

# University Notes

## 40 Years On

BY PETER MEECH

Events marking the University's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary have continued into 2008, with alumni reunions in Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and South West England. Others are planned for Greece in April and for London in May. The celebrations culminate in an Alumni Reunion Weekend in Stirling (20 - 22 June), with lectures, campus tours, sporting activities, a ceilidh and a gala dinner. For more information visit [www.anniversary.stir.ac.uk/events](http://www.anniversary.stir.ac.uk/events).

Linked to this, the University archivist Karl Magee is keen to collect personal memorabilia and photographs of the University for an exhibition on campus from May-August 2008. If you would like to loan or donate any material, he can be contacted at the University Library or by email at [karl.magee@stir.ac.uk](mailto:karl.magee@stir.ac.uk).

It's taken many years, but former staff now have their own organisation. The Stirling University Retired Staff Association (SURSA), which was launched recently, aims to recruit members from all parts of the University, from academics and administrators, to secretaries, gardeners, porters and cleaners. A range of social activities to suit all interests have already been planned. Professor Angela Smith, Department of English Studies, is the person to contact.

The University's students have been in the news recently. In January John Loughton, a 20-year-old student of Politics and Social Policy, achieved national celebrity by winning Big Brother Celebrity Hijack and a prize of £50,000. Among the many invitations he has received since then has been that of chairing the panel of judges for the Young Scots' Awards, sponsored by the Sunday Mail and Lloyds TSB Scotland.

Stirling's men's golf team recently returned from a 10-day tour of South Africa. The culmination of the tour for the current British Universities' champions was their victory over Tshwane University, the reigning South African student champions. The 14-a-side match in Pretoria ended 15-13 in Stirling's favour.



Finally, journalist, broadcaster and author James Naughtie (above) is to be the next Chancellor of the University,

succeeding Dame Diana Rigg in August 2008. Best known as a presenter on BBC Radio's *Today* programme, he also hosts the network's *Bookclub* and presents live events for BBC television. Mr Naughtie, a graduate of Aberdeen University, has written two books on the Blair years, *The Rivals* and *The Accidental American*, and one on Western classical music, *The Making of Music*. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by Stirling University in 2001.

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