Bridging the gender gap
Women in engineering
University of Glasgow
www.glasgow.ac.uk

• In the top 1% of world universities – ranked 73rd by the Times Higher Top 200 World University Rankings for 2008.

• Overall institutional satisfaction rating of 86% in the 2008 National Student Survey.

• Highest levels of satisfaction of any participating Russell Group* institution for the quality of our support services in the recent International Student Barometer.

• 87% of our international students would recommend the University to others.

*The Russell Group is an association of the top 20 major research-intensive universities in the United Kingdom – of which the University of Glasgow is one.
Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Avenue, our twice-yearly magazine for alumni and friends of the University.

As we begin the New Year, we can reflect on the successes of the last six months with pride. You will read about some of our recent activities and achievements in the following pages, beginning with the news that our position amongst the world’s universities has risen impressively – we experienced the largest increase by any UK institution in the Times Higher Top 200 World University Rankings for 2008, leaping 10 places to 73rd place.

We are pleased to announce the good news that planning permission has been granted to build the Beatson Translational Research Centre, the final element in the creation of the Glasgow Centre for Cancer Research. The project will be supported by our £10m Beatson Pebble Appeal, which was launched to the general public in September.

You can read on page 14 how supporters of this campaign, and of our other projects, now have the option of having their gift acknowledged on the University’s Online Donor Wall – the first of its kind and a new way to thank our many supporters, past and present, for their generosity.

We learn how the Glasgow experience has shaped the lives of several of our alumni – from our joint Young Alumnus of the Year winners John Tiffany and Mark Beaumont, to the inspiring Judith Robertson, who heads up Oxfam in Scotland. We also meet Burns aficionado Clark McGinn (someone who, to many of you who have attended our Burns Supper events, will be a familiar face) who is going to be busier than normal in 2009.

This next year, Scotland’s Homecoming year, is a year of celebration for the University and for Scotland. 2009 is the 250th anniversary both of the birth of our national bard and of the publication of The Theory of Moral Sentiments by one of our most famous students and professors, Adam Smith. You will see how the University is contributing to Homecoming Scotland in our main feature on pages 8–11.

Wherever you are in the world, we hope you will join us in celebrating the brains and the beauty of Scotland this year.

Sir Muir Russell
Principal and Vice- Chancellor

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World ranking rise for University of Glasgow

The University of Glasgow has performed well in the latest Times Higher World University Rankings, published in October.

Listed at 73, the University is now in the top 1% of institutions in the world. Glasgow is one of only three Scottish institutions in the top 100 and now sits at 11th in the UK and second in Scotland.

The Principal, Sir Muir Russell, said: 'The quality of our teaching and research, allied to our provision of one of the best student experiences in the UK, makes us an attractive destination for students from across the UK and the world.

'Over the past several years, the University of Glasgow has gone through a period of substantial change which has allowed us to compete nationally and internationally, and to be counted in the top 100 is testament to the hard work of all our staff.

'We will continue to invest in our areas of world-class excellence and we will build on our contribution to the economic, social and cultural wealth of Scotland and beyond.'

Alternative energy experts launch new research centre

Some of the world’s leading biofuels scientists gathered at the University in September to help launch the University’s new Solar & Bioenergy Research Centre.

The centre aims to develop renewable fuels to minimise climate pollution. To achieve this goal a multidisciplinary team will target key areas of research, including the development of biofuel crops for high biomass production on marginal land and development of microbial fuel cells for generating electricity and liquid and gaseous biofuels from organic waste and sunlight.

A multidisciplinary initiative, the centre spans the faculties of Biomedical & Life Sciences, Engineering, Information & Mathematical Sciences and Physical Sciences.

As part of the launch of the centre, the University hosted a symposium, bringing together UK and European groups engaged in solar energy and bioenergy production and attracting delegates from the disciplines of engineering, physical sciences and the biological sciences to assess the capacity for research in the UK and to identify opportunities for collaboration.

Lonely Planet names Glasgow as one of the world’s top cities

Glasgow has been named as one of the world’s top ten cities by the travel guide, Lonely Planet.

The city was chosen for its exciting, contemporary image. Lonely Planet’s Best In Travel 2009 booklet says: 'Forget about castles, kilts, bagpipes and tartan. You come for the cocktails, cuisine and designer chic (plus the legendary native wit).

'Scotland’s biggest city has shaken off its shroud of industrial soot and shimmied into a sparkling new designer gown.'

Defining experiences include cruising the Clyde by powerboat and ‘adding your voice to the Hampden roar’ at the football ground.

Lonely Planet’s travel editor, Tom Hall, said: ‘The time has come for Lonely Planet to let one of its worst-kept secrets out: Glasgow’s got everything.’
Old Firm stars kick off cancer appeal

The captains of Celtic and Rangers launched the campaign to build a new cancer research centre for Scotland in September.

Stephen McManus and Barry Ferguson gave their support to the £10m Beatson Pebble Appeal and urged the public to back the campaign and help to beat cancer.

Both football clubs are supporting the drive to raise funds to build the Beatson Translational Research Centre, the final element in the creation of the Glasgow Centre for Cancer Research.

The centre, which will be built at the Garscube Estate in Bearsden, will convert basic cancer research into real improvements in treatments for patients. Cancers such as breast, prostate, ovarian, lung, throat, mouth, stomach and intestinal, some of which are the most common in Scotland, will all be studied.

The captains both attended the official launch to show their support and met up with Lynn Murray, who has had treatment for both bone cancer and breast cancer and is heavily involved in fundraising for the new centre.

Rangers and Scotland captain Barry Ferguson said: ‘This is an important campaign for Glasgow and for Scotland. Cancer affects so many people from all walks of life that anything we can do to tackle it is vitally important.

‘Rangers are right behind this campaign and the fight to treat cancer.’

Celtic captain Stephen McManus said: ‘This new centre will play an important part in helping those who are battling the disease and everyone at Celtic is supporting the Beatson Pebble Appeal. If we work together, we can all help in the fight against cancer.’

For further information visit: www.beatsonpebbleappeal.org.

Archbishop of Canterbury visits the University

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, delivered a public question and answer session at the University in October.

Dr Williams was in conversation with Professor Mona Siddiqui, Director of the University’s Centre for the Study of Islam. More than 800 people packed out the Bute Hall to hear the Archbishop discuss a wide range of issues including interfaith relations, Sharia law, Karl Marx, religious freedom in China and biomedical research. Members of the audience were also given the opportunity to put their questions to the Archbishop.

Professor Siddiqui said: ‘It was a huge privilege for myself and the University to welcome Dr Rowan Williams to Glasgow. This conversation was an opportunity for both the lay and scholarly community to engage with one of the leading Christian theologians of our time.

‘It is ten years since the Centre for the Study of Islam was established and this event was a truly fitting tribute to all that the centre stands for.’
Graduate wins top teaching award

A Glasgow graduate has been awarded one of the most prestigious accolades in education.

David Miller (MA 1985, PGDE 2002) picked up the award for Secondary School Teacher of the Year at the 2008 UK Teaching Awards held in October.

David, who has only been a secondary school teacher for six years, won the highly coveted award for his work as an English teacher at St Ninian’s High School in Bishopbriggs. He impressed judges with his lively and innovative multimedia-equipped lessons, which the panel said brought an ‘eerie silence’ to his classroom.

The judges also commended David for encouraging self-reliance and ambition, and for piloting a fast-track course which resulted in 90% of his pupils receiving credit grades in their fourth-year exams.

Business School in partnership with top Colombian university

The University’s Business School has signed a memorandum of agreement with a top university in Colombia to provide a joint postgraduate business programme.

The one-year MSc in Strategic Marketing with the Escuela de Ingeniería de Antioquia, EIA, (Antioquia School of Engineering), is scheduled to begin in the academic year 2009–10. The school is located in Medellin, the second largest city and business capital of Colombia.

David Stansfield, Glasgow’s Latin American Development Officer, said: ‘Colombia has a thriving economy and one of the best university systems in Latin America which produces excellent quality graduates. This is an important move for the Business School, expanding its recruitment of international students beyond India, China, Pakistan and North America.’

Friends of Glasgow University Library

The Friends of Glasgow University Library (FGUL) organise a series of lectures and visits of mainly bibliographical interest for members. Its other important function is to provide an independent source of financial support for library projects and the group assisted in the recent purchase of papers relating to Lord Kelvin.

The group raises funds in several ways, including the Donate A Book scheme. For a minimum donation of £25 a graduate may have a book on the shelves of his or her faculty bearing the donor’s name and year of graduation. Not only is it an appealing gesture, it is useful to future students in your subject area. For more details about FGUL visit www.lib.gla.ac.uk/friends.
University welcomes Scottish Cabinet to Dumfries Campus

The University's Dumfries Campus was host to a formal meeting of the Scottish Government's Cabinet for the first time in July.

Professor Ted Cowan, Director of the University's Dumfries Campus, warmly welcomed the First Minister and the Cabinet and presented each of those attending with a copy of his recently published, revised and updated monograph, *For Freedom Alone: The Declaration of Arbroath, 1320* to mark the occasion.

As well as the Cabinet meeting, Ministers hosted a good causes reception, took part in National Conversation public meetings and undertook Ministerial engagements during their two-day visit to the south-west of Scotland.

Earlier this year, the University secured a funding package from the Scottish Government to maintain and develop its activities on the Crichton University Campus in Dumfries.

Research puts finger on virtual iPhone button

A virtual tactile keyboard could hold the key to making the iPhone easier to use.

The inclusion of a touchscreen keypad in place of a physical keyboard on the iPhone has enabled the manufacturer to incorporate a larger screen which means a better display of videos, web pages and games. However, without being able to feel when a button is selected, users often experience a high level of errors particularly when inputting text.

Now researchers in the Department of Computing Science are using tiny vibrations to imitate the feel of a button when a user touches the keypad. The user will be able to feel the edges of each key and will be able to identify where each key is without checking visually. As users run their fingers over the keypad a wave of vibration is triggered signifying a smooth rounded button. When the key is selected and released different vibration patterns give the user the feel of a key snapping back into place.

This new development by researchers at Glasgow is simple to apply because the vibration technology is already included in the iPhone. This technology is not restricted to the iPhone but can be applied to a range of other phones and electronic devices.

Supporting a new World Heritage Site

The University has welcomed the decision to grant the Antonine Wall, the Roman frontier in Scotland, World Heritage Site status.

The announcement grants Scotland its fifth World Heritage Site and its first Roman Site. The University played a significant role in the bid process. It houses a large collection of Roman artefacts from the Antonine Wall and, in particular, the internationally renowned collection of sculptured and inscribed distance slabs, erected on the wall by the Roman Legions which undertook its construction.

The Principal, Sir Muir Russell, said: “The Antonine Wall and its associated artefacts held in the care of our Hunterian Museum have formed a focus of research and study at the University of Glasgow for many generations of students from Scotland and overseas. I am particularly pleased that our excellent collections of Roman sculptured stones and related artefacts supported the bid for the new World Heritage Site.”

The Antonine Wall is named after the Roman emperor Antoninus Pius, who ordered its construction in about AD 142. It stretched from Old Kilpatrick on the Clyde to Bo’ness on the Forth, a distance of 60 kilometres.
Graduate featured in name of new catalyst

A research team led by Professor Pavel Kočovský in the Department of Chemistry has developed two new catalysts, which have now been commercialised. These catalysts, new organic molecules synthesised in the Glasgow laboratories, promote reactions that lead to amines, a class of highly sought after intermediates in the pharmaceutical industry.

Development of the catalysts began in 2002 when Dr Kenneth MacDougall (MSci 2003, PhD 2008) was an undergraduate, working with Professor Kocovský and Dr Andrei Malkov. Kenny continued with the work throughout his postgraduate studies, along with Dr Sigitas Stondius, a postdoctoral researcher from Lithuania, and Dr Andrea Mariani, a visiting scientist from Italy; further research is now being carried out by postgraduate students Marek Figlus, Kveta Vranková, graduate Joanna Phillips (MSci 2007) and visiting scholar Dr Javid Hussain, in collaboration with Dr Graeme Cooke and his group, also in the Department of Chemistry. Funding for the work was secured from the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council, WestCHEM, and AstraZeneca.

The catalysts are manufactured by Link Technologies, the Glasgow-based company for which Kenny now works, and are named Kenamide and Sigamide after the two researchers responsible for their development. Kenny, who graduated PhD in 2008, thus has the unique position of being in the middle of events from the first synthesis of the new molecules to the industrial production, culminating in his name featuring in one of the products. Kenamide and Sigamide were launched by Sigma-Aldrich, a world-leading supplier of fine chemicals, in January 2008.

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A centenary of geography

In 2009, academic staff, alumni and students will be celebrating 100 years of geography at the University.

A series of landmark events, talks and publications will mark this special occasion, culminating with an ‘alumni 100 day’ on 22 August 2009, when former Glasgow geographers – graduates and staff – will be invited to join present staff and students. Activities will include tours of the department; an exhibition of photographs, objects and archival records; a drinks reception; and the opportunity to revisit your undergraduate dissertation! The day will end with a lecture delivered by Dr Iain Stewart, former member of the department and BBC television presenter. Places are limited; to register in advance for this event please visit www.ges.gla.ac.uk and follow links for the centenary.

• The current edition of Giving to Glasgow, enclosed with your copy of Avenue, features a young Geography graduate who has set up a bursary for students.

Legend of the stone continues

This year has seen the release of a film telling the story of the daring raid four Glasgow students made on Westminster Abbey in 1950 to remove the ancient Stone of Scone to Scotland.

Stone of Destiny, based on graduate Ian Hamilton’s book, stars Robert Carlyle and Billy Boyd and premiered at the Edinburgh International Film Festival in 2008.

The stone, used for centuries for the coronation of Scottish kings, was taken from Scotland by Edward I in 1296 and placed beneath the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey.

The subject of much national debate, the stone remained at the abbey until Christmas Day 1950, when the four students (Ian Hamilton, Gavin Vernon, Kay Matheson, and Alan Stuart) entered the abbey and removed the stone, placing it later on the altar at Arbroath Abbey. It was later moved back to Westminster by the authorities.

In 1996 the stone was returned to Scotland and is currently displayed in Edinburgh Castle.
Cannon to reveal how the Battle of Culloden was won

An engineer at Glasgow has built a fully functioning cannon to enable battlefield archaeologists to answer unsolved questions surrounding cannonballs found at the site of the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Tests will be carried out using the half-tonne cannon, built by Alan Birkbeck of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, to help archaeologists better understand the role that cannons played in the outcome of the battle.

Cannons like this were used by both Cumberland’s army and the Jacobites in the opening stages of the battle. They appear to have been used to deadliest effect by the Hanoverians, who fired them into the oncoming Jacobite charge.

Dr Tony Pollard, Director of the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at the University, said: ‘By using the recently built replica cannon to test how lead projectiles react when they impact a number of different surfaces we will be able to compare the results with the artefacts collected from the site. These results can then tell us how the cannons were used in the battle and, depending on what they struck – human bodies, the earth or stone – how effective they were in battle.’

Dr Pollard worked closely with Alan Birkbeck from the University’s Ballistics & Impact Group for the interdisciplinary project. Alan took a year to build the cannon in his spare time, making almost all the components himself.

Graduate wins international journalism award

Glasgow graduate Lucy Adams (MLitt 2008) has won a prestigious journalism award for her report on child soldiers in Northern Uganda.

Lucy, who has recently graduated with an MLitt in Creative Writing, was presented with the prize in the local media category at the One World media awards in London in June for her harrowing report, ‘History of Violence’. The article, which was printed in The Herald’s Saturday magazine earlier this year, featured a number of young people who had been drawn into the conflict in Northern Uganda and described how they were now rebuilding their lives. To research her article, Lucy visited the northern region of the country to meet past members of the Lord’s Resistance Army in January.

New city leaders network launched

The University is launching a network designed to bring together the leaders of cities to help them face the emerging challenges of the 21st century.

The Centre for Leaders in City-Making will link senior political and professional leaders from the main cities of the UK and the Republic of Ireland with academics and policy thinkers. Based at the University’s renowned Department of Urban Studies, the centre aims to establish a model for modern European urban leadership.

Sir Muir Russell, Principal, said: ‘The Centre for Leaders in City-Making is an ambitious project and we believe that it will be of real benefit to civic leaders from the whole of the UK and beyond. ‘This is a prime example of the University of Glasgow working with local government and the community to add value to the economy.’

Councillor Steven Purcell, Leader of Glasgow City Council, said: ‘This new project is a fantastic opportunity for political and professional leaders to share their ideas, skills and experiences. Ultimately, it will help improve the services that are delivered to the public.’

Green spaces close health gap

Researchers at the University have found that the health gap between the rich and poor is much lower in areas with the greenest environments.

The research was led by Dr Richard Mitchell from the University’s Section of Public Health & Health Policy. ‘Green spaces can provide what is called ‘restoration’ for people. We know that undertaking activities in these areas can reduce blood pressure and tackle some of the harmful ways our bodies respond to stress. ‘It is shown that people who take part in these sorts of activities in green spaces are generally healthier than those who don’t have the opportunity to do so. ‘The implications of this study are clear: environments that promote good health might be crucial in the fight to reduce health inequalities.’
Haste ye hame

Got a yearning for Burns? Missing the bustle of Byres Road or the quiet of the quadrangles? With a fantastic array of events lined up to celebrate both the brains and the beauty of Scotland, Homecoming Scotland 2009 is the ideal time to come home to the University of Glasgow.

What are you doing in 2009? The 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns has been named Scotland’s first Year of Homecoming, so whether you’re a Scot, are of Scottish descent, or simply love Scotland, you’re invited to return to your roots and help the University join the biggest ever celebration of Scotland’s achievements and culture.

Beginning with the largest Burns conference of the year, hosted by the University in January, the £5m Homecoming initiative will see EventScotland partner with organisations across the country to pay tribute to Scotland’s unique identity, distinctive culture and great contributions to the world. According to Chief Operating Officer of EventScotland, Paul Bush OBE, a programme planned around five themes; Robert Burns, golf, great Scottish minds and innovation, whisky, and Scottish ancestry, heritage and culture is creating a year of unmissable celebration.

‘Homecoming Scotland 2009 promises to be an extraordinary celebration of Scotland’s great culture and heritage,’ he says. ‘We are delighted to be working in partnership with the University of Glasgow who have created a programme of events which mark some of Scotland’s great contributions to the world. 2009 will be a special year for Scots and those who love Scotland – it’ll be a fantastic year for University of Glasgow alumni to come back and join in the celebrations.’

A home of innovation in Scotland, the University of Glasgow is delighted to be contributing to the Robert Burns, ancestry and innovation strands of the programme. So what can you expect?

Great Scottish minds and innovation

Throughout its 557-year history, the University of Glasgow has turned the talents of many of Scotland’s creative minds and great thinkers to success, so it’s a fantastic venue in which to explore Homecoming’s innovation theme. Visitors can walk in the footsteps of six Nobel laureates, one Prime Minister, Scotland’s inaugural First Minister, and important international figures in the worlds of science, politics, literature and law, including the pre-eminent scientist of the 19th century Lord Kelvin and the father of modern economics Adam Smith.

University Professor Chris Berry has written extensively on Smith, who was a Glasgow graduate and Professor. ‘Smith is widely credited with establishing a recognisable discipline of economics,’ Professor Berry says. ‘His seminal text – the Wealth of Nations – was published in 1776 but it is known, because student notes are available, that he lectured on some of its themes in his Glasgow classes. Along with other thinkers of his time Smith was a leading figure in the Scottish Enlightenment – Scotland’s Golden Age – when it genuinely was a world-leader across a range of disciplines and broad intellectual investigation.’
The University has a building, a library, a chair and a research foundation named after the economist, and as 2009 marks the 250th anniversary of the publication of Smith's book *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, the University is also hosting a three-day international conference in his honour. In March, participants from Chile to Norway and Japan to the United States will attend plenary lectures given by eminent Smith scholars including Amartya Sen of Harvard, who holds the Nobel Prize for Economics at the *Smith in Glasgow* conference. Members of the public will be able to access podcasts of the plenary lectures on the conference website thanks to the support of the Stevenson Trust.

And there are plenty of other ways to discover more of Scotland’s great innovators during the Year of Homecoming at the University. Scotland’s oldest public museum, the Hunterian, for example, is housed in the Main Building and is a must-see for anyone returning to Glasgow, says the Museum’s Head of Development, Susan Ferguson.

‘Within the rich and diverse collections on show in the Museum you’ll find some truly amazing and unique objects,’ she says. ‘Visitors will be reminded of the great contribution Scotland has made to the world over the past centuries, from the achievements of the Scottish Enlightenment to the great Victorians Kelvin, Watt and Lister, to the pioneering medical work undertaken at the University in the 20th century.’

The Hunterian Art Gallery too, which incorporates one of Glasgow’s most popular tourist attractions, the Mackintosh House, is hosting two exhibitions that examine some of Scotland’s forward-thinking artists and their pioneering subjects – *Glasgow Boys* and *Alexander Stoddard: Drawings and Models*. Celebrating an informal grouping of artists who produced some of the most innovative paintings of the turn of the last century, the *Glasgow Boys* exhibition will run until May, while for the second part of 2009 artist Alexander Stoddard has selected a small exhibition that shows the often tiny ‘first thoughts’ – from drawings to one-to-one scale studies – that are involved in the fascinating progress towards the formation of national monuments such as the Adam Smith and James Clerk Maxwell statues in Edinburgh.

