Award. The three-story complex opened in 2021 after a £23m redevelopment, and features digitally connected spaces for socialising and study, as well as shops, cafés and the Student Services Hub. The project has significantly enhanced the University campus, fostering connections and helping to elevate the student experience.

Stirling Management School (SMS) continues to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with the Help to Grow: Management Course

SMS is to continue working with local business leaders to support their growth journey after committing to future cohorts and ongoing alumni support.

The Help to Grow: Management Course is having a direct and positive impact on SMEs, from enhanced productivity to empowered leadership. In a recent University survey, the vast majority (90%) of business leaders were satisfied with the course – and by implementing changes in their businesses have recorded increases in revenue/sales.

SMS and the wider University are continuing to work with business leaders via student placements, consultancy projects, events and public lectures.

The Department for Business and Trade published a UK-wide evaluation of the course which highlighted how the delivery has supported business leaders, including those from under-represented demographics, with 91% of respondents confirming that they would recommend the course to their peers.

If you would like to find out more, visit

👉 www.stir.ac.uk/helptogrow.

HM Government

BOOST YOUR BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR ONLY £750

IT COULD BE THE BEST INVESTMENT YOU MAKE

HELP TO GROW
MANAGEMENT COURSE

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING



Sharing your memories

Stirling Makar and alumna, Laura Fyfe (MLitt Creative Writing, 2016) was asked to collate memories, anecdotes and sensory details from our student and alumni community to compose a collective poem that could be shared worldwide. We hope you enjoy reminiscing and are transported back to life on campus.

Here we learned how to make a difference.

Here we nurtured our dreams
and **became** the difference.

Laura (Turnbull) Fyfe

Interrobang*

Return again to the days we mapped out what the world could be, the nights we spanned a thousand possible lives. Home for a while.

Look again with your eyes wide open:

the ground lusters, restless and layered with memory // light as the darting of damselflies // quick as loch shimmer // fleeting as the pip of oystercatchers // the soft silver of rabbit fur in the gloaming // sky-haze and distant hills // castles settled in mist

the trees hold our secrets, shed them // blossom on the breeze lines our path // following the curve of swan-sails, the rough call of crows // blue whale bones rest // halls gaze down on water reflecting on the movement of clouds // sunshine unfurls us // the ground shifts with infant frogs // metamorphosis complete, all they must do is grow

rain thunders // the landscape melts down glass // mascara on foam-partied faces // treading boards and sticky floors // air – heavy with stale beer and white musk // sweet with burnt brownie smoke-machine dust // dissipates on the link bridge // carries you to half-awake ears // in single rooms with single beds

// white breezeblock disrupted by creased posters // fingerprint-tacky photos // the only alarm we know is caused by singed toast // in our pyjamas, we wait for siren silence // suffer only shivers

we discover new notes // find friendship with bears // meet those we'll walk down aisles with // others who streak through football fields // Green Meanies follow to the tinny dissonance of Airthrey Radio // wind rattles windowpanes // wakes you to a song that pulls you towards

the hum of the library // fluorescent lights and paper shuffling // corridors of books // lined with cadaverous thought // words that circle back on themselves // find answers in Final Flings, leaves and the flight of squirrel-tails // there are no edges, only margins // where we wander to the ring of bluebells // the surprise of stags // the mind is a blade that sharpens with the asking // "What ever happened to that Mini on the loch?"

years of adding ink to paper // the least and most of which // that one last page // bound with ribbon // you feel your life shift in your hands // the unravelling of truth // searching for a vision of

the world we live now
where new footsteps follow
our old paths.

As young as we once were
and as fortunate.

*the interrobang (?!) is a punctuation mark depicting both a question mark and exclamation, and so could be considered a perfect symbol of youthful exploration and study. It came into general use around the same time that the University first opened its doors.

Dedicated to my fellow alumni of the University of Stirling.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.
We have included your name in our blog at

👉 stir.ac.uk/5x6.



Media Management graduate named as top 75 achiever

Stirling MSc Media Management 2004 graduate, Rohit Jaiswal, was honoured as one of the top 75 young Indian alumni of the UK.

The accolade was presented by the National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK to mark India's 75th anniversary of independence by celebrating 75 Indian change-makers who have studied in the UK. After graduating, Rohit returned to India and worked at The Times of India and New Delhi Television Limited, eventually becoming the Vice President & Head (Distribution & Affiliates), before co-founding his own media company. Rohit said: "I am honoured to receive this recognition and I want to use this joyous moment to thank my family, friends, the institutions where I have studied, including Stirling, and the people who I work with within the media industry."

Meet the 2023 honorary graduates

The class of 2023 will join an alumni community of more than 105,000 located in 180 countries. Visit www.stir.ac.uk/news/gallery/ for graduation photos.



Grant F Reid

Recognised for his positive impact in business, including an emphasis on climate change and sustainability, Stirling graduate Grant is the former CEO of Mars Incorporated.

Grant is Chair of the Sustainable Markets Initiative Agribusiness Taskforce, a Board Member of Marriott International, and a Private Equity Partner. As CEO, he led Mars through significant growth, focusing on talent, sustainability, and digital transformation. He is involved in philanthropy, having established the Reid Family Foundation to provide scholarships for disadvantaged Stirling students.

Her Majesty Queen Sylvia of Sweden

Recognised for her exceptional services to dementia, Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden holds close relations with the University through her charity foundation, Silviahemmet.

The Silviahemmet Foundation was created in 1996 by Queen Silvia to promote research and education in multiple areas including dementia. It provides certification for care units specialising in dementia care and actively contributes to a groundbreaking research project led by experts from the University.



Robert Dow Kilgour

Alumnus Robert is a notable entrepreneur, investor, property developer, and philanthropist. With a wide range of business ventures, including local radio, insurance, and care homes, he has established himself as a prominent Scottish figure.

As the Executive Chairman of Renaissance Care and the founder of Four Seasons Health Care, Robert demonstrates his expertise in the healthcare industry. Notably, his entrepreneurial journey began during his student years at Stirling, when he sold jeans and t-shirts at a stall in Edinburgh's Ingliston outdoor market.

Dr Sally Witcher OBE

Sally received the award of Doctor of the University in recognition of her outstanding contribution to improvements in the lives of disabled people.

Dr Witcher has had leadership roles in several sectors, including heading the Child Poverty Action Group. She chaired the Scottish Commission on Social Security and as CEO of Inclusion Scotland, she expanded and prioritised the involvement of disabled individuals in policymaking.



Professor Kathleen Jamie

Recognised for her outstanding contribution to literature, Professor Jamie is an acclaimed poet, essayist, and non-fiction author, having received numerous awards for her poetry collections, including the Costa Poetry Prize and the Forward Prize for Poetry.

She was a Professor of Creative Writing at the University and in 2017 was appointed as Scotland's Makar, the National Poet. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and the Royal Society of Edinburgh.



Khadija Coll MBE

Recognised for her work with refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland and Africa, Khadija is the founder of One Community Scotland, a charity supporting families and young people settling here.

Khadija was born in Kenya and has lived in Scotland since 1998, where she is a long-time campaigner against female genital mutilation and gender-based violence. Khadija's unwavering dedication has seen her actively lead and participate in charity initiatives that have positively transformed the lives of countless vulnerable individuals.



Malky Kane

Malky's exceptional contributions to social work education were acknowledged with an honorary degree in absentia – sadly he passed away in May following a period of illness.

With his lived experience of mental ill health, Malky devoted a significant portion of his life to educating future social workers and nurses about mental health experiences and support services. In 2005, he co-founded Unity, a renowned group at the University that garnered national and international acclaim for its innovative approach.



Last year the University awarded Honorary Degrees to the following individuals for achievements in their respective fields:

Catriona Matthew OBE, Professor Sir Ian Boyd FRS, Lewis Pugh, Mike Robinson, David Smith MBE, Lydia Okroj, Dr Mathis Wackernagel, Dr Malcolm Fairweather, and Dr Angela Mudge.

Sweet Success

Kincardine-born Grant Reid is Chair of the Sustainable Markets Initiative (SMI) Agribusiness Taskforce; Board Member, Marriott International; a Private Equity Partner; and former CEO of Mars Incorporated.

“Since studying at the University, I’ve long held a close affinity with this great institution. I’m so proud to be commended with an honorary doctorate recognising the positive impact I’ve had in business, particularly the 30 years or more that I committed to helping Mars grow, with over eight years as its CEO.”



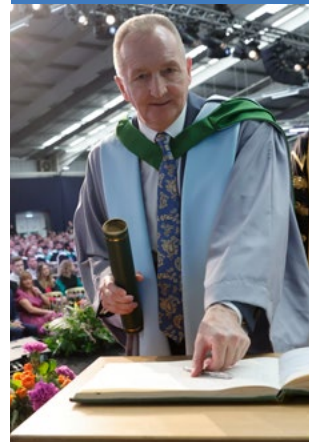
Grant graduated from Stirling in 1982 with an honours degree in Management Economics followed by marketing qualifications from the Chartered Institute of Marketing. Until the end of 2022, Grant served as CEO of Mars, leading a talent, sustainability and digital transformation agenda and garnered a substantial portfolio. As of the end of 2022, with operations in more than 80 countries, 140,000 Associates and net sales of well over \$45 billion, Mars has a significant economic, environmental and social footprint serving billions of consumers and their pets. Grant twinned an ambitious

growth programme that saw sales grow by over 50%, with a bold leadership agenda on value creation, climate action and sustainability.

Grant is a family man, married to Jennifer with two children, Cameron and Charlotte. He is a classic car enthusiast with a love of dogs, Scottish rugby and judo. In 2022 he established the Reid Family Foundation providing scholarships for Stirling students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Grant and his family are passionate about supporting the next generation of students, particularly those with potential but not necessarily the means to undertake study.

Above: Grant with Charlotte, Jennifer and Cameron.

Below: Grant signs the Honorary Graduates’ register.



We sat down with Grant to find out more about his time at Stirling and advice for the next generation of leaders:

Fondest memory on campus

Seeing the pride on my parents' faces on graduation day as they strolled around the campus. It was a beautiful sunny day and a lovely memory.

Best teacher/staff member

I recently found my 1982 Honours Dissertation on Keynesian Economics, where I thanked Sheila C Dow for her invaluable contributions. Thank you Sheila, for your empathy and for making a difference.

What did you want to be when you were young

Easy – A famous Scottish racing driver like my heroes Jim Clark and Jackie Stewart.

Favourite hobby

I love strength and conditioning training, and historic car racing.

A surprising fact

I did some interesting jobs while studying at Stirling. I made glass bottles at Alloa Glass Works, I was a brick layer's labourer building house extensions, and I was a painter on Kincardine Bridge!

Advice for future students

First, choose Stirling! When you graduate, find a role that has a purpose, that resonates with you and makes a difference. When your passion and purpose align you can bring your best 'you' to work every day.



Living well

We believe that brain fitness is as important as physical fitness and that bridge as a sport could be the key to maximising this across all ages.

The 'Bridge: A MindSport for All' research project was launched in 2019 by Professor Sam Punch. The project explores key themes of the University, specifically addressing the needs of a society with a focus on wellbeing and mental health. Bridge is a sport for all ages, although tends to be more popular among the older generation.

As the global population continues to live longer, this presents significant challenges to health, long-term care and the economy. By delving into the health and wellbeing of bridge players, we can demonstrate how the sport fosters immersion, enhances focus, and promotes clear thinking. Bridge not only improves mental health but also nurtures essential life skills such as empathy, cooperation, and problem-solving. As a mind sport, bridge has the potential to tackle significant societal issues such as social isolation and loneliness, helping a society where community cohesion and intergenerational relations are gradually diminishing.

The academic evidence required to allow the project to move to phase two, enabling us to work in partnership with bridge organisations and practitioners, is continually growing and developing. Partnerships will allow for the future collaboration between teachers, social workers, care homes, as well as bridge players and organisers.

Thanks to generous donations, the project has raised over £500k.

If you are interested in learning more and would like to make a donation, contact alumni@stir.ac.uk.

Donors and supporters evening

Thank you to our supporters who attended our first in-person event following Covid-19, held on 15 June 2023 in our Campus Central building. It was great to reconnect with old friends and meet new faces, and we look forward to more events over the coming year.



Alex McKenna (centre) with Hugh Edmond (left) and Ernest Young (right) from The Royal Arch Masons.



Agnes Hewitt-Smith (class of 1983) and her husband Julian Smith.



From left to right Dr Mike Robinson DUniv (class of 1988), Jennifer Forman and Hamish Steedman (class of 1980).



Enoch Adeyemi (class of 2007) and his wife Sade Adeyemi.



From left to right Professor Malcolm Macleod, Ailidh Aikman and Lynsey Hutchinson (Dementia Services Development Centre) and Dr Lee Zhuang.

Sporting triumphs unveiled

As Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence, our high-performance athletes are continually rewarded for their hard work and dedication to their sports.

Lorna McClymont, a Sports Studies student at the University, continues to make waves in the world of golf. Following her recent victory at the Women's Welsh Open, she has retained the Women's Irish Open Title. Her exceptional achievements highlight the support provided by the University Golf Programme, backed by the MacLeod Foundation, Stanley Morrison Trust, The Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, and Ian Thomson Fund donors.

The University men's football team wrapped up an incredible season, clinching their third title in a remarkable eight-competition campaign. Their journey culminated in a historic victory in the East of Scotland Qualifying Cup, a noteworthy achievement after their progress to the Fourth Round of the Scottish Cup.

Supporting the team's journey was a high-profile marketing campaign featuring messages of support from honorary graduates and renowned football legends, **Sir Alex Ferguson** and **Lilian Thuram**. The campaign was recently honoured with the prestigious Herald Higher Education Award for Marketing/Public Relations Campaign of the Year.



Lorna McClymont

Competing at the highest level in sports requires substantial resources. We extend our gratitude to the Taylor Family Foundation, AM Ross Foundation, and Reid Family Foundation for their dedication in ensuring our students can fully focus on their athletic performance alongside academic commitments.

If you are interested in supporting a sports programme or athlete, contact Alex McKenna, Fundraising Manager on alexandra.mckenna@stir.ac.uk.



Funds with impact

The University, with the support of our alumni community, has established three vital pots of funding to support our student community and develop research in dementia care.

Show your support
by donating now via:



or email
✉ alumni@stir.ac.uk



Innovating solutions to tackle dementia care

The Dementia Fund exists to provide Stirling professionals with critical funding towards their work. Our ongoing dementia research has the potential to bring about positive, lasting, and meaningful improvements in the lives of those with dementia, as well as their families and carers. The Dementia Design Tool is a recently funded project that will help individuals transform spaces to be more dementia friendly. See

🔗 www.dementia.stir.ac.uk/eaddat-getting-started.

Breaking down financial barriers for student success

Financial struggles shouldn't hinder a student's potential. The Hardship Fund is an emergency fund for students experiencing financial difficulty, due to an unexpected incident or set of circumstances. This lifeline has helped many students remain and complete their degrees, including students like Jacqueline, who said:

“I used the Hardship Fund in my third year of university, and I can safely say that without it I would have had to face potentially dropping out.”

