

Caledonian^{PLUS}

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF GLASGOW CALEDONIAN



ISSUE 6 : WINTER 2009



Perserverance conquers Everest
for Sir Ranulph Fiennes

Summit else

ECONOMY IN THE SPOTLIGHT : COOKERY BOOK RELAUNCH : FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

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We at **JAGGED GLOBE** are widely recognised as the best British organisers of mountaineering expeditions to the Greater Ranges. Trips planned for 2010 reflect our growing passion for more remote, adventurous places. Our heritage is rooted in the high mountains of the Himalaya; our expanded activities serve to strengthen our bond with the wild, high places.

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Caledonian+



we are delighted to hear from our readers.

Caledonian+

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Cover: Sir Ranulph Fiennes
photographed by Ian Parnell

winter 2009

WELCOME TO THE WINTER 2009 EDITION

of **Caledonian+**. The past 12 months have seen the near collapse of banking giants, the stock market and financial institutions. In this issue, we ask how the banking system should be reformed and what 2010 may hold for the economy. We ask GCU academics for their insight and have an exclusive interview with graduate and Chief Economist of RBS, Andrew McLaughlin (pages 18-20).

Congratulations to The Caledonian Club, who have won two prestigious national awards for their work with children and families from communities across Glasgow (page 8). The next edition of **Caledonian+** will look at this groundbreaking project.

The Alumni Office has launched its official blog. Visit www.caledonianblogs.net/alumniandfriends to join our online community. Finally, take part in our competition to win a set of state of the art headphones (page 14).

On behalf of everyone at GCU, we hope that you have a great Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Mansoor Ali

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Developing a fruitful international partnership

WELCOME TO CALEDONIAN+. I was delighted to begin the new academic year with a ceremony at the University of Jinan, Shandong, China, to launch our joint honours degree programmes in Finance, Investment & Risk and Environmental Civil Engineering. Since Chairman Professor Fan and I signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2008, we have made remarkable progress. Our students travelled to Jinan during the summer for an academic and cultural exchange, an experience which has heightened their ambitions to succeed in the global marketplace. In September 2009, we welcomed five PhD and four Masters students from the University of Jinan to study with us in Glasgow, each having been awarded a joint scholarship. We also welcomed President Cheng, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jinan, who is engaging in an important research project in the School of Built & Natural Environment as a Visiting Professor for a three month period.

OUR PARTNERSHIP IS FOUNDED on a shared commitment to provide education for the most talented young people whatever their backgrounds or financial circumstances and on a determination to promote our social mission for the common good. It is also based upon trust and friendship, the key cornerstones of a successful partnership.

WE WILL DEVELOP OUR international partnerships and friendships in China and across the globe this academic year, and I look forward to keeping you updated.

To read more about the cultural exchange trip, please go to page 21.

PROFESSOR PAMELA GILLIES
PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR



Farewell...

AFTER 41 YEARS AT GCU,

Senior Lecturer David Donald has retired. David spent over 35 years specialising in Government, Politics and Social Sciences. He became the Deputy Head of the Politics Department from 1980 to 1992, and then a subject leader of the Division of Politics until the late 1990s. In 2003, he was seconded from Social Sciences to direct the Spoken Word project – a funded IT collaboration with the BBC Archives and Michigan State and Northwestern universities in the USA. Looking back at his time at GCU, David said: "There is nothing I would rather have done than learn and teach at what became Glasgow Caledonian University. I will always regard myself as a member of the university, and I hope our graduates feel the same way."

David hopes to maintain an association with the university and would be especially delighted to hear from former students. Please email D.Donald@gmail.com



...and Welcome

THE UNIVERSITY WOULD

like to welcome Professor Zeljko Sevic as Dean and Christopher Moore, Vice Dean, of the Caledonian Business School (CBS), the largest business school in Scotland with over 4,000 students studying a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate and professional programmes. Dean Sevic said: "Through a joint effort by all staff I hope that the school can continue to deliver a first class education to our students and expand on our innovative and applied research based projects." For more information visit www.gcal.ac.uk/cbs



New School of Health

THE UNIVERSITY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE the launch of the School of Health, following the successful merger of the Schools of Nursing Midwifery and Community Health and Health and Social Care. The new school, led by Professor Frank Crossan as Dean and Professor Valerie Webster as Vice Dean, will have 400 staff and over 4,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students.

By bringing together the range of health, nursing and social care disciplines, the school will be able to develop inter-professional training and cross-disciplinary programmes as well as support the university's world leading research in the health field, which was ranked in the UK top 10 in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise. For more information visit www.gcal.ac.uk/health

Alumni Achievement Awards

THE UNIVERSITY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE the recipients of the 2009 Alumni Achievement Awards. Four outstanding graduates have been recognised for their achievements in business, literature and academia. They include a construction entrepreneur based in the Middle East; an internationally acclaimed Jewish food critic; an outstanding business development professional; and a world specialist in human ageing.

Colin McCallum, Director of Development, said: "The awards were the perfect opportunity to celebrate and raise awareness of the often remarkable achievements of our alumni worldwide. We're extremely proud of our alumni and the lifelong contribution they continue to make to the university and the wider community."

Launched as part of the university's crystal celebrations in 2008, the annual awards celebrate the successes and contributions to society of GCU's alumni. To read more about this year's winners, visit www.gcal.ac.uk/alumni

Meet this year's winners...



LENA WILSON
BA (Hons) Public Administration and Management 1985, Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise and the CEO of Scottish Development International.



KHALID ABDULRAHIM
MSc Construction Management 2005, CEO & Chairman of Cebarco.



ETHEL HOFMAN
Institutional Management 1956, Co-director Greenlee Concepts / USA.



PROFESSOR IAN J DEARY
HNC Medical Laboratory Sciences 1976, Professor of Differential Psychology at the University of Edinburgh.



1st year International Product Design student Lucy Ross, designer of the 2009 Alumni Achievement Awards.

Ian Deary acknowledges honour

PROFESSOR IAN DEARY, HNC Medical Laboratory Sciences '76, received his Alumni Achievement Award at the November graduations at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow. Ian, now a Professor of Differential Psychology at the University of Edinburgh, has pioneered psychometric and other psychological research programmes to discover the most important influences on the changes in our mental abilities.

On receiving his award, Ian said: "I am honoured and delighted to be one of the recipients of these prestigious awards. I don't tire of telling people that the classroom and laboratory teaching I received during my HNC, from what was then Glasgow College of Technology, was excellent. It was a solid and much-used foundation for my later medical training and research career."

US honours GCU honorary graduates

TWO OF GCU'S honorary graduates have been awarded America's highest civilian honour by President Barack Obama. Honorary graduate and Magnusson Fellow Professor Muhammad Yunus is one of 16 recipients of the 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom, alongside fellow honorary graduate Mary Robinson, the first woman President of Ireland and a former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Medal of Freedom is awarded to individuals who make a manifest contribution to the national interests of the US, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors. This year's recipients were chosen for their work as agents of change.

For more information, visit www.gcal.ac.uk/newsevents

Boosting Enterprise

LENA WILSON, the new chief of Scottish Enterprise, delivered a special masterclass hosted by the Caledonian Business School in late October. Lena, BA (Hons) Public Administration and Management '85, discussed Scotland's position in the new global order and was also presented with the 2009 Alumni Achievement Award for her outstanding success in business development. Lena said: "We have in this country a host of natural assets and competitive advantages that should make us highly competitive on the international stage. We need to ask whether we are making full use of that potential and how we can develop greater ambition in order to live up to our promise and grow Scotland's economy."



Bespoke MSc will support manufacturer's expansion plans

CLYDEUNION owner Jim McColl with Glasgow Caledonian University's Principal Pamela Gillies



CLYDEUNION, one of the world's leading pump manufacturers, has joined forces with the university to launch the CLYDEUNION Academy, a training centre that will support the company's plans for growth and offer employees an opportunity to gain fully-accredited qualifications. Through a unique work-based learning programme, the MSc in Leadership and Management Development for the Manufacturing Sector by Learning Contract will be delivered by Caledonian Business School academics at the newly created Academy.

With a view to increasing the university's business-to-business corporate

education and training engagement, the Applied Knowledge Exchange and the Scottish Centre for Work Based Learning focus on the development of bespoke Masters programmes geared to support the attainment of strategic corporate goals and individual learning objectives.

Jim McColl, Executive Chairman, said: "The CLYDEUNION Academy is at the centre of engineering excellence. It provides a reference site within CLYDEUNION for high performance and leadership – establishing Cartcart, in Glasgow as an incubator of talent for the business."

"The academy will design, deliver

and evaluate a range of learning interventions for employees, suppliers and customers. We aim to become the best pump manufacturer in the world in terms of operational excellence, technical leadership and customer intimacy. Our collaboration with Glasgow Caledonian University ensures world-class learning provision and accreditation to the highest industry and academic standards."

For further information on work-based learning and bespoke programmes contact: Fiona Stewart-Knight, Applied Knowledge Exchange, Fiona.StewartKnight@gcal.ac.uk

Double award triumph for Caledonian Club

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY'S "outstanding work" with children and families from communities across Glasgow has scooped two prestigious awards.

The university's Caledonian Club, which works with children and young people, from nursery age onwards, won a national Times Higher Education Award earlier in October and has now picked up a Herald Society Award.

Judges praised the "wonderful initiative" for engaging with children as young as three to raise aspirations, transform attitudes to universities and build life skills.

For more information, visit www.gcal.ac.uk/caledonianclub.

Mix together nostalgia, lifelong friends and a cook book
A recipe for an extremely successful cookery book launch

Glasgow Cookery Book: Hot Off The Press!



THE LAUNCH OF THE centenary edition of the Glasgow Cookery Book took place in late September at the university, attracting over 500 excited alumni, most of whom were graduates of the Dough School – the affectionate nickname for the Glasgow and West of Scotland College of Domestic Science, later

to become Queen's College.

Miss Ella Glaister, the school's inaugural principal, was responsible for the publication of the first cookery book in 1910. She wanted to produce something the students could refer to, rather than copying the recipes painstakingly by hand. Since then, the simple textbook has become a staple in kitchens around the world. Over the years, it has

been revised many times to reflect changes in how we eat and cook.

THE 2009 EDITION, published by Waverly Books, was updated with the assistance of Dough School volunteers (pictured below). Special care was taken to preserve traditional favourites, such as haggis, pot roast, cheese scones and shortbread, while including updates

for the modern cook.

Ruth Robertson, who studied cookery at the Dough School in the 1940s was enthusiastic about the re-launch. "I have three grand-daughters who are all super cooks. I put it down to the Glasgow Cookery Book."

