Welcome from the Chancellor

At our last meeting, the Chancellor’s Fund Advisory Board was pleased to support a project that will reveal the Gaelic heritage of the University. Gaelic is a significant part of Scotland’s cultural and social identity and we are justifiably proud that it has been taught on campus for more than a century. Following the launch of the University’s Gaelic Language Plan in March, this project will make a very meaningful contribution to the ongoing revitalisation of Gaelic.

Your gifts are also improving the learning experience for our students and I hope you enjoy reading about two novel projects bringing practical skills to life in the laboratory for our current and future physics and engineering students.

We would also like to tell you about two completed projects which achieved their aim of adding something extra to the student experience by enabling a geography research visit to Tanzania and a history archive exhibition in the library. We want our students to have an enjoyable and rewarding time studying at Glasgow, developing valuable skills in addition to leaving with a degree. Your gifts are vital to help achieve this and we continue to be grateful for your support.

Professor Kenneth Calman
Chancellor

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Sgeul na Gàidhlig: revealing the Gaelic heritage of the University

An award of £10,000 has been made by the Chancellor’s Fund to provide seed funding to research the Gaelic heritage of the University. The Sgeul na Gàidhlig project will look into the contributions of a selection of the thousands of Gaelic speakers who have worked and studied here in the last 550 years and the significant holdings of Celtic- and Gaelic-related books, manuscripts, art works and items of material culture in University collections.

A project team, including Dr Katherine Forsyth, Dr Aonghas MacCoinnich and Professor Rob Ó Maolalaigh, will research and write the Gaelic story of the University including both the role of Gaels in our history and the role of the University in the history of the Gaeil. In order to reach a wide audience, the research will be published in a variety of forms including the online University of Glasgow Story www.universitystory.glasgow.ac.uk and the International Story www.internationalstory.glasgow.ac.uk.

'The University of Glasgow is the world-leading provider of Gaelic teaching and research, having the first established Gaelic Chair in Europe, the UK’s first Gaelic Language Officer and an ambitious Gaelic Language Plan,' said Professor Ó Maolalaigh, Professor of Gaelic and Head of the School of Humanities. 'Support from the Chancellor’s Fund will help raise awareness that Gaelic has always been a part of the University of Glasgow’s story, from Gaelic-speaking Chancellors and Principals, such as Sir Donald Macalister, to Gaelic ministers, writers, poets and scholars who have taught at the University, as well as other Gaelic-speaking students and staff.

'Additional funding has since been made available by Soillse, the national research network for the maintenance and revitalisation of Gaelic language and culture and by the R L Thomson Endowment.'
Therapeutic garden planned on campus

Counselling & Psychological Services have been awarded £2,000 by the Chancellor’s Fund to develop a therapeutic garden at their offices on Southpark Avenue.

The project will be primarily beneficial to students who use the service, as well as students who simply wish to access the garden.

During their time at university, students may experience personal and emotional issues that impact on academic work and enjoyment of university life. Counselling & Psychological Services offer a confidential space for students to explore and reflect on these issues without being judged, and to help develop ways of overcoming difficulties.

A wide range of support to staff, students, parents and relatives is offered including assessment, individual and group counselling, drop-in sessions, clinical psychology and psychiatry services and self-help materials.

‘Between 2008 and 2012 the number of student engagements with us has more than doubled,’ said Dr Simon Cassar, Head of Service.

‘We are continuously striving to meet the wellbeing needs of students in ways which are creative, efficient and grounded in research. Developing the garden space which we share with Disability Service will therefore provide a valuable resource for therapeutic work. Once established the garden will be used for a range of projects to enhance wellbeing for students, including therapeutic gardening groups.’

Enhancing the learning experience in engineering and physics

The Chancellor’s Fund has awarded grants of £5,000 to two projects that will enhance the learning experience of undergraduate students in engineering and physics, bringing practical experience into the laboratory.

First-year engineering students will work in teams of four to build an electronically controlled three-storey lift using Meccano. The electric motors for the hoist and door mechanisms, and the lights showing which floor the lift car is at are controlled by a microprocessor, programmed by software written by the students.

‘Funding from the Chancellor’s Fund will significantly enhance the learning experience of engineering students studying electronics and allow them to discover the practical difficulty behind making something we take for granted in everyday life,’ said Andrew Knox, Professor of Power Electronics & Renewable Energy.

‘It’s over 100 years since Meccano was invented and yet it is the ideal tool for students to use to explore this type of challenge: it strips away all the complexity of the mechanism so that the students can focus on core tasks of the project. Engineering is a practical discipline and to this end I give each team what is effectively a box of bits with some nuts and bolts and ask them first to copy the example lift tower. The students quickly learn the need to be able to break down complex tasks into logical steps and then, working as a team, bring these together to solve the problem at hand: exactly what they will be doing in their professional careers after completing their degree.’

Similarly, teaching of undergraduate physics students will use modern pixel detector technologies to demonstrate physical concepts of nuclear and particle physics. Funding from the Chancellor’s Fund will support the use of a Medipix detector, a state-of-the-art portable pixelated X-ray detector developed at CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research.

Dr Craig Buttar, from the School of Physics & Astronomy said, ‘Bringing unique technologies such as Medipix right to the start of the educational process is vital for 21st-century teaching. This encourages students to choose particle physics for their future career path.’
A grant from the Chancellor’s Fund made in 2012 has enabled final-year history students to curate an exhibition of materials from the Library’s Special Collections.

As part of their special subject course on the slave trade and plantation slavery, the students researched and selected material for the exhibition which highlighted the primary sources on slave trade, slavery and abolitionism that are available in Special Collections.

Professor Simon Newman, the Sir Denis Brogan Professor of American History in the School of Humanities and course tutor said, ‘There is innovative skills training integrated into the teaching of history at Glasgow. The exhibition allowed the students to experience application of their research skills, curatorship and archival work and public presentation of historical materials.’

The exhibit is on display in the Library until the end of October as part of Black History Month commemoration and can be seen online at www.glasgow.ac.uk/schools/humanities/research/historyresearch/sugarinourtea.

Student research in Tanzania

In May 2012, the Chancellor’s Fund provided a grant of £2,500 to support an undergraduate research project in Tanzania with the University of Dar es Salaam.

The project involved the Glasgow and Tanzanian undergraduate students working in partnership to suggest ways of reducing the impact of environmental issues and ways in which sustainable development might be achieved. The third-year Geography students completed 13 research projects related to agriculture and food security, health and education and urban development.

Megan Donald was one of the students on the trip, which took place in July 2012. ‘The support of the Chancellor’s Fund and others allowed us to make the most of this opportunity for real, in-depth geographical study,’ she said. ‘The trip really met the aim of promoting learning and cultural exchange not least through the support of the Tanzanian students throughout our stay. All of us have had the chance to gain a personal experience of a global connection, which would not have been possible without help from the Chancellor’s Fund. We arrived as students and left as friends.’
Want to help? Here's how

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If you would like to give a regular gift, simply complete the direct debit form below and return it to the Development & Alumni Office, 3 The Square, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ. Please keep the Direct Debit Guarantee slip at the very bottom of the page for future reference.

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Bequests are favoured by many alumni and friends who want to make a difference after their death. A gift of this kind also helps to reduce your inheritance tax liability. Please call +44 (0)141 330 4951 for more information.

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Giving from the USA
US taxpayers can give tax-deductible gifts to the American Alumni of Glasgow University, an independent charitable corporation organised in the United States that has been recognised by the Internal Revenue Service as a section 501(c)(3) charitable organisation. All donations to it are deductible as charitable contributions to the full extent permitted by law. Its Board of Directors will determine the use of all gifts. Contributions should be made payable to: American Alumni of Glasgow University, 183 Wolf Harbor Road, Milford, CT 06461–1961, USA.

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

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The Development & Alumni Office acts in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Information on donations received by the University of Glasgow is provided in Giving to Glasgow and other project-specific newsletters. Information is included only on donors who have given us their express permission to do so.

University of Glasgow Trust Donation Form
Chancellor’s Fund Newsletter – issue 18, October 2013
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☐ I wish to support the University of Glasgow by giving to The Chancellor’s Fund

☐ Please send me information about making a gift in my Will

Gift Aid it
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I would like the University to treat all qualifying donations as Gift Aid donations.

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- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.
Chancellor’s Fund giving: how you can help make a difference

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

Your vision and generosity will ensure that our students thrive in a challenging academic environment, taught by eminent academics, and benefiting from some of the best facilities that a university can offer.

Gift naming opportunities over four years are as follows:

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I would like to make a single gift to the University of Glasgow Trust of £ ............
☐ I enclose a cheque/charity voucher made payable to University of Glasgow Trust or
☐ Please debit my: Visa ☐ Visa Debit ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro ☐ Name on card ..............................................................................................................

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I would like the payments to be taken from my account on the: 1st ☐ 15th ☐ of (month) - please allow one month from today.

Please specify your inscription if requested (BLOCK CAPITALS) ..........................................................................................................................

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Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and return to:
Development & Alumni Office, 3 The Square, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QG
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To: The Manager

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- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.
Latest projects

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

**Literacy through Latin teaching project**
£2,287 To support undergraduate volunteers teaching Latin in local state primary schools.

**Enhancements to the Meccano lift project**
£5,000 To purchase equipment to enhance the learning experience for first-year engineering students.

**The building stones of the University of Glasgow**
£515 To fund an illustrated booklet on the geology of the building stones of the University.

**Inaugural Leukocyte Migration Group Meeting**
£2,250 To support the establishment of a new national research forum, in particular the involvement of early career researchers.

**PING! – a Commonwealth Games concert for string quartet and four table tennis players**
£2,000 To support the performance of a concert written by the University of Glasgow Organist and_to create.

**Mountaineering Club tackle the Dolomites**
£2,000 To support a trip for 19 students to the Dolomites!

**The Norwood Variations**
£5,000 To fund the recording of an album of music written by the University of Glasgow Composer in Residence, Drew Mulholland featuring The Edinburgh Quartet and The Madrigirls Choir.

**PPLab – demonstrating particle physics**
£5,000 To enhance the undergraduate learning environment by teaching experiments based on modern pixel detector technologies to demonstrate physical concepts of nuclear and particle physics.

**Therapeutic garden project**
£2,000 To create a therapeutic garden for use by the Counselling & Psychological Services.

**Digitising the VHS archive**
£1,950 To develop online access to Theatre, Film & Television Studies’ digital archive of audio visual resources dating from the 1930s.

**Undergraduate overseas expedition support programme**
£12,000 To support student scientific expeditions organised through the University Exploration Society.

**Genetics at Glasgow**
£600 To fund a display of archive photographs on the theme 'Genetics at Glasgow'.

**Sgeul na Gàidhlig – revealing the Gaelic heritage of the University of Glasgow**
£10,000 To support a project to uncover and relate the University’s Gaelic story.

**College employer events internships**
£5,000 To fund a pilot programme across all four colleges employing student interns to develop and host niche career events.

**Students for Kids International Projects (SKIP)**
£5,000 To fund a student run healthcare education project at Nancholi Youth Organisation in Blantyre, Malawi.

**Thanks to all our donors...**

The following lists those who have given new gifts, named existing gifts or have been upgraded a level between 17 March and 20 September 2013. In addition to those listed below, there are a number of donors whose gifts are awaiting confirmation of naming or who have chosen to remain anonymous.

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From the Estate of Mrs Elinor Muriel Cooke • Kevin and Amy Sneader • One anonymous donor

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**Class of 2013 Gift**
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* denotes donors that have been upgraded a giving club level. We would like to thank all donors for their continued support.

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