How to catch a bus in Tanzania, and other stories
We’d like to thank everyone who made 2009 a great year for Glasgow.

To our researchers, whose innovation resulted in nearly 70% of the University’s research output being rated as world-leading or internationally excellent by the latest Research Assessment Exercise.

To our hardworking students, who reported 90% satisfaction with their experience at Glasgow in the National Student Survey and whose positive feedback saw the University ranked 4th in the UK by the International Student Barometer 2009.

To our teaching and service staff, whose dedication to continuing Glasgow’s proud reputation as one of the world’s top 100 universities was rewarded with rises in the league tables of The Guardian and The Times, to 17th and 19th places respectively.

To our friends who are making links to Glasgow from across the globe.

To the businessmen and women who’ve worked with us to achieve world-changing discoveries. To the schoolchildren and members of the local community who’ve engaged with learning from within our walls and beyond.

Here’s to you. And here’s to a great 2010.
Welcome to the latest edition of Avenue, our twice-yearly magazine for alumni and friends of the University.

It has been an exciting few months since I took up my role as Principal of the University in October. Being an alumnus of Glasgow myself, I am delighted to rejoin the community here and to see how the University has gone from strength to strength over recent years. Avenue provides an excellent taste of just some of the areas that are important to us and where we are achieving success.

The student experience is at the heart of the University’s ethos and the recent National Student Survey results show that today’s students gain great satisfaction from studying here. On pages 11-13 we look at the results of the independent rankings and surveys in more detail and find out what makes Glasgow such a unique place in which to study.

As Glasgow’s 50th Principal, I am very proud to be head of a University steeped in history. On pages 17-19 Lesley Richmond, Director of Archive Services, celebrates our heritage by bringing to life stories of the University’s past.

While our past is important to us, so is our future. In Avenue’s cover feature on pages 8-10, the work of the Glasgow Centre for International Development is profiled and reveals how the University is not only investing in quality interdisciplinary research but is also sharing our skills, ideas and people with developing countries to help create a brighter future for all.

In this issue we celebrate one of the University’s high flyers, Veterinary Medicine graduate turned rugby professional Euan Murray, who was crowned Young Alumnus of the Year 2009. You can read about his sporting achievements and fond memories of the University on page 20.

Over the next year I plan to attend as many of the alumni events that take place around the world as I can and look forward to meeting some of you, our Avenue readers, then. In the meantime, thank you for your interest and support and I hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Professor Anton Muscatelli
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
$10 million grant to eradicate rabies

A team of researchers at Glasgow has been instrumental in securing a grant of almost $10 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to help eliminate rabies in low-income countries.

Work carried out by Dr Sarah Cleaveland and colleagues from the Faculties of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical & Life Sciences has formed the basis of a five-year canine vaccination programme in three areas around the world.

Received by the World Health Organisation, the grant will be used to introduce canine vaccination programmes in Tanzania, Kwa Zulu Natal in South Africa and the Visayas archipelago in the Philippines. Dr Cleaveland will act as a key member of the scientific advisory team on these projects.

Work began at the end of 2009 to inoculate domestic dogs in Tanzania, with Dr Cleaveland overseeing the programme between Glasgow and the East African country. It is hoped that this will eventually lead to the complete elimination of both dog and human rabies in the region.

‘Our research found that the circulation of a single virus strain in the Serengeti is driven by domestic dogs,’ says Dr Cleaveland. ‘If we are going to successfully eradicate rabies, we need to vaccinate at least 70% of domestic dogs, and so hit the virus at its source.’

Small Animal Hospital opens its doors

After more than ten years of planning and construction, the doors of Glasgow’s Small Animal Hospital opened over the summer.

The £15m hospital offers facilities to train approximately 120 veterinary students and 30 nurses at a time, making Glasgow’s Faculty of Veterinary Medicine one of the most advanced centres for learning and teaching in the world.

Based at the Garscube complex in Bearsden, the hospital has state-of-the-art facilities, including a diagnostic imaging suite, complete with MRI and CT scanners, a unique pain and rehabilitation centre containing a hydrotherapy unit, several ultra-modern operating theatres and the first comparative oncology centre for animals in Scotland.

Professor Stuart Reid, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, believes the University and the city of Glasgow itself can be proud of its new facility. The new hospital will allow vets of tomorrow to learn in the most advanced surroundings, linking the first-class building with some of the best specialist vets in their field. As a training and treatment aid it is unsurpassed.

A dog’s tale

Four-year-old Irish wolfhound Mathilda was among the first patients to benefit from the new facilities when she was rushed to the hospital by her owners, Rob and Maggie Williams, suffering from a suspected twisted stomach. Specialist small animal surgeon Kathryn Pratschke operated on Mathilda and, after a short period of recuperation and observation, she was allowed to return home where she made a full recovery. Rob Williams afterwards praised the level of care he received at the hospital, saying: ‘The guys here have been so kind to us, you can have the best facilities in the world but it’s the staff who make the difference.’
Glasgow Sleep Centre scoops Pfizer prize

A team of scientists from the Glasgow Sleep Centre won the best patient support initiative category at the Pfizer Excellence in Oncology Awards.

Professor Colin Espie and his team in the Section of Psychological Medicine at the University were recognised for the cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) programme they developed for cancer patients suffering insomnia.

With the assistance of four cancer nurses trained as CBT therapists, one hundred people who had been successfully treated for cancer were treated with CBT over a five-week period. The results revealed a significant improvement in sleep continuity with participants falling asleep more quickly, sleeping better during the night and achieving more hours of sleep overall.

The judges commented: ‘This study has successfully addressed a huge unmet need for many cancer patients and therefore is of real clinical significance. It could make a big difference to many patients.’

The programme also secured a grant from Cancer Research UK to study the potential benefits of CBT therapy in cancer sufferers with insomnia.

Public health research given £19m boost

The Social & Public Health Sciences Unit (SPHSU) based at Glasgow has been awarded £19m by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Chief Scientist Office (CSO) of the Scottish Government Health Directorates.

SPHSU has been supported by both organisations over the last decade and this recent funding boost will enable the unit to continue its internationally recognised studies into social and environmental influences on health. The MRC has contributed £15.5 million to the latest award, while the CSO is to add a further £3.5 million over five years.

Previous research carried out by the unit has helped politicians and civil servants understand how inequalities in health arise and how they can best be combated. The unit’s work has also furthered the public’s perception and response to public health issues such as vaccination, human genetics and obesity.

Current research projects focus on major health problems that exist in developed and developing countries, including cancer, heart disease and stroke, obesity and diabetes, sexual health and mental illness.

Professor Sally Macintyre, Director of SPHSU, welcomed the funding, saying: ‘It is really important that social and public health policies, which often affect many people and cost a lot of money, are based on the best possible evidence. Renewed funding will help us provide that evidence.’

Promising future for musical medic

A fourth-year medical student at Glasgow has been signed by one of the music industry’s top record labels.

Emeli Sande was signed by Stellar Songs, a subsidiary label of the EMI music group, after penning a track called Diamond Rings for the UK R’n’B star Chipmunk.

The song peaked at number 6 in the UK music charts and earned Emeli a nomination for a MOBO music award in the Best Song category.

The MOBO awards are the biggest celebration of British urban music and, although they were held in Glasgow this year, Emeli was the only Scot to be nominated for an award.

Speaking about her recent success, Emeli said: ‘I am over the moon about the MOBO nomination and the record deal. However, I am committed to finishing my degree. I’m really enjoying studying medicine at Glasgow and the new term – although I do plan to take a few evenings off to perform.’
New Beatson building voted grand design

The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research has scooped the prestigious Architecture Grand Prix Prize at the Scottish Design Awards.

Naming it Best in Show at the industry ceremony, the judges were unanimous in the opinion that the construction was ‘not only a fantastic building but was for a worthwhile cause and purpose’.

This recent win adds to a growing list of design trophies that the Institute has taken home of late, including the RIBA Award 2009, Civic Trust Award 2009, Glasgow Institute of Architects Supreme Award 2008 and the Glasgow Institute of Architects Best Healthcare Building 2008.

However, as the judges observed, the Beatson Institute is more than just a pretty face. Based at the University’s Garscube Campus in Bearsden, the building accommodates seminar rooms, a lecture theatre, social areas and laboratories with support spaces for 250 staff. Here it carries out a programme of world-class science directed at understanding key aspects of cancer cell behaviour, which is translated into new therapies and diagnostic tools to help cancer patients.

£1m grant for heart research

Andrew Baker, Professor of Molecular Medicine at the British Heart Foundation Glasgow Cardiovascular Research Centre, has received a grant of over £1m to develop novel therapies for patients with heart disease.

The grant, awarded by the British Heart Foundation, will be spread over five years and used to conduct research on patients who undergo coronary artery bypass grafting or implementation of stents (angioplasty).

These procedures are designed to improve blood flow through narrowed arteries by either bypassing them or holding them open. However, in some cases surgery can cause narrowing of the artery (stenosis) due to thickening of the cell wall around the graft of the stent.

Professor Baker said: ‘Our goal is to develop novel therapies that prevent this process and can be delivered at the same time as the procedure is performed, thus providing lasting benefits to patients.’

Help raise funds for GCID Scholarships

A book of essays written by Emeritus Professor of Zoology at the University, David Crompton, has been published to help raise vital funds for Glasgow Centre for International Development (GCID) Scholarships. Developed from his fascinating travel journals, Afterthoughts of a Worm Hunter illuminates the field of parasitology and its effect on global health. Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, Chancellor of the University, commented: ‘I am always attracted to a book with an interesting title. This is a personal story about one man’s determination to do something about a worldwide health problem. It has something for everyone.’

All proceeds of the book will go to the GCID Scholarships fund to support postgraduate students from the poorest countries in the world in their studies at Glasgow. To order your copy, contact: Professor John Briggs, Glasgow Centre for International Development, East Quadrangle, University of Glasgow G12 8QQ. Email: john.briggs@ges.ac.uk.

• To find out more about GCID see our feature on pages 8-10.
The Hunterian: there’s an app for that

You can now browse the University’s Hunterian collection from anywhere in the world – through your iPhone.

Twelve star objects from the University’s Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery are featured on a new app, which is available to download for free on iTunes.

Brainchild of Ger Malcolm of the Hunterian, the app was created during a summer project with Electronics and Software Engineering student Suhayb Amir Mahmood. Ger said: ‘With the Hunterian’s imminent partial closure for roof renovation, I thought it might help keep visitors in touch, reaching out internationally using new digital media. It was a challenging and cutting-edge joint project, both creatively and technically engaging.’ Suhayb commented: ‘It’s thrilling to see it in the iTunes store, our very first app. We have already scheduled an update, with extras, all of it free.’ The app provides online access to permanent displays, exhibitions, events, lunchtime talks and collections. It also provides links to the Hunterian’s website, Wikipedia entry, Facebook pages, Flickr pages and tweets on Twitter.

You can find the Hunterian app in the iTunes store at: [http://tinyurl.com/yk7g4aq](http://tinyurl.com/yk7g4aq)

Solar-powered soldiers

Researchers in the University’s Department of Chemistry are working on ways in which soldiers on the battlefield can harness solar energy to power equipment such as radios, counter-measure devices, weapons and torches.

The two-year project is being run in collaboration with researchers from the Universities of Strathclyde, Loughborough, Leeds, Reading and Brunel and has received a grant of over £0.6m from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Ministry of Defence to develop the technology. Professor Duncan Gregory at Glasgow, who is leading the project, said: ‘At present soldiers are required to carry significant amounts of battery power, but in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan, where the sun shines so much, there is a plentiful supply of clean, renewable energy which could be harnessed and could allow them to function more efficiently and comfortably.’

The technology utilises photo-voltaic cells, integrated in battle fatigues, that can convert and store energy from the sun. If soldiers’ battle dress could be coated in photo-voltaic cells they could act as batteries that could store power for their equipment and would also have the added advantage of being invisible to infrared detection systems, such as night-vision equipment. Soldiers currently carry between 4.5 and 7 kg of batteries and power sources. A rechargeable battery, powered by solar energy, would be much smaller and lighter than those currently used and would extend the range of soldiers on the ground considerably.

World first for biomedical researchers

A team from Glasgow’s Biomedical Research Centre has pinpointed a molecule responsible for triggering anaphylactic shock and successfully developed a biological agent that can reduce the allergic symptoms it causes.

Led by Dr Alirio Melendez and Professor Eddy Liew, the team are the first researchers in the world to isolate the hormone that causes anaphylaxis. The hormone, called IL-33, acts as an amplifier to existing allergies and causes severe symptoms such as generalised flushing, difficulty breathing, and in the worst cases, cardiac arrest and death. Dr Melendez explained: ‘Our study showed that IL-33 plays a pivotal role in hugely increasing the inflammation experienced during a period of anaphylactic shock and led us to understand how to intervene to reduce its impact. We used what is called a soluble receptor to block the influence of the hormone.’

Lynne Regent, Chief Executive of the Anaphylaxis Campaign, said: ‘We hope to see this work developed further to a point where it could be of real benefit to people living with anaphylaxis.’

Glasgow student looks ahead to Olympics

Since taking up rowing in her spare time at university, Samantha has already won a Scottish vest, an under-23s title and an international silver award for her contribution to the sport.

In October the 6ft 2in student’s rowing talents reached new heights when she was named as an ambassador for a fast-track programme for tall sports men and women called Talent 2016 – Tall and Talented. This is a great achievement for someone who only ventured into rowing in her third year and admits she’d ‘never been in a boat until two years ago’.

Samantha’s focus now is on completing her degree and looking ahead to both the 2012 London and 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games as a member of the GB rowing team: ‘I planned to take a year out and go travelling once I graduated. Now I will be taking time out to do a bit of rowing. I’m scared to think about the Olympics, in case I curse it. It’s scary to allow yourself to think about it, but it’s possible when I think how far I’ve come in two years.’
Facing facts

According to a new study carried out by psychology researchers at the University, facial expressions are not as universally understood as once believed.

The research revealed that different cultures focus on different parts of the face, leading to some confusion over the meaning of some facial expressions. Unlike the Western participants in the study, who took clues from the whole of the face when reading facial expressions, particularly around the eyes and the mouth, participants from East Asia focus mainly on the eyes.

Rachael E Jack, who led the study, said: ‘Interestingly, although the eye region is ambiguous, subjects tended to bias their judgements towards less socially threatening emotions – surprise rather than fear, for example. This perhaps highlights cultural differences when it comes to the social acceptability of emotions.’

The research also highlighted that cultural distinctions surrounding facial expression are evident in the use of ‘emoticons’. Eastern emoticons tend to focus mainly on the eyes, whereas in the West the mouth is used to show expression: for example, the emoticon for ‘surprised’ in the West is :-o whereas in the East it is (O.O).

Happy: :-) or (^_^) Sad: :-( or ( ;_;) Surprised: :-o or (O.O)

Graduate designs innovative medical device

Product Design Engineering graduate Jude Pullen has won praise from one of Britain’s foremost designers and entrepreneurs, Sir James Dyson. Jude beat off competition from over 400 entries to come second in the Dyson Award for developing an innovative medical safety device called Pressure Alert.

When a patient undergoes anaesthetic before an operation, an endotracheal tube is inserted into their throat and inflated to open up the airway. However, the tube can sometimes over-inflate, causing bruising and, in extreme cases, splitting of the trachea.

However, the Pressure Alert device can be attached to the endotracheal tube and alert the anaesthetist if pressure in the throat is getting too high, prompting them to reduce the pressure in the tube.

After a long period of consultation with clinicians and months of refinement to the design itself, Jude was able to commence demonstration trials of his product at Glasgow’s Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Yorkhill.

Speaking about his success, he said: ‘It’s great to have been recognised in the Dyson Award but the achievements of this project are very much down to the people I have worked with and the staff at the Hospital – they were incredible.’

University public lectures mark Black History Month

Every October Black History Month takes place in the UK and hosts a range of events celebrating the contribution of black people to British society throughout history. The University marked the occasion with a series of lectures held in the Wolfson Medical Building and Adam Smith Building.

The series began with a lecture by Professor Willy Maley, entitled From Aberdeen to Abu Dhabi: Leila Aboulela and the Changing Face of Scottish Literature, which explored the ways in which new Scottish writing by African and Asian authors is changing the literary landscape and, in particular, discussed the work of Leila Aboulela, one of a number of writers who have raised questions of race, religion and representation that go to the heart of contemporary culture.
University Chapel celebrates 80th anniversary

A special Sunday service to mark the 80th year of the University Chapel was held in October. Led by the Reverend Professor Robert Martin, the ceremony included a rendition of the anthem *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* by the University Chapel Choir, originally composed in 1951 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the founding of the University.

Honorary Glasgow graduate and internationally renowned folk singer Dr Jean Redpath also sang a song by Robert Burns to mark the occasion.

The Chapel, located in the main University building, was completed in 1929 in commemoration of those who died in the First World War. The names of the 755 University men and women who gave their lives during this period are recorded on tablets in the Chapel, serving as a permanent reminder of their bravery.

Prior to the service the Chaplain to the University, the Reverend Stuart McQuarrie, commented: ‘This service will be a time to recall both the establishment of the University and of the Chapel itself as a memorial to the war and those who fought and died in it. Together we can celebrate their lives and their visions for the future.’

Major investment in virology research

A new centre will place the University at the cutting edge of international virology research.

The Medical Research Council – University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research will create a leading virology research hub with international standing by combining the expertise of the existing MRC Virology Unit in Glasgow and the University’s Institute of Comparative Medicine.

The research centre will tackle questions about viruses at all levels, from the fine details of virus structure to the spread of viruses in human and animal populations. As viruses continually evolve, the centre will investigate new approaches to virus detection as well as the development of antiviral drugs and vaccines. An important feature of the new centre will be the integration of human and animal virus research, as many of the emerging threats to human health come from viruses that can jump from animals to humans.

Scottish Government Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon said: ‘The new Centre for Virus Research will place Scotland at the cutting edge of critical international research and the work undertaken here will potentially benefit millions of people worldwide.’

The MRC will invest £28m over five years in the centre with an additional £10m invested by the University. It is expected that the centre will be located in a new building on the University’s Garscube campus. This would enable researchers based there to share expertise, build upon existing collaborations and strengthen virus research capability in the UK overall.

Historical news

In this new column, Avenue takes a look at some of the notable events that have hit the University headlines over the years.

550 years ago

University secures home for 400 years

On 14 January 1460, Sir James Hamilton of Cadzow – for the honour of God, the most blessed Virgin Mary, St Kentigern and all the saints, and for the souls of himself, his wife and relatives – gifted his house and land in the High Street to Duncan Bunch, Principal Regent in the Faculty of Arts, to create a college. He asked only daily prayers and services for himself and his family. The University had previously been renting this building from James, Lord Hamilton, and it remained on this site in the High Street, rebuilding and extending its buildings there, until the move to Gilmorehill in 1870.

100 years ago

Students riot, exposing medical charlatan

University medical students rioted at a performance by Walford Bodie (1869-1939), ‘The Bloodless Surgeon’ who claimed to have healing powers, at the Coliseum Music Hall in November 1909. The stage was bombarded with peasemeal, herrings, potatoes and other projectiles, as the students made known their opinion that he was a charlatan. His act consisted of him ‘curing’ patients, mainly suffering from paralysis, by a combination of hypnosis, manipulation and passing an electric current through his own body and into the patient. Not everyone believed in his powers, or even in his degrees. When challenged, Bodie revealed that he got his PhD by correspondence and that MD stood for ‘Merry Devil’. After the protest of the students he lost a much-publicised court case.
How to catch a bus in Tanzania, and other stories

Under the baking sun in Tanzania, Professor John Briggs is watching a trio of Glasgow students wait for a minibus, or dahla-dahla, as the locals call them. This is Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. The geography undergraduates he’s observing have accompanied him to the African city in order to conduct research projects in partnership with the local university and, as Professor Briggs can see, they stand to learn a lot from their Dar research partners, not least because while the local students choose to await their transport under the shade of some nearby trees, their visitors opt for a more traditionally British approach – the queue.

‘So they form a queue, the three of them, in the sun,’ Professor Briggs says. ‘Everyone else is under the trees, and I know what’s going to happen. When the dahla-dahla arrives, the people from under the trees surge forward in a mass. They get on the bus, and our three students are still looking around, thinking: what on earth’s going on here!’

A couple of weeks later, chance brings Professor Briggs on hand to view a similar situation – a group of Glasgow students waiting for a minibus in the afternoon sun. ‘This time, our students aren’t forming a queue,’ he says. ‘They’re under the trees with everyone else. And when the dahla-dahla arrives, they rush forwards, their elbows out, and are pushed on. And it’s just wonderful to see that contrast.’

It might seem like an unimportant detail – an amusing anecdote of a trip to an unfamiliar place – but to Professor Briggs, the experience sums up the ethos behind the Glasgow Centre for International Development (GCID), the University research hub of which he is proud to be the Director.

‘We’re very keen on working with colleagues from the global south. Partnership is absolutely essential,’ he explains. ‘It’s the underlying philosophy of GCID, if you like; that it’s not about us knowing better – it’s about us perhaps knowing differently.’ Quite simply, collaboration is the key to understanding, mutual benefit and development that is appropriate to particular circumstances.

Those familiar with GCID know it not as a tower of bricks and mortar, but rather as a globally recognised virtual centre that brings together Glasgow’s considerable expertise in the area of international development. At present, the University of Glasgow boasts more than £20m of research income in the field of international development, as well as around 90 active researchers and 150 postgraduate students dedicated to projects ranging across four key research themes of health, environment, education and economic development. In a major success this year, a £4.7 million grant has been secured from the Wellcome Trust to fund some of Africa’s brightest scientists to complete research fellowships in African institutions, as well as a cohort of PhD studentships, a series of postdoctoral fellowships and numerous training and exchange visits.

With a history of engagement with low-income countries stemming from the 19th century, a strong interdisciplinary approach, and a focus on the UN Millennium Goals, GCID was the first centre of its kind in Scotland when it was established in 2006. Three years on, how is the centre helping the University to engage with international development by means of exchange in people, in ideas, and in skills?

Sharing skills to cure disease

Malaria kills more than one million people annually. It’s most prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of South-East Asia, where it claims the life of a child every 30 seconds. An average of 1,700 Britons are also diagnosed with the disease every year. As such, it’s a problem that everyone should want to solve, and fast.

Dr Lisa Ranford-Cartwright of the Faculty of Biomedical & Life Sciences at Glasgow is leading a European Union funded project with the help of ST Microelectronics, Italy, to create a powerful diagnostic tool which aims to speed up the process of diagnosing and treating malaria. She explains: ‘Currently, it can take anything up to 48 hours to determine whether a patient has malaria and, even then, doctors are unable to tell whether the parasite is drug resistant.’

In the only study of its kind in the UK, the Glasgow team is using lab-on-a-chip technology to develop an electronic chip that will not only tell doctors what species of malaria a patient has, but whether it is resistant to first-line drugs.

‘Our malaria chip should be able to do the whole process in less than 60 minutes,’ says Dr Ranford-Cartwright. Such fast results will allow doctors to treat the disease more quickly as well as save lives.
Sharing ideas to find new approaches

Less well known than malaria, but deadly if left untreated, is trypanosomiasis. Occurring in 36 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, where it kills up to 50,000 people every year, the disease is also known as sleeping sickness because of the way it invades the nervous system, inducing confusion, paralysis, coma and a reversal of the normal sleep cycle.

Specialist in trypanosomiasis, Professor Mike Barrett is working to develop new treatments in collaboration with colleagues such as Dr Enock Matovu from Makerere University in Uganda, where there was an epidemic of the disease in 2008. 'Translating research from our laboratory to the field is vital,' Professor Barrett says. 'GCID is making links with institutes in Africa, with whom we can collaborate to test our ideas. We've recently developed a test that detects drug resistance in sleeping sickness parasites and hope to test its suitability in an African field setting.'

The dedication of GCID researchers to the identification of innovative solutions has been yielding results. This year, a study led by Professor Peter Kennedy made a significant step towards the development of safer combination drugs, for example. According to the Professor of Neurology, a new approach is needed because of the risks of the current methods of treating sleeping sickness.

Melarsoprol, currently the most common treatment given to patients, is so toxic that it kills one in 20 who are given it. In most of the fatal cases, patients die from a severe brain inflammation triggered by the drug. 'Exactly how this happens remains unclear,' says Professor Kennedy, 'but it seems likely that the drug kills the parasites (that carry the disease) very rapidly and profound inflammatory responses to those dying parasites causes damage to the brain cells in their vicinity.'