350+
funded
projects
since 2001

Empowering students

In 2022, the Stirling Fund supported 20 projects that enabled students to develop skills and knowledge that will set them apart in the workforce. The projects included:

- Fieldwork clothing library (Environment Enterprises Society) – ensuring that no student is at a disadvantage.
- Sensory room in Campus Central (Disabled Students Association Stirling) – providing a safe and calm space for anyone in need.
- New Podcasting Society – skilling up students in digital media and enabling AirTV and Brig Newspaper to reach a larger audience.

The Stirling & Clackmannanshire City Region Deal

Building on the £214 million investment in the future of the region and unlocking potential to drive economic growth, productivity and prosperity.

Transforming food security

The UK's National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub (NATIH) has been awarded a £1 million Wolfson Foundation grant in support of research to improve the economic, social and environmental benefits of aquaculture. With over a billion people relying on seafood as their main source of animal protein, innovative solutions are required to strengthen the global food supply and narrow the gap between rich and poor.

Professor Simon MacKenzie, Head of the Institute of Aquaculture, said: "The call from the Wolfson Foundation was for high quality research with clear impact, and we're delighted the judges recognised NATIH's potential to support sustainable, resilient and secure aquatic food systems that enable health and prosperity for people and for the planet."

Investment in the Institute of Aquaculture's scholarship programme continues to grow. We would like to thank this support from:

- Open Philanthropy
- Ronald Miller Foundation
- Mister Gees Foundation
- MSD Animal Welfare – a scholarship in memory of alumnus Nikos Steiropoulos.



Artist's impression of the NATIH, due to open in 2024.

Skilling up the next generation

Supporting our young workforce is a key objective of the City Region Deal. A landmark initiative has been launched between the University and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) that will create employment opportunities for young people across the Forth Valley area.

The innovative scheme will see the University link employers with schools in partnership with DYW, a Scottish Government-funded programme which aims to prepare learners for their transition into the world of work.

"Through this partnership, it is our aim to empower employers to build a skilled workforce by putting young people at the heart of their operations." (Clare Flynn, DYW Regional Lead)



Partnerships with a global impact

After international travel became possible again, University staff made trips to overseas partnerships to enhance our internationalisation activities.

On 28 September 2022, nearly 100 graduates at the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) received their awards at the first in-person graduation ceremony in three years. On behalf of the University, Professor Neville Wylie, Deputy Principal (Internationalisation) led the ceremony, awarding students with degrees for BA Retail Marketing, BA Marketing, BA Sports Studies and Marketing, and BA Events Management. Plans are underway to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Stirling-SIM partnership with a larger graduation ceremony in 2023, when over 150 students will be graduating with a Stirling degree.

Another ceremony took place at the University's partnership in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE. This celebration saw the first cohort of students receive their awards on 10 December 2022 and marked another significant milestone for the University. Dr Lee Zhuang, Executive Director Internationalisation and Partnerships, and Dr Mario Kolberg, Associate Dean for Internationalisation, Faculty of Natural Sciences, represented the University and handed out awards. Graduates from Ras Al Khaimah also made the trip to attend the Stirling winter 2022 graduation to collect their certificates in person.

Rui Brown, International Progression and Research Partnership Manager, made a fruitful visit to China in the spring of 2023 travelling across the country to meet with new partners in Beijing, Shanghai, Dalian, Wuhan and Chengdu. Rui was also able to witness the intense preparations in Chengdu for the World Student

Games, where our partner Chengdu University (CDU) hosts the athletes' village, providing logistical and accommodation support for the event. The continued partnership of both Stirling and CDU through the themes of sport, digital media and data science continue to be strengthened through such developments.



Dr Lee Zhuang presenting the awards.

If you would like to find out more about our international teaching partnerships, you can visit stir.ac.uk/9ir or contact the Partnerships Team at internationalpartnerships@stir.ac.uk.

Choose how we contact you

Over 22,000 alumni, supporters and friends of the University have asked to be kept updated by email. If you'd like to hear from us with invitations to events, University news and opportunities to engage with students and your fellow alumni, please update your communication preferences by scanning the QR code below or contact us at alumni@stir.ac.uk.

