Launch of Glasgow International College

An international college which will prepare students from around the world to take up places at the University of Glasgow is to be established.
Whit a dinner! 2007 Burns Supper events

Our reputation for throwing a great Burns Supper is spreading. This year saw our first Chicago Burns Supper on Saturday 10 February. The event took place at the University Club of Chicago and was attended by over 50 alumni and friends. Guests witnessed Clark McGinn’s spectacular and thrilling Address to the Haggis (pictured) as well as his moving and informative account of the life of Burns in the Immortal Memory. The ceilidh band, Glen Ayre, said that our event is one of the best they have played at! Well done to Ginny Berg for all her efforts organising the event. She is looking forward to keeping in touch with alumni in the area and to planning more events and another Burns Supper next year.

Washington DC hotel may no longer be able to use his meat cleaver! The Principal and Lady Russell received a warm welcome from guests and everyone in attendance enjoyed a lovely evening of fun, food and dancing. Many thanks to Kate Robertson for all her efforts to organise the evening.

Chinese Burns

Several Glasgow University alumni, families and friends gathered in Seattle’s International District on Sunday 18 February (Chinese New Year) for a multicultural celebration known as Gung Haggis Fat Choy, a Caledonian & St Andrew’s Society sponsored event. Guests dined on haggis, and namely faire of spring rolls and myriad other Chinese dishes. Burns was honoured in Chinese and Scots, in song and with bagpipes. Guests wore striking combinations of tartan and Chinese jackets. Glasgow University graduate Liz Worthey contributed to the celebration by reading a verse of A Man’s a Man for a’ That. Also attending this joyful event, where active participation was definitely encouraged, were Katherine Flenniken and Diane (& Harry) McAlister. The Pacific Northwest Glasgow University Graduates would love to encourage more alumni to attend next year’s Gung Haggis Fat Choy celebration!

More than 85 filled the Library at the Hampshire House in Boston again this year on Friday 16 February for another successful evening. With no Clark McGinn to entertain the guests this year, Emily Wallace and Mark Cox gave a new twist to this traditional part of the evening with a his ‘n’ hers Address to the Haggis. The Principal updated guests on developments at Glasgow and alumnus John Rankin, HM Consul General to New England, gave a witty toast to Burns with his Immortal Memory. As always guests danced until midnight thanks to Tom Pixton and Howard Lasnik providing the ceilidh.

The Washington DC Burns Supper this year was attended by almost 100 people. Clark McGinn was once again the star attraction and there is concern that the chef at the Renaissance
Launch of Glasgow International College

In a Scottish first, Glasgow International College will give students the chance to study in the city before entering the University.

With the first intake of students set to arrive in September 2007, the Glasgow International College will provide a full range of integrated academic and English language courses to set students up for study in one of Scotland’s oldest universities.

The project, which will be run by Kaplan International Colleges in close collaboration with the University, will be located on the University of Glasgow’s campus and offers courses designed to prepare international students for entry to the University’s undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes in a range of disciplines including engineering, management, science and social sciences.

Professor Andrea Nolan, Vice Principal, Teaching and Learning, said: “This is an exciting opportunity for the University of Glasgow.

“We want to prepare our students, whether from the UK or from overseas, for the global marketplace. While we’re increasing opportunities for our students to study and work abroad, increasing our international student numbers at home is an ideal way to bring benefits to all our students.

“The University wants students at Glasgow International College to play a full part in student and campus life. Their presence, like that of all our international students, offers the potential to enrich the experience and enhance the social, educational and future professional networks of UK-based students.

“Coupled with the Scottish Executive’s Fresh Talent scheme, it will also allow us to attract and retain the best people from around the world – which is of enormous economic benefit to the city and the country as a whole.”

The Glasgow International College, which will be located in a University building on Dumbarton Road, expects the first intake of students to number 250. By the time the college is fully established in 2011, the intake figure is expected to be 800. Total student numbers by that year will be 1000.

After completing their studies the College, the students will be eligible to enter the second or third year of an undergraduate degree course, providing they meet the academic standard required.

Kaplan International Colleges provide academic preparation programmes designed specifically to meet the needs of international students in the UK. The programmes provide students with a solid academic foundation in their chosen area combined with intensive English language preparation and academic study skills. Existing colleges are already operational with the University of Sheffield and Nottingham Trent University.

Charles Hall, Managing Director of Kaplan International Colleges, said: “We are delighted to be working with the University of Glasgow to create an International College in Scotland, that will provide a tailored and flexible academic programme to international students.”
Costandi A Audeh BSc (1955), DPhil (York 1970)

Costandi Audeh was born in Nazareth, Palestine. Like his father, a medical doctor, Costi and his brother spent their early education in the Missionary Societies’ Bishop Gobat boarding school in Jerusalem. Following in their father’s footsteps, the two brothers began medical degrees at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon in the 1940s. By 1950 however, it was clear Costi’s heart was in chemistry rather than medicine.

With the political upheavals in Palestine, the family, after hundreds of years of history in Nazareth, was dispersed. Parents and two sisters in Libya, one sister in Syria, brother in Saudi Arabia and Costi in the UK, where he was offered a first year place at several universities. Costi’s initial application to Glasgow, however, was rejected; bringing him to the conclusion that Glasgow had to be the “best university”!

As a result, Costi worked hard to secure a place at the “best university” and, after passing the required entrance examination, he began the BSc course in Applied Chemistry at Glasgow, along with the ARTC in Technical Chemistry at the Royal Technical College, now Strathclyde University.

After graduation in 1955, Costi established permanent residence in Britain, and became a researcher with the Road Research Laboratory in Harmondsworth near London. However, as the call of the oil industry became more pressing, he became a Refinery Chemist with the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) in 1958. Fortuitously, the other Refinery Chemists were Scottish, two from Glasgow and one from Grangemouth. Glasgow’s credentials guaranteed the job. Costi was an expert with a marketable asset at KOC, as crude oil evaluation was his speciality.

In 1960, Costi met Margaret Clark, of Hull, Yorkshire, a schoolteacher with KOC, in Kuwait. They were married in 1962 in Hull. That same year, Costi’s expertise secured him a transfer to Gulf Research in Pittsburgh, USA, to write a handbook about Kuwait crude oil.

Once more education called and, in October 1967, Costi, now a US citizen with two sons, Constantine and Nicholas, moved back to the UK with his family to attend York University. Encouraged throughout by other family members, now all in the USA, and Margaret’s mother in Hull, Costi graduated from York in October 1970 with a DPhil in Chemistry.

Again, the call of the oil industry was more pressing than that of other disciplines, and Costi joined Mobil Oil’s research department in Princeton. Since retirement in 1993 in Arizona, he and Margaret have enjoyed reading, swimming, walking, domestic and international travel and an interest in alumni affairs.

Costi attempted contact with his 1955 fellow graduates by way of the alumni offices of Strathclyde and Glasgow and a Golden Jubilee with the Pure Chemistry alumni was held in Glasgow in 2005. In 2006 Costi met with the staff of the University’s Archives Services and generously gifted to the University certified copies of 95 United States Patents, as well as items from his time at Glasgow.
Douglas Gebbie, MBChB (1951)

Doug Gebbie remembers the excitement of being a student during the University’s 500th anniversary celebrations in 1951, especially the spectacular light display that lit up the University buildings – creating a fantastic view from Kelvingrove Park.

Being a part of the celebrations marking the University’s foundation in 1451 still fills Doug with pride: “I love to point out to all my American friends that the University was founded some 40 years BEFORE Christopher Columbus made his first voyage to the New World. Wow, it has been around a really long time.”

His student budget did not allow him to attend any of the cocktail parties or balls that were held, but the student union’s dances and debating contests were ample substitute: “We always triumphed over such prestigious institutions as Oxford and Cambridge – it seems no surprise that Westminster and the new Parliament in Edinburgh are both full of Glasgow graduates.”

After graduating with a medical degree in 1951, Doug served two years National Service in the Navy. On his return to Glasgow he undertook Junior House and Registrar jobs and married Anne: “A wonderful Western Infirmary nurse who had waited for me during the time I was serving my Queen and country.”

Feeling opportunities were limited under the newly-installed National Health Service, Doug and Anne turned their sights to Canada and were hired by the Newfoundland Government to provide medical services to Carmanville, an outport on Notre Dame Bay, which proved quite a culture shock as their village had no electricity, telephone, running water or even a road to the nearest town, some 50 air-miles away!

Doug ran a general practice there, where he faced challenges that he had only heard about in theory, but had not seen in practice. He remembers: “I was so grateful for the training I had received from the wonderful teachers in the University hospitals, the Western, the Royal, Yorkhill and Gartnavel.”

A move to the Canadian mainland followed and Doug decided to change direction once more and train as an anaesthetist.

What followed were positions in the anaesthesia departments of the University of Toronto and the University of Cincinnati, Ohio until, in 1992, Doug and Anne decided it was time to make another move - this time to Naples, Florida where they have been living since.

Doug and Anne have now been married 52 years and, in 2005, returned to Glasgow on vacation, when they were surprised to see how much the city had changed. Doug comments: “The old industrial plants were gone but a feeling of a new world for the old smoke-stack place was much in evidence - a major renewal was obviously underway with totally different goals from the previous reliance on heavy industry. This was particularly in evidence at the University, where physical expansion and a sense of a much wider place in academia was clearly at hand. I sense the University has even greater days ahead than it has had in the past.”
New York Princeton Club Dinner and Ceilidh
Saturday 11 November 2006

More than 140 alumni, friends and guests attended a great evening at the Princeton Club of New York on Saturday 11 November. The Bank of Scotland USA generously sponsored the occasion. The Principal, Sir Muir Russell, and alumnus Clark McGinn, gave an interesting and informative account of developments at the University, and how ‘Building on Excellence’, the University’s ambitious plan to be one of the best universities in the world, will be possible with the support and links with our alumni and friends all over the world. The dinner was followed by ceilidh dancing thanks to Madra Confach.

Los Angeles Consul General’s Reception

More than 90 alumni, friends and guests attended a lovely evening reception on Tuesday 13 February at the home of HM Consul General to Los Angeles, Bob Peirce, and his fiancée Sharon Harroun. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for alumni to get together to hear about developments at the University, Scotland’s links with the US and, in particular, the work of the Scottish Universities Physics Alliance and the research that is being done into gravitational waves by the University of Glasgow and Caltech.

There is great interest in future events and Alumni Coordinator, Osman Khawar, is looking forward to hearing from individuals in the area and the kind of activities and gatherings that could be organised. For more information or to suggest ideas see the University’s web pages.

www.gla.ac.uk/alumni/alumniassociations

Forthcoming events

Alumni in Vancouver are planning a spring luncheon again this year. The date to be confirmed but it is likely to be in April or May.

Plans are already underway to hold another Dinner and Ceilidh at the Harvard Club of New York on Saturday 27 October 2007. Please put the date in your diary and let us know if you live outside the tri-state area and would like to receive an invitation.

An event is being planned for our alumni living in and around Toronto. The likely date is Sunday 28 October 2007 but this has still to be confirmed along with the venue.

For more information on any of the above events, to see photos from the gatherings that have already taken place or to register your interest for a forthcoming event please visit our web pages.

www.gla.ac.uk/services/alumni/events/

Celebrating Princeton’s Scottish heritage

On Thursday 15 February, 60 alumni, prospective students, former staff, and friends of the University gathered with the Principal and Lady Russell in the home of Dr and Mrs Iain Torrance, President of Princeton Theological Seminary. A special guest was Professor Shirley Tilghman, President of Princeton University.

Sir Muir spoke about Glasgow’s deep historic links with Princeton. At the time of Princeton University’s founding, it was the ancient Scottish universities which gave the then College of New Jersey its most influential leaders and its philosophical underpinnings. Glasgow’s Department of Theology & Religious Studies also has strong connections with Princeton Theological Seminary, the USA’s preeminent Presbyterian seminary.
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