Samantha (pictured) enjoyed reading about Scottish history in her spare time and while browsing the internet came across a postgraduate programme at the University of Toronto in Scottish Studies. Where better to study Scottish history than Canada – Scotland of course! After submitting a number of applications to various institutions the University of Glasgow responded in the record time of two weeks. Impressed by the efficiency of the University, Samantha decided to choose Glasgow.

Arriving in Glasgow in the autumn of 2008, Samantha knew she had made the right choice as the central location of the city was excellent for exploring the rest of the country and the history of the University itself was remarkable. She embarked on the MLitt programme in Scottish Studies and enjoyed being able to interact with her professors regularly and the lively discussions during classes which contributed to her understanding of the history and culture of Scotland.

Living and working in Glasgow, Samantha was able to gain some fantastic insights into the opinions of local people regarding her dissertation on Scottish politics in the 18th century.

Her advisor also provided excellent guidance and helped her to hone in on the specific details required for her dissertation. Glasgow’s diverse population allowed her to discuss Scottish history with a wide variety of people, from musicians and lawyers to electricians – a simple visit to the local pub was all she needed to do in order to have a thoughtful conversation about Scottish history!

Samantha graduated with distinction and feels this achievement is largely due to the attentive staff and ability to immerse in the local culture: ‘The MLitt degree wasn’t the only thing I took home from Glasgow. I made some fantastic friendships with other international students and while the experience was not directly tied to my career goals, the University of Glasgow proved to be an exceptional contributor to my personal and professional growth.’

Originally from Minnesota, Samantha is currently residing in Arlington, VA, and is working for an economic litigation consulting firm. She signed up as an ambassador at the recent alumni event in Alexandria, VA, and is helping the University to spread the good word about Glasgow.

Be our ambassador

Over the past six months we have had the opportunity to inform guests who have attended our events about our international alumni and recruitment activities and many of our graduates have had the chance to chat to some of our applicants who are planning to travel to Glasgow this autumn. The opportunity for applicants to speak directly to our alumni is an invaluable element of our recruitment efforts and they very much enjoy hearing the first hand experiences of studying and living in the city.

We hope that our alumni will continue to act as ambassadors for the University, helping us to continue to attract, educate and inspire the very best students.

For further information on how you can help please email emily.howie@glasgow.ac.uk.
Macmillan publish creative writing graduate

Major US publishing house Macmillan are to publish The Unbelievers by Glasgow graduate Alastair Sim (MPhil 2006) on 14th September in the US.

Alastair has previously published stories and play scripts in magazines, anthologies and on the web. The Unbelievers is one of two books which he wrote while on the University's prestigious Masters in Creative Writing course which has produced award-winning and bestselling authors including Louise Welsh The Cutting Room, Booker-shortlisted Rachel Cusk and TS Eliot Prize winner Jen Hadifield.

Alastair comments that The Unbelievers simply wouldn't have happened without the University. To ensure that he was giving the book the best possible chance he enrolled in the Creative Writing programme which nurtured over 50 writers to successful publication. The programme gave him the opportunity to work closely with other novelists and also the chance to benefit from the support of other emerging writers.

Alastair is currently the Director of Universities Scotland, an organisation that exists to represent and promote Scotland’s higher education sector and campaign on its behalf to the Government.

Reviews

‘Victorian yet gritty, a debut that will intrigue fans of your name and any dietary and access requirements.

For further information and to reserve your place at this unique event please email givingform@glasgow.ac.uk with a note stating your reason for your gift to AAGU.

Supporting AAGU

AAGU has identified several areas on which it wishes to focus its support for the University of Glasgow including, but not limited to those listed online at www.gla.ac.uk/alumni/aagu.

Regardless of whether you feel able to provide much needed support to University-wide projects.

Please complete this form and return to: Melvyn Pond, President, AAGU, 198 West River St, Milford, CT 06460-3486

AAGU identified several areas on which it wishes to focus its support for the University of Glasgow including, but not limited to those listed online at www.gla.ac.uk/alumni/aagu.

As you make gifts to AAGU, you may indicate your wish to support a particular grant or gifts. The Board of Directors will consider your wishes in making and planning grants to the University.

The campaign has allowed me to raise much needed funds for AAGU and I have also had the opportunity to speak to an interesting and diverse group of people.’

Dugald, Marine & Freshwater Biology student

Over the past seven years our telephone campaign has helped us to raise over £950,000. Without these funds the University would not have been able to fully support capital campaigns or provide much needed support to University-wide projects.

This autumn we are aiming to telephone 500 members of our alumni community in the USA to seek support for American Alumni of Glasgow University (AAGU).

We would like to let you know about the many ways in which you can help us achieve our goal to provide excellent facilities and support for the best students and researchers.

Why do we choose to get in touch by telephone?

We believe that a strong alumni base is the foundation for any university.

Our telephone campaign is a way of keeping in touch. What’s more, the support we receive from our graduates is an inspiration to all who work and study here.
Giving from Canada – tax deductible

Please complete this form and return to:
Development & Alumni Office,
2-3 The Square, University of Glasgow,
Glasgow, G12 8QQ, Scotland, UK

Name __________________________
Name at graduation (if different) _______________________
Address (inc postal code) _____________________________
Email ___________________________
Phone ___________________________
Graduation Year __________________
Degree and Subject ______________________

Give online: www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/givingtoglascogivenow/canada

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

☐ Enclosed is a check made payable to ‘The University of Glasgow’
☐ I will give this amount every year for .... years.

Please charge my Visa / Delta / Mastercard / Switch (please note that we cannot accept American Express):
Card number __________________________
Start date — / — Expiry date — / —
Issue number (Switch only) — —
Card security number (on reverse) — — — —
Signature __________________________________
Date _________________________________

Please allocate my gift to support:
☐ 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

☐ I would like information on how I may make a bequest to the University in my will.

☐ I would like my gift to remain anonymous.

Thank you for making a donation. Acknowledgment of your gift will be sent to you.

Please make checks payable to ‘The University of Glasgow’, not ‘University of Glasgow Trust’. The University will send you a receipt for your own tax records.

Events round up

AAGU whisky tasting
The Brandy Library in lower Manhattan proved to be a fabulous and fun venue for AAGU’s whisky tasting on Thursday, 15 April. Almost 40 guests were in attendance including alumni from various other Scottish university groups. There was a lively atmosphere with plenty of time for guests to mingle while enjoying the excellent and unusual whisky samples and some of the best amuse bouche in New York City!

Alexandria summer reception
The former home of Scottish merchant John Carlyle was the venue for the reception in Alexandria, VA, on Friday, 21 May. Guests enjoyed the views overlooking the gardens from the terrace and the chance to tour round the house itself. Alumni and friends were treated to drinks and canapés while chatting about their Glasgow experiences with applicants who are planning to travel to the University in the autumn.

Los Angeles afternoon tea
The Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach provided the beautiful setting for the afternoon tea reception on Sunday, 23 May. An enjoyable afternoon of drinks, delicious sandwiches, cakes and socialising was had by all. University applicants and their families had the opportunity to chat to alumni and Glasgow representatives about their experiences of studying and living in Glasgow.

San Francisco reception
Drizzly wet weather didn’t stop guests from enjoying the reception at the Stanford Park Hotel on Tuesday, 25 May. This was the first event in the area for a number of years and the enthusiasm for Glasgow was heartwarming. The occasion was a great success and attendees expressed an interest in organising another get-together in the not too distant future.

Chicago pub night
Ginny Berg, Mid West Alumni Coordinator, and Professor Frank Coton, Vice Principal, joined alumni for an informal evening at the Duke of Perth on Friday, 25 July. The group took advantage of the sunny Chicago evening and enjoyed drinks and nibbles in the beer garden.

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