"We believe that when treating patients it would be possible to minimise brain damage if a specific anti-inflammatory drug was administered before the patient received melarsoprol," he continues. The scientists now hope to test the theory, which was published in neurology journal Brain in April.

Sharing people to educate tomorrow's leaders

Research is not the only area in which big gains are being made through exchange. Glasgow's students are also learning from the University's increasingly numerous links with institutions in the developing world.

Travelling to a range of countries – from Malawi and Senegal to India and Ecuador – undergraduates are discovering a multitude of benefits, whether gathering data for dissertations, experiencing a different way of life, or learning new skills that can enhance their CVs. The popularity of student-run societies like Student Volunteers Abroad, for example, is showing that students aren’t afraid of doing it for themselves when it comes to making links with developing countries. Hazel Ferguson, the outgoing president of the society, says that the 63 students who travelled abroad with SVA this year had a fantastic opportunity to take part in sustainable, environmental and community development projects across the world.

'SVA lets students get involved in things that we might otherwise not be able to,' she says. 'We’re quite similar to other gap year organisations, except that we’re at the lower end of the scale cost-wise. We have direct connections in developing countries and we fundraise a small amount of money that goes straight to organisations in those countries for them to do their work.

'The majority of the projects are community-based,' she continues. 'Last year we set up a co-operative with a women’s group in Malawi making badges, for example, and we’ve been trying to get these into lots of local shops. We also have an environmental project, based in Ecuador, where the volunteers have been working with an eco village.'

Hazel’s own experiences in Malawi have cemented her desire to continue in this kind of work, and following graduation she’s progressed to an internship with the International Network of Street Papers.

Looking to the future

With student projects proliferating, awards and funding being granted and research generating results that will improve health in developing nations, it seems that the Director of GCID has plenty to be pleased about.

'The one thing that really pulls people together,’ Professor Briggs says, ‘whether their specialism is in electrical engineering, medicine, sociology, geography or whatever, is a sense of the University’s social responsibility to developing countries and a desire to make a difference, however small.’

There’s no room for complacency, however. Despite GCID’s successes, Professor Briggs believes there is still much to do. ‘It strikes me that we’ve had 60 years of development and most Africans are no better off now than they were in 1960, in relative terms,’ he says. ‘We need to think more imaginatively when we think about development in Africa.’

As Glasgow’s links with developing countries increase – the University has signed three Memorandums of Understanding with African higher education institutions to date and is hoping to establish similar memorandums with between eight and ten African institutions in the coming months – so too do the possibilities.
Same difference

Geography undergraduates Vicky Birrell and Rhona Warcup have just returned to Glasgow following a five-week research trip to Tanzania. Avenue finds out how they learned to cope with bucket showers, bus queues and language barriers during an experience they’ll never forget.

Avenue: So you’ve just returned from your five-week trip to Tanzania. Was the experience what you expected?

Rhona: No – it was more fun. There were 11 of us working with 11 Tanzanian student ‘buddies’, all doing different projects. We were out in the field every day doing research, which we will eventually use for our dissertations.

Vicky: None of us had been to Africa before, or had an experience like this.

Rhona: We were in student halls, and in some ways the University seemed so similar and then something unexpected would happen – like there would be no water – and we’d realise that this wouldn’t happen in our student halls. We were eight floors up and we had to carry 12 litres of water all the way up in a bucket if we wanted a shower!

Vicky: We had a great time. Everyone gelled really well.

Avenue: What were you studying?

Vicky: My project was looking at women working in the informal economy; the inequalities in society between women and men and looking at the reasons for that. We interviewed ward officers, women working in the informal economy and went to different ministries to try and get statistics.

Rhona: Mine was about coping strategies with malaria; whether social status, or in fact anything, would affect trends in it. I ended up discovering quite a lot about traditional medicine by interviewing people in their houses and then speaking to Maasai about tribal medicine. I also went to the Ministry of Health and interviewed people there.

Avenue: And how were your buddies helping you – was there a translational element there?

Rhona: Everything was in Swahili. We would write the questions and then they would translate them.

Vicky: It could be intimidating sometimes because you would start talking to one person and all of a sudden it became like a focus group, where you were surrounded by 20 people, and you didn’t have a clue what they were saying …

Rhona: … and also the Tanzanian people would just think it was hilarious.

Avenue: So did you need training before you went to deal with those sorts of situations?

Rhona: I don’t think we really needed it. We’d had fieldwork training …

Vicky: … and you just immerse yourself into it once you get there. I think every one of us would come back and say that we want to do more of this. None of us wanted to leave at the end of the five weeks.

Rhona: Personally, the experience has made me want to stay on at university; to carry on and do more. I think I’d like to do a Masters, probably in development studies.

Avenue: And what about the people you met there? Will you stay in touch?

Vicky: Definitely.

Rhona: They’ve been in touch with us quite a lot and send us funny messages all the time. I got one this morning, saying, ‘we really miss you!’ They’re just finishing first-year geography, so for them it was the first fieldwork they had ever done and they were doing it with Glasgow, which gives them connections. A lot of them said they wanted to do a Masters here.
It’s a student’s life

Around mid-September every year, the University throws open its doors to welcome a new intake of undergraduates. Across Gilmorehill campus, the tranquil bubble of summer is burst by the lively clatter of the freshers’ fair and a new chapter in the University’s history begins.

Amid the carnival scenes of this week-long introduction to University life, new students are bombarded with information, not only on their chosen degree, but also about the clubs, services and facilities all waiting to be joined and used over the next few years of their lives. With so much on offer Avenue set out to discover how much the student experience at Glasgow has changed over the years and what makes it so unique.

Donald Wintersgill, who graduated in 1955, remembers a very different University to the hi-tech research-led institution of today. ‘When I was here the actual teaching and learning facilities weren’t what they are now. I remember the packed lecture theatres and the under-resourced library,’ he says. At that time clubs and societies were to a large extent self-governing and in between lectures student politics flourished on campus.

‘Political debate was central to the life of students who were active in what we called the corporate life,’ says Donald. ‘The ones that took no part in societies and sport we called “brown baggers”. They commuted between home and classes with their brown briefcases and they missed a lot of enjoyment. If you wanted to get on in student life back then, and hold offices in societies, you had to be involved in political debate.’

Debating is just one of a huge variety of societies – from alchemy to video gaming – available at the University today. However, debating has consistently played an important role in Glasgow’s student experience. The University’s Dialectic Society has been one of the most prestigious and popular societies on campus. It has taken home the World Debating Championship title five times, more than any other university in the world, and has been the launch pad of the careers of many key political figures, including the inaugural First Minister of Scotland, Donald Dewar, former Leader of the Labour Party, John Smith, and two leaders of the Liberal Democrats, Charles Kennedy and Sir Menzies Campbell.

However, for Donald Wintersgill the society was as much about forging friendships as it was about producing politicians. ‘I’m still in touch with many people who were involved in student politics back then,’ says Donald. ‘And there are waves that were made in those days that still resound today; some of the same issues still arise in conversation.’

This recreational aspect of being involved in a society has held true as a key part of the student experience at Glasgow over the decades. Cathy Bell (née Cockburn), a graduate of 1980, remembers how student social life hinged on being a member of a club. Cathy explains: ‘Communication was a lot more troublesome than it is now. There were no mobile phones so clubs and societies were an important way to meet people. You really got involved in the social side. As a result, my abiding memory of Glasgow was of having a lot of fun.’

Cathy is now Director of Development at the University and she is struck on a daily basis by the changes that have taken place on campus since she studied here. ‘I think nowadays students are treated more like clients; they are really well supported by the University and offered great facilities.’
'Being a member of the Russell Group and in the top 100 universities in the world, we have to have standards that are commensurate with that. It’s crucial to ensure that the natural enthusiasm of students is supported by good buildings, facilities and technology.'

So, what do current students think about Glasgow? John Nickell, an English Literature student in his third year, has his own ideas about what makes Glasgow a good place to be: ‘I must recognise the strength of the University facilities: for example, the sports facilities are the best around and they’re really cheap to join. The best thing about the facilities is the opportunity you get to try something new and the possibilities this opens up.

‘Also there’s the new Fraser Building for student services, which is fantastic because it puts everything together under one roof. I think it shows that not only is the University investing but that it’s really thinking about where it is investing and what students need and want.’

John is no less effusive when speaking about the academic side that university life offers students. Coming from south of the border, he was pleasantly surprised by the flexibility allowed by the Scottish higher education system in general and Glasgow in particular. ‘Being able to wait until the third year until choosing Honours subjects really gives students the power to shape their own student experience. I suppose that’s what I like the most about going to university here, the amount of choice you have throughout your degree.’

Regardless of when you studied here, the overriding impression given by Glasgow students, old and new, is that a quality student experience is at the core of university life. A range of independent university rankings and surveys published each year reflects that the University appreciates this.

The National Student Survey (NSS) acts as a national barometer of student opinion in final-year students. It encompasses all publicly funded Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and all participating HEIs in Scotland. Including criteria such as the standard of teaching, organisation and management of courses and opportunities for personal development within universities, it aims to build up a comprehensive picture of an institution’s strengths and weaknesses.

According to this year’s NSS results, 90% of final-year students at Glasgow are satisfied with their course. Compared with the nationwide average of 81%, it seems that Glasgow has bucked the trend of overall dips in levels of student satisfaction. Current president of the Students’ Representative Council (SRC) Laura Laws explains Glasgow’s recent NSS success: ‘The results show that students think that the University is a great place to study. As well as being in a vibrant city, the University gives a first-class education, delivered by staff who really care about, and listen to, their students.’

The Sunday Times University Guide, published in September, confirm this. In two years Glasgow has jumped nine places in their rankings, the biggest gain in terms of places out of any top 30 institution. The guide specifically highlights Glasgow’s level of investment in student infrastructure over recent years as a key factor behind the above-average results and praises the facilities on offer.

Sir Muir Russell, who recently retired as Principal, is rightly proud of the legacy that he has left Glasgow’s students. ‘One of the most pleasurable aspects of my time at Glasgow has been the development of a good working relationship with the students. It has been hugely encouraging to see the way in which the SRC has developed a strategic plan and how we can work together with student support services and senior management in delivering a first-class student experience.’

As Professor Anton Muscatelli steps into Sir Muir’s shoes he clearly shares his predecessor’s sentiments: ‘Creating the right environment to deliver an excellent student experience is vital, and I’m pleased to see the great success we have had in the most recent NSS survey and also in the International Student Barometer, where we came fourth in the UK for international student satisfaction.’

One thing is for certain. Every year, a fresh intake of wide-eyed undergraduates will descend on Gilmorehill to be faced with one of the most vibrant and extensive ranges of opportunities in any university. This will be their chance to decide on their own, unique student experience and, in the words of Donald Wintersgill, ‘make waves’ that will resound far into the future.
The teaching experience

Teaching is a key part of the student experience at Glasgow. Every year the University recognises a selection of teachers who have raised the bar in their field through our teaching excellence awards. Three of this year’s winners gave their response to receiving an award and an insight into their student-focused teaching methods.

Dr Ronald Knox, who retired in September, has received a teaching excellence award for 40 years of distinguished teaching of Classics at Glasgow.

A traditionalist, Dr Knox has built a distinguished career through a time-honoured approach to teaching: ‘I have always believed in the importance of travel for Classics students and have supported and administered the scheme by which this is a requirement in the summer between Junior and Senior Honours. Throughout the years I have done what I can to make sure that the scheme is well financed, but as to methods, I am a “chalk and talk” man who believes that the spoken word is best.’

Having come to the end of his career in teaching, Dr Knox has no regrets over his choice: ‘I have tried to strive for a combination of clarity, enthusiasm for the subject, a sense of fairness and a liking for the students. I wouldn’t have chosen to do anything other than teach and discuss at university level a subject which I believe valuable. The interest taken and responsiveness shown by 40 cohorts of Glasgow students have been immensely rewarding.’

Dr Karen MacEachern was awarded a teaching excellence award for offering her students an active learning environment and allowing them hands-on veterinary experience.

‘I strongly believe that students should have an active role in the veterinary course and therefore the student learning process should be made as interactive as possible, including in lectures,’ says Dr MacEachern. It was her introduction of a clinical skills laboratory that allowed students to begin to put theory into practice and gain experience working in clinical surroundings: ‘This facility allows veterinary students to be taught and to practise clinical skills; the staff have found that since this has been introduced the students are more interested in the practical activities, especially since now they are being assessed.’

Dr MacEachern has worked hard to develop students’ understanding of veterinary medicine on a one-to-one basis. In the past she has arranged for students to accompany her around her private equine consultancy business on trips to Scottish racecourses, where she works as a veterinary surgeon.

Dr Gordon Curry, Department of Geographical & Earth Sciences, was nominated by his students for a teaching excellence award for developing a wide range of courses at different levels which have achieved a high degree of academic success and have been rated highly for student satisfaction.

Dr Curry recognises the benefits of attempting to increase student interactivity in his courses by introducing them to novel learning experiences: ‘I believe the award came from my extensive involvement in providing support for students throughout their university careers, from my use of new technology to assist student learning and from my efforts to encourage student participation in the development of teaching resources.’

Adapting traditional teaching practices to today’s technologies, Dr Curry encouraged students to report the findings from pieces of fieldwork in text messages which were displayed in a blog format on a website: ‘The 140 character limit imposed adds additional scientific rigour to the process as there is no room for “padding”,’ he explains.

However, Dr Curry also draws upon his own, slightly more conventional, experiences as a student at the University when he designs his courses: ‘I remember arriving at Glasgow many years ago as a research assistant to the then Principal, Sir Alwyn Williams, and immediately becoming involved in helping him teach an Honours course. That was a very useful experience but demanding, as our current Honours students find out for themselves when volunteering as demonstrators for Level-1 laboratories. It does require a lot of effort and understanding to explain complex topics in language that new students can understand.’
Leading the way

As Professor Anton Muscatelli settles into his new role as Principal at Glasgow, Avenue caught up with the man himself to talk about the past, present and future of the University.

Beyond the tranquil cloisters of the Gilbert Scott building, the main staircase leads up to the tall double doors of the Court Office and Principal’s corridor beyond. With each step, paintings of former Principals, and other eminent figures from Glasgow’s history, gaze down upon you – echoes from a bygone age.

What would their thoughts be of modern university life – a world of café culture and wi-fi, Twitter, Facebook and e-learning? It would be a world they would scarcely recognise, but no matter the technological gulf, they would feel comforted by the knowledge that the University is still thriving, welcoming students and researchers from across the world – making a mark globally and locally.

The man now responsible for leading the University into 2010 and beyond is Professor Anton Muscatelli, the University’s 50th Principal. Given his role, and the fact that he is only a couple of months into it, he is surprisingly relaxed and amiable. Thoughtful but also quick to laugh, he is clearly someone who gives a great deal of consideration to any issue which crosses his desk.

An economist to ‘trade’, after gaining an MA and PhD at Glasgow, he moved from student to teacher and quickly rose through the University system. He has held the positions of lecturer, senior lecturer, professor, department head, dean and vice-principal. Now, having been at the helm of Heriot-Watt University for two and a half years, he has returned to take the reins of a University he feels a great affinity with – a University he believes is going places. But was his arrival in the Principal’s office some part of a grand plan?

‘Oh, not at all. I didn’t imagine that. I never looked up at the Principal’s office and thought, one day …’ His easy laugh kills off the end of that sentence, before he continues. ‘I didn’t plan my career in this way – as with many people it was one step at a time. But having said that, now I’m here it is incredibly exciting.’

Professor Muscatelli clearly has a close relationship with the University – one that stretches back to his student days. But the bond is even stronger than it appears from simply reading his biography. He explains: ‘The University of Glasgow is incredibly important to me as it gave me a second chance. I began my undergraduate studies at Imperial College studying physics. After a year, I decided it wasn’t something I wanted to do. I knew I wanted to study social sciences, but at the time Imperial was a purely science and engineering university, so my options were limited. I decided to start all over again and Glasgow gave me that chance. Things could have been very different had Glasgow not provided me with the opportunity and then been so welcoming when I arrived.’
So from student to Principal, he knows the University intimately. What are his thoughts on the future direction the University should take?

‘Any global university is split into three main sections. In the middle sits the University itself, the people, the buildings, the students. Above and below that are two incredibly important elements. Above is the University’s reputation – both on a global and a local scale. Below is the supporting structure. Managing a university is all about ensuring the supporting structure is strong in order to let the University flourish, thus enhancing its reputation.

‘The support comes from two main pillars. The first is academic excellence in learning and teaching and research. The second is financial sustainability. You cannot simply concentrate on the academic side of things without being financially sustainable. In recent years we have made great strides in both – particularly the efforts of my predecessor, Sir Muir Russell, to move us back from deficit to surplus. It would be fair to say that my principalship will concentrate on getting these two pillars right.

‘Work is well underway on producing a new strategy, which will be published in spring of 2010. Our previous vision, Building On Excellence, was designed to take us from 2006 to 2010, so we obviously need a successor. Work on this began before I came here and my role is to put my own imprint on the strategy. It is certainly not about bringing to a halt plans that were already in place. The academic community has already done a great deal of thinking on the academic priorities and I am not here to start that process all over again. I will take some of this material and make it congruent with my vision for the University.

‘There are some significant structural changes which are necessary but these are simply enabling changes. It is not structure that drives strategy, it is strategy which drives structure. Academic structures do not make academic excellence happen but they can act as a barrier – everything we are doing about restructuring is about allowing the new strategy to be effective.’

This is all rationally put, well argued and makes perfect sense – but the Principal’s next point is one that takes the argument further and puts the University’s position in an economic perspective. He sees the current economic climate as an advantage, not an obstacle for the University.

‘At a time of fiscal plenty, when government money is flowing into the system and research councils have abundant funds to deploy, it is less necessary for universities to develop competitive edges. Sometimes an institution will grow simply because it has provision in the right area. However, during tight fiscal times you really have to work that bit harder to make improvements – those institutions that deploy their resources most effectively when others are struggling can find themselves developing a significant competitive edge. The university sector in the UK is about to be hit hard by fiscal lightening, and we have to take measures now to prepare for that.

‘My vision for the University is about doing just that. By being agile and sharp when others are struggling, we can make great leaps. It is about being one of the great universities of the world – second to none in Scotland – and about improving in relative terms. It is not about cost-cutting and making savings. Other universities will be in that position but we are able to use and exploit our financial health. We want to pull ahead of our competitors.’

‘Our alumni are part of the University family – they are part of the genetic inheritance that a university leaves behind and are the strongest ambassadors we have.’

Professor Muscatelli also sees alumni playing an incredibly important role in the development of the University, and his enthusiasm for alumni relations is clear.

‘Our alumni are part of the University family – they are part of the genetic inheritance that a university leaves behind and are the strongest ambassadors we have. There is simply no way a university can enhance and develop a world-class reputation without its alumni on board, playing an integral role in that. On a daily basis, their words and actions enhance our reputation across the globe.

‘What is happening increasingly is that alumni are supporting projects that they do not have a direct relationship with from their student days – they are supporting things for the good of the University itself. I am a donor myself, in that mould. The project I supported was the Small Animal Hospital, not because I am a pet owner – I’m not – but because I saw that it was absolutely critical to the future success of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and because of the fact that I cared about the University of Glasgow and the importance of the Vet School to the University, rather than having a personal affinity with that project.

‘That sort of engagement from alumni is so important – that they have the interest of the institution at heart. Many already have a strong empathy but can we nurture that and make it grow even more? Over the next year or so I am planning to attend as many alumni events as I can to try to meet our alumni and make direct contact with them to get this message over to them.’

So between running a university that is in the top 100 of the world, fulfilling a prominent role in the higher education sector in his positions of Convener of Universities Scotland and Vice-President of Universities UK, and keeping his hand in as a researcher in economics, how does he find time for relaxation? A restless look comes across his face before he recounts the things that take up his free time.

‘I read a huge amount and I have a great interest in creative writing. I have a passion for poetry, but also for Inter Milan. I have very eclectic tastes in the creative arts and you’re as likely to bump into me at a rock concert as at an opera. Whenever I develop a new interest I tend to dive into it; it tends to absorb my thoughts. I also really, really love cooking and, without sounding immodest, I am pretty good at it. And I play the piano, but like many amateur pianists, I know I should be better than I am.’

You get the impression, however, as with anyone in his position, that the passion for his pastimes is still keen, but the time to pursue them is significantly diminished. He is focused on one main goal – the future of the University.

So what would Professor Muscatelli predict the education world will look like in 100 years’ time, when his and his successors’ portraits hang from the walls of the main staircase? He ponders for a moment before replying: ‘I would expect some of the trappings of tradition still to be there – they help us understand our roots and that is incredibly important. We will still be an important and relevant University on the global scene facing up to the challenges of the 22nd century – still strong in teaching and research. Contemporary, but with deep roots in the past. So long as I can play a small part in that great story, then I think I will have done a good job.’
For the love of words

After 45 years of painstaking scholarship by the Department of English Language at Glasgow, the world’s first historical thesaurus has been published to universal acclaim.

The brainchild of Professor Michael Samuels in 1964, the Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary is the culmination of thousands of hours of work collecting data by hundreds of research assistants, postgraduate students, university staff and volunteers.

The grand ambition was to take almost every word in the 20-volume Oxford English Dictionary and map them on to a vast classification structure, so that words with similar meaning would be grouped together and listed in chronological order from the oldest (around 700 AD) to the most recent.

The completed work contains nearly 800,000 meanings, organised into more than 236,000 categories and subcategories collected together in 4,500 pages in two volumes. It is a unique tool for exploring more than a millennium of language change and cultural nuance.

Professor Christian Kay, one of four editors on the project, explains: ‘We go right back to the beginnings of English. So, in addition to getting the words arranged by their meanings, we provide the dates during which they were current in English. We include obsolete words which are no longer in use or are only found in very special contexts. Words have different survival rates, so there are maybe 7,000 words which have been in English since the very early days and there are other words that maybe only lasted for a few years. For the first time, the Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary puts these in context.’

Joining the project in 1969 as a research assistant, Professor Kay’s early work was to transcribe Oxford English Dictionary words from Old English to their modern incarnation onto slips of paper. Each word was grouped initially with others sharing similar meanings and eventually transferred to an elaborate classification system.

Professor Kay continues: ‘When you’re classifying, what you basically want to do is make piles of paper slips so that you’ve got all of the general words for “bird”, for example, in one pile and then you’ve got the more specialised words or words to do with birds in particular countries. Then you go on sorting until you reach a stage where you feel you’ve done that concept justice.

‘Although we got into computing quite early on, there’s no substitute for paper slips for doing that kind of work. We always used to say to people, “Don’t cough, don’t sneeze and don’t open the window”, because lots of work could then have blown away completely!’

There were more serious hazards to overcome. In 1978, a fire decimated the department offices where banks of metal filing cabinets containing thousands upon thousands of paper slips were stored. Miraculously, the information survived. From then on, staff produced the slips in triplicate. One copy was filed in the Department of English Language, one was sent off to London, while another was kept at the University Archives.

The dedication, scholarship and hard work have paid off with widespread acclaim for the publication. Randolph Quirk, Emeritus Quain Professor of English Language and Literature at University College London, has called the thesaurus ‘perhaps the single most significant tool ever devised for investigating semantic, social and intellectual history’, while broadcaster and novelist Melvyn Bragg said: ‘The Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary will be outstanding and indispensable and so much fun! Who would have thought that “smacker” (one who gives loud kisses) came in 1611 – at the same time as the first King James Bible?’

Professor Kay is keen to ensure that her fellow editors, Jane Roberts, Michael Samuels and Irené Wotherspoon, and the many others who worked on the book, share the praise: ‘We have been very dependent on the help and goodwill of a large number of people and I would like just to say thank you to all of them.’
Every archive tells a story

With five and a half centuries under its belt, it comes as no surprise that the University is steeped in history. However, such a long and illustrious existence would not be possible without careful conservation of our heritage. The University Archive Services do just that and amid the wall-to-wall shelves of records, stories of both the University and the city come to life.

No one appreciates the importance of preserving our past more than Lesley Richmond, Director of Archive Services. Since joining the team in 1987, she has acted as the guardian of the University’s records, some of which date back to before the institution even came into being. ‘The oldest records that we have are some charters and privileges that were given to the Blackfriars, who were the Dominican Order in Glasgow. The University was given the titles to their lands after the Reformation. These date back to the 14th century, so about 100 years before the University was actually founded.’

It is amazing to think that there are records in existence even older than the Papal Bull, the document that officially founded the University in 1451. However, that’s another story and one that Lesley recounts with a sigh, like a crusader eluded by the Holy Grail: ‘Unfortunately we don’t have the original Papal Bull. It was, of course, a very vital piece of parchment that gave the University the right to teach and give out degrees, which had been issued by Pope Nicholas V to William Turnbull, with the help of James II of Scotland.

‘In 1560, during the upheaval of the Scottish Reformation, Archbishop Beaton, the then Chancellor of the University, was very concerned about the threat of Protestants pillaging the Cathedral. So he gathered up the valuables and archives in the Cathedral and the University, including the Papal Bull, mace and land deeds, and fled to France with everything for safe keeping. In 1690 the mace was returned, but unfortunately the Bull was not.’

In 1738 the University made further enquiries to the Scots College in Paris, where it was believed the Papal Bull was being held, but to no avail: ‘Even if it had not been lost by this time, it certainly went astray during the French Revolution when the Scots College was itself under threat and its records and valuables were moved out of the city.’
However, despite this early hiccup, the University has always understood the importance of record-keeping to its survival: ‘You don’t go far as an organisation in any time, past, present or future, if you don’t know where your information is. Within 20 years of the University’s founding, there were rules and regulations about getting documents in and out of the charter chests. There was a three-key system, meaning three people were needed to get documents in and out. So the Clerk’s Press, a 17th-century piece of furniture that can still be found in the Turnbull Room today, was used to store early records about the University, such as the maintenance of buildings, the library catalogue and even the diets of students. We still have all these documents in our collections logged under Formally in Clerk’s Press Drawer.’

These days Archive Services have a much more open policy compared to the ‘under lock and key’ regulations of yesteryear, as Lesley explains: ‘We are fully part of the UK Archive Network so we’re here for the public. Many people think we’re not because they see the word “University” and think only staff and students can use the archives.’ However, a grant from the Wolfson Foundation has helped set in motion plans to renovate Archive Services’ current home at Thurso Street to help entice visitors: ‘We’re having our public area refurbished, along with our public search room and reader area. There will be more light, a lounge and coffee area and better IT facilities. We’re also going to create some exhibition space and have plasma information screens with a virtual tour explaining how to use us and our archives. It will be really useful for groups of people who want to come and learn how to use our resources.’

The refurbished building, due to reopen in early 2010, will no doubt be welcomed by the many people who rely on the services of Archives for their projects. Hosting archive masterclasses for students and staff, sourcing material to promote the reputation of the University, not to mention helping people trace their family ancestry, are all in a day’s work for Lesley and her team: ‘A lot of people contact us wanting to claim that they are related to Robert the Bruce, which we can’t really help them with! However, because our matriculation and graduation records are in good order, it’s easy for us to offer a family history service whereby we can tell an enquirer whether an ancestor studied at Glasgow. If they’d like us to delve deeper, we can even tell them what classes a student took, if they won any prizes and what societies they belonged to.’

Alumni play an important role in bringing the history of Glasgow to life and Archive Services have invested a great deal of time over the last year creating an online resource where information about University graduates can be accessed by the click of a button. Lesley explains how the Glasgow University Story website came to fruition: ‘The University isn’t just about stone and mortar: it’s about people and without people the University would not be anything. So we started looking at our databases to try and find a way of putting information about the University’s alumni on the web. We started with the First World War Roll of Honour, so we have images of students and staff who served in the conflict, biographies where possible, and records of service both at the University and the forces.’

Among the 361 images, 255 biographies and 4,524 records of those who served, many interesting alumni can be found, for example Andrew Dewar Gibb. Gibb graduated in 1910 and served with the Royal Scots Fusiliers under the command of Winston Churchill, before returning to Glasgow as the Regius Professor of Law and later Dean of Law.

The website, which has grown virtual arms and legs in recent months, now holds the records of all the principals, rectors, chancellors and professors over the centuries, along with all the records of all graduates from 1451 to 1896. Interestingly, there is even a section dedicated to women. With 60% of students at the University today being female, it is hard to imagine that until the late 1800s women were not permitted to matriculate at a Scottish university. However, prior to this women were able to study at Glasgow, albeit in a separate college. At Queen Margaret College, women studied mainly arts subjects. However, as demand grew for access to a medical education, the College responded by establishing a school of medicine for women.

In 1892 the Scottish Universities Commission published an Ordinance authorising universities to allow women to graduate, and many women transferred their courses from Queen Margaret College to the main University, where they shared classes with male students. Two years later a 28-year-old woman became the first female medical graduate in Scotland: Marion Gilchrist graduated in 1894. When she arrived she got the top marks in chemistry, so all the previous perceptions that women had feeble brains began to change. Marion was among a small group of women who made up the first medical students. The person in charge of Queen Margaret College, Janet Galloway, was very proud of them and kept their photographs in a glass case in her office. We’ve actually got those photographs in the archives and it’s very moving to think that someone once had them proudly displayed on their wall and now we have them to look after.’

Women were not the only minority group during the 19th century encouraged to study by the University. Young black American men travelled to Glasgow to gain academic qualifications that were unavailable to them across the pond. Lesley tells the story of the son of a freed slave who studied here and went on to be the first African American to gain a medical degree anywhere in the world: ‘James McCune Smith came to Glasgow because it was seen as a place where there was tolerance and no racial prejudice. We’ve never recorded students by their religion or skin colour, so while we always had his signature and matriculation slip, it wasn’t until we received an image

Lesley Richmond, Director of Archive Services, leafing through one of the catalogues at Thurso Street.
Archives and the city

It is because of the relationship between academics and local businesses in Glasgow that the University began to add records from the city to those of the campus. A trend set in the 1960s by the Department of Economic History, whose staff used the information for their academic research, has held fast and today the University holds the records of Scottish companies, including shipbuilders and owners, brewers and distillers, and department stores.

However, as Lesley Richmond reveals, there’s more to the Scottish Business Archive than the estimates, receipts and cost books you would expect: ‘You think archives tend to be paper, but we also have some of the actual products that came out of the businesses. And while we can’t possibly have the actual QE2 or the Queen Mary liner in our building, smaller objects we can. In the Scottish Brewing Archive we have a range of bottles, cans and beer trays that show how brands developed over the years. Companies want to protect the brand of their products and one way to do this is to keep examples. This way companies can go back and reuse recipes for making beer and use old label designs for nostalgic reasons or for inspiration. We also have a lovely vintage wedding dress from the House of Fraser archives, which is probably one of our most unusual items.’

Many of these intriguing artefacts can even re-create a picture of the past: ‘Some of the ship plans we have, for example the Lusitania, are like works of art in themselves. They tell you about the function and space of something that you can no longer see. We have some cutaways of plans that show the detail that went into the ballrooms and the dining rooms. You begin to realise that these were not just boats but floating hotels and the detail that went into the design to make them such a wonderful way to travel is incredibly interesting. It’s not very well known, but the carpets on the Titanic were made by Stoddard’s, a Scottish company whose archives we now hold. So we have the original instructions and designs for the actual carpets that lined the floors of the Titanic.’

Lesley’s enthusiasm for the historical insight that the archives hold is infectious and it starts to becomes clear why the records of the University and the city are something to be celebrated and not locked away gathering dust in an old Clerk’s Press. As she says, ‘There would be no point in keeping all this material if people never used it or didn’t value it.’ Luckily, Archive Services are here to find value in every single matriculation slip, sepia photograph and land deed they look after, and in doing so open up a catalogue of stories about Glasgow and, of course, its people for the rest of us to enjoy.
Euan Murray: Young Alumnus of the Year 2009

Every year, the University recognises the achievements of alumni who have made a major contribution to society through the Young Alumnus of the Year Award. This year’s award goes to Veterinary Medicine graduate turned professional rugby player, Euan Murray (BVMS 2003).

Training in veterinary medicine could be considered highly appropriate for a rugby player when faced with an opponent called The Beast. For Scotland and Northampton tighthead prop Euan Murray, careful handling (read, 18 stones of brute force) tamed The Beast – otherwise known as Tendai Mtawarira – during a game against South Africa at Murrayfield in November last year, and in doing so he cemented his reputation as one of the best players in rugby.

One of only two Scots initially picked for the 2009 British & Irish Lions tour of South Africa, injury unfortunately curtailed his involvement after only four games. ‘It was disappointing,’ he says calmly, without the slightest hint of anger or regret.

Euan accepts such misfortunes with equanimity these days. It was a frightening on-field accident in 2005, where team-mates and onlookers feared that the unconscious, convulsing player would die, which prompted him to reflect on his life and find greater strength in his Christian faith.

He says: ‘My faith gives me the correct perspective on life. So I know that whatever happens to me it’s going to be for the best.’

Injuries aside, life has been pretty good for the 29-year-old who has risen from the junior ranks of Glasgow Southern and Glasgow Thistle, through the city’s senior clubs – the Hawks and Warriors – to become an essential member of the Scotland team and his current club, Guinness Premiership side Northampton Saints.

Still recovering from the ankle injury that forced him out of the Lions tour, Euan, who won his first international cap in 2005, is keen to get back on the pitch.

He said: ‘I hope to be back playing soon and that I will be selected for the upcoming Six Nations. I really enjoy it at Northampton, it’s been good fun. There are quite a few different nationalities here – Argentinians, Irish, South African – and just across the road from the stadium there’s a road called Glasgow Street, and even an Argyle Street, so I feel quite at home.’

‘Animals’ on the rugby field, as Euan puts it, are the only creatures he applies his veterinary skills to these days, but it is a profession he would like to return to when he retires from sport.

‘After graduating in 2003 I immediately turned professional in rugby, but initially I would spend one day a week at a vet practice carrying out some small animal surgery,’ he says.

‘But I realised I had to focus on the rugby if I wanted to be the best and so I don’t have much chance to work with animals any more, though I do occasionally hook up with a local vet who deals with large farm animals.

‘In one sense it was quite hard to move away from the veterinary side of things after all the hard work at University, because it was fairly intense with a high volume of work, but in another sense it was easy because the decision was almost made for me. I’d received a lot of rugby offers and it was the opportunity of a lifetime.

‘I was 23 when I qualified and I realised that I could maybe only be a rugby player for ten years, but I can be a vet for the rest of my life, so it’s something I’d like to go back to when my playing days are over.’

Euan, whose mates nickname him Eugene for his apparent resemblance to Sgt Tackleberry from the Police Academy films, has fond memories of his University days and still maintains contact with his Alma Mater. He also donated funds towards the newly opened £15m Small Animal Hospital.

Although Euan was surprised to be voted Young Alumnus of the Year, his dedication to both the rugby field and his academic field made him a clear contender for the accolade.

He said: ‘It’s an honour to be recognised in this way and nice to be remembered. It brought a smile to my face.’

Photography courtesy of the Scottish Rugby/Press Association
International alumni events round-up

Hong Kong dinner and ceilidh
In May the Alumni Association of Hong Kong welcomed alumni, prospective students, University staff, and guests to a special event held in the Mariners Club in Kowloon. Despite the rain, dinner was served at the poolside under a canopy as wine and conversation flowed. Professor Andrea Nolan, Vice-Principal for Learning & Teaching, gave an update on current developments at the University. The evening concluded with energetic Scottish dancing from all the attendees – even though a few had never been to a ceilidh before.

Singapore Burns supper
More than 150 guests attended a special Burns supper celebration event at the Raffles Hotel in Singapore in May. Professor Frank Coton, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, officially welcomed alumni, guests and future students. Dressed in full kilt regalia despite the heat, he thanked everyone for attending before handing over to the St Andrew’s Society’s very own Scott Mitchell for his theatrical and entertaining Address to the Haggis. Professor Coton raised a toast to Alma Mater before handing over to Dr (Alan) Chan Yi How (DMD 2004) and Ms (Sylvia) Kai Shin Loh (BAcc 2000) for their hilarious Toast to the Lassies and Reply.

Events in Delhi and Bangalore
An increasing number of graduates live in India, and the University was proud to host two dinner events recently for our alumni and friends in Delhi and Bangalore. Around 60 guests enjoyed meeting University staff for dinner at the Park Hotel in Bangalore and at the Lalit in New Delhi. The University’s International Office plans to repeat this success in 2010 with more events in India.

Los Angeles reception
Alumni, applicants and friends from southern California gathered at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in May. Professor Neal Juster, Vice-Principal, and Ian Thomson from the International & Postgraduate Office kept guests informed of the University’s international activity and student recruitment in the US. Guests enjoyed drinks and Italian-themed canapés before escaping the breezy and chilly LA evening by viewing the newly opened Pompeii exhibition at the museum.

New York, New York
The offices of Manatt, Phelps and Phillips, LLP, provided the spectacular setting for the reception in NYC in July. Aydin Caginalp, friend of the University, kindly offered his office space as the venue, which boasted views of Times Square. Guests were updated on current news at the University by Sir Muir Russell and also had the opportunity to catch up with old and new friends and chat to future University students.

Boston reception
The Top of the Hub Skywalk Observatory was the location for the July reception in Boston for alumni and prospective students. Good weather guaranteed spectacular views of the city, which provided a wonderful backdrop for the 50 guests in attendance. Sir Muir Russell brought everyone up-to-date with news from the University and took the opportunity to thank everyone for their support during his term as Principal. Guests enjoyed drinks and canapés throughout the evening and the chance to mingle with fellow Glasgow graduates and friends.

Alumni events in 2010
As part of the University’s ongoing commitment to attract the brightest and best students worldwide, we will be working with our various alumni associations to host a series of exciting alumni events in the UK and overseas in 2010. These events will provide prospective students who are considering studying at Glasgow with the chance to meet with alumni and staff and hear at first hand about life here and the value of a University of Glasgow degree. For alumni, these events will provide opportunities to network with alumni in their local area and staff from the University.

The University is lucky and proud to have so many successful and dedicated alumni living all over the world. This increased programme of events will not only help to raise the University’s profile at home and overseas but will also help to strengthen the existing global network of alumni.

For up-to-date information about the various events, including dates and locations, please see www.glasgow.ac.uk/alumni/events.

New alumni association launched
The Real Estate, Planning & Regeneration (REPR) Alumni Association was launched in April with a drinks reception, sponsored by GVA Grimley and the Department of Urban Studies. The successful event was attended by an array of graduates and current students; Honorary Vice-President Ken Ross, CEO of Elphinstone Group and Chairman of the Scottish Property Federation, gave a keynote speech on Thriving or Surviving in a Recession with key tips for career development in a difficult market. The association has been created to enable alumni and current students to keep in touch, exchange ideas and build partnerships for future career development. For more information see www.repralumni.com.
Celebrating a century of geography

In August staff and students, past and present, gathered to celebrate the centenary of geography at the University. Over 180 alumni, spanning the past seven decades, attended the geographical homecoming.

A picnic lunch and afternoon wine reception in the East Quadrangle were a chance to renew friendships and share fond memories of people and places. Volunteer graduates from the class of 2009 were on hand as helpers throughout the day, doing a fine job of keeping glasses charged for toasts from distant friends and a speech from Professor Trevor Hoey, the Head of the Department of Geographical & Earth Sciences. Lectures delivered by Professors John Briggs, Paul Bishop and Chris Philo served as an opportunity to profile current geographical research and teaching activity in the University, and to remember students' learning experiences in the past. Alumni also enjoyed opportunities to tour the department.

To the accompaniment of a skirl of bagpipe music (courtesy of alumnus Dr Stuart Wilson) the mass of geographers processed to the Charles Wilson Building to hear a highly informative and entertaining lecture delivered by Iain Stewart, BBC television presenter and professor of geoscience communication at the University of Plymouth. The day’s proceedings were brought to a close in the University Chapel with the premiere musical performance of ‘Geographia Mundi’. This specially commissioned piece, composed by Drew Mulholland, departmental artist-in-residence, captured the mood of the day perfectly.

At the end of 2009, alumni will be able to read a series of reflections on Glasgow’s geographical century in a special centenary issue of the Scottish Geographical Journal.

University merchandise available online

Whether you are looking for a memento from your student days or a gift for someone, the University’s range of merchandise is the ideal way to shop. The newly launched sport and recreation clothing range has something for everyone – from polo shirts and shorts to tracksuits and rucksacks.

Visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/sport. The Visitor Centre shop includes unique University products and merchandise related to the Hunterian collections. Visit the online shop at www.universityofglasgowshops.com or on campus in the University’s main building.

Musical players

The Cecilian Society, the University’s musical theatre society, will be presenting their latest production, The Wedding Singer, in February at the Mitchell Theatre in Glasgow. For information or to buy tickets online, see: www.ceciliansociety.co.uk or email: tickets@ceciliansociety.co.uk.

Silver mace mystery

The University is to publish a revised edition of The Silver of the University of Glasgow by Joan Williams, first published in 1990. Glasgow’s silver collection contains many varied and interesting pieces, including the University mace, which dates from 1465. The mystery Avenue Joan Williams, first published in 1990. Glasgow’s silver collection contains many varied and interesting pieces, including the University mace, which dates from 1465. The mystery

Updates

Twins achieve double first

Twin brothers graduated from the University in June – both with first class Honours degrees in Economics.

Christopher and Stephen Rocks, from Shetland, are identical twins. Speaking after the ceremony, Christopher said: ‘It’s a great feeling to finally finish and graduate with our family with us. When we first heard our results we were both really surprised – we thought that there must have been some mistake, but thankfully there wasn’t. We’ve really enjoyed our time in Glasgow and the course was fantastic. It’s been a great four years.’

As part of their degree programme, the brothers both took an identical year out to study at the University of Stockholm. This is the first time that twin siblings have achieved first class Honours in the Department of Economics.

Graduate becomes visiting professor

Liverpool’s John Moores University has conferred a visiting professorship on Rod Thomson (MEd 1990) in recognition of his contribution to the development of public health research. Professor Thomson has also achieved the Royal College of Nursing’s highest award, a fellowship, in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the art and science of nursing.

Glasgow medics at rural health world conference

Glasgow graduates Dr Campbell Murdoch of Perth, Australia (MBChB 1966) and Dr John A J Macleod from Lochmaddy (MBChB 1963), who sadly passed away in September, had major roles in the ninth WONCA Rural Health World Conference held in Crete in June. The meeting’s theme was health inequalities, with core topics focusing on technology suitable for rural settings, island medicine and health services for immigrants.

Honours for alumni

The following alumni were honoured in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list for 2009:

• Reverend Dr Fiona C Douglas (MA 1985), MBE, for services to higher education
• Professor Quentin Leiper (BSc 1975), MBE, for services to the sustainability agenda
• Professor Marian Scott (BSc 1978), OBE, for services to environmental science
• The Very Reverend Andrew R McLellan (BD 1968), CBE, for services as HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland
• Ms Janet G M Scott (BED 1978), MBE, for services to speech and language therapy in Scotland.
**Holiday offers for alumni**

Summer 2010 cruises on board the *Ocean Countess*
Departures from Tilbury, Hull, Newcastle, Leith, Greenock and Liverpool

**Amsterdam Weekend** – 18 April
2 nights, from only £149
Tilbury – Amsterdam – Hull

Springtime Fjordland – 20, 26 April & 2 May
6 nights, from only £379
Hull – Ulvik – Eidfjord – Vik – Flam – Bergen – Hull

British Isles Discovery – 8 May
9 nights, from only £599
Hull – St Helier – Falmouth – St Mary’s – Dublin – Portree – Kirkwall – Leith – Hull

Springtime Fjordland – 23 May
6 nights, from only £399
Newcastle – Geiranger – Flam – Gudvangen – Bergen – Lerwick – Newcastle

**Fjordland Splendour** – 22 June
8 nights, from only £549

**Baltic Cities and St Petersburg** – 30 June
12 nights, from only £899

**Iberian Discovery** – 2 & 14 August
12 nights, from only £899

**Celtic Highlights** – 26 August
6 nights, from only £399

**Iberian Discovery** – 1 & 13 September
12 nights, from only £869

**Mini Cruise to Cork** – 25 September
2 nights, from only £149
Liverpool – Cobh – Plymouth
*Couch transfer available between ports at start or end of cruise at a charge of £25 per person.

Prices include • cabin category of your choice for duration of cruise • all meals on board • British style entertainment, sports & leisure facilities • all port taxes • porterage on board.

Please quote ref: Avenue in all correspondence.

Connosseur Travel Services Ltd
38 Silverknowes Road, Edinburgh EH4 5LF
Tel: 0845 1300 788 (local rate)
ABTA K0692
enquiries@connosseur-travel.co.uk
www.connosseur-travel.co.uk

---

**Reunion notices**

1949-55 Delta Club
21-23 May 2010, Peebles Hydro Hotel
To book please contact the hotel direct by email at info@peebleshydro.co.uk or tel: +44 (0)1798 782216 or email: c.mccrone31@tiscali.co.uk.

1960 Air Squadron
September 2010, Glasgow
Thirty-five members of the University Air Squadron in 1960 are already signed up to take part in the 50th anniversary reunion in 2010. Contact Jim Sloan, tel: +44 (0)1798 872163 or email: jim@iasian.com.

1960 Delta Club
15-18 June 2010, Seathill Hydro Hotel
Any club member who has not already been notified of the 50th anniversary reunion should contact Anne Louden, email: AnneEPL@apollomarine.com, tel: +44 (0)141 639 4195.

1961 Chemistry
Advance notice – 2011 reunion
Edgar Anderson is interested to see if any of his classmates would be keen to get together in 2011 to celebrate 50 years since graduation. Contact Edgar, tel: +44 (0)1923 775993 or email: moneyhill@ntlworld.com.

1965 Delta Club
10-12 September 2010, Peebles Hydro Hotel
For information about the 45th reunion, contact Kate Houston, tel: +44 (0)1896 822425 or email: kathleen@virgin.net

UVMU Mid-Sixties Club
15 May 2010, Loch Lomond
The SVMS 40-year reunion will take place in Scotland at the Lodge on Loch Lomond Hotel and will include a tour of Glencoe. Contact John Preston, 44 Hamilton Park West, London NW1 1AB, tel: +44 (0)20 7226 2109 or email: joprest@blueyonder.co.uk.

1970 MBCB Delta Club
28-30 May 2010, Old Course Hotel, St Andrews
If you have not yet received information and would like to attend, please contact Bruce McInroy, email: mcinroy@dsl.pipex.com.

1970 Political Economy
5-6 June 2010
John Kellie and Donald Forrest are organising a reunion to celebrate 40 years since graduation. For information contact John by email: kellie.j3n@btinternet.com.

1970 Zoology
18-20 June 2010
For information about the 40th reunion email Katherine Hakes: kkhakes@googglemail.com.

1971 Medics
Advance notice – April 2011
The exact dates and venue for the 40th reunion are still to be finalised. The organiser is Gordon Peterkin, email: gordon.peterkin@btinternet.com. Please notify Gordon of any change of address.

1969-75 Delta Club
Advance notice – September 2010
The club will be holding the 35-year reunion at the University. Contact Helen Jackson, 25 West Chapelton Crescent, Bearsden, G61 2DE or email: hjackson51@hotmail.com.

1985 Dentists
Advance notice – June 2010, Glasgow
There have been suggestions for the format, including a lecture day for CPD with an evening event or a dinner/weekend at a hotel. A follow-up yearbook has also been suggested, and if there is anyone with publishing contacts, that would be helpful. Contact: Carole Boyle, tel: +44 (0)20 7188 6073, email: carole.boyle@kpl.ac.uk.

1985 Divinity
Advance notice – 2010 reunion
John MacKinnon is hoping to have a reunion to mark the 50th anniversary of graduation. Please email: alumni@gla.ac.uk.

---

**Club news**

**Edinburgh Society of Glasgow University Graduates**

The Edinburgh society has enjoyed a successful and interesting year; the annual dinner was held at Jewel & Esk College in Edinburgh and the June outing was to the Kirkcaldy Art Gallery & Museum. New members are always welcome to this informal group; contact the secretary, John Ballantine, tel: +44 (0)131 476 4104, email: jb011a254@blueyonder.co.uk, or chairman Ian Drever, tel: +44 (0)131 663 1331, email: ian.drever@tiscali.co.uk.

**Glasgow University Women’s Club (London)**

The club provides a varied social programme of interest to women graduates and alumni of the University who live in London and the south-east. The club is non-denominational, and if there is anyone with publishing contacts, that would be helpful. Contact: Carole Boyle, tel: +44 (0)20 7188 6073, email: carole.boyle@kpl.ac.uk.
Reunion reports

Vet alumni reunion dinner 2009

The University was delighted to welcome back veterinary graduates to a celebration dinner and ceilidh in the Bute Hall in October. The evening was a huge success with over 200 graduates in attendance representing year groups ending 4 and 9. Professor Stuart Reid, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, welcomed the group before they dined and finished the evening with a ceilidh dance until the small hours.

This event is now a firm fixture on our calendar and next year we will be extending the invitation to year groups ending 5 and 0. We hope these years can join us for what we know will be a fun and special occasion.

1954 Chemistry

For two classmates this was their first meeting with their colleagues since graduation in 1954. They joined a celebratory dinner at the Hilton Grosvenor with the others from far and wide. For the rest of the class this was their second reunion in five years, having attended the 50th anniversary dinner at the College Club in 2004. A good night was had by all.

1957-58 Botany

The reunion was a great success with plenty to talk about and lots of news to catch up with. The Braid Hills Hotel in Edinburgh proved to be a good venue, where the group of six were able to linger over lunch and then coffee in the lounge. The photograph shows those who attended. The group had such an enjoyable time that they hope to meet again in May, when Jim Taggart, a late withdrawal, has invited them to visit him at Linn Botanic Garden on the Rosneath Peninsula.

1959 Gamma Club

The 50th reunion was held in the Hilton Grosvenor Hotel in Glasgow in September. Of the original 156 graduates, 47 attended from the UK and around the world. A further reunion is planned for the summer of 2012 in Scotland so please keep us up-to-date with your contact details and watch out for a planned website. Contact John Kennedy, tel: +44 (0)141 632 8540, email: johncalcul01@aol.com or Marjory MacSween, tel: +44 (0)141 639 0254, email: marjorymacsWEEN@GooGlemail.com.

1959 Veterinary reunion

The ‘Buldosers’ 50th graduation anniversary reunion was held in the Hilton Grosvenor Hotel in Glasgow in September. Apart from the pleasure of meeting old friends again, the highlight of the reunion was undoubtedly a Vet School visit on the final day. Staff from the school and the Alumni Office gave freely of their time to extend a warm welcome to our group and refreshments and a buffet lunch were generously provided. Everyone was amazed by the changes wrought in 50 years and by the high standard of modern facilities. The reunion finished with a formal dinner after which various anecdotes were related. The next reunion is planned for 2011 in Yorkshire.

1959 Chemistry

The 1955-59 Honours Chemistry class held their 50th anniversary reunion in July, with 35 class members and their partners present. Members had come from the US as well as England and Scotland. Afternoon visits to the Department of Chemistry and the Hunterian Museum were followed by a dinner in the Melville Room. The organisers were delighted by the responses they received after the event, typical of which were: ‘It was a delightful trip down memory lane in a most positive sense’. ‘It seemed that everybody morphed into their former selves’ and ‘meeting everyone brought back many happy memories of an important and happy period in our lives’.

Thanks are due to Professors Bob Hill and Joe Connelly of the Department of Chemistry, the Chemists’ Club, Mungo Campbell of the Hunterian Museum, the Development & Alumni Office and the University’s Hospitality Services for their contribution to what was a most enjoyable afternoon and evening.

1959 Pharmacy

The class of 1959 met for a three-day reunion in September at Ross Priory, Loch Lomond. Among several events, we went on a mail boat trip from Balmaha to Inchmurrin Island. This had to be altered somewhat as the jetty at Balmaha was under water and the thought of 22 seventy-year-olds being transported in rowing boats was not on. Following a quick change of plan the boat trip went ahead in beautiful, sunny weather and no wind.

The reception and dinner that evening made our numbers up to 37. Jim Bannerman chaired the dinner, Calum Macfarlane made an interesting and amusing speech, Paddy Gibride and Betty read poems which they had composed for previous Glasgow branch events, and Ian Caldwell completed the entertainment.

It was noted that the Glasgow branch had been very remarkable in its achievements and attending the dinner were two past presidents of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, four past chairmen of the Scottish Executive and five fellows of RPSGB – quite a record! The meal and wine at the dinner were excellent and rounded off a very happy reunion.

There was a certain reluctance to leave on the Thursday but we finally left in the afternoon and went our separate ways. I have had several very happy letters saying how much all had enjoyed the whole event and thanking the committee for the planning and execution. Ross Priory came in for much praise. Also several people have subsequently joined as members. The next reunion is to be in five years’ time! Where? I will leave that to someone else.

Betty Montgomery

How to contact alumni news

Alumni news is edited by Emily Howie. Send details of news and reunions to: Development & Alumni Office, 2 The Square, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ Tel. +44 (0)141 330 4951 Email: alumni@gla.ac.uk
1959 Notre Dame

The Golden Jubilee reunion of the class of 1959 of the Notre Dame College of Education in Dowanhill took place in September. In glorious sunshine, 37 members of the group – some of whom had travelled from North America, England and Ireland – gathered at Turnbull Hall for a Thanksgiving Mass celebrated by Fr John Keenan, Chaplain to the University. Fittingly, the reunion took place on the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary and, in his homily, Fr John spoke of the example of Our Lady as teacher, carer and comforter. Year president, Valerie Hackney (née Breen) read the lesson and Ann Rooney (née Hall) compiled and read Intercessions which included prayers for sick and deceased year and staff members. The organist was Mary Milarvie (née Durning).

Afterwards everyone enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch, in the course of which memories of college and early teaching experiences were exchanged, photographs were viewed and memories put to the test in a quiz compiled by Sheila Hehir (née Harmon). With many friendships renewed, the day – planned and arranged by Josephine McGreal (née Kerr) – concluded with a parting request for another gathering in the near future; provisional arrangements for 8 May 2010.

1959 Engineering

The engineers met in September to celebrate their 50th anniversary. The event was organised by Ken Kirkwood, Robin Sleight and Bob Kohn. Almost 30% of the graduates were present, an impressive number considering the length of time since graduation and that many were either international students who returned home or graduates who have settled overseas.

Following a tour of the faculty we had the pleasure of meeting with Professor Coton, Dean of Engineering, who remarked that meeting the group after meeting with the new Freshers’ cohort provided an interesting contrast. The group then had a reception at the Western Club in Glasgow and the following day enjoyed an excursion to the Falkirk Wheel.

The reunion culminated in a memorable dinner in the imposing setting of the Randolph Hall. The guest of honour was Emeritus Professor Hugh Sutherland, who was on the civil engineering staff in 1959. Many friendships were rekindled and reminiscences awakened and the enthusiasm which everyone had as students some 50 years ago was still alive and well.

1964 Dental reunion

The dental graduates are seen above with spouses at their reunion in Whistler, British Columbia, in September. The reunion was organised by the Canadians: Jimmy Grier, Gilmour Greig, Jim and Maureen Tynan and John Cormack, and thanks go to them for a great programme. After the event a smaller group went on to cruise on the Sapphire Princess from Whittier, Alaska, to Vancouver.

1969 Geology

John Swan (BSc 1969) reports that the venue of the Melville Room at the University for the reunion in June was excellent; beautifully set out, with a fabulous view. The quality of the food was first class. The company mixed well and everything just took off from there. The group enjoyed a tour afterwards of the facilities in the Department of Geographical & Earth Sciences, led by Professor Rod Brown, followed by tea and coffee organised by Emeritus Professor Don Bowes. In the evening a great night in a private room in The Bothy Restaurant in Ruthven Lane completed a very special day.

1969 Aeronautical Engineering

The class met for a 40-year reunion in August, with eight of the nine of us attending. The weekend commenced with a visit to Professor H Y Wong – our only remaining teacher from the 1960s – at his home in Bearsden where he provided a very pleasant lunch. This was followed by a visit to our old stamping ground in the James Watt Building, where we were shown round by Professors Marco Vezza and Roddy Gallowrath. Afternoon refreshments were followed by a short presentation by Professor Vezza on the department’s current work. We then each gave short presentations on our careers over the past 40 years. Friday evening was spent pleasantly in Babir’s Indian Restaurant in Church Street and a further meal was enjoyed in the city centre on Saturday evening.

Not wishing to tempt fate, we decided that our next reunion would be in five years.

1963-69 Gamma Club

The Gamma Club held its 40th year reunion at Gleddoch House in Langbank in June. There was a good turnout, with 73 members and 53 partners attending. The highlight of the weekend was the all-day visit to the University. An excellent and informative tour of the Wolfson Medical School Building was followed by a lunch at the GU Union with many of us visiting old haunts such as the beer bar and the debating chamber.

In the afternoon we returned to the old Anatomy Department, which for most of us was where we all met as a group for the first time back in 1964. We had the use of the lecture theatre for a thought-provoking presentation of five papers by members of the year. One member described his work with the Mercy Ships and another with Médecins Sans Frontières; we made donations to both of these charities.

The weekend was completed by the Homecoming dinner and ceilidh dance. Afterwards an open letter from the class of 1969 to the class of 2009 was sent to Professor Jim McKillop to deliver to this year’s medical graduates.
The General Council

Business news and reports
Prepared and supplied for the General Council by Robert Marshall, Clerk to the General Council.
Email: r.marshall@admin.gla.ac.uk

Papers for consideration at the Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council, 3 February 2010:
1. Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on 24 June 2009 (see below).
2. Paper A. Report by the Principal on the work and activities of the University.

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on 24 June 2009 in the Wolfson Medical School Building of the University

The Chancellor, Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, took the chair and welcomed those present to the meeting. The Chancellor also extended a welcome to Lady Russell.

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2009, printed in Avenue, issue 46, (June 2009) were approved.

Report of the Convenor of the Business Committee, Dr Frances Boyle

Dr Boyle informed the meeting that the Business Committee had held three more meetings since February, and had again received presentations from three Deans of Faculties: Professor David Fearn of Information & Mathematical Sciences, Professor Stuart Reid of Veterinary Medicine and Professor Noreen Burrows of Law, Business & Social Sciences.

The presentations from the Deans had been shown to be the most effective way for the Business Committee to be brought up to date on developments in and challenges before the several faculties.

This meeting was the last occasion on which Sir Muir Russell would address members of the General Council in his capacity as Principal, and Dr Boyle, on behalf of the Business Committee, expressed her appreciation for Sir Muir’s leadership of the University during his time in office.

Dr Boyle informed the meeting that the occasion was also the last meeting for Mr Reynolds, as Clerk to the General Council.

On the recommendation of the Convener, the meeting appointed Mr Robert Marshall, a Senior Human Resources Manager in the University, as Clerk to the General Council with effect from 1 October 2009 for a period of three years.

Address by the Principal, Sir Muir Russell

The Principal presented his report, as printed on page 24 of Avenue, issue 46 (June 2009).

Sir Muir Russell thanked the Chancellor and the meeting for inviting Lady Russell and himself to this, his last Half-Yearly Meeting to which he would deliver an address.

The Principal reminded the meeting that as a major university, Glasgow must constantly rise to the occasion and that it must respond to and manage external pressures to ensure, not just that it survived, but that it thrived.

The University was constantly having to adapt to meet the challenges in respect of: competition for financial resources from research funding and government funding; competition for students; and competition for academic staff. The Principal’s report in Avenue had highlighted some of the recent successes that had all helped to address these three challenges.

One of the significant developments was in interdisciplinary research, where old divisions were being challenged in order to facilitate new and powerful research agendas which relied so heavily on cross-cutting collaborations. The interdisciplinary strategy was developing well, with large-scale activities in:

- International development
- Sustainability (including impact of climate change issues)
- Solar and bio fuels
- Systems biology and systems medicine
- Nanotechnology – which had just been awarded £2.5m in funding for a Knowledge Transfer (KT) Account from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council to increase the intensity of KT for the University’s £40m + nanotechnology portfolio
- Materials (launched on 19 June 2009) which brought together departments in the Faculties of Biomedical & Life Sciences, Engineering, Medicine and Physical Sciences.

The University had also been successful in bidding to merge the MRC Virology Unit and the University’s Virology research to form the Medical Research Council – University of Glasgow Centre for Virology Research, which would have around £30m in funding.

The Principal reminded the meeting that much had been accomplished in:

- Learning and teaching – for example, excellent results in the National Student Survey as noted, with investment in facilities, and new measures to aid student retention. In 2009, the University had had the greatest increase in UCAS student applications of any of the universities in the Russell Group;
- Research – the University’s current grant awards totalled around £113.5m, with the possibility of further increase in the near future;
- Postgraduate work – there was now a greater number of taught programmes and an increasing number of research students;
- International activity – the University was well on its way to meeting its targets for student recruitment and academic partnerships, through providing the right programmes and the efforts of the University’s ‘international champions’ and recruiters;
- Knowledge transfer – where the University’s research was put to good use and the University had obtained the largest amount of KT grant in Scotland;
- Widening participation – where the University would continue its successful outreach activities;
- Communications – where the University had now become much better at promoting the opportunities it offered to potential students and staff.

A key part of the challenge had been to make the University’s improved performance sustainable, so that the faculties and
departments could plan with confidence and invest for the future in the light of the outcome of the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) and public expenditure prospects.

The Principal emphasised the need for and the value of the contribution made by the General Council. Sir Muir stated that he had appreciated the opportunity to work with members of the General Council and to share with the members something of the challenges and aspirations of the University. The General Council’s role in electing effective members to serve on the University Court was crucial. It was important that the Court was a strong and effective governing body, as it was ultimately responsible for guiding the University through the challenges which had been identified. The General Council’s Assessors were key to the Court’s stature and capabilities.

When the University had set out its strategy of recent years in Building on Excellence, one of the key aspects was reinvigorating the University with a sense of ambition. As that strategy was reaching the end of its term, a new strategy was being formulated to be in place by mid-2010, to pick up and carry forward the momentum of its predecessor.

Sir Muir Russell thanked the Chancellor for all that he did for the University, through increasing its profile and working hard for it through all his many onerous commitments.

The Principal also referred to his successor, Professor Anton Muscatelli, and stated that he shared with the Chancellor a deep love and affection for the University and a passion to secure its place as one of the great universities of the world.

Sir Muir Russell stated that although he and Lady Russell would leave behind the physical trappings of Gilmorehill, they would continue to carry with them the very best hopes for the University and would watch the continuing progress of Glasgow to an ever brighter future.

The Chancellor thanked Sir Muir Russell for his address and invited questions from those members present.

In reply to questions from members, the Principal stated that:

- The Chancellor’s Assessor, Mrs Joy Travers, would retire from office on 31 December 2009, and that arrangements were in place to find a successor.

- The Rector of the University continued to chair meetings of the University Court, but vacated the chair for the Chancellor’s Assessor or other appropriately qualified member, when consideration was being given to reports from those committees which had large budgets, for example the Finance Committee, Estates Committee etc.

- It would be extremely helpful to have more studentships in the University, especially for doctoral research students. Additional finance for talent scholarships for award at undergraduate level would also be appreciated.

Mr Gerry Fisher referred to recent correspondence requesting extensive analysis of salary information and differentials in the rate of increase of salaries, as he considered that the divergence in differentials was not beneficial for society and also for the University. He considered that the University Court should discuss the setting of the differentials in salaries.

In reply the Principal stated that universities were now complex businesses, and that the majority of staff still received incremental pay increases. The University Court tried to ensure that pay awards were fair to all staff.

The Principal noted the Joint National Committee for Higher Education Staff (JNCHES) report (published in 2008) which, as part of the JNCHES pay agreement (2006-09), had reviewed higher education finance and pay data across a range of comparators. The key evidence emerging from this study suggested that the sector, over the eight-year period from 2001 to 2008, had achieved significant improvements which, in terms of pay and conditions, placed it in a very strong position compared to other sectors of the economy.

With regard to the demise of the College Club, the Principal stated there was still a room available for use by members. The creation of additional dining areas now operated by Hospitality Services in the former rooms of the College Club had been greatly welcomed by both staff and students.

Professor Arthur Allison suggested that he thought it would be in the University’s interest if tickets for Commemoration Day, inclusive of the luncheon, could be issued free of charge to graduates of 50 years and more.

It was suggested that members would find the General Council pages in Avenue easier to read if they could be printed ‘black on white’. The Principal, on behalf of the General Council, then thanked Sir Muir Russell for his leadership of the University and for reinvigorating it with a sense of purpose and setting it on a challenging path for the future. The Chancellor also thanked Lady Russell for her great contribution to the life of the University.

Dr Frances Boyle also expressed the appreciation of the General Council and thanked Sir Muir and Lady Russell for all that they had done for the University since they had come to Gilmorehill in October 2003.

The Principal was then presented with a framed print of the University and Lady Russell with a bouquet of flowers, on behalf of the General Council.

Closure of the meeting

The Chancellor thanked all those present for their attendance and informed them that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 3 February 2010 at 6pm in the Senate Room.
The General Council

Paper A: Report by the Principal

This is my first Avenue report to the General Council and as such may I begin by saying how delighted I am to be back at Glasgow. It is an immense privilege for me to be returning to the University as Principal.

Part of the excitement in coming back stems from the real sense that the University is in a good and strong position. I pay tribute to my predecessor, Sir Muir Russell, for guiding the University to this position. We are well placed to take that next bold and decisive step to make us one of the truly great international universities of the world, second to none in Scotland.

We can measure this progress across a range of indicators. Over the last four years, the University has achieved financial stability and operating surpluses. We have performed reasonably well in league tables (see article on pages 11-13) and in student (home and international) satisfaction surveys. EU and non-EU student numbers have increased and we have been developing a range of international initiatives. We also have a good story to tell in terms of research, with recent successes including such developments as the new Medical Research Council – University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research and, again as you will read elsewhere in Avenue, the completion of a huge feat of scholarship, the publication of the Historical Thesaurus. And we have invested in key areas of our estate, with investment levels for the last four years and projected for next year standing at £152m.

It is good that we are able to face the future from a position of relative strength, for very real challenges lie ahead. We know that we are not as strong in our research, international profile and reputation as we should be, particularly when we compare ourselves with the best in the world.

We are also acutely aware of the severe financial challenges facing the public and private sectors, the greatest since the 1970s and early 1980s. In Scottish terms, the University’s Centre for Public Policy for Regions estimates that in the period 2013-14 Scotland will see an 8.5% real-terms cut, that is a £2.5 billion reduction in spending power. This is bound to impact on the higher education sector and while the University is projecting reduced surpluses over the next three years, we are very aware of the vulnerability of these projections.

I am of the strong opinion that the best way to face these challenges is to set ourselves clear goals and make the necessary and sometimes tough choices to get there. I want the University to be in a position to invest for growth, not cut to stand still or, worse, fall back.

There are two ways in which we intend to do this: the first is the development of our new strategy, the follow-on from Building on Excellence, and the second is my plan for restructuring the academic shape of the University.

Taking the strategy first: the new University strategy, following extensive consultation, will be published in spring 2010. I don’t want to pre-empt it, but it will reflect some of our fundamental values and principles. These include the integrity of our scholarship and our desire to share our knowledge and scholarship with others to the benefit of society, the nation and the global community. They also include our commitment to the twin pillars of financial sustainability and academic excellence; our commitment to being a research-intensive university, which upholds and promotes the value and indissoluble link between research, quality teaching and learning. The strategy will also articulate our commitment to being an international University, part of the fabric of Glasgow and Scotland but also confidently placing ourselves on the world stage. And finally, it will continue to take account of our many stakeholders including our alumni, supporters and friends. In all that we seek to do, the investment choices we make will be guided by these key themes.

The second and more immediate means by which I hope to increase the opportunities to grow our status and reputation worldwide is through the academic restructuring proposals that I presented to the University in October and November. The Senior Management Group has unanimously supported the plan, and Court has endorsed it in principle. Following the consultation period, the plan will be presented to Court again, at its meeting on 16 December 2009, for final endorsement.

There is not room here to go into the detail of my proposals but essentially I want to change our model of nine faculties to create four academic colleges, and one support services unit. Each college will include schools, around four to six in each college, thus reducing the number of departments we currently have from over 40 to around 20-25.

Why do I think this is the right thing to do? I believe this structure will provide a more nimble, agile organisation and increase our ability to stimulate interdisciplinary activities. Such activities are the emerging priorities for investment for the key research funders. Similarly in teaching, students are increasingly looking for opportunities to explore interdisciplinary approaches at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. We have tremendous opportunities at Glasgow to accelerate our progress towards meeting these drivers: multidisciplinary research coupled with quality learning and teaching will be key to our future success. The new structure will also create a smaller senior management team, and better-supported academic colleges and schools.

I have set an ambitious timeline for this structure to be agreed and put in place: I want the college-schools structure up and running by 1 August 2010. I believe it is vital, however, to work to this timetable if we are to reap the benefits of the new model and in time for the Research Excellence Framework. I truly believe that we can take this next step to make Glasgow realise its full potential: to be second to none in Scotland; to be one of the top universities in the world.

Professor Anton Muscatelli
November 2009
Hunterian Museum

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

Museum main hall closure

From 1 December 2009, the Hunterian Museum main hall will close to the public to allow for the installation of a new roof. It is expected to reopen in April 2011. The Museum entrance gallery and adjoining Hunter and Euing rooms will remain open and our programme of education classes will take place in the Kelvin Gallery, within the Hunterian Museum. The Hunterian Art Gallery, the Mackintosh House and Zoology Museum will remain open as usual for this period.

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.

Burns, Medals and Money

Until 30 January 2010
More medals have been struck of Robert Burns than almost any other Scot. These are examined along with the new United Kingdom £2 piece commemorating the poet.

Robert Burns medal. © The Hunterian Museum & Art Gallery, University of Glasgow.

Dürer and Italy

22 January–22 March 2010
Giorgio Vasari’s celebrated book Lives of the Artists (1560) frequently demonstrates how important prints were in the transmission of artistic influence between Flanders or Germany and Italy. This display features Renaissance engravings, etchings and woodcuts from the Hunterian collection, described in Vasari’s Lives, and arranged in order to highlight the importance of Albrecht Dürer’s Italian prints. The relationships between northern engravers such as Dürer, Schongauer and Lucas van Leyden and Italian artists such as Raphael, Michelangelo, and Parmigianino are also explored.

Treasures from Dr Hunter’s Coin Cabinet

Until 30 January 2010
A selection of rare, very rare and unique classical, medieval and modern coins and medals from William Hunter’s fabulous 18th-century collection.

Hunterian Art Gallery

Hunterian Art Gallery, 82 Hillhead Street, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ. Tel: +44 (0)141 330 5431
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.

Mackintosh and The Glasgow School of Art

Until 16 January 2010
Mackintosh’s involvement with The Glasgow School of Art embraced his student, personal and professional lives. This display, drawn from the Hunterian’s unrivalled Mackintosh Collection, illustrates these connections through designs, period photographs and archival material.

Amber: Treasures from Poland

Amber cabinet of the last king of Poland (1771). Returned to Poland from Edinburgh in 1779. © Malbork Castle Museum.

4 February–17 April 2010
The southern shores of the Baltic Sea have long been associated with the gathering, trading and working of amber. This exhibition features some of the finest items and artefacts from Poland including collections from Gdansk and Malbork Castle, along with examples of amber from the Hunterian collection.

Aspects of Scottish Art 1860-1910

30 April–2 October 2010
This exhibition illustrates the diversity of Scottish art between 1860 and 1910. Selected almost exclusively from the Hunterian’s collection, it includes works by Fraser and Bough, McTaggart, Chalmers and Macgregor. At its core are works by the Glasgow Boys and their contemporaries, from Murray, Coventry and Cameron to the Glasgow Girls, the Group of Four and Charles Mackie. The exhibition also features works by Ferguson, Peploe, Mackie and Pringle, which anticipate the diversity of Scottish art in the first decade of the 20th century.

Education at the Hunterian

The Hunterian provides an exciting and inspirational resource for a wide range of formal and informal learning opportunities. For further information tel +44 (0)141 330 2375 or email educat@museum.gla.ac.uk

Hunterian 10-Minute Talk Programme

Tuesdays at 12.45pm
Talks are given by members of staff from the Hunterian or other University departments about particular displays or objects. For a full list of talks, visit the what’s on section at www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian. Admission free.

Keep in touch

For updates on programmes and events and for changes to opening times, please visit our website at www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian