

Annual Review
2015



Contents

<i>Principal's introduction</i>	4
<i>Impactful research</i>	6
<i>Researcher in focus</i>	8
<i>Inspiring teaching</i>	10
<i>Global connections</i>	12
<i>The student experience</i>	14
<i>Sporting excellence</i>	16
<i>Public engagement</i>	18
<i>The Stirling family</i>	20
<i>Delivering our vision</i>	22

Principal's introduction

In 2015, Stirling's global presence grew with strong partnerships and advances in ground-breaking research.

A successful 2015 saw Stirling's reputation as an institution of distinction further enhanced both in the UK and on the global stage, by several prestigious international rankings. We graduated over 2,900 students from more than 80 countries, and our research income was almost £11m.

Major studies were announced, with Stirling colleagues tackling issues of wide-ranging significance, from the uniqueness of human culture to freshwater ecosystem dynamics. Collaborating institutions ranged from Sheffield to Stanford, and our research and expertise was shared and made headlines around the globe. Stirling was consistently in the top 10 UK institutions for the number of monthly articles published by academics on *The Conversation* news analysis website, with our articles generating 3.3 million readers worldwide.

On campus, new Centres for Child Wellbeing and Protection, Scotland's Land Futures, and Sustainable Practice and Living were established, exemplifying cross-disciplinary and partnership approaches to big societal topics.

Underlining the high regard in which Stirling academics are held externally, Professor of Economics David Bell was appointed as a specialist advisor to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee for their Inquiry into devolution of public finances.

Our students too have been at the heart of topical debate, with the Students' Union organising 'Stirling Question Time' – the first all-candidate hustings for the Stirling constituency in the 2015 General Election campaign.

With students central to all that we do, Stirling is a responsive University constantly seeking to improve – we introduced a new academic feedback policy devised in collaboration with the Students' Union. We are also highly committed to being a community based on support, transparency and respect for equality and diversity, and this is set out in our new Student Code.

Excellent feedback in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey saw Stirling score above the sector average in eight out of nine areas, including teaching and learning, and overall satisfaction.

Plans were approved for a new central INTO Academic Centre on our Stirling campus. This is testament to the appeal of our pre-sessional education for overseas students and the importance we place on working with partners to grow our international population from a strong base.

As Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence, we were delighted at the Scottish Funding Council's four year, £2.4m investment in Winning Students – the national student sports scholarships programme we manage on behalf of the Scottish colleges and universities sector.

We cheered as Stirling scholarship golfers Jack McDonald and Cormac Sharvin helped Great Britain and Ireland to victory over the USA in the illustrious Walker Cup.

Our new Chair of Court, Fiona Sandford, latterly Executive Director of Global Business at London Business School, joined us in August. Her predecessor, Alan Simpson, was awarded an OBE for services to education in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June, reflecting his outstanding tenure at the University.

A successful institution never rests on its laurels and our Strategic Plan for 2016-21 was approved by Court in December. Developed on the basis of wide consultation and inclusive discussions, its ambitious targets confirm our commitment to transform the lives of our students, develop our staff and make a direct contribution to the community we serve.

As Stirling approaches its milestone half century anniversary, I am confident we are well placed to continue our excellent work across education, research, internationalisation and public engagement.

Professor Gerry McCormac
Principal and Vice-Chancellor



Professor Gerry McCormac, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, and Stirling graduates.

Impactful research

As a top UK research-intensive university, Stirling is committed to carrying out research that makes a difference – locally and globally – addressing real issues, providing solutions and helping to shape society.



Sports scientists and psychologists at the University have been exploring the true trauma of heading a football.

Influencing policy agendas

Researchers at Stirling carry out world-leading research that influences the agenda, shapes policy and has a positive impact on communities globally.

Strong REF performances across a range of specialisms reflect the University's far-reaching impact on communities, industry and government policy.

School of Applied Social Science

The University of Stirling's world-renowned Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) launched a £300,000 research study, funded by the Healthcare Management Trust (HMT), into how personalised physical activity could improve the lives and treatment of people with dementia living in care homes. The approach will be developed in collaboration with Health Trusts and embedded into the real world of care home provision to improve the quality of life for residents.

School of Arts and Humanities

Researchers from the University carried out the first annual study of photojournalists, which provided a revealing gender snapshot – the profession is dominated by men, with women more likely to be better educated and poorer paid. Researchers from the Communications, Media and Culture department will use data from the study to work closely with the World Press Photo Foundation to track developments and address industry challenges.

School of Education

A study by the School of Education has found that teachers who bring their pupils into the outdoors find it makes their learning more enjoyable, challenging, active and collaborative. The research shows that schools could make more use of local places to give children time outdoors at little or no cost. While outdoor learning in schools and pre-schools has increased since Curriculum for Excellence was introduced, the study highlighted that further increases could be made.