Please note that, as part of the University's drive for 'Net Zero', all future copies of Stirling Minds will only be sent to people who have opted in, so make sure you are on our mailing list!

To find out how your data will be stored, who has access to it, and how it will be used, please read our Privacy Statement at stir.ac.uk/9ic.

Update your communication preferences via:



or email

alumni@stir.ac.uk



15% UK Alumni Scholarship

Considering a postgraduate degree?

Graduates from the UK or Republic of Ireland are eligible for an Alumni Scholarship offering 15% discount off postgraduate tuition fees.

A SAAS loan of up to £11,500 is available to eligible Scottish students; the UK Government's postgraduate loan scheme offers English/Republic of Ireland students up to £12,167; Student Finance Northern Ireland offers up to £5,500, and Student Finance Wales up to £18,700.

To find out more and to apply, visit:
stir.ac.uk/ukalumnischolarship

UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING



Where are they now?

Thank you for submitting your class notes. If you would like to be considered for the next magazine, send your news to Jennifer Forman, Alumni Relations Manager on alumni@stir.ac.uk.



📍 2020s

**Jack McCann, BA (Hons)
Digital Media 2020**



Since finishing my degree, I completed a Diploma in Digital Marketing and have worked at an International School as well as a Homecare company, both in marketing. I am happy to say that I'm back at the University of Stirling as the new Alumni Engagement Officer in the Advancement Team!

📍 2010s

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



After recently purchasing my new flat in Glasgow as a first-time homeowner, I have also started a new job as an HR Assistant. I work within the Government Commercial Function in the UK Civil Service, a cross-government department procuring or supporting the procurement of goods and services for the UK Government.

**Dr Aida Mokhtar, PhD Film,
Media & Journalism 2011**



I am currently Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). I lecture, research and write on integrated marketing communication and advertising ethics. Do email me at aidam@iium.edu.my if you are interested in collaborating with me on research projects or publications.

📍 2000s

Elyse Saviet, MLitt
Publishing Studies 2008



I was also a study abroad student in 2006 and married Matthew Murphy on 12 November 2022 at Paramount Country Club in New City, New York. Stirling alumni in attendance included Reena (Grewal) Johal, Helle (Selnæs) Palmer, Weiwei Wang and Kelley Whalen.

Frankie Har, BA English as a Foreign Language 2003



I obtained my MA in Language Studies from Lancaster University and PGDE (English) from The University of Hong Kong. I'm an instructor in the English Language Centre, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. My research interests are in the areas of second language acquisition, discourse analysis, educational technology, translanguaging and bilingualism. My publications appeared in the RELC Journal, Springer Nature edited books and in the edited book volume "Argumentative Writing in a Second Language: Perspectives on Research and Pedagogy" (Editors: Alan Hirvela & Diane Belcher) published by the University of Michigan Press.

📍 1990s

Debi Schofield (née Chaudhuri), MSc Public Relations 1995 and BA (Hons) Marketing 1993



I've finally taken the plunge and written my first children's book. "Tommy and the Golden Apple" is for 6-12 year olds. Its central message is: be grateful for what you have and appreciate the simple things in life. See [📞 stir.ac.uk/9ib](https://www.stir.ac.uk/9ib). I work part time at a primary school in London and home school my teenage son. Stirling made a huge impression on me, and it was there that I made lifelong friendships and met some awesome tutors. I also experienced the beauty of Scotland and those years will be with me forever in the form of happy memories at the Gannochy and Meadowpark!

Dr Martin Gallagher, BA (Hons) Philosophy 1994



I've had a busy last 12 months. After turning 50, I graduated with a PhD from Lancaster University and retired from policing, having finished my career as a Superintendent. My first bit of freedom was walking Hadrian's Wall in December. Warmer climes call next, plenty more walking to come.

Stan Shires, BA (Hons) Marketing 1994



I am really enjoying being in my new band, Weston Union. It's such a great way to let off steam belting out rock classics to an audience! I went on a motorbike tour of Scotland at the end of May, visiting Skye and Mull and I'm also working on improving my golf.

Dr William McGrew, PhD Social Anthropology 1990



Sequestering during Covid gave me the time to finish an academic memoir, entitled "Chasing after Chimpanzees: The Making of a Primatologist" (Mereo Books, [📞 www.mereobooks.co.uk](https://www.mereobooks.co.uk)), now published. It is based on 40 years of field study of wild chimpanzees, across Africa, undertaken during my time at Stirling when I was an academic member of staff. I'm now retired but keep a hand in, as an Hon. Prof. in Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of St Andrews.

📍 1980s

Stephen Kee, MBA
Marketing 1987



In 2016 I was suddenly struck by a virus causing end stage heart failure. I was airlifted to the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle, receiving a heart transplant with days to live. I have recently been appointed Secretary and a Trustee of the Freeman Heart and Lung Transplant Association. I now lead an active life due to the generosity of my donor.

Alan Henderson, BSc
(Hons) Biochemistry 1985



Nearing 60 with trepidation while stringing a few words together for a crust. Surprising doctors and nurses with my personal experience of biochemistry relating to heart disease and type-2 diabetes. Solvent, married with grown-up kids and so normal it hurts. Find me 'lost in music' and lamenting lost youth at 'University of Stirling in the early 1980s' on Facebook.

📍 1970s

Barbara Stevens (née Blackwell), BA (Hons)
History 1978



I'm currently an England Masters international athlete (yes, really). No one would have seen that coming if they'd watched me try to play badminton in the Barracuda!

Marion Rondot-Hay, BA
English Studies 1974



I am the president of the Patrick Geddes France Association, Montpellier, France where Geddes founded the Scots College in 1924. We are very busy organising the centenary of the Scots College in October 2024. We have invited Professor Sian Reynolds to come and speak (Chair in French, Stirling, 1990). See patrickgeddesfrance.org.

📍 1960s

Kulasena Attygalla, MSc
Education 1968



I was a postgraduate student in 1967. At that time, the Pathfoot building was under construction and the Education Faculty was in the basement of the house occupied by the Principal, Dr Tom Cottrell. My thesis was on "New trends in biology teaching with special reference to the problems to be faced in Ceylon in terms of syllabus revision, teacher training and facilities in the schools". In Sri Lanka, I served the Department of Education as an Inspector of Schools, Education Officer and as a Director of Education and retired in 1990.

Condolences

The University regrets to announce the following deaths:

Hilary Martin (née Newth), MSc Marketing 2018

Rebecca Mathers, GradDip Law (Civil Litigation) 2018

Kim Grant, MBA Public Service Management 2012

Baroness Sally Greengross, DUniv 2012

Daniel Bournier, MLitt Publishing Studies 2009

Dr Sylvia Jackson, MA 2009

John Paterson, MA 2000

Dr Ross Flockhart, DUniv 1999

Dr Mostafa Hossain, PhD Aquaculture 1998

Dr Bob Bomont, DUniv 1996 and former University Secretary

Sir Bruce Pattullo, CBE DUniv 1996

Dr Jean Balfour, CBE DUniv 1992

Sir Crispin Tickell, DUniv 1990

Paul McQuaid, BSc (Hons) Management Science and Marketing 1988

David Allan, BA (Hons) English Language/Literature 1985

Denis Patterson, BSc (Hons) Biology 1984

Richard Collins, MSc Aquatic Veterinary Studies 1983

Angus Collins, BSc Psychology 1980

David Halliday, BA History/Political Studies 1979

Dr Graham Maybank, PhD Biology 1979

Catherine Joshi, BA (Hons) English/Philosophy 1978

Andy Mackie, BA Sociology/Economics 1976

Professor Justin Edwards, Chair of Gothic Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Tom Young MBE, founding member of staff from 1967 to 1979 in the glassblowing department

Contacting friends

Briar Flicker-Grossman, Visiting Student 1979-1980 – had a wonderful and life-changing year at Stirling and is planning on coming back for holiday in August. She is looking for Hilary/Hillary Gillick (BSc Biology 1983) who may have been from Milngavie and Carol/Carole Green (BSc Biology 1983) from Newcastle or Gateshead.

