In the mix – creative collaborations
From art historians to nano-engineers, our academics are mixing skills to create masterpieces in research

Plus
The Gilbert Scott building fundraising campaign
Young Alumnus of the Year 2010
Glasgow’s global vision
• In the top 1% of the world’s universities, according to the QS World University Rankings 2010.

• In the UK’s top 10 earners for research, and supporting the pursuit of discoveries that can change people’s lives for the better, whether that’s finding a way to detect malaria in minutes, or contributing to the biggest particle physics experiment in the world: the Large Hadron Collider.

• Creating an international community by welcoming students from more than 100 countries across the globe.

• Providing an experience that students love – the 2010 International Student Barometer ranks Glasgow 3rd in the UK and best in Scotland for student satisfaction, and the National Student Survey 2010 reports satisfaction levels of 90% among final-year students.
Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Avenue, our twice-yearly magazine for alumni and friends of the University.

There have been many interesting developments in recent months at Glasgow. In August, we successfully moved from a faculty to a college structure. You can find out which college your previous faculty now belongs to in our news story on page 4.

One of the benefits of restructuring for the University is the potential it offers our academics for cross-subject working. Many of our researchers have already been exploring the possibilities and you can read about some of our current interdisciplinary research projects in our cover story In the mix – creative collaborations in research at Glasgow on page 8.

The University’s Gilbert Scott building is a symbolic beacon of the first-class education we offer. Building on strong foundations (page 11) looks back at the fundraising campaign of the 1870s that helped ensure this iconic building was completed, despite difficult financial times. Now, as then, our alumni play a pivotal role in the University’s success, and its future.

Though we may not always be able to predict what lies ahead, our vision is clear. Our feature Glasgow – a global vision on page 14 highlights the University’s new strategic plan, which sets out our aims and ambitions for the coming years. Here you can read about the three key areas of importance that shape our strategy – excelling in research, extending international reach and, of course, an excellent student experience.

Two former members of the Glasgow community, and great influences on the student experience, sadly passed away in August. Jimmy Reid, Rector, and Edwin Morgan, Emeritus Professor of English, captured the hearts and minds of our students with their enlightened way with language. In Wise words on page 18, we celebrate the lives of these inspiring individuals and appreciate how lucky we are that they chose to share their wisdom on our campus.

Looking ahead, Avenue will celebrate its 50th edition next year. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this issue – your interest in staying connected with the University is as important to us today as it’s always been.

Professor Anton Muscatelli
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

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Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council
Saturday, 15 January 2011
Alumni are invited to join the Chancellor and Principal at the General Council Half-Yearly Meeting in the Senate Room at 10.30am on Saturday, 15 January 2011.
Read the report of the last meeting on pages 26–27.
The first patient has been treated with stem cell therapy in a ground-breaking UK clinical trial led by the University.

The PISCES study, Pilot Investigation of Stem Cells in Stroke, is the world’s first fully regulated clinical trial of a neural stem cell therapy for disabled stroke patients.

The patient underwent the successful surgical procedure at Glasgow’s Southern General Hospital in November, and will be monitored closely for two years, with longer term follow-up procedures in place thereafter.

Professor Keith Muir, of the University’s Institute of Neuroscience & Psychology and Principal Investigator for the trial, said: ‘We are pleased that the first patient in the PISCES trial has undergone surgery successfully. Stroke is a common and serious condition that leaves a large number of people with significant disability. In this trial we are seeking to establish the safety and feasibility of stem cell implantation, which will require careful follow-up of the patients who take part. ‘We hope that in future it will lead on to larger studies to determine the effects of stem cells on the disabilities that result from stroke.’

The trial, being carried out with ReNeuron Group plc, uses expanded neural stem cells, which are the basis of Reneuron’s ReN001 stem cell therapy for stroke patients.

The clinical trial received huge exposure through the media across the world. The study was covered by, among others, Reuters, Bloomberg, Fox News and the Sydney Morning Herald, as well as a number of outlets in the Gulf Region, China and South America.

Glasgow joins with US Ivy League

In October the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with New York’s Columbia University, a member of the prestigious US Ivy League, which will encourage academics from both institutions to work closely together in key areas of research.

The official ceremony took place in New York City during which Professor Anton Muscatelli, Principal at Glasgow, and Professor Claude Steele, Columbia University Provost, both signed the agreement.

Columbia is one of the world’s most prestigious universities, its impressive alumni including four US presidents – including Barack Obama, 26 other heads of state, and among its staff and students 97 Nobel prize winners, the most of any university in the world.

Professor David Hirsh, Columbia’s Executive Vice President for Research, said: ‘Columbia is pleased to formalise its collaborations with the University of Glasgow as we share several common research interests. We believe the mutual cooperation will advance the scholarly pursuits at both of the universities.’

Other senior staff from both institutions have also welcomed the new partnership, which forms part of the University of Glasgow’s new internationalisation strategy (for more information see our feature Glasgow – a global vision on page 14).
Glasgow grid computing hub set to expand with funding boost

A hi-tech computing facility at the heart of the UK’s particle physics research is to expand thanks to a £400,000 grant from the Science & Technologies Facilities Council (STFC).

The facility at Glasgow is the hub of ScotGrid, a network which links to computing centres at the universities of Edinburgh and Durham as well as other grids in the UK and globally. These grids process and store data produced by the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).

By sharing processing power and storage capacity, data collected from LHC experiments can be examined much faster than at a single site – with scientists able to start analysing data collected from CERN within six days as opposed to the months it took before.

ScotGrid was set up in 2000 to give particle physicists and other scientists the processing power and storage capacity they need to conduct research as quickly as possible.

It is the biggest of the regional tier-2 facilities for particle physics in the UK and links to three other grids in the country: North Grid, South Grid and London Grid, which are linked to the UK’s national tier-1 centre, which in turn is connected to CERN itself.

Professor Tony Doyle, who is co-project leader on ScotGrid and Professor of Physics at Glasgow, said: ‘This investment by the STFC is a welcome boost for us. ScotGrid has transformed the way we do analysis and Glasgow is a leading tier-2 site within the worldwide LHC Computing Grid.

“We have a proven track record of delivering large amounts of grid storage and computational power with levels of reliability unsurpassed in the UK.”

First scholarships funded by Historical Thesaurus awarded

The publishing success of the Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary (featured in Avenue issue 47) has raised the royalties to provide fee-waiver bursaries for four postgraduate students to pursue their studies in English language.

Leonie Dunlop and Thomas White from Glasgow, Namiko Kikusawa from Tokyo and Daria Izdebska from Kraków took up the scholarships this year.

Publication of the Historical Thesaurus last year led to an almost instant sell-out, speedy reprinting, and the beginning of a flow of royalties into the University. The acclaimed publication is now on its 4th print.

Following a longstanding agreement among members of the Historical Thesaurus’s editorial team, royalties have been channelled into furthering research in English language through a scholarship fund.

The scholarships offer exceptional students from any university the opportunity to pursue research in any subject areas, both historical and modern, covered by English language at Glasgow, and take the form of a fee waiver for the first year of research.

Glasgow aids flood victims in Pakistan

The devastating floods in Pakistan have affected the lives of 20 million people with the displacement of entire communities and loss of livelihoods for villagers.

The UK Government has committed large-scale funding to Pakistan and the Scottish Government has also provided support. In April 2010, as part of its International Development Fund, the Scottish Government announced a South Asia Development Programme. Then in August 2010, it announced a Humanitarian Assistance Programme for Pakistan following the unprecedented floods.

The University submitted funding applications to both programmes, and both were successful, resulting in an award totalling more than £112,000. The two projects, one for six months and one for three years, are being headed by Dr Azra Meadows and Professor Peter Meadows of the University’s School of Life Sciences, along with Yasmin Lari, CEO of the Heritage Foundation – a Pakistan-registered non-government organisation.

The projects, which began in autumn, focus on humanitarian aid to rural communities in the most northerly province of Pakistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The first project focuses on disaster management and rehabilitation for women and children while the second involves the eco-friendly construction of small emergency homes made of timber and bamboo.

Speaking about the grants, Mrs Lari said: ‘The assistance provided by Dr Azra Meadows and Professor Peter Meadows to the Heritage Foundation in our work has been extremely valuable. I am confident that the projects undertaken as a result of the two grants will further strengthen linkages and working partnerships between us to develop strategies for early recovery and sustainable development for post-disaster and post-conflict communities.”
A new structure for the University

In August, following several months of consultation and planning, the University moved to a new college structure.

As the landscape of higher education continues to evolve, the University has taken vital steps to ensure our infrastructure puts us in a prime position to tackle the priorities of UK governments and also our research funders.

The new college system will maximise opportunities in collaboration in research and teaching, optimise administrative support and also improve budget management, all of which will help secure our position as one of the best universities in the world.

Professor Anton Muscatelli, Principal, commented: ‘The new structure will facilitate a change in culture towards greater agility, enhanced interdisciplinary working and improved innovation.’

Our four new colleges are as follows:

• College of Arts (Faculty of Arts)
• College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences (Faculties of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical & Life Sciences)
• College of Science & Engineering (Faculties of Engineering, Information & Mathematical Sciences and Physical Sciences)
• College of Social Sciences (Faculties of Law, Business & Social Sciences, Education and Dumfries Campus)
Success for Glasgow academics

Two professors at the University have been awarded prestigious Wolfson Research Merit Awards by the Royal Society, the UK’s national academy of science. The awards aim to support respected scientists of outstanding achievement and potential.

The research of Professor Sheila Rowan, Director of the Institute for Gravitational Research in the School of Physics & Astronomy, is aimed at the development of innovative mirrors used in novel ‘gravitational’ observatories, which search for gravitational signals from astrophysical systems in our Universe. It holds great potential for observing objects such as black holes and neutron stars in a way not possible with optical, radio or other electromagnetic observations, purely through their gravitational signals. The society recognised her work on the development of low noise optics for use in these detectors.

Professor Mandy MacLean, Professor of Pulmonary Pharmacology, focuses her research on developing new therapeutic strategies for the treatment of pulmonary hypertension – high blood pressure in the lungs, which occurs as a familial disease, in newborn babies and secondary to hypoxic respiratory diseases and left heart failure. The disease involves the effects of serotonin and occurs most frequently in female patients.

Professor MacLean was also appointed MBE by the Queen for services to science in July.

Vince Cable MP returns to University

Glasgow welcomed one of its most high-profile former students back onto campus in June.

The Rt Hon Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills, visited the University’s world-leading Glasgow Biomedical Research Centre.

Making his first official visit to Scotland since taking up his cabinet post, Dr Cable toured the state-of-the-art laboratories and met with some of the scientists involved in cutting-edge research in molecular structure, microbiology, molecular parasitology and immunobiology.

Dr Cable gained his PhD in economics at the University in the 1960s and was delighted to return to the University in his new role. He said: ‘Returning to this prestigious institution, it’s clear the vital role the UK’s world-class research universities will play in securing our future in the global knowledge economy.’

The researchers based in the centre receive significant funding from, among others, the Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust and Cancer Research UK, and many of the teams feature not only scientists, but also doctors who help translate scientific findings into treatments for patients.

• In July Professor Stephen White, James Bryce Professor of Politics, was elected a Fellow of the British Academy. Election to the Academy is usually regarded as the highest distinction that is available in the UK in the humanities and social sciences. Professor White described the honour as ‘the ultimate aspiration of every serious scholar in the arts and social sciences’.

Bringing social media benefits to the developing world

A project aimed at bringing the benefits of social media sharing systems to communities in the developing world has received almost £450,000 from the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council.

The 18-month project is being led by Professor Mounia Lalmas, Computing Science, in collaboration with academics at the Universities of Swansea, Surrey and Cape Town.

The team has also partnered with TranScape, an organisation in the rural Eastern Cape Ngqeleni District, South Africa, which helps communities tackle health, social, educational and economic needs.

The project will involve researching how media sharing systems should be designed and delivered for the benefit of rural and developing communities. Professor Lalmas said: ‘Together with TranScape, we will build on an existing wireless network to establish digital media libraries to connect multiple locations across five villages on the Wild Coast of South Africa.’

Through this infrastructure it is hoped that new ways to exchange information about education, health, agriculture, local social welfare and community decision-making will be developed.

The project will deliver a well-documented toolkit to allow organisations like TranScape to establish community media sharing infrastructures. The toolkit will also be highly applicable elsewhere in the world.
News

Animal behaviour may help to predict changes in the environment

A Glasgow researcher has been awarded a prestigious Royal Society of Edinburgh fellowship to examine new environmental monitoring methods.

Dr Ross Macleod, Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health & Comparative Medicine, has received funding for five years to investigate how the behaviours of individual animals can be used to understand the impacts of environmental change.

The research could help develop new monitoring methods that would allow earlier detection and warning of the impacts that climate and other changes are having on the biodiversity of our natural environments.

Dr Macleod said: ‘Animals can respond almost immediately to deteriorating environments by altering their behaviour, so studying behaviours can provide early warning of environmental impacts. This can potentially allow time for us to respond to and reduce harmful effects before they become critical. The fellowship is an exciting opportunity for me to develop ecological theory with the potential to help us better understand and predict how the natural world will respond to human driven environmental changes.’

New facilities for visitors of the University’s archives

In our feature Every archive tells a story in issue 47 of Avenue, we mentioned the refurbishment plans for the University’s Archive Services. Since then much work has gone into revitalising the visitor facilities at Thurso Street.

The refurbished area includes an improved reception and discussion space, search room, administrative office and a lounge for visitors to take a break in. Staff, students and members of the public can now benefit from a pleasant and bright environment to enjoy the 1,000 collections, spanning over seven centuries, which Archive Services looks after.

In June the Principal, Professor Anton Muscatelli, officially opened the new visitor facilities. The Chancellor, Sir Kenneth Calman, and the Clerk of the Senate, Professor Graham Caie, also attended, along with University staff, business archives clients and funders.

To mark the occasion, Lesley Richmond, Director of Archive Services, presented the Principal with a framed copy of a letter which Adam Smith had written to the then University principal about his Rectorship, in which he describes his time as a Glasgow student as ‘by far the happiest and most honourable period’ of his life.

Historical news ...

January 1961 – the Stevenson Building opens

50 years ago the much-loved Stevenson Building first opened its doors to University students. Costing £260,000, the new building came with facilities to accommodate swimming, diving, boxing, fencing, judo and squash, alongside a new state-of-the-art gymnasium.

It was named after Daniel Stevenson (Lord Provost of Glasgow, 1911–1914, and later Chancellor, 1934–1944) who donated a large sum of money to the project. Richard R C De’Ath, the architect who designed the building, said: ‘The accent was simply on good design, infinite care and on good materials. Our main problem was to combine a gym with a swimming pool on such a limited site, and, of course, we’ve built the gym above the swimming pool.’

Today ‘The Stevie’ is still the main centre for sport and recreation on campus for the 2,500 people who use our facilities on a regular basis.

August 1985 – University Court acknowledges state of funding emergency

25 years ago the University was forced to take desperate measures in the face of some of the most brutal funding cuts in its history.

In August 1985 the University Court acknowledged a state of emergency within the University in response to a 3.35% funding cut announced by the government.

With further cuts expected, the University was also advised to budget for another £1.5m shortfall in the next year. This called a halt to all major building and maintenance work around campus and a freeze on hiring.

In his Principal’s Report for that year, Sir Alwyn Williams, Principal of the University at the time, said: ‘In light of the submissions received, the UGC announced its plans for universities to 1990 and their recurrent grants for 1986–87... Although the letter reminded everyone that the UGC continues to press the government for improved funding, it made sombre reading in every respect.’
Glasgow takes part in international Universitas 21 events

This summer the University sent students and staff to two prestigious events organised by Universitas 21.

Universitas 21 is an international network of 23 leading research-intensive universities in 15 countries around the world. The network, of which the University of Glasgow is a member, aims to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between its members.

In July four students (Kevin Brown, Mark Callender, Jasper Clarke and Kirsty McInnes) joined Professor Paul Routledge, Geographical & Earth Sciences, at a two-week summer school at the University of Nottingham Ningbo in China.

The theme of the event was food security, covering topics such as GM technologies, global trade, sustainability and climate adaptation/migration strategies. On his return Professor Routledge said: ‘I was impressed by how much the students enjoyed the whole learning experience, and how much of it they found challenging and rewarding.’

In the same month, three final-year students (Kelly-Anne Gallacher, Grant McLelland and Graham Kyle Riach) were accompanied by Mrs Margaret Jago, of the University’s School of Education, to the 2010 Universitas 21 Undergraduate Research Conference in Melbourne.

Mrs Jago said: ‘This was a wonderful opportunity for staff and students to market their research skills and to develop the University’s reputation as an institution of distinction.’

Czech scholarship launched by former US Secretary of State

Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State during Bill Clinton’s presidency, visited the University to launch a new Czech scholarship.

Supported by the Czech Foreign Office, the scholarship is worth €15,000 and will run for four years. The decision to award Glasgow the scholarship was made on the recommendation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, who praised the excellent reputation of Czech studies at the University. The scholarship will be made available to any PhD student working in the fields of Czech history, literature, politics, media or cinematography.

Secretary Albright was born Marie Jana Korbelová in Prague in 1937, where she lived until her parents moved to the USA in 1948. She studied International Relations at Columbia University before going on to a successful career in politics.

Speaking at the launch, Secretary Albright said: ‘I am deeply honoured to be involved with this fantastic scholarship. There is a strong tradition and heritage between the University of Glasgow and the Czech Republic and I am humbled to be a part of that connection.’

A new test to detect heart disease

Glasgow scientists have found a new way to detect coronary artery disease by analysing urine samples.

The simple test, officially known as urinary proteome analysis, looks for particular protein expressions, or biomarkers, associated with the disease and has been shown to have an accuracy rate of almost 90%. The research has been published in the latest edition of the Journal of Hypertension.

Professor Harald Mischak, of the Institute of Cardiovascular & Medical Sciences at the University, said: ‘This test brings us closer to the goal of personalised medicine, where simple analysis of an individual’s proteome can help diagnose specific conditions and inform and monitor treatment. It may enable us to see dynamic changes in the body on a molecular level, and align treatment individually to the patient’s needs.’

Proteomics is a developing branch of medical research which examines the proteins expressed by different genes in the body to identify those that are associated with disease. By identifying disease-specific biomarkers it is hoped that diagnosis can be made in the very early stages of development and targeted therapy applied.

In developing the test the team of international researchers analysed 586 urine samples from 408 individuals to identify a pattern of 238 polypeptide proteins that indicated coronary artery disease. The team then recruited 138 individuals – 71 with coronary artery disease and 67 healthy volunteers – and using the pattern of 238 proteins were able to identify those with coronary artery disease with almost 90% accuracy.

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Stay connected

We hope you like being kept informed of the latest happenings at the University and to make this even easier you can now follow us on Twitter and Facebook. Here you can keep up to date with the latest news, search for events, browse our photos and videos or rekindle some old friendships.

Find us at: www.twitter.com/glasgowuni and www.facebook.com/glasgowuniversity
In the mix — creative collaborations in research at Glasgow

From art historians to nano-engineers, the University’s diverse range of research experts is like a box of colour paints – as individuals their work is bold and bright but mixed together they can create masterpieces.

Our researchers are always finding ways to cross academic boundaries to work with colleagues in different disciplines. Through these creative collaborations, academics across the spectrum of subject areas at Glasgow are merging their skills together on joint ventures to produce ground-breaking research.

Making moves in migration

Interdisciplinary research is moving forward in many academic areas at Glasgow, including the social sciences. Professor of Languages & Intercultural Studies, Alison Phipps, and Professor of Russian Gender Studies, Rebecca Kay, have joined forces on a research project called GRAMNet (Glasgow Refugee, Asylum & Migration Network).

The city of Glasgow is host to the largest population of refugees and asylum-seekers under the UK government’s dispersal policy and also has a history of attracting large communities of migrants. GRAMNet aims to build a context for the study of migrant communities based on the city’s unique position.

‘We’ve spent a lot of this year thinking through what appropriate methodologies and frameworks there are for working with vulnerable groups,’ says Professor Phipps. ‘Only now are people starting to realise that there is something wrong with standard social science research methods for certain groups – and GRAMNet is helping clarify this.’

GRAMNet not only promotes interdisciplinary working within the University but also brings together external researchers, non-government organisations and policy-makers concerned with immigration issues in Scotland.

‘In our interactions with partners beyond the University, it’s becoming clear that there is an appetite for new insights and new ways of gathering that insight,’ says Professor Kay. ‘On the migration front there’s this slight obsession with numbers. People like asking: “How many migrants are there?” “Where are they?” “What are they doing?” Those questions aren’t easy to answer; we need to ask different questions.’
Asking new questions and finding the answers involves sharing information and the University is keen to promote knowledge exchange across the GRAMNet network.

‘Many of our knowledge exchange partners are small organisations who need facilities for research and development but cannot easily access the knowledge base of research – so the University can form a natural alliance there and build research and knowledge exchange, a mutually beneficial, two-way process, with these groups,’ says Professor Phipps. ‘That style of research will really help build a strong, well-informed and sensible policy around immigration, migration, refugees and asylum-seekers.’

The power of plants

Across the campus an interdisciplinary team of biologists, chemists and engineers are attempting to revolutionise the way we power our lives by creating a process whereby fuel can be produced from solar energy by mimicking the process of photosynthesis.

Botanist Professor Richard Cogdell, whose role is to determine the three-dimensional structure of molecules involved in photosynthesis, leads the project. ‘We’re trying to learn from biology in order to produce an array of mimics, or chemical analogues,’ he says. ‘If we could devise a robust chemical analogue that could create what you might call an artificial leaf, we could be well on our way to having solar collectors that produce a fuel, as opposed to creating electricity.’

Once Professor Cogdell has identified the structure of the molecules required, someone needs to build them. That someone is Professor Lee Cronin, Gardiner Chair of Chemistry and Head of Research within the School of Chemistry; he is an expert in the field of molecular self-assembly and is in charge of producing the molecules that the team needs.

The assembled molecules then need to be stabilised on a surface that the team can control. This requires the skills of an engineer who can work at the nano-scale, in this case provided by Dr Nikolaj Gadegaard.

Together the team are hoping further collaboration internationally will raise global awareness of the potential of artificial photosynthesis in the future of alternative fuels.

All things great and small

Glasgow has been at the forefront of nanotechnology for over 30 years; bringing together the expertise of over 70 academics all working in interdisciplinary research. Dr Nikolaj Gadegaard is using his skills in this field to help biologist Dr Matt Dalby develop a form of orthopaedic implant that can promote bone production from mesenchymal stem cells in the bone marrow.

The pair work at a nanometric scale to graft patterns onto implant materials which stem cells in the bone marrow can then interact with.

‘If you have a hip replacement, the doctors put a long metal rod, or stem, down into the bone cavity, into the marrow, with a new femoral head on top,’ Dr Dalby explains. ‘This stem interacts with the mesenchymal stem cell supply of the marrow. What actually happens is that you get soft tissue formation, rather than hard tissue formation; this leads to micromotion and eventual failure. So what we’re doing is trying to pattern materials to communicate with the cell so we get hard tissue formation, and therefore an implant for life.’
With the research already being recognised by the medical community, the hope is that the work could soon cross from the lab into medical practice, to the benefit of the wider public. ‘We are collaborating with consultant surgeon Mr Dominic Meek at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, and we’re trying to get a lot of crossover between the scientists and the clinicians, so we have a couple of registrars in the lab who work alongside basic scientists to try and help translate this into clinic.’

The art of science

The work of Dr Erma Hermens, Lecturer in Technical Art History, is a great example of how researchers in the arts are benefiting from cross-subject cooperation. Dr Hermens, who joined the University from the Netherlands as Kelvin Smith fellow, is working with scientists, specifically geologists, chemists and engineers, to pioneer the use of cutting-edge scientific techniques to analyse art. ‘We look at an artwork in its historical, cultural and theoretical context, but we also examine the materials, techniques, tools and processes used by the artist from medieval times to the present,’ she says.

‘You could say that we look at the artwork as a physical entity. Through the application of scientific analyses – similar to those used by chemists and geologists – and various imaging techniques, such as x-radiography and infrared reflectography, we can identify the materials and techniques that artists used.’

By using micro-imaging technology that is more commonly seen in state-of-the-art science labs, Dr Hermens and the team can analyse the composition of tiny samples of the artworks in question, uncovering the artistic techniques of Master painters, which may have been unknown for hundreds of years. The process is revealing more about historical studio practice, questions of attribution, original intent and the effects of ageing. This approach will also help develop new ideas about conservation research and decision-making.

A bright future ahead

The University has a 500-year-old tradition of enterprising and pioneering research that has helped define the world we live in. The men and women who have studied, taught and undertaken research within these walls have produced a legacy that has cemented Glasgow’s reputation as a top-quality research-led institution. And, more recently, the doors have opened to a bright future for creative collaborations at Glasgow; we now stand on the threshold of a new era of interdisciplinary research opportunities.
Building on strong foundations

At a recent major conference in Glasgow – the Council for Advancement & Support of Education (CASE) – the Principal of the University, Professor Anton Muscatelli, delivered the opening speech showcasing the fundraising campaign of the 1870s to complete the construction of our iconic Gilbert Scott building, despite troubled times. Here we look at the ambitious and fundamentally important campaign in detail and how the Glasgow family – made up of our alumni and friends – both then and now, has helped make the University what it is today.

‘The 1870s was a period of economic recession that, it has been argued, more closely parallels the nature of our current economic crisis than the Great Depression. Throughout the world hundreds of banks closed, first causing panic and then economic contraction. This lasted more than four years in the USA and almost six in Europe. Those who could buy under-valued assets in the depressed market – the Rockefellers and the Carnegies of the world – emerged stronger. All crises have their share of winners and losers.’

Professor Muscatelli, Principal, CASE conference 2010

In the 1860s the University was planning a massive relocation from its original site on the High Street to a brand new campus in the west of the city. It was an ambitious project to start with; Sir George Gilbert Scott had designed a monumental building on an unprecedented scale. The total cost of the project was enormous, around £500,000, or £267m today.

However, before the building was finished funding dried up as ‘The Panic’ of 1873 set in, an event that was followed by a worldwide economic crisis. The shortfall was around £150m in today’s terms. With the government unable to help further, University fundraisers were left with a mountain to climb. However, campaigners were confident of the public’s philanthropic support, even during such lean times.

The public’s willingness to identify with Glasgow’s fundraising efforts reflects the strong connection people have with the University. Cathy Bell, Director of the University’s Development & Alumni Office, believes this is the key factor behind Glasgow’s growth as a university and a city.

‘Then, as now, the impact of what we call the “Glasgow family” was also very much in evidence when it came to fundraising,’ says Cathy. ‘In the 19th century fundraisers became adept at engaging with different groups of people, everyone from the big donors to the general public. Without so many people contributing to the appeal back then, we wouldn’t have a university which today is deservedly among the top 100 in the world.’
Our forebears wanted to create an iconic building, and set it on a hill – the Gilmorehill of today. It was to be a beacon, a clear statement that education mattered. It was important – Glasgow needed a university worthy of its name – and they went after it. Over the period the campaign ran, it raised over half of the cost of the building through donations alone.’

Professor Muscatelli, Principal, CASE conference 2010

The Gilmorehill fundraisers ran a remarkable campaign, characterised by the fact that it managed to harness such a broad cross-section of public support. They identified their donors as a family because, although they came from all walks of life, they were united by the benefits that a world-class university brought to the city and consequently their own lives.

However, the Glasgow family, as our alumni and friends came to be known, did not limit itself to the city. As is the case today, in the 19th century University alumni were living and working all over the world. Recognising the potential of a worldwide network, the University connected with graduates as far away as China, India, America and Australia, until the Glasgow family became a global one.

‘Nowadays we regularly work on initiatives with our alumni abroad. They help us by building ambassadorial groups, holding alumni events, distributing our e-newsletter and broadening the focus of our recruitment overseas,’ says Cathy Bell. ‘Our global family is really important to us now, just as it was back then, because our success is everyone’s success.’

Cathy continues, ‘Each generation benefits from the fundraising of the previous generations. We want to continue to be a world-leading research institution and we have to continue to raise funds in order to do this.’
'The new site at Gilmorehill was able to absorb and accelerate the expansion of higher education in Glasgow ... fundraising allowed our forebears to build the University as we know it. To this day projects are still developed off the back of this, and alongside the immediate benefits that fundraising projects bring, they also offer unknown and unpredicted opportunities for the future.'

Professor Muscatelli, Principal, CASE conference 2010

It took almost 20 years from the decision to go ahead with the new building until the final tower was completed. Since then the tower has indeed become a beacon, symbolic of Glasgow’s place as a world-leader in higher education and the backdrop for many fundraising campaigns.

Through the mutual dedication of our fundraisers and philanthropic alumni and friends to the future of the University, the concept of the Glasgow family is as alive today as it was in the 1870s. Evidence of this can be seen in new facilities, all modern-day symbols of academic excellence in their own right, which have been built through successful fundraising campaigns.

Supporters of the Vet Fund, which manages donations in support of the Vet School, have made a massive contribution towards the state-of-the-art £15m Small Animal Hospital. The Vet Fund has also provided resources for a new £2.4m Centre for Production Animal Health & Food Safety, and an extension to the existing Weipers Centre for Equine Welfare. These developments and others have contributed to Glasgow’s Vet School being crowned top in the UK in the most recent Research Assessment Exercise and are a testament to the quality of veterinary research taking place at the University.

Elsewhere, the University’s Medical Fund has significantly contributed towards a number of high-profile projects. These include the Wolfson Medical Building, the BHF Glasgow Cardiovascular Research Centre, and the Glasgow Biomedical Research Centre, which cost a combined £40m and now work together to facilitate integrated and groundbreaking medical research on campus.

The Development & Alumni Office are currently three-quarters of the way towards raising £10m to go towards building the Beatson Translational Research Centre, which costs £19.2m in total and will form the final piece of the landmark Glasgow Centre for Cancer Research, which already incorporates the existing Centre for Oncology & Applied Pharmacology and the Paul O’Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre. The Translation Research Centre will help turn the latest research developments into actual treatments and will further Glasgow’s reputation as a world leader in the study and treatment of cancer.

It goes without saying that these ventures would not have been possible without the generosity of the Glasgow family. ‘This type of philanthropy to the University is a part of our history; you can see that legacy all around you at Glasgow, from the Bute Hall to the Hunterian,’ says Cathy Bell.

People are as much a part of the University’s foundations as bricks and mortar, and that’s why, along with our building campaigns, we are also raising funds to set up student scholarships. In particular these scholarships will support students from less fortunate backgrounds and also students from international countries in their pursuit of studying at Glasgow. Cathy explains: ‘Scholarship funds are a natural step forward in the philanthropic tradition of the University. By assisting bright people who may not otherwise have the opportunity to exploit their potential, the Glasgow family will be shaping the future of our students as well as our buildings, which will mean that for years to come the University will be a world-class learning institution.’

To read the full version of the Principal’s opening speech at the CASE conference 2010 visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/givingtoglasgow/givingthroughtheages.
Glasgow – a global vision

Building the reputation of an internationally recognised university like Glasgow doesn’t happen overnight – for more than 550 years it has been our vision to push the boundaries of learning, teaching and research. Now, as we move into the second decade of the 21st century, the University has launched a new strategy to take this vision into the future. Here Avenue looks at our objectives for the coming years and how we’re making impressive progress already.

Excelling in research

Engaging in excellent research is a fundamental element of Glasgow’s strategy and for the Principal of the University, Professor Anton Muscatelli, our vision is clear: ‘We’ll encourage multidisciplinary approaches by supporting and developing networks of researchers.’ Our feature on interdisciplinary research projects (page 8) shows how the University is currently achieving this through collaborations between academic teams across our colleges and schools.

For Professor Muscatelli another vital part of the University’s vision for research is to ‘create world-leading, multidisciplinary research institutes that meet our funders’ strategic needs’. Our feature on interdisciplinary research projects (page 8) shows how the University is currently achieving this through collaborations between academic teams across our colleges and schools.

Many viruses that effect humans form in animals and one of the CVR’s main objectives is to establish the links between human and animal health, using expertise to improve virus detection, develop antiviral drugs and vaccines, and train the next generation of scientists and clinicians. The centre’s director and expert in animal retroviruses, Professor Massimo Palmarini, explains: ‘The CVR will be a unique research centre in the UK. It will be made up of an outstanding collection of scientists studying viruses that cause diseases in humans, side by side with those that affect a variety of animal species.

‘We will take a holistic approach to virology, encompassing molecular virology, virus–host interaction, virus evolution, epidemiology and mathematical modelling. And we will collaborate with national and international partners in order to provide a strategic research framework that addresses the evolving threat to health and economic security presented by viral diseases across the world.’

Research (CVR). This new centre, based at the University’s Garscube estate, is a strong example of how we are making great progress in meeting our funders’ strategic needs.
An excellent student experience

It’s not only the needs of our research funders that matter to the University. Making our students’ experience at Glasgow a rewarding one is at the core of our vision. We already have a strong reputation for the quality of our teaching, support and student satisfaction and a key aim of our strategy is to develop this even further.

Our academic staff are using increasingly innovative teaching methods to help students get the most out of their classes. Take, for example, Dr Quintin Cutts, who teaches computing science. Dr Cutts has seen the motivation levels of his students soar since introducing electronic voting handsets, similar to those used in the television programme Who Wants to be a Millionaire, to the classroom.

‘The two reasons handsets are really good are because they’re anonymous and yet they’re engaging,’ Dr Cutts explains. ‘Students answer because they’re anonymous, and because they answer they’re more engaged in the class. One student said in his feedback, “I’m on the edge of my seat. I want to get it right!” You could tell it was a real motivation for him to be there and do well.’

In a new approach to the induction session last year, first-year undergraduates used their voting handsets to submit course-related problems. Then second-year students were brought in to offer mentorship and guidance, with great results. ‘The students were really enthusiastic about this sense of collegiality and being looked after,’ Dr Cutts says. ‘We got rave reviews. They were pleased to be part of an institution that cared about them.’

Letting our students know we care is in keeping with the University’s vision. In fact listening to their opinions is so important to us that almost all of our internal decision-making bodies have student representatives. Morven Boyd, Glasgow’s student Vice-President for Learning and Development, has worked to represent the needs and opinions of Glasgow’s students as one of four sabbatical officers at the Students’ Representative Council (SRC). ‘We’ve got a massive network of student class representatives,’ she says. ‘This year, 642 reps were trained at Glasgow, which is more than half of all the reps trained in Scotland. After training they attend staff–student liaison committees, which is a way for staff and students to discuss what’s working and what’s not in their degree programmes. Students can give their opinions.’

Students from all over the globe enjoy the experience of studying at Glasgow. However, our vision doesn’t end on campus. Part of our strategy is to ensure our students are primed for life beyond Gilmorehill. As Professor Muscatelli says, ‘We’ll prepare students for political and social environments worldwide.’

One area in which this is already happening is in our postgraduate programmes. The range of study destinations available as part of the University’s International Masters in Russian, Central & East European Studies, for example, offers students the chance to broaden their horizons while preparing them for exciting careers abroad. European partners of this programme have increased recently to include universities in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan along with those already established in Hungary, Poland, Estonia and Finland. After finishing the first year of the programme students can now spend the first semester of the second year gaining experience, supervision and the potential for further academic opportunities at one of these partner institutions. ‘What we are trying to do is make sure that when they leave here, our graduates are prepared for tremendous careers anywhere in the world,’ explains Senior Vice-Principal Professor Andrea Nolan.
Extending our global reach and reputation

Building relationships with academic institutions overseas has clear advantages for our students and for the University as a whole too. From the outset we have endeavoured to extend our reach internationally. The fact that we welcome students from over 100 countries is evidence that this aspect of our vision is holding firm, and Professor Muscatelli is keen for this to develop further: “We’ll extend our global reach to become a truly international university with a multicultural community of students and staff.” In order to achieve our global vision, we need to build on the strategic alliances with leading institutions we already have. Some of our recent activity showcases how we are putting our theories into practice and enjoying mutual and sustainable benefits.

In the West we recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Columbia University in New York (pictured top left), through which we will develop joint research, create exchange programmes for staff and students, and share knowledge internationally. Our shared expertise in biomedical science alone has created staff and student exchange visits, a successful lecture series and a £100,000 fund to develop a joint programme in cancer research. Research collaboration in integrative and systems biology, joint clinical trials and bioengineering is also in the pipeline, as are student exchange initiatives and joint programmes between our business schools.

In the East we have strong links with universities in China. One example is Nankai University in Tianjin city – one of the prestigious ‘985’ group of Chinese universities. Our successful collaborations with Nankai span a range of subjects including politics, chemistry, biology and engineering, and our commitment to strengthening our international bond with Nankai resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2009. Through this will come more joint research projects with student exchanges and collaboration in more subject areas, in particular art and cultural exchange. Glasgow’s world-leading academic reputation in art history, its interest in Chinese art, and the city’s important Chinese collections offer a unique platform for developing our strategic partnership with Nankai University and connecting the local communities for mutual enrichment.

The University’s global reach extends beyond well-established universities. Glasgow’s commitment to philanthropic activity has resulted in a partnership with the recently opened University of Dodoma in Tanzania. Joint development plans, with an emphasis on developing staff research capacity and curriculum development, have already attracted $3.8m from international funding agencies, with another major joint funding bid through the World Bank currently pending. Our priorities for joint academic activity are nursing and sustainable energy, and as the University of Dodoma continues to grow, we will explore other areas of collaboration.

These examples of excelling in research, excellent student experience and extending our global reach and reputation are just a taster of the many ways that the University of Glasgow is committed to its vision for the future. There may be uncertain financial times ahead for all universities, but, come what may, Glasgow will strive forward, as it has done since 1451 – to the benefit of researchers, students and society, not only in Glasgow but also across the globe.
Young Alumnus of the Year 2010

Each year, the University recognises the achievements of alumni who have made a major contribution to the community, arts, science or business. The 2010 Young Alumnus of the Year is Professor Patrick Gunning (BSc 2001, PhD 2005). Avenue finds out about the work he’s been doing to create more effective and less toxic cures for cancer.

‘I’ve won several research awards in the last three years but Young Alumnus was the crowning one. When I got the letter it was such a surprise, so that was really nice.’

Professor Gunning’s ideas have garnered accolades such as the David Rae Memorial Award for Leukaemia Research in 2008, the Ontario Early Researcher Award, and this year, the Boehringer Ingelheim Young Investigator Award in organic chemistry, but his future wasn’t always so clear cut. In sixth year at school, he was ‘within an hour’ of choosing to study architecture over chemistry. What made up his mind, he says, was that he didn’t like the idea of being at university for seven years.

‘I actually made my decision because I thought chemistry would only be a four-year course,’ he explains. ‘I ended up following my degree with a three-year PhD, then a two-year postdoc at Yale and now I live and breathe in a university, so it’s funny how things happen.’

And as it turns out, his interest in design has proved to be an advantage in the fields of organic and medicinal chemistry. ‘I think that having an artistic background has made me think about the way things look as well,’ he says. ‘I won’t discard a proposed molecule because it looks unconventional or quirky. In some ways I think I actually prefer to make molecules because they look cool and I want to see if we can make it. The current inhibitors that we have designed and synthesised kill cancer cells selectively. They don’t kill healthy cells, and that’s what is so exciting about them. Obviously, you want drugs with as few side-effects as possible, so our molecules are exhibiting the kind of properties you want in a new drug. You see images of ever-expanding breast cancer cells, and then you see them all dead when treated with your compound that you made in the lab. That’s really quite rewarding.’
Wise words

Avenue celebrates the inspirational lives of two former members of the University's community, Edwin Morgan, Emeritus Professor of English, and Jimmy Reid, Rector in the early 1970s, and remembers their enlightened way with words.

When Edwin Morgan was a child in Glasgow he would take long walks with his father, who worked in shipping. 'He used to tell me all about how steel was made and ships were constructed,' Edwin told a Guardian journalist in 2003. 'That industrial side of Glasgow was in my mind from an early age.'

Such knowledge and the inspiration of 'very ordinary things' in the city found its way into the writing of the man who would become the first Scottish national poet. Poems such as 'Glasgow Sonnet No. 1' spoke of high-rise flats, backcourt trash and discarded mattresses:

The man lies late since he has lost his job, smokes on one elbow, letting his coughs fall thinly into an air too poor to rob.

These were scenes that Govan-born trade union activist Jimmy Reid knew all too well and wanted to prevent when, in 1971, he led a 'work-in' by thousands of staff threatened with redundancy from the publicly owned Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, after the government refused to give the company a loan to cover its debts.

'We are not going to strike,' Jimmy said in a speech announcing the workers' control over the shipyard. 'The world is watching us, and it is our responsibility to conduct ourselves with responsibility, and with dignity, and with maturity.'

The 'work-in' gained international support and in 1972, Prime Minister Edward Heath backed down, retaining two of the yards, selling a third and investing £35m into the Clyde. Jimmy had won the admiration of many, including Glasgow's students. In 1971 they voted him into the office of University Rector. The 1970s would also see Glasgow graduate Edwin become Professor of English at the University. He held the position for 15 years, retiring in 1980.

This year, everyone has been saddened to bid farewell to Jimmy and to Edwin, who both died in August. Tommy Gore, President of the Student Representative Council, called Jimmy 'a very special Rector' who truly 'embodied the spirit of the SRC', while Principal Muscatelli described Edwin as 'one of the finest poets Scotland has ever produced, who will be fondly remembered by a great many people'.

Among other things, we remember the two men for their winning way with words. The scope and variety of Edwin's poetry stretched from Sauchiehall Street to Saturn, from sonnets to concrete forms. Whether describing the death of Marilyn Monroe or celebrating the founding of the Scottish Parliament, his knack for finding a fitting voice was unique. His love poems, initially carefully absent of gender, were imbued with a universality that proved powerful.

No surprise, then, that Edwin's career was peppered with literary acclaim. Bestowed with an OBE in 1982, he also won the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2000 and was shortlisted for the T S Eliot Prize.
in 2007 for *A Book of Lives*. His translation work spanned many languages and his 1952 translation of *Beowulf* has become the standard in America.

Similarly celebrated in the USA was Jimmy’s famous University of Glasgow Rectorial installation speech in 1972. The New York Times printed it in full and described it as the greatest speech since Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. The speech has lost little of its relevance today.

‘To the students I address this appeal,’ said Jimmy. ‘Reject the values and false morality that underlie these attitudes. A rat race is for rats. We’re human beings. Reject the insidious pressures in society that would blunt your critical faculties to all that is happening around you, that would caution silence in the face of injustice lest you jeopardise your chances of promotion and self-enhancement. The price is too high. It entails the loss of your dignity and human spirit.’

In closing his Rectorial speech, Jimmy quoted ‘Why should we idly waste our time’ by Scotland’s Bard, Robert Burns:

*In virtue trained, enlightened youth shall move each fellow creature,*
*And time shall purely prove the truth that man is good by nature.*

In fact, Jimmy was always striving to effect positive change in his fellow human beings. He did it in many ways; as a political campaigner; a man many have referred to as ‘the best MP Scotland never had’; and as a journalist for an array of publications from *The Herald* to the *Sun*. His series of documentaries about the USSR won three BAFTA awards. His belief that education should equip people not solely for a profession, but also with the skills to go on developing both their personality and talents throughout their lives remains a key principle behind the education offered by the University.

With such an attitude, there is much to be hopeful for. And Edwin too; saw hope in humanity. In his poems he wrote of the redemptive possibilities, the moments of joy to be found in the city of Glasgow even in hard times. In ‘Trio’, he celebrates a chance encounter with a passing group of people whose ability to draw happiness from apparently simple sources proves inspirational:

*Monsters of the year go blank, are scattered back,*
*can’t bear this march of three.*

*And the three have passed, vanished in the crowd (yet not vanished, for in their arms they wind the life of men and beasts, and music,*
*laughter ringing them round like a guard) at the end of this winter’s day.*

While we will miss the inspiring talents of these two great men, their words will stay with us always – a reminder of how lucky we are that they chose to share their wisdom on our campus.
International alumni events round-up

Alumni all over the world have been getting together to celebrate their association with the University of Glasgow. Representatives from the University have enjoyed meeting graduates and prospective students at a range of social events and encouraging Glasgow’s esteemed network of former, current and future students.

A busy May in the USA

Alumni on the east and west coasts of the United States hosted a number of events over the summer. Vice-Principal Professor Frank Coton joined our graduates and friends in May in Alexandria, VA, Los Angeles and San Francisco – he also managed to meet our midwest group later in the year in Chicago.

Carlyle House, the former home of Scottish merchant John Carlyle, was the venue for our event in Alexandria and guests had the opportunity to enjoy the warm summer evening on the terrace overlooking the gardens.

Newport Beach provided the beautiful location for our afternoon tea event at the Balboa Bay Club. Drizzly wet Scottish weather caught up with us when we hosted our evening reception at the Stanford Park Hotel near San Francisco, but it certainly didn’t dampen our spirits.

At each event guests were joined by a number of our applicants who were planning to travel to Glasgow in the autumn. The prospective students had the chance to speak directly to our alumni and hear first-hand experiences about studying and living in the city.

Adventures in Asia

In June, University staff finally had the pleasure of flying out to a series of events in South East Asia after a delayed start due to the volcanic ash cloud which grounded planes in Europe. The trip provided a great opportunity to meet alumni and prospective students living in the area, where support for the University is strong.

The first event was in Brunei at the Empire Hotel and Country Club. Christine Forde, Professor of Professional Learning and Leadership, was visiting and took the opportunity to host the evening. The Brunei alumni association hope to continue informal meets in the future to stay connected with each other, the University and the growing community of graduates living there.

Next was a dinner in the splendid Westin Hotel in Kuala Lumpur in June. This was the first large-scale alumni dinner held in Malaysia since the University’s 2001 celebrations.

Professor Andrea Nolan, Senior Vice-Principal, updated guests on current developments and other interesting facts about the University before Dato’ Dr Sir Peter Mooney (MA 1948, LLB 1951, LLD 1989) proposed a nostalgic and heart-warming toast to the Alma Mater after the meal. The next day Professor Nolan travelled to meet alumni in Singapore at the British Club, where guests enjoyed the spectacular rooftop terrace views and a fabulous buffet meal. Dr Tan Hwa Luck (BVMS 1969) entertained guests with accounts of his University days as he proposed the toast to the Alma Mater. A fun evening came to a close after some ceilidh dancing accompanied by the talents of the band Gan Ainm.

Further east in September, 14 graduates got together in Seoul at Plan B restaurant in Hong-Dae. New friendships were formed and some old acquaintances reunited. Even amidst the monsoon rains, everyone agreed it was definitely a night to remember.

Alumni events in 2011

As part of the University’s ongoing commitment to attract the brightest and best students worldwide, we will be working with our various alumni associations to host a series of exciting alumni events in the UK and overseas in 2011.

These events will provide prospective students who are considering studying at Glasgow with the chance to meet with alumni and staff and hear at first hand about life here and the value of a University of Glasgow degree. For alumni, these events will provide opportunities to network with others in their local area and staff from the University.

The University is lucky and proud to have so many successful and dedicated alumni living all over the world. This increased programme of events will not only help to raise the University’s profile at home and overseas but will also help to strengthen our existing global network of alumni.

For up-to-date information about our various events, including dates and locations, please see www.glasgow.ac.uk/alumni/events.
2010 Queen’s Birthday Honours
Dr Ann Wales (BSc 1986) was appointed MBE for services to the NHS.
Reverend Andrew Jolly (BD 1981), who sadly passed away in September, was appointed OBE for services to the UK oil and gas industries.
Dr Olivia R Giles (LLB 1986, DUniv 2007) was appointed OBE for charitable services.

Edinburgh Society’s summer outing
In July a party of 13 people consisting of the members of Edinburgh Society of Glasgow University graduates (ESGUG) and their guests enjoyed a pleasant day out at the Scottish Mining Museum in Newtongrange. They were given an extensive guided tour of the museum and enjoyed lunch in the excellent café and time in the award-winning gardens.

Glasgow University Women’s Club London, annual lunch
Members of the Glasgow University Women’s Club, along with guests, turned out in force to welcome the Principal, Professor Anton Muscatelli, to their annual luncheon in June. Guests enjoyed the glorious sunshine as they arrived at the Caledonian Club, which added to the success of the event.

The club’s President, Anne Robins (BSc 1964), chaired the event and formally introduced Professor Muscatelli as the guest speaker. The Principal delivered an interesting talk noting his hopes and inspirations for the future of the University before encouraging guests to participate in a question and answer session, during which members showed their keen interest in the University. President Elect Dorothy MacDonald (BSc 1972) offered the vote of thanks on behalf of the club before handing over to the past President, Maureen McLellan, to present a cheque for £2,000 as a donation from the club to the University in support of Professor Anna Dominczak’s research into cardiovascular medicine.

The 2011 keynote event will be an annual dinner on 23 June, with Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell as guest speaker. The club’s full programme for the year can be found at www.glasgow.ac.uk/alumni or www.gu-london.org.uk.

Calling Business School alumni
Following the restructuring of the University in August, the departments of Accounting & Finance, Economics and Management combined to form the Business School. All graduates of these former departments can now count themselves among the Business School alumni – and we’d like to hear from all of you. Please don’t hesitate to contact your alumni officer, Mary Beth Kneafsey, by email: marybeth.kneafsey@glasgow.ac.uk or business.alumni@glasgow.ac.uk. Alternatively, you may wish to update your details directly through GU World, the University’s dedicated alumni networking community. Through GU World you may also find former classmates you have lost touch with over the years – www.alumni.gla.ac.uk/NetCommunity.

We’d love to hear about how you’ve got on since leaving Glasgow and what sort of services or support we can provide to you as our alumni. We hold periodic events on campus for alumni to reconnect and network with each other. We also have LinkedIn pages for you to connect directly with your fellow alumni. For international alumni, we can help you to stay connected with each other, advise you of events hosted by visiting academic staff and, of course, if you are ever in Glasgow please come to see us. To plan reunions or other events in your area, contact Mary Beth who will help you get started.
Reunion reports

1985 Dentistry
Following a good response to an email sent out by Carole Boyle late last year, a weekend reunion was held at the Westerwood Hotel and Golf Resort in Cumbernauld in sunny June. On Friday guests enjoyed an informal meal in the bar, which finished rather later than anticipated! A CPD event took place on Saturday morning, followed by a golf competition in the afternoon, won by Stewart McCarte, with prizes donated by DTS-International.

Saturday evening kicked off with a champagne reception sponsored by The Dental Directory, followed by a gala dinner. Frazer Murphy produced a slideshow of ‘the old days’ and Raymond Murphy ‘Spud’ gave an excellent after-dinner speech. Later most guests retired to the bar to continue renewing old friendships. It was a successful event with promises that it won’t be another 25 years until we meet again.

1970 MBChB
The 40th reunion of the Delta Club was held in May at the Old Course Hotel, St Andrews. There were 104 members along with partners at the drinks reception and dinner on the Friday night and a dinner dance the following evening. Professor Brian Williams and Dr Iain McCoubrey gave addresses and entertained the group. The scientific session on Saturday morning included contributions from Tony De La Mare, Frank Dunn, Stein Hoff and Des Banczewicz and was enjoyed by all with many contributions from the floor. The weekend was judged an outstanding success with suggestions for another reunion in five years’ time. Photographs from the weekend can be viewed on the website Flickr Groups, GU Delta Club 1970.

Here are our top tips for a great reunion.
1. Contact the Alumni Office. We may have contact details for many of your fellow classmates and can help you with initial ideas.
2. Get in touch with your classmates to gauge interest.
3. Pick a venue. We’ll be happy to discuss options with you when you have an idea of numbers and what you’d like to do. Take a tour of the campus or gather elsewhere; the world is your oyster.
4. Confirm a date.
5. Inform your classmates.
6. Place a notice in Avenue and on our web pages. Alumni who have slipped through the net may see it and get in touch.
7. Enjoy your reunion – and don’t forget to let us know how it goes for the next issue of Avenue!

Email: alumni@glasgow.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)141 330 7146

1960 MBChB
The 50th anniversary reunion took place at the Seamilly Hydro where 57 members and 41 partners enjoyed three sunny days together. The highlight was the Commemoration Day ceremony in the Bute Hall, followed by lunch in the Hunter Hall and a tour of the Wolfson Medical Building. The next day a group visited the new Robert Burns Birthplace Museum and took part in the Burns trail, and some enjoyed a golf competition or visited old haunts. At the gala dinner Malcolm Cosgrove proposed the toast to our Alma Mater and Alastair Spence gave the reply. Morton McDougall stepped down as president of the club and Alastair Spence was elected as president. We are all greatly indebted to both.

Bob and Maebeth Graham are organising the next reunion at Seamilly Hydro, 12–15 June 2012 (email: bobbgyvae@hotmail.com). Many thanks to the Alumni Office for arranging the Commemoration Day events.
Dr Anne Loudon, tel: + 44 (0)141 639 4195; email: AnneEPL@aol.com.

Glasgow University B-Club 1947–1952
The 48th anniversary dinner took place in Seamilly Hydro Hotel in June. It was a most enjoyable evening for 21 members and guests. A further annual dinner is planned for next year, again at Seamilly, on 10 June 2011. For further information contact Professor Hume Adams, Flat 1/1 2 Craigend Gardens, Lomond Dr, Glasgow G77 6FL; tel: +44 (0)141 639 5792 email: humeadams@btinternet.com.

Colin Campbell Memorial Dinner
The Colin Campbell Memorial Dinner took place in the Glasgow University Union in June. Colin was a Glasgow graduate (MA 1994) who tragically died in Glen Nevis on 21 June 2000. There were over 80 attendees, including Colin’s immediate family, and over half the guests were Glasgow graduates, with the rugby club and the Officers’ Training Corps well represented.

Zoology Class of 1970
In June, 11 members of the Zoology Honours year of 1970 and some partners celebrated the 40th anniversary of their graduation with a reunion at Rowardennan. The day revolved around a visit to SCENE, followed by a sunshine cruise on Loch Lomond. All were impressed by the continuing development of what they remember as the University Field Station, Rowardennan.

At dinner in the Winnock Hotel in Drymen, the group were joined by Roger Tippett, retired director of the field station and well-remembered young Freshwater Biology lecturer from 1966 to 1970.

All departed with new images of Rowardennan, the University and their former classmates to add to recollections of 40–44 years ago.
Reunion reports

1960 Air Squadron
A golden reunion took place on campus in September, organised by Jim Sloan (BSc Engineering 1964). Guests enjoyed dinner in One A The Square, a campus tour and a visit to Squadron HQ at Park Circus for drinks and lunch. Travelling from around the globe, over 50 members and wives were delighted to attend this momentous occasion.

Alastair Robertson (BSc 1962) entertained guests with bagpipes at dinner, including a lament for absent friends. Ron Hepburn (MA 1960) proposed the toast to the squadron, and Emeritus Professor Ken M Smith (BSc 1960, PhD) to the University. Guest speaker Henry Crone shared his experiences of ‘50 years behind the stick’. The group plan to meet again for a 55-year reunion in 2015, so please keep your details up to date with the Alumni Office if you would like to come along next time.

1970 Chemistry
The 40th year reunion was held in September. Remarkably, 59 members of the surviving 71 members of the class were contacted and almost 30 made it to the reunion, with some travelling from overseas. A sentimental visit to the former Men’s Union for drinks and the Aragon bar on Byres Road offered a chance to marvel at the changes (or lack of) since their student days. Joe Connolly and Mike Jarvis hosted a trip down ‘memory lane’ with a chemistry building tour and presentation, including a visit to the chemistry library. Notably, the library and labs now have computers – the class remembered hand-cranked calculators during their student years! The group enjoyed dinner and an evening of catching up on past times at One A The Square, in the University, with Professor Connolly as guest. There are plans to meet for a 45-year reunion on 12 September 2015.

1960 Civil Engineering
In October, 15 graduates from the original class of 25, including two from the United States, celebrated their 50th anniversary. The day at the University included a visit to Civil Engineering where Professor Simon Wheeler described impressive research work. This was followed by an evening reception and dinner in the Melville Room of the Gilbert Scott Building. The highlight was an address by Emeritus Professor Sutherland, aged 90, which brought back nostalgic memories of his student lectures. The following day the reunion continued with a visit to the Falkirk Wheel. Donations were given to the 1960 Graduates Prize Fund and everyone contributed to a booklet of golden reflections.

1970 Political Economy
In July, 10 classmates plus some partners met for drinks and dinner on campus to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their graduation. This had been preceded by a warm-up session at the Grosvenor Hilton Hotel. Don Forrest and John Kelie organised the evening in the Turnbull and Melville Rooms and were able to set up video conferencing to allow an absent classmate down under to join in. Graduates travelled from as far away as Bangalore and Manila, and the evening went so well that there was serious talk of another reunion in 2012. Watch this space!

1970 Notre Dame
The 40th reunion of 1970 Notre Dame graduates took place in Turnbull Hall at the University in September. People had travelled from Fife, London, Kent and even France to meet up again with old friends. Father Keenan celebrated Mass with the group before they enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch. A big thanks goes to the Alumni Office and colleagues for helping to make our reunion such a success. It was a very happy and noisy event and we hope it won’t be our last!

1965 University Football Team
The team held their most recent reunion in Deauville, France, in May. Although now scattered around the world with a few still in Scotland, we have met annually for the last 30 years to relive old times – particularly memories of playing for the University, Scottish and British Universities teams and also the founding of the graduates’ club, Westerlands. Initially a walking and fishing get-together, golf has since taken over and now competes with eating and drinking as the principal exercise. Three intensely fought competitions are held: the Happy Cup, Wedding Quaich and the Quaich, which is considered a ‘major’ on a par with the Open. This year’s winners were Fraser, Jamieson and Reid respectively, and Van Bork has asked to be mentioned as the Quaich runner-up after throwing it away at the 36th hole.

How to contact alumni news
Alumni news is edited by Emily Howie.

Send details of news and reunions to:
Development & Alumni Office
2 The Square
University of Glasgow
Glasgow G12 8QQ
Tel: +44 (0)141 330 4951
Email: alumni@glasgow.ac.uk
We are proud to announce a very special small group tour exclusively for University of Glasgow alumni and their friends and family.

Accompanied by Dr Marie Martin, Classicist and Archaeologist at the University, you will experience mainland Greece’s most important archaeological sites and museums with an expert on hand to bring it to life.

The Ancient Greeks provided the foundations of much of our modern way of life and this tour tells the story of this remarkable nation, from the Mycenaean and the Bronze Age to Hellenistic and Roman Greece.

As well as Ancient Corinth we visit Homer’s Greece, Mycenae, source of legends and epics such as the labours of Hercules and the Trojan War. Crossing the Peloponnesian we arrive at Olympia, fabled home of Zeus, and Delphi, on the slopes of Mount Parnassos. In Athens, the stunning new Acropolis Museum houses the masterpieces of ancient Greek civilisation and art.

The tour has been designed for the University by Temple World, the UK’s foremost alumni travel specialist, and a donation of 10% of the tour price goes to University fundraising projects. Spaces are very limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

£1,995 per person full board from London (£50 supplement for add-on flights from Glasgow, other regional flights available). For more information, visit www.templeworld.com/alumni/glasgow or call Temple World on + 44 (0)20 8940 4114.

‘This is a truly unique opportunity for alumni of the University to explore the world of the ancient Greeks, and I am looking forward to sharing my passion for classics and archaeology with the people who choose to set out on this exciting odyssey.’

Dr Marie Martin, Classicist and Archaeologist, University of Glasgow
Calling all 1939 graduates!
Jack Aaron Zimmer (MA 1939) would love to meet up with other 1939 graduates to share stories of life at the University in the 1930s. If there is enough interest, the Development & Alumni Office will help to organise a reunion lunch or afternoon tea on campus at Gilmorehill. Please contact Emily Howie, tel: +44 (0)141 330 2668 or email: emily.howie@glasgow.ac.uk if you or a family member would like to be involved.

1960 Natural Philosophy/Maths
22 July 2011, University of Glasgow
If you would like to attend this reunion dinner at the University or for more information, please contact Randall House, email: chouse@sgu.edu or Ken Smith, tel: +44 (0)141 330 5890, email: kenway.smith@glasgow.ac.uk.

1961 Chemistry
14 June 2011, University of Glasgow
This 50th anniversary reunion of the class will include a tour of the School of Chemistry, followed by lunch and dinner in the evening. The next day sees the University’s Commemoration Day celebrations, to which class members will be invited. Organiser Edgar Anderson has heard from more than half the extant class. Others interested should contact Edgar, tel: +44 (0)1923 775993, email: moneyhill@ntlworld.com.

1961 Modern Languages
15 July 2011, University of Glasgow
The golden reunion will include a ‘trip down memory lane’ tour of the University during the day, followed by drinks and dinner in the Turnbull and Melville Rooms. For more information please contact Aileen and Alan Small, tel: +44 (0)1244 382 876, email: aam2ls25@acol.com.

1962 Natural Philosophy and Maths
Advance notice – 13–14 June 2012
Plans are under way for a 50th anniversary reunion. We hope the class will join in the University’s Commemoration Day celebrations on Wednesday, 13 June. On the Thursday there will be a tour of the University followed by a class dinner in the evening. Please contact Ian Aitken if you are interested as it will be necessary to get an idea of numbers before confirming plans, tel: +44 (0)1620 890 070, email: ir.maitken@btinternet.com.

1962 Chemistry
Advance notice – 13 June 2012
A golden reunion is being planned to coincide with the Commemoration Day in 2012 when all graduates of the University of 50 years’ standing will be invited. An exciting programme is being planned. For further information, contact Joyce Allison, email: joyceallison@btopenworld.co.uk.

1963–64 Classics
1 October 2011, University of Glasgow
A reunion lunch will take place in the Melville Room at the University. Please contact Gordon Hepburn for more information or to note your interest, email: gordon@hepburn13.freeserve.co.uk.

1966 Zeta Club
19–20 October 2011, Dunblane Hydro Hotel, Scotland
The club will be holding its 45th reunion at the Dunblane Hydro Hotel. For more details or to register your interest email: jamesmitchell42@jimherbert.force9.co.uk.

1971 Zeta Club
15–16 April 2011, Doubletree Hilton Hydro Hotel, Dunblane
If you would like to attend the 40th reunion of the club or for more information, please contact the organiser Gordon Peterkin, email: gordon.peterkin@btinternet.com.

1972 Alpha Club
Advance notice – April 2012
The Alpha Club (1966–72) medical graduates will be holding a reunion at Peebles Hydro Hotel. To register your interest, please contact Dr Brian D Keighley as soon as possible, email: alphaclub@btinternet.com.

1977 Beta Club
24–26 October 2012, Dunkeld House Hotel
The 35-year reunion has already been pencilled in. For more information please email: rona.henderson@beta77.org.

1977 Civil Engineering
Advance notice – 2012
Members of the class are planning a 35-year reunion. All those on the course between 1973 and 1977 (not only those who graduated in 1977) are welcome to attend. The date is to be confirmed. Please contact Peter Morrison, email: peterjmorrison@btinternet.com.

1978 Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering
Advance notice – June 2011, Glasgow
A few members of the 1978 graduating class have re-established contact recently and made plans for a reunion in Glasgow for their 33rd anniversary. Please contact Captain José Antonio Martinez-Landaluce, email: jamlandaluce@hotmail.com; and remember to update your contact details with the alumni office at alumni@glasgow.ac.uk.

Retired Staff Association
The University has a large and active community of retired staff, partners, widows and widowers. The Retired Staff Association (RSA) was officially launched by Sir Muir Russell in September 2008 and is intended to act as an umbrella organisation that allows retired staff to keep in contact with the University and attend RSA meetings, together with those of other appropriate clubs, groups and societies within the University.

If you are not on the mailing list and would like to receive information about forthcoming activities, please email alumni@glasgow.ac.uk. If you know someone who isn’t a member but is eligible to join, please pass on this information.
Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on 19 June 2010 in the Senate Room of the University.

The Chancellor, Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, took the chair and welcomed those present to the meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 February 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2010, printed in Avenue issue 48 (June 2010) were approved.

Report of the Convenor of the Business Committee, Dr Frances Boyle

Dr Boyle informed the meeting that the Business Committee had held three more meetings since the last Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council in February. The committee continued its series of presentations by deans of the faculties with a presentation by Professor James Conroy, Dean of the Faculty of Education. The committee also continued with a series of presentations by research leaders within the University and, in April, heard from Dr Martin Hendry about the world-class research in gravitational waves being carried out in the Department of Physics & Astronomy. The committee was doubly grateful to Professor Anton Muscatelli, who, through the pressure of other commitments, has resigned from the Business Committee. His contributions have been much appreciated.

Address by the Principal, Professor Anton Muscatelli

The Principal presented his report, as printed on page 22 of Avenue issue 48 (June 2010). He explained that his intention was to give an update on the budget position; an overview of recent decisions taken in respect of some academic areas of the University in response to these developments; news on the restructuring of the University into colleges, schools and institutes; and an overview of the strategy and future direction.

The budget for higher education

The Principal opened with some information on the spending and taxation plans of the new coalition government and the impact this might have on the higher education sector and the University. He drew council’s attention to the forecast ratio of spending cuts to tax rises. The Liberal Democrats’ target ratio in their manifesto was 2½:1; the Conservatives’ 4:1. It was apparent that the coalition government had adopted the latter approach. The Principal’s view (derived from figures from the Institute for Fiscal Studies) was that UK departmental spending would fall by £60bn. He thought that this might result in a 20–25% cut in higher education budgets. This was subject, however, to considerable uncertainty because the Comprehensive Spending Review would not take place until autumn, which would then and only then be followed by a Scottish budget: Scotland would lag England in cuts. It was also likely that the final implications of the budget settlement for Scotland would only follow the elections in May 2011.

The University’s investment plans

The Principal stressed the University’s intention to reinvest in key projects such as the Beatson. He added, however, that this had to be put in the context of court’s decision to reduce investments in capital spending from £60m to £20m per annum which would mean that the University would have to make investment choices based firmly on the strategic priorities of its capital plan.

Principal reported two items of positive news:
1. The new structure

The Principal said that the new structure of the University with the formation of colleges, schools and institutes would be of great strategic benefit to the University.

The Principal reported that all the heads of college were now in place. College of Arts: Professor Anton Muscatelli; College of Social Sciences: Professor Anne Anderson; College of Science & Engineering: Professor John Chapman; College of Veterinary & Life Sciences: Professor Anna Dominiczak; College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences (MVLS): Professor Murray Pittock; College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences (MVLS): Professor Anna Dominiczak; College of Science & Engineering: Professor John Chapman; College of Social Sciences: Professor Anne Anderson; and that the majority of heads of school had been appointed.

2. Strategy

The Principal reported that the strategy, which was due to be launched formally externally in the autumn, was already being implemented. The University recognised the competitive space it had to occupy: it had to focus on its areas of strength, on its research, teaching and on internationalisation.
The Principal concluded by reiterating that the University would continue with its capital plan in areas of strategic importance.

The Chancellor thanked Professor Muscatelli for his address and invited questions and points from those members present.

Questions:
A member asked what remained of the ideal of lifelong learning in view of the cuts in Education (particularly the Department of Adult & Continuing Education). The Principal replied that there was currently support for Education with publicly funded places (Scottish Funding Council (SFC)). The University was looking for additional income from course fees, but it was important to be socially fair. The Scottish Government might reduce funded places in this area and hence it was essential to look for alternative sources of income.

In response to a question about how income could be increased, the Principal pointed to international recruitment, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and to fundraising, although the University would be in competition with all other higher education institutions, and philanthropic trusts were under pressure. The University continued to engage with the Scottish Government to explore income possibilities, although upfront fees were not on the agenda. Consideration was being given to the notion of a graduate contribution or graduate taxation. The Chancellor observed that in England the intention was to remove or lift the cap on fees.

The Director of the Development & Alumni Office, Ms Cathy Bell, explained the different ways in which funds can be raised and that certain alumni groups, notably medical alumni, were very generous. The Chancellor said that the office’s fundraising costs (8–12p per £ raised) were very favourable.

A member suggested that recent staff cuts in the Faculty of Biomedical & Life Sciences (FBlS) and Education might have damaged trust and asked, if this was the case, what could be done. Professor Muscatelli replied that better communication was needed; he had been struck by the sensible positions taken by FBlS and Education once the recent cost reductions had been announced, ie to get income up or costs down. The Principal indicated that he was planning to engage with staff in the next 6–9 months in a variety of ways to work through the challenges ahead: difficult decisions would certainly have to be taken in future if funding cuts were implemented by SFC.

A member referred to the Principal’s earlier remark about an interdisciplinary institution and asked if he would expand on the idea. The Principal replied that this type of initiative had to be bottom-up but that it was helped and enabled by bringing academics together. He gave examples of collaboration between Neuroscience and Psychology (imaging) as a result of restructuring and referred to Professors Schyns’ and Houslay’s proposals for a cross-University Institute of Neuroscience & Psychology. He noted that under the former structure this kind of interaction leading to the possibility of a formal group would have been far less likely.

In response to several questions about income generation through fees, the Principal noted that what the University had done in recent years to maintain an operating surplus would stand it in good stead, with no long-term debt and good cash reserves. He thought that some other higher education institutions would find it very difficult to operate in the austere and competitive financial climate of the next few years.

The Principal expressed some concern about the competition from overseas, citing the example of some European countries and the USA investing more in science. Although the University’s endowments have helped in the past, their contribution has been hit by the slump in the stock markets. He reiterated the point that, in line with his own personal view, he could not see Scotland adopting upfront fees. Instead, it was possible that Scotland might adopt a graduate contribution.

The Chancellor added that people were increasingly willing to support students on a philanthropic basis.

When asked about the income arising from international students and the difficulty with fundraising, the Principal stated that international students would only come for a first-class offering, so if an increase in international numbers of 10% per year was planned, this could only happen if a) good facilities continued to be offered as described earlier in the University’s capital investment plan and b) the best staff were retained in the areas where the University was a world leader. There could be no compromise on quality. In this regard, he argued that external marketing and publicity was essential, to raise and sustain the profile and awareness of all that Glasgow had to offer.

A member raised the damage to the University’s reputation in the media, with staff threatening strikes and caps being imposed on student numbers. The Principal responded that most of the negative press had been about the cuts, not restructuring. In addition, some of the press stories had exaggerated the potential number of staff reductions in FBlS, and as no compulsory redundancies had been necessary, it was now possible to move on. He noted the impact of government caps on student numbers and that this was a matter outwith the University’s control. He reminded the meeting that if universities exceeded the cap on funded numbers, they were liable to fines.

The Principal stressed that, looking to the future, the University was one of a handful of higher education institutions to have taken action in advance of the challenges ahead and that all universities would probably need to start reducing costs in 6–9 months.

In response to a question about tenure, the Principal explained that some university human resources processes were governed by ordinance. As currently constituted it required certain procedures to be followed, which flagged the prospect of redundancies well before the final outcomes and full facts were known. This led to unfavourable, and in some respects, unfair publicity. This ordinance was currently under review.

A member asked about the possibility of linking up with the University of Strathclyde in a closer collaboration or even a merger. The Principal remarked that the two universities did collaborate when it was in their interests to do so (through research pooling initiatives, eg WestChem, SUPA, GRF) but that it was unlikely that a full merger would lead to the positive synergies and added value one might hope for.

In response to a question about the impact of the restructure on the ethos of the University, the Principal replied that there had been a very positive reaction to the new schools, institutes and colleges, and the new joint activities within these groups. He conceded that there was some anxiety about jobs, especially relating to amalgamation of support staff. In the most recent drop-in sessions, however, he felt that staff seemed more attuned to and upbeat about the prospects and potential of the restructuring. He stressed again, as he had done throughout the process, that restructuring was about academic development and not about cost reductions.

The Chancellor, on behalf of the General Council, again thanked Professor Muscatelli for his presentation. He had found the information very helpful.

Closure of the Meeting
The Chancellor thanked all those present for their attendance. He informed them that the next meeting would be held on Saturday, 15 January 2011 at 10.30am in the Senate Room.
The General Council
Paper A: Report by the Principal

In my last report I was anticipating the likely outcomes of the UK Government’s Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) for 2011–14. Following the announcement from the Chancellor on 20 October 2010, we now have a much clearer picture of what lies ahead.

We have kept our finances on a sustainable footing and have no long-term debt and so are better placed than many to meet the challenges ahead.

Scotland will see its annual budget fall in real terms by -0.5bn per annum by 2014–15. According to the Scotland Office this represents a reduction of -6.7% in the recurrent budget and -38% in the capital budget.

We won’t know the actual impact of the CSR on higher education (HE) sector finances in Scotland for a while, and perhaps not fully until after the elections in May 2011 if a Scottish budget is not passed by Parliament, but we can expect tough financial times ahead. The one silver lining is that the UK science budget is to be frozen at an annual level of £4.6bn for the next four years. Given inflation, however, this represents a real-term reduction of around 10%.

The University’s Senior Management Group (SMG) is determined to face these challenges head-on and in two ways: a planned approach to cutting costs and a determination to maximise income generation.

First, cutting costs. The SMG has set a target of cutting £20m from costs over the next three years. This figure has been agreed by Court and is aimed at maintaining an annual surplus of 2% (£38m). This is essential if we want to invest in our key activities and estate.

It is also important to note that Glasgow benefits, going into these times, from a very good financial position. We have kept our finances on a sustainable footing and have no long-term debt and so are better placed than many to meet the challenges ahead.

We are reviewing a range of cost-saving measures including energy savings and reuse of resources, which were the main themes to emerge from my invitation to staff to suggest ideas they might have for reducing costs.

We intend to look at this whole area in liaison with the newly established green champions attached to each University college.

As we are living through a fluid time for HE in terms of future policy, direction and finance and, particularly in light of the recently published Browne review, I believe it is vital that I seek to lobby and influence our political leaders in the UK and Scotland, both individually and in partnership with the sector.

Central to this is to find ways to fund HE going forward given that the levels of public funding are being reduced so significantly. Issues around the autonomy of universities, extending competition in the sector across teaching as well as research, and developing the idea of fair and progressive graduate contributions are all initiatives I’ve been actively pursuing.

As a package I believe, these will work towards sustaining a viable and excellent HE sector in Scotland. Underpinning it all is the fundamental belief in the importance of universities to society and we have commissioned Oxford Economics to produce a report on the impact of the University of Glasgow on Scotland’s economy, health, culture and society. Its results are a timely reminder to us, and others, of just how much we matter!

But what of our capacity to generate income, and maintain excellence? We have now published our strategy Glasgow 2020: A Global Vision (featured on page 14). In these challenging times, when it would be easy to fall prey to the many pressures and compelling voices staking a claim to the best way forward, it’s vital that we as a University have a strong and committed view of who we are, and where we are going.

This important document states our vision, values and mission, and sets out our priorities to deliver excellent research, offer an excellent student experience and enhance our global reach and reputation. And as this edition of Avenue confirms, we are already working towards achieving these goals.

We are delivering excellent research (as featured on page 8), based on part on the benefits of restructuring, through exciting multidisciplinary research projects.

We are delivering an excellent student experience. As featured in our news pages, in the latest International Student Barometer (ISB) 2010 survey we were overall 1st in Scotland, 2nd in the Russell group and 3rd in the UK as a whole. We also performed extremely well in this year’s National Student Survey, where we came top or joint top in the UK in 10 subject areas.

We are continuing to enhance our global reach and reputation. Also featured in the news section of this issue, I travelled to the USA to sign a Memorandum of Understanding formally establishing links with Columbia University in New York, one of the world’s top 20 universities. Our strategy for international collaboration and partnerships of course extends further and reaches across Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, South East Asia, Europe and East Asia.

We also aim to increase: the percentage of our research income gained from outwith the UK; our international student population (outside UK and EU) from 2,400 to 3,550; and the number of students having an international learning experience. Extending our global reach and reputation will all contribute to these goals, and to further raise the reputation of Glasgow as a world-class University.

Colleagues are also working hard and imaginatively to develop new and innovative postgraduate courses which, in part and like our multidisciplinary research, has been made easier through restructuring. The Business School, for example, has had outstanding success in attracting international student numbers and one reason for this is its ‘hub and spoke’ approach to postgraduate taught offerings. This will enable them, for example, to combine an MSc in Environmental Sustainability with International Law, Engineering or International Politics. On this model the combinations have the potential to cross at least three colleges. Such future developments are critical to attracting home and international postgraduate students and are therefore core to building our postgraduate community.

Our feature Building on strong foundations (page 11) is a timely reminder too of the part our alumni, friends and supporters play in helping the University realise its goals. You can help support and produce our outstanding graduates, world-leading research and iconic buildings and infrastructure. Your future support will be even more critical to realising our ambition to be one of the world’s great, broad-based research-intensive universities.
The Hunterian Museum & Art Gallery
What’s On … www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian

Romans, a new roof and a re-opening …
The Hunterian Museum Main Hall is getting a new roof. This means that the entire museum will be closed to the public from January 2011. It will re-open fully in June 2011 and will include an exciting new Roman Frontier gallery. The Hunterian Art Gallery, The Mackintosh House and the Zoology Museum remain open as usual.

Past, Present and Future: Caring for William Hunter’s Prints
Until 26 February 2011
This display highlights a current Hunterian project on the Hunter volumes of prints. They include prints of paintings and drawings by Old Masters, including Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and Rembrandt. An award from Museums Galleries Scotland has enabled conservation of some of the volumes, the cataloguing and digitising of all, and a research programme in collaboration with History of Art at the University.

John Cage: Every Day is a Good Day
19 February – 2 April 2011
This is the first major exhibition and publication devoted to the entire range of American composer, writer and artist John Cage’s prints, watercolours and drawings. Cage was one of the leading avant-garde composers of the 20th century. The exhibition will include some 50 works on paper that span Cage’s entire visual art career. Echoing the artist’s use of chance to create work, the exhibition will be selected and installed using a computerised version of the Chinese oracle, the I Ching.

The Runciman Brothers
19 February – 15 May 2011
In spring 2010, the Hunterian was allocated Hagar and the Angel or Hagar and Ishmael by John Runciman as part of the Acceptance in Lieu scheme. To celebrate this gift, Hagar and the Angel will be surrounded by the Hunterian’s holding of works by the Runciman brothers, two of the most versatile and able figures in 18th-century Scottish art. Their romantic approach will be contrasted to that of other important 18th-century Scottish artists, such as Gavin Hamilton and David Allan.

The Scottish Colourists
15 April – December 2011
The Hunterian’s important Scottish Colourists collection consists of some 100 works. This new display features a selection of the very best and highlights include works by Fergusson, Cadell, Hunter and Peploe.

Lost Treasures and Hidden Meanings: The World’s Greatest Emblem Collection
20 May – 10 September 2011
The display focuses on our collection of emblem books, including early printed and manuscript examples, combining them with images from the Hunterian collections. The exhibition is enhanced by special labels for selected paintings with emblematic images. The show coincides with the 11th International Emblem Conference, taking place at the University (27 June – 1 July).

Other services
Education at the Hunterian
We provide an inspirational resource for a wide range of learning opportunities. For further information tel +44 (0)141 330 2375 or email hunterian-education@glasgow.ac.uk.