

# Caledonian PLUS

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF GLASGOW CALEDONIAN : ISSUE 1 : SUMMER 07



## In memory of Magnus

A TRIBUTE TO OUR LATE CHANCELLOR,  
MAGNUS MAGNUSSON

GCU NEWS : FOUNDATION IN FOCUS : TOURISM SPECIAL : HEATHER'S JOURNEY : MEET CRACKER

# Glasgow Caledonian University

## ALUMNI SERVICES

The expanding Alumni Department at Glasgow Caledonian University is a key point of contact and support for our alumni. We offer a range of benefits and services and encourage you to come back, virtually or in person, to take advantage of them and keep in touch.

### WHAT'S ON OFFER

**THE SALTIRE CENTRE** – reference access is free for all alumni and for a small fee of £30 per annum you can join and borrow books.

**CAREERS COUNSELLING** – this service is free to help with career advice and job seeking support for up to two years after you graduate.

**THE ARC** – our sport and fitness centre, with a wide range of facilities, is available at a reduced membership rate to GCU alumni.

**STUDENTS ASSOCIATION** – lifetime membership for the young at heart is only £10 and you can bring up to two guests, so come on in!

**FRIENDS FINDERS** – we can put you back in touch with old friends through our alumni database by forwarding mail for you.

**REUNIONS** – we provide help and advice to anyone organising a reunion; from tracking down alumni to finding a venue.

### NEW SERVICES

We are currently reviewing our offering to alumni and will be adding new services and benefits, so visit us at [www.gcal.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.gcal.ac.uk/alumni) to see what's on offer and update your details. If you have any suggestions, questions, queries or news please get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

### CONTACT

Jo Dowling  
Head of Alumni Relations & Annual Giving  
Tel: 0141 331 1890  
Email: [alumni@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@gcal.ac.uk)



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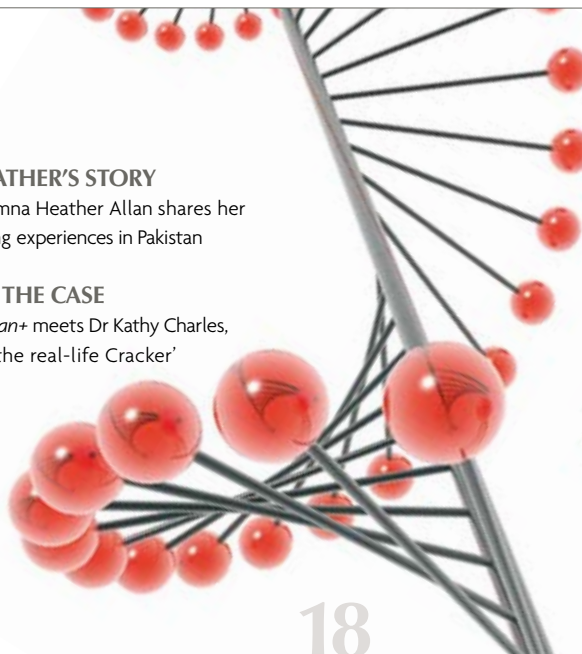
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## in this issue



WELCOME TO YOUR NEW-LOOK MAGAZINE, *Caledonian+*. Here at GCU we believe that the finest universities of the 21st century are places of vision, of ambition and of communication. Places that make a difference. This magazine is for the people who share in GCU's unique vision – people like you.

Sadly, this issue comes at a time when the University is still feeling the loss of one of its truest supporters – our late Chancellor Magnus Magnusson. We hope that the launch of the Magnus Magnusson Fund will help us to continue the great work that Magnus started. *Caledonian+* pays tribute to Magnus with a special feature on pages 12–13.

Magnus was of course deeply involved in driving forward the Saltire Centre. This dynamic new learning environment was supported by the kind donations of the University's supporters – read more on pages 14–17.

GCU graduates are making a real difference across the world. Rarely is this more evident than in alumna Heather Allan's dramatic tale (p20–21) of her work as part of a search and rescue mission in Pakistan.

Add to the mix an interview with GCU's real-life 'Cracker', a Scottish tourism special and eight pages of news and events, and this issue of *Caledonian+* certainly offers plenty of food for thought.

I hope that, as an alumnus or friend of the University, you will find much to be proud of in these pages, and I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

*DMartin*

Deborah Martin, Editor



### GET IN TOUCH

What would you like to see in these pages?

Make your voice heard:

**Telephone:** +44 (0) 141 331 8190

**Write:** *Caledonian+*, Glasgow Caledonian University, Development & Alumni Relations, Cowcaddens Road, Glasgow G4 0BE

**Email:** [alumni@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@gcal.ac.uk)

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MEDIA

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# My first year at GCU

**F**OLLOWING A ROLLER-COASTER FIRST year as Principal, my first annual review to staff reflected on the progress that has been made at Glasgow Caledonian University. We have gone through a period of staggering change and development – and there is more to come! For example, GCU has moved up the *Guardian* university league table from number 99 to 44. We all know that such league table results should be taken with a pinch of salt, but I hope you will agree that an improvement of such magnitude cannot be ignored. It's a huge reflection of the dedication, hard work and determination of everyone in the GCU community – and something alumni can be justifiably proud of. I want all alumni to feel that they have graduated *into* and not *from* Glasgow Caledonian University.

As I look forward to the next and subsequent years, I see many more opportunities for our University to move ahead and serve society even more effectively. Our new 2015 vision states clearly our aim to make GCU the most innovative and forward-thinking university not only in Scotland, but in the UK. We will achieve this through strategic investment and a focus on a small number of areas that we can shine in. For example, our international partnerships and programmes are set to grow, and you

**“We want to create a myriad of opportunities for a two-way exchange of people, ideas and experiences”**

will read more in future issues of *Caledonian+*. I am determined to encourage our staff and students to become global citizens. We want to create a myriad of opportunities for a two-way exchange of people, ideas and experiences between GCU and its partners around the world. Closer to home, when you next visit the much-improved campus in the very heart of Glasgow, you will see even more exciting developments. The Students' Association has recently moved to a new purpose-built home on the edge of the campus, so the old Bedsit will be no more. In research and consultancy, an exciting development now underway relates to the creation of four over-arching 'research institutes' which will co-ordinate and promote multi-disciplinary activities in Environment, Social Justice, Health and the Creative Industries.

I must end on a rather sad note. I got to know Magnus Magnusson and his family so well in a short time. Even before I arrived at GCU last year, it was immediately obvious just what an impact Magnus had made as Chancellor and how important his contribution over the years had been. Although it was a personal loss to me, it was a much more important loss to his family, friends and the University as a whole when he passed away earlier this year. We have thought long and hard about appropriate ways to honour our much-loved late Chancellor and I think we have managed to create something that Magnus would have enjoyed and approved of. Indeed I know that he would, since we talked about these things shortly before he died. The Magnus Magnusson Fund has been launched, with an ambitious aim to encourage young people to reach their dreams. Through the internationally-led Magnusson Fellowship, we can build exciting and creative activities in Magnus' memory. You can read about it here and help us by giving to the new fund. The first Magnus Magnusson Memorial Lecture will be held in Glasgow later this year.

So, welcome to *Caledonian+*, and welcome back to your University. Please keep in touch.

**Professor Pamela Gillies**  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor



# GCU leaps up *Guardian* league table



GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY has made a remarkable leap in the university league tables, according to the *Guardian* newspaper. From 99th position, Glasgow Caledonian University has moved to number 44 in the national league. In addition, the University featured strongly in the top 20 universities for key subject areas. The *Guardian* league tables rank subject areas against criteria such as learning quality, staff/student ratio and job prospects. These are then combined to give an overall ranking.

"This is an outstanding achievement, which reflects on the quality of our facilities and work of all our University staff," said Professor Pamela Gillies, Principal and Vice-Chancellor. "I am very confident we will continue to build on this to position Glasgow Caledonian University as Scotland's most innovative, entrepreneurial, responsive and socially-inclusive institution."

The Student Evaluation Project (SEP) brought further good news. This GCU-funded research project, established

in 2001 to find out more about the University's students, helps GCU to improve teaching and services for current and future students.

Results from the last survey were very positive:

#### ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY:

- 95% would recommend the University to a friend
- 90% would choose us again if they could start afresh
- 85% would recommend a degree programme to a friend
- 76% would consider coming back for further study
- 77% would choose their degree programme again

#### ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE:

- 85% rated their overall experience of life as a student at Glasgow Caledonian positively
- 3% rated it as neutral
- 1% rated their overall experience as poor

## new faces

A ROUND-UP OF THE LATEST APPOINTMENTS TO GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY

#### ROBERT CRAWFORD

"A great location, great potential, with areas of serious excellence we can build on – but I'm not sure things move fast enough at times!" That's how Robert Crawford, the new Executive Director of Business Development and Commercialisation, sees GCU after three months in the job.



Former Chief Executive

of Scottish Enterprise, and then of the Mersey Partnership, Robert was brought in to boost the University's income through business development.

So far, Robert has created a high level Business Advisory Forum to help the University with business advice, networking and ideas generation. He also plans to:

- Set up an Ideas Lab, in which staff and students can bring forward ideas for innovation in their field
- Recruit two business development executives to help profile the University in the upper reaches of public and private Scotland
- Push forward a social regeneration strategy for GCU

"I'm here to help people understand what we've got that the public and business communities – national and international – will buy," said Robert. "I want to help staff and students formulate ideas which will have a commercial impact, and to build strong links with commerce and the world of business."

#### MARTIN TOGNIERI

The University has appointed Martin Tognieri as the new Dean of the Caledonian Business School. Martin brings a wealth of experience to Glasgow Caledonian. He spent 23 years at Scottish Enterprise, most recently as Head of Scottish Development International. One of Scotland's best-known business figures, Martin was involved in most of the big inward investment projects in recent years.

"Caledonian Business School is the largest business school in Scotland," said Martin. "This brings huge opportunities and challenges. I will relish the opportunity to work with so many new colleagues in the academic field and to build on the strengths of Caledonian Business School."



## JACK MCCONNELL ATTENDS GCU POVERTY EVENT

This spring, Principal and Vice Chancellor Professor Pamela Gillies welcomed former First Minister Jack McConnell to the Poverty in Scotland 2007 event at Glasgow Caledonian University. Mr McConnell was one of the keynote speakers at the event, which aims to highlight the latest shocking statistics on poverty levels in Scotland.

In his speech, the former First Minister and Labour Party Leader said: "Poverty

specific research in areas of poverty and anti-poverty policy in partnership with governmental and non-governmental agencies, and responding to requests for consultation and advice.

The event coincided with the launch of the SPI unit's new book, *Poverty in Scotland 2007*, which details the latest actual figures of poverty in Scotland today. The book was published through a unique partnership

**Scotland must not only be prepared to recognise its poverty, it must also be prepared to eradicate it."**

holds us back. It stunts economic growth, it increases pressures on our education and health services, and it stores up problems for the future. It exists in Scotland and it is preventable. I believe we have a moral, economic and political duty to end it. And we can."

The Poverty in Scotland event is co-hosted by the Scottish Poverty Information (SPI) unit at Glasgow Caledonian. The SPI unit has four main activities: producing and distributing accessible summaries of key debates, monitoring and analysing poverty in Scotland, carrying out

of University academics, campaigners and frontline poverty workers. "It's all too easy for comfortable Scots to dismiss the reality of poverty, but poverty persists despite the positive strides taken in recent years," said John McKendrick of the SPI unit, who co-authored the book. "Scotland must not only be prepared to recognise its poverty, it must also be prepared to eradicate it."

The Poverty in Scotland event was also the inaugural conference of the University's new Continuing Professional Development Centre, located in the former Caledonian Library & Information Centre (CLIC) building. The old CLIC building (in the William Harley Building) has been the focus of a £2m investment upgrade programme to create a state-of-the-art CPD facility and attractive new office space for University staff. The CPD Centre can be found on the first and second floors of the William Harley Building.

## HELPING HAND FOR NURSES

Health professionals at Glasgow Caledonian University have piloted a project to support the Scottish Executive's drive to recruit and retrain overseas nurses already living in Scotland.

The project will identify the kind of infrastructure needed to help those nurses educated overseas to adapt to working within the Scottish NHS. The project will be led by Glasgow Overseas Professionals into Practice (GOPIP), which was set up in 2004. The plans will be backed by £1.25m investment from the Scottish Executive over the next two years. New plans for the Executive's recruitment drive were unveiled in 2006 by Health Minister and GCU alumnus Andy Kerr. An adaptation programme will form a vital part of this recruitment and retention drive, as it will provide staff with knowledge of the cultural, social and economic factors of their new workplace. The programme is also beneficial to existing NHS staff, as it recognises the support needed to integrate new international colleagues.

Building on earlier work supporting refugee nurses working within the Scottish NHS, the GOPIP team was well placed to undertake the development work needed to create a national programme. "International nurses bring lots of skills into the NHS," said Dr Ima Jackson of the University's School of Nursing, Midwifery and Community Health, who heads up GOPIP. "However, the task of adapting to nursing in Scotland is complex, both for the nurses supporting them in the workplace and for the international nurse undergoing a transition to a new culture and set of procedures.

"This project is great for patients, relatives, existing staff who mentor international nurses, and the nurses that the Executive is providing comprehensive academic and clinical support for. It will ensure that standards are maintained and our patients receive competent care.

Within an international context, attracting and retaining international nurses is likely to become more competitive. Because Scotland has put in place a high standard adaptation programme, international nurses will seek to join our workforce from within the UK, and this means we can select the best candidates for the job."



## Dragon's Den entrepreneur joins the GCU family

"You only live once. If you don't enjoy it, it's your fault, nobody else's." This is the motto of Duncan Bannatyne OBE, the Scottish businessman most famous for his appearance as a "dragon" on BBC2's *Dragons Den*. Glasgow Caledonian presented Duncan with an honorary Doctor of Science for his service to business and charity at its summer graduations in 2006.

Born in Glasgow, Duncan began his career selling ice-cream with great success and then founded a nursing home business, becoming a multi-millionaire in the process. He has since expanded into health clubs, namely the successful chain Bannatynes, and also bars, casinos and property.

Prior to receiving his honorary degree, Duncan was awarded an OBE by the Queen in recognition for his charity work in Romania, where he has funded several projects including Casa Bannatyne, a hospice for orphans with HIV and AIDS.

Duncan was among 11 others to be honoured by Glasgow Caledonian University in 2006.

- **George Parsonage**, for his dedication and service to rescue work on the River Clyde over the past 25 years as Lifeboat Officer for the Glasgow Humane Society.
- Iceland's former President **Vigdís Finnbogadóttir** – the first elected female president anywhere in the world.

- **George Abbey**, former director of NASA's Johnston Space Centre.
- **Dr Ian Johnston**, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University.
- **Sir William Rae**, Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police, for his ambassadorial work in the City of Glasgow.
- Omani public servant – His Excellency **Dr Ahmed bin Abdul Nabi Macki**.
- **Professor John Gagnon** for his distinguished work in the field of sexual behaviour and HIV and AIDS research.
- **David Hayman**, actor and founder of the humanitarian charity Spirit Aid, for his contribution to public life.
- **Steven Sharp**, whose marketing campaigns have been credited with playing a major role in the revitalisation of Marks and Spencer.
- Leading Scottish Business guru **Elie Chilton** was recognised for his contribution to Scottish business.
- **Professor George Irving**, Chairman of Ayrshire and Arran NHS received his degree for his distinguished career in social work and now with the NHS.



## GCU – WHERE CAREERS COME FIRST

Glasgow Caledonian University, together with the universities of St Andrews and Glasgow, is to undertake a £1.2m project on Work Related Learning (WRL), to enhance the employability of new graduates.

Funded by the Scottish Funding Council, the three-year project will involve in-depth research with students, academics and employers, with the goal of embedding effective, work-related learning into the curriculum. The University's 2015 strategic vision sets out its commitment to nurturing students to contribute to society and work on a global scale.

The impetus for this new project was twofold. Firstly, there was a growing awareness of the importance of work experience and related learning for students. Secondly, it recognises the Government's emphasis on WRL as an integral aspect of the learning experience. The project partners aim to develop creative links with business which go beyond the standard 'work placement' model, developing innovative approaches

which work for universities, businesses and graduates. There are many potential benefits: graduates with work experience will find they are more employable; employers will enjoy better-qualified applicants; and more experienced graduates will quickly make a positive impact on the economy.

"Glasgow Caledonian University has a long tradition of working with industry to enhance the employability of its graduates," said GCU Principal, Professor Pamela Gillies. "This exciting new Scottish partnership will create innovative, leading-edge materials and processes for the dissemination of good practice throughout Scotland."

The partnership aims to produce models of WRL which break through traditional curriculum structures and develop a dynamic, mutually-beneficial exchange with business and employers. Employer involvement is key, and each institution will build on existing business links and seek other innovative companies to drive forward the vision, effecting real change for Scotland.

## Meet the masters

The Caledonian Business School at GCU has received a remarkable response to its seventh Masterclass programme. Developed to enhance the learning experience of business students and to engage the school's corporate clients, the Masterclass series has attracted some of the finest speakers in the country, including Dame Anita Roddick, Michelle Mone and Sir Tom Farmer.

This year's speakers included Caroline Casey, one of Ireland's most high-profile business women and founder of the Aisling Foundation. Caroline became a household name for the successes she achieved during her 1,000 km solo elephant-back voyage across India; for her circumnavigation of the world in 80 different forms of transport; and for establishing Ireland's O2 Ability Awards – the first business award programme in Europe. Caroline inspires her audience as she speaks from the heart about growing up and overcoming challenges – her severely limited sight in particular. Archaeologist, management consultant, adventurer, entrepreneur and MD, Caroline is a true inspiration to listen to.

GCU Honorary Graduate Sir Ranulph Fiennes was June's Masterclass guest speaker. Described by *Guinness World Records* as the 'World's Finest Explorer' Sir Ranulph's presentation was an account of his life of adventure, which he told with a self-deprecating sense of humour. Sir Ranulph gave an inspiring talk in which he tackled questions of leadership, teamwork, goal setting, determination, and self belief, as well as how he bravely dealt with an emergency heart bypass operation.

Alumni can register to attend any of the masterclasses. If you would like more information about Caledonian Business School Masterclass series please visit [www.gcal.ac.uk/cbs](http://www.gcal.ac.uk/cbs)





Left to right: Alan Cleary, Professor Gordon Dickson, Audrey Weir of AON and Dr Alan Watson

## CELEBRATING RISK

More than 80 Risk Management alumni celebrated their 20 year reunion with a Division of Risk reunion dinner in 2006. The speaker for the evening was Alan Cleary, who is one of the most sought-after and highly-rated speakers on the after dinner circuit. Alan is closely associated with the risk management and insurance sectors, in which he has an international reputation.

It is hoped that the reunion will be repeated south of the border for those graduates unable to attend the Glasgow event. The dinner was attended by graduates over the past 20 years from a range of local, national and international companies and organisations.

The event was sponsored externally by graduates, employers and companies associated with risk management. The main sponsor of the evening was the Aon Group, whilst other sponsors included Vertica Risk Management, Strategic Thought, Morgan Stanley, Marsh Group, speaker sponsorship WAS provided by Thomas Miller Consultants, and Diageo. Glasgow Caledonian would like to thank the sponsors, whose huge input helped make this event possible.

If you would like help organising a reunion or anniversary event please contact the Alumni Relations Office at [alumni@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@gcal.ac.uk) or contact us on +44 (0)141 331 8677. We are here to provide help and support to make your reunion as memorable as possible.

## GCU ACADEMICS TAKE INFLUENTIAL NEW ROLES

Two of Glasgow Caledonian's leading academics have secured influential positions in the Scottish public sector.

Alison Britton, Associate Dean of Quality in the School of Law & Social Sciences, has been appointed as a legal advisor to the Health Committee for the Scottish Parliament. She will advise on a new piece of legislation – the Adult Support & Protection (Scotland) Bill. Her remit will include previewing relevant documentation and evidence, preparing lines of questioning, attending meetings and assisting the committee in drafting its final report.

Professor Kay Hampton, a lecturer in criminology, has been made chair of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE). Professor Hampton was appointed as a Commissioner for CRE Scotland in 2003, and became deputy chair nine months later. She is the first woman to be appointed to the role in the CRE's 30-year history and succeeds Trevor Phillips. Kay's appointment will run until 31 October 2007, when the work of the CRE will be taken forward by the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR), a new commission which will bring all equality issues together under one body.

# cream of the crop



## GCU'S AWARD-WINNERS

### NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

Professor Barbara Parfitt, former Dean of the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Community Health, was made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in the New Year's Honours list, for her services to international healthcare. Currently Secretary General of the Secretariat of the Global Network of World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centres, Prof Parfitt was instrumental in forging international healthcare links for the University. Prof Parfitt is currently Director of the Caledonian Centre for Global Health, where she is to spearhead a new initiative in international healthcare development.

### HEALTH SERVICE JOURNAL AWARD

Dr Valerie Webster, Senior Lecturer in Physiotherapy and Associate Dean (Quality) in the School of Health and Social Care, along with her research partner Dr Lesley Holdsworth (NHS Forth Valley), won the 'Improving Patient Access' category in the prestigious *Health Service Journal* Award 2006. The award recognises their research in self-referral to physiotherapy, which judges hailed "a seminal piece of work that will prove influential across the UK and internationally".

### SCIENCE DESIGN AWARD

Yingna Zheng, a PhD student at the School of Engineering, Science and Design (ESD) has scooped a top prize for her work in developing scientific instruments. Yingna was awarded £1,000 by the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers in recognition of her research into the development of instruments to measure the flow of material through pipes.

Glasgow Caledonian is one of only 10 universities invited to apply for the awards, and this is the fourth year running that a student from the ESD has been successful.

### 2007 ALUMNI AMBASSADOR AWARDS

The Alumni Ambassador programme has named Janice Collins, Business Development Manager at Novograft, its 2007 Alumnus of the Year. The annual Alumni Ambassador awards were held in March, with Glasgow 2014 Bid Director Derek Casey a guest speaker. The Alumni Ambassador initiative is an innovative programme that strengthens links between the University, its graduates and their employers. Novograft, which provides retailers with brightly coloured picture panels to make produce look more appealing, is the first company to team up with GCU in a Knowledge Transfer Partnership.



### GCU SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

Nursing student Sarah Reid has been awarded the Glasgow Caledonian University Sportsperson of the year. Sarah skipped Scotland's junior curling team to gold at the World Junior Curling Championships held earlier this year in Minnesota, USA. In a nail-biting final Sarah managed to lead her team to a gold victory against Canada, winning 7-6. She hopes to be selected for the 2012 Olympics.

# Hong Kong based alumnus becomes global leader



Glasgow Caledonian University graduate Christopher To (BEng 1992) has been selected by the World Economic Forum to become one of its Young Global Leaders of 2007.

This honour is bestowed each year by the World Economic Forum to recognise and acknowledge the top 250 young leaders from

around the world for their professional accomplishments, their commitment to society and their potential to contribute to shaping the future of the world. From over 4,000 candidates, Christopher was one of the chosen few. The leaders are chosen by a selection committee of 34 eminent international media leaders and the committee is chaired by Her Majesty Queen Rania of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The forum was established by Professor Klaus Schwab to create a unique multi-stakeholder community of the world's most extraordinary young leaders. These leaders dedicate part of their time to jointly addressing global challenges and part of their knowledge and energy to collectively work towards a better future. Professor Schwab is Executive Chairman and Founder of the World Economic Forum and has, for more than 30 years, been dedicated to improving the state of the world. Previously, he was a member of the United Nations High-Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development.

The Young Global Leaders group will help the World Economic Forum to work towards its 2030 initiative, which aims to understand current and future trends, risks and opportunities at both global and regional levels. The initiative hopes to put a positive vision for the world in 2030 into action.





## FAR-SIGHTED

Glasgow Caledonian Visual Stress Clinic was honoured with an award for excellence in learning, teaching, development and mentorship at the UK Awards for Allied Health Professionals and Healthcare Scientists. The clinic – the only one of its kind in Scotland – carries out a range of programmes examining the vision of people from across the UK diagnosed with dyslexia and other difficulties with learning. The specialist facility treats problems in both children and adults, using a variety of techniques to improve their reading, writing and spelling ability.

The clinic has touched many lives, but it transformed that of David Johnston, a teenager from

Dumbarton. A third-year at Dumbarton Academy, David was studying hard for his standard grades but needed a larger font size on blue paper and read better with double spacing. Without this, words jumped all over the page, meaning he could not read. He had sore heads, was tired and felt so sick that he did not want to go to school. Dr Nadia Northway of the clinic diagnosed David with Meares-Irlen Syndrome, dyslexia and dyspraxia. Dr Northway prescribed coloured lenses, which are a specific colour of blue and helped David to train his eyes to focus. David believes that the Visual Stress Clinic changed his life and that he would not be achieving at school without it. His mother, Alison, said that the clinic has given her son his future back.

## BIG SCOOP FOR BA JOURNALISM COURSE

Glasgow Caledonian University's BA Journalism course has been awarded accreditation from the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ). A panel of newspaper editors and representatives from the NCTJ spent a full day inspecting student work, University facilities, the course and assessment documents, as well as meeting key teaching staff and students, before making its award.

The BA Journalism course was launched in 2002 and saw its first honours graduates in 2006. As is normal for new programmes, the first three years of accreditation are conditional, after which official approval is granted. Students can now be entered for the NCTJ's professional 'prelim' exams in newspaper journalism, shorthand, law, and public affairs.

The BA Journalism course joins the existing Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism Studies, offered jointly by GCU and the

University of Strathclyde, through the NCTJ-accredited Scottish Centre for Journalism Studies. Glasgow Caledonian's BA in Journalism is unique, being the only NCTJ-accredited undergraduate journalism degree in Scotland which includes broadcast journalism in the curriculum.

"We're delighted to be one of only four courses in Scotland to be officially accredited," said Programme Organiser Ken Garner. "It reflects the importance we place on the kind of practical journalism skills which employers in press and broadcasting look for."

The facilities available to students who study journalism at Glasgow Caledonian include a state-of-the-art newsroom, which allows students to gain hands-on experience of recording and presenting techniques. However, future investment will be needed to ensure that the latest equipment is available for students who choose this subject area.

## just briefly...

### BACK THE BID

Glasgow Caledonian University is officially backing Glasgow's bid to bring the 2014 Commonwealth Games to the city. The University has already developed links with the bid through Acting Head of Cultural Business Dr Gayle McPherson, who is cultural advisor to the bid team. Dr McPherson's experience will directly benefit postgraduate students in the Business School, who will learn about bidding for international events.

### £600K BOOST TO RESEARCH

GCU's Schools of Health & Social Care and Built & Natural Environment have been awarded £600,000 through the West of Scotland Engineering Research Pooling, funded by the Scottish Funding Council. The Schools will be part of the proposed Rankine Institute within Glasgow Research Partnership's Joint Research Institute for Mechanics of Materials, Structures and Bioengineering. They will collaborate with other partners to promote advances in biomechanics, bioengineering and rehabilitation engineering and other research efforts on the interface between engineering mechanics, medicine and life sciences.

### ST MUNGO'S PRIZE



The University is pleased to announce that Honorary Graduate Willie Haughey has been awarded the prestigious St Mungo's Prize for distinguished service to the City of Glasgow. Mr Haughey, a local philanthropist and businessman, was made an honorary Doctor of Technology by the University in November 2005.

### FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY FOR GCU SPIN-OUT

Glycologic, a spin-out company from Glasgow Caledonian University, this year celebrates its fifth anniversary. Glycologic was the brainchild of two GCU academics, Dr John Karkalas and Professor Richard Tester, who hoped the company would build upon their expertise in carbohydrate chemistry for drug and nutrient delivery, meeting industry demands for research and development support within this area. During this time, the company has developed five technology platforms which have achieved significant success with licensing partners.



# M IN MEMORY OF Magnus



HE WAS FAMOUS FOR THE LINE "I'VE STARTED, SO I'LL FINISH". FITTINGLY, GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY IS NOW CONTINUING THE GREAT WORK THAT ITS LATE CHANCELLOR MAGNUS MAGNUSSON STARTED. HERE, OUR **PRINCIPAL** REMEMBERS MAGNUS

M

AGNUS MAGNUSSON WAS Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University for five years from 2002. When Magnus took up this most prestigious post, it was a tremendous honour to have such an outstanding intellectual play a part in one of Scotland's newest universities.

An excellent Chancellor, Magnus had a real passion for learning and knowledge. He was educated at Edinburgh Academy, where he became dux of the school and won an open scholarship to Jesus College, Oxford. He graduated in English Literature and Language 1951, and spent two years doing postgraduate study in Old Icelandic literature. He was Rector of the University of Edinburgh between 1975 and 1978 and was Honorary Fellow of the Jesus College, Oxford.

Magnus was a gifted journalist, broadcaster and historian, as well as an accomplished translator and a prolific author. He wrote books on the Vikings, archaeology, Ireland, Scotland and published translations of several novels including those of Icelandic Nobel Prize-winner Halldor Laxness, and a number of Icelandic Sagas. He was known to most of us because of his huge success in presenting the television quiz, *Mastermind*.

As Chancellor, Magnus was asked to participate in University events by many colleagues. He carried out each of his duties with equal enthusiasm and tireless dedication. He touched the hearts of everyone he met – not least the students on graduation day, who were assured this was their most special of days.

The Chancellor of any university contributes to its success. Magnus assisted our development over the years in a very special way. No request was too small for him in supporting us. Every year at the Chancellor's dinner, Magnus welcomed over 250 guests from the worlds of education and industry. Other recent highlights included chairing the inaugural lecture in the Carnegie Lecture Theatre in 2005, and opening new laboratories of the University's successful spin out company, Glycologic.

Nowhere was this enthusiasm more evident than in his faith in groundbreaking educational advances. The Saltire Centre at the heart of our campus embodied for him, as he put it, "a revolutionary approach to learning". He saw how the Scottish tradition of innovation and education came together there, in the newest addition to our campus. He thought this was a place we could talk, walk, write and think.

Magnus had a wonderful sense of humour. He undertook his role with real fervour and his commitment to perfection was never far from the surface. He managed to make everyone feel important and that they had a part to play in the University, and he graduated over 12,000 students in his time with us.

At Glasgow Caledonian University, we will make sure that Magnus' contribution to Scottish education in general and the University in particular, will never be forgotten. We have announced the Magnus Magnusson Annual Scholarship to promote the ideas and achievements of some of our brightest young people in Scotland. We have also established the Magnus Magnusson Fellowship, an annual lecture and a fellowship award. These awards are designed to ensure his educational legacy is everlasting.

“He carried out each of his duties with equal enthusiasm and tireless dedication”

The warmth and generosity that Magnus brought to his duties as Chancellor will never be forgotten. Memories of Magnus will live on in everyone who knew him at the University and in the future with those who benefit from his special scholarship and fellowship. We will miss him.

## THE MAGNUS MAGNUSSON FUND

The new Magnus Magnusson Fund was created in honour of the University's late Chancellor and much-loved broadcaster and writer. The first gift to the new Fund came from an old school friend of Magnus', who watched a BBC programme about his life and heard the Principal mention the University's plans for a special fund. He immediately asked the Principal how he could help. As a result of his very generous personal donation, the Fund is now up and running.

The Fund was created to enable GCU to provide grants to young people (students or young researchers) to build on their experience and learning, helping them to achieve their dreams. Each award of up to £5,000 will support a Magnusson Scholar, helping them to take their work forward. The Fund will also manage the Magnus Magnusson Fellowship and Annual Lecture, a prestigious group of individuals from around the world who will come together to discuss issues of immediate and global concern. GCU hopes that the Fellowship will become a powerful focus for debate and re-consideration of topical issues and that the Magnusson Lectures will develop into a major feature of the University's public-facing work.

To make a donation to the Magnus Magnusson Fund, visit [www.gcal.ac.uk/magnusmagnussonfund](http://www.gcal.ac.uk/magnusmagnussonfund)





# Foundation in FOCUS

MANY EXCITING UNIVERSITY PROJECTS COULD SIMPLY NOT HAPPEN WITHOUT THE KIND SUPPORT OF FRIENDS AND ALUMNI – AS THE NEW GCU FOUNDATION RECOGNISES. VICE-PRESIDENT **COLIN MCCALLUM** TELLS MORE



**I** HAVE WORKED IN AND WITH many universities across the UK and Europe, but Glasgow Caledonian University feels like an exciting place to be – one that is on the rise. I have been brought in to establish an ambitious development and alumni relations

programme, almost for the first time.

Under the banner of the GCU Foundation, we will focus all our energies on the fact that the University is a registered charity in Scotland. The GCU Foundation will be the mechanism by which we recognise, acknowledge and celebrate the support that the University receives in the form of gifts and sponsorship. Glasgow Caledonian is most certainly not a rich university, and we must identify and define the things that people might want to support. However, I have already been struck by the support that the University has received in the past and could enjoy in the future. So, in *Caledonian+*, readers can find out about the ambitious goals we have set for the University and the part that they can play in making things happen.

In the meantime, I want to acknowledge the generosity that many people and organisations have shown to GCU over the years. We aim to show that those investments have had a real impact, but that much more needs to be done to ensure that this University, with its distinctive social mission, plays an even greater part in building a better society.

#### THE MOFFAT CHARITABLE TRUST

One of the most generous donors to GCU over the past decade has been the Moffat Charitable Trust. Almost 100

Moffat Scholars have been supported through their studies thanks to this trust – read their stories in future issues of *Caledonian+*. The Moffat Centre for Travel and Tourism Business Development has also made impressive progress, progress that would have been simply impossible without the generous and continuing support of a Scottish family who wanted to make a difference. Since its launch in 1998, the Moffat Centre has undertaken 330 research and business development projects in 20 countries. It is the largest University-based research centre in travel and tourism in Europe.

Now, a £250k award from the Scottish Executive's International Development Fund has enabled the centre to embark on a project to boost Malawi's tourism industry. The award will fund the development of a sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Training and Education Centre in Blantyre, Malawi. Up to eight full-time members of staff will be qualified to Masters level, providing the knowledge and confidence to upgrade the Malawi Institute of Tourism (MIT) syllabus and course portfolio. The collaboration is part of the Sustainable Tourism Strand of the co-operation agreement signed between Scotland and Malawi 2005.

#### CALLING ALL TOURISM ALUMNI!

We are now asking all former students of the Moffat Centre who studied the BA Tourism Management and BA Tourism International Travel Management to contact us to register interest in taking part in our 10 year celebration event.

We are also hoping to bring together as many of the Moffat Scholars as possible. There are over 80 of you out there but we only have addresses for some of you so please get in touch and let

us know where you are!

If you would like help organising a reunion for you and your old classmates then please contact us, as we can help you. Contact the Alumni and Development Office at [alumni@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@gcal.ac.uk) or call extension + 44 (0) 141 331 8190.

## FIND OUT MORE

To find out more about the University's development plans and the GCU Foundation...

Contact Colin McCallum  
E: [colin.mccallum@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:colin.mccallum@gcal.ac.uk)

For alumni enquiries and services

E: [alumni@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@gcal.ac.uk)  
T: +44 (0)141 331 8165

Development and Alumni Relations,  
GCU Foundation,  
Glasgow Caledonian University,  
William Harley Building,  
Cowcaddens Road,  
Glasgow G4 0BA

Inside...

# The Saltire Centre



## THE SALTIRE CENTRE – LEARNING WITH A DIFFERENCE

Glasgow Caledonian University's latest addition to the campus, the Saltire Centre is considered to be one of the most advanced learning centres in Europe. Designed by the Building Design Partnership (BDP), the centre is a significant new structure on the Glasgow skyline. The Saltire Centre is the largest single new build project commissioned by the University to date, and it has been a dramatic success story. The centre's striking design won praise at the 2006 Royal Institute of British Architects annual awards, with judges remarking it "adds drama and spatial excitement at a crossroads between existing buildings". The Centre's colourful lighting effects also won it top prize in the workplace category of The Lighting Design Awards 2007.

The centre, which officially opened in 2006, sits in the very heart of the campus, and the response from the student population has been positive. More than 10,000 people pass through its doors each week, compared to the 3,000 in the previous library building. The concept of the Saltire Centre was planned with conversation in mind, demonstrating a move away from the traditional purpose of the academic library, which is normally associated with learning in silence. Recent global research on learning has shown that campus libraries are not just a source for acquiring information,

but an intellectual gathering place where people meet to exchange ideas. Ultimately, dialogue and communication are at the heart of the Saltire Centre.

## DESIGNED WITH STUDENTS IN MIND

The design took into consideration the successes of the University's Learning Café, based in the ground floor of the previous library, which had 600 learning spaces and emulated an internet café environment. There are, at present, 1,800 learning spaces throughout the Saltire Centre, with 600 on the ground floor which recreate the relaxed learning environment of the original learning café. Desktop and laptop computers are available for use whenever students need them and most furniture has network and power connections built in, so users are able to use their own laptops if they prefer.

There are four floors in the Saltire Centre, all with high ceilings and south-facing coloured glass walls. Stunning wooden walkways join both the Hamish Wood and the George Moore Buildings, providing greater accessibility across the campus. Ascending up each floor, the design begins to encourage more individual learning, with more space and desktop lighting. The top floor is dedicated to silent study and a warning is given when entering – an electronic voice will say "shoosh!".

The Saltire Centre houses the University's 350,000 books, with many of them stored in eight kilometres of compact shelving. The innovative style allows for more



Left to right: Inside the Saltire Centre; Toby Paterson's 'Potential Forms' mural; artist Gary Breeze; Gary's Lover's Arch



space to be dedicated to learning by creating more than 1,000 extra places. A major gift from the Garfield Weston Foundation enabled the University to install the new compact shelving.

#### ART IMITATES LIFE

When it came to kitting out the new centre, Glasgow Caledonian University commissioned two of the UK's most exciting and contemporary artists to create pieces of modern artwork. Art in Partnership and Building Design Partnership, the University's architects, together chose artists to design and implement their artworks, which would be integrated into the main circulation areas both inside and outside the Saltire Centre.

One of the chosen artists was Glasgow-born Toby Paterson, one of Scotland's most successful young artists, who has exhibited his work extensively throughout the world in cities such as London, Paris and Turin. Toby won the Beck's Future Prize in 2002 and is renowned for his signature colourful architectural images.

Toby was approached to create artwork for the walls of the busy student mall based on the ground floor of the Saltire Centre. His response was three nine meter-high murals named 'Potential Forms (Black Blue and White Isometric)' and was inspired by the new building itself for its dynamic design and innovative approach to learning. 'Potential Forms' is painted directly onto the walls in vinyl silk and acrylic, and helps to establish the

new Saltire Centre as the social hub of the campus. "I like this building and love the way visitors will be able to circulate around the art," says Toby. "The walls I was given to work with allowed me to develop a piece that activates the space and fits the innovative nature of the building. To be involved with a project in Glasgow and see the site develop has been amazing."

Whilst Toby's murals adds a colourful focal point for the centre, a second artist has added to the landscape of the external courtyard. Gary Breeze, the talented artist responsible for works such as the 35 metre frieze in Glasgow's High Court of Justiciary and the Bali bombing memorial in London, has created a 'Lover's Arch'. According to Gary, this carved stone installation reflects the ideals of the Saltire Centre as a place of learning and culture, and provides a place where first-time students and visitors will want to spend their time. "I came to see the building a few times before I agreed to take on this job and its vision really struck me," he says. "I wanted to combine classical ideas of learning with the building's modern style to create a piece that would encompass the idea of relaxing, discussing and learning all in one object." Both Toby and Gary's pieces of artwork are available to the public.

The brilliance of the Saltire Centre is best summed up by the late Chancellor Magnus Magnusson, who said: "Through the Saltire Centre the Caledonian student and graduate of the future can be fit-for-purpose in the digital world of the 21st century."

#### THE DONORS

Glasgow Caledonian University would like to sincerely thank all those who have contributed to the Saltire Centre Fundraising Campaign:

- The Garfield Weston Foundation
- Glasgow Caledonian University Charitable Trust
- The Moffat Charitable Trust
- Scottish Arts Council
- Allied Irish Bank
- Dr Ian Johnston
- John Maclean
- Tim Noble

University alumni can access the learning centre for free on a reference-only basis or pay £30.00 per annum for full access.

If you would like to use the Saltire Centre, please contact

T: 0141 273 1000 or visit [www.gcal.ac.uk/library](http://www.gcal.ac.uk/library)

# Unearthing our past...



ANCESTRAL TOURISM TO SCOTLAND HAS RECEIVED A WELCOME BOOST THANKS TO A NEW GENETIC PROFILING SERVICE AT GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY

**G**LASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY has launched a pioneering new research centre to help people to trace their ancestors. The Centre for Forensic Investigation, which opened in June, will use modern genetic profiling technology to assist people in discovering their Scottish roots. The centre can even offer the option of verifying blood relatives through DNA testing.

It is estimated that more than 50 million people around the world can claim to be of Scottish descent, and ancestral tourism to Scotland is on the increase. Researching your heritage can be a hugely rewarding experience and for tourists coming to Scotland hoping to trace their roots, this could be the finest souvenir they ever take home.

## TRACING CLAN LINKS

The new centre is led by Dr John Gow, Director of Forensic Investigation at Glasgow Caledonian University, and a leader in the field of genealogy. He believes that the service will be a great boost to Scottish tourism. "It means that people with Scottish ancestors from around the world will be able to come to Scotland and trace their records, and – if they wish – we can make up their DNA profile for them," he explains. "We will be able to tell Mr Campbell from New York if he is related to Mr Campbell in Dunoon. We want to promote Glasgow Caledonian University as a centre for Scottish genealogy worldwide."

Working from the new centre, experts from the School of Life Sciences can embark on a vast range of genealogy work. Genetic tests will cost around £60 per person, and involve DNA being taken using a mouth swab. The Y chromosome test will be used to define male lineage, whilst mitochondrial DNA profiling can be used to help trace the maternal line.

Working alongside ancestral research company Scottish Roots Ltd and sales and marketing firm the 1745 Trading Company, experts at the centre will also carry out a programme of academic research to build up a genetic map of the clans of Scotland. "We are going to develop individual databases for each clan by looking for markers that are peculiar to a particular clan," says Dr Gow. Ideally, Dr Gow

would like to trace the DNA of long-dead clan chiefs, to investigate lineage and kinship across the centuries. Several clan societies in America, including the Campbells and the Beatties, have already expressed an interest in this work.

## BEATING THE BRICK WALLS

DNA testing has been used increasingly in genealogy to overcome 'brick walls', when people were unable to go further back than a particular point in their research using paper or other records. Although traditional Scottish genealogy services are considered to be among the best in the world, before the introduction of statutory civil registration in 1855 many people did not go to the expense or trouble to register marriages or baptisms. DNA will become an increasingly important tool linking family trees prior to the turn of the 18th/19th century and DNA testing can help resolve any ambiguities.

According to VisitScotland, ancestral tourism is a fast and growing trend, with Americans, Canadians and Australians most likely to visit Scotland in search of their family history. "Developments like Glasgow Caledonian University's new centre are great news," says Fiona Stewart, PR Manager for VisitScotland. "It will help attract even more visitors to Scotland."



# ...and protecting it

SCOTLAND TODAY IS VIBRANT, COSMOPOLITAN AND MODERN, YET IT IS ALSO A NATION WITH A RICH AND COLOURFUL HERITAGE. DR IAN BAXTER, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CALEDONIAN HERITAGE FUTURES NETWORK, SAYS IT'S TIME WE RESPECTED IT

CULTURAL HERITAGE IS ALL AROUND US AND IS A vital part of Scotland's economy and lifeblood. The public love its rich and varied offerings, whether that means castles or country houses. In terms of tourist numbers, the picture has rarely been healthier. Yet Scotland's historic environment is in trouble – the Scottish Executive needs to do more to preserve many of our most treasured sites.

The Executive has been reluctant in the extreme to review legislation which ought to protect our heritage, but which is no longer fit for purpose. Has Scotland, considered by many to be a world leader in conservation philosophy and practice, lost its way?

Conservation projects are not sexy. Resources are often diverted elsewhere, especially to cash-strapped local authorities and, of course, there's the looming prospect of the Heritage Lottery Fund being drained to pay for the London Olympics in 2012. Perhaps even more worrying, the National Trust for Scotland, a vital bastion of the heritage world, is facing a multi-million pound deficit this year.

Against this backdrop, there have been promises of action – the Executive's inelegantly titled 'SHEP1' is, to be fair, the first definitive policy statement for the historic environment. But where is this leading?

Well, for a start, greater pressure on bureaucracy and navel gazing (sorry, "consultation"), which often sees the same people sit around the same tables struggling to find the time and resources to protect this historic stuff. Democratisation of the policy process is to be supported and the 'back office' strategising is necessary, but do we really need all the questionnaires, the funding justification forms and the policy tinkering? Especially when stakeholders – that's the people who live in these historic towns, and visit these heritage places – wonder what the professionals are actually doing.

It seems to me that the entire sector is still misunderstood. A debate on the value of heritage in Scotland, to Scotland and for Scotland's people, is needed both in its own right and to challenge some deep routed misconceptions. We need to reconnect

the places with the policies, and the professionals with those who are passionate about preserving Scotland's heritage.

We need look no further than last year's 'History Matters' initiative – a campaign that took place everywhere, right across the United Kingdom. Everywhere, that is, except Scotland. We should rejoice that we finally have the basis of a national policy for heritage in Scotland. But now is the time to take things further; to involve everyone in a 'conservation conversation' and make heritage a living cause for all.

“We need to reconnect the places with the policies”

## FIND OUT MORE

Dr Ian Baxter is Associate Director of the Caledonian Heritage Futures Network, and is a lecturer in the Cultural Business Group at Glasgow Caledonian University. He trained as an archaeologist, and has spent 15 years working with a variety of heritage and tourism organisations throughout the UK.

MSc Cultural Heritage at GCU – Glasgow Caledonian University offers a unique postgraduate course which provides a route for those interested in pursuing a career within the cultural heritage industry.

Visit [www.heritagefutures.net](http://www.heritagefutures.net) for more information.



# Searching for hope in Pakistan

RISK MANAGEMENT GRADUATE **HEATHER ALLAN** WAS PART OF A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION THAT SAVED 24 PEOPLE IN THE PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE. SHE SHARES HER EXPERIENCE WITH CALEDONIAN+



IT'S 4.10AM SATURDAY MORNING. I've been awake since 7.30am Friday morning, done a whole day's work, driven to the middle of nowhere, crawled through narrow underground tunnels in sub zero temperatures... and I volunteered for this!

How did I get here? Prior to studying at Glasgow Caledonian University, I spent a gap year in California, where I experienced some minor earthquakes.

I came back to study Risk Management and based my dissertation on earthquakes and the aftermath of such terrible disasters. Studying such awful events made me want to help the people who were affected.

In 2002, I began the months of training to join the team at SARAID – Search and Rescue Assistance in Disasters. SARAID is a British charity that tries to rescue victims of disaster and relieve human suffering around the world. It is staffed entirely by volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds – firemen, doctors, office workers, engineers and shop assistants all bring unique skills to the team. You would be forgiven for thinking there must be thousands of people that do this type of thing; the reality is that there are about 500 volunteer Urban Search and Rescue workers... in the world.

It was 7.30am on Saturday 8 October when I received the call to action. "Heather, there's been a massive earthquake in Pakistan. It happened three hours ago so the details are sketchy but it's magnitude 7.6, close to the surface and reports of deaths are rising by the hundreds every few minutes. Are you available?" I knew that the devastation would be massive and many thousands would have perished. "Yes, I am available" I answer. Thank goodness for an understanding employer.

### SCENES OF DEVASTATION

I experienced so many things during my week in Pakistan – there was so much to take in: the amount of red tape it took to get to the disaster zone; the chaos of the city of Muzaffarabad; the heartbreaking scenes of people living on the streets too scared to go indoors; the smell of death that was a sad reflection of the vast numbers that had perished.

Not much of the city was left standing after the earthquake. It had literally picked up the whole city, shook it around for six seconds and dropped it. The timing of the quake could not have been much worse. Saturday is a school day and entire schools had collapsed, killing hundreds of children. An entire university halls of residence had slipped off the hillside into the ravine below, and again, hundreds of young lives were snubbed out.

Hospitals collapsed, not only killing those inside but also destroying any chance of saving locals who required immediate hospital care. It was also Ramadan, so many people who were at home resting and praying when the earthquake struck were killed in their own homes.

We were asked to search the market area of the city. The earthquake had happened at 8.50am when people would have been doing their daily shop, so it was an area where many could still be trapped. There are many search techniques, such as sensitive listening equipment that can trace noise deep into collapsed structures. One of the quickest techniques is tapping – hitting metal against concrete. This noise travels much further than a human voice, meaning people trapped far below the surface can hear this and hopefully respond to us by making some kind of noise. You regularly need to make judgement calls as to whether certain buildings are 'survivor-able' and check whether there is anyone reported missing in the structure.

### A MOMENT OF JOY

The best time to search is at night, as locals are sleeping and machinery is switched off. Nighttime has another advantage, as trapped victims tend to regain consciousness due to the drop in temperature. To my amazement, during one night search of the market we heard tapping back – someone was alive down there.

Given the level of destruction and the time that had passed, this was an incredibly rare event. We established verbal contact with the casualty and were lucky enough to have a member of our team who spoke Urdu, so we were able to communicate. The casualty, a 76-year-old man, had been praying on the floor of his second floor apartment when he became trapped under a beam that fell.

After one hour using six team members, we finally extracted him. The team initially thought he was blind, as he had trouble seeing us, but it became apparent that it was because he had been trapped for four days and nights in complete darkness. He drank rainwater to survive. Apart from being slightly dehydrated, the man had suffered no injuries. After being trapped for 96 hours, this 76-year-old man was up and walking again in two hours. This was a remarkable rescue and we were elated that we had just saved a life. It was a special moment that reminded the whole team exactly why we do this job.



“Many people have since asked me how I coped with seeing such destruction and suffering. The truth is: it’s human nature.”

### PLAY YOUR PART

Something that I discovered during my week in Pakistan is that the human body is a remarkable piece of machinery. People who had gone without food or water for days managed to survive, and people who had lost entire families and all their possessions were still willing to help in any way they could. I was struck by the power of the human spirit in the wake of such tragedy.

Many people have since asked me how I coped with seeing such destruction and suffering. The truth is: it's human nature. Like any emergency situation a person is faced with, you get on with it and do the best you can. Every person who has put their hand in their pocket to help Pakistan recover has played a role that was just as important.

It was nice to think that after a week of no sleep, no showers and no running water I would be going home to a warm house with a comfy bed and home cooked food. But then I remembered what I was leaving behind: families that had been torn apart; children who had been orphaned and had nowhere to go; people desperately searching for food and shelter before the harsh winter set in. These people lost the little they once had and the possibility of them ever having a solid roof over their heads will be many years away – if at all.

## FIND OUT MORE

Donations are the lifeblood of SARAID. It cost £20,000 to send a team of 12 SARAID rescue workers to Pakistan for one week. For SARAID to be able to respond to a disaster, we must have at least that amount in our account at any time. If you would like to make a donation or become a friend, please visit our website [www.saraid.co.uk](http://www.saraid.co.uk), or contact me directly [heatherallan79@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherallan79@hotmail.com)





# Dr Kathy Charles

DUBBED 'THE REAL-LIFE CRACKER' BY *THE SCOTTISH SUN*, DR KATHY CHARLES OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IS INVESTIGATING 57 UNSOLVED MURDERS IN SCOTLAND. DR CHARLES TELLS *CALEDONIAN+* MORE ABOUT HER WORK

**Q** What sparked your interest in this area of research?

**A** I became interested in forensic psychology during the final year of my undergraduate degree at the University of Leicester. A year after I graduated I applied for one of GCU's PhD studentships. I was very interested in Professor Vince Egan's work, looking at sensational interests in adult offenders. There is an assumption that unusual interests can be predictive of criminal behaviour and Vince was conducting research to test that belief. When I started my PhD, sensational interests research was quite new so there was nothing on adolescents at all. Vince and I thought it would be interesting to see if interest patterns might be related to juvenile delinquency.

**Q** What are the strangest cases that you have looked into?

**A** I focused solely on adolescents for my doctoral research so I looked into numerous cases of extreme juvenile crime, such as that of Jodi

Jones. Luke Mitchell had unusual interests and I read as much as I could about him to see what other factors may have played a role in the crime. The murders of Thomas McKendrick in Scotland and Mabel Leyshon in Wales were also instructive. In both cases the perpetrator was a teenager with a vampire obsession.

**Q** What are you researching at the moment?

**A** I'm currently working with Dr Allan McNeill on his ESRC grant looking at individual differences in face

processing. We're focusing on unfamiliar face matching as this is something that many people find quite difficult. We're hoping to identify people who are very good at unfamiliar face matching and find out what other abilities they have. If it's possible to improve face matching performance then we may be able to put together improvement strategies for interested groups such as police forces.

**Q** What advice would you give any aspiring forensic or psychological investigators?

**A** I would encourage anyone who is interested in forensic psychology to pursue that interest in any way they can. I teach an evening class in forensic psychology at the University of Strathclyde and the University of Glasgow and my students come from very diverse backgrounds. I give as much support as possible to those who want to study further. Psychology needs people with a variety of skills and experiences so my advice is 'why not'? There is a lot of studying involved but it's worth it to do a job you are truly interested in.

**Q** How do you feel about being labelled 'Scotland's real life Cracker'?

**A** I was a big fan of *Cracker*, even though I was still doing my GCSEs when it came out! *Cracker* got lots of people interested in forensic psychology and it still does today. It might be a sexed-up version of psychology but if it gets people wanting to know more about the subject then I think that's a good thing. When *The Scottish Sun* called me 'Scotland's real life Cracker' I thought it was a great way to get their readers' attention and for me to communicate my research. It's rare to get the opportunity to convey the findings of a PhD to over 390,000 readers. I thoroughly enjoyed working with *The Scottish Sun* and I'm pleased such a widely-read paper is interested in covering issues in forensic psychology.



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