The Glasgow Cookery Book is available in most west of Scotland bookstores and online at www.amazon.co.uk

The university has set up the Queens College Fund, where all profits received from the sales of the book will go towards preserving the archives of the university's founding institutions and to facilitate, through a series of scholarships, the evolution of the learning and teaching that began there. If you would like to make a gift to this fund, please contact Jillian Watt on 0141 331 8220 or simply email Jillian at jillian.watt@gcal.ac.uk to find out more.



Dough School and Queens College volunteers, from top left: Morag Fortune, Fiona Robertson, Helen Daye, Linda Pryde, Mary Farquhar, Gilda Smith, Betty Orr, Sheonagh Beaton, Wendy I'Anson. Diane Spiers was unable to attend.



TENNIS SCOTLAND



THE UNIVERSITY TENNIS CLUB got its first session off to a swinging start thanks to Tennis Scotland's generous donation of equipment. Chief Executive David Marshall, Business Studies '81, said: "I was delighted to hear that GCU has launched a tennis club, and we were happy to be able to play a part in getting the club started."

MOFFAT CENTRE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

EIGHT TRAVEL AND TOURISM STUDENTS have received prestigious Moffat Centre scholarships to help further their studies. More than £500,000 worth of scholarship funding has been awarded to students over the last 10 years, thanks to the generous backing of The Moffat Charitable Trust. This year's keynote speaker was Malcolm Hart, Business Studies '83, CEO of Aurigny Airlines who delivered an entertaining lecture about his personal experiences in the airline industry and the challenges of building and growing an airline in the current economic climate. Dr Jamie Moffat, (pictured) whose family founded The Moffat Charitable Trust, confirmed their commitment to fund both the Moffat Centre and the scholarships for a further five years.

To read more about this year's winners visit www.moffatcentre.com



ALUMNI FUND UP-DATE

ASK, A UNIQUE VIDEO by John Cullen, Business Studies '99, helped launch the GCU Annual Fund last month. In it, John asks fellow alumni and friends to make a regular gift which will go towards transforming the university and the lives of students. Graeme McFaull, Business Studies '84, Chief Executive of Wincanton, said: "I contribute to the Annual Fund because it helps to provide opportunities and resources for students that wouldn't otherwise be possible."

To view the video, visit www.gcal.ac.uk/joinjohn.

For more info, contact Jillian Watt on 0141 331 8220 or email jillian.watt@gcal.ac.uk

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT FOR SCOSS

FIONA STEWART-KNIGHT, of GCU's Applied Knowledge Exchange, has the support of the John Lewis Partnership for £9000, John Lewis for £9000 worth of kitchen equipment for the Sighthill Community One Stop Shop (SCOSS) in Glasgow. Also secured from Encore Catering is a very generous gift which includes the design, supply and installation of a fantastic industrial kitchen. Together, the contributions mean that the SCOSS centre will finally be able to aspire to opening a cafe now that they have the means to cater for 120-150 people in addition to supporting a variety of activities from community events to cookery lessons for parents and children. GCU staff and students work closely with centre and provide health clinics for the community.



Santander Universities Network

THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN INVITED to join the Santander Universities Network. As the key pillar of the bank's social action agenda, the Network has established a strategic alliance with academic institutions in Latin America, China, Spain, Portugal, the UK, Morocco, USA and Russia. GCU joins over 800 members, and will receive support for the development and facilitation of educational initiatives. Colin McCallum, VP of the GCU Foundation, said: "Santander has offered funding of £150K over three years to the university for exchange scholarships and student awards as part of this agreement, including the creation of a Santander Magnusson Award."

To read more, visit www.gcal.ac.uk/newsevents

Signing of the Santander Agreement, pictured below

Magnus Magnusson
Winner in Sierra Leone

SILVIA GARCIA, MSC WASTE MANAGEMENT

'06 and current PhD researcher with the Caledonian Environment Centre, won a Magnus Magnusson Award in 2009. She used her award to fund a trip to Sierra Leone, an impoverished nation, where she joined a team of volunteers evaluating Freetown's waste management needs and developing an action plan for the city. Silvia, who returned from Sierra Leone earlier this year, talked to Caledonian+ about her remarkable experiences:

"IN THE 1990'S, Sierra Leone's brutal civil war brought thousands of refugees to Freetown. Such heavy migration has also brought squalor, poor housing, inadequate sanitation and public services, congestion and pollution. You can see piles of waste everywhere in Freetown.

"In April 2009 I travelled to the city with a team of 12 waste management professionals from the UK to review Freetown's waste problem from top to bottom and meet with key stakeholders, including Freetown City Council, the British Council, Ministry of Health and the World Bank.

We delivered training in relevant waste management approaches to waste practitioners and universities, and organised environmental awareness sessions with enthusiastic local school children and helped set up environmental clubs. We are currently working on a document to summarise our findings, which will be presented to potential investors or donors.

"WAS ABLE TO BE PART OF THIS project thanks to the Magnus Magnusson Award and the Caledonian Environment Centre. The trip has been a great success and has had a huge impact on me, professionally and personally. After direct contact with such severe poverty, my perception of life has changed; my 'problems' are not problems anymore and I've realised how well we live in the UK. Nobody can remain indifferent after such an experience."

You can make a donation to the Magnus Magnusson Fund through a tax efficient gift to the university by visiting www.caledonian.ac.uk/alumni/magnusmagnussonfund or email jo.dowling@gcal.ac.uk



ABOVE: At Njala University, where we gave some waste management books to the Department of Sciences. The books were donated by Dr. Gholam Jamnejad from GCU's Built and Natural Environment Department. We are currently working on potential partnerships between Sierra Leone and UK universities.



ABOVE: At the British Council, in the Ecoschools workshop that we organized. All of the children are from Freetown Schools.



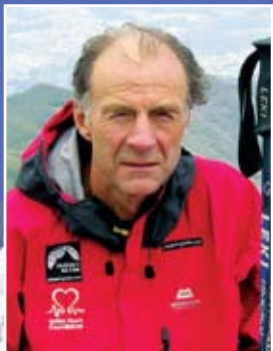
ABOVE LEFT: In Freetown, we presented the main findings of our visit to the group of stakeholders. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Kroo Bay is one of the poorest slums in Freetown. 96% of the urban population in Sierra Leone live in slums.



ABOVE LEFT: There are two dump sites in Freetown where thousands of scavengers make their living from the collection of waste. Healthcare waste is also dumped, increasing the risk of Hepatitis B and HIV. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Streets in Freetown have drains clogged with waste, and during the wet season, entire areas of the city are flooded.

SPECIAL FEATURE Ranulph Fiennes: the art of plodding

Polar explorer, adventurer and runner of seven marathons in seven days, honorary GCU graduate Sir Ranulph Fiennes is no ordinary 65 year old. With frostbitten fingers, no mountain experience and a cardiac problem neither was he an ideal candidate when he signed up in 2004 for an expedition to climb Everest.



DRIVEN BY A SELF-IMPOSED imperative to raise £15m for charity and a steely determination, spiced by his naturally competitive nature, Sir Ranulph devoted five years and three attempts to the endeavor of scaling Everest (8848m). He signed up for a rigorous training regime, learning basic rock and ice climbing techniques in the Alps; traveling to South America to climb Ecuador's giant volcanoes; and climbing Kilimanjaro in Africa where he suffered an angina attack 500ft below the summit ridge, but kept going rather than jeopardize losing his place on the Everest trip.

In 2005 he arrived at basecamp with his new bride. Following a two-week nonhoneymoon, the expedition began in earnest with acclimatization climbs while waiting for the perfect weather window. When it came, Sir Ranulph and his fellow summiteers slogged up endless ridges of rock, snow and ice to reach the collection of wind ravaged tents at campsite below

the top. That night at 11pm after a few sleepless hours' rest, he clipped into the fraying fixed ropes and began hauling himself up-ward. Forty minutes later, dizzy with trepidation and lack of oxygen and with his mind playing macabre tricks, a searing pain wrapped his heart in a vice-like grip. He had no choice but to retreat.

BEFORE HIS SECOND ATTEMPT, he decided to test his mettle at more moderate altitudes but in an altogether different arena: the mighty Eiger North Face. In 2007, four grueling days hard labour saw him with his guide, Kenton Cool, on the top. Determined to capitalize on his success, he returned to Everest with Kenton the following year. But once more exhaustion defeated him on the upper flanks.

Of the 2700 people who have summited Everest since 1953, 212 have died on the mountain. If you

decide to have a go, you have a one-in-12 chance of not coming back. A disturbing number of corpses punctuate Sir Ranulph's accounts of all three attempts, underlining the mental resilience needed to keep returning to the infamous 'death zone' – the altitude above which your body simply starts to break down.

Many who don't return and whose bodies still lie frozen into the ice have played fast and loose with the sacrosanct turn-around time. All the guiding companies give their clients a precise time at which they must turn back to give them, and their support team, a fighting chance of getting down alive. When battling to take one more step up with lungs aflame, the notion looms large.

On both Sir Ranulph's earlier attempts this, coupled with his

natural desire to keep pace with his professional western guides, had been his undoing – he drove himself too hard and conked out. This time he trained himself to not think beyond the next step. Much like a horse that keeps galloping with no expectation of reaching a goal, he decided he had to have the mindset and physical reserves to just keep on.

On 21 May 2009, with just Lhakpa Thundu his Nepalese sherpa, whose gazelle-like speed he didn't even aspire to match, he reached the top. He had conquered Everest by mastering his mind, and in doing so became the first man to cross both polar ice caps and climb the highest mountain in the world.

Soldiering on towards the summit of the top of the world.

Photograph courtesy of expedition organiser, Jagged Globe

On Top of the World

Uplifting pursuit

TOM MOFFAT LEADS

the project for the construction and maintenance of the HMS Defender warship at BVT Surface Fleet, Glasgow. Surprisingly, he is also a former power lifting and current world-record holder. Tom, B.Eng (Hons) Business and Manufacturing Engineering '99, represented Scotland in the 2009 World Drug Free Powerlifting Federation (WDFPA) Deadlift Championships, finishing a close second behind Ireland. He said: "It was great to see my friends and competitors from around the world." Tom is now training for the Scottish Championships and the European Championships in Moscow next year.



THE RECESSION HAS HIT MANY small businesses, but business is booming for environmentally friendly taxi firm, GOGREENCAR. Owners David Peters, Business Studies '01, and Andrew Laughlan, Multimedia Technology '02, have seen an increase in clientele over the last year as senior executives have sought an alternative to their high-end chauffeured limousines.

The taxi firm, based in the heart of London, has seen its fleet of hybrid Toyota Priuses grow from five to 40 in a space of 18 months, and are still adding new vehicles.



Andrew said: "We are competitively priced and, as blue-chip companies cut back on spending, we are the environmentally friendly alternative."

Find out more at www.gogreencar.co.uk

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Strictly a fundraising ball

ANNA MACDERMID, BA (Hons) Marketing '03, has helped raise over £7500 for the Scots Australian Children's Cancer Trust, a charity she co-founded to help children fighting cancer. Her next big fundraising initiative is the Strictly Fun Ball at the Glasgow Radisson on 6 March 2010. Anna, along with her family and friends, began fund-raising after her nephew,



Joseph, was diagnosed with a brain tumour at 18 months old, shortly after his parents emigrated

to Australia. "Childhood cancer is a devastating diagnosis for any family, and I want to help others by funding support." Anna said.

Proceeds from the ball will be shared between CLIC Sargent Scotland and the Sydney Children's Hospital. For further information, please email childrenscancertrust@gmail.com or contact Anna on 07977203132.

Knowledge in demand



SINCE FEATURED IN THE WINTER 2007 edition of Caledonian+, Kit-Out, a

knowledge transfer project (KTP) based at the university, has generated close to £500,000 through collaborative projects between the university and small to medium sized businesses (SMEs).

Funded by a combination of KTPs, Government R&D Grants and Scottish Enterprise, Kit-Out (Knowledge, Innovation & Technology Out of University into Tourism) aims to encourage the uptake of the latest technological developments by SMEs within the Loch Lomond and National Park area.

To date, Kit-Out has completed over 50 projects, 20 of them with the School of Built and Natural Environment. Stas Burek, Senior Lecturer, said: "This has been a good opportunity for the university to interact with local businesses by allowing small companies to tap into the university's expertise."

With many businesses affected by the economic down turn, Kit-Out has been inundated with enquires for ideas to improve performance through the adoption and integration of innovation.

KIT-OUT attracted 70 exhibitors and over 180 delegates to their Technology Showcase event (pictured) held at the University earlier this year. Four schools, 17 SME's and a range of public and private sector companies showcased their expertise gained through collaborative knowledge transfer projects with GCU through KIT-OUT.

To find out more, visit www.kit-out.org.



Listen out for Audio Chi

AN INNOVATIVE NEW BRAND is set to revolutionise the world of personal audio. Audio Chi's W-Series range solves two major headphone headaches: tangled cables and faulty connections.

Gavin Muir, BSc Chemistry with IT and Instrumentation '02, Director at Hunter Reid and an investor in Audio Chi, said: "The team has breadth of talent across the business from engineers to fashion marketing, and the company is also running an intern programme, which is great, especially in the current economic climate."

Julie McNicol, BA Hons Fashion Business '09, who recently joined the company's marketing communication team, said: "The energy and passion is incredible and it's great to be working with such enthusiastic and talented people".

We have a set of fantastic Audio Chi headphones (value: £70) to reward a lucky Caledonian+ reader. To have a chance at winning these exclusive headphones, answer the following question: What colour are Audio Chi's W7 headphones?

Answers to alumni@gcal.ac.uk. Hint: visit www.audiochi.com. All entries should be submitted by the 15th of January 2010.



more alumni news+

Badminton

GCU GRADUATES David Forbes, BSc Psychology '00 and Stewart Kerr, MSc Rehabilitation Science '08 took part in Bank of Scotland International Badminton Championships in Glasgow earlier this year. The doubles pair reached the second round of the tournament before losing out to an Austrian duo. David and Stewart have been playing together for 4 years and have been capped for Scotland 5 times.



arabian nites

Glasgow Caledonian University's relationship with the Gulf region began in 1996 with its partnership with the Caledonian College of Engineering in Oman. Through a number of events this autumn, GCU celebrated the success of its graduates in the Gulf and made great progress with its programme to educate health care professionals in Oman and Palestine. This was only possible with ministerial, educational and philanthropic support.

ABU DHABI

ON 28 OCTOBER, THE ABU DHABI SECURITIES EXCHANGE (ADX) HOSTED AN alumni reception with special guest and honorary graduate Sir Jackie Stewart. The event, generously sponsored by ADX, also honoured Khalid Abdulrahim, MSc Construction Management '05 and CEO of construction giant Cebarco, who received the Alumni Achievement Award for his contribution to engineering and construction in the region. The iconic Yas-Marina Formula 1 circuit, the world's most technologically advanced race track, stands as testament to his recent achievements. Khalid Abdulrahim gave his thanks for the award, saying that he was particularly proud of the Yas-Marina circuit. "It is because of the understanding I acquired from my education and ongoing relationship with GCU that I have been successful yet again in delivering the Abu Dhabi F1."



Khalid Abdulrahim is recognized for his achievements, including the early completion and delivery of the world's most technologically advanced Formula 1 track, the Yas Marina circuit in Abu Dhabi.

IN AN EXTREMELY GENEROUS GESTURE to further cement his relationship with GCU, Khalid has pledged £250,000 over five years to support scholarships and international placements for construction and civil engineering students at the university. He said: "I am honoured to be a supporter of the university that helped me move my company to the next level, and with this gift I will help benefit future leaders of the construction industry."

A delighted Peter Kennedy, Dean of the School of the Built and Natural Environment, said: "Khalid is one of our most successful alumni, delivering world-class construction projects throughout the Middle East. We are extremely proud of his success and grateful for his support, which will help current and future students."

Professor Pamela Gillies, GCU Principal and Vice-Chancellor, said that the evening was one of the highlights of a very successful visit. "GCU has worked in partnership in the Gulf Region for almost 15 years and looks forward to future partnerships."

Festival of Thinkers

PROFESSOR PAMELA GILLIES was in the region as a guest of the Festival of Thinkers. The event, which is held every two years in Abu Dhabi, is attended by Nobel Laureates and world leaders to discuss issues from around the globe.

Find out more at <http://festivalofthinkers.hct.ac.ae/index.asp>

GCU would like to thank all our sponsors for these events.

cloud
PERSONAL AVIATION

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GCU ALUMNI GROUP IN THE GULF

To join the GCU Alumni Groups in the region, please contact our International Alumni Ambassadors.

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BAHRAIN Alistair MacLeod at

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OMAN

Caledonian College of Engineering, Oman (CCEO) Graduation and Alumni Networking Event

ON 1 NOVEMBER, the graduation and awards ceremony for the CCEO was held in Oman's Al Bustan Palace under the patronage of His Excellency Salim bin Mohammad Al Naimi, Under Secretary for Transport in the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Professor Pamela Gillies conferred the awards for the fourth year running.

Over 250 people graduated, including the college's first 12 masters graduates, joining the growing family of over 60,000 alumni. The college also made three awards. The Gold Medal, won by Ms Shamsa Salim Mohamed Al Abri, recognizes the student with the highest academic performance at undergraduate level during the academic year. Two further prizes, made in the name of the previous Principal and his wife, recognize students who have rendered an extraordinary contribution to the College and to the student community: the Dr Bill Laurie prize was awarded to Mr Issa Mohammdd Abdulah Al Azri; and the Dr Elspeth Laurie prize was awarded to Ms Noreen Mohammed Ilyas.

GCU and CCEO hosted an alumni networking event the previous evening at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Oman for those about to graduate, giving them the opportunity to build relationships that will help them in their careers.



Professor Sue Scott, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning Innovation signing the partnership in Oman

Physiotherapy for Oman

GCU WILL HELP DELIVER A physiotherapy degree as part of a new five-year partnership with Oman's Institute of Health Sciences. GCU's School of Health will develop the current Omani diploma programme to honours level. The new programme will meet current UK standards but will be contextualised to meet local health and service delivery needs. As well as developing the honours degree, some Omani staff will study the GCU PgC in Learning and Teaching and others will undertake Professional Doctorates and PhDs.



PALESTINE

Health PhDs for Palestine

PARTNER UNIVERSITIES IN PALESTINE have asked GCU's School of Health to help them develop a nursing PhD programme to transform the quality of health education. Palestine desperately needs more health professionals, and GCU has provided the first PhD scholarship with one student already enrolled in Palestine. Fundraising is underway to fund 40 students.

During the recent visit to the region, a number of high level meetings were held to explain the project to potential partners, raise awareness of the issue of health education in Palestine and initiate discussions to make it a reality. GCU and partner institutions also hope to create a state of the art health Clinical Skills Laboratory, based on the one at the University in Glasgow, and a new Virtual Health Skills Laboratory on-line in Second Life to assist all health students across Palestine.

GCU will deliver this ambitious project in partnership with the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing at King's College, London.

If you would like to know more about this vital project, please contact Colin McCallum at colin.mccallum@gcal.ac.uk

The wide-spread impact of the economic downturn makes these difficult times for many graduates. Glasgow Caledonian University boasts Scotland's largest Business School, with a growing number of students enrolling for Business Studies, one of our longest standing courses. 32% of our graduates studied business related courses and 6.4% read Accounting Finance and Risk. Despite their qualifications, jobs are particularly scarce for classes of 2009 and 2010.

A KEY FUNCTION OF BANKS is maturity transformation – accepting short-term deposits or investments and lending/investing those funds in the medium or long term. Banks hold long-term assets and short-term liabilities, giving businesses and individuals access to longer-term credit whilst absorbing the risks of non-payment of loans and immediate cash demands from depositors. That the well-being of the economy relies upon this role is evidenced by the extent to which governments have intervened to support the banks.

FAILURE BY BANKS to appreciate and manage the risks inherent in practices, procedures and products that developed over a period of apparently stable, low interest rates led to banks taking greater risks whilst at the same time holding less capital than was necessary to act as a buffer against market fluctuations. When the value of the securitised assets held by banks on their own balance sheets were questioned, and they became reluctant to lend to each other as a result, a number of banks did not have adequate capital reserves to cope. This led to a downward spiral of banking liquidity and then banking capital.

The argument that there should now be institutional separation between traditional banking (servicing individuals and businesses in the 'real' economy) and bank trading activity (typified by the securitisation

FINANCIAL £ FUTURES\$

Patrick Ring, our senior lecturer in Financial Services at GCU, examines the banking crisis, the likely responses to it and prospects for recovery.

\$ **SINCE THE GLOBAL BANKING CRISIS ERUPTED**, governments around the world have scrambled to try and avert the collapse of financial systems: for the moment, they appear to have succeeded. However, this has cost the 'real' economy jobs and economic growth; and the social cost, with the effects of rising unemployment, business collapses and an inevitable squeeze on public services, will probably be felt well into the future. The cost to the government will, to some extent, depend upon how it manages its exit strategy from bank share ownership.

Meanwhile, whilst stock markets are rising and pundits and politicians seek 'green shoots' in every set of statistics, where does this leave the reform of the banking system?

that helped create the current crisis) has raised its head once more. There has also been renewed interest, including from the government, in developing the reach of mutual financial organisations, run in the interests of depositors. However, 'traditional' banks and mutuals, unconnected with investment banking activity, have also experienced difficulties; and the demise of the insurer AIG shows how problems outside traditional banking can affect it. There are also good reasons why some measure of securitisation is necessary in any financial system. As such, it seems clear that the focus must be on 'fixing' the existing system.

The Walker Review of corporate governance in banks and other financial institutions argues that banks need to improve risk management and that this function should be independent. Non-executive directors should be more knowledgeable and more challenging of a bank's management and strategies. In addition, there are calls for greater stewardship of banks by their institutional investors.

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SPECIAL FEATURE

BANKING ON CHANGE

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

THE FSA, THE UK'S REGULATOR, has embarked on a supervisory enhancement programme that will involve more intensive supervision that 'judges the judgements'. Of course, the amount of capital banks have to hold to support the risks they take has increased significantly (which, ironically, inhibits their ability to support businesses). As regards systemic issues, responsibility for greater systemic oversight is currently being fought out between the FSA and the Bank of England.

A headline issue has been that of high pay and bonuses in the banking sector. The extent to which pay incentives should be left to governance and risk committees, as opposed to specific regulation, depends upon the extent to which one thinks the interests of financial stability justify government intervention, and whether that intervention is any more difficult than other forms of regulatory intervention. At this point, it appears that change may be more limited than initial reactions suggested.

FINALLY, GOOD DOMESTIC REGULATION must be accompanied by much greater co-operation and consistency of regulation at an international level. Some argue we have experienced global finance without global regulation, and that there is a danger of fragmentation of international efforts as national interests come to the fore. Enhancing international standards and the bodies implementing them is vital for a properly functioning global banking system. But the efforts of the UK to remedy its banking system may be in vain if banks decide to set up in another nation state where regulations are less onerous.

At the moment, the future health of the banking system would appear to rest upon a step change in bank governance and much more effective regulation. These two developments need to take place in the context of coordinated regulatory development across the globe – something that has yet to be achieved in almost any sphere of activity. Something to ponder as we seek the green shoots of recovery.

– PATRICK RING, SENIOR LECTURER, FINANCIAL SERVICES

"Unemployment in Scotland is forecasted to peak in 2010, but will then start to fall gently: the timing and extent depends, of course, on the ability of the global economy to recover.

"Scottish tourism has benefited from the crisis as people opted not to take foreign holidays. In part, poor exchange rates account for this. Conversely, people from abroad have found it cheap to come here. As such, domestic tourism has seen a renaissance."

– JOHN HOUSTON, HEAD OF LEARNING, TEACHING & QUALITY
AT THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC POLICY AT THE CALEDONIAN BUSINESS SCHOOL.

SPECIAL FEATURE

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT STEPHANIE PITTCAS VISITED CHINA as one of 20 students participating in this summer's exchange programme, in a trip that was possible thanks to the generous support of the Martin Currie Charitable Foundation and Martin Currie Investments. She talked to **Caledonian+** about her unique experience.



I was excited about the cultural exchange to China and delighted to take part. We hoped to help build a working and lasting relationship with the University of Jinan, and before leaving sat through intensive Chinese language and etiquette classes so we could arrive armed with the necessary tools. We spent a lot of time learning about the higher educational system and meeting with the university staff, who went to every length to make us feel at home.

I will never forget our trip to Mount Tai. Seven thousand steps, 10 pit stops and 15 bottles of water later we were at the top. I nearly didn't make it: I was at the foot of the last set of stairs, thinking that my legs would never carry me to the summit, when an elderly gentleman bounded up behind me. If he could make it, so could I! It is hard to describe how I felt, but standing there with 19 of my fellow students made it all the more special.

This experience has been one of the most memorable of my life: from shaking hands with President Cheung of Jinan University to trying my hand at tai ji, Chinese painting, learning about the much acclaimed philosopher Confucius and climbing the Great Wall of China. We all came home having made friends with our Chinese student hosts, and the next time we see them will be here in Glasgow, when we can extend the same kindness and hospitality. We will try to give them the best taste of Scottish culture and show them the attractions of Glasgow and just what a good place Glasgow Caledonian University is to study. The summer team have worked with the Princes Scottish Youth Business Trust and the Wing Hong Centre for the Elderly since their return from China.



Exchanging
cultures
in China



INSIDER INTERVIEW Few can offer such personal insight into the recent banking crisis as Andrew McLaughlin, Social Sciences '90, Group Chief Economist and Head of Communications of Royal Bank of Scotland (pictured below). In an incisive interview with Adelle Hopkins, (BA [Hons] Communication & Mass Media '07, currently studying an MA in Multimedia Journalism), Mr McLaughlin discusses his personal experience of the collapse of RBS, and offers his views on both the causes of the credit crunch and the prospects for economic recovery. To view the full video interview, go to www.caledonianblogs.net/alumniandfriends.



500



Alan Bennie

In 1993, Alan Bennie left a secure job to set up Vivid Imaginations, the UK's leading toy sales and marketing business with turnover exceeding £100 million. He takes a brief look back at his career and time at Glasgow Caledonian.

Course
BA (Hons) Accountancy

Year of Graduation
1977

Current Position
Managing Director + Vice Chairman of Vivid Imaginations Ltd

Why did you choose GCU?

As an Ayrshire boy, I had always seen Glasgow as the big city, and the university was up and coming and seemed to have a 'can do' mentality. I saw management accounting as a stepping stone into a business career and, in retrospect, it was a good route into a general management role.

Best and Worst Memories

Best memories are of long Friday afternoons in the Student Union Bar. Worst, shocking attendance record at double Quantitative Techniques lectures on Friday afternoons!

How has your career progressed since graduating?

After graduating I joined Matchbox Toys as a Graduate Trainee. I planned to spend two years there, but I stayed on. By 1987, I was European Finance and Operations Director. In 1993, I took a deep breath and set up Vivid Imaginations.

What are the must have toys for Christmas 2009?

Ben 10 and Transformers are the big hits for boys and, for girls, High School Musical and Hannah Montana are popular.

Has the impact of technology and electronic games had an effect on dolls and action figures?

Technology and electronic games have been with us for a long time and the success of girls brands like Bratz and High School Musical and the

current success of Ben 10 for boys shows that, if a license is hot and the product is right, then the demand is there. No doubt, kids are moving out of toys at an earlier age and we have to compete with that.

What is the most exciting project you have done?

Our 'Take That' dolls were a big success and a fun project, although getting the guys' approval of sculpts was an interesting process!

What are your future plans?

We've just acquired new businesses in France and Germany, and are aiming to roll out the Vivid business model across Europe.

Greatest Personal Achievement: Business

No doubt, leaving a safe corporate position and succeeding in setting up a highly successful, entrepreneurial and fun business.

Greatest Personal Achievement: Personal

Trekking the Great Wall of China for seven days last year with a group of friends, and raising over £100,000 towards a new operating theatre at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

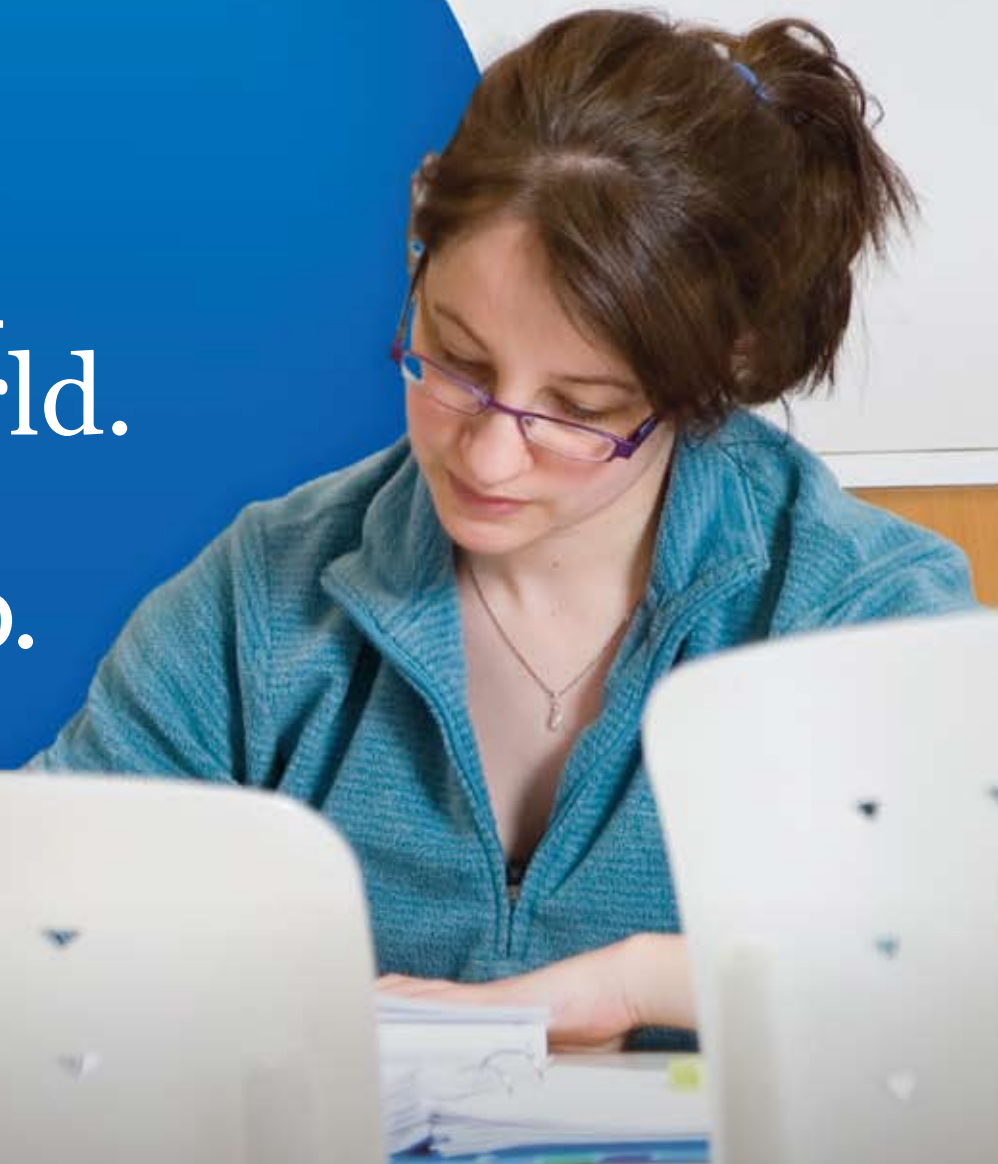
To get a start, what is your advice for new graduates?

Use contacts, internships, anything to get a start. Try to do something different that will make your CV stand out.

Read more of Alan's interview at www.gcal.ac.uk/5mininterview

If you know any graduates who would make an interesting, unusual or inspiring 5-minute interview, please contact Mansoor.ali@gcal.ac.uk

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