Ivy League Lectures for Glasgow professors

During the month of April, Glasgow’s strength in biomedical research was highlighted in a month-long lecture series at Columbia University’s Medical School in the heart of Manhattan.

Five of our leading scientists, Professors Anna Dominiczak, Godfrey Smith, Ian Ford, Carol Tannahill and Andrew Briggs, presented their work on the public health issues especially prevalent in Glasgow.

The poor health of the citizens of Glasgow and the west of Scotland over the past century has allowed researchers to build up unrivalled experience in dealing with cardiovascular health. Medical breakthroughs developed in Glasgow have been achieved through the close relationship between researchers and the public and through the volume of people in the region suffering from cardiovascular complications.

University of Glasgow Principal, Sir Muir Russell said: 'The University is building strong links with Columbia and lectures such as these are a first-class way to forge new connections.'

'Our five ambassadors will give New Yorkers an insight into the work being conducted at the University.'

Sir Muir Russell, University of Glasgow Principal

The collaboration also involves our two business schools. Both have a long heritage and share many similarities. Both schools are accredited by AACSB, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, an industry stamp of approval for high quality educational experiences.

Since its formation in 1916, Columbia’s Business School has forged a reputation as one of the world’s leading centres of excellence in finance. Glasgow recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of its MBA programme and is one of only 10% of business schools world-wide to hold both AACSB and AMBA (The Association of MBAs) accreditation.

The collaboration aims to bring business education of the highest international standards to Scotland.
Honouring our fallen graduates

The University needs help in finding information about graduates who fell during the Second World War for our online Roll of Honour. Some of the fallen have particular connections with North America.

In preparation to mark the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, the University of Glasgow Story has launched an online Second World War Roll of Honour. The website provides information about the lives and careers of 40 male and female members of the University community who died in the service of their country during the war. The project team is appealing to former students and family members for information about those who are included on the site and those who played their parts in the war effort.

The team is eager to collect images and additional information for all the men and women who appear on the website, to add to the online biographies. Eventually, it will be possible for alumni to add their own recollections of life at the University during the war, or for family and friends to add information about alumni who served in the conflict.

The University of Glasgow Story team has discovered that 13 of the fallen have particular connections with North America.

William Henderson is believed to have died while serving as a Lieutenant in the United States Army Air Corps.

Alastair Allan Stewart Bowman, who was the son of Archibald Bowman, Professor of Moral Philosophy at the University, was born at Princeton.

Paul Donald Gallagher was born in Dundee, New York, State, in 1912.

James Gerald Brown is buried in Middleton Holy Trinity Old Cemetery in Wilmot, Nova Scotia.

Warrant Officer Patrick Lavin is commemorated at the Ottawa Memorial, on the north east point of Green Island, along with almost 800 other Commonwealth Air Force personnel.

John Millar McCormack was born in London, Ontario to Scottish parents.

Can you help? MA gown and hood needed

Andrew Forsyth (MA 2007) is currently studying at Harvard. Twice a week, he leads the Morning Prayers at the Harvard Church and is expected to wear academic dress. He wondered, if any North American alumni might be prepared to lend him an MA gown and hood for a couple of years? He would love to be able to show his proper Glasgow colours in this task. Contact us if you can help (details on back page).

People in profile

Irwin E Thompson MBChB 1960

Irwin Thompson was born and raised in Glasgow. After graduating from the High School of Glasgow at 17, he began his degree in medicine. During his years at University, he was very involved with the Athletic Club and captained the Men’s Hockey team for three years, while also playing continuously for the national Scottish universities team during that time. Busy years indeed! After graduation, he completed his residency training at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Speaking of his time here, Irwin says: ‘I am very grateful for my years at the University. The Medical Faculty was superb and I was given every opportunity to develop myself as a person and as a doctor.’

Thereafter, he continued his medical career mostly in the United States, completing his residency and fellowship in reproductive endocrinology at the University of Washington in Seattle, followed by an NIH fellowship at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. While there, he was drafted into the US Army Medical Corp and posted to the Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany, where he was rapidly promoted to Lt Colonel.

Following his academic interests, Irwin then joined the Harvard Faculty of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the then Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston and remained in the Harvard system as a clinical professor for almost thirty years. During this time, he was also a co-founder of the Boston In-Vitro Fertilization Clinic (Boston IVF), which eventually became the largest IVF provider in the USA. Retired since 2000, he has also developed an ancillary career as artist and poet and has recently published a book of his poem-paintings called Memories & Milestones.

Irwin has maintained his contacts with Glasgow and old friends by annual return visits to Scotland. This year, his mother Sarah reaches her 100th birthday to be celebrated appropriately by a gathering of the clan, including his sisters, his wife Cherie, his daughter and son and grandchildren, among others. Irwin has also continued his relationship with the GU Alumni Association and this year delivered the Address to a Haggis at the Burns Supper in Boston, always an eventful occasion! One last word: ‘Having been a member of the Harvard Medical School Clinical Faculty for almost thirty years gives me an even greater feeling for the excellence of my alma mater.’

More information is available by Google at Irwin E Thompson.
Glasgow celebrates in North America

2008 has been another great year for Burns Suppers! Clark McGinn was on fine form as always, delivering his famous Address to the Haggis at several of the events.

Pasadena
Clark’s first port of call was the CalTech Athenaeum in Pasadena on 13 February where more than 60 people gathered to see the star in action at the first Burns Supper for the area.

Chicago
Chicago held its second Burns Supper on 16 February at the University Club and welcomed more than 80 guests. Alumni, family and friends joined in this night of Scottish tradition and cordiality.

Washington
The 2008 Washington DC Burns Supper was once again a wonderful success as a great night was had by all at the Renaissance Washington DC Hotel on 22 February.

Boston
Hampshire House on 23 February was the venue for another successful Boston Burns Supper. The Principal updated guests on developments at Glasgow and alumnus Irwin Thompson gave the Address to the Haggis, while Kirsten Cairns entertained guests with her medley of Scottish songs.

Houston
A number of alumni attended the Houston annual Heather & Thistle Society Burns Supper on 19 January, where alumnus Robert Boyd gave the toast to the Immortal Memory.

New York
The Principal hosted the annual Fall Dinner in New York, held on 27 October at the Harvard Club. Guests enjoyed hearing the latest news from Glasgow, followed by a wonderful dinner and some energetic ceilidh dancing thanks to the music of Madra Confach.

Toronto
More than 80 people attended the Toronto Alumni Dinner on 28 October at Hart House at the University of Toronto. A special thank you to Michael MacMillan for his generous support and advice and to Edith Hillian, who proposed the toast to the University, as well as helping organise this special event. Thanks also to Edith’s colleague Suzan Abu Shakra. The event was generously sponsored by Winners and HomeSense.

Forthcoming events

Keep an eye on our web pages for up-to-date information: www.glasgow.ac.uk/alumni/events

Annual New York and Toronto events: New York Saturday, 18 October and Toronto on Sunday, 19 October. More information will be available on our website and invitations will be emailed and posted in advance of the occasion.

Robert Burns 1759 to 2009
15–17 January 2009
Marking the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, the newly established Centre for Robert Burns Studies at the University of Glasgow is hosting a three-day conference celebrating all aspects of Burns’s life and works. The conference will close with a Burns Supper in the distinguished setting of the University’s Bute Hall. For further information about the conference please contact the Robert Burns Centre directly at Burns2009@scotlit.arts.gla.ac.uk.

We are likely to have two or three US Burns Suppers in 2009. Keep an eye on our website and future editions for more information.

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