For more information:
www.glasgow.ac.uk/asrf/smith2009
www.hunterian.gla.ac.uk

Robert Burns

Robert Burns was not university educated, but the poet’s connection with the University began with his baptism in 1759 by Glasgow graduate William Dalrymple and extended even beyond his death with the graduation of his son Robert Burns Jr from the University in 1802. These and many more connections have been the subject of recent research into the close ties between the bard and Glasgow graduates undertaken by the University’s Centre for Burns Studies and Archive Services team, and are one of many reasons why fans and scholars of Robert Burns alike will find a visit to the University worthwhile.

In fact, Glasgow is home to the only independent department of Scottish literature in the world, as well as the world’s first research centre dedicated to Scotland’s national poet, so it’s fitting that the University should host one of the first Homecoming events in 2009 – a three-day conference titled *Robert Burns 1759 to 2009*.

Glasgow Professor Gerry Carruthers has recently been announced as the General Editor of the new Oxford University Press edition of Robert Burns, and is the Director of the Centre for Robert Burns Studies. He’s looking forward to welcoming delegates from Canada, New Zealand, France, the United States, Holland and the Czech Republic to Glasgow in January to celebrate the poet’s life and works.

‘Scotland is lucky to have a poet who is genuinely a great literary poet and who also inspires huge interest out there,’ he says. ‘The whole idea of the Burns Centre, the new edition and everything we are doing at Glasgow is to take Burns into the realm of serious academic studies. There is a real international theme to the conference, and we’re hoping our audience will include both the academic and the so-called “amateur”’.

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For more information:
www.glasgow.ac.uk/asrf/smith2009
www.hunterian.gla.ac.uk
With something in the region of nine million people estimated to attend Burns Suppers across the world, there's no shortage of 'amateur' Burns enthusiasts out there who will enjoy the conference's public entertainment programme. Highlights will include Sheena Wellington singing 'The Merry Muses of Caledonia' and a world premiere performance of the 'Lament of Mary, Queen of Scots', written by Scotland's foremost composer James MacMillan, performed by the Haydn Trio Eisenstadt and commissioned specially for the occasion by the Chancellor of the University.

Meanwhile, a whole new generation of Burns fans are being inspired by a competition that is challenging young people to draw and write about some of Burns' best-loved characters. Created in partnership with co-founder of Scots publisher Itchy-Coo, Matthew Fitt, the University competition will present prizes during a special children's slot in the conference each morning. Burns specialist Dr Kirsteen McCue explains: 'We're really thrilled to be working with Matthew Fitt, who is fantastic, and it's also allowing our new Centre for Robert Burns Studies to have a close connection with Scottish schools and creative writing.'

For more information: www.glasgow.ac.uk/robertburnsstudies www.itchy-coo.com/competitions.html

Scottish ancestry, heritage and culture

Of course, while the University is a prestigious venue for international conferences and a hub of cultural interest that attracts more than 150,000 visitors each year, the beautiful arches of the cloisters and the familiar towering spire of the Gilbert Scott Building are also an important home to the memories of more than 90,000 alumni scattered across time and geography. If you’re a Glasgow graduate, there’s no better time to return to your roots and rediscover old haunts than the Year of Homecoming, and if you have ancestors who attended the University, you can make use of Glasgow’s extensive archive to find out more about your family history.

Having completed both an MA in English Literature and Latin and an MSc in Political Communication, Chris Graham has graduated twice from the University of Glasgow. He currently lives in Hong Kong, where he works as a journalist for the South China Morning Post.

'What I miss most about the University is the learning … I’m a sucker for education. Glasgow University Guardian was my first taste of the sweet and sour world of journalism. I haven’t decided yet whether to credit it or blame it for my career choice. I’d like to return to Glasgow – the city – because the people are friendly, there are great bars, the music scene … and it has Hampden. My connection with the city is strong as well because, despite only living there for eight years, it is the only place that has felt like home. Hong Kong is a green place but it is not yet the dear green place.'

Emily Henderson graduated from the University in 2003 with an MA in English and Scottish Literature. A television researcher, she currently lives and works in Nairobi in Kenya Children’s Home (formally Thomas Barnardo House), assisting in schools in Kibera and the Rift Valley. She will return to Glasgow in January.

'I would like to return to Glasgow because it’s home. I’m having a great time here in Kenya but I miss the social life, my friends, having the time to read good books, and the University campus, which is very beautiful. My connections with Glasgow are strong because I lived there for almost ten years. It’s a great city to live in, with lots going on and the West End is a fantastic place. I have great memories of university and wish I could do it all again!'
‘For more than five and a half centuries Glasgow graduates have settled in all parts of the world, enriching the cultural, social and economic development of local communities, regions and countries. Now is the time to come home to our community, be part of this great institution, take some time to walk through our campus and experience the University as a living seat of learning.’

Professor Andrea Nolan, University Vice-Principal

‘Every day we help people from all over the world research their family connections with the University,’ says Lesley Richmond, director of Archive Services. ‘It can be an emotional experience for some to touch the document their predecessors signed on graduation day, so we always have the tissues ready just in case.

‘Visitors most often simply expect to confirm dates of study or graduation, so they are delighted that we can sometimes also provide extras like their ancestor’s address as a student,’ she continues. ‘This means they can walk in their footsteps to and from the campus. Our visitors often remark on the parallels between their own academic subject strengths and weaknesses and those apparent from their ancestor’s records, so they feel even more connected to that family member than before they came to see us.’

Lesley and her team hope to help even more visitors with ways to connect with their ancestors during Homecoming, with monthly behind-the-scenes tours of the archives featuring an aspect of the city’s or country’s heritage such as Robert Burns, whisky, golf, Adam Smith and shipbuilding, for example, planned to take place throughout the celebrations.

If your ancestors come from the south-west of Scotland, you may wish to visit the University of Glasgow in Dumfries, which is celebrating Homecoming with events including a lecture series titled Galloway Gatherings at the newly opened Catstrand Art Centre in New Galloway and a summer school on the theme of Robert Burns in partnership with the Burns Federation.

Director of Dumfries Campus and Professor of Scottish History Ted Cowan is looking forward to welcoming visitors to see the stunning views over Criffel and the Solway to the Lake District mountains in what he says is one of the most impressive university campuses in Scotland.

‘During the second half of the nineteenth century Dumfries and Galloway experienced the greatest population loss of any region of Scotland except for Argyll,’ he says. ‘We hope the descendants of some of these emigrants will visit their ancestral home during snowdrop time, one of the loveliest periods of the year in the south-west. Robert Burns spent the last eight years of his life in Dumfriesshire, so it is highly appropriate that our Summer School will conclude with a one-day conference Doonhame with Robert Burns featuring a veritable galaxy of academic and artistic talent. We extend our welcome to folk from home and abroad.’

For more information: www.glasgow.ac.uk/archives

Join the party

Figures from Homecoming Scotland suggest there are some 100 million people across the globe with links to Scotland. It’s thought the celebrations could result in more than 100,000 being welcomed back to familiar shores. We hope you will be one of them.

To keep up to date with all the University’s Homecoming events, visit our website at www.glasgow.ac.uk/homecoming and remember, if the trip is just a little too far, alumni Burns Suppers currently being organised in Glasgow, London, Beijing, Washington DC and Chicago could enable you to participate in the party, wherever you are. Slainte Mhath.

Find out more about Homecoming Scotland at: www.homecomingscotland.com

Allan Dickson will be returning to Glasgow in 2009 from his home in the Baltimore area of Maryland, where he is President of electronics manufacturing company Souriau USA. He graduated from the University in 1970.

‘What makes me want to return to Glasgow is the down-to-earth humour and sense of reality of the average Glaswegian; the best people in the world!’

‘We will definitely all be coming to Glasgow in 2009 for an extended family reunion including my sister from Los Angeles; my brother Robert from Leeds who is also a University of Glasgow graduate; and my two daughters, Cecilia from Bethesda and Julie from London. There will also be aunts, cousins and grandchildren all celebrating our Scottish Homecoming and delight to be back together in the Holy Land.

‘What I enjoyed the most about my time at University was the friendships and camaraderie that were created, and that last to this day. Last year a group of ten of us got together in France. My connections with the University have certainly strengthened considerably as a result of the alumni association.’

www.glasgow.ac.uk/homecoming
Bridging the gender gap

Consider the average person’s morning routine. They wake up in a bed, look at the ceiling, check the clock, head to the bathroom for a shower, get dressed, boil the kettle in the kitchen, put on the radio, eat some cereal, brush their teeth, head out of the door and off to work by car, bus, train or on foot.

To the average person, engineering doesn’t come into it.

But look at that routine again and consider where engineering fits. The bed they wake up in has been designed and engineered, as have the paint on the walls and ceiling of their room, as has the clock by their bed, as have the shower and the rail the towel sits on, as have the kettle, radio, the spoon with which they eat their cereal, the box the cereal comes in, the toothbrush they use, the tube that holds the toothpaste, the door to their property, the car, bus and train they ride in, even the shoes on their feet – all have had the hand of engineering touch them.

And without engineers and engineering, our lives would be unimaginably different. They are the specialists who make everything ‘just work’.

So why is it when the average person thinks of engineering, they think of a man in a boiler suit up to his elbows in dirt and grease?

Engineering as a profession is at best misunderstood and more often overlooked. And the public perception of women’s role in engineering is simply not on the radar – incidentally one of the feats of modern engineering.

Professor Liz Tanner offers an explanation: ‘The word engineer is one of the most incorrectly used in the English language and our entire sector suffers because of it,’ she says. ‘For instance, your central heating boiler breaks down and the manufacturer assures you that they will send an “engineer” to sort it out. However, they are not engineers.’

‘And that has a profound effect on the perception of engineering, and without much doubt affects the way young girls think about the subject, which impacts directly on the number of females enrolling in engineering courses.’

The fact that the title engineer is not licensed in the UK creates this problem – unlike so many other professional titles, anyone can call themselves an engineer.

But Professor Tanner is not what you would think of when you imagine a woman in engineering. Endlessly fascinating with a warm and friendly personality, if she was sent out to fix your boiler, the job would take all day because of her love of conversation.

From a Professor of Mechanics of Materials and Structures, you would expect breathtaking tales of engineering projects involving dams, tunnels and bridges. But as you put one of her structures on the nail of your little finger and are then told that the process of design to implementation took almost as long as the construction of the Channel Tunnel, a new world of engineering opens up.

The device is a middle ear implant and the bio-medical aspect of engineering is one that is seeing an influx of female engineers.

Liz is involved in the design of tiny gadgets and gizmos that, when implanted into the body, solve a fundamental health issue. And she finds that that ‘caring’ aspect of her work – miles from the image of the boiler-suited technician – is attractive to females.

Liz explains: ‘A good number of women are realising the potential of mixing engineering with medicine. It tends to be the “softer” side of engineering that is drawing women in, which is a good thing. Anything that brings women into engineering has to be a good thing.’
Bridging the gender gap

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This interest in the ‘softer’ side of engineering is something that the faculty’s new Schools Liaison Manager, Laura Dickson, has noticed. ‘The common misconception that all engineers wear hard hats and work on construction sites or with machinery is not very appealing to some girls,’ Laura says. ‘I have noticed during recent visits to a number of schools that girls, and boys, become more interested when they realise the positive impact that engineers have on our daily lives and that engineers often work in an office environment similar to other professionals.’

Laura Dickson’s role is to raise awareness of, and generate enthusiasm about, engineering among school pupils, thereby encouraging them to consider it as a career.

And she is aware that a big attraction for some girls is when they discover that engineers are the problem-solvers who make tangible, often significant, differences to improve the world we live in.

‘Pupils are particularly enthusiastic to hear about pioneering developments that engineers have made in areas such as health and the environment.’

However, it is often at an early stage in life that a career decision has to be made. The selection between a variety of disciplines is made in the space of a few short weeks towards the end of a teenager’s school life.

And Professor Frank Coton, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, is keen to stress the selling points of a career in engineering – for males and females alike.

‘What many parents and teachers may not realise is the opportunity a degree in engineering gives you, whether you are male or female,’ he says. ‘Engineering is a global business involving some of the world’s biggest companies. At the moment there is a shortage of qualified engineers, yet there are engineering projects across the world which require talented people to run them.

‘This boils down to the simple fact that an engineering graduate can command a high salary and work pretty much anywhere on the globe. And this can be achieved fairly swiftly after graduation.

‘I often think that if the candidates themselves and their parents and teachers stopped to consider this fact, then applications to engineering would increase, bringing in not just more females, but more people in general.’

Margaret Lucas, Professor of Ultrasonics in Mechanical Engineering, is in agreement.

‘Engineering is a fantastic career and it is one where women can flourish. I have never been disadvantaged by being a woman. I have never experienced sexism. I have never experienced bias.

‘Being a woman in engineering is not an advantage or a disadvantage. It is simply not an issue. The huge advantage is in being an engineer. The women I have met in engineering do not have a collective awareness of their gender, they are simply people who are driven by their enthusiasm for engineering.’

Margaret Lucas, Professor of Ultrasonics in Mechanical Engineering

Engineering is not the only discipline to have suffered from a perceived gender imbalance.

Julia Kennedy (BSc 2007) holds a degree in Chemical Physics from Glasgow and is studying for a postgraduate research degree in Astronomical Instrumentation at Edinburgh. In October 2008, Julia flew to South Korea for the International Conference on Women in Physics, one of 10 representatives from the UK and the only Scot at the conference.

Currently, only 21% of UK physics undergraduates are women, and only 4% of physics professors are female. The Seoul conference attendees hope to change this in the future by setting up a mutually supportive network and by actively encouraging young female students to take up a career in physics.

Three hundred key women physicists from more than 70 countries attended the conference, which is organised by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP).
Philanthropy through the ages

1451
Bishop Turnbull founded the University of Glasgow, but was unable to endow it as he would have liked with a building of its own (rooms in the Cathedral and Blackfriars were used). By the time of his death three years later, however, he had secured some privileges such as freedom from taxes.

1460
James, Lord Hamilton, the University’s first benefactor, gifted a tenement of buildings and some ground which was to be the site of the University until 1870.

1563
Mary, Queen of Scots, gave the manse and kirk of the confiscated Glasgow Blackfriars with 13 acres of its land and some of its revenues to the University to support five poor bursars.

1573
In order to restore the fortunes of the University and promote the teaching of the liberal arts in the city, the Town Council re-founded and re-endowed the University by charter. This provided for the transfer of revenues bestowed on the town by the Queen in 1567 to the University and made provision for fifteen people – the Principal, two regents and twelve poor students nominated by the Town Council – to live in the University.

1630
King Charles I granted a Charter of Confirmation, confirming all the foundations, rights and revenues previously conferred on it, as well as yearly sums of £1,000 Scots to the Principal and 400 merks to the first regent, 300 to the second, 200 to the third and 100 to the fourth.

The University has come up with a new and innovative way to acknowledge the contribution made by donors to its many projects through an online Benefactor Wall.

Cathy Bell, Director of the Development & Alumni Office, explains: ‘For building projects such as the Wolfson Medical School, SCENE (Scottish Centre for Ecology & the Natural Environment), or the new Small Animal Hospital, we are able to thank our supporters by offering them the opportunity to have their inscriptions listed on donor walls erected in the new buildings.

‘However, for those benefactors who choose to contribute to non-building projects such as the Medical Fund or the Chancellor’s Fund, acknowledging their gift could only up until now be done by listing their chosen dedication in our twice-yearly Giving to Glasgow newsletter. It has also been difficult to publicly acknowledge any donors who had supported smaller projects or whose support was directed towards very specific ends.’

‘I am proud to be a part of helping the University’s vision for the new Small Animal Hospital become a reality, and the Online Benefactor Wall is a neat way of allowing people to take a look at all the support that has been invested so far.’

Dave Kowalek, a vet student who takes part in the University’s annual abseil event (in a dog suit borrowed from the faculty) every year to raise money for the Small Animal Hospital. He has an inscription on the Online Benefactor Wall that reads ‘Hope’.

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The solution? The first online donor wall of its kind, where inscriptions from benefactors can be uploaded electronically, regardless of the projects they have chosen to support. Whether this new generation of donors have made a contribution to the construction of state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities, have given to the Chancellor’s Fund or Scholarships, or have something more specific in mind, their generosity can now be properly commemorated in a way that is both easily accessible and updatable.

The Benefactor Wall can be accessed by anyone with an internet connection, and through it they can view their own dedication as well as those from other donors to the same projects. Alternatively, anyone viewing the wall can simply scroll through all of the inscriptions on the wall to see how other donors have chosen to commemorate their support.

The Benefactor Wall also allows the University to reflect better the support provided by our regular donors – the greater the cumulative gift, the more prominent the inscription. At the same time, donors wishing to update the text of their inscription can easily do so by contacting us. Unlike the plaques, inscriptions and donor walls across the campus, the online Benefactor Wall can be easily changed. Whether supporting the University through a monthly or quarterly gift, or by making a one-off donation, anyone donating £250 or more can have an inscription added to the Benefactor Wall.

To view the Benefactor Wall, visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/benefactorwall.

Online giving

To make supporting the University even simpler, we are now able to offer online donations. We can accept gifts of any size and you can choose to support any of our priority projects.

Giving online is simplicity itself: you choose the project you would like to support, select the appropriate giving level, and then complete a simple form. Submit the form and we will do the rest. At the moment we are only able to accept single, one-off gifts, but we’re looking into developing this service to include paying by direct debit. To find out more, go to www.glasgow.ac.uk/givingtoglasm.

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1630-7
Over 40,000 merks1 Scots were given or promised between 1630 and 1637 for the building fund, which was set up to meet the costs of replacing the original buildings. A massive effort went into raising the money. The new University building has since been described as: ‘One of the finest, and certainly the most extensive specimens of Scottish civil architecture of the 17th century’.

1 A merk was two-thirds of a Scots pound

1633
Charles subscribed £200 sterling to the new University building fund but the subscription was never paid. The University had to wait until 1654 to receive the money, paid – ironically – by Oliver Cromwell, who had signed Charles’ death warrant in London five years earlier.

1760-1861
King George II (1683-1760) founded the chair of Practical Astronomy, providing a yearly allowance of £50 for the post of professor and astronomical observer. Charles I; King William III; Queen Anne; King George I; King William IV; and Queen Victoria all gave money to the University for either chairs or bursaries.

1863
The High Street site was sold to a railway company for £100,000 with an entry date of 1868. The lands of Gilmorehill were purchased for the new University and the neighbouring lands of Donaldshill were purchased for a new infirmary.

1870
Staff and students moved into the, as yet unfinished, new building, built in the latest materials of cast iron and concrete and faced with stone. The total cost was upwards of half a million pounds, equating to a contemporary cost of over £34 million2. As a share of the economy, however, the cost would have amounted to £549 million, demonstrating the importance of the building in its day.

1884-8
The Third Marquess of Bute gifted £45,000 for the ‘Great Hall’, which bears his name, and the Randolph Hall is part of a munificent bequest of £60,000 from the Glasgow shipbuilder, Charles Randolph of Govan. The tower was finished after another appeal to former students and the citizens of Glasgow. When all was finished it had taken 13 years to raise the money and put up all the buildings. Almost 95% of the subscribers donated less than £1,000 but supplied nearly 50% of the total raised.

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1 Using Gross Domestic Product deflator

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Young Alumnus of the Year 2008

Each year, the University recognises the achievements of alumni who have made a major contribution to the community, arts, sciences or business through its Young Alumnus of the Year award. So how do you decide between the creator of the ‘must see’ show of recent British theatre and a man who has become a world record-breaker by cycling around the globe? You don’t. This year the award is shared by John Tiffany (MA 1994) and Mark Beaumont (MA 2006).

John Tiffany

Professor Adrienne Scullion, James Arnott Professor of Drama, Head of Theatre Studies

One night, sometime in the early 1990s, two young University of Glasgow students, both aspiring writers and directors, were on their way home. They found themselves strangely drawn to a high tenement window, known to be the home of one of Scotland’s most popular and successful playwrights. In an act recalled as one of genuine – but probably also drink-induced – devotion to a real-live writer, the two students stopped, looked up and cheered.

Some fifteen years later the writer and director Nicola McCartney recollects the scene outside Liz Lochhead’s flat with appropriate embarrassment, but also with genuine affection for both Lochhead and her fellow devotee, John Tiffany.

John Tiffany (MA 1994) is the director of what commentator Joyce McMillan has called ‘the single most successful piece of theatre ever produced in this country’ (The Scotsman, March 2007). Black Watch is certainly the ‘must see’ show of recent British theatre. An instant hit at the 2006 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, it has been a sell-out success across Scotland, and in Los Angeles, New York, Sydney, Toronto and London. As appealing to critics as audiences, the production has won a host of international prizes including the South Bank Show Award for Theatre.

But John Tiffany is no one-hit-wonder.

He has an extraordinary track record as a theatre director, with a particular reputation for working on new plays by some of the UK’s leading playwrights including Gregory Burke, David Greig and even Liz Lochhead. This expertise is reflected in John’s current role as the Associate Director (New Work) of the National Theatre of Scotland (NTS) and in his previous positions as Associate Director of the London-based touring company Paines Plough and Literary Director of Scotland’s new writing theatre, the Traverse (in Edinburgh).

But before all that John had planned a very different career. When he arrived at the University of Glasgow in October 1990 it was to study science. But the city was buzzing with the energy of being European City of Culture. The Tramway Theatre was playing host to world-leading theatre companies such as The Wooster Group, Robert Lepage’s Théâtre Repère and Compagnie Geneviève de Kermabon. Combined with a vibrant Citizens Theatre, Tron Theatre and Centre for Contemporary Arts, the city was filled with exciting and challenging theatre-making of every kind and scale. Inspired, John changed direction to study Theatre and Classics.

As a student at Glasgow John was a prolific actor in work made by fellow students and by staff. In the remote top corner of the West Quadrangle, the old Drama Studio was a playground for students inspired by theatre. Seemingly unfettered by bureaucracy of any kind, every year student theatre-makers produced a remarkable range of plays and devised work. In this wonderful laboratory, John’s acting roles ranged from the assiduous and modest Bernard in Arthur Miller’s Death of a Salesman to a somewhat less unassuming God in a devised piece called Satan vs. Satan. John also played Jimmy Jack, the elderly Classics-quoting student, in Brian Friels’s Translations. In his love of the Classics – if not quite in accent or age – Jimmy Jack was a perfect fit for John.

While demonstrably committed to theatre in general, John was completely passionate about Classical theatre. Indeed, his enthusiasm for Classics led him to hold late-afternoon tutorials in his garden. What the Department of Classics thought of John’s determination to supplement its own teaching efforts is unrecorded!
John’s first venture as a director was, of course, in the Drama Studio. Early in 1994 he directed *Hide and Seek*, a new play by fellow student Paul Stevenson. The production was the work of a group of students, including John and Nicola McCartney, who came together as Lookout Theatre. The company, with a name that captured something of its ambition and energy, was an important stepping stone for a group of young theatre-makers that included John, Nicola and another early collaborator, Vicky Featherstone.

John first met Vicky, now the artistic director of the NTS, in 1993 when he was pursuing a Theatre Studies work placement at West Yorkshire Playhouse. It was a fortuitous meeting. The two have worked together ever since and, last year, *The Stage* magazine listed them as the tenth most influential people in British theatre.

John’s influence in theatre in Britain and internationally derives from his ability to make smart choices about repertoire and programme. His reputation is that he can work effectively with writers and actors to ensure that new work reaches its full potential and that, together, they can create worlds and characters that audiences recognise and care about. From student days writers and actors have always wanted to work with John and have benefitted from the experience. Today his productions attract some of the most talented people around. The fact that these productions are for the NTS – with its high production values and strong reputation for quality – mean that there is virtually no limit on the talent he can attract.

Last year *The Bacchae*, John’s new production for the Edinburgh International Festival, gave actor Alan Cumming his first stage role in Scotland for seventeen years. Next year, John’s new show also marks another significant return to the Scottish stage when Tayside-born actor and director Ian McDiarmid adapts and stars in a new stage version of Andrew O’Hagan’s novel *Be Near Me*.

But John’s commitment is also to new talent as well as returning talent. He is now also working with a new generation of Glasgow graduates, including Davey Anderson (MA 2002), who was the NTS’s first Director in Residence and was John’s Assistant Director on both *Home Glasgow* (NTS, 2006) and *Black Watch* for which Davey wrote the extraordinary music.

The influence that John achieves in world theatre and the benefit that accrues to theatre-making here in Scotland is justly recognised in the award Young Alumnus 2008.

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**Mark Beaumont**

Mark needs no introduction – the University has been closely following his inspiring and incredible journey since he began his plans to cycle around the world – a feat he achieved in February 2008.

He completed the 18,297-mile cycle in 194 days and 17 hours after passing through some of the most beautiful but strenuous terrain he had ever encountered.

In addition to his personal ambition of setting a new Guinness World Record, Mark used his cycling to raise awareness and money for five charities: Community Action Nepal, CHICKS, Cyrenians, Rainer and Tusk.

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*Black Watch*
Judith Robertson

Here Judith Robertson, head of Oxfam Scotland, talks to Avenue about how her education at the University of Glasgow helped shape her career.

Two years ago, as part of ‘I’m In!’ – its then-hip new marketing campaign aimed at engaging a younger audience, Oxfam Scotland launched a nationwide quest to find its very own anti-poverty champion. Scots were asked to nominate political figures, celebrities, business leaders or anyone they felt had made a difference to alleviating the plight of our society’s poorest individuals. Quickly, and perhaps somewhat unimaginatively, the usual suspects were rolled out – Bono, Sir Bob Geldof, Annie Lennox and Sting. However, on meeting Judith Robertson, head of Oxfam Scotland and Glasgow graduate, one wonders why Scots looked so far afield when an anti-poverty champion of her calibre sat right under their noses.

‘My postgraduate studies gave me a perspective on the issues Oxfam deals with and I hope I was able to bring a different perspective to my studies and those I studied with.’

Not, of course, that Robertson would agree with such a statement. In fact, the very suggestion of such a moniker would leave her shuddering or pealing with laughter. Even though she is obviously proud of her contribution to society, both in her current position at Oxfam and in past roles, hers is an understated and self-deprecating character: mindful that her job is only made possible by the work and cooperation of her 20-strong team in Glasgow and the wider global Oxfam network.

Indeed, it is these characteristics, together with her interest in learning, that moved her to return to her Alma Mater 15 years after her 1981 graduation, to study a Masters degree in Development Studies.

‘There is so much about the world to learn,’ she remarks. ‘Things are changing all the time in the development sector. But the MPhil was such a good thing to do. It gave me a more detailed perspective on the many complex issues involved in fighting poverty – globally and domestically. It was also interesting going back to university and seeing the changes in it and me – and then again, seeing that some things hadn’t changed at all either way.’

‘For one thing,’ she jokes, ‘there was still no paint on the corridor walls of the Adam Smith building. As for me, I was more focused second time round. I definitely got a lot more out of my postgraduate degree,’ she continues.

‘The teaching during both degrees was of a very high standard, but on the second outing I think I was more ready to learn. I was bringing with me my work experience and maturity, which helped enormously. Going back, even on a part-time basis, was a hugely rewarding experience, especially as the subject matter was so pertinent to my job at Oxfam. My postgraduate studies gave me a perspective on the issues Oxfam deals with and I hope I was able to bring a different perspective to my studies and those I studied with.’

Turn back the clock on Judith’s career – both professionally and academically – and the makings of an anti-poverty champion are clear for all to see.

Born in Aberdeen and raised in Kirkintilloch near Glasgow, Judith left school in 1978 and came to the University of Glasgow at the age of 16. In 1981 she graduated with an MA in Economics and Social & Economic History.
before going on to undertake a postgraduate degree in careers guidance at the University of Strathclyde. What followed then could be seen as a somewhat unusual, sideways move into the performing arts, which saw Judith working in the costume department at the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow.

However, the time spent in the arts, and in particular working among unemployed young people at the Perth Repertory Theatre, proved extremely useful for her future career with Oxfam.

It was also during this time that she worked, very briefly, as a careers adviser in Greenock (at the time of the shipyard closures) and served on the National Executive Committee of CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament).

‘After three years working in theatre I was burnt out. It was exhausting and I’d been very busy campaigning with the CND. Then just after Live Aid, I saw a job advert for Oxfam and applied. I didn’t expect to get it at all but I was really interested in international issues, as well as domestic poverty. I remember I’d just read Graham Hancock’s The Challenge of Hunger, which had caught my imagination, and the Oxfam job seemed to come at the right time. That was 22 years ago,’ she says.

Judith secured the post and for the next five years worked as its only full-time campaigner, using her theatrical background to raise awareness of global injustice in new ways. At the same time, she completed a stress management and complementary therapy course and, sensing the time to move on had arrived, she joined a council-run stress management programme for some of Glasgow’s poorest inhabitants in the East End.

Then, five years later, Robertson returned to ‘a completely different Oxfam’. She has been with the charity ever since. ‘When I was with Oxfam initially, it was just me. In going back I was working with other people. While it was a completely different dynamic, it still felt like I was going home.’

Robertson’s task was to measure poverty in Scotland. This led to her becoming Programme Manager for Oxfam’s UK Poverty Programme and later Campaigns Manager in Scotland. ‘The poverty research was so interesting. It was like nothing an international charity like Oxfam had ever done before. There was a great sense of excitement about it. Over the years the programme grew and we took on more staff,’ she says.

In 2004 – just before the G8 Summit and the Make Poverty History march – Judith was approached to apply for the charity’s top job in Scotland, following the retirement of the incumbent Marie Hearle. ‘I accepted the job with some trepidation,’ she says candidly. ‘It was an interesting prospect, but I was conscious that Make Poverty History was a potentially hugely defining moment for Oxfam, the charity sector and society in general. It was a big responsibility. But by the time I took up the post, I was ready to move on from my work on domestic poverty and reconnect with international affairs.’

Judith oversees all of Oxfam’s work in Scotland, as well as serving on the board of the Scottish Refugee Council and of the Network of International Development Organisations in Scotland (NIDOS). It is a role which takes her around the world and face-to-face with some of its poorest and its most influential people. ‘It is a hugely challenging job,’ she reflects. ‘But one which is enormously exciting and one that gives me amazing access to a whole network of amazing people working so hard to alleviate poverty, hunger and poor health. In many ways, it was my studies at Glasgow which drove me to be where I am today. The University environment stimulated and fed my interest in world affairs and introduced me to so many different types of people. And for that I will always be grateful.’
Clark McGinn

‘You want to have a strong connection with, and be part of, a living university community, not just to have a dusty photo on top of the piano.’

With these words, Clark McGinn perfectly sums up what it is like to be an active University of Glasgow graduate.

This 48-year-old banker is an ideal example of the way that the Glasgow experience can shape a person.

After graduating with an MA in philosophy in 1983 he did what many graduates do – he went off to make his way in the world, without a thought for his old institution. He headed to London to work in the financial sector.

But then something happened.

‘A letter came through the door from the Development and Alumni Office,’ says Clark, whose Ayrshire accent has not been blunted by the years away from Scotland.

‘It was one of those things that graduates receive on a fairly regular basis, but for some reason, this caught my attention. I think I was at that stage in my career where I was ready to engage with the University again.

‘I had graduated about six years prior to this and I wasn’t connected to the University. But something about that letter caught me at just the right time.

‘And I’m so glad it did.’
Clark is a firm believer in the importance of a university education and the benefit it brings and he is keen to spread the word on behalf of Glasgow.

He explains: ‘I had a fantastic time at Glasgow. I was one of the lucky generation who received a first-class education free of charge. And Glasgow gave me that combination of the academic and the social that it specialises in.

‘Your time at university is something that shapes you for the rest of your life – it is that great a gift. And I feel that it would be rather selfish just to accept that gift and not give something back when you get the chance. ‘And now I try to take those opportunities whenever they come along.’

The University now benefits from a talent that Clark forged when he was an undergraduate.

An enthusiastic student debater, Clark teamed up with Charles Kennedy, former Liberal Democrat leader and now Rector at Glasgow, to devastating effect in the debating chamber.

The pair travelled around the world representing the University, with their crowning achievement coming with victory in the prestigious Observer Mace competition in 1982.

Clark recalls: ‘Charles and I were really keen on the debating – I’m sure some of our tutors thought a little too keen – but it gave me a fantastic grounding in public speaking, something that has stood me in good stead ever since.

‘It also allowed me to travel to universities across the world and while there I was struck by the strength of alumni relations many institutions, particularly those in North America, have with the students who have passed through their doors.

‘Now I try to combine the talent for public speaking I developed with the alumni relations work of the University.’

Clark is one of the busiest, and most sought after, Burns speakers on the circuit, with a wealth of experience.
Reunions

Notices

1947–1952 Beta Club
The 2009 dinner will be held at Seamill on 5 June. Contact Professor Hume Adams, 31 Burnhead Road, Glasgow G43 2SU; tel: +44 (0)141 637 1481, email humeadams@btinternet.com.

1954 Chemistry/Biochemistry reunion
A 55th anniversary reunion for the 1954 class is planned for 2009. Plans are to attend Commemoration Day at the University on 17 June followed by a dinner in a hotel later that week. For more information and to register interest, contact Dugald Macfarlane at dugald.macfarlane@bushinternetes.com.

1958 North Rona Expedition
Surviving members of the ‘Goonery’ are invited to contact Eilidh Nisbet, who is trying to arrange a return visit to the island. Tel: +44 (0)131 440 0265, email: helen@nisbet102.fsnet.co.uk.

1959 Honours Chemistry
A 50th anniversary reunion dinner is being planned for the summer of 2009. Contact Dr Harold Mills, 21 Hatton Place, Edinburgh EH9 1UB, email: millsharh@aol.com; or Dr Douglas Williamson, Mill of Birkenbower, Lumsden by Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB56 4JW, email: birkenbower@hotmail.com.

1959 Dentistry
Catherine McLaughlin (née Kate Kearney) is keen to see if the 1959 class can get together in 2009 to celebrate 50 years since graduation. If you would like to be involved, tel: +44 (0)131 468 4401, email: cpk@blueyonder.co.uk.

1959 Medical Reunion
Plans are under way for the 1959 year to celebrate their 50th anniversary reunion in Glasgow on 12 September 2009. Included will be a tour of the Wolfson Medical School Building in the morning, followed by dinner in the evening. Contact: Marjory MacSween, tel: +44 (0)141 637 4355, email: mpmr5136@amserv.com.

1959 Notre Dame
The 1959 class is currently planning its 50th year reunion for 12 September 2009. The plan is to celebrate Mass and have lunch together. For more information email: alumni@gla.ac.uk.

1959 Engineering
Four years on from their last reunion, the 1959 year will meet on 17–18 September 2009 for a programme of events involving a tour of the University, dinner in the Randolph Hall and perhaps even a trip to the Falkirk Wheel! Contact Mr Ken Kirkwood, tel: 001 856 795 7403, email: kenkirkwood@comcast.net or by post at 40 Jefferson Avenue, Haddonfield, NJ 08033, USA.

1960 Delta Club
The club will hold its golden reunion at Seamill Hydro Hotel, West Kilbride from 15–18 June 2010. We plan to attend Commemoration Day as a group on 16 June. Please contact Anne Loudon, 1 Larchfield Court, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 5PL. Tel: +44 (0)141 639 4195, email: AnneEPL@aol.com.

1968 Notre Dame
For some time members of the 1968 year have been aiming to organise a reunion and it is hoped that 2009 will see the class reunited after 41 years. If you would like to attend the event, email: alumni@gla.ac.uk for further details.

1969 Biochemistry (Hons) Class
A 40th anniversary reunion is being planned for 2009. Bharat Jasani and Ian Duncan are coordinating plans for the event and would very much like to hear from you if you are willing to support and join in with the organisation of the 40th reunion. Email: alumni@gla.ac.uk for more information.

1969 Geology
John Swan has been coordinating plans for the 40th anniversary reunion. The class will meet on 20 June 2009 in the University’s Melville Room for a reception, buffet lunch and tour. They will then continue their celebrations in a private room at the Botly Restaurant in Ruthven Lane. For more information or to book tickets please contact John Swan at jbswan@hotmail.com.

1963–69 Gamma Club
The club will meet for their 40th anniversary reunion on 5–7 June 2009 in Glasgow. The venue will be Gleddoch House in Langbank but there are also plans for a tour of the University’s Wolfson Medical School Building and a visit to the Anatomy Building. Contact Jessie Shaw, tel: 07711 388 258, email: jmashaw@btinternet.com.

1970 Political Economy
John Kellie and Donald Forrest are hoping to organise a reunion of all their classmates during July 2010 to celebrate 40 years since graduation. For more information about getting involved in the reunion, please email alumni@gla.ac.uk.

1977 Beta Club
Following the success of the 30th reunion, the 35-year reunion has already been pencilled in: same weekend, same place (24–26 October 2012 at Dunkeld House Hotel). For more information email: rona.henderson@beta77.org.

1979 MBChB
Gail Addis is helping to coordinate plans for the 30th anniversary reunion to be held in or around Glasgow in November 2009. For more information email: gail.addis@mac.com.

1984 BVMS
Ewan McNeill is organising a reunion in 2009 to mark the 25th anniversary since graduation. The reunion is being held on 23–25 October 2009 at the Palace Hotel in Buxton, Derbyshire. For more information contact Ewan at castle.vet@btinternet.com.

1989 Delta
Celebrating 20 years since graduation, the 1989 Delta Club are hoping to meet and reminisce in 2009. For more information about getting involved in the reunion, email: alumni@gla.ac.uk.

Calling graduates of 1959
The foundation of the University of Glasgow in 1451 is celebrated each year on Commemoration Day, when the Chancellor confers honorary degrees in a ceremony in the Bute Hall. This year’s event takes place on Wednesday, 17 June 2009. Graduates celebrating their 50th anniversary reunion are invited to attend this special occasion as a unique reunion event. Tickets for the ceremony are free but must be booked in advance and there will be a ticket charge for lunch. For information contact alumni@gla.ac.uk.
Reunions

Reports

1952 Beta Club 50th reunion
To mark 50 years since graduation, 94 of our members and spouses gathered in the Glynhill Hotel in Renfrew on 4 October. Events included a visit to the newly renovated Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery, a trip ‘Aff Doon the Watter’ via Wemyss Bay to Rothesay and a tour around the Wolfson Medical School at the University.

1947–1952 Beta Club
The club returned to Seamill Hydro Hotel in June for this year’s annual reunion. It was an idyllic summer evening and the Isle of Arran could not have looked better. An enjoyable evening was spent by 27 members and guests.

1962–63 BSc (Agriculture)
In June a reunion was held in Ayr to celebrate 50 years since the original meeting of the class as first-year students. The afternoon consisted of a re-introduction to Auchincruive College, where many of the class completed their studies. The evening was spent at Fairfield House Hotel, Ayr, where past stories and glories were retold and relived. Missing members of the class are encouraged to contact our clerk at albowie70@hotmail.com.

1998 Gamma Club
Over 130 members and guests of the Gamma 98 club gathered in Glasgow in October to celebrate ten years since graduation. Memories of year club balls were relived with a dinner and disco at the Hilton Grosvenor Hotel. The night was a great success and the organising committee would like to thank all those who contributed to making it such a memorable occasion.

1968 Engineering reunion
The day got off to an excellent start with a morning visit to the Faculty of Engineering hosted by the Dean, Professor Frank Coton. Sixty people attended the dinner in the city centre and there was an update on the good work of the GU 1968 Trust by one of the trustees, Alastair Neill. All in all, an excellent reunion with everyone now looking forward to the next one.

1968 Chemistry
The 1968 Chemistry year group met at the University on 20 September. The reunion included a tour of the department followed by a meal in the Gilbert Scott Building at the University. A good evening was had by all.

1988 Chemistry
A group of 1988 Chemistry graduates met up on 20 September for a tour of their old department, then carried on the 20th anniversary celebrations in a bar in Byres Road. Everyone enjoyed themselves so much that there was a plea for something to be arranged for the 25th anniversary in 2013. To register your interest, please contact Jacqui Campbell at: jacqui.campbell@syngenta.com.

1983 Botany reunion
25 years since graduation, the Honours Botany Class of 1983 met to reminisce on 14 June. The reunion took place in the home of Janice Fulton’s father and Janice herself travelled all the way from Australia to join her classmates to celebrate, together with some friends who graduated in 1982 and two of their lecturers.

1962–1968 Beta Club 40th year reunion
Almost 150 people, including 76 members of the year, attended the 40th year reunion at Turnberry Hotel on 3–5 October. The weekend included a visit to the Zoology Lecture Theatre and a tour of the new Medical School. At breakfast on Sunday another treat was in store: the QE2 sailed up the Clyde with Ailsa Craig and Arran as a backdrop. What a finale to a wonderful, happy and memorable weekend.

How to contact alumni news
Alumni news is edited by Emily Wallace. Send details of news and reunions to Emily at the address opposite:

Development & Alumni Office
2 The Square, University of Glasgow,
Glasgow G12 8QQ
Tel: +44 (0)141 330 4951
email: alumni@gla.ac.uk
Awards and distinctions

Graduate elected to US National Academy of Sciences

William Murdoch (BSc 1960) of the Department of Ecology, Evolution & Marine Biology at the University of California at Santa Barbara has been elected to the US National Academy of Sciences in recognition of his distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

British Psychological Society Award

Thomas A W N MacKay of Ardoch (MA 1969, MAppSci 1999) was presented with the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Professional Psychology by the British Psychological Society at its 2007 annual conference for his work in raising educational attainment in West Dunbartonshire. Professor MacKay’s work has also been recognised by the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, in his book Britain’s Everyday Heroes: The Making of the Good Society.

Graduate awarded the Einstein Prize of the American Physical Society

Ronald Drever (BSc 1953, PhD 1958), Professor Emeritus at the California Institute of Technology, was awarded the Einstein Prize of the American Physical Society in 2007 for outstanding achievement in theory, experiment or observation in gravitational physics measurement.

Top rower wins again

Glasgow graduate and Britain’s top female rower Katherine Grainger (MPhil 2001) won a silver medal with her team at this summer’s Olympic Games in Beijing. Katherine has not only won four world championships but is also the only British woman to have gained medals in three different Olympic competitions in any sport.

Graduates feature in national exhibition

Dr John MacLeod and his wife at the launch of the exhibition

Two Glasgow graduates, mother and son, Dr John MacLeod (MBChB 1963) and his late mother Dr Julia MacLeod (MBChB 1925) are included in the permanent exhibition ‘Scotland: A Changing Nation’ at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. The MacLeod family of North Uist have been GPs on the island for the past 76 years. Theirs is one of 29 personal stories on show at the exhibition, which illustrates the changes that have permeated all areas of Scottish life over the past 100 years.

Graduate’s debut novel success

A bilingual writer, Chiew-Siah Tei has won a film and theatre, in both Chinese and English. Chiew-Siah Tei (MPhil 1995, PhD 2007) is keen on experimenting with form and medium, Chiew-Siah Tei (MPhil 1995, PhD 2007) produces works that range across literature, film and theatre, in both Chinese and English. A bilingual writer, Chiew-Siah Tei has won a series of awards for her Chinese prose, including the Hua Zong International Chinese Fiction Award and the National Prose Writing Competition.

Thirty years of access course success

Were you one of the many students who secured their place at the University as a result of taking the Department of Adult & Continuing Education access course? If so, we would like to hear from you. This session, 2008–9, marks the 30th year of access provision. To celebrate we are planning a series of events for late May and early June 2009. Whether you will be able to join us or not, we would still very much like to hear from you: please email us at access@educ.gla.ac.uk and tell us when you studied the course and your experiences since then. This is a great opportunity for us to share some of your success with future access students.

Holiday offers for alumni

Connoisseur river cruise selection 2009

Grand European Tour
April to November 2009, 14 nights, from only £1,985


Castles & Wine
April to October 2009, 7 nights, from only £1,145


Elegant Elbe
An exceptional opportunity to enjoy a 7-night river cruise on board M S Viking Schumann plus 2 nights’ stay in Berlin and Prague. March to October 2009, 11 nights, from only £1,545.


Waterways of the Tsars
May to October 2009, 12 nights, from only £1,970

Itinerary: Moscow - Uglich - Yaroslavl - Goritsy - Kizhi Island - Mandrogi - St Petersburg.

To qualify for our special prices, which include a saving of £225 per person, reservations must be made no later than 28 February 2009 and paid in full at the time of booking.

Prices include

• Return flights from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds Bradford, Cardiff and Bristol (as applicable), direct in some cases

• Accommodation for duration of cruise, full board

• Pre- and/or post-cruise stays as per itinerary

• Guided tours as per itinerary

• All overseas transfers.

To find out more about our cruises visit our website at www.selectcruises.com
### Hurtigruten Norwegian coastal voyages 2009

Sailing along this beautiful coastline, you visit 34 ports including:

**Classic Round Voyage – 12 nights from £1,555**
Departure dates: 8 and 14 May 2009.
Departs from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Leeds Bradford or Cardiff

**Norwegian Explorer – 13 nights from £1,969**
Departure dates: 28 May and 23 June 2009.
Departs from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Leeds Bradford or Cardiff

Price includes:
- Return economy flights to Bergen or Oslo
- 10 or 11 nights’ cruise in cabin category of your choice for duration of chosen cruise
- Pre- & post-cruise stay in B&B as applicable
- Complimentary excursions (as listed)
- All applicable taxes and service charges.

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### Events

#### Chancellor meets alumni in Kolkata

Around 70 Auld Boys and their wives attended an event in Kolkata, held to coincide with the Chancellor’s visit to India. Many of the Auld Boys were in Glasgow at the same time as the Chancellor was studying for his first degree and they were able to share stories about that time.

The Chancellor updated them briefly on more recent developments at the University and was presented with an engraved silver plate to commemorate the occasion. Caroline Boddie from the International & Postgraduate Service received a lovely cotton scarf. The Auld Boys in return were more than happy to receive a bottle of whisky.

#### Australian alumni event

Professor Ted Cowan, Professor of Scottish History, and his wife Dr Lizanne Henderson, both of the University’s Dumfries Campus, were guests of honour at this year’s Scottish Week promoted by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council. The packed programme featured lectures, presentations, civic receptions and other public appearances.

This included a meeting of the Glasgow Graduates Association at Mike and Jane Young’s Wollombi Guesthouse in the Hunter Valley, north-west of Sydney (pictured). Over a lavish lunch the company reminisced about the University and the old country. Lizanne discussed the Dumfries Campus while Ted reflected on the University and Scotland.

#### New York, New York

A most enjoyable evening was held on 18 October at The Penn Club of New York. Thanks to generous sponsorship by the Bank of Scotland, USA, guests enjoyed a fun-packed evening. Dr David U’Prichard (BSc 1970) responded to the Principal’s address and proposed an enthusiastic and entertaining toast to Alma Mater. The formal part of the evening was followed by a quiz which caused much hilarity. The night finished in traditional energetic fashion with a ceilidh provided by Madra Confach.

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The General Council

Business news and reports
Prepared and supplied for the General Council by Lawrence Reynolds, Clerk to the General Council.
Email: l.reynolds@admin.gla.ac.uk

Papers for consideration at the Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council
Thursday, 5 February 2009: Minutes of Meeting held on 27 June 2008 (see below)
Paper A: Report by the Principal on the work and activities of the University.

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on Friday, 27 June 2008 in the Education Centre of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Edinburgh.

The Chancellor, Sir Kenneth Calman, took the chair and welcomed those present to the meeting.

Election of Assessors
The meeting was advised by the Clerk that three nominations, all duly proposed and seconded, had been received for election as Assessors of the General Council to serve on the University Court for the period 1 August 2008 until 31 July 2012. The nominees were: Mr David Anderson MA, Mrs Margaret Susan Dunsmore MA, and Mr David Poos LLB. The meeting resolved to elect the three persons named to serve as Assessors with effect from 1 August 2008.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2008
The minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2008, printed in Avenue, issue 44, (June 2008) were approved.

Report of the Convener of the Business Committee, Dr Frances Boyle
The Convener thanked all those present for coming to the meeting, which, so far as she knew, was the first Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council ever held outwith the University.

Those present were reminded that the last Half-Yearly Meeting in the Hunterian Art Gallery had been held on a weekday evening in an attempt to attract a greater number of alumni, and after the meeting the members had enjoyed a buffet and the opportunity to look round the Art Gallery.

The meeting of the Business Committee on 3 April had received a briefing from Miss Emily Wallace, the University’s Alumni Relations Manager, on GU World. This is an online interactive web portal for alumni, being interactive in the sense that University graduates could access and update some of the information that the University held for them.

Graduates had the opportunity through GU World to trace their friends by choosing to make their details visible to other members and encourage direct contact. GU World was launched in December 2006 and currently had more than 5,000 members.

The Convener encouraged members to join GU World if they had not already done so and to keep in touch, not only with developments in their University, but also with their friends.

Dr Boyle hoped those coming to the dinner in the Mansion House after the meeting would enjoy the occasion, and she looked forward to meeting many of those present in a more relaxed setting. Dr Boyle stated that she and her colleagues on the Business Committee would welcome comments on the evening and whether or not members would like similar or indeed different events organised in the future.

Address by the Principal, Sir Muir Russell
The Principal presented his report as printed on page 24 of Avenue, issue 44 (June 2008)

The University had jumped 11 places in the latest Times Good University Guide – the leap from 31st to 20th place was the largest of the top 30 universities. This meant that Glasgow was now in the top 20 places in three guides:

• The Independent’s Good University Guide 2008 (where the University had climbed 14 places to be 18th)
• The Guardian League Table (where the University had climbed 12 places to be 20th) and
• The Times Good University Guide 2008 where the University was 20th.

With regard to research, 2006–7 had been a good year for income with new awards for research funding totalling £130m, and research income £97m.

In 2007–8 the University had received research awards totalling £96m to date. The Principal emphasised the spread of research income streams – not just in science, medicine and engineering, but in the arts too. The University received an award of more than £2m from the Arts & Humanities Research Council which was significantly greater than that of other higher education institutions in the UK.

The University’s Business School had been awarded The Queen’s Award for Enterprise for its success in attracting growing numbers of international students to study on its management programmes. The award follows on from international accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The Principal referred to particular developments in his report, which were featured in the current edition of Avenue and which represented significant initiatives:

• The Paul O’Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre
• The Glasgow Heart and Lung Institute based at The Golden Jubilee National Hospital at Clydebank
• The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research and Translational Cancer Research Centre at Garscube.

These institutions were important developments in the ten-year strategy of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde. The Faculty of Medicine was closely involved in this long-term strategy and in developing the concentration of academic clinical facilities at three locations: Glasgow Royal Infirmary, South Glasgow Hospital and Gartnavel General Hospital. With the development of the Heart and Lung Institute, these developments provided a tremendous opportunity for the integration of research, teaching and clinical services across Glasgow.

The Principal reminded the meeting that challenges lay ahead in the areas of finance, recruitment and research.

In finance, there was a projection for an operating surplus again in 2007–8 of circa £4.4m and the budget projection of 2008–9 was circa £2.6m.

Growth in the University’s income would depend on recruitment of increasing numbers of students, research awards and, linked with both, focused investment.

With regard to recruitment, over the last five years postgraduate numbers had increased by 20% (international students by 56% and home students by 13%).

In the period May 2007 to May 2008 there had been overall increases in applications for postgraduate taught programmes of 37% and for postgraduate research by 28%.

The increase in international applications (non-EU) had been as follows:

• For postgraduate taught programmes: 39% (of note was the 38% increase for Engineering and the 77% increase for Medicine).
• For postgraduate research opportunities: 31%.

However, the challenge to the University was to accelerate progress in the recruitment of students from overseas, particularly if the University was to meet its strategic aim of increasing its international population to 20% by 2012.
The Principal referred to the second Open Day which had been held recently and at which over 2,000 people had been present. Initiatives in marketing and the recruitment of students from England had also been given greater priority as the University could not continue to rely on recruitment principally from the west of Scotland.

In respect of focused investment, 47 new posts across the faculties had been created and capital funding plans over the next three years were in the order of £60m. A major investment of £3.5m (revenue cost) in a student life cycle project would take place, with the aim of developing an all-encompassing system that would involve the student and the University from initial application to graduate/diplomate.

The Principal reminded those present that the University’s graduation ceremonies were taking place. He had just shaken hands with some 1,300 graduates and he would meet another 1,900 graduands on whom he would confer degrees. Graduations were always a privilege and a pleasure. It was good to see the sense of achievement in the students now graduating and in the sense of pride they and their families had in having graduated from their University.

The Chancellor thanked the Principal for his address and invited any questions from those present.

In response to a question about the University’s Dumfries Campus, the Principal stated financial arrangements were now in place to secure the future of the campus. The University’s courses at Dumfries were to be remodelled under the guidance of Professor Ted Cowan, the Director. It was the intention to resume undergraduate recruitment for session 2008–9 onwards.

Mr Kenneth Fee informed the meeting that there had been correspondence, initiated by himself, with the Chancellor, in which Mr Fee had suggested that the Chancellor give serious consideration to taking sabbatical leave from his office as Chancellor until the Commission on Scottish Devolution, of which he was the Chairman, had submitted its report. Mr Fee stated that he and a number of his colleagues had felt that the Chancellor should take a period of sabbatical leave, for the reason indicated at the present time.

Sir Kenneth Calman replied that the Scottish Parliament and the UK Government had invited him in a personal capacity to take the Chair of the Commission on Scottish Devolution. The two roles were completely separate, and there had never been any suggestion that he, Sir Kenneth, had taken the Chair of the Commission for or on behalf of the University of Glasgow.

Sir Kenneth stated that he was not aware that there had been any suggestion that the University, or the Office of Chancellor, had somehow been involved in his appointment as Chair of the Commission, nor that his participation in any way committed the University or its graduates to a particular position on the constitutional future of Scotland. If there had been any such suggestions he would be pleased to put any such misconception right. Sir Kenneth repeated his earlier statement that the two roles were completely separate, and that he would not be taking sabbatical leave from the office of Chancellor.

The Chancellor invited any comment from those present at the meeting. Professor Ross Lorimer stated that he too considered the two roles to be completely separate and that there was no conflict of interest, an observation which was supported by other members present.

Closure of the Meeting

The Chancellor thanked all those present for their attendance and stated that the next Half-Yearly Meeting would be held in the Wolfson Medical School Building on the University campus on 5 February 2009.

Next meeting of the General Council

The General Council will meet under the chairmanship of the Chancellor on Thursday, 5 February 2009 at 6pm in the Wolfson Medical School Building.

Lawrence C Reynolds
Clerk to the General Council

The Council’s Agenda will include the following:

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 June 2008.
3. Address by the Principal, Sir Muir Russell, on the work and activities of the University.
4. Ballot for the election of eight members to serve on the Business Committee (nomination forms, obtainable from the Clerk to the General Council, should be received by him no later than 12 noon on 2 February 2009).
5. Other competent business
6. Date of next meeting: to be announced.

The Council was set up by Act of Parliament to give voice to the views of the Graduates and Teaching Staff on the regulation and well-being of the University. All Graduates and Teaching Staff are entitled to attend.
Paper A: Report by the Principal

Once again I am very happy to report that the University has had a good financial year. We delivered an operating surplus for 2007–8 which is the third consecutive year that we have been able to achieve such a positive result.

Such an outcome is even more important as challenges lie ahead and financial pressures build. We have honoured the sector-wide wage three-year settlement as agreed in 2006 and must therefore absorb a 5% increase in October 2008 which follows a 3% increase in May 2008. Utility costs are expected to increase by approximately 60% next year and, in relation to pensions, there is likely to be an increase in the employer contribution payable by the University from October 2009 onwards. And current pressure on the public finances means that additional support from Government is unlikely.

Notwithstanding these pressures, we are committed to an ambitious capital strategy with significant investment planned across the campus over the next 10–15 years. We are also heavily investing in our systems infrastructure to ensure that they are fit for purpose for an institution the size and scale of Glasgow.

In order to meet these challenges we are pushing hard to increase our income. We aim to do this through building research volume and student numbers, particularly from outside the EU. We have already invested in new staff to strengthen our home and international recruitment teams and have developed a range of new programmes – more than 40 new postgraduate taught programmes were launched in September 2008 – which offer attractive and contemporary opportunities to prospective students. The results of the Research Assessment Exercise, due out in December, will not only have an impact on funding, but will also help us to continue to shape our research strategy over the coming years, and in a way that focuses on our strengths.

One such area is biomedical research. We were therefore delighted to receive word that planning permission has been approved to build the Beatson Translational Research Centre (TRC), the final element in the creation of the Glasgow Centre for Cancer Research, which will be one of the largest in the UK. Key to the success of this development is the £10m Beatson Pebble Appeal which we launched to the general public in September. While our fundraising efforts will seek to attract gifts in the normal way, the Beatson Pebble Appeal is special in that it is reaching out to the public. We were delighted to be assisted in the launch by the captains of Rangers and Celtic football clubs: both clubs have agreed to help us with our campaign and our message is that, no matter what size, every gift (pebble) helps in meeting our target. It is immensely encouraging therefore that we have already raised just over £4 million.

Continuing the theme of good and encouraging news, the very recent Times Higher Top 200 World University Rankings for 2008 positioned us at 73rd in the world, a leap of 10 places, the largest increase by any UK institution. This consolidates our position in the top 1% of world universities.

Our students consistently express their approval of the degree programmes on offer, recording high satisfaction levels year on year in the National Student Survey, a survey of final-year undergraduate students. Our overall institutional satisfaction rating this year was 86%. The areas of concern remain assessment and feedback and these will continue to be a major focus for attention over the coming months.

In the recent International Student Barometer (ISB), the largest study of international students in the world, we received the highest levels of satisfaction of any participating Russell Group institution for the quality of our support services. 87% of our international students would recommend the University to others and this compares to 79% in Russell Group institutions, 78% in Scotland and 75% in the whole ISB.

Creating a good student experience for our students is vital and important, not just for the present, but for the future too. With 59 alumni associations worldwide, you can see that a good Glasgow experience has the power to ripple across the world which is good for us, good for the city and Scotland. We hope our alumni are proud of Glasgow, for we are proud of our alumni. This edition of Avenue features some notable examples and, in particular, our two alumni of the year: John Tiffany for his outstanding achievements in Scottish and international theatre through such productions as The Bacchae and Black Watch (both for the National Theatre of Scotland) and Mark Beaumont who, in February, completed the 18,000-mile round-the-world cycle journey in a record-breaking time of 194 days – 82 days faster than the previous attempt.

2009 offers an excellent opportunity for all of us to reaffirm our connections with Glasgow through Homecoming Scotland, which is featured in more detail in this edition of Avenue. As you will read, the University is playing its part in celebrating the event. The year will start with the largest Burns conference of the year – Robert Burns 1759 to 2009 – hosted by our own Centre for Robert Burns Studies. Delegates are expected from all over the world.

2009 also marks the 250th anniversary of the publication of The Theory of Moral Sentiments by one of our most famous students and academics, Adam Smith. The University will be hosting a three-day international conference in his honour and our Stevenson lecture series this year is dedicated to Smith’s name, achievements and contribution to the world of ideas.

The University is wonderfully placed with its tremendous resources in the Hunterian Art Gallery & Museum and Archive Services to respond imaginatively and creatively to the year that lies ahead, as I was recently reminded at the launch of our critically-acclaimed ‘Boucher and Chardin: Masters of Modern Manners’ exhibition, and you can see more of what they are planning in these pages.

These events and so much of what I experience at the University underline what makes working at Glasgow such a great privilege, mixing as it does great people with great events, human endeavour and achievement, living and creative connections with the past and vision and enterprise that are shaping the future. I hope that many of you will think about making the journey back to Glasgow sometime in 2009 to experience again the richness of what it has to offer. A warm welcome awaits!
The Glasgow Boys
13 December 2008 – 16 May 2009
A selection of works by the Glasgow Boys, the informal grouping of artists who, inspired by progressive French painting of the day, produced some of the most decorative and adventurous painting in Scotland at the end of the 19th century. This selection is displayed as part of Homecoming 2009.

James McNeill Whistler: The Gentle Art of Making Etchings
23 January – 30 May 2009
Whistler’s wide-ranging output included some of the most beautiful and influential etchings of the late 19th century. This exhibition showcases an exciting research project, currently under way at the University’s Department of History of Art, in collaboration with the Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, and the Art Institute of Chicago. The project explores Whistler’s creative processes through a detailed investigation of making, presentation and marketing and reveals the extraordinary complexity of the etchings through a detailed examination of subject-matter.

Weird and Wonderful
The Hunterian collections contain over a million objects and many are world-famous. However, many items do not fit into any particular category and this display shows a small selection. Some tell fascinating stories; some are historically significant; some are puzzling; and some are bizarre.

Lord Kelvin: Revolutionary Scientist
An exciting mix of hands-on activities, original scientific instruments, demonstrations and computer-generated images based around the life and work of Lord Kelvin, Glasgow’s greatest scientist.

Portland shells
Figure of Indian deity
Compass card

Hunterian Museum
Hunterian Museum, Main Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ. Open Monday–Saturday 9.30am–5pm. Closed Sundays and public holidays. Admission to the museum is free. Tel: +44 (0)141 330 4221

Hunter: Man, Medic and Collector
This permanent exhibition tells the story of Dr William Hunter, the Scottish obstetrician, teacher, collector and founder of the Hunterian Museum. Find out about his passion for collecting and his highly successful career as a royal physician, teacher of anatomy and surgery and pioneering scientific researcher.

Portland shells

Hunterian Art Gallery
Hunterian Art Gallery, 82 Hillhead Street, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ. Open Monday–Saturday 9.30am–5pm. Closed Sundays and public holidays. Admission to the art gallery is free. There is an admission charge for the Mackintosh House*. *Free to University of Glasgow staff and students with a valid staff or matriculation card. Tel: +44 (0)141 330 5431

The Glasgow Boys
13 December 2008 – 16 May 2009
A selection of works by the Glasgow Boys, the informal grouping of artists who, inspired by progressive French painting of the day, produced some of the most decorative and adventurous painting in Scotland at the end of the 19th century. This selection is displayed as part of Homecoming 2009.

James McNeill Whistler: The Gentle Art of Making Etchings
23 January – 30 May 2009
Whistler’s wide-ranging output included some of the most beautiful and influential etchings of the late 19th century. This exhibition showcases an exciting research project, currently under way at the University’s Department of History of Art, in collaboration with the Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, and the Art Institute of Chicago. The project explores Whistler’s creative processes through a detailed investigation of making, presentation and marketing and reveals the extraordinary complexity of the etchings through a detailed examination of subject-matter.

Education at the Hunterian
The Hunterian provides an exciting and inspirational resource for a wide range of formal and informal learning opportunities. Call +44 (0)141 330 2131 for school bookings and +44 (0)141 330 2375 for other activities.

Keep in touch
For updates on future Hunterian exhibitions and events, please fill in the form on our website at www.hunterian.gla.ac.uk.
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