Forensic research in the palm of your hand

The digital revolution has created a need to examine digital evidence in order to prevent and prosecute crimes, policy violations and acts of terrorism. A new grant will help fund research in this field.

The Chancellor’s Fund awarded £17,610 to the Humanities Advanced Technology & Information Institute (HATII) to establish foundational research into the effectiveness of obtaining forensic data from mobile phones.

This project complements the launch of the new MSc in Computer Forensics & E-Discovery (CFED). The successful introduction of this degree and the international profile of the students involved, demonstrate the global demand for expertise in this area.

Dr Brad Glisson Director of CFED explained: ‘Mobile phones are prevalent in our society; however, forensics in this area is currently very limited. Some of the challenges we are facing in the examination of data from handsets include the diverse range of devices available each with different functionality, capabilities and firmware. As a result, the reliability of the equipment used for extracting information needs to be researched.’

This project focuses on three key aspects. The first aspect is the acquisition of mobile phones, the second is the examination of the phones and the third is the creation of the research-led teaching materials. This groundwork will be necessary for larger grant applications providing the University with an opportunity to become a leader in mobile digital forensic research.

Dr Glisson concluded: ‘This is an exciting time for us as we launch our new degree and embark on a cutting edge programme. The money we have received from the Chancellor’s Fund is hugely beneficial to us in these preliminary stages.

‘Mobile forensic research will ultimately have wider implications on national security for digitally dependent countries and contribute towards international efforts to combat cybercrime and terrorism. I am delighted that the University can be at the forefront of these discoveries.’
Student information by mobile phone app

A grant of £5,000 was awarded to the Corporate Communications team to produce campus information software for use on mobile phones.

One of the latest developments in mobile phone technology is the smartphone, an advanced device that can run applications, commonly known as apps. Today’s students are tuned in to the latest technology and there is an increasing demand for the most up-to-date information to be available via mobiles.

The new University app will provide essential course data, relevant history, news updates, event information, directions and contact details. With many people carrying a mobile at all times this means updates and new information will be with users instantly.

Susan Stewart Director of Corporate Communications explained: ‘The University receives an increasing amount of visitors to the campus each year including applicants, new students and tourists. We need to be on top of latest technologies in order to offer the best and most convenient services to these individuals.’

The app will be particularly beneficial at Open Day and Fresher’s Week events when the University welcomes an influx of new users. A further advantage is that there is the flexibility to share new data quickly should last-minute changes to important information be made.

Ms Stewart continued: ‘I would like to thank Chancellor’s Fund donors for their generosity towards the University. It makes our ambitions easier to achieve knowing that there is extra support available in order to enhance our reputation and accommodate the needs of our students.’

The lovely bones of a lioness

In early 2010 the body of a lioness was brought to the School of Veterinary Medicine from Blair Drummond Safari Park in Stirling for a post mortem. After the examination, members of staff suggested restoring the skeleton as an exciting summer project for students. Several undergraduates showed a keen interest in being involved and an application to the Chancellor’s Fund was made. The Board awarded £2,810 towards the initiative and the student team completed the project in August.

Members of the anatomy teaching unit with experience of processing bones and assembling skeletons, performed the initial preparation steps and advised the students on subsequent stages. The students also visited Margaret Reilly, Curator of Zoology at the Hunterian museum, who has a wealth of knowledge about the process and anatomical adaptations of different species. These interactions broadened the learning experience, covering areas of archaeology and zoology. The project may therefore help to influence the students’ future employment and career paths.

Dr Mark McLaughlin, School of Veterinary Medicine, said: ‘The successful completion of this project will have significantly enhanced our BSc Veterinary Bioscience programme and BVMS students’ knowledge of comparative anatomy.

‘Additionally, and of equal importance, the individuals involved in the project have had the opportunity to develop their communication skills with each other and more experienced members of staff. It has also provided them with invaluable experience of working in a team with like minded people and allowed them to present and communicate their experience to others.’

The venture was much more than simply a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle, with students having to use a structured approach for successful completion within the given timeframe. The team also documented the entire process through a written log and image bank, highlighting the skeletal adaptations they discovered to be specific to the lioness and the technical obstacles they needed to overcome. The students share their new knowledge by giving a presentation about the project to new undergraduates joining the school this autumn.

Dr McLaughlin concluded: ‘The students directly involved with the assembly of the skeleton are the immediate beneficiaries of the project. However, the generation of the lion skeleton together with a documentation of the process will have a long-term value as a teaching aid for students of veterinary bioscience and veterinary medicine and potentially those from other disciplines including life science. I would like to thank the Chancellor’s Fund for making this possible.’
Celebrating our 15 years of creative writing

The MLitt in Creative Writing programme at Glasgow was established in 1995 by the editor and critic Philip Hobsbaum. Over the years it has become central to the development of writers both from Scotland and internationally. In support of its 15th Anniversary the Chancellor’s Fund has awarded £3,750 to celebrate and promote the programme’s activities.

