The Chancellor’s Fund has awarded the University’s Archive Services £20,000 to document the achievements of prominent international alumni since 1451.

Born in Bombay in 1868, Marbai Ardesir Vakil (pictured), was the first female Asian graduate of the University. After graduating Bachelor of Medicine with Commendation in 1897 she spent two years working as a postgraduate in Glasgow, before returning to Bombay to work in hospitals.

Marbai Vakil is just one example of the University’s heritage of many pioneering international graduates. This project will help to discover more about these impressive alumni, resulting in a comprehensive online resource of profiles showcasing their contributions to the world. In addition, short summaries of content will be included in other languages to open the website up to international visitors.

Moira Rankin, Senior Archivist, said, ‘The major purpose of this project is to enhance the global reputation of the University. The information we gather will be essential to promote the University as a strong, united and diverse community, proud of our achievements in all corners of the world. The resource will primarily be used for student and staff recruitment, supporting alumni events and in enhancing international media relations.’

A team of international student volunteers, recruited through our Careers Service’s Club 21 work placement programme, will carry out the research, bringing language skills and inside knowledge to source data from their home countries to the project. Fully trained and supported, they will gain valuable skills in research, communication, task management and presentation of findings. It is also hoped the students will be enthused about their alma mater’s links with their countries and publicise their project using social media.

The project will also bring a more international dimension to the successful University of Glasgow Story and World Changing websites (www.universitystory.glasgow.ac.uk and www.worldchanging.glasgow.ac.uk), which also received start-up funding from the Chancellor’s Fund.
Encouraging study abroad experiences

The Chancellor’s Fund is awarding £9,700 to help increase the number of students applying to study abroad as part of their degree programme. The grant will fund marketing activities, some during Freshers’ Week, an essential time for distributing information to students.

As part of its internationalisation strategy, the University has recognised the importance of offering students the opportunity to study or work abroad during their degree programme, aiming ‘to enhance the student experience by offering a culturally diverse learning environment that prepares students for global employment and citizenship’.

A wide range of study abroad opportunities attract many students to choose Glasgow and it is hoped by 2014-15 1,900 students (10% of the full-time student population) will have an international experience such as studying for a semester at another university, a field trip, volunteer work, collaborative research or work placement.

Fiona Docherty, International Director & Head of Student Recruitment, said, ‘Spending a period of time living and studying in another country is often seen by our returning Glasgow students as a ‘life-changing’ experience. Prospective employers recognise the enhanced skills developed, cross-cultural communication and the ability to adapt to new circumstances. Students also gain a new perspective on their academic subject, which they bring back with them to their study in Glasgow.’

Glasgow student Laura Smith (pictured above) chose to visit the University of Virginia: ‘I decided to study abroad as I had always wanted to visit the United States but wanted the traditional college experience. I really wanted to immerse myself in the American culture, make life-long friends and not just experience the country as a tourist. Studying abroad gives you this chance and is an unforgettable and remarkable experience.’
Students’ success in iGEM competition

In 2011, the Chancellor’s Fund awarded £4,100 to allow a team of undergraduates to travel to the European finals of the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition in Amsterdam.

iGEM is a highly prestigious undergraduate competition in synthetic biology run by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston. Synthetic biology is a new discipline that lies at the intersection of biology, chemistry and engineering. Fundamental to synthetic biology is the concept of biological ‘parts’, segments of DNA that synthetic biologists use to design and build biological circuits and machines in a similar way that engineers build mechanical or electronic machines from gears, pistons or transistors.

The team of second and third year Biology students (pictured) were given a kit of biological parts. Working for ten weeks at the start of summer 2011, the team used these to design a light activated 3D bacterial printer, which could have applications in diverse fields such as pharmaceutical production, manufacturing and space exploration.

Dr Susan Rosser, Senior Lecturer in the Institute of Molecular, Cell & Systems Biology, was one of the academic mentors to the team: ‘Competing in iGEM has given our students the opportunity to perform cutting-edge research in a field that is continually evolving. The competition format is highly motivating and fosters hands-on, interdisciplinary education, teamwork, web design and presentation skills – challenging them both intellectually and practically.’

The Glasgow team won a silver medal and have been very enthusiastic about their experience. Team member Hannah Ralph said: ‘Participating in iGEM has been incredibly demanding but amazingly rewarding. The skills I have gained as a result are truly invaluable. It was really inspiring to attend the European finals, and I had a great time meeting all the other teams and seeing the projects everyone had been working on. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity.’

Going green at Glasgow

The Glasgow University Environmental Sustainability Team (GUEST) has been awarded a grant of £6,600 by the Chancellor’s Fund to improve environmental practice on campus.

Over the summer of 2011 a project funded by the University of Glasgow Settlement and coordinated by Friends of the Earth compiled a report assessing many areas of environmental practice at the University. The Chancellor’s Fund support will enable implementation of some of the recommendations in the report through GUEST, a team of ten undergraduate students working with the University’s Carbon Management Committee, our Green Champions, the Students’ Representative Council and representatives from other institutions.

Zoology undergraduate Roisin Lyle-Collins is leading GUEST’s work to complement the University’s efforts in the area of sustainability: ‘We are encouraging the culture of conservation on campus using a more community oriented approach rather than administration-led procedures. We will be promoting bicycles on campus, questioning hospitality on the environmental impact of the food they source, as well as helping to organise events for Go Green Week and Climate.’

The team are concentrating on key areas such as:
- looking at campus recycling policy and facilities at halls of residence;
- preparing statistics about energy conservation and an Energy Ambassador student volunteering scheme;
- investigating reusable coffee cups and support for bringing the GU Food Co-op on campus;
- preparing a Climate Challenge Fund application to help the University community lower carbon emissions;
- launching an environmental hub webpage providing advice and links on sustainable living.

The team hope the project will eventually help improve the University’s ranking in the ‘Green League’ compiled by student environmental network People and Planet, but overall aim to leave a lasting legacy empowering the community to strive towards improving environmental practice around the University campus.
The latest projects to benefit from the Chancellor’s Fund are listed below.

**Hunterian Associates Programme**
£6,000 To pilot a programme involving postgraduate students using their research to interpret The Hunterian’s collections in creative ways, engaging with a public audience.

**High-Slack-Low-Slack-High**
£1,500 To support performances, publications and interpretive talks created using data relating to the tidal range of the River Clyde at the Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art.

**Student mobility promotion**
£9,700 To provide marketing materials to encourage more students to study abroad.

**Scottish sermons 1700–1900**
£6,000 To produce a digital learning resource of 18th and 19th-century Scottish sermons currently held at the University library.

**An internationalised University**
£20,000 To support the research and creation of a website documenting alumni achievements around the world since 1451.

**Preserving the history of genetics at the University**
£330 To mount a historical collection of photographs, pictures and posters in the Davidson Building from the former Department of Genetics.

**Brain Awareness Week 2012**
£1,400 To promote interest in the study of the brain and current research to primary and secondary pupils through activity workshops led by postgraduate students.

**The Glasgow University Student Environmental Sustainability Team**
£6,600 To support a student-led scheme to improve environmental practice at the University.

**The Stirling Maxwell research project**
£4,850 To support a symposium to discuss the findings of a collaborative project examining the importance of the first photographically illustrated book on art, Sir William Maxwell Stirling’s Annals of the Artists of Spain, 1848.

**An appraisal of the Political Song Archive**
£2,978 To assess the research potential of the Political Song Archive based in the History of Art Resource Centre.

**Scottish postgraduate workshop in Celtic Studies**
£1,000 To support the involvement of staff and students in a new collaborative workshop.

**150th anniversary celebrations of the Dialectic Society**
£650 To support a public exhibition and leaflet celebrating the 150th anniversary of the society.

**‘Ladyzzz of the night’ – The dark world of malaria**
£5,000 To deliver a high-impact scientific exhibition at The Hunterian exploring one of the world’s biggest killers.

**Development and implementation of Moodle – Virtual classroom online learning**
£10,835 To explore the use of Moodle in distance learning with prospective applicants participating in the University’s widening participation programmes.

**IPv6 deployment and transitioning**
£10,000 To support three student internships to identify and experiment with the implications of Internet Protocol version 6 being deployed across the University’s network infrastructure.

**Self-evaluation toolkit for schools**
£10,000 To develop an easy to use web-based toolkit to encourage more schools to use self-evaluation.

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

Bequests
Perhaps you would prefer to support the University with a bequest? This method of giving is favoured by many alumni and friends who want to make a difference after their death. A gift of this kind also helps to reduce your inheritance tax liability. Please call +44 (0)141 330 4951 for more information.

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

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

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

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

Chancellor’s Fund giving: how you can help make a difference
It’s as simple as completing this form ...

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

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The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401. The University of Glasgow Trust, charity number SC008303.

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Date _____________________________________________________________________

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Developement & Alumni

How to contact us
Editor: Barrie Bryson
Tel: +44 (0)141 330 4951
Email: barrie.bryson@glasgow.ac.uk

Development & Alumni Office
2 The Square
University of Glasgow
Glasgow G12 8QQ
Tel: +44 (0)141 330 4951
Fax: +44 (0)141 330 4647
Email: campaign@glasgow.ac.uk

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