Nigeria to New York: treasured memories of Glasgow

Dr L Ade Benedict came to the University of Glasgow from Nigeria at the age of 19 at the suggestion of his cousin Dr Popoola Oludimu who graduated from the Medical School in 1964.

Dr Benedict is a long term supporter and a well known face among the NYC alumni group. “I value my education from Glasgow and will always remember my years of great experience from the prestigious Medical School”. Before gaining entry to the University, he attended Langside College to study for his Scottish Higher Certificates and the Paisley College of Technology to complete his A level exams. He was admitted to the Medical School in 1966 and completed the 6 year course in 1972.

During his years at Glasgow, he describes how he spent many weekends with classmates and their families trying to learn the Scottish traditions that affected his life in many positive ways. He has many memorable stories from his student days and one in particular which took place in the Anatomy Lab where his good friend fainted at the sight of the cadaver for anatomical dissection - he later pursued a career in Psychiatry and presently Radiology!

It was in Glasgow that Ade met his lovely wife, Joy, of 37 years. Joy had travelled to Glasgow from Jamaica to study Nursing at the Southern General Hospital where she obtained her Nursing Certificate in 1973. They left for the USA that same year after being unable to secure a position in his home country of Nigeria due to the political instability. While in the US, he completed a 5-year internship and residency program in Obstetrics-Gynecology and became certified in the specialty in 1981.

He later obtained a Masters in Public Health from Columbia University, New York, and has been a strong advocate for Public Health in NYC. In 2006, Ade was appointed to serve as a Trustee of Nassau University Medical Centre in Long Island. In 2008, he was also appointed by Gov. Eliot Spitzer of the State of New York to serve as a Council Member of the flagship State University of Stony Brook and Medical School in Suffolk County, Long Island. Presently, he is the Chairman of the Department of Ob-Gyn at New York College of Osteopathic Medical School, Westbury, Long Island.

Ade and his wife Joy have three children of whom they are very proud: Yemi, a graduate of Oxford University, Andrew a surgeon and Richard a flight-test Engineer with Boeing. Ade has a great passion for ice hockey and was thrilled to see Richard play for his high school in the States. Apart from successfully raising his three children, he is grateful to have had a wonderful career in Ob-Gyn delivering many premature infants that have not only survived but achieved successful careers in Medicine, Engineering and the Legal profession.

Dr Benedict is a great supporter of his Alma Mater, and always enjoys getting together with fellow alumni at University events “I will always treasure and cherish my time at Glasgow. I owe my success, character and moral ethics as well as my compassion in Medicine to what Glasgow taught me during my early years at the University.”

Welcome from the Principal

Professor Anton Muscatelli
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
An eventful six months

Over the last six months we have been on the go with our fundraising appeals, events and winter activities.

At the end of the year our team of student callers were busy contacting alumni in the USA as part of the Autumn Telephone Campaign. Thank you to all who took the time to speak to our callers and generously supported American Alumni of Glasgow University (AAGU).

We were delighted to see so many new and familiar faces at our Blums Supper events in New York, Boston and Chicago. A warm welcome was also received from our alumni in Toronto.

Aside from planning our many appeals and events, the office has also been buzzing with wedding love! Emily recently tied the knot with Richard Howse in October and Emma is set to become Mrs Sloan on April 24th, so may the excitement continue!

Please contact Emma if you have questions regarding giving from the US and Canada, or Emily if you would like more information about any of our planned events. We can be contacted via the details on the back and would be delighted to answer your queries.

More students choose Glasgow

Recruitment efforts in North America continue to prove fruitful as application and enrolment figures rise steadily. Throughout the year, members of staff from the Recruitment and International Office travel across the continent to engage with prospective students, meet with advisers, and attend exhibitions.

As our efforts increase and develop in North America, we hope that the numbers of students following in the footsteps of our alumni will also grow.

In September 2009, the University of Glasgow had a record 507 registrants from the United States, up from 356 in 2008. Similarly, the 2009/10 ‘Semester Abroad’ intake was up 12% on 2008/9, as institutional study abroad links continue to develop throughout the country. Application numbers for 2010 entry are promising both on the Undergraduate and Postgraduate level, with significant increases in each area. Canadian numbers grew incrementally in 2009, with 726 registrants (a 5% rise on 2008 figures). Application numbers for 2010 show promise for continued growth.

Students come from all corners of North America, with growing interest from the Western and Mountain United States. While there has always been a strong interest in the Arts, other areas continue to grow, including Social Sciences, Engineering, and Physical Sciences. Veterinary Medicine continues to draw heavy interest from North America on an annual basis.

Transatlantic giving made easy

The University of Glasgow is known as a prescribed university under the Canadian Income Tax Regulations and Income Tax Act.

Glasgow’s Prescribed Status enables Canadian donors to make contributions to the University and receive tax relief under the Canadian tax structure.

Our donors can now give online at the address below or by filing in and returning the donation form attached. Thank you to all our donors for your continued support.

www.gla.ac.uk/services/givingtoglasgow/givenow/canada.

Forthcoming events

The Principal, Professor Muscatelli, is travelling to the States to host alumni events in Washington DC on Friday 21st May and in Los Angeles on Sunday 23rd May 2010. We are planning an evening reception in Alexandria, VA and an afternoon get-together in the Newport Beach area of Los Angeles.

Further information and ticket booking will be available in the coming weeks and invitations will be posted in advance of the events.

Keep an eye on our webpages for up-to-date information:

www.glasgow.ac.uk/alumni/events

Graduate awarded for contributions to cancer research

Dr Ronald D Barr is the recipient of the 2009 O. Harold Warwick Prize from the Canadian Cancer Society. Dr Barr is a pediatric cancer specialist known nationally and internationally for his work in the field of pediatric oncology, and co-author and author of seven books and more than 250 scientific articles.

His main professional interests are international health, particularly cancer in childhood; late effects of cancer treatment, especially on nutritional status; and measurement of health-status and health-related quality of life. He is one of the editors of the first definitive document on the incidence, survival and mortality of 15 to 29 year-olds with malignant disease. He also co-edited the first textbook on cancer in adolescents and young adults.

Dr Barr received his MChB from the University of Glasgow in 1966. He then joined the faculty of medicine at the University of Nairobi to help establish the first medical school in Kenya. He joined the faculty of the University of Aberdeen before moving to the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, as a visiting scientist. Since 1977, he has been at McMaster University and is currently professor of pediatrics, pathology and medicine in the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

The O. Harold Warwick Prize is given to a scientist whose research has had a major impact on cancer control in Canada. The prize is named after Dr Warwick, a pioneering researcher in cancer control and treatment, who became the first executive director of both the former National Cancer Institute of Canada and the Canadian Cancer Society.

Dr Warwick’s contributions to cancer control and treatment have been numerous. His work has focused on establishing new cancer control programs and systems. He has been an advocate for the prevention of tobacco use and the screening of cancer patients. His work has also been recognized with the O. Harold Warwick Prize from the Canadian Cancer Society.

I would like to make a gift to the University of Glasgow of $...

I will give this amount every year for ... years.

I would like my gift to remain anonymous.

I may make a bequest to the University of Glasgow of $....

I wish to convey to the Board of Directors of AAGU my hope that consideration will be given to allocating this contribution to

The Scholarships Fund

The Beatson Pebble Appeal

The Medical Fund

Beatson Pebble Appeal

The Vet Fund

SCENE - Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment

The Chancellor’s Fund

The Scholarships Fund

Please make checks payable to ‘The University of Glasgow Trust’.

The University will send you a receipt for your own tax records.

More students

Transatlantic giving made easy

Glasgow’s Prescribed Status enables Canadian donors to make contributions to the University and receive tax relief under the Canadian tax structure.

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2009 Denver Get-Together

Scott Mazuzan, International Officer for the Recruitment and International Office based in the US, hosted the first Colorado get-together on Thursday 12 November 2009 at the Argyll Gastropub, Denver. The event brought together 30 alumni and friends from the local area for food, drinks and socialising. A raffle was organised and the winner Ingrid Anderson, partner of Darren Hewitson (BAcc 2007) was presented with a bottle of single malt whisky. Attendees were delighted with the turn out on the night and expressed an interest in organising similar events in the future.

2010 New York City Burns Supper

The US hosted a number of ceilidhs this year, with the Principal attending the first University Burns Supper in New York City on 19th February at the Penn Club of New York. Clark McGinn (MA 1983) was once again on top form as he took to the stage to ‘Address the Haggis’ in his unique style. Guests were entertained as AAGU’s Board Members Vivek Thakur (MBA 1993), Esther Steinhauser (PhD 1976) and Melvyn Pond (BVMS 1966) delivered the Toast to the Lassies, Reply and Toast to the Alma Mater respectively before dancing the night away.

2010 Boston Burns Supper

Back by popular demand! Alumni and guests turned out in their droves to welcome the Principal and see the return of Clark McGinn to the 7th Annual Boston Burns Supper on Saturday 20th February. The event took place at Hampshire House and was sponsored by the Academy of Realist Art. Michael MacMillan (BAcc 1976) proposed a witty and entertaining Toast to the Lassies and a clever and cheeky Reply was delivered by Cindy MacMillan, Academy of Realist Art. Melvyn Pond (BVMS 1966), attending his second Burns Supper in the same weekend, proposed the Toast to the Alma Mater before guests adjourned for more drinks and had the chance to hear some beautiful Scottish songs sung by Kirsten Cairns. The night finished in style with an energetic Ceilidh.

2010 North Carolina Burns Supper

Alumni in the Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill region of North Carolina met for the first time for a Burns Supper on February 13th at The Carolina Inn in Chapel Hill. 40 attended the evening’s events which included a lively drinks reception, dinner, entertainment, and post-supper socialising that continued in the bar until the wee hours of the morning. This was the first Burns Supper for some, including chairman Nathan Isley. Even the Burns Supper veterans were mightily impressed by the talents of Ian Gilmour (Address to the Haggie), Chip Hasty (The Immortal Memory), Iain Kelly (Holy Willie’s Prayer), Robert Taylor (Tam O’Shanter), and Trish Nicol (The Lassies’ Reply).

2010 Toronto Alumni Reception

The snow fell in Toronto on 25th February as alumni, friends and prospective students gathered at One King West. The reception was held in the hotel’s unique venue space of a bank vault which resembled a set from a James Bond film. Guests were treated to wine and canapés whilst chatting about their Glasgow experiences. Sarah Richardson, Alumni Development Officer, provided an update on how the University is faring in addition to highlighting its long history and connections with Canada. The occasion was a great success and everyone left saying that they were looking forward to the next get-together.

2010 Chicago Burns Supper

A record turn out of 99 gathered for the 4th annual Burns Supper in the University Club on 27th February. Emma Steel led proceedings and was joined by fellow Glasgow representative Sarah Richardson who delivered news from the University. Clark McGinn expertly addressed the haggis and entertained with his theatrical Immortal Memory. Jimmy Bremner proposed an enjoyable Toast to the Lassies and his wife, Marcia (BSc 1999), returned the sentiment with her humorous reply. Glen Ayre led guests in a lively Ceilidh joined by John Marshall (BVMS 2003) who kept guests on the right footing as he expertly called the steps for the dancing.

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