Quentin Reid, BA History 1980 – is looking for Justin Wylde (BA Business Studies or Accountancy 1980/81 – we think!) an old student friend/housemate who toured around Europe with him in 1978.

Professor Shelley Lane, Visiting Student 1977-1978 – lived in Geddes Court and would love to be put in contact with Peter Clark (BA Accountancy and Business Law 1979), Irene Arthur (née Dunn) (BA English 1982) and anyone else who lived in Geddes Court at that time.

If you know the whereabouts of any of these missing alumni, let us know on [✉ alumni@stir.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@stir.ac.uk).

Keeping in touch

Let us know when you change address by completing the form at [✉ www.stir.ac.uk/keepintouch](http://www.stir.ac.uk/keepintouch) or by emailing [✉ alumni@stir.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@stir.ac.uk). Follow our social media at:

Twitter

 @StirAlumni


Facebook

 Stirling University Alumni

LinkedIn

 University of Stirling Alumni - Official Group

Instagram

 stiralumni



Tartan Week in New York

– with Jennifer Forman, Alumni Relations Manager and Alex McKenna, Fundraising Manager

After an absence of four years, we were delighted to come back and see our lovely alumni. Having the job of engaging with our alumni around the world is such a privilege.

Tartan Week showcases the best of Scotland and Scottish culture, the highlight of which is the Tartan Day Parade – including pipe bands, Highland dancers, clan organisations, Scottish dog breeds and universities – and it was fabulous to have Stirling leading the university section proudly marching behind Oban High School Pipe Band!

We represented the University at the Scottish Business Network reception, hosted by Lorraine Bell, Treasurer of the Board of Directors and a GlobalScot. As well as catching up with our friends from the Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce, we met with colleagues from the Scottish Government, VisitScotland and the New York Caledonian Club.

The following day, we held our informal alumni reunion – which was our best attended yet!

For our US alumni, there are many opportunities for you to support the student community in terms of mentoring, providing

case studies and giving guest lectures.

We have also recently set up British Schools and Universities Foundation at www.bsuf.org to support tax-effective giving.

The love for Stirling is so strong and nothing can replace the face-to-face connections we make in advancement when out 'on the road'. We are so grateful to our alumni who take the time to see us, and we were thrilled to have our biggest ever group marching in the Tartan Day parade.

We can't wait to see you all again in 2024!

Forthcoming events

Singapore – Friday 22 September (7.00pm – 9.00pm)

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the partnership with Singapore Institute of Management and almost 40 years of retail marketing in Singapore. Join us at the JEN Singapore Orchardgateway by Shangri-La Hotel. Email alumni@stir.ac.uk to reserve your place.

Scottish Universities Alumni Event, London – Thursday 28 September (6.00pm – 8.30pm)

Join us at Scotland House London for an exclusive event for recent graduates who have relocated or are planning to make the move to London. This gathering offers a unique opportunity to connect with fellow alumni and build valuable networks. Spaces are limited, so we encourage you to email alumni@stir.ac.uk early to secure your spot.



Rachel Tytler – Scottish international judoka, bronze medalist at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and Stirling Fund recipient.



The Stirling Fund – elevating our students to new heights

Rachel thanked her supporters by saying:

“Without help from the fund, I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to travel the world and gain the best preparation for the Commonwealth Games so really, part of my medal belongs to you!”

If you would like to support our students, donate now by scanning this QR code: stir.ac.uk/9ih.

Contact our fundraising team on alumni@stir.ac.uk to find out how your donation can really make a difference to the lives of our students.

