A new $18.5M hospital by 2008
Campaign is launched to build a new small animal hospital in Glasgow

Scotland can look forward to a world-class, state-of-the-art US $18.5M (CAD $20.5M) referral hospital for small animals, fit for the 21st century and beyond. This follows the decision by the American Veterinary Medical Association-accredited Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Glasgow, to invest in providing a unique, cutting-edge facility by 2008.

“Our case load has grown dramatically” explains Professor Stuart Carmichael, Associate Dean of Clinical Services. “We are currently one of the busiest hospitals in the country – we are teaching 80% more students, many from North America, than when the hospital was first opened. We have very ambitious plans for future growth – we have drawn up plans for what we believe will be a world-class centre for veterinary medicine, challenging current concepts in clinical practice, teaching and research and pioneering future standards in animal treatment and welfare.”

In order to fund the project, the University has launched a capital appeal to raise $13M ($14.4M) towards the construction costs, the other $5.5M ($6.1M) being underwritten by the Faculty and the University combined. Once opened, the hospital will become self-sufficient through clinical income generated. Already funds of over $9.9M ($10.9M) have been pledged to the appeal.
From page 1...

Professor Stuart Reid, Dean of the Faculty, said: “We recognise the tremendous support we have always received from our alumni and friends when we ask for help to upgrade and replace our facilities. This support has allowed us to retain our pre-eminent position by helping us build the Weipers Centre for Equine Welfare, completed in 2001 and the Sir Henry Wellcome Building for Comparative Medical Sciences, which opened in 2005. We are very grateful indeed to all those who made this possible.

“We now need help to bring our small animal hospital up to the same exacting standards; to provide the best care to sick animals and their owners, and innovative teaching to current and future students. These plans are not just about bricks and mortar. They are about providing the best infrastructure to attract and teach future vets and to allow expert staff the opportunity to develop further the best approach to the lifetime well-being of small animals. Every gift, of whatever size, will help us reach this goal.”

To take a virtual tour of the new building and learn more about the services we will be providing, please go to www.gla.ac.uk/faculties/vet and follow the links to the new small animal hospital.

If you are visiting Scotland and would like to visit the Faculty, please contact Ailsa Macmillan, Vet School Development Campaign, Development and Alumni Office, 2 The Square, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, tel. +44 (0)141 330 2808, email a.macmillan@admin.gla.ac.uk

If you would like to support this major project in animal health and welfare, please contact Joanna Storrar at the address on the right.

Message from the Editor

I am delighted to be sending you the new North American newsletter, which is an amalgamation of the previous US and Canadian Newsletters.

As many of you may know, Joanna Storrar, Vice-President of US Operations, is based in New York. Like Joanna, many of our graduates travel between Canada and the US and are interested in alumni activity in both these countries. The University is dedicated to alumni activities and development in the US and Canada. therefore it seemed appropriate to produce one newsletter for this area.

We hope you will enjoy the new improved newsletter from your alma mater.

Please note that we are able to offer an electronic version of this newsletter. If you would be interested in receiving it in this format please email alumni@gla.ac.uk

CONTACTS

If you would like more information on any of the University’s alumni relations programmes and services, contact:

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If you would like to know more about the University’s fundraising initiatives in the US, please contact:

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New York welcomes Glasgow seafarers

Alumni and friends of the University of Glasgow helped to welcome the arrival in New York of the Glasgow: Scotland with Style Clipper as part of the 05–06 Round the World Yacht Race, and celebrate the close links between New York and Glasgow. Over 150 people gathered in the magnificent setting of the New York Yacht Club for an evening of Scottish hospitality and entertainment - whisky tasting, Scottish music, great conversations, and a heartfelt Auld Lang Syne at the end of the evening. An evening for pride on the part of Glaswegians and New Yorkers, and resolutions to continue building relationships across oceans.

Vancouver rendezvous

By Edward Mornin, President, University of Glasgow
Graduates of British Columbia

The University of Glasgow Graduates Association of British Columbia held its annual get-together on 11 June 2006. In what has become something of a tradition, we met at Cheers Restaurant in North Vancouver, where we enjoyed a congenial social session followed by a delicious Sunday luncheon. We enjoyed meeting old friends and making a few new ones. At lunch, Catherine Schwartz proposed a toast to the University.

We were happy to have with us two visitors from Scotland, Ian and Sheila Campbell from Prestwick, both fellow graduates and former educators, who entertained us after our meal with tales of their experiences of the British education system. Sheila reflected on the passage of time through her experiences as a girl in her various schools in Scotland and England, while Ian updated us on changes that had taken place in the Scottish school system after most of us had left the country. We look forward to seeing each other again next year.
Krishan Sethi, MBChB (1976)

Dr Krishan Sethi has never forgotten his time at the University of Glasgow and has fond memories of his time here and the pride he felt when he first came to the University as a student. He said: “I had watched the procession of students walking to the University from my high school with yearning. It was for me a natural progression.”

“I was elected by my peers to serve on the Board of Management of the Students Union, this enabled me to interact with students from all faculties and contribute effectively to student life issues. It was indeed a very rewarding and memorable experience.”

A native of Glasgow, Krishan graduated in 1976 and, following an internship, completed postgraduate training in pediatrics, obstetrics and anesthesia. He and his wife Poomidevi moved to Canada in 1980. He fell in love with the country and liked it so much that he stayed. He has been practising in Flin Flon, a mining town 868 kilometers north west of Winnipeg, for the last 26 years. The couple have two daughters, Roshini (25) and Avani (23).

Recently, Krishan was awarded new accolades to add to the already impressive array of diplomas and certificates hanging in his office. In April 2005, he was surprised and delighted to be named Manitoba’s Family Physician of the year by the Manitoba College of Family Physicians at an event in Winnipeg. Later that same year he received a national award in Vancouver.

One doctor is chosen from each province to be honored by the 15,000 members of the College of Family Physicians of Canada. It is believed to be the first time that a physician in Northern Manitoba has received this honor. A representative of the College commented: “Dr Sethi has had a long-standing interest in standards of practice, both for the profession at large and personally.”
Rosie Versteegen, BSc (1970), PhD

Dr Rosie Versteegen grew up on the South Side of Glasgow with her sisters and father, a University of Glasgow graduate in Medicine and Science, and a Lecturer in Pathology at the Western Infirmary. Inspired by the pride her Grandmother had in having studied at Queen Margaret Hall, in the days before women were admitted to the University of Glasgow, she felt it was self-evident that she would spend some time at the University on leaving school in 1966.

By then Rosie was already familiar with the campus, as she had spent a summer working in the Lab of Professor R M S Smellie in the Department of Biochemistry. It was here that she started to learn the joys and frustration of bench research. But, Rosie recalls, “at the age of fourteen I was more interested in studying the good looking PhD students in their natty white coats!”

Having decided that Chemistry was not the subject she wanted to spend her life on – “I generally solved organic chemistry problems by ‘feminine intuition’ and never could make the arrows go the right way when trying to determine the electron shifts involved in a reaction” – Rosie decided that Biochemistry was more her style and she completed her Honors degree in 1970, again under the supervision of Professor Smellie.

In 1975, after obtaining a PhD in Molecular Biology in Glasgow and two-year post-doctorate in Cambridge, England that gave her the opportunity to work in proximity to many of the truly great names in her field, Rosie set off on a Fogarty International Fellowship to work at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda Maryland. That two-year commitment has now extended to more than 30 years in the USA.

At 34, Rosie joined a biotechnology company that allowed her, for the next 20 years, to work all over the world doing everything from managing research & development groups to running manufacturing plants and developing business management systems. Rosie said: “One of the best things about all this was the fact that the main European office was at the end of the runway at Glasgow Airport and so I was back in Scotland multiple times a year, all expenses paid!”

Since leaving the company in 2000, Rosie has been working in real estate development with her husband of 28 years in the resort community where they live, traveling extensively to see those places she had only worked before, and organizing Festivals – “my favorite, of course, being the McHenry Highland Festival.”

Rosie muses: “I often pinch myself, wondering how on earth a wee girl from Newton Mearns ever got to do and see the things that I have – that big gothic building by the park was in fact my ticket to adventure… and I’m not done yet!”
Alumni associations and future events

Dates for your diary...

Glasgow in New York
The ever successful New York dinner of University of Glasgow alumni will this year be held in the Princeton Club on Saturday 11 November. The dinner and ceilidh, sponsored by the Bank of Scotland, will include speeches by the Principal and Clark McGinn (MA 1983).
Tickets are priced at US $55, everyone welcome. For more information please email: alumni@gla.ac.uk

Celebrate Burns night in style
For those of you living in or traveling to Chicago, Boston or Washington next February, we have some exciting dates for your diary to help you celebrate Burns night in the US. Both the Chicago and Washington dates will enjoy the vocal talents of Clark McGinn’s Address to the Haggis whilst we are very pleased that John Rankin (LLB 1979), HM Consul-General to New England, has agreed to do the honors in Boston.
Saturday 10 February 2007
Chicago
Friday 16 February 2007
Boston
Saturday 17 February 2007
Washington
We will send you more information when it becomes available. All welcome.

New alumni group in Chicago
As mentioned in the previous US Newsletter Ginny Berg (JYA 2001) is doing a wonderful job bringing together our Chicago alumni. If you are keen to get involved Ginny can be contacted at ginnie.berg@gmail.com

Ginny with Graeme Jarvie (BSc 1988) and Jamie Cameron (MEng 2002 - in the Cubs cap) at the Illinois St Andrew Society’s annual Highland Games in Oak Brook, IL where they bumped into other alumni on the day

Details of all our alumni associations and events can be found on our webpages at www.gla.ac.uk/alumni/

If you can’t find what you are looking for, contact Emily or Joanna (details on page 2) who will be able to put you in touch with alumni in your area.
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