



# News

Issue 4 Spring 2008

For friends and alumni of the University of Glasgow living in North America

## 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



**Professor Anna Dominiczak, Director of the British Heart Foundation Glasgow Cardiovascular Research Centre, discussed how systems biology is being put to use in cardiovascular medicine to help develop treatments and drugs.**

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

**Sir Muir Russell, University of Glasgow Principal**

such as these are a first-class way to forge new connections.

'It is extremely rare for five high-profile professors from the one institution to be invited to speak at an Ivy League university. We are both pleased and proud to have been invited and our five ambassadors will give New Yorkers an insight into the work being conducted at the University of Glasgow.'

The lectures took place as part of a flagship collaboration between Columbia University, founded in 1754, and the University of Glasgow. Columbia is the oldest institution of higher learning in the state of New York.

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.



# Giving form

Giving from Canada – tax deductible

Please complete this form and return to: Development & Alumni Office, 2 The Square, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, Scotland, UK

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name at graduation (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (inc postal code) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation year \_\_\_\_\_

Degree and subject \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a gift to the University of Glasgow of \$.....

Enclosed is a check made payable to 'The University of Glasgow'

I will give this amount every year for ..... years.

Please charge my Visa / Delta / Mastercard / Switch (please note we cannot accept American Express):

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Start date — / — Expiry date — / —

Issue number (Switch only) — —

Card security number (on reverse) — — —

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please allocate my gift to support:

- The Medical Fund
- The Vet School Small Animal Hospital
- SCENE – Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment
- The Chancellor's Fund
- I would like information on how I may make a bequest to the University in my will.
- I would like my gift to remain anonymous.

**Thank you for making a donation. Acknowledgement of your gift will be sent to you.**

Please make checks payable to 'The University of Glasgow, not 'The University of Glasgow Trust'. The University will send you a receipt for your own tax records.

# 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 451 men and women from 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 Dunkirk, New York State, in 1922.

**James Gerald Brown** is buried in Middleton Holy Trinity Old Cemetery in Wilmont, 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.



Air Raid Precautions at the University during the Second World War, 1939

Mull born **Ian Alistair Norman MacDonald** is buried in Truro (Terrace Hill) Cemetery, Nova Scotia.

**Michael Peter O'Connor** was an RAF Short Course Cadet at the University and was posted to No 32 Solo Flying Training School in Moose Jaw, Canada. He is buried in the city's Rosedale Cemetery.

**Arthur Allan Jackson Robertson** was born in 1914 in Montreal.

**John Ferrier Latta** was born in Stevenston and is buried at Montgomery Cemetery in Pennsylvania.

Leading Aircraftman **William James Watters** died in a training accident in the USA and is buried at Mesa City Cemetery in Arizona.

Two other Short Course Cadets, Leading Aircraftman **George Henderson Wilson** and **Robert Albert Wood**, went on to train together at the No 5 Flying Training School at Riddle McKay Aero College in Clewiston, Florida.

The University of Glasgow Story website has been created with the financial support of the Chancellors' Fund. More than 1,000 biographies of University officers, members of staff and students have been added to the site since it was launched in June 2007.

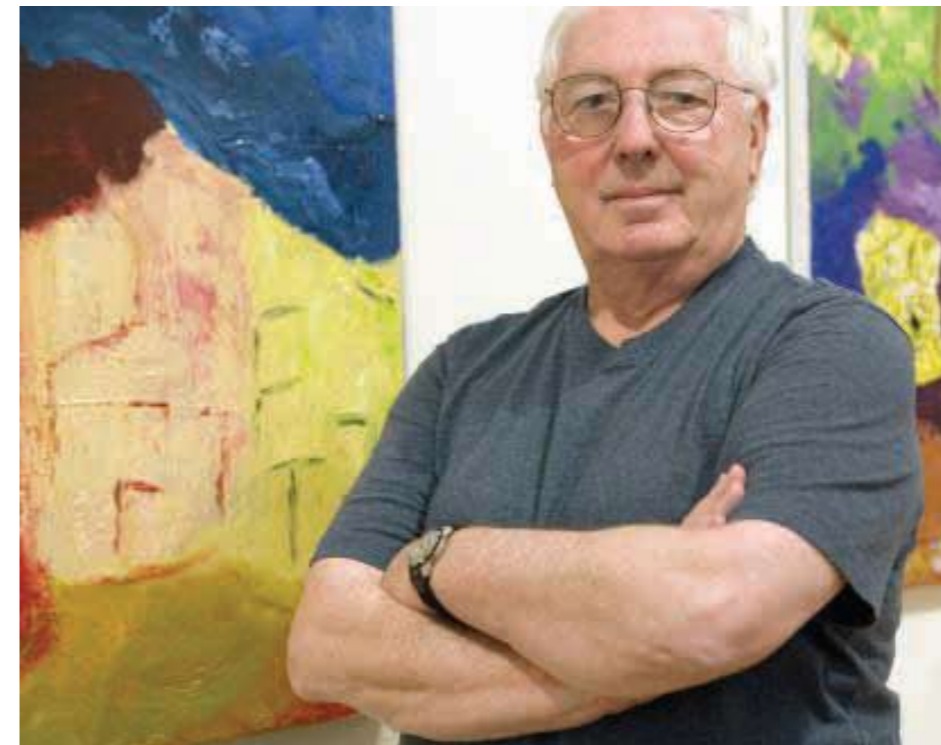
For further details see [www.universitystory.gla.ac.uk/ww2-intro](http://www.universitystory.gla.ac.uk/ww2-intro)

## 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 Memorial 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.

'The Medical Faculty was superb – I was given every opportunity to develop myself as a person and as a doctor.'

# Giving form

Friends of Glasgow University Inc.

MANU/Spr08

Please complete this form and return to: Friends of Glasgow University Inc. 244 Madison Avenue #403, New York, NY 10016



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name at graduation (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (inc zip code) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation year \_\_\_\_\_

Degree and subject \_\_\_\_\_

Give online: [www.glasgow.ac.uk/alumni/friendsofglasgowuniversity](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/alumni/friendsofglasgowuniversity)

Please accept my gift to further the mission of the Friends of Glasgow University Inc. (FGU). I would like to give:

\$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000

Other amount \$.....

I will give this amount every year for ..... years.

Enclosed is my check for a total of \$..... payable to Friends of Glasgow University Inc.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I suggest that FGU use my gift to support:

- Its general charitable and educational uses and purposes.
- Current or future grants that FGU may make to the University of Glasgow for:

I understand that FGU's board of Directors retains sole discretion and control over all gifts made to help support its grants to the University.

The University may not include my name in its publications in connection with or by reason of my gift to FGU

**Thank you for making a donation. Acknowledgement of your gift will be sent to you.**

Details about this gift will be shared with the University. Friends of Glasgow University Inc. (EIN #13-3528575) is an independent charitable corporation organized by the Internal Revenue Service as a section 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations to it are deductible as charitable contributions to the full extent permitted by law. A copy of its latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from its Treasurer or from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn. FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

**If you are giving from Canada, please complete the form opposite.**

# 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 Hillan, 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.

- 01 Chicago
- 02 Washington DC
- 03 Boston
- 04 New York
- 05 Pasadena
- 06 Houston
- 07 Vancouver



## British Columbia

The University Alumni Association of British Columbia held their annual luncheon at Cheers Restaurant, North Vancouver, on 4 November 2007. Selkirk Grace was pronounced by Catherine Schwarz and the toast to the University was given by Dr Sandy Ferguson. There are plans to hold the 2008 annual luncheon late this year – watch for an announcement of the date.

## Forthcoming events

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

## Contacts

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