The first new build of our £1 billion campus development is taking shape. Due to open in the next academic year 2019–20, the newly named James McCune Smith Learning Hub is a powerful statement of the priority and importance we give to learning and teaching and the student experience.
I think we will look back on this time as the point at which we really began to evolve the teaching model in the University to harness technology, to harness our ability to personalise the student experience.

PROFESSOR FRANK COTON, VICE-PRINCIPAL FOR ACADEMIC & EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

On Monday 8 October the University laid a foundation stone at the site of the first building to be delivered through our £1bn campus development programme.

Due to open in the next academic year 2019-20, the James McCune Smith Learning Hub will provide teaching and study space for over 2,500 students.

The 990m² building, which will include flexible learning spaces and technology-enabled teaching resources, has been named after American abolitionist and doctor James McCune Smith, who graduated from Glasgow with an MD in 1837.

“James McCune Smith was truly a pioneer,” says Principal Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli, “not only becoming the first African American anywhere in the world to gain a medical degree, but also one of the leading intellectuals of his time. The University of Glasgow is proud of our association with his legacy and it is fitting that we honour it in the naming of this building.”

The new Learning Hub will revolutionise how the University delivers learning and teaching and will provide a world-class facility for generations of future students from around the world.

“The environments we are building now,” says Professor Frank Coton, Vice-Principal for Academic & Educational Innovation, “subtly allow us to bring technology into the learning space but not to crowd the learning space with technology, and it allows us to do other things with the students which in the past we simply couldn’t do, and that will pervade the whole of the campus development.”

SRC President Lauren McDougall is convinced that the new building with its range of different spaces will benefit students.

“These spaces are going to be really flexible and will be able to be changed for their use really easily,” she says. “So what during the day is a seminar space could be used by a club or society in the evening. And the technology and furniture, everything that could be put into those rooms, is being designed to make that as easy as possible.

“I’m really excited to see how we can encourage students to host events, run conferences and use these spaces.”

The campus development programme is the largest expansion of the University’s estate since it moved from the High Street to Gilmorehill 150 years ago and will create a rich and exciting mix of teaching, research and public spaces.

“The work that we are doing now to lay the foundations for this extended estate is really going to change the nature of the campus experience,” says Professor Frank Coton, “and it’s going to mean that students of the future are as well supported in the new world of technology as they were in the past, when we first built the Gilmorehill campus.”

Look inside the James McCune Smith Learning Hub with our virtual fly-through at glasgow.ac.uk/avenue.

WHO WAS JAMES McCUNE SMITH?

Born a slave in 1813 in New York City, James McCune Smith was liberated by New York State’s Emancipation Act on 4 July 1827.

Recognised as being intellectually gifted, McCune Smith attended the African Free School in Manhattan, where his academic achievements led him to apply to several American universities. After being denied entry to all due to his race, McCune Smith applied for, and was accepted by, the University of Glasgow’s Medical School.

After five years’ study Smith had earned three degrees, a bachelor’s degree in 1835, a Masters degree in 1836 and his medical doctorate in 1837. He was fluent in Latin, Greek and French and had a working knowledge of Hebrew, Italian, Spanish and German, making him one of the best-educated Americans of his time.

Upon returning to New York McCune Smith set up a medical practice in Lower Manhattan and grew to be recognised as a prominent figure in the New York black community and a leading intellectual.
1870 was a defining moment in the University’s long history and yet the move from the High Street to Gilmorehill didn’t bring an immediate change in teaching. The new buildings provided better but not different facilities, the curriculum was unchanged and teaching continued to be almost entirely by lecture, usually given by the professors.

Lectures began at 8am in gas-lit rooms (electric lighting was introduced to the University in the 1890s by Lord Kelvin). The ‘hurry’ bell would ring until five minutes past the hour while students crowded on the benches with their coats and bags. Attendance was checked by roll-call or by having the student at the end of each bench record absentees. The professor entered in his gown and lectured for 50 minutes. Latecomers were not always permitted to enter.

Lectures were heavily factual and avidly copied by the students. Some professors were entirely formal in their lectures, although others tried to gauge the understanding of their students and respond to it.

Through the early decades of the 20th century, subjects and classes, and a more personal approach to teaching. Lectures were delivered by teams of male and female staff rather than the professor alone, and there were also individual tutorials, seminars, printed handouts, more sophisticated lab work and, later, extensive computing facilities. A recent innovation in higher education is the virtual learning environment – an online system where students can download lecture notes, submit assignments and get announcements from their lecturers. Gone are the days when a missed lecture meant begging a friend for their notes.

A large number of TEL (technology enhanced assisted learning) rooms are planned for the Learning Hub. “We’re talking about rooms that will fit around 60 students,” explains Ann, “with tables around which the students can operate in small groups but where there’s also a space for someone to give a short lecture, and with access to technology that allows the students to conduct research and then present to their group or the whole room.”

Ann, who was awarded a Teaching Excellence Award earlier this year for her outstanding contribution to teaching and student support, believes that the new spaces in the Learning Hub will be hugely beneficial. “It’s the idea that we can break out of the space we are in at the moment and think differently, and how we take it forward in partnership with the students is really critical for me.

“Students will be offered excellent teaching the best teaching they can get and that’s going to be supported by the space.”

Lecturers today have a whole array of tools to support learning including video, powerpoints, interactive whiteboards and social media, and there are new styles of teaching that focus on active learning, where students can interact with one another and actively participate in the class. It is important that the spaces we design support these changes.

“Students love our old buildings but you don’t want them to be constrained in lecture theatres and labs that were built for traditional styles of teaching,” says a senior lecturer in Information Studies Ann Gow. “The students need to be able to move around and talk to each other and have access to technology, and then come back to the space together as a group or as individuals. What the new Learning Hub offers is the opportunity for blended learning with flexible spaces that will support different forms of teaching.”