School of Health Sciences

Psychologists from the University carried out the first study to find a link between autistic traits and the creative thinking processes. The study found people with high autistic traits produced fewer responses when generating alternative solutions to a problem – known as 'divergent thinking' – however, the responses they did produce were more original and creative. The findings could help researchers understand more about the relationship between autistic traits and how the brain adapts to problem solving in the general population.

Building on REF2014 success

The results of the University's performance in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) were outstanding, with Stirling enhancing its position as one of the top research-led universities in the UK.

The University wants to build on this success and increase research capacity by 30%, focusing on key areas of research distinction: health and wellbeing; culture and society; environment and communities; enterprise and economy; and sport. Within these areas, the University continues to develop, articulate and sustain programmes of research designed to make a significant contribution to addressing key economic, societal and cultural needs, both locally and globally.

Ambitious future targets include doubling the value of externally-funded Research Grant and Contract (RGC) income over the lifetime of the new Strategic Plan to 2021 and improving further on the REF 2014 performance to reach the top 25% of institutions.

School of Natural Sciences

A world-first hearing aid which can 'see' is being developed by Stirling Computer Scientists. Designed to help users in noisy environments, the device will use a miniaturised camera that can lip read, process information in real-time, and seamlessly fuse and switch between audio and visual cues. The project has the potential to significantly improve the lives of millions of people who have hearing difficulties.

School of Sport

Sports scientists and psychologists have been exploring the true trauma of heading a football. Using a novel technique called Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS), they measured the cortico-spinal excitability, the ease with which a neural impulse travels from the brain to the muscle it controls. Initial findings from the National Institute of Health Research-funded study have identified a small, but significant, temporary brain trauma following a heading drill. The findings demonstrate the important potential of this measure in analysing sub-concussive brain changes. The Discovery Channel Canada came to campus to interview the researchers and filmed a recreation of the study – it is due to air in 2016.

Stirling Management School

The University of Stirling-led Healthy Ageing In Scotland (HAGIS) study is the first in Scotland to follow individuals and households through time. The study will capture a snapshot of the current circumstances of 1000 'over 50s' in Scotland, charting changes in their health and social circumstances over the decades and will report every two years. HAGIS is part of a worldwide network of ageing studies co-ordinated by the US National Institute of Ageing (NIA) and will be compared with findings from across the UK and around the world.

Researcher in focus

Researchers at Stirling have a global reputation for delivering world-leading research that makes a difference to people's lives — addressing key societal issues and tackling big global issues.

Dr Manfred Weidman,
Professor of Virology.

“

I'm very proud of what we have been able to achieve so far, especially the fact we are the first research team to have empowered and trained local teams to conduct the on-site tests for themselves.

**Dr Manfred Weidman,
Professor of Virology.**

Ebola fact file

Ebola virus disease (EVD) is described by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as "a severe, often fatal illness in humans."

The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.

Ebola first appeared in 1976 in two simultaneous outbreaks – in Nzara, Sudan; and in Yambuku, in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Ebola mainly affects three countries in West Africa: Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Around 27,000 cases and more than 11,000 deaths have been reported by the World Health Organisation.

Saving lives from a Stirling laboratory

Ebola made headlines across the world in 2015 with people coming together to share expertise and help tackle the epidemic in West Africa.

Stirling Virologist Dr Manfred Weidman is the only British University scientist behind a successful rapid Ebola detection test.

Dr Weidman, from the University's School of Natural Sciences, was part of a Wellcome Trust project led by the Pasteur Institute of Dakar. Together, they developed a sophisticated point-of-care saliva test, all contained within a suitcase-sized mobile laboratory. Three mobile labs are now deployed in Senegal and Guinea, the regions worst affected by Ebola, and a test evaluation of 928 samples showed it performs exceptionally run on field conditions.

"There were more than 25 laboratories in West Africa and everyone used different tests," said Dr Weidman. "Ours, which uses a method called recombinase polymerase amplification, was compared to two other tests and results showed it can be reliably used without the need for a confirmatory test, and it appears to outperform a widely used World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended test."

"There has been a huge push for robotic testing systems, but they are difficult to establish and expensive to maintain. Our project has successfully developed and deployed a low cost mobile laboratory using a rapid, highly sensitive and specific assay which can be stored at room temperature and operated by local teams with its own energy supply."

"Our test can go to the limit of detection in just six minutes," added Dr Weidman. "But the speed it takes isn't the only point. Ebola is so infectious that you have to use glove boxes to handle infectious samples. Most of these are based in makeshift tented laboratories attached to hospitals. Our mobile lab is just that, totally mobile. It includes the glove box and you can take it to any location, set it up in half an hour and then start testing."

"I'm very proud of what we have been able to achieve so far, especially the fact we are the first research team to have empowered and trained local teams to conduct the on-site tests for themselves."

"My research is as much about developing diagnostic tests for use in infrastructure poor or simple settings", said Dr Weidman. "We are looking into adapting the suitcase laboratory to other infectious diseases such as the Zika virus, which is gripping South America just now. At Stirling we are additionally adapting the system for detection of fish pathogens and other needs in aquaculture health management. Simple systems that work in West Africa should also work in the West of Scotland," he adds.

Student Nursing Times AWARDS 15



Stirling and NHS Forth Valley were crowned winners for their Psychological Trauma-informed Care Partnership at the Student Nursing Times Awards 2015.

Inspiring teaching

Stirling is committed to providing high quality teaching and developing innovative partnerships. Our world-leading academics help students reach their full potential and make the University an inspiring place to study.

Winning partnerships

The University of Stirling and NHS Forth Valley were awarded Partnership of the Year at the 2015 Student Nursing Times Awards, held in London.

The Awards celebrate the very best in nurse education, and the two institutions – sole Scottish winners – came top for their Psychological Trauma-informed Care Partnership. Linking Stirling's School of Health Sciences Mental Health team and NHS Forth Valley Mental Health Services has led to the development of ground-breaking care within Scotland.

Judges described it as: "An innovative approach with a clear impact on service users and the students. It demonstrates real collaboration and cites how a partnership can be used to improve curriculum and experience."

New ways of learning

As technology changes, the way our students and staff interact with the sources of knowledge, and how they communicate it, changes too.

A number of Schools utilised the University's recent investment in cross-campus Wi-Fi to trial the use of an innovative student response system called 'Socrative'. Students download a free app called 'Socrative Student' to their smartphone or tablet, and use this to attempt a multiple choice quiz created using the app 'Socrative Teacher'. In lectures, the Socrative quiz is displayed on the screen, and the students then answer the questions in real-time using their device and see the results on the screen. Students get instant feedback on their responses and can compare their quiz answers against the rest of the class.

The School of Applied Social Science improved e-learning opportunities for students by including the use of the 'Collaborate' programme to encourage student interaction through an online classroom environment. A range of interactive learning materials was developed, including one to one online tutorial support and discussion boards with peer review, to increase student interaction and encourage critical thinking about others' work.

Stirling was also awarded a **5-star excellence** award for teaching by QS in 2015

World-leading academics

Many academics have also been recognised and awarded for excellent work in their area of expertise.

Professor Sharon Bolton, Head of the University of Stirling Management School, was named a winner at the prestigious Institute of Directors (IoD) Scotland Director of the Year Awards. The Awards are Scotland's chief platform for recognising the top directors from public, private and third sectors. Professor Bolton received the Fife & Central Scotland Regional Emerging Director title.

Sir George Reid, a Professorial Fellow in Politics at the University of Stirling, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE). Founded in 1783, with Adam Smith and Sir Walter Scott among its early Fellows, the Society has a worldwide reputation for pursuing excellence in scholarship.

Professor June Andrews, Director of the Dementia Services Development Centre, featured on the Herald's Power 100 list and was named in the Health Service Journal's top 100 Clinical Leaders for 2015 for being a key leader in improving dementia care.

Recognised quality

The student learning experience at Stirling reflects the best of accessibility, innovation and excellence in learning and teaching.

Stirling is numbered among the top 50 new universities in the world; a reputation that has been gained through the quality of our research and the impact it has had on society. There is a direct connection between research and excellence in learning and teaching. The best educators are more often men and women who are working at the frontiers of knowledge in their subject areas.

Stirling was awarded a 5-star excellence award for teaching by QS in 2015 and ranked 7th in the UK for graduate employability with 96% of graduates in employment, or further study, within six months of graduating (*Telegraph/HESA*, 2015).

The student experience at Stirling was significantly enhanced in 2015 through changes introduced under the banner 'Transforming the Student Experience'. These included innovative developments in assessment, progression and the semester structure, alongside the introduction of a personal tutor system.

Global connections

With over 120 nationalities represented on campus, worldwide collaborative research partnerships, and exchange programmes across five continents – Stirling is a global University.

A world of opportunity

Study Abroad programmes at Stirling continue to grow, with one in ten students now making the most of opportunities in over 30 countries worldwide.

In October, the University developed a new international partnership which sees language education students teaching English in Brazil. Two Stirling students from the School of Education are currently teaching at São Paulo State University (UNESP) through this new venture established in partnership with the British Council.

Jana Valentova, one of the two Stirling Education students based in São Paulo, said: "Through this experience I can build my confidence, put my freshly gained academic knowledge into practice and learn from UNESP's highly qualified members of staff."

The University also expanded international learning provision in Vietnam and partnered with the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi. In November, a new teaching base in Hanoi was officially launched and marked with an inaugural lecture by Professor Matthew Hibberd, Head of Communications, Media and Culture at the University of Stirling, on communicating climate change.

A top 200 University

The University of Stirling has been ranked in the top 200 most international universities in the world at number 129.

Data from the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015-16 reveals the most outward-looking institutions in the world and ranks Stirling among the top 25%.

Over **450 students** from four continents took part in one of our summer or semester programmes – a **9% increase** on 2014

Strengthening global connections

The Principal, Professor Gerry McCormac, conferred degrees upon more than 50 graduates of the highly popular BA Hons in Retail Marketing at the Singapore Institute of Management Global Education (SIM GE) in October. This partnership has been further extended with the development of two new undergraduate degrees in Sports Business Management and Sustainable Events Management, which, it is hoped, will be launched in 2016.

In November, 60 graduates from the University of Stirling's partnership with Muscat College in Oman also received their degree certificates. There are currently around 400 students at the capital city campus studying for Stirling degrees.

Celebrating our global community

Stirling hosted a record number of international delegations and campus events in 2015.

Highlights included the US Fulbright Scholarship event and the European Association of International Educators (EAIE) 2015 Conference, when more than 50 delegates from universities across the globe came to Stirling.

In March, the University held its first international festival sponsored by Turkish Airlines. This event celebrated the University's cultural diversity and featured a language café, music, food tasting and a live cooking station.

A major artistic showcase inspired by China, and funded by Museums Galleries Scotland, also opened at the University in September. 'Reflections of the East', a series of exhibitions and events presented by the University's Art Collection, showcased over 70 works, spanning ink paintings, sculpture and glass. The University also hosted a programme of events in celebration of Japan Week.

International research collaborations

The University contributed to a major international research project to investigate the dangerous pressure China's aquaculture industry is putting on world fish supplies. Led by Stanford University, USA, the research brought together a consortium of scientists from around the world and showed that China's significant impact on the world's seafood supply chain will be dependent on how the country develops its aquaculture and aqua feeds sector.

Dr Christian Schröder from the School of Natural Sciences was the only Scottish-based scientist involved in operating NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity vehicle – on Mars. 'Opportunity' explored the surface of the red planet and assessed where water may once have been present and assessed past environmental conditions at the sites and their suitability for life. Dr Schröder has been involved in the mission since 2001 in both engineering and science capacities, helping develop and operate two instruments for the rovers (the miniaturised Mössbauer spectrometer MIMOS II and the Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer), which are used to analyse the mineralogy and chemistry of the Martian surface.

The world at students' feet

Regina Mosch, English, Film and Media student, spent spring 2015 studying at UMass Amherst.

She said: "I'm so grateful to the Stirling Uni Exchange Programme for giving me the chance to not only explore another continent, but also to learn a lot more about myself."

"I'm so grateful to the Stirling Uni Exchange Programme..."

Regina Mosch, English, Film and Media student, during her Study Abroad experience in the USA.



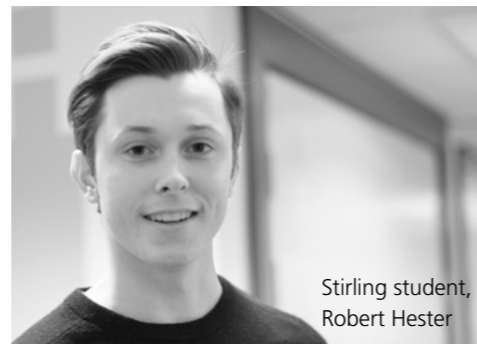
The student experience

Stirling gives students the best possible start by focusing on first-class learning and teaching, building strong partnerships with future employers and offering outstanding sport facilities and cultural opportunities.

Investing in our students

The University completed the third phase of a £40 million project to redevelop student residential accommodation on the Stirling campus. Creating 800 high-quality bed spaces is the largest capital development undertaken by the University since the creation of the campus in the 1960s. The accommodation was designed in consultation with students – so it is packed full of features that students feel are important, such as modern social spaces and en-suite facilities. In September, students moved into the new Juniper Court halls whilst Geddes Court, one of the University's original halls of residence built in 1973, was demolished. The first two phases of the project, completed in 2014, recorded excellent waste return figures, with 99.5% of the construction waste created during demolition recycled or reused.

*The University of Stirling was voted **No.1 in Scotland** by the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2015, for sport facilities, environment on campus, library and library opening hours*



Stirling student, Robert Hester

Preparing tomorrow's leaders

Robert Hester, a fourth-year Politics, Philosophy and Economics student, organised the University's successful Generation Y symposium, sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The event brought together industry leaders from a range of sectors including banking, engineering, recruitment and law, to talk to 150 ambitious students on the topic of Generation Y being the future of industry.

Robert said: "I organised this event to help bring together the professional and academic worlds, enhance students' career prospects, encourage students to think about their future, and to develop the leaders of tomorrow. I believe the synergy of these two sectors can be a powerful force for cultivating the next generation of leaders and empowering students to think big!"



DJ Scott Mills on his Radio 1 Student Tour at Stirling.

Shaping the future: Students' Union President, Andrew Kinnell



Andrew Kinnell, Students' Union President

"At the Students' Union, we are unbelievably proud of what we have achieved over the last year.

In 2015, we welcomed the introduction of School Officers in every School across the University, a huge first-time achievement which ensures that students' views on their learning and teaching are heard at all levels. Working with Officers and Course Reps, we have been lobbying to ensure feedback on assessment is at the top of the academic agenda.

Through our Healthy Body Healthy Mind initiative, we ran campaigns and programmes to promote physical and mental wellbeing. This included participation in sports and activities, through to de-stress training and Scottish Mental Health First Aid training.

The Union renewed its NUS Green Impact Gold Award to such a high standard we were awarded best 'Small Commercial Union' of the year, as well as receiving a Special Award for Environmental Innovation for the Food Hive, the Union's student-led food cooperative. We won event of the year for the Gender Equality Movement (GEM) and LGBT/Non-binary awareness event at NUS Scotland's LGBT Conference. Stirling student, Simron Kandola, was also shortlisted for the prestigious Student Volunteer of the Year Award.

We added to the continuing list of awards when we won Best Student Media Award for our Coffee House Sessions coverage at the Ents Forum. In October, we were delighted to host Radio 1 as part of the Scott Mills' Student Tour. Stirling kicked off the tour and was one of only five universities selected for the DJ's live broadcast.

Thanks to support from the University, we have a newly refurbished flexible space – Venue – which provides a daytime coffee, smoothie and catering outlet. Venue is a great area to study during the day and is also a multi-purpose space in the evenings for a wide range of club activities as well as hosting Freshers' events such as the Vengaboys!

The principal role of the Students' Union is to represent the needs of all Stirling students. Looking ahead, the Union will continue to build on supporting equality and diversity on campus, taking forward with the University our joint OneStirling initiative. Standing up for students against unscrupulous landlords continues to be high on our campaigns agenda. Ultimately, our main goal is to build strong links with the University and ensure that students look back at their time at Stirling with a big smile."

Sporting excellence

As Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence, Stirling is proud of its role preparing athletes to perform on the world stage, increasing sport participation and producing innovative research to improve the health of the nation.

Sporting highlights

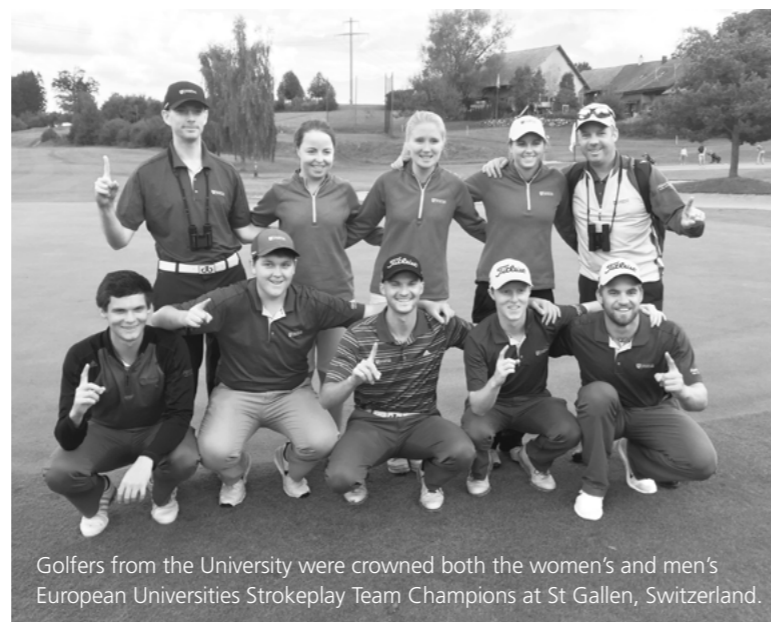
Golfers from the University celebrated being crowned both the women's and men's European Universities Strokeplay Team Champions at St Gallen in Switzerland. The women's team edged out defending champions Halmstad University from Sweden by three shots whilst the men's team took the title for the third consecutive time, finishing 13 shots in front of their closest competition.

Stirling swimming star Duncan Scott won three gold medals in the 2015 European Games (200 metres, 100 metres freestyle and 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay) making him the most successful British athlete at the European Games. A month later, he formed part of the Great Britain team that won the gold medal at the 2015 World Aquatics Championships in the men's 4 x 200 metres freestyle relay.

The women's football team won the British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) Scottish Student Sport Cup and debuted in the Scottish Women's Football Premier League. Further success came for women's football when Scotland striker and Stirling graduate, Jane Ross, signed a two-year deal at Manchester City after three seasons in Sweden. Jane has helped Scotland to six league titles, three League Cups and a place in the last 16 of the Champions League – as well as scooping Player of the Season Award.

The University's American Football side, the Stirling Clansmen, were crowned the (BUCS) American Football Champions for the second successive season. Another member of the Stirling sporting family, triathlete Marc Austin, won two silver medals at the ETU Triathlon under-23 European Championships in Banyoles, Spain.

Practising for up to **30 hours** a week, each Stirling player hits around **1,200 golf balls**



Golfers from the University were crowned both the women's and men's European Universities Strokeplay Team Champions at St Gallen, Switzerland.

Top of the game in teaching and practice

For the first time, Stirling now offers a degree in Sports Studies and Marketing on campus and at SIM University in Singapore.

Stirling was also awarded a UKCC Level 4 Accreditation by sports coach UK, the highest level of formal coach education available in the UK, in conjunction with sport governing bodies. In September, the first cohort of six coaches from the British Canoe Union were awarded their UKCC Level 4 coaching qualification.



Jack McDonald and Cormac Sharvin celebrating their Walker Cup victory.

Stirling duo are Walker Cup winning combination

Two golfers from the highly regarded Sports Scholarship programme at the University played for the Great Britain and Ireland (GB&I) Walker Cup team helping them to a record win.

Scottish international Jack McDonald and his Irish international counterpart Cormac Sharvin represented GB&I against the USA at the 45th Walker Cup match at Royal Lytham and St Annes from 12-13 September.

The duo are both products of the University's International Sports Scholarship Programme and received national scholarship support through Winning Students.

Jack, 22, who graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Applied Mathematics in June, has enjoyed a stellar amateur career, most recently helping Scotland become European Amateur Team Champions.

Victory in the English Men's Open Strokeplay in June saw Cormac, 22, become the first Irishman since Rory McIlroy in 2006 to hold aloft the famous Brabazon Trophy. He also finished runner-up at the 2015 Lytham Trophy.

Cormac from Ardglass in Northern Ireland is in his fourth year of a BA Hons in Sports Studies. He took up golf aged 14 and has since surged into the top 20 players in the World Amateur Golf rankings.

Walker Cup selection is widely recognised as the pinnacle of an amateur's playing career and four Stirling alumni have previously represented GB&I: Colin Dalgleish (1981); Gordon Sherry (1995); Richie Ramsay and Gavin Dear (2009).

Stirling Head Coach Dean Robertson said: "The University of Stirling has a proud and long-established tradition in enabling talented young Scottish, British and international golfers to achieve their full potential and gain an academic degree and I'm sure the achievements of Jack and Cormac will inspire others to follow in their footsteps."

"...I'm sure the achievements of Jack and Cormac will inspire others to follow in their footsteps."

Stirling Head Coach, Dean Robertson

Golf at a glance

University of Stirling Business and Marketing student Mathias Eggenberger played in the Palmer Cup, Illinois – the student equivalent of the Ryder Cup. The Stirling scholarship golfer was the only British-based player in Team Europe for the Palmer Cup, the transatlantic tournament which pits the best golfers at European universities against their American counterparts.

Stirling also came second in the 40th McDonald Cup hosted by Yale University. Stirling's Marco Iten won the individual title at -2, one shot ahead of Jon Du Toit of Minnesota.

Golfing glory continued when Gemma Batty won the BUCS Ladies Golf Tour Finals.

Public engagement

As a publically engaged University, Stirling works hard to create a two-way exchange of ideas between communities and researchers. Stirling's public engagement encompasses a range of activities aimed at making a positive contribution to society.



St Ninians school children run The Daily Mile.

Helping get schools healthy

Colin Moran, Senior Lecturer in Health and Exercise Sciences, has been conducting research into The Daily Mile programme, established by St Ninians Primary School teacher, Elaine Wylie, who has since been awarded Pride of Britain's 'Teacher of the Year' for the project. The programme encourages all primary school children to walk or run a mile every day. The aim of The Daily Mile is to help improve the health, well-being and concentration of Primary School age children. Sport Scientists from the University are studying evidence of the physical, cognitive and emotional benefits of The Daily Mile. A number of UK schools have already copied the programme and it has attracted attention globally.

Bringing people together through the arts

Stirling's cultural community hub, the Macrobert Arts Centre, welcomed 161,267 visitors to its dynamic mix of performances, film screenings, exhibitions and creative learning events – an increase of almost 20,000 on 2014. Joint events encouraged the community to understand and explore the creative process – including collaborations with the University's Mathematics Department around *The Imitation Game* and with the Art Collection on a Holocaust Memorial Day for primary 6 and 7 pupils. The Macrobert Creative Learning Team also worked in partnership with staff from the University to deliver classes on Nordic cinema and 'An Introduction to the Western'.

Creating conversation

With 123 different authors and 218 articles published on the popular online news analysis site, *The Conversation*, the University had an extremely successful first year's membership. Stirling academics have generated direct engagement via 1,500 comments and 3.3 million readers – 80% of the University's audience on *The Conversation* originates outwith the UK; over 800,000 readers from the USA and over 200,000 readers from both India and Australia.

The University has had a range of articles published on subjects ranging from the EU, to athletics doping and Space, with Dr Christian Schroeder's article on 'Massive clouds erupting 260km into the Martian atmosphere' reaching nearly half a million reads. The University has been ranked consistently in the top 10 of UK universities for the number of monthly articles published.



Professor Gerry McCormac, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, and St Ninians pupils at the unveiling of the University's poppy field installation.

Removing barriers to education

The University of Stirling values ability, not background, and is renowned for its support to enable individuals from all walks of life to achieve their full potential.

In September, the University admitted a third cohort of undergraduate students across four fully-integrated degrees with Forth Valley College. Intake targets for students domiciled in Scotland's most deprived areas were also exceeded for a third consecutive year. Retention rates of 93.8% were among the best in Scotland, including the retention rate for students from the most deprived areas.

In October, the University was awarded £100k by the Scottish Funding Council's Impact for Access fund to develop the project: 'So you want to be in the professions?' The project aims to identify and remove barriers to traditionally 'gendered' professions and support students from less traditional backgrounds to access higher education through targeted outreach activities with local schools and events aimed at breaking down gender barriers. Every participant, upon successful completion, will receive a contextualised offer to the University.

Connecting communities through creative writing

The University launched a creative writing competition, supported by the Scottish Government, for Scottish Secondary pupils to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the First World War Gallipoli campaign. S1-S3 students from across Scotland were encouraged to submit a poem or short story that recreated a scene from the Gallipoli campaign and a panel of senior Stirling academics selected the winning students. A poppy field installation made by St Ninians schoolchildren was also unveiled at the University.

Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop, also spoke on campus prior to a Gallipoli lecture delivered by distinguished military historian Professor Sir Hew Strachan.



Honorary Graduate, Judy Murray, on her Tennis on the Road programme.

Bringing sport to the community

Stirling works closely with Tennis Scotland and Active Stirling to support the development of tennis clubs and increase tennis participation in local communities throughout Scotland.

Honorary Graduate, Judy Murray, took her Tennis on the Road programme to the University to help build on the success of the first roadshow visits and grow the game. Tennis on the Road is a programme aimed at giving parents, teachers, coaches and volunteers the tools to get children active and develop the skills needed to play tennis using the most basic of equipment. Stirling students helped coach primary school children on the roadshow in Gleneagles, based on the games and skill building activities that Judy played with sons Andy and Jamie, when they were young.

The Stirling family

Growing to almost 57,000 last year, Stirling's global family of alumni continues to make an impact on the world stage.

Stirling Honorary Graduate,
John Byrne

Honorary graduates

In 2015, we welcomed a host of distinguished Honorary graduates in to the Stirling family. Those awarded the degree of Doctor of the University or Master of Arts included leaders from the worlds of broadcasting, the arts, the civil service and education.

Professor Alexander McCall Smith

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to literature.

Laura Dunlop QC

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the support of vulnerable people in Scotland through the practice of law, and as an outstanding model for our female students of what a woman can contribute and achieve in public life in Scotland.

Mr Kevin Clarke

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the University of Stirling and to the Scottish and United Kingdom Higher Education sector.

Ms Sally Magnusson

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to Scottish life and her support of the Dementia Services Development Centre of the University of Stirling.

Mr John Byrne

In recognition of his great distinction in the arts.

Sir John Elvidge

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the modernisation of public services during a period of unprecedented constitutional change in Scotland.

Dato' Dr Jannie Chan Siew Lee

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to retail and to business.

Alumni in the spotlight

Stirling alumni are making their mark across the world and are a source of great pride to the University. With our 50th anniversary approaching in 2017, the University's alumni represent almost half a century of Stirling memories. **Fiona Sandford**, newly appointed Chair of Court, and **Siddharth Chowhury** 'Professional Achievement' winner at the 2015 Education UK Alumni Awards, reflect on their favourite memories of their time at Stirling.

Siddharth Chowhury

Studied

Recipient of the Charles Wallace Fellowship in Creative Writing for three months in 2007.

Position

Author of *St. Martin's*, *Patna Roughcut* and *Day Scholar*. Editorial Consultant with the House of Manohar in New Delhi.

Main responsibilities

Acquisitioning, editing, and seeing the volume to the press.

"I received the University's Charles Wallace Fellowship in Creative Writing in 2007 and wrote much of my novel 'Day Scholar' during my time on campus.

I came to Stirling as a city boy, who loved shopping malls and neon lights and left as a man who will forever awake to the sound of oystercatchers. Stirling was a time of introspection, rare friendship and also uninterrupted work. I wrote part of my book 'Day Scholar' at Stirling, which was shortlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize 2009.

My fondest memories are of the times I spent talking about literature and writing with the very warm-hearted and welcoming English department lecturers, especially Dr Gemma Robinson, Professor David Richards, Professor John Drakakis and Professor Ruth Evans. I also loved my Sunday morning walk to Bridge of Allan to buy the Times newspaper.

Three words I would use to describe Stirling would be – 'exquisite, cosy and welcoming.' Stirling is so beautiful, you can't be unhappy there for long.

My advice to a student about to begin their time at the University would be to pack a thick overcoat for winter, preferably Harris Tweed!

The campus is an ideal place for writers and is gorgeous – as anyone who has spent time there would endorse. Needless to add, Stirling will always be special to me."



Fiona Sandford,
newly appointed Chair of Court.

Fiona Sandford

Studied

BA Economics 1973.

Position

Chair of the University Court.

Main responsibilities

The Chair of Court is responsible for the University's mission, vision and strategy, and the welfare of students and staff.

"My original plan was to study medicine at Glasgow but I saw an advert in the Scotsman offering scholarships to study Technological Economics at a new innovative University. I decided to go for it! At that time, there was great expansion at Stirling – from an initial few hundred students to around 2000.

My fondest memory of Stirling is the beautiful campus, which I still have the pleasure of seeing regularly. Everything felt very new in the 1970's and students felt very powerful – we were going to change the world! Stirling was a juxtaposition of safety and exploration and had, and continues to have, a strong community, a sense of equality for all, and no divide between staff and students.

My studies at Stirling benefited me because it gave me a sense of who I was, a sense of fearlessness to challenge the status quo, but in a respectful way. We were expected to challenge ideas and this gave me a great sense of confidence. I have Stirling to thank for that.

If I were to meet the 18-year-old version of myself I would tell her to 'work a little bit harder, more on the academic than the social side, and take the opportunity to study abroad – broaden your horizons and don't think about boundaries.'

If I had to sum up Stirling in a few words it would be 'an agent of social inclusion and change.'

Lastly, my advice to new graduates is to be 'ambitious, look outward, and be brave.' "



Delivering our vision

In 2015, the University lived up to its reputation as an institution founded on innovation and excellence.

Eileen Schofield, University Secretary and Chief Operating Officer



We were delighted by the external recognition that Stirling received in several prestigious listings – including individual 5 star QS Stars World Rankings across teaching, employability, internationalisation, facilities and inclusiveness, in addition to an overall 5 stars for institutional excellence.

The student learning experience at Stirling reflects the best of accessibility, innovation and excellence in learning and teaching. In 2015, the University exceeded expectations for widening access by increasing the number of students recruited from the most deprived communities in Scotland. We also launched a further two integrated degrees with Forth Valley College, doubling the number of programmes available in our sector-leading partnership. The new degrees are developed and taught jointly with the College, and all students are enrolled at the University from day one.

The Stirling student experience was further enhanced with the completion of a three-year, £40m investment programme to transform almost 800 bed spaces on campus, in three new halls of residence, as well as the opening of the new multipurpose space 'Venue' at the Students' Union.

Our commitment to environmental sustainability was boosted by a new Scottish Government/First Bus funded fleet of hybrid double decker 'UniLink' buses, with reduced emissions and fuel consumption, on the dedicated city centre – campus route.

Stirling's School of Health Sciences and the School of Natural Sciences' Division of Biological and Environmental Sciences

were successful in gaining Athena SWAN awards – the national benchmark for recognising commitment to advancing gender equality within Higher Education – adding to Stirling's institutional award.

The University firmly believes in equality for all, exemplified through our ongoing OneStirling initiative, which promotes equality and diversity across the University. Stirling hosted a number of lectures and welcomed a panel of high profile women in business, including TV personality Carol Smillie and astronomist Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, as part of the annual 'Women in Public Life' series in celebration of International Women's Day.

Professionalism is at the core of our University operations, and at Stirling we are constantly striving to deliver more effective services to enable students and staff to attain their ambitions.

The University community can be proud of all that has been achieved at Stirling during 2015, and the successes presented in this report provide a great springboard as we look to, and plan for, the future.

Eileen Schofield
University Secretary and Chief Operating Officer

University of Stirling
Stirling
Scotland UK
FK9 4LA
www.stir.ac.uk

Produced by Communications,
Marketing and Public Engagement

DISCLAIMER: The publisher acknowledges the right of all copyright holders. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information given in this publication, but the University can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

The University of Stirling is a charity registered in Scotland, number SC 011159.

Publication date: 03/16

This publication is available in other formats.

Photography: Rob Eyton-Jones, Alan Gray, Jeff Holmes, Getty Images, Elaine Livingstone and White House Studios.



