• In the top 1% of the world’s universities, according to the QS World University Rankings 2011.

• Providing an experience that students love – the 2011 International Student Barometer ranks Glasgow first in the UK for international student satisfaction, and the National Student Survey 2011 reports satisfaction levels of 90% among final-year students.

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

• In the UK’s top ten earners for research, and supporting the pursuit of discoveries that can change people’s lives for the better, whether that’s finding a way to detect malaria in minutes, or contributing to the biggest particle physics experiment in the world: the Large Hadron Collider.
Welcome

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

In this issue we introduce the winner of the University’s Young Alumnus of the Year Award 2011, singer/songwriter Emeli Sandé. You can read about her recent successes in our cover story Hitting the right note on page 8.

The achievements of Glasgow’s alumni and staff are always a cause for celebration and in Glasgow’s greats on page 12 we explore just some of the inspirational discoveries made by members of the University community over the centuries.

Glasgow University Union’s renowned debating chamber has nurtured the talents of some of the UK’s most influential figures in politics, including alumni Donald Dewar and John Smith. In The great debate on page 18 we celebrate the Union’s dedication to the art of discussion.

Our campus continues to attract the attention of prominent politicians. Recently, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Michael Russell MSP formally reopened The Hunterian Museum (page 2), and First Minister, Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP officially launched the University’s new Confucius Institute for the West of Scotland (page 4).

We strive to offer our students an excellent international, cultural and, of course, academic experience. That’s why, as highlighted in our news pages, we continue to be in the top 1% of universities in the world and leading student surveys rank us as first in Scotland and the UK for student satisfaction.

Our relationship with both our students and alumni is set to last a lifetime. Therefore, I hope you continue to stay connected with the University and enjoy this issue of Avenue.

Professor Anton Muscatelli
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

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Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council
Saturday, 21 January 2012
Alumni are invited to join the Chancellor and Principal at the General Council Half-Yearly Meeting in the Senate Room at 10.30am for 11.00am on Saturday, 21 January 2012. Read the report of the last meeting on pages 25–26.
The award was made by the Medical Research Council and British Heart Foundation (BHF) to a team at the University’s Institute of Cardiovascular & Medical Sciences led by Professor Andrew Baker.

Coronary artery bypass grafting is a common treatment for coronary artery disease and usually involves taking a piece of vein from the leg – the saphenous vein – and grafting it on to the diseased heart artery to bypass that section and improve blood flow.

There are more than 28,000 coronary artery bypass graft operations performed each year in the UK. The majority use saphenous veins but around 10% of such grafts become blocked within a year, and more than a third are blocked within ten years.

Bypass graft failure starts off with the growth of new cells in the vein which eventually cause it to narrow and block, preventing blood flow to the heart muscle. The researchers hope to prevent this failure by delivering a modified virus into the saphenous vein in the operating theatre before it is implanted into the heart.

The virus is modified so it is unable to replicate, but instead expresses a specific therapeutic gene called TIMP-3 that inhibits undesired tissue growth.

The clinical trial will be carried out in the Golden Jubilee National Hospital, Clydebank, which is home to regional and national heart and lung services.

The Hunterian Museum reopens with new Roman gallery

After almost two years of closure, the University’s Hunterian Museum has been formally reopened by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Michael Russell MSP.

At a ceremony in September, the Cabinet Secretary paid tribute to The Hunterian as ‘not just Scotland’s oldest museum, but one which continues to excite and delight’.

Mr Russell also said that the new permanent gallery at The Hunterian, The Antonine Wall: Rome’s Final Frontier, ‘provided a wonderful opportunity to see the true scale of one of Scotland’s five World Heritage Sites’.

The Antonine Wall is one of the UK’s most important Roman monuments. Constructed in the AD 140s and stretching some 60km from the Firth of Forth to the River Clyde, it was the most northerly frontier in the Roman Empire.

Professor David Gaimster, Director of The Hunterian, who spoke at the launch event, said: ‘The University was the first to preserve and present this important chapter in Scotland’s history and has been instrumental in the preservation and interpretation of the Antonine Wall for over 300 years. Through its new gallery The Hunterian aims to continue to improve access and understanding for future generations.’

The new display has four key themes: the building of the wall, its architecture and impact on the landscape; the role of the Roman army on the frontier; the cultural interaction between Roman and indigenous peoples; and the abandonment of the wall and its rediscovery.

To find out more about The Hunterian’s impressive range of exhibitions and for information about its new Friends of The Hunterian scheme, see page 28.

Getting to the heart of vein graft success

A team of scientists, cardiologists and heart surgeons has been awarded £3.9m to conduct a five-year clinical study to prevent the failure of heart bypass grafts.

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The clinical trial will be carried out in the Golden Jubilee National Hospital, Clydebank, which is home to regional and national heart and lung services.
Preventing the spread of diseases from livestock to humans in Africa

Glasgow researchers have received £534,000 to study how to prevent the transmission of fever-causing illnesses between livestock and people in Tanzania.

The project will investigate the transmission of fever-causing bacteria (leptospirosis, Q fever and brucellosis) which together account for 11 times more admissions to hospitals in the area than malaria.

An estimated 75% of recently emerging diseases are ‘zoonoses’, infections transmitted between animals and humans. Professor Sarah Cleaveland, of the University’s Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health & Comparative Medicine, said, ‘This is the first time that an integrated study of the impact and social ecology of bacterial zoonoses has been undertaken. In addition to causing harm to humans, zoonoses can have a major impact on livestock production, causing reproductive problems and loss of milk production.’

Glasgow’s experts in veterinary medicine and geography will work together with local organisations to examine a wide spectrum of factors which lead to the spread of disease and develop methods which could help control and prevent infection.

Top marks for Glasgow

The University has soared 18 places to attain 59th position in the latest QS World University Rankings, confirming Glasgow’s place in the top 1% of institutions in the world. One of only three Scottish institutions in the top 100, Glasgow has seen the largest rise in its rankings.

The University has also performed well in independent student survey, the International Student Barometer. An impressive 96% of our international students agree that Glasgow is ‘a good place to be’ and 91% of final-year students are satisfied with their learning experience. Taking all the ratings for learning, living and support experience together, the University is ranked first in the UK.

In the 2011 National Student Survey, the University received an impressive satisfaction rating of 90% from students, ahead of the Scottish average of 87%, the Russell Group average of 83% and the overall sector satisfaction rate of 83%. The aggregated results place Glasgow as joint top in Scotland for student satisfaction along with St Andrews and joint seventh in the UK.

Glasgow students secure prestigious Saltire Foundation internships

This summer eight Glasgow students were among the 61 students from across Scotland to be awarded internships with leading international companies.

Run by the Saltire Foundation, the programme offers talented Scottish students access to these rare high-calibre opportunities. Andrew Carey, Christopher Scott, Darren Smith, John Mervin, Kathryn Fraser, Nadia McLean, Sarah Hampton and Susan Rimmer from the University gained the prestigious placements, including those with Rolls-Royce, IBM and The Trump Organization.
Chinese professor retraces footsteps of his father in Glasgow

A Chinese professor took advantage of a recent delegation’s visit to the UK to come to the University to retrace the footsteps of his father.

Professor Rujian Lin, 72, from Chengdu, Sichuan Province, a retired and active professor of Shanghai University in Fibre Optics and Optical Access Networks, wished to trace the records of his father Chi Yung Lin who was a student in Glasgow from 1915 to 1924.

Chi Yung Lin’s route to the University was closely linked to the creation of the Republic of China in 1911, when aged 19 as a student soldier he took part in the Wuchang Uprising that led to the Xinhai Revolution. He was among 80 students then sent overseas by the first President of China, Sun Yat-Sen.

Professor Lin’s father studied Civil Engineering at the University and further studied at Royal Technical College. He subsequently worked for the Caledonian Railway Company, working through the ranks of apprentice, technician and engineer. He left the company and the UK in 1925, when the Caledonian Railway had been absorbed in the London, Midland & Scottish Railway.

In the years following Chi Yung Lin’s return to China, he worked in various jobs, including Engineer in the Railroad Ministry, Dean of Engineering College, Central University in Nanjing, Chief Engineer of Huai River Conduction Committee. Senior Engineer of Construction Bureau of Sichuan Province, Dean of Engineering College, Sichuan University, and latterly as a professor at Chengdu Institute of Engineering until his death in 1962.

First Minister opens the University’s new Confucius Institute

A Confucius Institute for the West of Scotland has been officially opened at Glasgow by First Minister Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP.

The Institute – a partnership with China’s prestigious Nankai University – is part of a network of more than 350 around the world, supported by the Chinese government to spread awareness, understanding and appreciation of Chinese language and culture.

A primary purpose of the Institute, funded by the Chinese National Office of Chinese Language Council International – known as Hanban – is to teach the Chinese language. In addition, the Institute will organise cultural activities, including lectures and exhibitions. It will also provide information and support for businesses in Scotland seeking information and assistance in operating in and trading with China.

The Institute was officially opened by Mr Salmond (pictured above) at a ceremony in the University’s Bute Hall, which was attended by Li Ruiyou, Chinese Consul General of the People’s Republic of China in Scotland, and Xiaogang Tian, Minister Counsellor for Education, Chinese Embassy London, and members of the academic community and public.

Mr Salmond said, ‘The promotion of the educational, economic and cultural ties between Scotland and China are further strengthened by the creation of the Confucius Institute at the University of Glasgow.’

One of the first events organised by the new Institute was a six-week exhibition during October and November, in the University’s Kelvin Gallery of The Hunterian, of artworks by Professor Fan Zeng, one of China’s most famous artists, whose traditional ‘splashed ink’ and figure drawings are hugely popular in China.
Female professors recognised in 2011 Queen’s Birthday Honours

Professors Sally Macintyre, Mona Siddiqui, Noreen Burrows and Sheila Rowan all received honours as part of the Queen’s official 85th birthday celebrations.

Professor Sally Macintyre, Director of the Institute of Health & Wellbeing and Honorary Director of the Medical Research Council/Chief Scientist Office Social & Public Health Sciences Unit, was appointed DBE (Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire).

Professor Mona Siddiqui, Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of the Centre for the Study of Islam, and Professor Noreen Burrows, Jean Monnet Professor of European Law, were appointed OBEs (Officer of the Order of the British Empire).

Professor Sheila Rowan, an experimental physicist in the School of Physics & Astronomy, was appointed MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire).

Professor Anton Muscatelli, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, said, ‘We are very proud that so many of our academics have received honours from Her Majesty The Queen. The awards recognise the huge contribution each has made to their field and to education in Scotland and the UK as a whole. I warmly congratulate them all.’

Fee levels set for RUK students

The University has announced that the annual fee for students from the Rest of the United Kingdom (RUK) undertaking an undergraduate degree will be £6,750, with the exception of those studying Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine who will pay £9,000. All first-year RUK students will be awarded a bursary or fee waiver of £1,000, meaning a four-year degree should cost no more than a total of £26,000.

Glasgow is also to offer fee waivers and further bursaries to students from low-income households. For some this could be worth as much as £12,000 across the course of a typical four-year degree.
Tackling diseases caused by pollutants in the environment

Diseases of the immune system such as multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis could be treated by a gas produced naturally by the body, scientists at Glasgow have found.

Autoimmune disease occurs when a person’s immune system attacks the body. It is a major global health problem and is often made worse by environmental pollutants, like car exhaust fumes and factory emissions, which contain chemicals such as dioxin.

Nitric oxide, a gas which is produced in the body, is vital to a range of body functions including maintaining healthy blood pressure, neurotransmission and fighting infection.

Now studies carried out in the University’s Institute of Infection, Immunity & Inflammation show that nitric oxide can stop the development and function of a type of white blood cell, known as TH17, which can attack the body tissue through excessive inflammation.

Dr Wanda Niedbala, who led an international team of scientists from Glasgow, Brazil and Japan, explains, ‘Nitric oxide inhibits a molecule called AHR (Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor) in TH17 cells and inactivates these cells. Since AHR is a receptor for a range of environmental pollutants including dioxin, this finding demonstrates that nitric oxide is a natural suppressor of autoimmune disease caused or exacerbated by environmental pollutants.’

The findings could have important clinical implications. Nitric oxide is already used widely to treat cardiovascular disease and control blood pressure; the researchers hope it may also have the potential to treat some of the autoimmune diseases caused by pollutants in the atmosphere.

Glasgow awards Armando Iannucci Honorary degree

The comedian, satirist and writer Armando Iannucci has been awarded an Honorary degree at the University.

The Glasgow-born writer, producer and director, best known for his work on the BBC comedy shows On the Hour, The Thick of It and I’m Alan Partridge, was made a Doctor of Letters at a ceremony in June in the University’s Bute Hall.

Professor Graham Caie, Clerk of Senate and Vice-Principal of the University, said, ‘Armando is another representative of a proud writing and comic tradition in Glasgow and he continues to go from strength to strength. We are delighted to recognise his achievements with an Honorary degree.’

For a full list of Honorary degrees awarded during the June graduation ceremonies, visit: www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/ceremoniesandhonoraryawards

Honorary degree for renowned Nobel Prize winner

Nobel Prize winning scientist Professor Ahmed Zewail was awarded an Honorary degree by the University at a ceremony in October.

Professor Zewail holds the Linus Chair of Chemistry and Physics at the California Institute of Technology, and in 2009 was invited by President Barack Obama to be the first United States Science Envoy to the Middle East.

Following the award ceremony, Professor Zewail delivered a public lecture on Revolutions in Science and Society in the Sir Charles Wilson Lecture Theatre.
Engage with Glasgow online

We’re staying connected with our student and alumni communities through a range of digital and social media channels.

The University is now on Google maps. Last year, the Google trike (pictured right) came to Gilmorehill to film all the paths around the main campus. Now live and with a 360° ‘street view’ function, the map will help new students find their bearings and offers alumni a trip down memory lane at the click of a mouse. See http://gla.ac/gugooglemap to find out more. To help us evolve the map and keep it up to date, we would welcome your feedback. Please send your thoughts, suggestions and changes by email to gerard.malcolm@glasgow.ac.uk.

Current and former students can also engage with the University through our social media networks. With more than 11,000 followers on Twitter and almost 21,000 on Facebook, our feeds are currently the most popular out of any Scottish university and offer timely updates and lively debate centred on campus life. Whether you’ve got a query or just want to say ‘hi’, get in touch and we’ll be sure to reply. Follow us at www.twitter.com/glasgowuni and www.facebook.com/glasgowuniversity.

Lost literary work identified

A major literary discovery has been made in Sir Walter Scott’s library at Abbotsford House.

‘The Grotesquiad’ was recently uncovered by the Faculty of Advocates while cataloguing Sir Walter Scott’s collection. Dr Gerard Carruthers and Dr Rhona Brown of the University’s College of Arts have identified the author as James Beattie (1735–1803), who is known to have written a poem of this title, long thought to be lost.

Dr Brown, who is currently preparing the poem for publication in collaboration with the Faculty of Advocates and the Abbotsford Trust, said, ‘The discovery is significant for many reasons. The world is able, for the first time, to see one of the most substantial of Beattie’s productions and to recognise a new facet of his literary personality.’

Beattie is a major figure in 18th-century Scottish culture, famous as an opponent of David Hume’s scepticism and of the evils of slavery, and in his philosophical writings he made an important contribution to the Scottish Enlightenment.

The find comes at an important time for the University. Earlier this year, Dr Carruthers and colleagues secured funding of £1m from the Arts & Humanities Research Council to edit the complete works of Robert Burns.

School pupils visit CERN

Over the last three years the University has welcomed around 400 sixth-formers on a particle physics masterclass. This year a group of ten pupils went on to spend three days being shown around CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) by Glasgow physicists.

The pupils, from schools in the West of Scotland, including the East End of Glasgow, Drumchapel and Ayrshire, had entered a competition run by the Glasgow’s Particle Physics Group and Science Connects. Dr Aidan Robson, who organised the masterclass and visit, said, ‘By coming to the University, the pupils see that the CERN science they hear about in the news is happening right here in Glasgow.’ Other sponsors of the schools visit were SUERC, the Ogden Trust and CERN.
Emeli sitting at the Steinway grand piano in the Principal’s Lodge on the day she received her Young Alumnus of the Year 2011 award.
Hitting the right note

Each year, the University recognises the achievements of alumni through its Young Alumnus of the Year Award. The 2011 winner is singer/songwriter, Emeli Sandé (BSc 2009).

It’s been a big year for Emeli Sandé. In November, her collaborative song with urban star Professor Green, ‘Read all about it’, went straight to number one in the UK music charts, following the success of her debut single as a solo artist, ‘Heaven’, which reached number two in August. A MOBO (Music of Black Origin) award nomination for Best Newcomer, two appearances on BBC’s Later ... with Jools Holland and a sell-out UK tour have also been highlights of 2011. However, returning to the University to receive her Young Alumnus award is on a par for Emeli, who says, ‘This is an amazing honour for me.’

Born and raised in Alford in Aberdeenshire, Emeli had always wanted to be a singer. Wisely, however, she took the advice of her father, a teacher, who encouraged her to have a good education before venturing into the music business, as she explains, ‘I had to work hard at school and get good grades. My parents really felt it was important.’ Emeli’s efforts paid off and in 2006 she came to Glasgow to study Medicine. ‘I thought the course was great and the facilities were excellent,’ she says. ‘The Medical School was really good and I enjoyed the way we were taught, which was very interactive. The staff were also really supportive.’

While Emeli was thoroughly enjoying being a medical student, she didn’t keep her love of singing a secret. She took part in University talent contests and singing events, performed at local gigs and released an EP. However, she remained committed to her studies: ‘Medicine is an intensive course so it was important to focus.’ In her spare time Emeli used her music as means of relaxing and her parents, keen for her to keep a balance, bought her a keyboard, which she played when she needed a break.

Emeli’s singing talents didn’t go unnoticed and in 2009, towards the end of her third year, she was signed by Stellar Songs, part of the EMI publishing group. That same year she was nominated for her first MOBO award in the best song category for rapper Chipmunk’s ‘Diamond Rings’, which she co-wrote and provided vocals for.

By this point Emeli found herself torn between pursuing a music career and finishing her studies. ‘That was a really difficult time,’ she admits. ‘But, I don’t like starting something that I don’t finish, so it was really important that I get a degree; that there was a sense of completion.’ In 2009, she achieved her goal and graduated with an intercalated degree in Neuroscience. Soon after, Emeli moved to London and since then both her singing and songwriting have gone from strength to strength.

As well as writing her own material, Emeli has worked with a variety of fellow music artists, including rapper Wiley, X Factor winner Leona Lewis and former Girls Aloud member Cheryl Cole. Her ability to pen hits also attracted the attention of fellow Scot, Susan Boyle: ‘I was approached by her record company to write something for her. It’s a song about New Year resolutions. I was told that she cried during the recording, so it obviously touched her.’ Word of Emeli’s talent has even spread across the pond and she was recently invited to New York to write three songs with multiple Grammy award winner Alicia Keys – an experience Emeli described as ‘phenomenal’.

While Emeli is passionate about writing music, she also loves the thrill of singing live, as she explains, ‘Writing a new song is very exciting but when you are performing, that connection with the audience is a great feeling. They are very different and I wouldn’t want to choose one over the other.’ And neither should she. As her unplugged version of ‘Heaven’ on Jools Holland proved, not only can she write inspiring and original lyrics but she can also sing them with a voice so soulful it leaves an audience spellbound.

Even with such a promising musical career ahead, Emeli remains enthusiastic about her degree subject and doesn’t rule out delving back into her studies one day: ‘I’ve been looking into the impact that music has on the brain and it’s certainly something that I’m still very interested in. But I would probably have to go back to first year of university again!’

A return to academia may have to wait for now, though. With the much-anticipated release of her debut album Our Version of Events, 2012 looks set to be an even bigger year for Emeli. In the meantime, she is thrilled to be named Young Alumnus of the Year 2011: ‘It’s been fantastic; working with Alicia Keys, appearing on Jools Holland – but honestly, when I received the email about the award, I was very excited and I hope I can be a good ambassador. For the University to recognise what I’m doing in this way, it’s really special.’
Finance to philanthropy

Through a recent business venture in Mozambique, Eric Kohn (BSc Natural Sciences 1968) is providing opportunities for the local community – and Glasgow’s medical students.

As founder of Baron’s Financial Services, based in Geneva, Eric has helped turn around the fortunes of several businesses. It was over lunch there one sunny day that he heard about tantalum mining company Noventa, located in the remote village of Marropino in Mozambique. The country is a conflict-free source of this rare metal, used in every mobile on the planet.

Since then, Eric has been instrumental in helping Noventa and until recently he was chairman of the company. However, rather than focusing solely on the extraction of tantalum, he was also committed to improving the lives of the villagers, many of whom are Noventa’s employees. Eric explains, ‘The company wanted to ensure it employed local people and recognised its responsibility to look after them too. Marropino is six hours into the bush and the nearest medical facility is three-and-a-half hours away. We put water pumps into the village, built a primary school where the government funds five teachers who work in two shifts with 500 pupils, and built and provided a health centre where the government funded two nurses.’

In addition, Eric as Chairman arranged for Noventa to provide funding for senior elective placements in Marropino for up to four Glasgow medical students this year, covering all of their travel and subsistence expenses, which his successor will hopefully continue. ‘The collaborative project allowed the medical students to spend some time in Marropino and enabled them to conduct a needs assessment and look at how we can help meet the UN’s millennium goals on things like immunisations, malaria and diarrhoea,’ he says.

The first group of students, Aysha Latif, Iain Martin and Urmila Paramarajah, returned recently and spoke to Avenue about their experiences. ‘Our task was to work out achievable objectives that future students could complete in four to five weeks. There are a lot of issues to tackle but we quickly realised that having things like education days and teaching people about nutritious food were more realistic for us,’ explains Iain.

‘The food demo was good because malnutrition is a problem. The women make a maize-based porridge, which lacks vitamins and minerals, but the World Food Programme provides something called Plumpy’nut, based on peanut flour and high in sugar, fat and protein. So we made our own version of this.’ Urmila continues, ‘The Plumpy’nut is available at a clinic three-and-a-half hours away and the villagers have forms to receive this, but they’re not filled out. So we went to the hospital, completed the forms and got the Plumpy’nut.’

Iain adds, ‘We also did sex education. The main age of pregnancy is 14 so we tried to emphasise that it’s best to wait, but we also demonstrated how to use condoms. The men and women met separately to discuss condom use but village elders quickly moved between the two groups and so the whole session became a collaborative endeavour.’

Professor Phil Cotton, of the University’s Medical Undergraduate School, was responsible for building the relationship with Eric and selecting the students from the many that applied. Phil himself visited Mozambique 23 years ago as a medical student. ‘My experience helped articulate some of the reasons why I was studying medicine and it has exerted an ever-present influence since. As well as developing clinical skills, it provides a holistic population view of medicine and gives students an appreciation of healthcare delivery and the interface between poverty, culture and human rights,’ he says.

For Eric, supporting his Alma Mater was a major motivation for setting up the project: ‘I had a great time at the University and many of my friends were medical students, so I wanted to put something back. We had already started a scheme with Earth Science students and graduates, who came to the mine in 2010. Then I found Phil, who had worked in Mozambique before and knows Portuguese, and we got the project going.’

As a result, Aysha, Urmila and Iain have shared a rewarding experience and fully appreciate the work being done. ‘What Noventa is doing here is altruistic,’ says Aysha. ‘They don’t have to do this but they are taking an ethical route and trying to be more locally focused. They’ve gone about it the right way too – clean water first, then primary healthcare services and primary education.’

More student electives are planned, forging what will hopefully be a long-term relationship with Noventa, thanks to Eric, and the village of Marropino. Urmila feels positive about the village’s future: ‘The community has learnt to trust us. There’s a love there, a two-way thing between them and us. The more students that go out there, the more that will grow.’
1, 3, 5 & 6. Urmila, Iain, Aysha and Phil with the village’s children.

2 & 8. The Noventa mine.

4 & 7. Aysha and Iain using their medical skills.

9. Phil helping with a food demo.
Glasgow’s greats

With the creation of a new website that celebrates the achievements of members of the University community who have changed the world, Avenue explores the discoveries of some of Glasgow’s well-known men and women.

Lord Kelvin, eminent 19th-century scientist and Glasgow graduate, once said, ‘When you are face to face with a difficulty, you are up against a discovery.’

It’s an admirable philosophy and one that over the years, Glasgow’s students, staff and alumni have shown themselves to subscribe to. Across disciplines as diverse as medicine, economics, literature and the sciences, the ideas of some of the great minds associated with the University have shaped and often changed our world for the better.

The University has been associated with seven Nobel laureates. Sir William Ramsay, Frederick Soddy, John Boyd Orr, Sir Alexander Robertus Todd, Sir Derek Barton, Sir James Black and Professor Robert Edwards have all taken their places in the history books, but Glasgow is also the Alma Mater of astrophysicist Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, who has been credited with having discovered the first radio pulsars with her thesis supervisor, Antony Hewish – an achievement for which Hewish was awarded the 1974 Nobel Prize in Physics. At the time, some condemned the decision not to include Bell as co-recipient of the prize. However, in an after-dinner speech in 1977, Bell said of the matter, ‘I am not myself upset about it – after all, I am in good company, am I not!’

The discovery of pulsars provided the first direct evidence for the existence of black holes: an important milestone in the history of astrophysics.

Meanwhile, reproductive medicine would not have been the same without the efforts of Glasgow graduate Murdoch Cameron. In an improvised operating theatre crowded with doctors and undergraduates in the Royal Maternity Hospital in 1888, Cameron performed the city’s first successful Caesarean section under modern antiseptic conditions. His patient, Catherine Colquhoun, was 27 years old, little more than four feet tall and a victim of rickets, which was common in the East End of Glasgow at that time as a result of malnourishment and a lack of sunlight. The successful delivery was due, in part, to the pioneering discoveries of another Glasgow luminary, Joseph Lister, who developed his system of antiseptic surgery while Professor of Surgery at the University from 1860 to 1869. Having revolutionised childbirth, Cameron became Regius Professor of Midwifery at the University in 1894.

Sixty-eight years later, in 1962, a researcher by the name of Robert Edwards came to work in the University’s biochemistry department in order to develop his skills in tissue culture. Interested in fertilisation, he would become a future pioneer of the process in vitro fertilisation, or IVF. Professor Edwards stayed in Glasgow for just a year, subsequently settling in Cambridge and forming a research partnership with gynaecologist and surgeon Dr Patrick Steptoe, but he did publish a number of research papers affiliated to the University. His collaboration with Dr Steptoe met with significant hostility and numerous setbacks and, by the late 1970s, funding for their project was running out. But in 1978, the birth of Louise Brown, the world’s first test-tube baby at the Oldham General Hospital, made medical history. With Steptoe, Professor Edwards went on to establish the first IVF clinic at Bourn Hall in 1980 and was recently awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine.

Main: Lord Kelvin
Top: A cartoon of John Boyd Orr in The Glasgow University Magazine in 1951
Bottom: Murdoch Cameron’s first three patients, including Catherine Colquhoun (left)
Pioneering research in reproductive medicine continues at the University today. In 2011, for example, a team from Glasgow and Bristol has produced a calculator that gives the most accurate reading yet on the potential success of IVF treatment. 'In the US and the UK, IVF is successful in about a third of women under 35 years old,' says Professor Scott Nelson, Muirhead Chair of Reproductive and Maternal Medicine. 'The result of this study is a tool which can be used to make incredibly accurate predictions.' The free calculator is available at www.ivfpredict.com and is also being turned into a smartphone app.

Being able to unlock the secrets of the body is something that many of Glasgow’s most innovative thinkers have worked towards achieving, and, as a result, the University has been at the forefront of medical imaging for more than a century. The development of diagnostic ultrasound in medicine, for example, was a Glasgow first, proposed by Ian Donald, Regius Professor of Midwifery between 1954 and 1976. Professor Donald had served as a medical officer in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War, which gave him the idea that radar technology could be adapted for medical diagnosis. His early experiments on tumours used an industrial ultrasonic metal flaw detector.

Similarly, John MacIntyre, a Glasgow graduate and subsequent lecturer, used knowledge gained in an industrial environment in order to benefit patients in a healthcare setting. MacIntyre had originally trained as an electrical engineer and worked as an apprentice electrician before enrolling at the University in 1878 and changing his field to medicine. In 1887, he established the world’s first radiology department in Glasgow’s Royal Infirmary.

Today, innovative imaging techniques continue to help the University’s researchers see the world in ways previously thought impossible. In the Centre for Cognitive Neuroimaging, for example, top scientists have embarked on an ambitious research programme that aims to understand the workings of the mind. Alongside the Centre’s Director, Professor Phillipe Schyns, researchers are working to find and observe the brain regions involved when humans recognise another person’s voice, face or actions. They’re using a specialised MRI scan called functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI), which can measure the change in blood flow related to neural activity in the brain or spinal cord.

Of course, not all of the discoveries of Glasgow’s greats have come from exploring the human body. University graduates and staff have also played their part in shaping the worlds of politics, economics, literature and education. Few will be unaware of the ideas of Adam Smith, the Glasgow alumnus and professor, often referred to as the father of modern economics. The seeds of his book * Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* were sown in his professorial years at the University, which he later referred to as ‘by far the most useful and therefore as by far the happiest and most honourable period of my life’.

Just as Smith’s writings have proven to be food for thought for countless academics across the world since the 18th century, Glasgow’s economists are still influencing financial thinking on a global stage. Professor Ronald MacDonald’s work on exchange rate modelling has been significant in both academic literature and for practitioners and policy-makers, for example. His tool, the Behavioural Equilibrium Exchange Rate, developed with Peter Clark at the International Monetary Fund, has been broadly used by central banks and the wider financial community to assess the degree of misalignment of major currencies. Professor MacDonald himself has been consistently ranked in the top 2% of economists in the world in the IDEAS/RePEc ranking, which is
a collaborative effort across 75 countries to enhance the dissemination of research in economics.

In politics, figures such as the Deputy First Minister for Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon MSP, are testament to the University’s tradition for nurturing future leaders. Sturgeon studied Law at Glasgow, where she was active in the SNP student wing. She is one of an ever-growing list of alumni to have made their mark in parliament or government, which includes: the University’s current Rector, Charles Kennedy; Ruth Davidson; John Smith; Menzies Campbell; Winnie Ewing; Scotland’s inaugural First Minister Donald Dewar; and former Prime Minister Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.

And in literature, the works of many of the University’s alumni have become national and international bestsellers and award-winners. In 2001, for example, the first novel written by Glasgow creative writing Masters graduate Rachel Seiffert was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. Chiew-Siah Tei, who studied for an MPhil in media culture as well as a PhD in creative writing and film studies, began to write her internationally acclaimed Little Hut of Leaping Fishes while a student at the University. The novel was longlisted for the inaugural Man Asian Literary Prize 2007 and shortlisted for the Best Scottish Fiction Prize 2008. Writers such as these follow in the footsteps of a long line of literary talent associated with the University, including such names as Janice Galloway, Liz Lochhead, William Boyd, James Herriot, William McIlvanney and John Buchan, author of The Thirty-Nine Steps.

In many instances, studying or teaching at Glasgow has been the start of a journey. The University is proud to have fostered the talents of people who have gone on to shape other great educational institutions across the globe, many of whom we have collaborative partnerships with today.

In America, for example, John Witherspoon was recruited from Scotland to become president of the College of New Jersey in 1768. Using a profound knowledge of Scottish university practice gained, as he himself put it, ‘through great intimacy with the members of the University of Glasgow,’ he implemented sweeping reforms. The college would later become Princeton University. In Canada, the world-famous McGill University was founded in 1821 with revenue from the estate bequeathed by University of Glasgow alumnus James McGill. And in Africa, the vision of Glasgow’s Professor Ian Mclntyre resulted in the development of the veterinary school at the University of East Africa, Nairobi, in 1963. Within a year, the Glasgow Medical Faculty also helped establish the Medical School at Makerere University College, Uganda.

Recently, a desire to celebrate achievements such as these has prompted the creation of a new website which explores the ways in which a variety of ‘Glasgow greats’ have helped to change the world in the last 100 years. The website was produced by a team in the University’s Archive Services and a group of senior academics.

‘We realised that everyone knew the great men and women of the past, but were much less familiar with more recent world-changers,’ explains Lesley Richmond, Director of Archive Services. ‘Now anyone can easily discover the members of the University of Glasgow community who have made major contributions to our knowledge, culture, economy and the quality of our lives.’

The plan is to keep adding to the website as new discoveries emerge, with Vice-Principal for Research and Enterprise Steve Beaumont taking charge of the nomination and review process, as Lesley explains, ‘We are also keen to discover anyone we might have overlooked, and so we would encourage people to make nominations. The site has been a great success, so we also know that we shall have to add the world-changers of the University’s first 450 years to ensure that all Glasgow’s greats are honoured.’

Discover more about Glasgow’s greats at www.worldchanging.glasgow.ac.uk.
Inside the World of James Herriot:

1. 5 & 6. Vet equipment and medicines.
2. Jim giving a tour.
3. A display case of Alf and his notes.
4. The TV series set.
7. Jim (right) with his father.
8. The museum sign.
9. The family living room.
A vet’s tale

In his former family home in Yorkshire, Jim Wight (BVMS 1966) shares stories about one of the Vet School’s most well-known and much-loved alumni – who also happens to be his father.

To say Jim Wight followed in his father’s footsteps belies just how intertwined their lives have been. Jim’s father, Alf, is of course the humble veterinarian whose written tales and reminiscences of a life spent caring for animals great and small in the Yorkshire Dales – penned under the name of James Herriot – have enthralled generations of people.

Himself a retired vet and author, Jim often finds himself back at the family home in Thirsk, now the World of James Herriot museum, meeting tourists and signing copies of his book The Real James Herriot. It is strange, he admits, that his childhood home has now been frozen in time – decked out in 1940s style – for people from all over the world to visit.

It is apt that Jim’s professional life returns him to the place – 23 Kirkgate, Thirsk – where his, perhaps inevitable, journey into the veterinary profession began. Having accompanied his father on his rounds from the age of three, Jim says that by the age of five he considered himself ‘pretty much fully qualified’.

‘It was an interesting time then as the place was full of small family farms. It was all a massive adventure. I got to know all the farmers, all the kids, and I thought “this is the life for me”,’ he says.

In 1961, when Jim Wight stepped through the big double doors of Glasgow’s Vet School, then located at B Buccleuch Street, he was stepping into a world his father had already experienced 30 years before. He recalls, ‘It wasn’t the most salubrious of buildings but I found the atmosphere warm and vibrant. My father studied in the same building and, like me, he had great times and forged lasting friendships within its forbidding walls. I moved to the Garscube campus in my final year. They were terrific days.’

While the location of the Vet School may not have changed when Jim arrived, the entry requirements certainly had. ‘When I enrolled there were about 300 applications for 40 places. My dad, he just rang up from Hillhead High School and spoke to the Principal – who answered the phone personally – and told him he wanted to be a vet. The Principal said, “When can you start?” Now, kids have to get five A-levels all at A, including in Physics, Biology and Maths. How did my dad get in? English, French and Latin!’

In 2012 the Vet School celebrates its 150th anniversary and Jim is impressed by the many developments since its establishment. ‘There have been huge changes over the years and Glasgow has been at the forefront of fantastic advances in vet medicine: the Dictol vaccine, the vaccine against the parasitic worm, Bill Jarrett’s work on feline leukaemia. And it’s still carrying on,’ he says.

‘We’ve got so much technology now, we can diagnose almost without seeing an animal. We’ve got X-rays, ultrasounds, MRI scans, blood tests. In my dad’s day you had to look at them, touch them, smell them. I always tell students, “Never forget your practical skills!”’

It was this hands-on approach to animal care that resulted in the beautifully written stories that Alf produced as James Herriot, which brought the job of the veterinarian to life.

Jim says, ‘The name Herriot is still synonymous with the profession he portrayed in his books. A lot of Dad’s characters were based on people he knew on farms. His books are about all the kids, and I thought “this is why his books have been a huge success.”

‘People often ask me, “Why was he such an accomplished writer?” Well, his father was a shipyard worker at Yarrows on the Clyde, but also a professional musician. He was a very cultured man, widely read, and he encouraged my dad to read, so he had read all of the works of Charles Dickens by the time he was 15.’

Those very books still sit in Kirkgate, so it was fitting then, that shortly before Alf died in 1995, he learned that the University’s Vet School was naming its library in honour of him. ‘Dad said to me, “I’ve had a lot of honours in my life – an OBE, meeting Her Majesty The Queen, a Fellowship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons – but this, this honour here, means as much as all the others.” Although he was an Englishman born in Sunderland, a huge part of his soul was in Glasgow,’ says Jim.

‘My dad died the day before I opened the library. It was difficult but I was very proud to go to the opening. I think there will always be interest in his books. James Herriot’s stories are history – they are timeless.’

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The great debate

As the Glasgow University Union marks the 30th anniversary of the World Universities Debating Championships, Avenue explores the Union’s great debating heritage.

As Chris Sibbald, President of the Glasgow University Union (GUU), shows Avenue the oak-panelled interior of the Union’s debating chamber, it is hard not to be impressed. ‘It’s a major part of our tradition,’ says Chris, who conjures up a vivid image of what happens here. ‘When the debates are on in the chamber, it’s really atmospheric. It can be dramatic when the lights are turned down low. Those who have come to watch hang over the balconies while the debate is taking place downstairs. Some people call it the bear pit.’

This debating chamber has come to be considered one of the finest training grounds for young and ambitious politicians. In fact, the talents of some of the UK’s most influential political figures have been nurtured here, including former Leader of the Labour Party John Smith; Scotland’s inaugural First Minister Donald Dewar; journalist Andrew Neil; and former Leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party Sir Menzies Campbell and the Rt Hon Charles Kennedy MP.

For Charles Kennedy, now Rector of the University (the only Rector to be re-elected for a second term since former Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli), the debating culture on campus helped pave the way for his future career: ‘My time at university gave me my first real taste of debating. It gave me the
confidence to realise that I was able to construct an argument and that it was possible to persuade others of my point of view, just as long as I worked hard enough to do so. That early experience of public speaking has been absolutely invaluable to me during the past 28 years as an MP.'

As a student Charles teamed up with fellow GUU debater Clark McGinn and the pair travelled the world representing the University, with their crowning achievement coming with victory in the prestigious Observer Mace (now the John Smith Memorial Mace) competition in 1982. This is just one of the trophies secured by our students over the years, which now line the walls of the debating chamber. As well as holding an unrivalled 18 titles for the John Smith Memorial Mace (its closest competitor having won the competition four times), Glasgow has also won the World Universities Debating Championships a record five times.

It was, in fact, Clark McGinn who organised the first World Universities Debating Championships, also known as the ‘Worlds’. A keen debater at school, Clark’s passion for discussion flourished during his degree studies. ‘Given Glasgow’s unparalleled reputation and that I was studying Philosophy, it was natural that debating formed part of my university life,’ he says. During his time as Debating Convenor for the GUU, he set about planning the Worlds. ‘There wasn’t one event where all the world’s teams were invited to debate in one place,’ says Clark. After months of preparation, the opening of the championships was held at Glasgow in 1981.

In November 2011, the Union, which was recently crowned UK Student Union of the Year at the Mirror Club Awards, celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Worlds with a gala debate and dinner event. The theme for discussion was independence and brought together eight of the ten world champions for GUU, as well as a celebrity clerk bench made up of Lord (Jimmy) Gordon, CBE for services to radio, Sarah Smith, daughter of John Smith and Channel 4 newsreader, Charles Kennedy and Gerry Malone, former Conservative MP.

More than 700 people gathered in the debating chamber to watch the debate, filmed live by STV, and 200 life members and 60 guests went on to enjoy a sell-out dinner with Charles Kennedy and Clark McGinn reuniting to propose toasts. ‘I would never have thought that the event would still be running 30 years on,’ admits Clark. ‘It is amazing to think that from 47 teams taking part back then, it is now the second biggest event, after the student games, in the world. It is truly wonderful. Glasgow at its best.’

One of the oldest and most prestigious student clubs in the world is the University’s Dialectic Society.

This year marks the 150th anniversary since its formal re-institution in 1861. However, the earliest paper records of the society are dated 1770 and its history can be traced back even further. During a visit to Scotland in 1882, Pope John Paul II issued a Papal Letter recognising the society’s claim to being established in 1451, the founding year of the University.

In 1955, the society won the prestigious Observer Mace and, since its involvement in establishing the Glasgow University Union in 1885, it has supported student debaters in their unequalled success in both the Mace and the World Universities Debating Championships. In addition, the society has close connections with many other student clubs and societies on campus, and promotes discussion on a range of thought-provoking topics, from medical ethics to environmental issues.

Current President of the Dialectic Society, Emily Askham, is pleased that interest in debating is still thriving: ‘We have 280 new members on this year’s mailing list and around 600 people receive our weekly emails. It’s really exciting and very encouraging.’ A sentiment that former society presidents John Smith and Donald Dewar would surely share, were they here today.

For more information about the Dialectic Society’s 150th anniversary plans, see our alumni notices section on page 24.
GU Club Aberdeen AGM

The club president, Sheriff Douglas Cusine, welcomed 50 members and guests to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the new campus of the International School of Aberdeen. After the AGM, Dr Dan Hovde, Director, spoke about the history and ethos of the school, which welcomes international and local students and prepares them for the International Baccalaureate. The school was obliged to relocate last year as it was on the route of the proposed Aberdeen Western Peripheral Road. Steven Barker from Halliday Fraser Munro, the architects for the new building, gave a presentation, which was followed by a buffet, provided by the school, and a tour.

The club meets three times a year and always welcomes new members. For further information, please contact Evelyn Dobson, tel: +44 (0)1224 868275.

Above from left to right: Christine King, Sheriff Douglas Cusine, Evelyn Dobson and Dr Dan Hovde.

Top psychological prize for graduate

Professor Tommy MacKay (MA 1969, MAppSci, DUniv) has received the inaugural award of the Prize for Public Engagement from British Psychological Society. The professor received the prize for his work in communicating sound psychological evidence and ideas to the wider public, both in terms of an outstanding contribution in a single year and also of work of a consistently high standard over a long period. This has been recognised at every level, with extensive national and international press, television and radio coverage and has been described at prime ministerial level as ‘remarkable’.

How to contact alumni news

Alumni news is edited by Sarah Richardson. Send details of news and reunions to: Development & Alumni Office 2 The Square, University of Glasgow Glasgow G12 8QQ. Tel: +44 (0)141 330 4951 Email: alumni@glasgow.ac.uk

Royal Society of Chemistry award for Glasgow graduate

Dr Janet Warren (BSc 1958, PhD) received the Royal Society of Chemistry’s Distinguished Service Award for 2011. Dr Warren was chosen for her exemplary and dedicated service to the RSC Analytical Division, within both Scotland and the UK, and especially for her record of more than 30 years’ continuous service to the Scottish region.

2011 Queen’s Birthday Honours

Professor Harry J G Burns (MBChB 1974, MPH, DSc) received a Knighthood.

Professor Noreen Burrows (staff member) was appointed OBE for services to scholarship and human rights.

Mr John Corcoran (former staff member) was appointed MBE for services to business.

Dr James A Grant (BSc 1971, MBChB, MD) was appointed MBE for services to community healthcare in Scotland.

Professor Christopher Hood FBA (MLitt 1971) was appointed CBE for services to social science.

Dr Donald R Lamont (MEng 1983) was appointed MBE for his work as HM Principal Specialist Inspector of Health and Safety (Civil Engineering), Department for Work and Pensions (West Kirby, Merseyside).

Professor Sally Macintyre CBE (staff member) was appointed DBE for services to science.

Professor Mona Siddiqui (staff member) was appointed OBE for services to inter-faith relations.

Professor William A C McKelvey (BVMS 1975) was appointed OBE for services to the agricultural industry.

Professor Sheila Rowan FRSE (BSc 1991, PhD, and staff member) was appointed MBE for services to science.

Professor Brian O Williams (MBChB 1970) was appointed CBE for services to medicine.

Dr James S Rennie (BDS 1972, PhD) was appointed CBE for services to dentistry.
Alumni events round-up

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.

Brussels cheese and wine reception

In October, Professor Ian Forrester QC very kindly hosted a reception for alumni in Brussels and the BeNeLux area. Guests enjoyed delicious cheese, wine and a variety of fresh bread, some of which had been baked that morning by the professor’s own fair hands! The offices of White & Case provided the venue, where guests stayed to chat with fellow alumni well into the evening as the wine and conversation flowed.

Professor Graham Caie, Clerk of Senate and Vice-Principal, and Professor Rosa Greaves, Head of the School of Law, joined guests at the event. Professor Caie brought everyone up to date with University developments, and Professor Greaves outlined current School of Law activities and emphasised the school’s international nature, reflected in its academic staff drawn from many nations.

Chicago, Toronto and San Francisco

Alumni, friends and prospective students attended events over spring and summer in North America to celebrate their association with the University and hear the latest news.

The Chicago group met in May at Osteria Via Stato to socialise and network with friends before the Memorial Day Holiday weekend. Also in May, 45 alumni and friends met at the University of Toronto’s Massey College for dinner to celebrate the achievements of the 2010 Young Alumnus of the Year winner, Dr Patrick Gunning (BSc 2011).

And finally, in June, an enjoyable evening was had by all at the Hotel Durant, Berkeley. Professor David Fearn, International Dean for the Americas, and Katie Schwarz (LLM 2010), Alumni Coordinator for the San Francisco area, welcomed guests for drinks and canapés.

London alumni drinks

London’s Naval & Military Club provided a great venue with outside space for a group of graduates to meet up in June. Despite the tennis there was a good turnout of around 50 people, who enjoyed the opportunity to network and meet up with friends.

Leeds drinks reception

In September, an event was held for alumni of Russell Group universities in the Terrace Bar at the University of Leeds. There was a good turnout among all participating universities, and Glasgow graduates enjoyed the chance to reminisce about their student days.

Cyprus alumni drinks

A group of alumni met in the Baroque Bar in the Cleopatra Hotel in Nicosia in September. Constantinos Taliotis (BAcc 1992) and Professor Adrienne Scullion, Dean of Research, College of Arts, hosted the successful get-together.

Professor Scullion brought news from Glasgow and graduates were keen to hear what had changed and indeed what had remained the same since their time at the University. A good time was had by all.

Glasgow University Women’s Club

London annual dinner

Over 50 members and guests met in June at the University Women’s Club in Mayfair. Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, eminent astrophysicist who discovered the first radio pulsars and President of the Institute of Physics, delivered an excellent after-dinner speech. Jocelyn, who gained her first degree, a BSc in Physics, at Glasgow, recalled her time here and discussed the challenges faced by women over the years in science and academia, which led to a lively discussion much enjoyed by all.

In September, a walk by the Olympic Park was led by London Blue Badge Guide and club member Hilary Booth. Information can be found at www.gu-london.org.uk. New members always welcome.

Nigeria reception

Alumni, friends of the University and applicants were invited to the Sheraton Lagos Hotel in July for the first event of its kind in the area. Helen Templar, International Officer, hosted over 60 guests and talking points included the latest exciting University news and recent developments. Alumni also enjoyed the opportunity to meet up with old and new friends.

The guest speaker was Mr Okechukwu A Chibuzor (MSc 2010) who shared his experiences of life as a student at the University, encouraging new students to enjoy the rich cultural experiences that Glasgow and Scotland have to offer.

Since the successful event two volunteers have come forward to lead the Glasgow University Alumni Association in Nigeria. Professor Stephen O Akpavie (PhD 1985) and Dr Olayinka I Nwachukwu (PhD 2007) hope to plan exciting activities and events to help members keep in touch with each other and the University.

Become a Friend of the University Library

The Library of the University of Glasgow is one of the great libraries of the scholarly world, and the Friends of Glasgow University Library (FGUL), which was formed in 1975, aim to support it in every way they can.

Friends enjoy a series of lectures and events on a variety of subjects of library, archive and University interest and a newsletter published twice a year.

To find out more about our programme and about becoming a Friend, visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/library/friends.

Alumni events in 2012

For up-to-date information about our various events, including dates and locations, please see www.glasgow.ac.uk/alumni/events
Alumni reports

1960 Maths/Nat Phil Class
Following a suggestion by Professor Randall House that we should get together to celebrate 50 years since our graduation, 26 of us gathered on Gilmorehill in July.

On Thursday, a few hardy souls played golf in monsoon conditions. At coffee in the School of Physics and Astronomy common room on Friday, auld acquaintances were definitely never forgot, and, after lunch, we enjoyed a tour of The Hunterian Art Gallery, guided by Professor Margaret Macdonald.

In the evening, we enjoyed a fine dinner and animated conversation in the Melville Room. A booklet of short biographies of class members, prepared by Robin Russell, was compared with amusement with individual descriptions in the menu of the class final-year dinner, lovingly preserved by Sir Russell Hillhouse. Toasts were proposed to those unable to attend and to the University. Copies of the booklet are available to class members who couldn’t make it; please email: kenway.smith@glasgow.ac.uk.

On Saturday, a few of us basked in sunshine on Loch Katrine before bidding farewell, but we hope there will be continuing interchanges before 50 more years have passed!

1963/64 Classics
In October, the miserable weather was challenged by the brightness of the reunion at the University. Nineteen stalwarts enjoyed welcome drinks and animated conversation in the Turnbull Room. Mutual recognition didn’t appear to be a problem in spite of the lack of nametags. This all added to the general excitement! The group then enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch in the Melville Room. We were delighted to have two teachers from our student years join us, namely Professor Alex Garvie and Dr Betty Knott–Sharpe.

Lunch was followed by a visit to the old Humanity classroom, where Professor C J Fordyce looked down benignly upon us from the painting on the wall, and then on to the glorious Bute Hall where we had graduated. The afternoon closed with coffee in the Melville Room and requests were made for an event in five years’ time. No problem!

Thanks to all involved in the successful event, namely the organisers, G Hepburn and R Graham, the Alumni Office, the University’s Hospitality Services and all the guests, some of whom had travelled great distances, with the alpha double plus award for distance travelled going to R Mansbach from Iowa. A splendid effort!

1966 Norwegian graduate reunion
In May, 27 Norwegian University of Glasgow graduates travelled from all corners of the world to celebrate their 25th graduation anniversary. The organising committee had been working at this for two years to make sure all ex-students would have the chance to experience a memorable Glasgow weekend. The class consisted mostly of engineering students. The University’s Alumni Office and Hospitality Services were of great help, and the reunion dinner held at One A The Square was a highlight.

Friday kicked off at the Curlers pub (much changed since 1986) and dinner in the Ubiquitous Chip. Saturday was spent on a pub and quiz crawl around University Avenue. The University Union Beer Bar was one of the key stops, where we quickly were back in the mid-80s – not a thing had changed! The now ‘middle-aged’ students answered tricky questions and documented challenges, such as finding a true Scotsman and policemen on Byres Road. After a successful dinner-dance in the evening, we rounded off in the local disco in the early hours. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed coming back to Glasgow and flew home happy to have shared an unforgettable experience with old and good friends.

GU68 Trustees
The GU68 Trustees, made up from a group of 1968 Engineers, visited the School of Engineering in February. The trustees provide philanthropic support for the school through annual awards to engineering students in need of study-related support and were welcomed back to their Alma Mater to see the results of past awards. Professor John Marsh hosted the visit and his staff conducted a tour of school facilities. The highlight was the nano laboratory tour (see photo). Andy Buchanan, trustee, commented: ‘The visit was particularly valuable in making contact with members of staff, who can help with future awards.’

The 1959–64 Dental Class
The class met for a three-day reunion at the Mere Court Hotel, Knutsford. Thanks go to Lester and Jenni Ellman for planning an enjoyable programme.

ESGUG annual dinner
The Annual Dinner of the Edinburgh Society of Glasgow University Graduates (ESGUG) was held at the eh15 restaurant of the Jewel and Esk College near Portobello in April. It was attended by 42 members and their guests and was a very enjoyable event, accompanied by stunning views.

1961 Modern Languages
The group met for a 50th anniversary reunion and dinner in the University’s Turnbull and Melville Rooms in July. Participants came from as far as Australia and Canada, as well as from England and Scotland. A truly grand time was had by all.

1952 Beta Club
The club held a 59th anniversary reunion at Seamill Hydro Hotel in June. Fourteen members and guests attended and it was a most enjoyable evening. The weather was good and Arran, the Firth and Ailsa Craig were looking their best. See page 24 for 2012 plans!
BVMS Class of 1961 50th reunion

In June, the class celebrated the 50th anniversary of their graduation in Glasgow. The three-day programme included participation in the University’s Commemoration Day lunch in the Hunter Halls. The following day a morning visit was paid to the Small Animal Hospital, the Weipers Centre for Equine Welfare and the Scottish Centre for Production Animal Health at the Garscube campus. These events led to warm tributes being paid to the hard work and dedicated support from the Alumni Office and the leaders of the clinical groups at Garscube.

A black tie celebration dinner was held at the Grosvenor Hilton Hotel, which prompted the following comment from one of the participants: ‘The formal dinner was great and it was amazing how we all fitted in together, just like the old times.’

The group were truly delighted with their tour of Garscube and the evident dramatic developments over recent years.

Class of ’71 Zeta Club 40th reunion

In April, 145 Zetans and partners met at the Doubletree Hilton, Dunblane. Instant identification was made easy by yearbook picture name badges and the hard work previously put into the website – most of us had hardly changed at all. The weather was kind to us and appreciated by colleagues from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Hong Kong, the Isle of Man and England.

Golf and the scientific session were a great success and the gala dinner was splendidly topped off by an address by Larry, our president, followed by a purpose-built Zetan Scottish country dance, ably demonstrated by the light-footed Pete and Kay Richards and their team of volunteers. A disco followed, and so to bed – eventually. The next one will be a 45-year reunion and John Browning and the skiing Zetans have kindly agreed to get it together. Thanks to all who helped to make this one such good fun.

1961 Zeta Club

The 50th reunion was held in September in Glasgow, where 51 members came together with 34 spouses or partners – a good turnout 50 years on from an initial membership of 144. On the first afternoon we had a tour of the Medical School Building followed by a reception and buffet dinner in the atrium and both were much enjoyed. The next day offered a choice of excursions, namely visits to Dunfermline House, the Burns Museum or golf, all in Ayrshire, and fortunately the sun shone.

The formal dinner was held in the recently refurbished Crowne Plaza, which made an excellent venue. We were delighted to welcome Chancellor of the University Professor Sir Kenneth Calman who replied to the toast to the University, proposed by Sandy McNeish. Dinner ended with a few comments and a vote of thanks to the other two speakers from Frances Dryburgh, and all three speakers provided a most enjoyable after-dinner session.

As we move into the era where we think carefully about buying green bananas, a consensus seemed to be developing about meeting again in three rather than five years.

1976 Geography

In June, 23 guests gathered at the Metropolitan at Candleriggs for drinks and dinner to celebrate 35 years since graduation. The group, including 18 Glasgow graduates, caught up and reminisced about their time at the University. Particular focus fell on the fieldtrips the group went on, including residential ones to Montrose, Scarborough and Benidorm, which encouraged the group to bond so well during their student days. Everyone is looking forward to the next reunion, which is hoped to be held on 25 June 2016.

1949 Chemistry

The reunion was held in July in the Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh. Our numbers are small but enthusiastic and come from far and near. Next year’s lunch will be held in Glasgow and we would welcome any others from our year. Email: jgk4129@aol.com or dcm703@sky.com or contact the Alumni Office.

Gift ideas from Glasgow

With official University of Glasgow clothing, and gifts including jewellery, handbags, candles, soaps and seasonal treats, you’ll be sure to find that special something at the University’s online shop.

To view our fantastic range, visit www.universityofglasgowshops.com and use code alumweb15 to claim a 15% alumni discount.
Reunion notices

Glasgow University Dialectic Society
150th anniversary
25 February 2012, University of Glasgow
The society warmly invites all former members to attend the 150th celebrations. There will be a drinks reception at the Glasgow University Union followed by a debate in the world-famous debating chamber, dinner and ongoing festivities. For more information or to express interest, please contact Paul Baird, email: Paul.Baird@blueyonder.co.uk, tel: +44 (0)141 330 7146.

Glasgow University Engineers’ Society
Are you a Glasgow Engineer?
The revived society aims to support the School of Engineering and to further the interests of University of Glasgow Engineering. We’ve lost touch with many Engineers, so tell us wherever in the world you are and we’ll tell you our plans. To register your interest, please email: alumni@glasgow.ac.uk.

1952 Beta Club
15 June 2012, Seamill Hydro Hotel
The committee has decided to hold a 60th and final reunion, again at Seamill. If there is sufficient demand, it is also planned to hire a coach on the Saturday and have lunch at the University. Further information from Professor Hume Adams, Flat 1/1, 2 Craigend Gardens, Lornond Drive, Glasgow G77 6FL; tel: +44 (0)141 639 5792; email: humeadams@btinternet.com.

1960 Delta Club
12–15 June 2012, Seamill Hydro Hotel
The club is holding its 52nd anniversary reunion. To attend or find out about our plans, contact Dr Robert Graham, tel: +44 (0)116 270 5368; email: bobgynae@hotmail.com.

1962 Natural Philosophy and Maths
13–14 June 2012, University of Glasgow
Plans are underway for a 50th anniversary reunion. We hope the class will join in the University’s Commemoration Day celebrations on the Wednesday. On Thursday there will be a University tour followed by our class dinner. Please contact Ian Aitken to indicate your interest in attending as it will be necessary to get an idea of numbers before confirming plans. Email: ianc62@aol.com, tel: +44 (0)141 330 1829. General enquiries, tel: +44 (0)141 330 1835. Request a brochure, tel: +44 (0)141 330 1829. General enquiries, tel: +44 (0)141 330 1835. Email: dace-query@educ.gla.ac.uk Visit: www.glasgow.ac.uk/ace

New courses for 2012

Adult & Continuing Education (DACE) offers a wide range of day-time and evening part-time courses for adults.

Archaeology & Egyptology • Art • Computing • History • Languages • Literature & Creative Writing • Media Studies • Music • Philosophy & Religion • Psychology • Science • Social Sciences

Request a brochure, tel: +44 (0)141 330 1829. General enquiries, tel: +44 (0)141 330 1835. Email: dace-query@educ.gla.ac.uk Visit: www.glasgow.ac.uk/ace

University of Glasgow

1962 Modern Languages Honours
23 June 2012, University of Glasgow
A reunion lunch is being organised. If you would like to attend or find out more, please contact Ian Campbell, tel: +44 (0)1292 476 755; email: ianc62@aol.com.

1963 Chemistry Class
Advance notice – June 2013
University of Glasgow
A golden reunion is planned with details to follow. Contact Alan Cameron, tel: +44 (0)1358 720130; email: aicameron21@gmail.com.

1963 Civil Engineering
Advance notice
James Livingston and Diarmid Troup are in the early stages of planning the 50th reunion. If you were a member of this class and would like to get in touch with them, please contact James, tel: +44 (0)1786 834364.

1972 Alpha Club
April 2012, Peebles Hydro Hotel
The club (1966–72) medical graduates will be holding a reunion. To register interest, please contact Dr Brian D Keighley as soon as possible, email: Alphaclub@btinternet.com.

1972 BDS Summit Club
Advance notice
A 40th reunion is proposed. If I have not been in touch over the past few months, contact Jim Law, email: jklaw999@hotmail.com, tel: +44 (0)7836 240682.

1972 Notre Dame
1 September 2012, University of Glasgow
The 40th jubilee will take place in the Catholic Chaplaincy. It is hoped to have Mass at 12 noon followed by a buffet lunch. For more information or to register your interest, contact Anne Martin, email: a.martin@ntwold.com or Margaret McFarlane, email: MMMcfarlane@aol.com.

1977 Beta Club
24–26 October 2012, Dunkeld House Hotel
The 35-year reunion has already been pencilled in. For more information, please email: rona.henderson@beta77.org.

1992 Computing Science
2 June 2012, Glasgow
Plans are being made for a 20-year reunion. To attend or find out more, contact Blair Wood, email: blairwood7@googlemail.com.

2002 MBA (Full-time)
17–18 May 2012, Glasgow
The class will be celebrating a 10-year reunion. Part-time students are welcome to join. For more information, contact Malcolm Nobbs, email: malcolm.nobbs@gapac.com.
The General Council

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

Papers for consideration at the Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council, 21 January 2012:
1. Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on 25 June 2012 (see below).
2. Paper A. Report by the Principal on the work and activities of the University.

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on Saturday, 25 June 2011 in the Senate Room

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2011, printed in Avenue issue 50 (June 2011) were approved. There were no matters arising.

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

The Chancellor invited Mr George Tait, Convenor of the General Council Business Committee, to give his first report as Convenor.

Mr Tait reported that the Business Committee had held two meetings since the last Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council in January 2011. At the March meeting, Mr Robert Speir, the University’s Group Financial Controller, gave a very interesting briefing on the University’s financial position. He highlighted the need for certain income and cost targets to be met over the coming three years, given the limited viability of funding beyond 2011/12. The Committee discussed representations made by General Council members about Court’s proposed funding cuts. The Secretary of Court gave a résumé of the recent Court meeting, the financial position and responding to representations. A progress report was received from the sub-committee reviewing the future role and purpose of the Business Committee. Finally, a progress report was given on an ordinance to reduce the number of GC Assessors at Court from five to two, to allow co-option of Court members with suitable skills to serve on Court committees. The Committee had previously agreed to a reduction, with the recommendation that co-opted members should where possible be General Council members. This was agreed by Court and the ordinance has been sent to the Privy Council for consideration. In view of the Scottish Government’s announcement of a university governance review, it is not certain when the Privy Council’s deliberations will be concluded. The General Council Business Committee will be considering the terms of the review and will submit its views if appropriate.

Mr Tait reported that the Clerk and he had attended the annual meeting of the Representatives of the General Councils of the ancient Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews, held at the University of Edinburgh. There was a wide-ranging and informative discussion on contemporary issues, giving ideas that might help increase the effectiveness of the Business Committee.

At the May meeting, Mr Ian Black, the University’s Director of Human Resources, gave an interesting presentation on how Human Resources strategy fits into University strategy, including numbers of academic and support staff, the University’s values, staff retention strategy and rewards systems. Challenges included reduced funding, the importance of the Research Excellence Framework, the future of the pension schemes and the abolition of the default retirement age. In his report of the recent Court meeting, the Secretary of Court provided details of the Scottish Funding Council Grant for 2011/12. The Principal was also present at the meeting. Resolutions sent by the University for comment were discussed; issues arising will be followed up.

Mr Tait reported that seven members have been co-opted on to the Committee since the last General Council meeting and expressed his gratitude to them and to all members for their time and contribution. He noted how impressed he was with the backgrounds and competencies of Business Committee membership.

Mr Tait reported that the sub-committee reviewing the Business Committee’s role and purpose had reported and the intention was to press ahead with its modernising recommendations, taking into account the Scottish Government’s review of university governance, expected before the end of the year.

Finally, Mr Tait thanked the Clerk to the Committee for his help.

Election of members to serve on the General Council Business Committee

The Chancellor informed the meeting that the Clerk had advised that seven nominations, duly proposed and seconded, had been received for persons to be elected to serve as members of the General Council Business Committee until June 2015:

- Mrs Helen Margaret McAvoy, EU Affairs Consultant (MA 1972)
- Mr James Murdoch Ewing, Clerical Officer (MA 1983)
- Mr Colin Edward Cox, Retired Reporter to the Children’s Panel (LLB 1970)
- Sheriff Desmond John Leslie, Sheriff (MA 1978)
- Mr Duncan Joseph Marley, Retired Civil Servant (MA 2002)
- Dr Gordon MacMillan Hamilton, Medical Practitioner (MBChB 1977)
- Dr Ann Harvie, Retired Consultant Paediatrician (MBChB 1972)

The General Council approved the election. The Clerk also reported that in January 2011 the Business Committee had co-opted the above seven General Council members to serve as members on the Business Committee until June 2011, taking up places which had remained unfilled for elected members.

Address by the Principal, Professor Anton Muscatelli

The Principal indicated that he intended to cover the financial outlook; the consultation process on the University’s academic shape; and the current strategic initiatives described in his Avenue report.

Financial outlook

The outlook had been challenging for all universities. The UK Government had cut its public expenditure plans and this had had an impact on the Scottish budget. In the light of this, the University was working on two fronts: reducing costs (by £20m over three years) and generating additional income of £15m. Although not all the £20m savings had been identified, the University was now confident that it could be achieved. The University was determined to achieve these targets in order to increase its impact on Scotland, both economically and culturally, and internationally.

The University had done much to address the £35m funding gap, through a voluntary severance scheme and by freezing vacancies, to a total of £18.5m. Great credit was due to colleagues for reducing costs. Teaching income was up £9m on forecast. The Principal explained that as a charity, the University did not make a ‘profit’ but aimed to realise a target-operating surplus of 2% in order to reinvest in capital spending in such areas as estates and IT equipment. Other universities were investing and the University could not afford simply to retrench. Even in difficult financial times, it was important to reinvest in critical areas.

The University was not seeking to narrow its academic scope but was fully committed...
to being a broad-based research-intensive institution covering Arts, Social Sciences, Science and Engineering, and Biomedicine. The following list of posts will be appointed before late 2013.

- **Arts (15 posts):** Priorities: Scottish Studies, History, History of Art, Theatre and Film Studies, and English; MacDowell Chair in Classics.

- **MVLS (30 posts):** Leadership investments in Biodiversity, Cancer, Cell Biology and Food Security.

- **Science and Engineering (30 posts):** Support of advertised leadership posts, the Singapore Institute of Technology courses, and a wide range of investments, from Engineering to Computing Science to Physics to Chemistry.

- **Social Sciences (20 posts):** Leadership and support of interdisciplinary research; Law; Education; managing Social Science research and postgraduate (PG) work particularly in the Business School, which was now the biggest in Scotland at PG level (1,200 students). The staff–student ratio was being carefully managed to ensure the quality of the student experience.

The University topped the UK in History of Art and Scottish Studies: it had the highest percentage of grants from the AHRC (Arts & Humanities Research Council) in Scottish Studies, ranging from the Burns edition to Scottish History. There was also a recent generous endowment from Professor MacDowell for a Chair in Greek, an area where the University has the opportunity to rebuild its former strong position in Classics.

**Consultation process on our academic shape: outcomes**

The Principal suggested that to make across-the-board cost savings was not the best approach. Where certain areas were not performing well against strategic objectives, consultations were carried out to determine the best way forward and whether to maintain the same scale of operation in all areas or perhaps realign resources to areas that students wanted to study or to where there was real potential for development. In summary:

- **Areas of academic activity:** The University decided to maintain important and distinct areas of academic activity as at present, for example in Classics and Archaeology, where the review showed that there was scope to build.

- **Open programme in adult education:** The University recognised the very positive impact the programme had on the local community and decided to maintain the programme provided it could be run on a sustainable basis.

- **Teaching of languages:** The University was not withdrawing from languages. The outcome of the consultations was that the full range of languages currently taught will be maintained: French, Spanish, German, Italian and Russian taught to Honours; and non-Honours languages such as Czech, Polish, Catalan and Portuguese; and possibly Mandarin and Arabic. There will be investment where student demand was high, particularly French and Hispanic. It was noted that there had been a regrettable confusion over language and cultural study programmes, and that this had led to the assumption that language courses were being cut. As noted, this was not the case.

- **Dumfries campus:** The University had decided to withdraw from Liberal Arts courses at the Dumfries campus as they had struggled to fill the student places available. The University had determined therefore to change its focus, offering courses in education, sustainable development and renewable energy.

**Current strategic initiatives**

Two particular areas of interest were:

- **Internationalisation:** The Business School was the biggest in Scotland and one of the biggest in the UK due to the numbers of international students it was now attracting. There was an agreement with the Singapore Institute of Technology to provide engineering degrees in Singapore, in collaboration with the Glasgow School of Art. There was also an agreement with the Chinese authorities to set up a Confucius Institute in collaboration with Nankai University, the University’s partner in Tianjin. The Scottish Government was very interested in developing links with Tianjin and China in general and had been very supportive of the Confucius bids.

- **Acquisition of Western Infirmary site:** The University had acquired the 10-acre Western Infirmary site (access from 2015). This was an exciting and long-term opportunity to transform the campus. The University will over 20–30 years completely renew the estate, move out of energy-inefficient and less functional buildings and return terraced property to residential use.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the Principal felt there was great reason for optimism. The University had faced difficult economic times, not by standing still and retrenching, but by seeking to exploit initiatives and investing in them at the same time as making economies. Funding agencies such as research councils had commented how innovative its new structures were in developing interdisciplinary thought and in making the University more competitive.

**Questions**

The Chancellor thanked Professor Muscattelli for his address and invited questions and points. In answer to questions about:

- **Medical curriculum progress:** Professor Jardine was conducting the review and it was progressing well.

- **Funding gap due to fees in England:** The Scottish Government had made it clear that they would fund the gap. The situation in England was still not clear but the Principal envisaged fee levels would fall in England or the UK Government might engineer a clawback of student places.

**Funding of teacher training:** The University was very dependent on government funding in this area, subject to uncertainty because of workforce planning. The Principal thought it was helpful to have brought the School of Education into the College of Social Sciences, where teaching and research collaborations were possible.

**Staff confidence in senior University management:** The Principal indicated that at times of cost-reduction staff concerns were understandable.

**Principal’s remuneration:** The Principal indicated that his salary was determined on appointment by the Remuneration Committee. The SMG had agreed that the salaries of all University senior managers, including the Principal’s, should be frozen, as they have been for the last two years, and since his appointment.

**Tuition fees/graduate contributions:** The Principal replied that his interest was in the funding of Scottish education and it was a matter for government to decide the best funding mechanism. He noted that government had made a firm commitment to filling the funding gap, which was very welcome.

**Possibility of merging with another Glasgow-based university:** The Principal pointed out that there were no merger discussions ongoing. He agreed that mergers did offer opportunities for strategic growth but noted that they often did not turn out that way, particularly if there wasn’t a good strategic fit. There was always a danger that what emerged was a large institution with big areas of medium achievement.

**Publicly funded free higher education:** The Principal confirmed that the University shared the government’s vision for publicly funded free higher education for Scottish students. He was concerned to ensure continued widening access, including Talent Scholarships, where academically qualified talented students were able to attend the University through the scholarship scheme.

**Closure of the meeting**

The Chancellor, on behalf of the General Council, again thanked Professor Muscattelli for his optimistic presentation.

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 well-being of the University. All graduates and teaching staff are entitled to attend.
The draft budget indicates a prioritisation of funding, within public spending, for Higher Education. There will be a funding increase of £76m in 2012–13, and subsequent planned allocations will see funding increase by a total of £135.5m by the final year of the Spending Review. The detail of how this will impact on Glasgow is not yet known, but it is a better outcome than was anticipated a year ago.

There was much debate over the summer months regarding the annual fee levels Scottish universities would set for students from the Rest of the United Kingdom (RUK). We decided to set the undergraduate degree fee at £6,750 (Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine will be charged £9,000); agreed that all RUK students entering first year should be awarded a bursary or fee waiver of £1,000; and decided to offer significant fee waivers and further bursaries to students from low-income households. This package acknowledges the contribution, both academic and social, that RUK students make to our campus and aims to ensure that Glasgow remains inclusive and affordable.

Last year the University undertook a substantial restructuring programme to reduce the number of faculties (nine) to four colleges and to establish a group of research institutes. One year on, the new structures are in place and, while they will take time to bed down, there are already signs that they will be effective. The College Management Groups are taking real ownership of college strategies and we are delighted that the new structures have been well received by our research funders, both research councils and charities.


As highlighted on page 3, the University has once again achieved strong results in surveys and league tables. 'The University has once again achieved strong results in surveys and league tables.'

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The second part involved the celebration of the launch of the Confucius Institute (as reported on page 4), undertaken by the First Minister, and in the company of Chinese Consul General, the Minister Counselor for Education, Chinese Embassy London, the President of Nankai University, and Nankai colleagues. The Institute aims to spread awareness, understanding and appreciation of Chinese language and culture. Our successful bid to establish a Confucius Institute in partnership with Nankai University is to be applauded, and I am certain it will be of benefit to the West of Scotland as we continue to build our links with China. The launch was also highlighted in my discussion with ministers at the recent UK–China Education summit in London.

The day concluded with a lecture by Professor Fan Zeng from Nankai University, and the opening of an exhibition of his work in our Kelvin Gallery. Professor Fan Zeng is one of China's leading contemporary artists, who commands enormous respect and attention.

In October, I hosted a visit of the President and Deans of Tianjin University of Finance and Economics (TJUE). TJUE is a college partner for Social Sciences and is ranked strongly in China for Accounting, Finance and Economics in particular. The Business School signed a Study Abroad and Masters agreement with TJUE in February 2011 and already 15 students are enrolled for 2011–12. More generally this reflects the success of our Business School, which is now one of the biggest in the country, and the University's increase in international student numbers, particularly postgraduate taught, with a predicted year-on-year growth of 27%.

We are also delighted to develop our agreement with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). The University has signed an agreement with SIT, to deliver joint mechanical design engineering and mechatronics programmes. Glasgow has opened an office in the city-state with five permanent staff and will aim to support around 320 students every year.

In November, I had the pleasure, along with colleagues from the University and other Scottish HEI representatives, of accompanying the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Michael Russell, to Delhi and Kolkata to encourage and enhance education and business links with India. We will be attending the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry Higher Education summit conference and I will also be visiting the University of Calcutta to pursue potential collaborations. Later, the Cabinet Secretary will join me for an alumni dinner featuring the Kolkata 'Auld Boys', a group of engineers who graduated from engineering colleges, including Glasgow, in the 1950s.

After almost two years of closure The Hunterian Museum was formally reopened in September by Cabinet Secretary Michael Russell MSP and provided a perfect opportunity to showcase the excellent new permanent exhibition: The Antonine Wall: Rome’s Final Frontier. Page 29 features other gems of The Hunterian collections. Let me therefore commend the new ‘Friends’ scheme, which offers members a range of exclusive benefits and the chance to participate actively in The Hunterian’s work. The Hunterian is moving forward with new confidence, and that is exciting as all its events and exhibitions carry and promote the name of Glasgow and the University nationally and internationally. I hope that you will take the opportunity to visit some time in 2012.
Get closer to a world-class collection

Built on William Hunter’s founding bequest, The Hunterian’s collections include scientific instruments used by James Watt, Joseph Lister and Lord Kelvin; outstanding Roman artefacts from the Antonine Wall; major natural sciences holdings; one of the world’s greatest numismatic collections; impressive ethnographic objects from the Pacific Ocean; a major collection of Scottish art; and one of the UK’s top six graphic art collections.

The Hunterian is also home to the world’s largest permanent display of the work of James McNeill Whistler, the largest single holding of the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and The Mackintosh House, the reassembled interiors from his Glasgow home.

The Hunterian Friends scheme offers members a range of exclusive benefits and opportunities to participate actively in the work of The Hunterian – the nation’s leading university museum and one of Scotland’s most important cultural assets.

Hunterian Friends give vital support and make a direct contribution towards new exhibitions and galleries, our education and conservation work, and to new acquisitions.

Friends receive a number of exclusive benefits, including free admission to Hunterian special exhibitions, free admission to The Mackintosh House and a programme of special members’ events led by Hunterian curators.

University of Glasgow alumni receive a discount on the annual membership fee, paying just £20 per year. For further information and to download an application form, see www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian/support/friends.
What’s on @ The Hunterian

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

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

Hunterian Art Gallery, 82 Hillhead Street, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ.
Tel: +44 (0)141 330 5431

Hunterian Museum, Main Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ.
Tel: +44 (0)141 330 4221

Parts of the Hunterian Art Gallery may be closed for refurbishment in 2012. Please phone in advance of your visit or see our website for details.

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

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

A Healing Passion: Medicine in Glasgow Past and Present
Hunterian Museum
Covering historical and contemporary aspects of medicine in Glasgow, this permanent interactive exhibition explores major and lesser known figures in medicine, showcasing their achievements. Of particular interest are William Hunter’s original 18th-century anatomical specimens, Joseph Lister’s carbolic spray, some of the first X-ray films made by John Macintyre, and one of the first ultrasound scanners ever developed.

Lord Kelvin: Revolutionary Scientist
Hunterian Museum
Based around the life and work of Lord Kelvin, Glasgow’s greatest scientist, this permanent exhibition is a mix of original scientific instruments and demonstrations. It brings together a world-famous collection of historical items and merges them with modern technology to show how solving problems in physics 150 years ago led to practical inventions which have transformed our lives today.

The Mackintosh House
Hunterian Art Gallery
The principal interiors from the Glasgow home of Scottish architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and his artist wife Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh. Meticulously reconstructed and furnished with the Mackintoshs’ own furniture, The Mackintosh House features original fixtures and fittings and is decorated as closely as possible to the original.

Rembrandt and the Passion
15 September – 2 December 2012
Hunterian Art Gallery (Admission charge)
This major new exhibition focuses on Rembrandt’s Sketch for the Entombment – one of the most important old master works in The Hunterian collection. ‘Rembrandt and the Passion’ breaks new ground in research and offers a unique opportunity to witness Rembrandt’s painting process. Featuring over 30 works, the exhibition will include a number of important international loans including masterpieces never seen before in Scotland.