After the gold
Celebrating the achievements of Olympian and alumna Katherine Grainger

The science of sporting success
Meet the graduates who train top athletes
University of Glasgow
www.glasgow.ac.uk

• In the top 100 of the world’s universities, according to the QS World University Rankings 2012.

• Providing an experience that students love – the 2012 International Student Barometer ranks Glasgow third in the UK for international student satisfaction.

• Creating an international community by welcoming students from more than 120 countries across the globe.
Welcome

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

In this issue we celebrate our Young Alumnus of the Year 2012. This year’s winner is Olympic gold medallist Katherine Grainger (MPhil 2001) who rowed to victory on Eton Dorney Lake during this summer’s London 2012 Games. You can read all about her sporting achievements and fond memories of Glasgow in our feature After the gold on page 8.

Many of our alumni were involved in the Olympic Games, and in The science of sporting success on page 10 we meet some of our graduates whose skills and experience gained during their undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the University led them to help train some of the elite medal-winning athletes in Team GB.

This autumn saw the opening of our new Welcome Point (see page 14). With information iPad stations and plasma screens to help visitors find their bearings, and a reception desk run by a team of friendly Students’ Representative Council staff, you can be sure that whenever you decide to return to the University you’ll receive a warm welcome.

No trip to Gilmorehill would be complete without a visit to one of our impressive collections. Recently refurbished, The Hunterian’s Art Gallery is home to some fine artworks, from Dutch Masters to Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Our feature Campus collections on page 16 reveals many of the star items and hidden treasures held in our art gallery, museum, archives and library special collections.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Avenue and continue to stay in touch with the University.

Professor Anton Muscatelli
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

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Alumni are invited to join the Chancellor and Principal at the General Council Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday, 19 January 2013 at 11am on the top floor of the Fraser Building. Read the report of the last meeting on pages 26–27.

Cover image: Katherine Grainger celebrates her gold medal at the Olympic Games parade in Glasgow.

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When traditional implants are fixed into bone marrow, the marrow’s stem cells do not receive messages from the body to differentiate into bone cells, which would help create a stronger bond between the implant and the bone. Instead, they usually differentiate into a buildup of soft tissue which, combined with the natural loss of bone density that occurs as people age, can weaken the bond between the implant and the body.

However, a partnership between University academics and surgeons has found a reliable method to encourage bone cell growth around a new type of implant, made from an advanced polymer known as PEEK-OPTIMA®.

Dr Matthew Dalby, of the University’s Institute of Molecular, Cell & Systems Biology, explains, ‘Last year, we developed a plastic surface which allowed a level of control over stem cell differentiation which was previously impossible. The surface, created at the University’s James Watt Nanofabrication Centre, is covered in tiny pits 120 nanometres across. When stem cells are placed onto the surface, they grow and spread across the pits in a way which ensures they differentiate into therapeutically useful cells.

‘By covering the PEEK implant in this surface, we can ensure that the mesenchymal stem cells differentiate into the bone cells. This will help the implant site repair itself much more effectively than has ever been possible before and could well mean that implants will last for the rest of a patient’s life.’

Supporting the UK’s creative economy

A pioneering initiative, run by a consortium of UK universities led by Glasgow, will examine a range of issues relating to new digital technologies with a view to meeting some of the central challenges facing the UK’s creative economy.

The UK has probably the largest creative sector in the world relative to GDP, accounting for over 6% of the overall economy and contributing around £60bn per annum. However, building a business and cultural and regulatory infrastructure that can spark innovation, capitalise on new revenue streams and harness the potential of new and emerging technologies are challenges that face the sector as it aims to maintain the UK’s global leadership in this field.

CREATE (Creativity, Regulation, Enterprise & Technology) will address these and other challenges by exploring a range of issues such as those associated with digitisation, new intellectual property issues and how best to support relationships between the arts and technology. Professor Ronan Deazley of the School of Law at Glasgow is leading the consortium: ‘Working in strategic partnerships with creative businesses and cultural organisations throughout the UK, CREATE will deliver an innovative and exciting research programme that will have real impact on the creative economy as that economy continues the transition from the analogue to the digital.’

CREATE is funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council and the Economic & Social Research Council. Professor Rick Rylance, Chief Executive of the AHRC, said, ‘On behalf of the three research councils funding this project, and the various agencies involved in it, I’d like to welcome the launch of CREATE very warmly indeed. We very much look forward to seeing how it develops new thinking on copyright and business potential and meets the challenges of interdisciplinary and partnership working.’

From stem cells to long-life hip implants

Glasgow scientists are developing a new type of orthopaedic implant which could be considerably stronger and more long-lived than the current generation of products.

When traditional implants are fixed into bone marrow, the marrow’s stem cells do not receive messages from the body to differentiate into bone cells, which would help create a stronger bond between the implant and the bone. Instead, they usually differentiate into a buildup of soft tissue which, combined with the natural loss of bone density that occurs as people age, can weaken the bond between the implant and the body.

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Investing in particle physics technology

A new £370,000 laboratory has opened at the University to help develop the next generation of the technology that found evidence of the existence of the elusive Higgs boson particle.

Particle physicists at Glasgow were involved for more than 20 years in the development and construction of the semiconductor trackers in ATLAS, one of the detectors at the European Organization for Nuclear Research’s (CERN) Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in Geneva. Data from ATLAS, which tracks the particles resulting from the proton collisions created in the LHC, played a vital role in the discovery of the Higgs boson.

Funded by the University and Scottish Universities Physics Alliance, the Glasgow Laboratory for Advanced Detector Development will help scientists develop novel semiconductor tracker and pixel detector technology for use in ATLAS upgrades and in other applications including medical imaging and airport security.

The laboratory has an ultrasonic fine pitch wire bonder to fabricate interconnects in electronic chips and a probe station to investigate the functionality of improved sensor designs. Only the University of California, USA, and the University of Bonn, Germany, have the same probe technology.

University welcomes first Erasmus Mundus Masters programme

Supported by the European Commission’s prestigious Erasmus Mundus programme, Glasgow’s International Masters in Russian, Central & East European Studies (IMRCEES) degree has received €800,000. This will support up to 20 student scholarships and 35 academic exchange visits.

The double degree programme, the only one of its kind available at a UK university, is intended for students wishing to pursue a career in government policy-making, the business world, diplomatic service, international organisations and media. Students spend a year at Glasgow followed by a year at one of five partner universities in Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Poland or Kazakhstan. Dissertation research opportunities are available at associate universities in Azerbaijan, Canada, Georgia, Russia and Ukraine. Dr Clare McManus, IMRCEES Academic Director at Glasgow, said, ‘Fewer than one in ten applications for Masters programmes to receive Erasmus Mundus recognition are successful, so we’re very pleased that the IMRCEES programme has achieved this recognition.’

Glasgow rises again in world rankings

The University has risen five places from 59th to 54th position in the latest QS World Rankings, which were released in September. It is further good news for Glasgow, which is one of only three Scottish institutions in the top 100.

Principal and Vice Chancellor, Professor Anton Muscatelli, said, ‘I am delighted that our progress in these rankings over recent years has continued and while we should always be cautious about league tables, this is our best ever showing. The QS World Rankings are significant as they confirm the reputation of Glasgow as a world-leading research-intensive university.’
New centre offers hope for people with arthritis

A new centre taking forward the recent advances in the treatments available for people with arthritis will open at the University.

Scotland’s first Arthritis Research UK Experimental Arthritis Treatment Centre will recruit local patients to test new and existing drugs and to find novel approaches that can predict which treatment works best in individuals.

Professor Iain McInnes is the principal investigator: ‘We want to use our expertise to answer some important questions: to discover how established medicines work and allow us to use them even more effectively; and to find out why people with arthritis are more disposed to developing heart attacks and strokes, and to becoming depressed. Above all, we want to try and understand why arthritis happens in the first place.’

Rheumatoid arthritis affects nearly half a million people in the UK. It is a chronic, disabling condition in which the body’s immune system attacks the joints. Although newer biological treatments such as anti-TNF therapies pioneered by Arthritis Research UK have made a huge difference to patients’ lives, a significant proportion of patients still do not respond to such treatment.

In the team’s first trial of up to 15 patients they will investigate whether giving rheumatoid arthritis patients a particular biologic drug can change their cholesterol metabolism. This could lead to a reduction in the higher than normal levels of heart disease in patients with the condition.

What your emailing style says about you

Researchers at Glasgow have been examining the idiosyncratic patterns of behaviour in email users and have found they match with typical bird-like behaviours.

Dr Karen Renaud, Senior Lecturer in Computing Science at Glasgow, said, ‘Email has rapidly become a vital business communication tool and a lot of people we spoke to say they would not be able to do their jobs without it. However, many people have gripes about email. Some people find themselves checking email all the time, others complain about how other people behave when using email.’

The researchers identified 15 bird-like characteristics of email users, including:
- Compulsive Woodpecker: Can’t resist reading email at any time of the day and night.
- Hibernating Poorwill: Reads email only occasionally, so they can’t be relied upon.
- Back-Covering Emu: Sends emails in order to be able to prove, at a later date, that the information was passed on.
- Echoing Mynah: Acknowledges all emails. For example, engages in exchange something like: ‘thanks’, then ‘my pleasure’, then ‘thanks again’.
- Night Owl: The midnight emailer who fails to understand that others do wish to have ‘time out’.

There was one type of bird associated with perfect email manners: the robin. These people are admired for not allowing email to dominate their lives and making time to speak to people in person whenever they possibly can.

Dr Renaud continued, ‘It is likely most people will be able to identify some of their email correspondents with these behaviours and perhaps even recognise their own email style.

‘What the research really highlights is that email is a great source of stress for many people. Too often, email is used instead of a more suitable means of communication like actually talking to someone. People need to think before they send an email: is this the best way of communicating? Even if it is, still think before you click!’

The research, carried out with Judith Ramsay at the University of the West of Scotland, has been published in Interfaces, the quarterly magazine of the British Computer Society.
Principal’s appointment extended
The University is to extend the appointment of Professor Anton Muscatelli as Principal and Vice-Chancellor by five years after his current term of office expires in September 2014.

The decision was taken in October as recommended by a review carried out by a representative group of University Court including staff, student and lay members. ‘Having concluded this review the group unanimously recommended to Court that the Principal’s appointment should be extended to run until September 2019. The Court unanimously endorsed that recommendation, believing strongly that Professor Muscatelli has led the University very effectively through difficult times since his appointment in 2009.’

Principal Muscatelli said, ‘I am extremely grateful to the University Court for its strong message of support. I look forward to developing our exciting plans for the future.’

Uncovering Scotland’s lost Latin past
A new research project entitled ‘Bridging the Continental Divide’ has been awarded over £400,000 from the Arts & Humanities Research Council to translate parts of Scotland’s only anthology of neo-Latin Renaissance poetry.

The study, led by historians and classicists at Glasgow, will investigate exactly what role Latin played in the severe culture of Protestant moral and social discipline in Jacobean Scotland. Academics hope it will lead to new insights into early 17th-century Scottish culture and society.

The Delitiae Poetarum Scotorum is a compilation of religious, political and cultural texts from the Jacobean period, and is considered one of the most important Latin books Scotland has ever produced. Published in 1637 in Amsterdam, it represents the high point of Scottish neo-Latin Renaissance culture and offers a unique view of Scottish politics, religion and society.

Scottish Historians at the University will painstakingly scan and translate just over a third of the 1,272-page anthology to produce a free online resource that will be fully searchable by scholars. The team will also produce a website where both specialist and ‘lay’ audiences can learn more about the role that Latin played in Scottish society, and plan a series of public readings around Scotland of the Latin text and translations.

Glasgow student reaches The Great British Bake Off final
James Morton, an undergraduate at Glasgow’s School of Medicine, made it to the final of the BBC’s The Great British Bake Off, which aired in October.

James, 21, from Hillswick in the Shetland Islands, spent his summer filming for the show in Somerset, and entered the final having avoided being knocked out for nine consecutive weeks.

Taking a scientific approach to baking, James earned a reputation for unique culinary creations including a choux pastry bicycle and a derelict gingerbread barn. He has also developed a loyal following due to his quirky dress sense and penchant for Fair Isle knitted jumpers.

James narrowly missed out on winning the competition, but was still rightly thrilled to make it to the final three: ‘It’s amazing to have got this far in the competition. Setting out, I didn’t think this would ever happen.’

Principal Muscatelli said, ‘I would like to congratulate James on his progress in this year’s The Great British Bake Off. It is yet another example of the diverse range of talents our students and graduates possess and which allows so many of them to go on to excel in a wide range of fields across the arts and in public service, the professions and business.’
New electron microscope sheds light on the atom

Scientists at the University have acquired a world-leading electron microscope, which will allow them to scrutinise individual atoms and probe their chemical, magnetic and electronic properties with unprecedented detail.

The £2.65m MagTEM microscope is one of a select number worldwide and is the latest addition to the University’s Kelvin Nanocharacterisation Centre, which is home to a range of equipment that allows researchers from across the physical sciences and engineering disciplines to create and examine materials on the atomic scale. Research from the centre has contributed to the development of a wide range of products, particularly in microelectronic and data-storage applications.

Unlike traditional microscopes, which use visible light to magnify objects for examination, electron microscopes use a concentrated beam of electrons to produce their images. Electrons have a much shorter wavelength than the photons which comprise visible light, making it possible to resolve images at much greater magnification. Modern electron microscopes also allow scientists to examine other properties of materials including their structure, composition, chemistry and magnetism.

The Glasgow team expect to use the MagTEM microscope to help commercial partners develop and refine technologies including stronger forms of steel for the automotive industry, sensor systems and hard disks. The MagTEM’s magnetic imaging capabilities will allow it to image the operation of magnetic devices such as hard disks below the dimensions of individual storage bits, a process which no other electron microscope in the world is currently capable of doing.

A hub for environment and culture studies

The University has launched a new interdisciplinary research centre at its Dumfries campus that seeks to bring the study of environment and culture together.

The Solway Centre for Environment & Culture is the first of its kind in the UK and will see natural scientists and cultural specialists work together, creating truly interdisciplinary courses and strong collaboration, as well as working closely with local partners and the community.

Initial projects include a study of the impact of a spate of wildfires across the UK in the spring of 2011 and a project encouraging the local community to find out more about hidden local archaeology. The centre is also keen to establish itself as a national centre for environmental art.

Valentina Bold, Director of the Solway Centre, said, ‘It seems fitting that the centre is opened in the part of the world where the word “environment” was created by Carlyle in 1826 and which has sustained creativity from the “ploughman poet” Burns to modern land artists Jencks and Goldsworthy. We are very excited about the opportunities for cross-collaboration that the new centre will bring to us all here in Dumfries.’

The team of academics based in the new centre will initially focus on three research areas: rural landscape management; sustainable rural tourism; and landscape, place and memory.

For more information, see www.glasgow.ac.uk/solwaycentre.
Scots get knitting

Academics at Glasgow brought knitting professionals, experts and enthusiastic amateurs from across Scotland together in October for a public study day at the Lighthouse in Glasgow.

The study day, called ‘Reinventing Scotland’s Woollen Traditions’, played host to talks exploring the history of one of the nation’s most iconic industries, looking at the impacts that its new-found popularity is having on Scotland’s creative industries today. The University also hosted a workshop entitled ‘Economies of Culture and Design’, funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, attracting experts from the heritage, art and design sectors to examine the history of knitted textile crafts and the way that this heritage influences contemporary art and design.

History Professor Lynn Abrams at Glasgow, who coordinated the events, said, ‘In recent years interest in knitting has really boomed, and this is being reflected in fashion and popular culture today. It is increasingly appealing to a younger demographic who are engaging with the idea of expressing themselves through knitting as a creative art. The advance of the internet and social media has also been key to the emergence of new close-knit communities.’

Over £5.2m donated to University’s Scholarships Fund

The Scholarship Fund was launched in 2007 and the money, raised with the support of alumni and friends of the University, has helped provide opportunities to undergraduate students facing financial hardship and to attract the best postgraduate students internationally.

One of the scholarship recipients is mature student Mark Alexander: ‘Without the scholarship, I would have had to work longer hours in my part-time job which would have restricted my time to study and, ultimately, would have impacted on my results. Being awarded a scholarship could make the difference between students passing their degree or dropping out due to financial pressures.’

Glasgow offers a wide range of scholarships for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. The University is planning to establish a new scholarship to commemorate the bicentenary of the birth of the famous explorer and Glasgow alumnus David Livingstone (1813–73).

The David Livingstone Scholarship will enable a student from the developing world to pursue a PhD at the University, gaining the necessary skills to address some of the most pressing health and environmental issues in their home country. To support the Scholarships Fund please contact the Development & Alumni Office, tel: +44 (0)141 330 4951 or email: campaign@glasgow.ac.uk.

Over £5.2m donated to University’s Scholarships Fund

Alumnus is new ASOS chairman

Graduate and University General Council Assessor Brian McBride has been appointed Chairman of online retail giant ASOS.

Brian, who has an MA (Hons) in Economic & Social History from Glasgow, will advise the popular retailer on its strategy to hit a £1bn sales target and expand its international division. Prior to taking up the role, he was Managing Director at Amazon UK for six years. The University welcomes the skills and experience Brian is bringing to his role as a General Council Assessor to the University of Glasgow Court, the governing body of the University.

All Glasgow students become members of the General Council after graduation and can play a valuable role in shaping the future of the University. For more information see www.glasgow.ac.uk/generalcouncil.
The University has announced the winner of the Young Alumnus of the Year Award 2012 as Olympic gold medallist Katherine Grainger MBE (MPhil 2001).
Her unwavering hard work paid off in August; in front of an expectant crowd at Eton Dorney, she achieved her dream. In September, Glasgow crowds were delighted to celebrate with her and the rest of the Scottish Olympic and Paralympic athletes during a hugely popular homecoming parade.

'It was unbelievable,' she says. 'You always have a small insecurity, thinking: what if not many people turn up? Because the Olympics and the Paralympics are the most incredible events, you wonder if people might have gone back to real life and might not want to relive it. So it was lovely in George Square, seeing people with flags and huge smiles on their faces.'

Although Katherine may have travelled the world as she’s pursued her sporting career, her story began in Glasgow. Born in the city in 1975, she chose to study for a Masters in Medical Law at the University of Glasgow after completing her undergraduate law degree in Edinburgh. It’s perhaps not surprising, then, that she’s still very fond of the city.

'I don’t get to come back to Glasgow as much as I would like to, but I was born and bred here. I lived here for eighteen years and as a student as well. When I arrive I feel very at home,' she says.

One of the particularly impressive aspects of Katherine’s career has been her ability to combine sporting and academic success. Currently, she’s close to completing a PhD at King’s College London, and she’s convinced that the studying and training aspects of her life have been complementary to each other.

'I was born and bred in Glasgow, I lived here for eighteen years and as a student as well. When I arrive I feel very at home.'

'It was a huge surprise. I kind of thought I’d won everything I could win, so to be awarded Young Alumnus on top makes the year even more special.'

'If anything, my Masters was probably one of the most interesting things I’ve done from an academic point of view,' she says. 'I wouldn’t have done a PhD if it hadn’t been for the Masters at Glasgow. It was perfect, time-wise, because it was when I first got into the British Rowing Team. My coach, Hamish, was in Edinburgh so I was based there and coming through to Glasgow once a week to do the course. I used to really look forward to seeing the people in my class whom I absolutely loved to work with.

'I remember them all being hugely supportive. Every time I came in having a race, they would all be watching. It felt like a safe environment. Time management is very challenging, but I’ve always found that I can do both. When I can get outside it gets me awake and alert and then ready to go and do some thinking. So actually I do find that they’re a good balance for each other. The key thing is to know when to prioritise each one.'

Deciding on future priorities is something that Katherine is finding impossible while still in the grip of her post-Olympic whirlwind, but one plan she is certain of is looking forward to the arrival of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014.

'I’ve been involved in the bidding process and I’ve seen at first hand what a great sporting event can do to a host city. The wonderful thing if you’ve had a summer like we’ve just had is that it gives people a real hunger for sport. I’ve been up to Glasgow a few times since and that excitement is still there. I think there’ll be a very enthusiastic audience in two years’ time, wanting to go and see all the big names they’ve seen at the Olympics again. I’ll definitely be there in some capacity.'
The science of sporting success

*Avenue* talks to several of our sports science graduates who have supported elite athletes on their quest for victory in major sporting events such as the Olympics.

The London 2012 Olympic Games proved to be a stunning example of human strength and endurance with numerous personal bests and world records broken. The host nation too found its medal tally considerably boosted, but it was more than just a home crowd that pushed British athletes to winning performances. A sound understanding of the science behind sports and exercise is at the heart of any elite athlete’s training and is increasingly important for any country bent on sporting success.

Three recent graduates from the University of Glasgow had particular reasons to cheer on Team GB athletes – they helped train them. Barry Fudge, Liam Kilduff and Matt Parker all had a hand in helping some of the UK’s best-known athletes win gold in London.

Barry, from Fort William, graduated in 2004 with a degree in Physiology & Sports Science before completing a University of Glasgow scholarship funded PhD in Exercise Physiology in 2007 with Dr Yannis Pitsiladis of the Institute of Cardiovascular & Medical Sciences.

After a one-year spell with the Scottish Institute of Sport, he now works as an exercise physiologist with the English Institute of Sport supporting the British athletics team and was thanked personally on TV by the 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres gold medallist Mo Farah for his part in helping the runner to victory.

‘The role of a physiologist changes throughout the year, but it’s always about understanding what makes athletes tick, what’s good for them, what’s bad for them and making them better,’ explains Barry.

‘There’s a big programme at UK Athletics around altitude training. We have lots of athletes training in France and Kenya throughout the year. My role within the programme is to support coaches and athletes and monitor their progress. Altitude training is, of course, about increasing aerobic capacity but ultimately it’s also about accelerating the development of our athletes so that they are ready for competitions like the Olympics.

‘The performance across the whole team at the Olympics was fantastic, way above what most people would’ve thought possible five years ago. A big part of that was the way the country got behind the athletes. It created an amazing environment for them and the spectators.

‘The facilities were also fantastic and the organisation was second to none. The investment that has comes in from various places – National Lottery, the government, etc – has helped to fund coaches and athletes to work full-time and to fund the medicine and science behind it, and has shown that investment really does equal success. However, while you can throw money at things, you’ve also got to do it well, and the set-up in the UK is probably the best in the world.

‘It’s an amazing job, working with talented and inspiring people – 100% rewarding. But I hadn’t really planned this as a career when I started university,’ continues Barry. ‘I actually came to Glasgow to do maths. When it came to deciding which subjects to specialise in, I chose biology and sports science. Sports science does involve maths too, as my job is all about data and graphs and understanding complex relationships.

‘The undergraduate degree programme at Glasgow was different to other sports science courses in the country. It’s based more around physiology and science rather than just sport. What Glasgow in particular gives you is a good scientific understanding.’
Another alumnus helping the English Institute of Sport, through his role as a senior lecturer in Sports & Exercise Science at Swansea University, is Liam Kilduff from County Offaly in the Republic of Ireland. He completed a PhD in 2003, also under the supervision of Dr Yannis Pitsiladis, which looked at the effects of creatine supplementation in elite athletes and patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Through his role supervising his students as they worked with some of the sports stars of Team GB, he also had a hand in the UK’s superb medal haul.

‘I’d always been interested in sports and exercise as I’d been a very keen athlete growing up, although I didn’t make it as a professional,’ says Liam.

‘I came to Glasgow to do a PhD under Dr Pitsiladis as I’d known him from my time at London South Bank University. I really loved my three years at the University of Glasgow and the city. I couldn’t speak highly enough of it and I still have ongoing collaborative work with Dr Pitsiladis.

‘When I moved to Swansea we didn’t have much sports science provision for athletes, so I set up a support service for athletes and sports organisations in the area that evolved into me leading on a number of sports activities. It also led to me placing PhD students into these sports and having a mentoring role which led to my involvement with a number of sports in the Olympic Games.

‘With Team GB athletes we looked a lot at warm-up strategies and basically helped in their pre-conditioning for the Games. Although I didn’t go to London, it was very enjoyable to watch at home and the performances in cycling were exceptional, as they were in many of the other sports.

‘I think some of the success was down to the home advantage, the good weather and the fact there were no altitude or pollution problems. But the very well-structured programme led by UK Sports, supported by a really strong network of sports scientists, sports medics and coaches, played a huge part. We have a very strong set-up in the UK to help athletes reach their optimum level.’

Matt Parker is also an exercise physiologist, who supported the performances of cyclists Bradley Wiggins, Chris Hoy and Victoria Pendleton at British Cycling. Now living in Derbyshire, Matt graduated in Physiology & Sports Science at Glasgow in 1996.

‘Science has always interested me; I have always been curious about how things work or have evolved. Sport, or perhaps more accurately elite human performance, is a subject that has never been difficult to be enthusiastic about. I have been very privileged to witness athletes achieve remarkable feats of performance,’ he says.

‘I was fortunate to be tutored by the likes of Professor Neil Spurway, Dr Ron Baxendale and Dr Niall Macfarlane. It’s not lost on me how fortunate I was to receive an education from such high-quality people at Glasgow.

‘Even now I can still remember the lectures and labs. Back then the class size was 22. It made the whole experience memorable. It makes you feel like you were part of something, Professor Spurway’s lectures on the philosophy of science were special. I admit I didn’t understand them that well at the time but the content stuck with me and I’ve grown with the subject over time. The teachings are fundamental to how I approach my work now and I’m grateful for having the opportunity to have been touched by his passion for the topic.’

Cycling was one of the big medal-winners at the London Olympics and Matt played a key part in that success as a member of British Cycling’s marginal gains strategy team.

‘The British Cycling marginal gains strategy aims to gain a performance advantage across all cycling disciplines through the systematic application of leading-edge science and technology to all aspects of
performance. The marginal gains team comprises 13 specialists in the fields of physiology, biomechanics, medicine, physiotherapy, performance analysis, strength and conditioning, nutrition, psychiatry and engineering,” he explains.

‘We have continued to improve performances at the last three Olympics. I believe this is due to three simple things. We set the athletes very high performance objectives, surrounded them with quality people and pursued our objectives relentlessly.

‘To be involved with the programmes you either have to be regarded as one of the top tier of practitioners in the world in your field or consistently show the ambition to be there. There is a large sign on entering the office which says “Winning is our business”. It says a lot about the environment we work in; it’s both exciting and intense.

‘I was fortunate to coach Bradley Wiggins for four years in preparation for both the Beijing Olympics and the Tour de France. During that time we improved the men’s team pursuit performance by eight seconds in 18 months. That set the foundation for me for much of my work in preparation for London,’ continues Matt.

‘I mainly work with the coaches and support staff to develop the performance plans for the riders. I was also part of the team that made all the kit-bikes, helmets, skin suits, etc, for the likes of Sir Chris Hoy to use at the Games. I also cleaned his toilet as part of an infection control programme!

‘When I first started working in elite sport ten years ago there used to be a number of sports scientists whose responsibilities were more generic across training, nutrition, monitoring, coach support and so on. Now it is increasingly common for sports at the top level to employ discipline specialists: people with world-leading expertise that can genuinely impact on performances.

‘Instead of one sports scientist we now have 14 specialists. This is great because it demonstrates that support really makes a difference. The challenge for those starting out on their studies is that to reach the top, in a sport like mine, you really need to be excellent at what you do. If you’re a physiologist it’s not enough to be passionate about working in sport, you need to be the best physiologist you can be. That’s what we ask from the athletes and it’s only right that we expect the same from ourselves.

‘I like to learn and I get to meet some exceptional people to learn from – coaches, scientists, athletes and industry leaders. The job continually challenges you; to survive you have to have inner drive to keep improving. My favourite thing is the ambition of the projects we’re involved in; to take on the challenge of winning a Tour de France or at an Olympic Games. It’s not hard to get out of bed for.’

All three graduates have been lucky enough to take the skills and qualifications gained at Glasgow to work at the very top of their chosen field and be involved in sports competition at the highest level. But whether graduates end up supporting elite athletes’ performance, or simply promoting the benefits of physical activity in health clubs and community leisure centres, a strong understanding of the theoretical and practical aspects of exercise physiology allows every student interested in this area to excel in research or application of theory, says senior University teacher Niall Macfarlane.

‘Sports & Exercise Science at the University provides undergraduate and postgraduate students with a substantial biological underpinning to their studies. The focus on understanding the biology of the adaptive process allows graduates to work across sporting disciplines – from archery to wrestling – and make important contributions to athlete development without needing direct experience of the specific sport,’ says Niall.

‘The skills our graduates learn enable them to develop a leading role in a multidisciplinary team approach to rehabilitation of cardiovascular, metabolic, psychological and respiratory conditions that all benefit from structured exercise programmes. Barry, Liam and Matt have really excelled in their field and have made major contributions to British sports. They are fine ambassadors of the University of Glasgow and we’re very proud of them.’

“The undergraduate degree programme at Glasgow is based more around physiology and science rather than just sport. What Glasgow in particular gives you is a good scientific understanding.”

Barry Fudge, graduate
Hello and welcome

Glasgow’s reputation for down-to-earth friendliness is about to become even stronger, with the launch of a fresh new space to welcome visitors to our campus.

Anyone planning on making a visit to Gilmorehill can expect an enhanced experience, with the opening of the new reception area on the ground floor of the John McIntyre building. Based a stone’s throw from the University’s main gate, it’s called the Welcome Point, and its aim is to help students and visitors with any enquiries and to offer access to a number of services offered by the University and the Students’ Representative Council (SRC).

As well as a waiting area with information about the latest University news and events delivered via wall-mounted information screens and iPad stations, the renovated space also hosts a reception desk manned by students. And, according to Bob Hay, Permanent Secretary to the SRC, moving the reception area from the top floor of the building down to ground level is a development that will have benefits for everyone involved.

‘The University wanted to have a highly visible point that would be attractive to students and visitors arriving on campus, so we reached an agreement that we would develop a reception solution together,’ he says. ‘Due to the partnership working that’s been undertaken between the University and the SRC over the last few years, we feel positive about working like this to optimise resources.

‘The SRC is run by students for students, so the large majority of our frontline staff are undergraduates and postgraduates. They have a wealth of knowledge, both about the campus and about the services on offer, which means that when people come in with everyday questions, they’re very good at knowing how to answer them.’

The SRC has long held a reputation as a key provider of opportunities and advice for students, so it’s perhaps no surprise to hear from two current employees, Adam Campbell and Markee Cardwell-Rambo, that they’re pleased about the chances they’re being offered to develop their graduate attributes and communication skills.

‘We deal with a lot of different things: meetings, reception staffing, phone and email enquiries,’ Adam says. ‘It’s great to get those kinds of experiences because I’ve recently graduated and am currently looking for work. Having had a diverse role here is useful when I go to interviews because I can talk about quite a lot of different aspects of it.’

For Markee, who came to the University from California to study for a Masters in Theatre Studies and has stayed to study for a second Masters degree, working at the SRC has also been an extremely positive experience.

‘A lot of what we do is walking people through the services the SRC offers. We have our advice centre, free minibuses for students, training for student representatives, and opportunities to get involved in volunteering. So we help people figure out what’s the best service to use. I think everyone in the office has a desire to help people. We never turn anyone away.

‘The campus is beautiful. It’s probably one of the nicest work environments I’ve been in. I’ve done a lot of jobs, but there’s a real sense of teamwork and support here that I haven’t had previously. I’m excited about being part of the Welcome Point team.’

A lot of work has been done to make the new Welcome Point an attractive place to browse University information. A video wall is dedicated to four LCD screens displaying University and SRC events and announcements, while eight iPads offer another portal for accessing information. In addition, University Archivist Lesley Richmond has developed a beautiful brass timeline that winds its way around the walls of the reception area, displaying important events across the University’s 561-year history.

‘The idea is that while people are waiting for a tour, or perhaps to meet a particular member of University staff, they will have an opportunity to find out a bit more about the University if they’d like,’ Bob explains.

‘I think this is a great opportunity to enhance the reputation of the University as well as raising the profile of the SRC. I think that a lot of people walk past our window when it’s busy, but I hope that the new space will encourage people to wait and have a chat with us.’
1. Markee arrives at the Welcome Point
2, 3, 7, 9. Students and visitors on campus
4. Adam (right) offering advice at reception
5. One of eight iPad information docks
6. The Welcome Point interior
8. Part of the brass timeline
The Hunterian’s Art Gallery has recently reopened and is just one of four publicly available collections on campus. Common to all is the power to tell a story and inspire connections.

Following a labour-intensive, nine-month refurbishment, The Hunterian’s Art Gallery reopened in September 2012. Although the University’s investment focused chiefly on conserving the fabric of the building, The Hunterian team used the opportunity to reconfigure all internal screens and walls. The result is a 50% increase in the number of works on display.

A new take on an Old Master
An exhibition based on the Entombment Sketch by Rembrandt (1606–69) was the first to feature in the new special exhibition gallery upstairs. Where a national gallery might put on a retrospective, Glasgow’s work as a university museum and gallery is very much research driven.

‘What we’re very good at is focusing on a particular work to tell the whole back story and the history of its production and its meaning,’ says Professor David Gaimster, Director of The Hunterian. ‘Our founder William Hunter was the first person in Britain to own a Rembrandt, and this was the first time that the Rembrandt Passion story had been told.

‘We can apply modern technology from the University to understand the manufacture of a picture more clearly. With the Entombment Sketch, painted in two phases over 20 to 30 years, we used X-ray and infrared technology to reveal the first version of the painting underneath.’

Strategic acquisitions
Among several new spaces in the gallery is an area to highlight new acquisitions. Given pride of place is a copper and enamel candlestick by Margaret Macdonald, wife of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and her sister Frances Macdonald. Very few original works by the siblings appear on the market, so the team was delighted to bring the candlestick home to Glasgow – particularly as it reunited the object with the original drawings for its design.

While many are aware of The Hunterian’s Mackintosh collection (the most extensive of any institution), Enlightenment portraiture and work of the Glasgow Boys, its other art collections are less well known. William Hunter didn’t focus solely on acquiring historical artworks. The collections he bequeathed to the University in 1783 along with money to build a museum included a range of contemporary art of the time, including A Lady Taking Tea (1735) by Jean-Siméon Chardin. Hunter bought the work – among the most important 18th-century French paintings – directly from the artist. It now hangs in a special room dedicated to The Hunterian’s founder and his art collection. Elsewhere in the gallery, another new area has been set aside to display our present-day contemporary art acquisitions. To ensure the subject of History of Art at Glasgow maintains it widely recognised success in the UK, it’s vital to continually develop our collections.

Interpreting our past
Across the road, The Hunterian’s Museum has been enjoying its own new look – and opening hours – since its refurbishment completed in September 2011. A permanent new exhibition reveals for the first time the Roman treasures acquired by the University since the 17th century. The Antonine Wall: Rome’s Final Frontier showcases the exceptional collection of sculpture from what was probably the most decorated of all the Roman Empire frontiers.

‘The investment in art reflects the fact that the Antonine Wall was designed to be a piece of political propaganda,’ explains Professor Gaimster. ‘All of the artwork faces into the Roman Empire, so it was designed for internal politics. Antoninus Pius had become Emperor, but his lack of a military track record was thought to be a terrific weakness. So he moved the northern frontier a few hundred kilometres further north, then created a monumental artwork along the wall to celebrate this great victory – over a population that was already living very much within the culture of the Roman Empire.’
Contemporary relevance

An avid coin collector, Hunter amassed a selection that at the time was considered second only to that of the King of France. Alongside the Gold Noble of David II and the Charles I Coronation medal, sits a £12 coin minted in support of the Darien scheme of 1698, Scotland’s colonisation project in Panama. It’s a reminder that the artefacts in the University’s collections offer altogether more than simply a window on the past; the lessons learned in days gone by can be just as relevant today.

The attempt to establish a colony in Central America for the Scots was a disaster. Panama was an exceptionally hostile environment and many who journeyed there so optimistically died tragically. The failure of the New Caledonia settlement effectively bankrupted the country, and Scotland turned to England for help. ‘The Union of the Parliaments came about because of economic reasons, and the issue remains relevant to current discussions around independence,’ says Professor Gaimster. ‘Scotland couldn’t sustain itself as an independent nation in 1707, the challenge for some politicians is to demonstrate that it can do so now.’

International links

The Hunterian’s 1.3 million objects come from all over the world, offering our international students and wider community valuable links to their home countries. Occasionally an item’s reputation precedes it, as is the case with Ferdinand Verbiest’s Map of the Whole World. Made in the Forbidden Palace, Peking in the 17th century, this eminent example of early global cartography is easily recognisable to Chinese visitors.

‘The map was commissioned by the Emperor from a small community of Jesuits who wanted to chart and map a new mission from around the world,’ says Professor Gaimster. ‘So it’s an interesting cultural hybrid of European map projection and Chinese understanding and philosophy superimposed on small text boxes and cartouches.’

In the pipeline is an exhibition on the isotope, to mark the centenary of its discovery at Glasgow by chemist and lecturer Frederick Soddy (1877–1956). For this, The Hunterian will collaborate closely with the University’s Archive Services and Special Collections to uncover the full extent of Glasgow’s resources on Soddy and his major scientific breakthrough. Soddy went on to demonstrate the role of isotopes in measuring geologic age, leading to the developing of carbon dating. In 1921 he won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his contribution to the world’s understanding of radioactive substances.

These collections, housed in the University’s Archives at Thurso Street and on the 12th floor of the University Library respectively, are also open to the public; items can be requested for consultation in their reading rooms.

A modern-day resource

Archives holds papers relating to the University’s foundation in 1451 and further back still. Alongside sits the Scottish Business Archive, established in 1959 by forward-thinking academics dedicated to preserving the heritage of Scotland’s declining industry. The 15km of material in Archive Services and Special Collections is used not only for historical research but also as creative inspiration, including for the likes of Turner Prize 2012 nominee Luke Fowler, who created a film based around the Archives collection on Scottish psychiatrist RD Laing.

In 2012, members of a diving expedition coordinated by Microsoft co-founder Paul G Allen approached Archives for help. Set on recovering the bell from the wreck of HMS Hood, they needed to access the ship’s plans to ascertain its likely whereabouts. The National Archives of Scotland had in the 1970s entrusted the University with a vast quantity of Clyde shipyard plans, some of which are more than three metres long unfurled.

Senior Archivist Moira Rankin says, ‘Realistically we can’t keep every drawing of every ship. Everything numbered with 736 relates to the QE2 — that’s more than 1,000 drawings of one ship alone. There are also many plans for the construction of HMS Hood, which we digitised to aid the expedition. Each would have taken hours of painstaking work to create as they’re drawn, measured and coloured entirely by hand.’
Celebrating our story

Glasgow is the fourth-oldest university in the English-speaking world, a fact that’s impossible to overlook when you consider the incredible student records available at Thurso Street. The shelves are heavy with records stretching back to 1838 when matriculation became compulsory, and Archive Services knows of almost every student who has ever studied at the University.

‘It’s helped us to create resources like the University of Glasgow Story website (www.universitystory.glasgow.ac.uk), which shares the stories of the people who have built the University and contributed to the world. One of the famous matriculation records belongs to John Logie Baird, inventor of the television, whose attendance at the University, which was interrupted by WWI, was the “one sensible thing” he did in his studies, according to his memoir.’

Another celebrated scientist who features strongly in the Archives is Guido Pontecorvo (nicknamed Ponte). In 1955, the Italian refugee became the University’s first Professor of Genetics, a degree subject that has gone on to receive a 100% satisfaction rating in the National Student Survey 2012.

‘Crick and Watson and all sorts of other international figures appear in the papers,’ says Moira. ‘Ponte was so charismatic that people would come from all over the world to talk to him about his research. Elvis Presley stopped off at Prestwick Airport to refuel; others who did the same came to see Ponte.’

He left a set of scrapbooks filled with photos of the many prominent scientists and Nobel Prize winners who visited him at Glasgow.

Paper trails

Special Collections is home to around 300,000 manuscript items and 200,000 early printed books – the very first of which are the focus of the Glasgow Incunabula Project. This ongoing project aims to create a stand-alone, digital catalogue and up-to-date record of the more than 1,000 incunabula – books printed pre-1501 in Europe – held by the University. An especially interesting example is the copy of the Breviary, made in Venice in 1478 by French printer Niclaus Jenson. He made just a few vellum copies of the religious text, and research indicates that this one had been a special gift.

‘Most manuscripts were made with vellum but making a book like this would probably require around 200 sheep, so it’s unusual for a printed work,’ explains Julie Gardham, Senior Librarian, Special Collections.

‘What I like most is that although it’s a religious text, the people who feature in the lavish illuminated borders look just like Venetians of the time; in their striped trousers, they’re not Old Testament people. While we’re interested in the actual text, what we’re more interested in is the book’s history and its own story as an artefact.’

Around two-thirds of the University’s incunabula are now catalogued; once all are available online they will become yet another invaluable teaching and research resource.

Also currently being catalogued is the vast range of papers belonging to the recently deceased Edwin Morgan (1920–2010). The University was bequeathed much of this material directly by the former Poet Laureate and Glasgow graduate and lecturer.

Morgan’s bequest augments previous, smaller acquisitions of his work. Among these are 16 scrapbooks that he began compiling as a child and continued into his forties. It’s thought that the poet had hoped that his collections of strangely juxtaposed press clippings and poetry excerpts would eventually be published; for now, a digitised selection of the scrapbooks is available online.

This parting gift from Edwin Morgan speaks volumes both about the ties that bind students to the University long after graduation, and the strong human connections that each of the collections has the power to evoke. It also brings us back full circle to William Hunter, who set a precedent that is clearly honoured to this day. Long may this continue, so that the many star attractions and hidden treasures that have accumulated and been carefully preserved in the University’s campus collections over the centuries may be enjoyed by our students, staff, alumni and visitors for years to come.
International alumni events

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. [www.glasgow.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/alumni/events)

Shanghai dinner

In March, alumni, staff and prospective students met in the Renaissance Shanghai Yu Garden Hotel. Mr Chris Coles, Director of Taught Postgraduate Degree Programmes, Accounting & Finance, welcomed guests. Professor Jane Duckett, Director of the University’s Confucius Institute, followed with a speech about the institute, which teaches Chinese language, promotes Chinese culture and provides support for businesses in Scotland hoping to operate in China. Guests were also treated to an excellent presentation by Miss Sumiao Zhang (MAcc 2010) who spoke about her experience of Glasgow and her career since graduation.

Kuala Lumpur dinner

The Equatorial Hotel was the 2012 venue for the annual alumni dinner in Kuala Lumpur in March. The dinner was enjoyable with prospective students, alumni, staff and VIP guests getting to know each other over a banquet meal. The Principal gave an update on current activities at the University and Mr Chow Heng Choo (BSc 1978) provided a nostalgic presentation on his time as a student from Malaysia studying in Glasgow.

Chengdu dinner

Graduates and friends joined University staff for the second alumni event in Chengdu in March. The buffet dinner at the prestigious Shangri-La Hotel provided an excellent setting for networking and meeting new friends. Professor Andrea Nolan, Senior Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, brought news from Glasgow. Mr Haiwei Han (LLM 2006), Alumni Association contact for Chengdu, gave an informative and poignant presentation on what Glasgow meant to him.

Taipei dinner

In March the Taiwan Alumni Association were joined by University staff, fellow graduates, friends and prospective students at the Sheraton Taipei Hotel. Ms Hsing-Hua Chang (MLitt 2009) gave a presentation on her time at Glasgow. Ian Thomson, Head of International Recruitment, provided an update on current activities at the University and invited all alumni to stay in touch. The Association President, Professor Chiung-Mei Chen (PhD 2002) warmly invited new members to join the group for their annual programme of activities.

Austin

Alumna Rita Reilly (MA 1961) invited graduates and friends to join her for a barbecue in celebration of Glasgow in March. Rita’s daughter Laura Wieland very kindly opened up her wonderful home for the occasion and warmly welcomed guests of all ages and academic interests. Guests watched a personal video message from the Principal who spoke about the University’s forward-looking plans. This was followed by a quick discussion during which everybody shared aspects of their own Glasgow story. Many guests said how much they look forward to another get-together.

Singapore Raffles reception

The 2012 Singapore alumni event returned to the iconic Raffles Hotel. The reception and buffet dinner marked a celebration of the University’s growing links with Singapore and partnership with the Singapore Institute of Technology. It was an opportunity to meet up with friends and make new acquaintances. The Principal and Professor John Chapman, Head of the College of Science & Engineering, spoke about Glasgow and exciting developments in Singapore.

Vancouver

The Glasgow University Alumni Association of British Columbia hosted their tenth Annual Gathering in May at Cheers Restaurant, North Vancouver. The event was attended by 28 guests, who were delighted to welcome Professor Chris Berry FRSE as guest speaker; his talk was entitled ‘The state Scotland is in: some musings’. A warm welcome was made to newly elected President, Peter Richards (BSoc 1971), and Secretary, Sheila Anderson (LLB 1969). Special thanks must go to Edward Mornin (MA 1961) and Peter Waddell (BSc 1956) who tirelessly led the group for over a decade and supported the University in their respective former roles as President and Secretary of the Association.

Calgary

The first meeting of alumni in Calgary took place in May at the James Joyce Pub and was a great success. Professor Chris Berry was delighted to host this event and thoroughly enjoyed meeting all who attended. The gathering was an informal opportunity for alumni in the area to meet with fellow graduates. Many guests were keen to stay in touch with the University and each other, and following the event contact details were exchanged.

Houston

Texas alumni were invited to the Houston Backyard Bash in June. Special thanks must go to Christine Pucillo (MA 1972) for all of her hard work in putting the gathering together and for opening up her lovely home and pool. Thanks are also due to Helen Mann (MA 1967) for all of her assistance in the run-up to the event. The evening would not have been possible without them! Guests were joined by Professor David Fearn, International Dean for the Americas, and colleagues from the Recruitment & International Office.
Olympic success for Glasgow graduates in women’s hockey

Glasgow alumna Emily Maguire represented Great Britain at the London 2012 Olympic Games this summer and was part of the bronze medal winning Women’s Hockey Team.

Emily began her hockey career at the tender age of five, playing for Kelburne Hockey Club in Paisley. Emily studied Mathematics at Glasgow, graduating in 2009, before moving to England where she plays club hockey for Reading alongside her full-time training with the Great Britain squad.

Another Glasgow alumna, Abi Walker, who graduated in 2006, was reserve goalkeeper for Team GB during the Games. Having previously played for Glasgow Western, Abi now plays club hockey for Canterbury in the Investec Women’s Hockey League, balancing this alongside her career as a surgeon at St George’s Hospital in London and training with the Great Britain squad.

GUES Annual General Meeting

The Glasgow University Engineering Society (GUES) held its AGM in June. A new committee was elected and new ways of working using social media were discussed.

A short talk was given by Professor John Marsh, Head of the University’s School of Engineering, about the scope of engineering teaching today and Jane Weir, Director of Careers Services, spoke about the University’s aim to work with the alumni community to support and enhance student employability. Representatives of the committee met with the engineering school to select the winner of the Engineering Society medal.

To register your interest in the GUES, please email: alumni@glasgow.ac.uk.

Emerging Investigator Lectureship Award given to Alumnus of the Year

Dr Patrick Gunning (our Young Alumnus of the Year 2010) is the recipient of the inaugural MedChemComm Emerging Investigator Lectureship Award.

Produced by the Royal Society of Engineering, the MedChemComm journal’s mission is to publish and promote research, which pushes the boundaries of what is thought possible in medicinal chemistry, opening up new avenues of research. The committee felt Dr Gunning to be an outstanding candidate for the lectureship, with his prominent work into the investigation and manipulation of protein function exemplifying the journal’s mission. Dr Gunning will deliver the lecture at an international conference in the next year.

Prestigious Fulbright Award for alumnus

Dr Robert Lawson (MA English Language and Linguistics, 2004, MPhil (Distinction), PhD) has received a Scottish Studies Fulbright Award to enable him to research at the University of Pittsburgh on one of the most prestigious and selective scholarship programmes operating worldwide. Robert said, ‘The award is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to develop my research on urban adolescent language use, to learn from some of the international leaders in sociolinguistics and to build links between institutions in Scotland, England and America.’

Glasgow’s link to ICE presidents past and present

Former Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) vice-president David Hutchison (BSc 1975), and former ICE presidents Richard Coackley (BSc 1975) and Quentin Leiper (BSc 1975) stand beneath the imposing portrait of James Walker, at the ICE’s headquarters in Westminster (pictured left to right). All four began their engineering careers after graduating from Glasgow.

Walker, the ICE’s second president, graduated from the University in 1794, aged 13, studying Latin and Greek, Logic and Natural Philosophy during his four years here. He embarked on a 60-year career and became best known for projects such as London’s Commercial Road, the iron arch design of Vauxhall Bridge, Victoria Bridge in Glasgow and numerous lighthouses. 2012 marked the 150th anniversary of Walker’s death in 1862.

Richard Coackley said, ‘The strong link between the University and the ICE presidents, both past and present, is fascinating. Myself, David and Quentin began our engineering paths in Glasgow in the footsteps of one of the engineering greats and each of us has also had the privilege of serving the ICE presidential team. Despite being many years after James Walker, and during very different times, we hope we have upheld the traditions of the ICE, honoured the excellent work done by James and maintained long-term links with the University.’

Apology: incorrectly published obituaries

Sincere apologies to Dr Frank Kennedy Innes (MBChB 1979) who is alive and well, working in Hong Kong.

Also, to David Lawrie Thomson (BL 1964).
**Alumni news**

**Graduate awarded coveted medal by San Francisco Opera**

In June, Chorus Director Ian Robertson (BMus 1971) was presented with the San Francisco Opera Medal, the highest honour awarded by the company to an artistic professional, by General Director David Gockley. The presentation was made on stage at the War Memorial Opera House following a performance of Giuseppe Verdi’s Attila. Also present was San Francisco Opera Music Director and Attila conductor Nicola Luisotti, the cast of Attila, and the San Francisco Opera Chorus. Ian Robertson now joins the ranks of past honourees Placido Domingo, Dame Joan Sutherland and Sir Geraint Evans.

David Gockley said, ‘Ian Robertson celebrates his 25th anniversary with San Francisco Opera this year, and over the course of his distinguished tenure he has led the acclaimed San Francisco Opera Chorus in more than 300 productions. He has brought great artistry not only to the life of this company, but to the musical fabric of the Bay area through his work with the San Francisco Boys Chorus and other institutions. He is a treasured member of the artistic leadership of San Francisco Opera, and it is very fitting that we recognise him in this way.’

**Our international story**

The University’s Archive Services is documenting the achievements of alumni around the globe since 1451. The project will create an online resource of profiles of prominent international graduates and their contributions to the world.

Archives would like to hear from anyone with new information about eminent international alumni. Email: moira.rankin@glasgow.ac.uk.

**Help train tomorrow’s doctors**

The School of Medicine is looking for members of the public to act as ‘simulated patients’ in its Volunteer Patient Programme.

Simulated patients do not need to have an ongoing medical problem and help to offer high-quality communication and clinical skills teaching to medical students.

To find out more, email: med-sch-simulatedpatients@glasgow.ac.uk.

**Business boost**

Kenneth Fraser (BAcc 2004) has graduated with an MBA with Distinction as an Edward Tuck Scholar from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College in the United States. He was recognised with the James A and Sabra M Hamilton Award in Administration (for best overall performance in strategy and general management) and the Julia Stell Award for outstanding contribution to the school community. Founded in 1900, the Ivy League’s Tuck School of Business is the world’s oldest graduate business school.

After graduating from Glasgow, Kenneth joined PricewaterhouseCoopers as a trainee Chartered Accountant and was named a Top 40 Emerging European Mergers and Acquisitions Dealmaker by the Financial Times Group at age 25. This autumn, he will join Bain & Company in Boston, Massachusetts. Kenneth said, ‘I’m delighted with how my time at business school worked out. These recognitions reflect the world-class education I was fortunate to receive at Glasgow, which taught me how to think effectively about complex issues and ask good questions.’

**Glasgow engineers inducted into the Canadian Academy of Engineering**

Professor Herbert I H Saravanamutto (BSc 1955) and Andrew H Wilson (BSc 1949) have been inducted into the Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE) in 2011 and 2012 respectively. The CAE comprises Canada’s most distinguished engineers and provides advice on matters of national importance.

In the 1980s Professor Saravanamutto was President of the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute, and Drew Wilson was President of the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering. Mr Wilson was also the first Glasgow graduate to be elected President of the Engineering Institute of Canada, Canada’s oldest such society, established in 1887.

Professor Saravanamutto has over 55 years of experience in the field of gas turbine engines and his teaching and writing have influenced the development of more efficient turbines around the world. At the 2012 Annual General Meeting of the CAE he delivered the keynote address, entitled ‘After the Avro Arrow – lessons learned’, a presentation on the subsequent development of aircraft design and production in Canada. Mr Wilson served for many years in agencies of the Public Service of Canada. Since he retired he has contributed significantly to the recording of the history of engineering in Canada and abroad.

**The impact of ideas**

The University’s College of Arts has funded a booklet entitled The Impact of Ideas: Glasgow Moral Philosophy in the 18th Century, in which Alexander Broadie, Emeritus Professor of Logic and Rhetoric, and Robin Downie, Emeritus Professor of Moral Philosophy, outline the international impact of the ideas of three early occupants of the Chair of Moral Philosophy at Glasgow University: Francis Hutcheson, Adam Smith and Thomas Reid.

The wider influence of these important Glasgow thinkers and other contemporaries is noted in an introduction by Professor Murray Pittock, Bradley Professor of English Literature, Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Arts at the University.

For alumni and other visitors to the campus who wish to read more about the international impact of Glasgow philosophical ideas in the 18th century, the illustrated booklet is available in the Visitor Centre (Tel: +44 (0)141 330 5511 or email: hilda.degroot@glasgow.ac.uk).
Double award for geologist
Duncan Keppie (BSc 1964, PhD) is the 2012 recipient of the Gesner Medal – the Distinguished Scientist Award from the Atlantic Geoscience Society. The award is made to an individual who has developed and promoted the advancement of geoscience in the Atlantic Region in any field of geology. A celebrated geologist, Duncan’s career with geological surveys and universities in Zambia, Nova Scotia and Mexico spans 45 years.

Geology is not Duncan’s only area of expertise. Both he and his wife Maggie (pictured) were recently announced as the recipients of Dance Nova Scotia’s Dance Inspiration Award. They are known and respected province-wide for their knowledge of Scottish dance and music, not only of the steps, but also the history and context.

Making music that matters
Accomplished guitarist and Glasgow graduate Jeff Gunn (MLitt in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies 2007) is touring with world-recognised hip-hop artist and human rights advocate Emmanuel Jal.

After travelling through Africa and doing research for a PhD on child soldier autobiographies, Jeff was keen to meet the South Sudanese child soldier turned musician: ‘I emailed him and we met for dinner – I then landed the gig as his guitarist and have been recording and touring with him ever since.’

Jeff is also the author of the guitar book series Hidden Sounds Vol 1–4 and is completing his PhD at York University in Toronto in African History. He hopes his career will inspire other Glasgow graduates: ‘Set your goals as high as your wildest dreams and make them a reality through hard work, risk-taking and persistence.’

Frozen food researcher honoured
In July Professor David Reid (BSc 1963, PhD 1967) was presented with the third annual Frozen Food Foundation Freezing Research Award by the International Association for Food Protection. He was selected for his innovative research that has helped shape the understanding of the fundamental basis of food freezing.

Professor Reid also serves on the scientific advisory committees for both the American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI) and the Global Cold Chain Alliance. He is a fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists and the International Academy of Food Science and Technology, and was presented with a Career Leadership Award by AFFI in 2007. Professor Reid has served as editor-in-chief of the Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture since 1999.

Queen’s Birthday Honours 2012
Dr Anne Regina Douglas (MA 1979, MAppSci, DClinPsy) was appointed OBE for services to the health of asylum seekers and refugees.

Professor James Stewart Forsyth (MBChB 1973, MD), who was Chairman of the Neonatal Advisory Group, was appointed OBE for services to children’s health in Scotland.

Wing Commander Andrew Keith Johnstone (MSc 1988), was appointed OBE for services to the Royal Air Force.

Dr Sheena Maberly (BSc 1985, PhD) was appointed MBE, as Manager E, HM Prison Kirklevington Grange, for services to Her Majesty’s Prison Service.

Professor Ian Alexander Shanks (BSc 1970, DEng) was appointed OBE as Chairman, Science Advisory Group for the National Physical Laboratory, for services to innovation.

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Alumni news

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Jeff is also the author of the guitar book series Hidden Sounds Vol 1–4 and is completing his PhD at York University in Toronto in African History. He hopes his career will inspire other Glasgow graduates: ‘Set your goals as high as your wildest dreams and make them a reality through hard work, risk-taking and persistence.’

Double award for geologist
Duncan Keppie (BSc 1964, PhD) is the 2012 recipient of the Gesner Medal – the Distinguished Scientist Award from the Atlantic Geoscience Society. The award is made to an individual who has developed and promoted the advancement of geoscience in the Atlantic Region in any field of geology. A celebrated geologist, Duncan’s career with geological surveys and universities in Zambia, Nova Scotia and Mexico spans 45 years.

Geology is not Duncan’s only area of expertise. Both he and his wife Maggie (pictured) were recently announced as the recipients of Dance Nova Scotia’s Dance Inspiration Award. They are known and respected province-wide for their knowledge of Scottish dance and music, not only of the steps, but also the history and context.

Above: Maggie and Duncan Keppie, Kentville Advertiser

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The University has acquired ten acres of the Western Infirmary site and hopes to take over the remaining four acres shortly, enabling it to create a modern campus – forward-looking, while respecting and enhancing the character of the existing historic buildings.

This interactive presentation will give you, the General Council members, an opportunity to participate in the consultation. If you are interested in contributing to the debate, please come along to the meeting on Saturday, 19 January 2013 at 11am, top level, the Fraser Building.

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Reunion reports

1962 Class of Mathematics & Natural Philosophy
In June, 21 class members plus partners returned to Gilmorehill to meet old friends and renew acquaintances. Our day began with an informal lunch in Kelvingrove Art Gallery and in the afternoon the Students’ Representative Council organised a tour of the campus to enable us to see the changes over the years. Later, we met in the Melville and Turnbull Suite for pre-dinner cocktails, followed by an excellent dinner organised by the University Hospitality Services. There were two light-hearted speeches, one reflecting on how the world has changed in the past 50 years and the other doing some crystal ball gazing to look to the future. We departed with our souvenir brochure of old class photos and individual photos of us all – then and now – together with summaries of our lives.

The financial arrangements for the day worked out well with a three-figure sum unspent. It was agreed unanimously that the money would be best used if handed to the University’s Chancellor’s Fund.

1962 Modern Languages
In June, the class held a lunch in the University to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation. With 13 members plus partners, the gathering numbered 24. Following a delicious meal, the group made a nostalgic visit to the Randolph Hall and the Bute Hall for photographs. Afterwards, there was time for reminiscence and conversation to round off a very enjoyable occasion.

1968 Engineering
The group, accompanied by their wives, spent a very pleasant social weekend in Pitlochry at the end of April. Among topics of conversation were the Engineering Society and the GLU Eng 68 Trust, which has supported a number of undergraduates over the last few years. The weekend concluded with a guided tour of the newly reopened Stirling Castle by a ’68 graduate, Hugh O’Neill, who is now a Blue Badge guide. A 45th reunion of graduation is planned for autumn 2013. For more information still in touch contact the University Development & Alumni Office.

1970–75 Music
A total of 17 graduates met in September in the Turnbull Room. Most were BMus graduates from 1970–75, but there were also some joint honours graduates. Many of us had not seen each other for around 40 years and in some cases we didn’t initially remember each other, but as the chat developed memories came back. Updates from those who couldn’t attend were provided from South Africa, California, Florida and Arizona, as well as from nearer to home. It was fascinating to hear what people had been doing and how their careers had developed.

1972 Psychology
The 40th anniversary reunion took place at Glasgow’s Ubiquitous Chip in May and was attended by 14 classmates and staff members. A most successful and amusing night was enjoyed by all and plans are afoot for the 45th reunion in 2017.

1972 Notre Dame
The 40th reunion took place in Turnbull Hall at the University in September. Over 70 people attended. Father Bollan celebrated Mass and this was followed by a buffet lunch. The day was rounded off in Oran Mor. It was lovely to see everyone after so many years and a great time was had by all.

1972 BVMS
In June, a 40-year reunion was held in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow. A reunion yearbook was produced for everyone and a copy has been deposited at the Vet School for posterity. Sarah Hunter and Gerard McLauchlan of the School gave a tour of the Small Animal Hospital on the Saturday. A donation of over £500 was made by the year group to the James Herriot Scholarship Fund.

The Alexandrian Society’s 125th Anniversary Celebrations
In May, a dinner and ceilidh were held to celebrate the anniversary. The event was a great success with 85 guests including a representative from every decade going back to the 1950s. The final numbers were roughly split evenly between past and present students. A small magazine of creations by Classics students over the years was produced as a souvenir and there were speeches from Alexander Bradley-Smith as outgoing President and Dr Ronald Knox the Society’s Honorary President.

BDS 72 Summit Club
In May, members together with spouses and partners, 35 in all, met in the Blythswood Square Hotel, Glasgow, to celebrate our 40th reunion. Most are still resident in Scotland and while unfortunately none of the Australian contingent was able to join us, Svein & Laila came from Norway, David & Iris from Canada, and several from south of the border. We all enjoyed a great evening of good food and company. Following dinner we were amused/ confrontation by photographs and quotations from our Year Book, after which Norton gave a presentation on the work of the Mercy Ships in Sierra Leone. It was a successful reunion and many suggested that we should not wait another ten years to hold the next one.
1963 Beta Club
12–14 September 2013, Grosvenor Hotel, Glasgow
The club will celebrate its 55th reunion. For more information, contact Stuart Parker, email: stuartparker1@me.com or tel: +44 (0)1698 882724/+44 (0)7973 186096.

1960 Delta Club
7 September 2013, 1A The Square, University of Glasgow
Following a successful three-day reunion in June to mark our 52nd anniversary with 70 attendees, we plan to meet for lunch at Gilmorehill. If you have not already received information about this event and would like to attend please contact Anne Loudon, tel: +44 (0)141 639 4195 or email: AnneEPL@aol.com.

1963 Natural Philosophy/Maths
Advance notice – June 2013, Glasgow
A 50th anniversary reunion is planned, provisionally on two days around University Commemoration Day on 12 June. If you would be interested in coming, and if you know contact details for other class members, please contact Gerald Ratzer, email: Gerald.ratzer@mcgill.ca or Robert Smith, email: r.c.smith@sussex.ac.uk or Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QH.

1963 Honours Chemistry class
12–14 June 2013, University of Glasgow
A golden reunion is planned. We hope the class will join in the University’s Commemoration Day celebrations on 12 June. On the Thursday there will be a tour of the School of Chemistry and the campus followed by our class dinner. A possible extension into the Friday will involve visits within Glasgow and district and a ceilidh. Contact Alan Cameron, tel: +44 (0)1358 720130; email: aicameron21@gmail.com.

1963 Civil Engineering
Advance notice, April 2013
James Livingston and Diarmid Troup are planning a 50th reunion. If you were a member of this class and would like to get in touch with them, please contact James, email: jayliv538@talktalk.net.

BDS 1963 Golden Jubilee celebration
Advance notice, June 2013, Glasgow
A 50th anniversary reunion is proposed, planned around University Commemoration Day on Wednesday, 12 June with a dinner on the Tuesday evening. At this stage the priority is to contact as many of you as possible.

If you are able to join us, please contact Norman Roback, email: rbnm9@aol.com or Richard Day, email: rm.day@virgin.net. Please spread the word to any of our classmates with whom you have kept in touch.

1963 Beta Club
6–8 September 2013, Glasgow
The club is holding a 50th reunion. For more information please contact JJ Boyd, email: jjboyd@shaw.ca or RS Thomson, email: rbtscottayr@aol.com.

MacBrayne Hall reunion
Advance notice, September 2013, Glasgow
If you were a resident here between 1964/65 and 1968/69 and would be interested in attending a reunion, provisionally on 14 September, please contact John Farmer, email: J.G.Farmer@ed.ac.uk.

1968 Engineers
19 October 2013, University of Glasgow
The 45th anniversary reunion will begin with a drinks reception in the Melville Room, followed by dinner in the Randolph Hall. Contact Jim Urquhart, email: theurquharts@hotmail.co.uk to register interest or find out more information.

1974 Gamma Club
Advance notice – 2014
The club is delighted to announce the launch of its website at www.gammaglasgow74.org.uk. We are currently planning our next reunion. Please get in touch if you would like to attend.

1978 Electronic Engineers (Blown Fuse Society)
Advance notice – September 2013, Glasgow
Our plan is to have a 35-year reunion (provisionally 27/28 September) with the main event on a Saturday evening but with optional weekend events, if enough interest. Our aim is to make this event bigger than the 30th reunion. Contact Ken MacPherson, email: kenneth.macpherson@selexgalelcco.com or tel: +44 (0)7801 714163.

1983 BDS
22 June 2013, Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow
Alison, Viv, Annibale and David are organising an informal 30th reunion. We are planning to precede this evening with an ice-breaker in a West End bar on the Friday. If anyone has been missed inadvertently and would like to be included, please email Annibale: aneebos@aol.com.
The General Council

Business news and reports. Prepared and supplied for the General Council by Robert Marshall, Clerk to the General Council. Email: clergc@glasgow.ac.uk

Papers for consideration at the Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council, 19 January 2013:
1. Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on 23 June 2012 (see below).
2. Paper A. Report by the Principal on the work and activities of the University (see page 28).
3. Other papers for consideration can be found at www.glasgow.ac.uk/alumni/getinvolved/generalcouncil.

Minutes of the General Council Half-Yearly Meeting held on 23 June 2012 in the Wolfson Medical School Building

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

Election of General Council Assessors to serve on the University Court

The Chancellor asked the General Council to note that three nominations, duly proposed and seconded, had been received for persons to be elected to serve as General Council Assessors of the University Court: Mr David Ross, Mr David Anderson and Mr Brian McBride.

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on Saturday, 21 January 2012, printed in Avenue issue 52, (June 2012) were approved. There were no matters arising.

The Chancellor suggested that it would be valuable for Heads of College or delegates to attend the General Council meetings, if available; and that they could be invited to speak as an agenda item.

Report of the Convener of the Business Committee, Mr George Tait

The Convener reported that since the last General Council meeting:

Modernisation and communication

The Business Committee had focused on the modernising recommendations mentioned in his previous report, relating to the Committee’s role and purpose. More information is now being received from University management through advance briefings with the Secretary of Court, with a dedicated agenda item to which the Principal or Secretary of Court speaks. The Committee still has room for use as a sounding board by University management on appropriate contemporary issues.

Discussions have taken place with the General Council Assessors on Court about Business Committee contributions, as well as taking views from General Council members. These views should preferably be received before decisions are made. The Business Committee is informed of Court matters through an assessor expanding on the Court Convener’s Report.

Alumni participation

The Development & Alumni Office (DAO) advised that it did not see a strong case for holding General Council meetings outside Glasgow; or integrating the meetings into their events. They suggested an initial weekday event in Glasgow, held after work on a campus location associated with a school or college providing a keynote speaker; students could be invited to mingle with General Council members. The Convener invited those present to complete a questionnaire on the issue: their responses would be taken into account in continuing DAO discussions. It is planned that a keynote speaker will address the January 2013 General Council meeting.

On increased alumni participation, the Convener thanked the web cam sub-committee for a successful trial recording of the January 2012 meeting; a professional video recording was being made of the current meeting, with a view to mounting the recording on the University website. The ultimate intention is live screening of meetings. It was hoped that progress would soon be made on better communication with General Council members via email.

The Convener expressed his gratitude to the editorial board of Avenue for the advertisement in the June 2012 edition, encouraging readers to become involved with the General Council and its Business Committee.

Business Committee matters

The General Council Standing Orders need to be brought up to date; a sub-committee has been established to bring recommendations to the January 2013 meeting for consideration and adoption.

At the regular meeting of the four ancient Scottish Universities business committees, matters under discussion included: substitution of postal elections by online elections; the Scottish Government higher education governance reforms; a paper Putting learners at the centre – delivering ambitions for post-16 education; student fees; and holding General Council meetings off-site.

The Business Committee will hold longer meetings to deal with increased business. In March Professor Andrea Nolan, Senior Vice-Principal, provided an update on the new college structure, together with a mid-term review of the University’s internationalisation strategy, aimed at enhancing its global reach and reputation. Professor Massimo Pignatelli, Head of the School of Medicine, gave a presentation on school activities and developments, including: changes in the problem-based learning undergraduate course; and the school’s presence in the new Southern General Hospital. In July, the Committee meeting will take a tour of the University Library and hear a presentation from the University Librarian, Ms Helen Durnell.

The Convener thanked the Clerk to the General Council for his help.

During comments and questions, Mr Harry Adams reminded the meeting that General Council Assessors used to hold meetings with Senate Assessors and the University management team before Court. The Convener replied that the Business Committee was aware of the need for communication with academic staff and that a meeting with Heads of College and school is planned for the new session. A Business Committee member (Dr Bobby Logan) welcomed the regular attendance at committee meetings of the Principal and the Secretary of Court. The Convener of Court (Mr David Ross) also explained that Senate Assessors meet informally with lay Court members. The Principal added that senior University management always tried to respond to matters raised by lay members of Court.

Mr Alan Brown reviewed the history of determining the day of the General Council meetings, pointing out that various days had been tried.

In response to a comment that those not at the meeting could not complete the paper questionnaire, the Convener noted that the Committee would be working with DAO and others to establish electronic communication, thereby facilitating opinion surveys. Mrs Iris Adams stated that the General Council used to have a stand at graduations explaining what the General Council did; and that there used to be a lunch after the meetings. The Convener was unsure how well attended such lunches might be.

Election of General Council Business Committee member

One nomination, duly proposed and seconded, was received for a person to be elected to serve as a member of the General Council Business Committee. The nominee is Mr Michael Scott. Council resolved to elect the nominee mentioned to be a member of the General Council Business Committee.
Principal’s Report, given by the Principal & Vice-Chancellor, Professor Anton Muscatelli

The Chancellor invited the Principal to address the meeting.

Progress on fulfilling 2020 – a global vision

The Principal highlighted some of the 20 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) used by the Court and University management to measure University progress and success. The main academic indicators are a) research b) student experience and c) internationalisation i.e. enhancing global reach and reputation.

The picture overall is one of improvement against benchmarks in research income and the number of staff holding research grants. There is room for improvement in research output quality, measured independently every 5–7 years by the RAE (Research Assessment Exercise); and in 2014 by the REF (Research Excellence Framework). Between these formal exercises, the University carries out internal measurements which show improvement, although there are methodological problems in covering all the research carried out in the University. There are improvements in the number of PhD students; and these students are more satisfied than in the past.

In student experience, the University is trying to reduce the number of home undergraduate students in line with Scottish Government targets. The number of international postgraduate taught students is growing very rapidly. The University is joint third in the Russell Group for student satisfaction, after Oxford and Cambridge. Student retention is also improving, i.e. students are dropping out less frequently. Their job prospects are also improving.

The University is becoming more of a selecting institution in all subjects: greater numbers of better qualified students are applying in all areas (not just Medicine and Law), a great improvement over past years. The University has one of the country’s best widening participation schemes.

Internationalisation

The University is increasing its proportion of (non-EU) international students to 24% of the population, closing the gap on other institutions and offering a diverse community. This is a major success story. In terms of student experience, the University is top in the UK and third in the world, according to the 2011 International Student Barometer. The increase in full-time international students is rapidly closing the gap with the Russell Group average.

League tables

The University does not measure its success through league tables; however, it has enjoyed a rise (to a position between 14th and 22nd) in the three main national league tables: the Complete University Guide; The Guardian; and The Times. If the University can do better in the Research Assessment Exercise, it could rank fifth or sixth in the UK.

Budget and financial forecast

The Principal stressed that it was vital to get the University’s financial position right. The forecast surplus in 2012–13 is £5.5m and the forecast range of outcomes up to 2015–16 is also positive. Most of the growth is teaching-led, as funding councils are cutting back on research budgets. There are risks to this forecast, including even lower research funding, pension charges, higher wage inflation and slower growth in student fees.

Investments

The surpluses will be used in part to invest in academic staff: research fellowships, research leaders, enhanced dowries, a range of senior lecturers and lecturer posts across all four colleges. For example, two chairs have recently been filled in modern languages, as well as a lecturer post in Portuguese.

There are also major thematic strategic investments across the four colleges, covering all the school disciplines, e.g. synthetic biology, sensor systems, public policy and Scottish studies. The University is the UK’s leading institution in Scottish studies.

With 1,300 postgraduate students, the Adam Smith Business School is second only to London Business School in terms of student numbers. The surplus fund produced by these additional students is being invested across the University, including support for the Research Excellence Framework.

The Student Recruitment & International Office is receiving investment, as is the fundraising activity provided by DAO; hitherto fundraising was project-focused but activity will now be broadened to support all the colleges with scholarships, fellowships and other fundraising objects.

Research Excellence Framework (REF)

The Principal paid tribute to his colleagues in all parts of the University for their REF preparation work, including impact studies of the effects of research, including outputs in non-traditional areas such as the arts.

Physical environment

The Principal described four great moments of the University’s historical development: the Papal Bull founding the University; moving from the Glasgow Cathedral crypt in 1460, by means of a gift from Lord Hamilton for land in the High Street, where the University remained for 400 years; following the opening of a subscription list, the building of the old College in the 1690s, largely by donation; the move in 1870 to the Gilbert Scott building in Gilmorehill, funded by donations of £150m in today’s terms, the remainder funded by government.

The fifth phase is the recent acquisition of ten acres of the Western Infirmary site. The remaining four acres are under negotiation. Very few universities have a complete city campus like Glasgow’s. The University intends in the next 20–30 years to invest over £400m in the site.

Questions and comments

A member congratulated the University on its widening student access policy. The Principal explained that the University performs best among the Scottish ancient universities, attracting 10% of the MD20 students (Multiple Deprivation, lowest 20%). Mr Ronald Singleton wondered whether attracting these groups compromises academic standards. The Principal explained that mature students in these groups received considerable support before they enter University. If the University can carry out due diligence, manage the students’ accommodation needs and get them through Year 1, the outcomes in terms of Honours classifications are just as good as other students.

Mr Duncan Marley referred to government efforts to limit non-EU students. The Principal noted that the Scottish Government has no say in the matter. 89% of overseas graduates do not want to remain in the UK.

Mr George Tait stated that the Business Committee would meet the new Estates & Buildings Director, Ms Ann Allen. Ms Ruth Sharp felt that the new Western Infirmary site offered wonderful architectural opportunities.

Closure of the meeting

The Chancellor thanked all those present for their attendance. He informed the meeting that the next meeting would be held on Saturday, 19 January 2013 at 11am on the top floor of the Fraser Building.

The General Council was set up by Act of Parliament to give voice to the views of the graduates and teaching staff on the regulation and wellbeing of the University. All graduates and teaching staff are entitled to attend meetings.
The General Council
Paper A: Report by the Principal

At the time of writing we are just coming through the registration period and it’s good to report that our undergraduate (UG) registrations remain strong, with international UG numbers ahead of target. Our postgraduate taught numbers have increased too, with a 7% year on year growth in international students. As we look forward, we know that competition for Rest-of-UK (RUK) UG recruitment will increase in future as many English universities fell well short of their recruitment targets. The University is therefore looking at a range of strategies to improve our RUK recruitment.

One of the strands of our overall recruitment strategy is our commitment to widening access. Our REACH programme, for example, has been established to encourage potential students from non-traditional backgrounds to think about applying to a degree programme in one of the four professions (Medicine, Dentistry, Law and Veterinary Medicine). In just over two years we have put in place an annual programme covering 92 schools, around 1,500 pupils, across the age span of S4 to S6. There’s evidence that the scheme is already bearing fruit and this is a tribute to the magnificent support and partnership enjoyed across our widening participation team, the four professions, all the local authorities involved and the participating secondary schools. This is just one example of a raft of widening access initiatives we run. These include the Top-Up Programme started in 1999, which works with over 40 schools and engages with around 1,200 SS and S6 pupils, our Summer School, which has been running since 1985, the University Taster Weeks and our Access to Primary Education Programme which has run for 12 years.

All of these programmes in their different ways aim to encourage young people who might not have traditionally considered higher education to see it as a real option for them. These schemes are also supported by our Talent Scholarships, which were launched in 2007/08, and 50 new scholarships worth £1,000 per annum are awarded annually to support high achievement applicants who might otherwise struggle to attend university due to financial hardship.

While seeking to attract talented students from all backgrounds, it’s also vital that we provide the best student experience we can. In the most recent UK-wide National Student Survey 2012, we scored an overall student satisfaction rating of 89% – 4% higher than the average for the higher education institution sector and were first, or joint first, in eight subjects, across the UK.

In addition, the University has enjoyed some very encouraging results across a range of league tables. We rose five places from 59th to 54th in the latest QS World Rankings (2012). In UK league tables we rose seven places to 14th in the Guardian table, seven places to 15th in The Times Good University Guide, four places to 17th in the Complete University Guide and one place to 19th in the Sunday Times University Guide. While the latest Times Higher Rankings (released 2012) offered more challenging outcomes, we still remain one of four Scottish universities in the top 200 in the world, and are ranked 19th out of all UK institutions.

However, as I’ve repeatedly stressed, we are not driven by league tables but by our strategy as contained in Glasgow 2020: A global vision. Pursuing excellence in the student experience is one of our strategic goals. Pursuing excellence in our research is another and two significant events illustrate the point.

In September we celebrated the launch of The People of Medieval Scotland project, officially opened by Cabinet Secretary Mike Russell. This collaborative project led by Glasgow has catalogued and put online some 8,600 documents written between 1093 and 1314, so making them available to scholars and the public. It stands as a significant achievement, one that will be of lasting value for years to come.

Also in September, I had the privilege of launching Glasgow Polyomics. Glasgow Polyomics, based within the College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences, is built around the concept of our research institutes, which aim to harness and thrive on inter/multidisciplinary work. The resource enhances the provision available in the ‘omics’ strands in Glasgow – genomics, proteomics and metabolomics – which underpin medical and life sciences. With state-of-the-art technologies, skilled technologists and talented bio-informaticians, it is a versatile resource, ready to respond to a rapidly changing world of data, and important collaborations are already in place with electronic engineers, computer scientists, statisticians and chemists, all of whom can benefit from polyomics.

But such initiatives, and the successes we enjoy, are down to our people. That’s why our current investment plans are firmly focused on two strands: attracting research leaders at professorial level and new talent fellowship opportunities. And as we prepare for the Research Excellence Framework in 2014, it’s doubly vital that we attract, and retain, the very best.

The third key area of our strategy is internationalisation. Welcoming international students to our campus is one strand of this strategy, but it also involves making connections with universities and friends around the world. Since my last report in June, I have, for example, had the pleasure of welcoming the Vice-President of Malaga University and the President of the University of Mainz to the University, both important connections particularly for our College of Arts. I’ve hosted dinners for medical colleagues from Columbia University, one of our key partners in the USA, who were attending a cardiovascular symposium, and a delegation from Sun Yat-Sen University, one of the leading universities in the People’s Republic of China. During October I visited the USA and Canada and attended various alumni events, and I will also be travelling to Singapore and Beijing in December.

Such trips are in part about building academic collaborations, but they are also about cementing our alumni links and meeting with our network of friends and supporters. And it has been a great year to celebrate our alumni and students, symbolised in the achievements of singer/songwriter Emeli Sandé, runner-up in the BBC’s The Great British Bake Off, James Morton, and Olympic rowing gold medallist Katherine Grainger who features in this edition of Avenue. They offer proof, if proof were needed, of the diverse range of talents our students and graduates possess and which enables them to go on to excel in a wide range of fields. It’s good for us to remember the excellent things the University does and produces, and the great responsibility and privilege we have as a consequence, to ensure it continues to do so for years to come.
This Unrivalled Collection: The Hunterian’s first catalogue
15 February–11 August 2013
Hunterian Art Gallery (admission free)
In 1813, Captain James Laskey (c1760–1829) published his General Account of the Hunterian Museum. The comprehensive volume described all the objects in the old Hunterian Museum, creating the first ever Hunterian catalogue and visitor guide. The exhibition celebrates Laskey’s great endeavour and highlights the long history of The Hunterian and the breadth of its collections. The exhibition brings together various objects from across the collections which were displayed together in the old Hunterian Museum, including the cast of the Rosetta Stone, a Renaissance shield, insect cabinets, works of art and coins and medals.

Allan Ramsay
13 September 2013–5 January 2014
Hunterian Art Gallery (admission charge)
This major new exhibition is dedicated to Allan Ramsay (1713–84), one of Britain’s most accomplished 18th-century painters. Born in Edinburgh, his career took him from a small Scottish clientele to the Hanoverian court of King George III. The exhibition centres on a selection of portraits from Ramsay’s 30 years as a painter and also features drawings, watercolours, published books, pamphlets, letters and other materials which demonstrate Ramsay’s fascinating place in the intellectual and cultural life of Edinburgh, London, Paris and Rome in the mid-18th century. The exhibition also includes key loans from UK public and private collections and new research, examining the intellectual context in which Ramsay painted a number of his most important portraits, including that of Hunterian founder Dr William Hunter.

The Antonine Wall: Rome’s Final Frontier
Hunterian Museum (admission free)
This spectacular gallery explores the biography of one of the most important monuments of Roman Britain and showcases the unique collection of monumental sculpture and other Roman artefacts recovered from the Antonine Wall. ‘The Antonine Wall: Rome’s Final Frontier’ also reflects the story of over three centuries of collecting and research by the University on the World Heritage Site.

The Hunterian Friends
The Hunterian Friends scheme offers members a range of exclusive benefits. Hunterian Friends give vital support and make a direct contribution towards new exhibitions and galleries, our education and conservation work, and to new acquisitions. Benefits include free admission to Hunterian special exhibitions and a special programme of member events led by Hunterian curators. For further information, visit our website.

About The Hunterian
The Hunterian is one of Scotland’s most important cultural assets. Founded in 1807, it is Scotland’s oldest public museum and home to one of the largest collections outside the National Museums.

Open on Sundays! The Hunterian is open from Tuesday to Saturday 10am–5pm and Sunday 11am–4pm.

Free admission to the Museum, Art Gallery and The Mackintosh House. Admission charge for some exhibitions (free to University of Glasgow staff and students with valid staff/registration card).

Hunterian Art Gallery, 82 Hillhead Street, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ.

Hunterian Museum, Main Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ.

Tel: +44 (0)141 330 4221

For updates on programmes and events, see www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian.