

# UNIVERSITY NOTES

BY ANDY MITCHELL

The University has appointed a new Principal and Vice-Chancellor in succession to Professor Christine Hallett, who is retiring after five years in the post. Professor Gerry McCormac, one of Northern Ireland's leading academics, will join us in May.



Currently at Queen's University Belfast, he said: "Stirling has lived up to its founding motto of innovation and excellence; it has produced first-class graduates for Scotland, it has become one of the most respected universities in the UK, and it has established a global reputation for the quality of its research and teaching.

"Now, more than ever, Scotland needs Stirling and its distinctive contribution to society: enterprising graduates with the skills to drive its economy forward; first class research which can be turned into jobs; and a commitment to the community which ensures that education and the advancement of knowledge is shared for the good of all."

On Monday 19 April, the 2010 Hetherington Lecture will be delivered by Ramzy Baroud, the Palestinian-American editor-in-chief of the Palestine Chronicle. He will speak on "Gaza's Untold Story: Journalism in the Middle East conflict". The annual Hetherington Memorial Lecture is held in honour of the late Alastair Hetherington, who was Emeritus Professor in the Department of Film, Media & Journalism and previously a distinguished editor of The Guardian and Controller of BBC Scotland.

On Friday 23 April, retired academic Helen Beale will give a lunchtime art lecture on "The Place(s) of Sculpture in the University of Stirling Art Collection". Her talk will look at the various types of site in which sculpture is displayed: indoor gallery space; open air courtyards recently re-designed as sites for sculpture; and the emergent outdoor Sculpture Trail across the campus.

For further information, or to reserve a place, call 01786 467055 or email [externalrelations@stir.ac.uk](mailto:externalrelations@stir.ac.uk)

During the Easter and summer vacations the University Sports Centre runs a range of classes for children aged 3-16, providing instruction in swimming, tennis, golf and trampolining and an introduction to a wide range of other activities such as canoeing, badminton, squash and orienteering. They range from a one-hour daily sports class to a week-long full-day activity session. For further details of times and dates please contact the reception in the sports centre. And don't forget that the University sports facilities are open to all the community, so why not check out what the campus has to offer?



Conservationists are buzzing at the discovery of a new bumblebee species for Scotland - the first for fifty years. The Southern Cuckoo Bumblebee was identified at St Abbs in Berwickshire by Bob Dawson of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust (BBCT), which is based at the University.

The Trust's director, Ben Darvill, noted that a good news story was long overdue: "At a time when bumblebees up and down the UK are struggling due to a lack of flower-rich habitat, it is heartening to see that at least one species is expanding its range.

Sadly many other species are threatened with national extinction, with Scotland's

Great Yellow Bumblebee in particular trouble. We very much hope it's not a case of 'One in, one out....'"

Gardeners can make a significant difference to "the plight of the bumblebee" by growing the right kinds of flowers throughout the year - many fancy varieties are of little use to wildlife. Cottage garden plants and wild flowers are best. For more information visit [www.bumblebeeconservation.org](http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org) or phone BBCT on 01786 467818

Behavioural scientist Betsy Herrelko and the chimpanzees of Edinburgh Zoo recently became stars of the screen in a BBC Natural World documentary. The 11 chimps experienced video streaming for the first time, learning how to use touch-screen technology and were even given a chimp-proof camera to shoot their own footage.

The documentary explored the extent to which the chimps are aware of what they are seeing and filming and, for the first time, we are able to see the world through a chimp's eyes.

Betsy explained how the chimps react to this new experience: "The Chimpcam Project was designed to let the chimps take us on a tour of their minds. We created studies and activities, but what happened after that was completely up to the chimps. We were along for the ride, hoping to learn a bit more about how they viewed the world. Being able to view life as the chimps see it is something that I will never forget."

Betsy is undertaking a PhD in the Department of Psychology under the supervision of Dr Sarah-Jane Vick and Professor Hannah Buchanan-Smith.

Originally from Ohio, she came to Stirling in 2008 after conducting research with the Gorilla Foundation in California.