Funds will go towards creating a professional exhibition of the writing and writers from the course and will run for six weeks at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. Authors including Anne Donovan, Rodge Glass, Jen Hadfield, Laura Marney, Rachel Seiffert, Zoe Strachan, Art Vaun and Louise Welsh all nurtured their writing careers on this programme.

There will also be five high-profile events taking place this autumn and a series of graduates of the programme will be invited to be ‘writers in residence’ offering consultations to aspiring authors.

Dr Elizabeth Reeder, Creative Writing tutor, said: ‘The Creative Writing programme has a fantastic reputation both at home and overseas. It has been staffed by a number of distinguished writers over the years and has produced a wealth of new talent.

‘The scheduled events at the Mitchell Library and the University will begin a year of celebration which looks forward to the future of the programme and its continuing contribution to the world of literature and creativity. I am delighted that the Chancellor’s Fund views this project as worthy of support and the funding will certainly go to good use in marking this landmark in our history.’

Chapel Choir on tour

In 2009 the Chancellor’s Fund committed £7,000 to assist with the Chapel Choir’s touring programme and an additional £3,000 was awarded this year.

The University of Glasgow Chapel Choir has 32 auditioned singers of mixed voices, formed of a combination of volunteers, choral exhibitioners and professional Lay Clerks.

The choir has enjoyed critical acclaim and has an excellent reputation among the musical community. Over the last few years they have been extremely active and are regularly invited to record for BBC radio and television, most recently in three Songs of Praise episodes in August 2010. Further television appearances have included live concert broadcasts with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and even an episode of River City. The choir also frequently take part in concert work at home and overseas.

The 2010 tour took place over one week in July with the third performance in a prestigious international concert series at St Blasien Cathedral of the Black Forest region in Germany. Also on the agenda was a very well attended concert and reception for alumni and friends in the Johanneskirche in Mainz, a university town with which Glasgow has strong links with through the Erasmus scheme. Further concerts took place in the town of Speyer and also in Zurich in Switzerland.

The choir is directed by James Grossmith, also chorus master of Scottish Opera, and accompanied by the University organist, the renowned British recitalist Kevin Bowyer, and the University organ scholar, Ross Luescher.

James Grossmith said: ‘Touring activity is a critical team-building exercise for the maintenance and enhancement of the choir’s performance standard and a unique opportunity for the University to showcase one of its musical talents internationally. It is also a highly rewarding experience for choir members and one which would be considerably more difficult to achieve without this funding from the Chancellor’s Fund.’

The choir’s vocal abilities can be experienced during weekly services on Tuesdays and Sundays in the University chapel, at the annual University Christmas dinner in the Bute Hall, at large-scale concerts or by purchasing a recorded CD. More details can be found at www.chapelchoir.org.
Latest projects

The latest projects to benefit from the Chancellor’s Fund are listed below.

The third congress of polish student societies in the UK
£2,000 To assist the Polish Society in delivering a series of lectures by political and academic leaders followed by workshops.

Find a solution
£5,500 To provide students with practical work experience within the voluntary sector.

William Forbes and the Great Body of the Law of Scotland (1708–1730)
£2,650 To develop a website dedicated to the Great Body making it publicly available for the first time.

Testing for a DNA of early medieval plague
£5,158 To test dental remains found at Fingleshire Anglo-Saxon Cemetery in order to further research into the relationship between plague, mortuary ritual and vampire belief in the Early Middle Ages.

Talented athletes development project
£20,000 To enhance support available to talented student athletes performing at the highest level in their sport.

SKIP Glasgow – Orphan Care Project, Lilongwe, Malawi
£6,000 To support dental, nursing and medical student volunteers working in an orphanage in Malawi providing health promotion, day to day assistance and educational support.

John Cage – concerts and workshops
£2,000 To develop a music programme of the works of John Cage (1912-1992) in synergy with the John Cage Watercolour Exhibition taking place in the Hunterian Art Gallery in Spring 2011.

Chancellor’s Fund community scholarships
£7,200 To allow Psychology students to gain practical work and research experience in real-life situations.

National Collecting Scheme Scotland (NCSS)
£2,000 To consolidate a collecting infrastructure in relation to contemporary art in Scotland. In particular to develop a research agenda, identify international partnerships and external funding.

Research diver programme
£6,000 To set up a scientific diving programme for Marine Biology and Zoology students that will run alongside and complement undergraduate degrees.

Stella Nova
£2,500 To support Composer-in-Residence Drew Mulholland, to write a new piece of music inspired by astronomy and in honour of Regius Chairs past and present.

Environmental change in Dar es Salaam
£3,500 To offer Geography students a unique opportunity to conduct research in and around Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

BHF Glasgow Cardiovascular Research Centre (BHF GCRC) – public face and history
£2,000 To commission a series of artwork for the BHF GCRC. Highlighting the ‘fight against cardiovascular disease in Glasgow’ and also to showcase expertise in this field.

Student-led fundraising committee
£1,500 To set up a student-run committee that will target the University community to generate funding for cancer research.

Stem cells for blood transfusion?
£5,360 To develop an interactive exhibit to raise awareness of the potential of stem cells, offering unbiased information and the opportunity to discuss this work with the scientists who are undertaking the research.

Flow cytometry service within the Paul O’Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre
£9,927 To pump-prime the development of a reliable cell sorting facility by hiring a technician dedicated to performing cell sorting for research groups.

The good life and conceptions of life in Greek and Chinese antiquity
£5,000 To facilitate a two-day conference for work in the field of Chinese ethics and comparative ethics.

University of Glasgow booth at the Glasgow Science Centre
£5,000 To construct a multi-media kiosk to showcase the work of leading University researchers in the sciences, engineering and medicine.

Career networking events for international alumni and students
£1,000 To enable international students studying at the University to integrate successfully into Scotland and Scotland’s labour market at the end of their studies here.

Other recent projects featured in this issue:

• Mobile phone forensics research
• Fifteen years of creative writing
• Chapel Choir touring
• Reconstruction of the skeleton of a lion
• Student wayfinder mobile phone application

Thanks to all our donors...

The following lists those who have given new gifts, named existing gifts, or have been upgraded a level between 1 April 2010 and 31 August 2010. In addition to those listed below, there are a number of donors whose gifts are awaiting confirmation of naming or who have chosen to remain anonymous.

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• ‘Division of Cardiovascular and Medical Science – Influencing Europe’
• The Walton Foundation
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* denotes donors that have been upgraded a giving club level. We would like to thank all donors for their continued support.

1 denotes gifts to American Alumni of Glasgow University (AAGU). We would like to thank AAGU for their support.

The Walton Foundation
Influencing Europe’
‘Division of Cardiovascular and Medical Science –”
Want to help? Here’s how!

Regular giving
If you’d like to give a regular gift, simply complete the attached form and return it to us. If you are a UK taxpayer and would like the value of your gift to increase by around a third, just complete the Gift Aid Declaration and return it with your Banker’s Order Form.

Bequests
Perhaps you would prefer to support the University with a bequest? This method of giving is favoured by many alumni and friends who want to make a difference after their death. A gift of this kind also helps to reduce your inheritance tax liability. Please call +44 (0)141 300 4951 for more information.

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Since 6 April 2000, individuals have been eligible for tax relief on gifts of certain shares, securities and other investments. This is in addition to capital gains tax relief on gifts of assets to charity. Tax relief for donors is based on the value of the shares on the day they are transferred to the University.

If you would like to support your chosen project by gifting shares and securities and would like more information, simply call the Development & Alumni Office on +44 (0)141 330 4951.

Payroll giving
Payroll giving is a unique way for employees to give to the University. By having your donation come straight from your gross pay before tax, you can effectively increase the value of your contributions. The result is greater support for the University at less cost to you. If you are interested in this method of giving, please contact the Development & Alumni Office on +44 (0)141 330 4951.

Giving from the USA
US taxpayers can give tax-deductible gifts to the American Alumni of Glasgow University (AAGU), an independent charitable corporation organised in the United States that has been recognised by the Internal Revenue Service as a section 501(c)(3) charitable organisation. All donations to it are deductible as charitable contributions to the full extent permitted by law. Its Board of Directors will determine the use of all gifts.

Contributions should be made payable to American Alumni of Glasgow University, c/o Melvyn Pond, President, AAGU, 198 W River St, Milford, CT 06460-3468.

Giving from Canada
Canadian residents will be provided with a receipt for their tax records from the University. Cheques should be made payable to ‘University of Glasgow’ (and not the University Trust) to be able to claim tax relief.

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It’s as simple as completing this form ...

We would like to recognise your valued contribution to the Chancellor’s Fund. Your annual unrestricted gift will give you membership of one of the following giving clubs.

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We commemorate all gifts of £250 and above with an inscription as a way of acknowledging your support. Your chosen dedication will appear in our publications, such as Giving to Glasgow, and also on our Online Benefactor Wall, which is a web based version of the traditional donor wall. Unless you have chosen to remain anonymous your name or dedication will appear on these lists as a means of acknowledging and recognising your generosity. All Chancellor’s Fund donors will receive this newsletter twice a year, which will include information about the initiatives made possible as a direct result of your gift.

How can I make a difference?
Your gift will make all the difference to projects such as these within the University. Your vision and generosity will ensure that our students thrive in a challenging academic environment, taught by eminent academics, and benefiting from some of the best facilities that a university can offer.

I would like my gift to be:

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