According to Michael Osborne, Professor of Adult & Lifelong Learning at Glasgow, research in the field of adult education recognises the vital importance of lifelong learning. “Not only is there an economic payoff in achieving higher qualifications,” he says, “but there are clear social and health benefits in providing learning opportunities in various forms to all sections of society.

“There are, for example, strong associations between engagement in learning and health, and these associations are linked to creating ‘good’ places, socially, economically and environmentally. Good places contain healthy people, who are more likely to enter learning, gain qualifications and become employed. Similarly, those who engage in learning are likely to benefit in terms of health and wellbeing, and become more civicly minded, engaged citizens.”

“There are certainly lots of opportunities for you to keep learning long after university.

“You could take a MOOC. It stands for Massive Open Online Course and is a short, online university course open to anyone in the world, usually free and with no entry requirements. Designed to be studied by large numbers of participants, the course usually runs over a set number of weeks with study materials posted online. Forums and discussion boards are an important part of the learning process and there are also quizzes and assignments. While a MOOC does not usually provide a qualification upon completion it can often be a springboard for further learning. MOOCs are provided on a number of platforms, at Glasgow they are offered via the FutureLearn platform, futurelearn.com.

If you prefer to learn in a physical rather than virtual space then check out university and college adult learner classes which usually run in the evenings or at weekends. At Glasgow we offer general interest courses in, for example, art and history, creative writing, languages and politics as well as courses that lead to professional qualifications. Alumni are entitled to a 10% discount. See glasgow.ac.uk/shortcourses.

You can take your learning further with a postgraduate degree. We have more than 300 postgraduate taught programmes or offer at Glasgow, some of which can be taken online, and we offer a 10% discount on fees to alumni for our PG’s too. See glasgow.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught.

And if formal learning isn’t for you, why not revisit a favourite childhood pastime. Adult colouring has become popular with claims that it helps reduce stress and aids mindfulness. Perhaps our cover image will encourage you to pick up your coloured pencils or felt tips and get creative.
Student workers, along with a rather harassed library staff, are excavating the 750,000 [sic] or so volumes which have accumulated in cathedral-like splendour in the 98 years since Sir George Gilbert Scott perched his new university building atop Gilmorehill.

The summer of ’68
When 640,000 books moved home

BY JENNIFER BAIRD

T he iconic tower of the Gilbert Scott Building may be the first image that comes to mind when the University is mentioned, but at the intellectual heart of any university is its library, and Glasgow is no exception. It is 50 years since our striking main library took up position at the top of Hillhead Street.

A new library building had been urgently needed for many years. By the late 1950s, there were 81 separate subject and departmental libraries scattered around the University, many of which had serious space problems, and the main library was housed over six cramped, warren-like floors off the West Quad. A prominent site at the centre of the campus was selected for its replacement, and because of the restricted ground space available, the new building had to be high-rise.

The vision
Lynchpin of the plan was (Robert) Ogilvie MacKenna, who held the post of University Librarian from 1951 to 1978 and had ideas ahead of his time for progressing library services. Stressing the need to bring books and readers together, with staff as facilitators, he noted in his brief to the architect, William Whitfield, that “the library is to be thought of not as a storehouse for books, but as a workshop for readers using books.”

Changed days
This was a different era. A junior library assistant of the late 1960s took home a salary of £385 per year, rising by £25 after five years’ service. The library had three separate manual cataloguing systems. And freshers arriving in 2018 may find it hard to believe that until Elizabeth 2 liner at Greenock. And at one point, one of the removal vans turned up in Toon for use in a “fitting” (house moves), accidentally full to overflowing with several thousand academic volumes.

“Uncertainties of one kind or another seemed to hover continuously over the entire operation,” says John Cooper, director of removal operations in the new building. “It seemed always just a matter of trying to adjust to a continually shifting pattern of events, including not usually knowing, until it actually arrived, which of the available entrances each shipment was going to arrive at.”

Plans become reality
When the new building opened on 30 September 1968 there was no fanfare or ribbon-cutting, but just a relieved feeling of finally being able to get on with the job, though staff who had got used to using walkie-talkies to communicate during the move did find themselves saying “Over!” in the middle of normal telephone conversations for some time afterwards.

The new building came with innovations such as subject-specialist staff, a photographic department, microfilm readers and, uniquely, a bindery on the premises, as well as the radical change, finally, of allowing first-years to browse the stacks directly.
Constant beta
Susan Ashworth (MA 1986) was appointed University Librarian in 2015, and believes the library of today would be unrecognisable to Olive MacKenna. Building on her work and that of her other predecessors Henry Heaney, Andrew Wale, Chris Bailey and Helen Dunnel, she has helped to create a model example of a 21st-century building that responds to the needs of its users. Since her appointment, her title has also moved with the times and she is now Executive Director of Information Services.

Susan and her staff have introduced initiatives such as the 24-hour opening, with 24-hour opening being piloted, a laptop loan service and a pioneering scheme to provide support for researchers. This scheme is particularly important in an era when open access to publications and research data is becoming increasingly vital. “Other universities have started developing in the same sphere,” Susan says, “but we started quite early in Glasgow.”

Previously children were not admitted to the library, but a new family study lounge opened in 2017 in response to the changing demographic of the student population. “This has been well received,” says Susan. “We’ve really handed the building over to the students and said, ‘It’s your building, your space.’ What we’re thinking all the time is how can we make the experience better for students?”

The library’s unashamedly brutalist exterior was enhanced in 2013 by the addition of shiny aluminium cladding, and the interior has gone through many upgrades too, on its way to today’s sleek modern spaces where students can choose between silent or noisy study, eat and drink if they choose, and work all the way through to 2am. But Susan knows that to be successful the library must always move with the times. She considers the building to be “in constant beta, it’s never finished.” Unfinished, perhaps, but still treasured. “I do think this is a very special library,” she says, “and I don’t think that’s because of the building. I think it’s because of the people.”

An expert opinion
“If you’re an Arts student,” says Professor Kate McLuskie (MA 1968, PhD 1974), “what you do is read.” Kate, who served on the board of the British Library, was one of the first students to use the new library when it opened and, as she says, “there was the sense that the riches of the library were much more visible.”

A recent return visit to see how the library has changed since the 1960s has impressed and inspired her.

“The thinking that’s gone into this library,” she says, “is so wonderfully progressive and forward looking. And to consult the students, and then actually do what they ask, is quite unusual. Watching it digitise and move into different kinds of student learning and teaching is very exciting.”

Watch the video of Kate’s return visit after 50 years at glasgow.ac.uk/avenue.

THE VISIONARY
Robert Oliveg MacKenna (MA 1934) was the far-sighted University Librarian who was planning the building he knew the library urgently needed for almost two decades before it became a reality. He held the post from 1951 to 1976, having initially joined the library in 1936 before war service and library experience elsewhere.

Well-liked and respected by his staff, he is remembered as a modest and self-deprecating man, so he once said that the only reason he’d managed to achieve a First for his degree in Classics was that the weather had been too bad to play cricket, so he’d had no alternative but to stay inside studying.

Over his 26 years as Librarian, more than a dozen of his staff members were encouraged to take up senior posts at other libraries, forming a diaspora of Glasgow librarians in places as far-flung as Canada and Australia; his deputy during his 1968 move, John Simpson, became founding librarian of the Open University. He was passionate about uniling readers with books in the most accessible ways possible, and succeeded in increasing the library membership sixfold, to over 16,000, by the time he retired.

THE PLANNER
Peter Aspin, who still volunteers in the library 50 years later, was tasked with the detailed planning and execution of the move in 1968. He was fortunate to have the experience of Edinburgh University making a similar library move the previous year to draw on.

“The only feasible access for a speedy operation was at the South Front,” he says, “with books being extracted via the closters, or the Bute Hall and Senate lift.” Accordingly, a wooden ramp and canvas awning were installed at the foot of the tower.

Preparation of shelves in the new building could not be done until the last minute, and the Hillhead Street main entrance had to be redesigned after planning permission to close the street to traffic was refused.

“Building work promised for completion in March 1968 was well behind schedule,” Peter remembers, “and Mr MacKenna spent the summer pursuing contractors to get the building fit for public use by October. However, we were lucky to have a unusually dry summer to carry out the work, and temporary covers for boxes being unloaded in the rain were needed on very few occasions.”

THE TRUNDLER
William Henderson (MA 1968) had just graduated and needed a summer job to fill in time and provide an income before going to work as an Overseas Institute/Nuffield Fellow in Botswana.

“The work, as you might imagine, was extremely tedious but then every keen library goer who ‘trundled’ worked with great humour,” he recalls.

“Each morning we were allocated a section of the library to close the street to traffic was refused. “Building work promised for completion in March 1968 was well behind schedule,” Peter remembers, “and Mr MacKenna spent the summer pursuing contractors to get the building fit for public use by October. However, we were lucky to have a unusually dry summer to carry out the work, and temporary covers for boxes being unloaded in the rain were needed on very few occasions.”

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Scotland, like many other countries, faces inequality in its schools with children from the most disadvantaged backgrounds tending to do worse than those from wealthier areas – something that is known as the poverty-related attainment gap.

To help schools learn from each other about effective methods that help all children, regardless of background, have an equal chance of reaching their potential a groundbreaking school improvement partnership programme (SIPP) was trialled in Scotland. Researchers from Glasgow’s Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change worked with teachers, local authorities and the Scottish Government to develop and assess a range of school-to-school partnerships.

These partnerships were designed to build relationships, develop and embed new evidence-based strategies to tackle educational inequality, and spark sustainable change.

Teachers were encouraged and supported to use research evidence, experiment in the classroom and monitor the impact of changes they made. The programme also provided structured opportunities for teachers to share learning.

Impressive results
Schools running the programme saw improvements in pupils’ maths and literacy scores, confidence and engagement, and also in parental involvement. One school reported a positive increase in maths for target pupils from 40% to 68%, while another reported that parent surveys showed children’s attitudes towards maths and problem-solving had improved.

A key finding across all the partner schools was the importance of creating networks for collaboration that allowed teachers to share effective strategies with each other. This type of sharing made it possible for one school to increase reading age, with students in the SIPP group having a reading age 5.9 months higher than peers in the control group.

Legacy
The timing of SIPP was important for Scottish education. It was developed as the Scottish Government made a clear commitment to improving educational outcomes for all children, “ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed”. SIPP was strategically aligned with the Scottish Government’s explicit intentions for the Scottish education system.

The programme formally ended in 2016, but its impact is ongoing. The Educational Governance Review, published in June 2017, featured lessons from SIPP about using evidence, collaboration and networking between teachers to foster cultural change and capacity building. SIPP demonstrated positive impacts in Scotland and continues to gain the attention of educators and policymakers both locally and globally.

The impact of this research goes far beyond the initial partnerships and three-year project. Focus on pioneering collaborative educational strategies with researchers working alongside key policymakers and practitioners is one way to ensure a bright future for all children and young people. SIPP has evolved into the Network for Social & Educational Equity. Schools and local authorities are now using Pupil Equity Fund and Scottish Attainment Fund resources to continue this important work.

The positive impact of the programme has led to interest from a number of other systems including Chile where the programme is being implemented in two regions.

For further information on the world-changing research at Glasgow see: glasgow.ac.uk/research.
QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2018

Sir Craig C Reidie CBE (MA 1962) was appointed GBE for services to sport

Sir Douglas J Flint CBE (BAcc 1977) received a Knighthood for services to the finance industry

Professor Sir James Hough OBE FRS FRSE (BSc 1967) received a Knighthood for services to the detection of gravitational waves

Ms Barbara P Allison (BAcc 1982) was appointed CBE for public service

Professor James Murdoch (LLB 1977) was appointed CBE for services to education and human rights

Professor Stuart WJ Reid (BVMS 1987) was appointed CBE for services to the veterinary profession and higher education

Dr Andrew K Fraser (MBCh 1990) was appointed CBE for services to healthcare

Professor Carol E Tannahill (MPH 1986) was appointed OBE for services to technology-based industries

Mrs Gillian H Barclay (MA 1985) was appointed OBE for services to dementia care and public safety

Professor Andrew A Calder (MChBCh 1968) was appointed MBE for services to obstetrics and gynaecology

Dr Valerie R Doherty (BSc 1990) was appointed MBE for services to law and order

Dr Alesadar Gillies (BSc 1993) was appointed MBE for services to music, the Gaelic language and charity

Mrs Fiona H Higget (BSc 1997) was appointed MBE for services to bee health

Mr Colin M McEachran QC (LLB 1963) was appointed MBE for services to target shooting and Commonwealth Games Scotland

Miss Sharon A Moore (BSc 2001) was appointed MBE for services to women in technology-based industries

Mrs Diana C Macintosh (BSc 1971) was appointed MBE for services to charity

HONOURING OUR GLASGOW GIRL

There’s no single conventional route to university for everyone. But the path of Amal Azzudin (BA 2011, MSc 2014), human rights activist and our World Changing Alumni Award winner for 2018, is certainly more unusual than most.

Fleeing a Somali war zone in 2000, she and her mother sought asylum in the UK and were eventually bussed to Glasgow, a place she had never heard of. The seeds of her activism were sown in 2006, when a schoolfriend and her family from Kosovo were dawn-raided and detained, prompting Amal and her schoolmates to begin protesting and petitioning for their release. A small group of the friends became known as The Glasgow Girls.

“I didn’t know anything about campaigning, I didn’t know anything about politics,” she remembers. “I just wanted my friend back.”

That may have been the case, but the impact of the campaign forced changes to detention laws, as well as successfully securing the release of Amal’s friend and her family. The Glasgow Girls’ story later featured in documentaries and was turned into a popular musical.

After leaving school, Amal was thrilled to get the opportunity to study community development at the University, followed by an MSc in human rights and international politics. “I was so happy,” she says, “because I’m the first in my family to go to university. My studies taught me so much and equipped me with the knowledge that I needed for the work I am now doing.”

Since leaving the University, Amal has been working for the Mental Health Foundation, and giving talks in schools, alongside continued campaigning. This has included missions to Greece and Calais where she witnessed the refugee crisis at first hand.

And her reaction to receiving her award? “It means the world to me,” she says. “I am super-honoured. I didn’t wake up one day and think, ‘I’m going to start a campaign. I’m going to have a musical, win an award’, but I want to stress that this award is not just for me as an individual. I see it as a recognition of what I stand for, and what all of us stand for in the world. That, for me, is about standing up for human rights, for doing the right thing, no matter how hard.”

• The World Changing Alumni Award is a prestigious annual University honour which recognises and celebrates the achievements of alumni who have made a major contribution to the community, arts, science or business. It is presented to a world-changing alumnus every year since 2001 — to read about past winners and to nominate for next year’s award, go to glasgow.ac.uk/avenue.

NOTES FROM No 2

News from Emily Howie, Head of Alumni Engagement in the Development & Alumni Office at No 2 The Square.

Coming into winter, we’ve had some wild and wet weather on campus but also some of our best days, with blue skies and fallen leaves enhancing our beautiful buildings.

Our 1968 Engineers enjoyed one of these rare days in October when they returned to celebrate their 50th anniversary of graduation with a tour of the campus and dinner in the Randolph Hall. In September, our accountancy alumni turned out in force to help celebrate 50 years of the BAccc degree with a black-tie dinner in the spectacular surroundings of the Bute Hall. It is always lovely to see our reunion groups meeting up back here on campus.

We are delighted that our new behind the Scenes programme, events held at exciting cultural locations and hosted by alumni, is starting to take off. Read more about this on page 15. Do you work somewhere interesting, and are you willing to host a small gathering? We would love to hear from you, if so, at alumni@glasgow.ac.uk.

This autumn, we were delighted to launch our brand-new alumni podcast series, Sound Tracks. In each episode, hosts Kazia and Rosie interview a UofG alumna about their career journey, digging deep to hear about their career highs, lows and everything in between.

Alumni guests include Amal Azzudin (BA 2011, MSc 2014), our new World Changing Alumni Award winner (featured opposite), Corin Stoehr (BSc 2016), founder of WheelieAR, who went into the BBC’s Dragons’ Den to secure funding for her innovative wheelchair cushion; and award-winning digital and Scottish entertainment journalist, Biv Lyons (MA 1999). Series one is now available in full, so tune in for honest alumni insights and practical ideas to help keep your career on track. You can find out more about the podcast, including how to subscribe, at glasgow.ac.uk/soundtracks.

OILFIELD HALL OF FAME

Mr Peter Lovie (BSc 1962), right, was inducted into the Oilfield Energy Centre Hall of Fame on Saturday 15 September in Houston, Texas, as an industry pioneer. He follows in the footsteps of other industry pioneers like “Red” Adair and George HW Bush. Pioneers are individuals who distinguish themselves and become the character of the industry through their vision and leadership. Peter Lovie, who advises on offshore business, technical, business development and commercial assignments, was honoured to receive this award and credits his time at Glasgow, studying civil engineering in the James Watt Building, as the best start for his career.
Alumni around the world get together to celebrate and connect with their alma mater. Representatives from the University attend these social events to meet with and grow our esteemed network of graduate, current and future students. To find out about future events, see glasgow.ac.uk/alumni/events.

Glasgow: Harry Potter film screening Sunday 10 June 2018
The University partnered with the Glasgow Science Festival to offer a free family-friendly drop-in screening of Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone in the magical setting of the Butes Hall. Witches, wizards and non-magical guests all gathered for a unique cinematic experience.

Glasgow: Commemoration Day Wednesday 13 June 2018
Around 350 alumni and friends returned to campus for Commemoration Day. Among those accepting honorary degrees was Andrew Neil (MA 1972), recognised for his contribution to broadcasting and journalism. Susan Calman (BA 1996) was honoured for her work as a broadaster and comedian but also for highlighting mental health issues and LGBT rights. Theatre director Dave Anderson was honoured for his contribution to the arts in Scotland.

Glasgow: Alumni summer drinks Thursday 14 June 2018
The Network Bar at 29 Royal Exchange Square hosted alumni for a fun and relaxed evening of cocktails, delicious finger food and a pop-up talk by Alan Milburn (MA 2012), Founder of Brewdog, on ‘How to Build an Incredible Career’. UofG career experts Ann and Gail also shared advice for how to take your career to the next level.

Glasgow: BAcc 50th anniversary gala dinner Saturday 15 September 2018
More than 250 alumni, from around the world, returned to Gilmours to celebrate 50 years of the BAcc (Bachelor of Accountancy) degree. The event, in the fabulous surroundings of the Butes Hall, included an exhibition detailing the history of the BAcc and an after-dinner speech from Sir Douglas Flint (Bacc 1977), former chairman of HSBC. All had a wonderful evening reconnecting and sharing memories.

Glasgow: AJ Cronin: Life, legacy and laying the foundations of the NHS Tuesday 2 October 2018
An evening of celebrations took place in the Kelvin Gallery on Tuesday 2 October 2018 to honour AJ Cronin, renowned doctor, author and medical alumnus. Hosted by the Chancellor, Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, it brought together world-class literary and medical commentators to discuss AJ Cronin’s life, legacy and laying the foundations of the NHS. A commemorative plaque was unveiled in his memory. Distinguished guests included Diane Cresson, AJ Cronin’s granddaughter and Literary Executor. It was a very interesting evening celebrating a remarkable graduate.

London: Alumni drinks Thursday 10 May 2018
Twenty-five alumni gathered in the Drawing Room at the London BFI Southbank. Guests enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces, as well as meet new ones over drinks and nibbles.

London: Glasgow University Women’s Club Annual Dinners Thursday 21 June 2018
The Women’s Club annual dinner at the Caledonian Club in June went very well and the venue yet again provided a lovely evening, with good food and friendly staff. Damer Katherine Graniger (MPH 2001) was a wonderful and entertaining speaker and guests enjoyed asking her questions. For information about joining the club, please contact marjorie.brenner@gmail.com.

Nemea, Greece: Hellenic Association of Alumni of UofG excursion Saturday 9 June 2018
Twenty alumni enjoyed a fascinating day out to historic Nemea, world famous for its wines. Those present went on a tour of the beautiful surroundings and also got to enjoy wine-tasting and fantastic local cuisine.

Brussels: Alumni drinks Tuesday 19 June 2018
The UofG alumni team were delighted to host a drinks reception in with South Belgium at the Pump Room, in the city of Brussels on 19 June. The team updated guests on recent developments at Glasgow over drinks and canapes. We hope it will be the first of some more regular alumni gatherings in the city.

Glasgow: AJ Cronin: Life, legacy and laying the foundations of the NHS Tuesday 2 October 2018
An evening of celebrations took place in the Kelvin Gallery on Tuesday 2 October 2018 to honour AJ Cronin, renowned doctor, author and medical alumnus. Hosted by the Chancellor, Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, it brought together world-class literary and medical commentators to discuss AJ Cronin’s life, legacy and laying the foundations of the NHS. A commemorative plaque was unveiled in his memory. Distinguished guests included Diane Cresson, AJ Cronin’s granddaughter and Literary Executor. It was a very interesting evening celebrating a remarkable graduate.

New York City: Tartan Day Parade Saturday 7 April 2018
This year’s Team UofG Tartan Day Parade was the definition of galus, with 28 alumni and friends loudly and proudly taking out 6th Avenue in New York this April. Walking with the University’s banner and sporting their Tartan Day t-shirts, giant UofG balloons and of course TeamUofG signs, the paraders did Glasgow proud. Save the date of 4 April 2019 for the next parade.

Denver: Alumni gathering Friday 13 April 2018
Professor David Scanlan, Dean for Global Engagement (Americas), and Leann Schmitz, Senior International Officer welcomed 29 alumni, friends and prospective students for drinks and giant Jenga. Guests spent the evening reminiscing about their alma mater and speaking with students and their parents about their time at Glasgow.

AUSTIN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
The Austin (Texas) Alumni Association continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month for a good chat and networking. We meet in The Grove, Bee Caves Rd in odd months and the Draught House in even months. We always love to welcome new members, even if you’re just passing through. Contact Gordon Lassnig at gordon@zalentin.com if you would like to come along.

BEHIND THE SCENES EVENT LAUNCH
Our new alumni event series, behind the Scenes, has so far featured events in partnership with the fine art auctioneers Lyon & Turnbull, the V&A Museum in London and the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. The series brings an exclusive opportunity to alumni, with hosts offering intimate gatherings for their fellow graduates in a unique environment. Alumni can explore places of civic value or architectural interest while connecting with one another and engaging with their own communities, across the globe.

On Wednesday 8 May, alumni and their guests enjoyed a preview of the highlights of London fine art auctioneers Lyon & Turnbull’s summer paintings auctions, including Scottish Paintings & Sculpture and Modern & British Contemporary Art. The event was hosted by Kate Fitzcrott (MA 2008), Lyon & Turnbull’s Head of Jewellery & Silver in London. After a talk and tour, guests enjoyed a glass of fizz and some nibbles.

On Friday 9 September at the V&A Museum in London, Dr Lesley Miller (MA 1979), Senior Modern & British Contemporary Art Curator of Textiles & Dress at the V&A, hosted a wonderful and entertaining speaker and morning tea, followed by a question and answer session.

Philostratus, the curator of the V&A, led a tour of the contemporary collection of British art. The event, on Monday 26 September, was hosted by Charlotte Rowland (MA 2008), Lyon & Turnbull’s Associate Director, Head of Contemporary Art.

If you are interested in hosting a special alumni gathering wherever you are in the world, we would be delighted to hear from you. The venue could be a place of work or volunteering such as a museum, gallery, theatre, or stadium, and the events could take place on a weekday evening or over a weekend. Get in touch via alumni@glasgow.ac.uk.

China: University chapel choir tour September 2018
The University Chapel Choir completed their inaugural tour to China, holding five concerts at UESTC, Sichuan Normal University, Rotary Club Chengdu, Central China Normal University (Wuhan) and the University of International Business & Economics (Beijing). It was great to see a number of alumni in the audience at the last step in Beijing. The choir members were very pleased to visit the Great Wall and the Forbidden City.

Vancouver: Alumni reception Saturday 10 June 2018
Twelve alumni gathered on a sunny rooftop in Vancouver to socialise and hear the latest from Glasgow’s Jessica Constable, International Events Officer, over craft beers. Their new alumni association secretary was selected, and we are happy to welcome Lydia to the committee.

Vancouver: Student welcome event Sunday 16 September 2018
The British Columbia Alumni Association hosted a welcome event at the Sage Bistro Cafe for UofG students who are studying abroad at local BC universities. Alumni welcomed six students from UBC and Simon Fraser, sharing their knowledge of local treasures and tips about making the most of their time in Vancouver.

Kuala Lumpur: Alumni reception Friday 4 May 2018
Alumni from KL and the surrounding area attended a reception at the Majestic Hotel where Rachel Conroy, Executive Director of External Relations, and Professor James Conroy, Vice-Chancellor, International, presented the latest developments and news from Gilmours. It was a lovely evening of over 30 prospective students and alumni who enjoyed sharing memories about their alma mater.

Sydney: Alumni gathering Thursday 23 August 2018
Eleven alumni gathered for an informal event at PJ O’Brien’s bar in the centre of Sydney. Thanks to Blair Scott (MA 2011) and Gujarat Birecisse (MA (SocSci) 1995) for their help in organising an enjoyable night for all involved.

Bangkok: Thailand Alumni Association gathering Friday 14 September 2018
Around 20 alumni gathered at Taproom 8 in Bangkok for the latest in a series of regular events held by the association to keep our alumni connected in the region. Thanks to all that took part in another memorable evening.

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CONNECT WITH US Facebook: @UofGlasgowAlumni Twitter: @UofG_Alv Instagram: @UofG_Alv LinkedIn: glasgow.ac.uk/alumni/linkedin
1959 Gamma
Following a very successful 50th reunion, plans are proposed for a 60th reunion in 2019. Contact: Norrie Mackay, +44 (0)141 616 2831, nmackay@hotmail.com, Marjory Macswen, +44 (0)141 639 0254, marjorymacswen@btinternet.com or John Kennedy, +44 (0)141 632 8540, johnkennedy01@aol.com.

1969 Gamma
A 50th reunion has been planned for 31 May – 2 June 2019 at Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld. Contact: Jessie Shaw, jmshaw@btinternet.com.

1969 Chemistry
To celebrate an incredible 50 years since our graduation, I am calling all 1969 Chemistry graduates who would be interested in arranging a golden reunion in summer 2019. Contact: Dr Neil Hair, neil@optusnet.com.au.

1969 Engineering
Would you be interested in taking part in a reunion in 2019 to celebrate 50 years since graduating? Contact: Graeme Orr, grimgraeme@googlemail.com.

1970 Delta Club Reunion
The 1970 Delta Club will be holding its 50th anniversary reunion in the Westerwood Hotel and Golf Resort on Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 May 2020. Contact: Bruce McInroy, Bruce.McInroy@btinternet.com or +44 (0)1294 553508.

1979 Delta Club
We are planning our reunion at the University in May 2019 and would love to celebrate our whole lifetime with the present, accompanied by very emotive music, photos and videos. Certainly the star of the reunion! Amazing what a wonderful time a bunch of old people can have, when everyone still thinks they are young and are intent on having great fun.

1968 Beta
Seventy graduates and spouses met at the Old Course Hotel in St Andrews on Wednesday 30 May 2018 for our 50th reunion. The highlight of the weekend was a 15-minute video, “The Beta Club – A Musical Memory”, in which many memories, some very emotional, were brought to life. This covered our whole life from birth to the present, accompanied by very emotive music, photos and videos. Certainly the star of the reunion! Amazing what a wonderful time a bunch of old people can have, when everyone still thinks they are young and are intent on having great fun.

1968 Engineering
Twenty-nine 1968 Engineering graduates and their partners celebrated the 50th anniversary of graduating with a dinner in the Randolph Hall on Saturday 6 October 2018, at which Professors Frank Cotton and Neil Jaster were our guests. Thanks to the Alumni Office, we were able to view a display of photos from previous reunions. 1968 student publications and exam papers, as well as details of recent engineering student projects which received financial support from the GlUEC Engineers Trust set up by the year group in 2003. These included the Constructionarium project, which gives civil engineering students hands-on construction experience, and the Formula Student racing car built by the current class, which was on display in the cloisters.

1968 Notre Dame
We gathered to mark 50 years since we graduated from the then Notre Dame Training College. Forty-four former students arrived at Turnbull to celebrate Mass with Fr Paul Denney (many happy returns of the day) for former college chaplain Fr Des Broderick (our much-loved guest of honour). We enjoyed a delicious lunch and then attended the Commemoration Day service at the Wolfson Medical Building. The Delta Ladies plan to continue to meet for lunch in Glasgow twice yearly in October and March for the foreseeable future. Contact: Anne Loudon, +44 (0)141 639 4195 or AnneEPL@aol.com.

1969 Math & Natural Philosophy
The Mathematics & Natural Philosophy class of 1969 reunited over two days in June, beginning with a visit to the Mackintosh exhibition at Kelvingrove Gallery. Our group of 15 alumni later enjoyed a visit to the School of Physics & Astronomy followed by a talk on gravitational waves, a tour of the labs and afternoon tea. One of our group, Gerald Ratzer, also delivered a lecture on “Climate Change Evidence for Global Cooling”, which was open to the University community. The talk was very informative and appreciated by all the next day a group of us, together with partners and spouses, enjoyed the Commemoration Day ceremony and lunch.

1968 Modern Languages

1969 BMVS Bulldogs
Eight graduates with spouses, 15 in total attended this reunion from 6–9 August 2018 at the Ettington Park Hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon. We enjoyed a beautiful setting in wonderful weather. Everyone was free to do as they pleased during the day, but met together for dinner in the evenings. A tentative proposal was mooted to hold a 60th anniversary reunion in Jersey next September.

1960 Delta
Twenty-four members of the Delta Club 1960 met for their annual reunion lunch on 31 August 2018 at the House for an Art Lover. It had been decided previously that due to the rigours of the ageing process this would be our last get-together but, once again, it was a happy occasion and the lunch was of the high standard we have come to know at this venue.

1966 Zeta
The Zeta Club of 1966 held its 52nd class reunion at Seamill Hydro in October. Fifty of us had a most enjoyable time renewing old acquaintances.

1968 Engineering
The Computing Science Honours class of 1978 held our 40th reunion in May. We had a tour of the School of Computing Science and a review of the programme’s 60-year history. We visited the labs and had a demo of the latest robotics projects. We then met some current postgraduate students and Dr J Patterson, who taught us all nearly 40 years ago. A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all.

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1987 Computing Science
Our reunion at the Hilton Grosvenor, Glasgow, from 14–16 September 2018, was attended by 48 graduates and, together with partners and spouses, 86 of us sat down for our gala dinner on Saturday 15 September. We had a successful meeting on Saturday morning and in the afternoon we met by the Chancellor, Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, at the Wolfson Medical Building, followed by a guided tour by Professor Matthew Walters, Head of the School of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing. The visit was regarded by all as very informative and successful.

1970 Delta Club
Following a very successful 58th reunion, plans are proposed for a 60th reunion in May 2019. We had a tour of the School of Computing Science and a review of the programme’s 60-year history. We visited the labs and had a demo of the latest robotics projects. We then met some current postgraduate students and Dr J Patterson, who taught us all nearly 40 years ago. A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all.
The General Council of the University was set up by Act of Parliament to give voice to the views of the graduates and academic staff on the regulation and wellbeing of the University.

The General Council meeting was held on Tuesday 19 June 2018 in the Senate Room, Gilbert Scott Building. The Chancellor, Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, was in the chair. This article contains an abbreviated description of the business of the meeting.

A full minute can be found at glasgow.ac.uk/about/generalcouncil/gmmeetings/gmminutes.

Principal’s Report, by Principal & Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli

The Principal thanked the Convenor for his introduction and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Principal reported that progress was being made on a number of key scientific discoveries such as gravitational waves, which had been widely recognised as one of the most important discoveries of our time. In health, the University had played a leading role in combating the threat from the Zika virus. Other recent breakthroughs include Project MOBUS, building a higher education virtual-reality (VR) platform for students. Students in topics including physics, chemistry, geology, anatomy, philosophy and history will soon receive schooling through an enhanced VR teaching and learning experience.

The Chancellor thanked the Principal for his informative update and invited any questions. A query was raised about Brexit in relation to student numbers and the impact on the University. The Principal noted that UG numbers would have the biggest challenge and that discussions with the Scottish Government were ongoing to ensure any significant changes were planned in advance, but it was felt that there would not be a significant impact. A further query was raised about student assessment and feedback and how the University planned to make progress on this. The Principal reported that SMG had recently received reports and that each college was putting a plan in place.

The Clerks to the General Council reported that the current two General Council Assessors on Court but also for the Chancellor, with no objections raised. A specific concern had been raised by a GCBC member at recent meetings in relation to staff-student ratios which had led to a detailed presentation by Dr David Duncan, which the committee had found to be very informative.

The meeting also received reports from the Convenor of Court, Elizabeth Passey and Professor Neal Juster, Senior Vice-Principal, and further details can be found in the full minutes.

Closure of the Meeting

The Chancellor thanked all those present and informed the meeting that the next meetings would take place on Thursday 24 January 2019 and Monday 17 June 2019 in the Senate Room, 6pm for 6.30pm.

CONVENOR’S COMMENTS

From John Marsh, Convenor of the General Council Business Committee

There will be an opportunity to elect several General Council Business Committee (GCBC) members at the General Council meeting in January, and I would like to encourage all General Council members to consider standing. Membership of the GCBC is your opportunity to contribute to the University by providing the perspective of its graduates, and the nomination process will shortly be advertised on the University website.

I believe that teaching and learning, the theme of this issue, is not the sole preserve of the academics. Those of you with some experience of life in business and industry, also those who took the path of self-employment, are surely in a strong position to give practical advice and assistance on job-seeking, starting a business and planning their career path to help new graduates just starting out in the world of employment.

Two Business Committee members recently spoke to the Careers Service to gain a better understanding of what is being done to support the journey of our student population into the world of employment. It became clear that they have a huge number of excellent initiatives on the go and are working with a wide range of individuals and organisations as part of this process.

The Director of the Careers Service, Linda Marboch, highlighted the fact that they are eager to encourage alumni to join The Network, the University’s online platform for alumni and students, and to hear from organisations which may be able to offer opportunities for internships via the Career Service’s Internship Hub.

The University has given its students the knowledge and skills to succeed: you have the expertise to teach them the strategies to beat the competition. By signing up to The Network at glasgow.ac.uk you can make yourself available to students to answer their careers questions, and provide guidance and mentoring. The Internship Hub already places over 350 students in internships each year.

Linda is especially interested in the Life Sciences and Arts area as there is a real shortage of opportunities in these sectors, but help from any business sector would be very much appreciated.

A report prepared for the General Council by Amber Higgins, Clerk to the General Council, clerkgc@glasgow.ac.uk.

The last General Council meeting was held on Tuesday 19 June 2018 in the Senate Room, Gilbert Scott Building. The Chancellor, Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, was in the chair. This article contains an abbreviated description of the business of the meeting.

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The Chancellor thanked all those present and informed the meeting that the next meetings would take place on Thursday 24 January 2019 and Monday 17 June 2019 in the Senate Room, 6pm for 6.30pm.
The first was the official naming of our new £1bn learning and teaching facility. We are calling it the James McCune Smith Building after the first African American to receive a medical degree, graduating from the University with an MD in 1837. Denied access to medical training in America, he found a home in Glasgow and went on to lead a distinguished life and career in the States.

This announcement came after the University published a comprehensive report in September entitled Slavery, Abolition and the University of Glasgow. Written by colleagues Professor Simon Newman and Dr Stephen Mullen, it detailed the institution’s historical links with racial slavery. The study acknowledges that while the University played a leading role in the abolitionist movement, we also received significant financial support from people whose wealth was derived from slavery in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Importantly, the report presents a programme of reparative justice which includes the creation of a centre for the study of slavery and a memorial or tribute at the University in the name of the enslaved. The University has a very special and dynamic relationship with the City of Glasgow and it is a statement of the priority and commitment to learning.

We've made great efforts to recognise and reward teaching, providing parity of esteem for teaching even within a research-intensive environment; modernised our promotions and recognition of teaching excellence; and invested in modernised our spaces and technology-enabled teaching spaces and to new acquisitions. To join, see our website.

WHAT’S ON AT THE HUNTERIAN

WILLIAM HUNTER AND THE ANATOMY OF THE MODERN MUSEUM
27 September 2018 – 6 January 2019
Hunterian Art Gallery (Admission free)
Celebrating the tercentenary of William Hunter’s birth, this exhibition explores the contents in which The Hunterian founder formed his collections and the unique position they occupy in the development of modern museums. For the first time in 150 years, visitors will be able to see the scale and quality of Hunter’s collections in all in one place, reuniting paintings, ethnographic objects, anatomical and natural history preparations and items from Hunter’s library and coin collections.

A GOLDEN ERA OF COINAGE: THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE
7 December 2018 – 21 May 2019
Hunterian Museum (Admission free)
For 1,000 years, the Byzantine Empire dominated the eastern Mediterranean. Centred on the capital of Constantinople, it was a beacon of Roman power, Greek influence and Christian worship, which spanned the ancient and medieval worlds. A succession of emperors and empresses directed civil and military affairs within ever-shrinking borders. This exhibition tells the story of their lives from the information revealed by her bones, based on recent findings by an international research team of palaeontologists and geologists.

THE GERMAN REVOLUTION: THE ART OF EXPRESSIONISM
1 March – 25 August 2019
Hunterian Art Gallery (Admission free)
This major new exhibition explores artists’ responses to the social and political forces driving the German Revolution of 1918-1919. The Hunterian has a particularly fine collection of Expressionist prints, including important works by Schiele, Klinger, Kokoschka, Munch, Dix, Schmidt-Rottluff, Nolde, Beckmann and Käthe Kollwitz. The German Revolution links the strong German tradition of graphic art with the social, political, sexual and moral developments taking place at the time.

T. REX IN TOWN
15 March – 30 June 2019
Kelvin Hall (Admission charge)
Step back in time to the Cretaceous period and meet Tivx, Europe’s first Tyrannosaurus rex. The 66-million-year-old fossil of the carnivorous dinosaur is the centerpiece of this major exhibition and one of the three most complete Tyrannosaurus rex skeletons in the world. Find out how scientists piece together their images from the information revealed by her bones, based on recent findings by an international research team.

SUPPORT THE HUNTERIAN – BECOME A FRIEND
The Hunterian Scheme offers members a range of exclusive benefits, including unlimited access to charged exhibitions. Hunterian Friends give vital support and make a direct contribution towards new exhibitions and galleries, our education and conservation work, and to new acquisitions. To join, see our website.

ABOUT THE HUNTERIAN
The Hunterian is one of the leading university museums in the UK and one of Scotland’s most important cultural assets. Founded in 1807, it is the country’s oldest public museum and home to one of the largest collections outside the National Museums of Scotland.

OPENING TIMES
Tuesday to Saturday: 10am to 5pm
Sunday: 11 am to 4pm
Admission to the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery is free. There is a charge for The Mackintosh House and some exhibitions reflecting dramatic periods of history and a golden era of coinage from an extraordinary civilisation.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL LOANS
Not based in Glasgow? You can enjoy The Hunterian’s collections throughout the world with our national and international loans programme.

NATIONAL GALLERIES OF SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH
I Want to be a Machine: Warhol and Paolozzi (17 November 2018 – 2 June 2019)
On loan – Metamorphosis of a Dream by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi.

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM, CAMBRIDGE
Whistler and Nature (8 January – 11 March 2019)
On loan – 81 works by James McNeill Whistler including Off the Dutch Coast.

FONDAITION DE L’HERMITAGE, LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND
British painting during the Victorian era (1 February – 2 June 2019)
On loan – 40 works including A Little Shop in Chelsea by Monet.

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Our cover picture is part of an illustration by Alasdair Gray, Scottish novelist, playwright, poet, painter and illustrator. Entitled “Drawing of Hillhead”, it was used to illustrate Alasdair Gray’s book Old Men in Love, first published by Bloomsbury in 2009. The image is reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland.