

GCU **ALUMNI**

Summer 2015

The magazine for graduates and friends of Glasgow Caledonian University

Dr Kerry Kennedy

University welcomes President of
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights **Pages 4-5**

GCU boosts UK's
economy by £1bn **Page 10**

Football legend Pat Nevin
retraces his steps to GCU **Pages 18-19**



University for the Common Good

Welcome



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2015 issue of GCU's *Alumni* magazine. Over the past year, GCU has been recognised as the top modern university in Scotland by research power, we became the first university to

receive the Business in the Community's prestigious Unilever International Award in recognition of the impact being made by the Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing and it was reported that GCU generates economic and social benefit worth nearly £1billion to the UK economy.

Of course, we couldn't achieve this without the continued support of our alumni, friends and supporters who share our commitment and passion for our mission "for the Common Good" and play an active role in supporting our students and communities locally and internationally.

In this issue, you can read interviews with honorary graduates Dr Khalid Abdulrahim, founder of the KAR Group and sponsor of GCU's KAR Scholarship; Dr Kerry Kennedy, President of the Robert F. Kennedy Centre for Justice and Human Rights and Professor Eva and Dr Yoel Haller, philanthropists and ambassadors for the Common Good agenda.

We also catch up with some of our alumni, including former Scotland footballer Pat Nevin, and Mark Saunders, who is leading the University's Heart of the Campus redevelopment. In addition, we hear how gifts from some of our generous supporters are helping to nurture new talent at GCU, including a generous £150k donation from retailTRUST for students undertaking our new MSc in Fashion Business Creation.

We at the University are proud of the achievements of our alumni and friends and we look forward to welcoming many of you to our campuses in Glasgow, London and New York over the coming year.

Jillian Watt

Director of Development & Alumni Relations
alumni@gcu.ac.uk



The Big Picture

Comedian Billy Connolly and Breaking Bad actress Laura Fraser grab a seat with Glasgow artist Gerard Burns. They were just a few of the Scottish stars to gather at GCU New York during Scotland Week and were among 16 prominent Scots to be depicted in an exhibition of portraits 'A Brush with Inspiration' by Gerard himself.



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Role of honour

Sharing GCU's mission to promote the Common Good, five outstanding individuals were awarded with honorary degrees from the University this summer.

The ability of individuals to create powerful and lasting change was a common theme during Glasgow Caledonian University's summer graduation celebrations this July.

GCU Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Pamela Gillies CBE spoke of her "delight and privilege" in honouring Dr Kerry Kennedy with an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws for her work in the promotion of human rights around the world.

Dr Kennedy, daughter of Robert F Kennedy and President of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, seeks to help realise her father's dream of a peaceful and

just world, with programmes creating lasting change worldwide through litigation, advocacy, education and training, and sustainable investment.

One example that the centre uses in its courses is of GCU Chancellor Muhammad Yunus. Professor Yunus was honoured with the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights 2013 Ripple of Hope Award, and Dr Kennedy has described the Chancellor's efforts to transform lives as "the single most important development in the third world in the last 100 years".

Dr Kennedy started working in human rights 30 years ago, as an intern at

Amnesty International in Washington, assigned the task of documenting abuses committed by American immigration officials against refugees from El Salvador.

Receiving her Honorary Degree, Dr Kennedy highlighted that people have fought for human rights with nothing beyond their own determination.

She said: "Individuals created change. They harnessed the dream of freedom and made it come true.

"And their efforts created a ripple effect, encouraging others, building a tidal wave which swept down some of the mightiest walls of repression."



Anna Sloan

Anna Sloan, an Olympic medal-winning curler and a graduate of GCU, was presented with an Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University.

Accepting her award, Ms Sloan said: "GCU and its values have undoubtedly played a very important role in the success I have had in my curling career."

Originally from Lockerbie, Ms Sloan juggled her two main sports of horse riding and curling until she attended GCU between 2008-2011, where she studied Sport and Active Lifestyle Promotions.



Brian Molefe

Brian Molefe, Acting Chief Executive of South Africa's Eskom, was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering.

Mr Molefe congratulated his fellow graduates and dedicated his award to the people of South Africa.

He said: "I wish to reiterate President Mandela's words and express our gratitude to the people of Glasgow in general and the University in particular.

"Thank you for the role that you have played in the liberation of my mother land. But more importantly, thank you for your continued friendship and partnership with us in South Africa as we engage in the sacred task of rebuilding a nation after the trauma of apartheid."

Previously at the helm of South Africa's Transnet, Mr Molefe worked with GCU to deliver Transnet Freight Rail employees a formal qualification in railway operations management, the first programme of its kind in South Africa.

While at Transnet, Mr Molefe led the first graduation ceremony for Transnet employees who completed degrees, diplomas and certificates in railway operations management, as the company intensified training to boost its service.

Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Pamela Gillies CBE described the partnership as an "outstanding example of our University's enduring commitment to work for the Common Good".

Dr Christopher To

Dr Christopher To, a GCU alumnus, received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering in recognition of his global work on dispute-resolution.

He has handled a variety of complex international cases as mediator and arbitrator and is currently the Executive Director of the Construction Industry Council.

Dr To congratulated GCU's graduates, adding: "You have worked extremely hard to achieve what you have achieved today. The next stage in your life may lead to greater success."



Dr Rawya Saud AlBusaidi


Her Excellency Dr Rawya Saud AlBusaidi was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws, in recognition of her significant contribution to the development of education.

Since 2004, she has been serving as Oman's Minister of Higher Education, Deputy Chair of the Council of Education, and Chair of the Sultan Qaboos University Council. In 2005, she was appointed as Deputy Chair of Oman's Research Council.

University Secretary and Vice-Principal Governance Jan Hulme said: "Dr AlBusaidi has driven ground-breaking projects for the reform of education in Oman, including access to higher education, gender equality and benchmarking education to international norms."







Students have the power to change world

GCU Chancellor Professor Muhammad Yunus talks to Peter John Meiklem about his philosophy on education and how it can shape the future.

On a sunny day at Glasgow Caledonian University, Professor Muhammad Yunus turned conventional wisdom on its head.

In the speech which accompanied the Nobel Laureate's installation as Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University in October 2012, he said that students should no longer be content to study hard and get the best job available to them. They should instead focus their talents on "big things", namely unlocking their inherent entrepreneurialism and becoming "job givers, not job seekers."

Returning to campus for summer graduations, GCU's Chancellor is more insistent than ever that his radical message to students, and to higher education in general, should be acknowledged, no matter how frightening it may seem.

"Students should be frightened – it's the natural reaction. Nobody told them about this. For the first time there's light outside and the students say, 'oh my god, what's light?' I have lived all my life in the darkness, so light is a scary thing.

"Students have always been told, work hard, get a degree, then go get a job, and see if you can get the best job with the best company.

They were never told they have creative power or that they can create their own businesses."

As graduates, Professor Yunus believes students should use their skills, talents and experience to create the social businesses which will, in turn, generate the change required to improve the world, tackling poverty and other forms of inequality.

Professor Yunus's views mirror his equally radical approach to finance. He has made his name making loans to the poor, helping millions to fight poverty in the process, even though banks and governments told him his ideas would not work.

The Chancellor continues to believe human ingenuity and talent, unfettered by bureaucracy, can solve the world's most pressing problems – especially if that talent is properly supported by universities.

"They must be a reservoir of knowledge which is useful to people – particularly the neighbours," he says.

Professor Yunus's academic career began at Chittagong University in Bangladesh, where he served as a Professor of Economics. It was not through academia, however, that he distinguished himself, but by making a loan of \$27 in 1974 to 42 basket weavers who worked in villages next to his university. That gesture would ultimately grow into the Grameen Bank, the methods of which are now used in 59 countries, including the UK, to help families fight poverty. For this, he >>>

has been celebrated many times over, receiving the highest civilian honour bestowed by the US Congress, the Congressional Gold Medal, shortly after being installed as Chancellor of GCU. Not that his impressive roll call detracts from his determination to change the world from the ground up, rather than interpret it from the lofty position his celebrity allows (he appeared on the front cover of a Forbes magazine philanthropy issue with Bono and Bill Gates).

"I think universities have to be, by their very nature, close to people," he says. "The ivory tower university is a meaningless thing. If you want to be relevant to people's lives you've got to get involved, you've got to wet your feet and find out what this is all about." He likens the effective university to a doctor who cures a patient, in the process helping the patient and widening the doctor's pool of knowledge. Learning for learning's sake, it appears, is not in the Professor's textbook.

GCU fits in this tradition, he says. The University's commitment to the common good meshing seamlessly with his own faith in the university that "wants to get involved in action."

He explains he knew nothing about GCU until he met the Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Pamela Gillies, who was interested in his work and "wanted to get things done rather than sit there and be nice."



The Chancellor with fellow Nobel Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Professor Yunus accepted an honorary degree from GCU in 2008. His relationship with the University, and its Principal, deepened and he was installed as Chancellor in October 2012. When he opened the New York campus last year, he told guests he had "fallen in love" with the University.

In particular, he is impressed by the way microcredit, and the ethos behind social business, have been embedded in the curriculum, by the way GCU 'walks the walk' through initiatives such as the widening participation and community engagement initiative the Caledonian Club and by running the Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing in Bangladesh.

"It [GCU] gives me inspiration that a university can be orientated to creating a new kind of framework, a new kind of world... it's not one whimsical stab and let's forget all about it. It's a continuous effort in trying to redesign and reshape the minds of young people."

For him, the introduction of the Grameen system of microcredit in the UK, which the University has been facilitating since 2010, is a

further example of a university looking at the problems around it and doing its best to solve them.

"Glasgow needs microcredit very badly as there's lots of unemployment and welfare-dependent people," says Professor Yunus. "If the University has nothing to do with these people then its knowledge looks good in the books but it has absolutely nothing to do with people's lives."

And for him, this is a bottom-up, global revolution, fuelled not by the grand plans of leaders such as himself, but by young people, students, and their desire to build a better world. He says universities must pay attention to this change, or pay the price.

"Young people are not satisfied by simply learning chemistry, biology or history – they ask about the future. So you've to tell them what maths has got to do with building the future or what physics has to do with the future of the world they want to live in. Universities will have to find ways to

GCU 'walks the walk' through its community initiatives

make themselves relevant to young people.

"It's a process that's showing up – it's not happening everywhere – but young people want to know what relevance their education has in their life. Is it just a piece of paper at the end of their studies or is it because young people are preparing for something?"

Professor Muhammad Yunus answers his own question of course. In a way, his whole life has been an answer to it. And it's an answer he hopes all GCU students, and young people, can emulate.



Chancellor Professor Muhammad Yunus met Pope Francis in June 2014 and appeared on the cover of Forbes magazine.



Entrepreneurial hub at GCU is launched

The Minister for Europe and International Development Humza Yousaf MSP addressed students, staff and alumni at the official launch of the University's entrepreneurial hub, UHatch, hosted by the Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Pamela Gillies CBE.

Mr Yousaf spoke of the importance of start-ups to the growth of the economy and the vital role initiatives such as UHatch has to play. He congratulated GCU on becoming the first Scottish university and only the second in the UK to be awarded Ashoka U Changemaker status which links GCU with a global network of like-minded socially entrepreneurial institutions.

Mr Yousaf said: "The launch of UHatch shows GCU's commitment to ensuring all its students, graduates and staff have the resources they need to fulfil their potential.

"The Scottish Government is committed to Scotland CAN DO, our national statement of intent towards becoming a world-leading entrepreneurial and innovative nation. Facilities such as UHatch help our enterprising people develop their

entrepreneurial skills and give them the opportunity to flourish."

Budding entrepreneurs attended the event, including Stephen Chalmers, whose company Altogether Travel Ltd offers tailored holidays to those who need round-the-clock care.

Stephen, a second-year BA (Hons) Business Studies student, said: "I have been working with UHatch since it started. You need people to bounce ideas off and that is what UHatch provides. Students have helped me and I have helped them, it is about collaborating and building networks with likeminded people who can help your business progress."

GCU's Professor Bruce Wood, the academic lead for UHatch, highlighted the ongoing work of UHatch which opened its doors in June 2014 and is currently

working with 15 students and four businesses.

Professor Wood said: "UHatch is a space where people can investigate their ideas and take action. It will help students, staff and alumni to develop their ideas into robust businesses. Our ambition is to make UHatch innovative and entrepreneurial in its outlook, engaging with our University community and our wider stakeholders.

"UHatch provides budding entrepreneurs with access to specialised research, mentoring from experienced entrepreneurs, collaborative workspace and support from the University, as well as networking opportunities, nationally and internationally."

For more information or to get involved, email uhatch@gcu.ac.uk



14,000
UK JOBS



£14.75
FOR EVERY £1
FROM FUNDING BODIES



SCOTLAND
£880 MILLION
12,400 JOBS



GLASGOW
£0.5 BILLION
6,000 JOBS



LEADER
IN WIDENING
ACCESS

Nº 1
FOR RESEARCH
POWER IN
SCOTLAND
FOR A MODERN UNIVERSITY



GLOBAL
IMPACT THROUGH
PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Nº 1
DEGREE
COMPLETION
IN SCOTLAND
FOR A MODERN UNIVERSITY

GCU's £1billion boost to the UK economy

Glasgow Caledonian University generates economic and social benefit worth nearly £1billion to the UK economy and supports 14,000 jobs, an independent report has found.

The study also notes that, for every £1 received from funding bodies, GCU returns £14.75 to the UK economy and £13.13 to the economy in Scotland.

The news comes as GCU prepares to launch its Strategy 2020, reinforcing its commitment as a University for the Common Good and building on its position as the top modern university in Scotland by research power. This is allied to the fact GCU is also the top-performing modern university in Scotland for UK full-time students completing their first degree, according to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Figures show a low drop-out rate of 8.8 per cent, compared to a Scottish sector average of 10.2 per cent.

The 2013/14 economic impact report carried out by Biggar Economics shows that:

- The University contributes £560.6million to the UK economy and, when graduate productivity is included, the return to the UK economy rises to £990.2million.
- In Scotland, it generates more than £880million, including graduate productivity valued at £399million.
- In Glasgow, the University generates £492million, including graduate productivity of nearly £250million.
- 14,113 jobs in the UK, 12,437 in Scotland and 6000 in Glasgow are supported by GCU.

These figures are expected to rise further in the coming years as analysts predict the University will continue to strengthen its position to tackle society's challenges.

Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Pamela Gillies CBE said: "GCU is determined to challenge the traditional perceptions of a university, how it works and the impact it has on society. We are proud to have been cited as an example of how a university can create social benefit while at the same time contributing significantly to the economy.

"The report particularly noted the global social and economic impact created by our partnerships at home and overseas, including those with the Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing in Bangladesh, with the Mary Robinson Foundation for our contribution towards climate justice, and with the Scottish Ambulance Service."

GCU's key role as a driver of health and social care innovation and its success in widening access to higher education were highlighted in the analysis.

Set for great things

Linda Robertson catches up with Professor Bob Clougherty, Founding Dean of GCU New York.

“I love this campus, you can really feel the vibrancy, and I’m excited to have that at GCU New York. There’s no better environment in which to work than one where people are committed to learning.”

Professor Robert Clougherty, Founding Dean of GCU New York, is speaking while on a week-long visit to Glasgow, and his enthusiasm for the University and the US campus is evident.

“I want to see GCU New York achieve greatness and to be a model school,” he says.

“The world is changing very quickly, as are the needs of students. Given our mission and our values, I think we can do incredible things.”

GCU New York will initially offer a range of non-credit and non-degree executive education programmes and masterclasses, including the business of fashion, luxury brand management, social business and finance and risk management. This will be extended to include a range of full-time and part-time Masters degree programmes, subject to approval by the education authority NYSED.

Robert, who is known as Bob, says there are many reasons for students to choose GCU New York. “The most obvious one is that we do have very much of a niche,” he says. “If you look, for example, in fashion, there are lots of design schools but we provide a unique opportunity for fashion for the common good and the ethical practice of a business.”

He believes a one-year degree has a high level of appeal: “If you look at the US,



GCU New York during Scotland Week

traditionally a postgraduate Masters degree is a two-year programme.

“Also, if you look at institutions which offer similar programmes in New York at the Masters level, instead of giving a Master of Science which is a research-based degree, they’re doing a Master of

Professional Studies and that doesn’t have the same level of focus – it’s based more upon the internship experience as opposed to the actual research component that we offer with the dissertation requirement.”

And, he adds with a laugh: “Choosing GCU New York is also an opportunity to get a UK degree without having to go through JFK airport.”

Prior to GCU, Bob was Acting Vice Provost for Research, Innovation, and Open Education at Empire State College in Saratoga Springs, NY, and Dean of the School for Graduate Studies. He was Director of the Institute for Technological Scholarship at Tennessee Technological University, where he was also a professor of English.

Now in his second year with GCU – he took up his post in January 2014 – he says it has been very much a learning process.

“I’ve had to learn about GCU and how education works in the UK, and how it applies in the United States.

“There are significant differences in the way education is delivered, including the nature of the curriculum and the way that students choose programmes. In the US it’s more and more common for students not to do all of their learning at one institution.

“At the moment, we’re setting things up at our building in Wooster Street and working on governance. We’ve identified talented people for potential faculty positions who are very committed to the University’s mission and what we want to achieve.

“I see only great things getting ready to happen.”



Now is the time to aim even higher

The results of the Research Excellence Framework 2014 saw GCU rated top modern university in Scotland by research power. Fiona Ramsay finds planning for 2020 is already under way.

It may seem so far away, but, just three months after receiving the results of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, GCU is already planning for the next assessment in 2020.

Working closely with the three academic schools, Vice-Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Research Professor Mike Mannion is in 'REF mode'. Impact case studies and environment statements to support key research strengths are being planned as live, evolving documents to ensure that GCU is as prepared as it can be for the next submission.

At the end of 2014, Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Pamela Gillies CBE and Professor Mannion spoke in the University's Deeprose Theatre of their pride in the REF 2014 results, which reaffirmed the University's position as a world-class research institution.

GCU performed particularly well in its allied health research submission. The results demonstrated that 89 per cent of the University's research activity in the allied health professions is in the highest categories of world-leading (4*) and internationally excellent (3*). Overall, the University is ranked in the top 20 in the UK for health research at world-leading and internationally excellent standards.

"This was a strong REF performance and highlights our continuing journey towards world-class research across our key research themes," says Professor Mannion.

Replacing the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), which was last carried out in 2008, the REF was a year-long assessment of the quality and impact of UK higher education institutions' research in all

disciplines and is being used by the UK higher education funding bodies to inform research funding for 2015.

The Scottish Funding Council's (SFC) initial decisions on the Research Excellence Grant (REG) and the Research Postgraduate Grant (RPG) indicate that GCU's funding allocation will increase for the next three years.



Pro Vice-Chancellor Research Professor Mike Mannion.

Not only is the REF important to secure the University's research funding, the inclusion of a measure of the wider societal impact of research for the first time has provided evidence of GCU's commitment to work towards solving real societal challenges through its research priorities.

It is expected that, having successfully piloted the impact assessment, impact will account for a higher percentage of a university's submission in the next research exercise in 2020.

"We are well placed because of the nature of our applied research to demonstrate its impact beyond academia

and this is vital for the economy and for the health and wellbeing of our citizens," says Professor Jim Woodburn from the School of Health and Life Sciences.

Professor Mannion says although the guidance for 2020 could change between now and then, GCU's new Research Strategy 2020 is currently being rolled out to put the University on the right path for strategic progression towards the next REF.

The Research Strategy 2020 addresses three major societal challenges, enabling communities in the UK and internationally to build inclusive societies and live healthy lives in sustainable environments. These broad themes encapsulate GCU's research across the schools.

For REF 2014, GCU made submissions to nine of the 36 areas of assessment, spanning allied health; computer science; general engineering; architecture and the built environment; business and management studies; social work and social policy; education; history; and communication, cultural and media studies.

We are delighted this process confirmed our research has a significant impact on society

Assessors analysed the research submissions from 154 UK universities, which covered a staggering 52,077 academic staff, 191,232 research outputs and 6975 impact case studies.

The overall proportion of UK research

classed as world leading was given a major boost by the inclusion of impact in the assessment – The *Times Higher Education* suggests 30 per cent of UK research was classed as world leading, compared to just 17 per cent in the 2008 RAE.

A number of key areas of research excellence stands out for GCU. Almost two-thirds of GCU's social work and social policy submission is rated world-leading or internationally excellent, with 80 per cent of impact in this area rated at world-class levels. GCU research in the built environment also performed strongly.

The University's social work and social policy research focused on significant impacts on intimate partner violence practice in Scotland, including the development of new interventions for offenders, and on challenging perceptions of poverty.

All of the University's impact submission for allied health professions research was

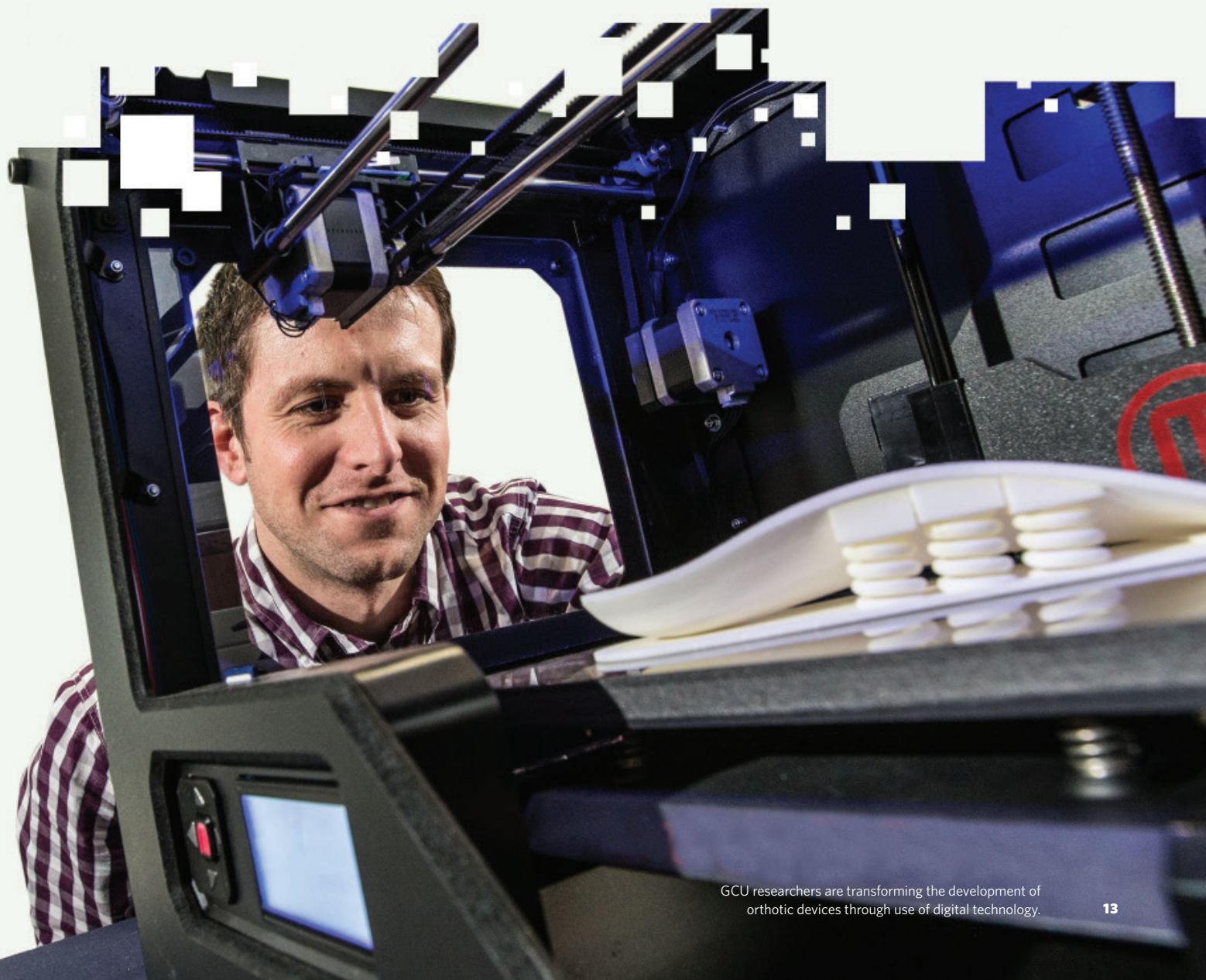
judged to be in the highest categories, ranking GCU as one of the leading universities in the UK for the societal impact of its applied research in health. Research in areas including increasing HIV testing among vulnerable populations, healthcare associated infections, effective treatments for women with prolapse, and personalised foot orthoses highlights GCU's significant impact on health policy and services, commercial organisations and patients overall in the UK. Some 80 per cent of GCU's history impact is world-leading or internationally excellent, while 80 per cent of GCU's communication, cultural and media studies impact is world-leading or internationally excellent.

"We are delighted that this peer review process has demonstrated and confirmed what we already knew; that our research has a significant impact on society," says Professor Mannion.

The *Times Higher Education*, which uses the REF results to compile its own league table, ranked GCU as 75th equal by its grade point average of 2.67, up from 93rd equal in 2008.

Though *Times Higher Education's* ranking of institutions based on the grade point average of their results continues to be dominated by traditional research powers, GCU emerged as the best post-1992 university in Scotland by research power.

There have been significant improvements since 2008, but Professor Mannion says GCU cannot rest on its laurels. He now has targets in mind for 2020, including a lift in GCU's grade point average from 2.67 to 3. The targets may be tough, but, says Professor Mannion: "The strategic direction is in place and the implementation of that will follow."



Let me tell you a story or two about Mandela

Honorary Consul for South Africa in Scotland Brian Filling was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters at GCU's winter graduations. He speaks to Linda Robertson about his involvement in the anti-apartheid struggle and his memories of the African leader.

It is a question Brian Filling has been asked many times over the years – just what kind of man was Nelson Mandela?

"I'll tell you a story about him, maybe two, which I think will give an idea about the type of person he was," says Brian, who was the founding chair of the Scottish Committee of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in 1976 and who got to know Mandela over the years.

Let's set the scene. Glasgow was the first city in the world to bestow Mandela with Freedom of the City in 1981, while he was still imprisoned on Robben Island. Eight others in the UK followed suit. When Mandela was released from prison on February 11, 1990, after serving more than 27 years, Local Authority Action Against Apartheid began to discuss inviting him to receive the freedoms of all nine UK cities.

It was proposed that Mandela should be invited to receive the awards at a single ceremony. Brian was appointed to make it happen, liaising with the ANC, Mandela's office and representatives from each city, a process which took two years of negotiations.

Eventually it was agreed that Glasgow should be the host city.

The ceremony was held on Saturday, October 9, 1993, in Glasgow City Chambers. Each city was allocated five minutes with Mandela, with Aberdeen up first.

"Mandela came into the room, and I was accompanying him. It was torrential rain outside, worse than normal Glasgow weather," recalls Brian.

"Mandela went to the first councillor and said, 'Thank you so much for coming in this dreadful weather from the Granite City.' Now, we'd briefed him about each city, but I don't remember telling him that.

"He went down the line of city representatives and shook everyone's hand and said something to each of them, then made an impromptu speech about how he had a fondness for Aberdeen because it was one of the first cities to boycott South Africa in the 60s.

"At the end, the council leader said to me, 'That was the most wonderful five minutes of my life'. And I said, 'Actually, once you see the video, it's only three-and-a-half-minutes'. In that short space of time, Mandela made such a deep impact – and he was like that with everybody."

The next day, Mandela held a press conference and he flipped convention. "Mandela said to them, 'What I'm going to do is answer the questions you have first. You'll want to know about my personal relationship with Winnie and my political relationship with Chief Buthelezi'.

"They were gobsmacked because he was candid. He went on to talk about the issues facing South Africa in the run-up to the first democratic election in the country.

They gave him a standing ovation at the end. Mandela would never have said he was separate or different, he wouldn't like being sanctified, but he was a leader among leaders."

In 1996, GCU conferred an honorary degree on Mandela, which was presented

GCU staff rewrote the curriculum which, under apartheid, had been rote learning

at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace. It was one of eight honorary degrees awarded to him that day.

"When Mandela got the Freedom of the City, myself and the late GCU Professor David Walsh, who was Dean of the Faculty of Health, talked about him getting an honorary degree," says Brian.

The University agreed and Brian approached Mandela in South Africa to see if he'd accept it.

"Typical of Mandela, he said yes, of course he would be proud to accept it, as long as the University committed itself to the reconstruction and development of South Africa."

Brian was there to see Mandela receive his honorary degree. "I had been asked by the Principal to prepare a suitable greeting. Mandela was very pleased to be greeted in Xhosa during the formal presentation."

As promised, GCU honoured its commitment to South Africa – a legacy that lives on today – and health projects followed, particularly in the Eastern Cape. "It was the poorest province, and really out of the way," says Brian.

"Yet staff would go out there for three-month tours, particularly nurses. They rewrote the nursing curriculum which, under apartheid, had been rote learning. It was changed to a problem-based curriculum and was eventually taken across South Africa."

GCU's health building was named after Govan Mbeki, one of the Rivonia trialists who was imprisoned with Mandela on Robben Island. Mbeki became the first Vice-President of the new South

African Senate in 1994 and the building was formally opened in June 2001 by Govan's son, President Thabo Mbeki.

Brian remained in the role of chair of the Scottish Committee of the Anti-Apartheid Movement until its dissolution in 1994 with the ending of apartheid. He was a guest at the inauguration in Pretoria of Nelson Mandela as President of South Africa. He is chair of the successor organisation, Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA) Scotland, which works for peace, development and democracy across southern Africa.

He is also vice-president of the UK charity, Community H.E.A.R.T (Health,

Education and Reconstruction Training), which supports projects in southern Africa, including a book appeal which has sent three million books to South African libraries and schools.

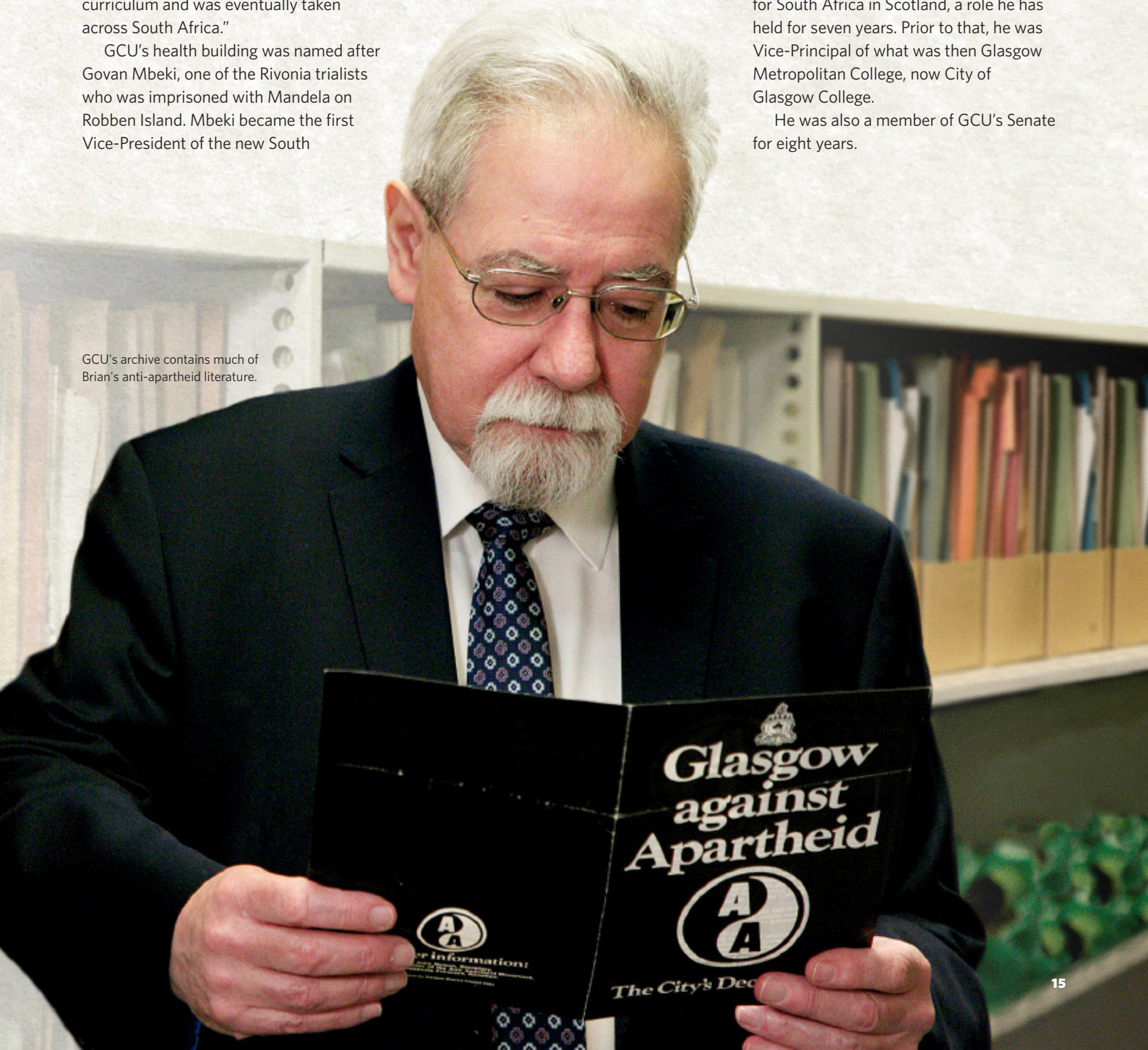
It was founded by GCU honorary graduate Professor Denis Goldberg, who fought alongside Mandela in the anti-apartheid movement and served 22 years in prison before his release in 1985.

"He came here on a speaking tour in 1985, which I organised, and we became good friends. In 1994, with the ending of apartheid, he said he was thinking of setting up this charity and asked if I would assist."

Brian is currently Honorary Consul for South Africa in Scotland, a role he has held for seven years. Prior to that, he was Vice-Principal of what was then Glasgow Metropolitan College, now City of Glasgow College.

He was also a member of GCU's Senate for eight years.

GCU's archive contains much of Brian's anti-apartheid literature.



Our alumni are enhancing the reputation of GCU far and wide

The annual Alumni Achievement Awards (AAA) recognise and celebrate the successes and contributions that our alumni make to society in their chosen path.

The awards are given to graduates from GCU and its founding institutions who have excelled in their chosen field, made contributions to society, the community, humanitarian issues, the arts, sport or charitable work, or special contributions to the life and development of the University.

We were delighted to award this to three very deserving alumni of GCU:

JACQUELINE WALES - PgD Biomedical Science (1999) Laboratory Manager, Golden Jubilee National Hospital

Jacqueline received the award in recognition of her significant contribution to the biomedical science industry and dedicated support of higher education.

She said: "When I received the letter informing me of the award, I was absolutely delighted and a little humbled when I realised that the very institution which has played such a big part in my success wants to reward me, when perhaps it should be the other way around."

Jacqueline has worked in the biomedical science profession for almost 30 years, in the field of haematology and blood transfusion.

Originally from Scotland, her career began on the south coast of England, where she completed her training, including an HNC and Part 1 of the Fellowship of the Institute of Biomedical Science. After eight years, Jacqueline returned to Scotland and gained a Postgraduate Diploma in Biomedical Science at GCU, without which

she says she would not have secured a senior biomedical science position within the Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill, in 2004.

This post came with a responsibility for training and education within the department and it was, in Jacqueline's opinion, pivotal to her successes that followed. It was through this role that she became involved with the University again, supporting the Applied Biomedical Science programme, which she continues to do. Her involvement with GCU has given her valuable experience and opened doors, which has been instrumental in the rate of Jacqueline's promotion to head of laboratory services in 10 years. Jacqueline was awarded the inaugural HCS Scientist of the Year accolade in 2013 for her outstanding and sustainable contribution to the profession and was also presented the Scottish Quality Managers Group Quality Award 2013 for her approach to method validation.

SASKIA TEPE - PgD Knowledge Management (2003) Author, *Surviving Brigitte's Secrets*

Saskia received the award in recognition of her commitment to the Common Weal through her inspiring work in educating communities about the Holocaust.

She said: "My PG Diploma in E-commerce and Knowledge Management gave me the impetus to research and document my mother's



experiences, so I am delighted to receive this award from GCU, whose work for the Common Good is as integral to its agenda, as it is to mine. The support it gives to educational charities like the Gathering the Voices project ensures that society will never forget the lessons learned from the Holocaust."

Saskia Tepe was born in 1954 in Germany. She and her mother immigrated to the UK in 1961 under the auspices of World Refugee Year 1959. She has taught modern languages and worked in the whisky, computer and banking industries. Her memoir, *Surviving Brigitte's Secrets: A*



Jacqueline Wales with award winners at the School of Health and Life Sciences prizegiving ceremony.



Alex Clark joined the fire service aged 18.

ALEX CLARK - BSc (Hons) Fire Risk Engineering (2001) Deputy Chief Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Alex received the award in recognition of his significant contribution to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

He said: "When I was told that I had received this prestigious award, I was surprised and delighted in equal measure. While I am the one receiving the award, for which I am extremely grateful, I have to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the University for creating the platform that enabled me to pursue my career goals."

Alex joined the then Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade as a fire fighter in February 1987 at the age of 18. He served as a fire fighter for seven years at Sighthill fire station in Edinburgh, before progressing through the ranks. He realised that, in order to fully develop his potential, he needed to expand his horizons and pursue academic development. This led him to the doors of GCU and enrolment on the BSc Fire Risk Engineering programme.

Having successfully attained the BSc (Hons) in 2001, this provided an excellent springboard for further career development and he quickly rose through the ranks to take up several senior roles prior to becoming Acting Chief Fire Officer of Lothian and Borders in 2011, a post he held until the creation of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in 2013, where he was appointed Deputy Chief Officer.

Holocaust Survivor, was started in 2006 for "cathartic reasons", and she was overjoyed when it finally made it into print last year.

Saskia blogs and speaks regularly to the public about her and her mother's remarkable experiences, as well as sharing her story alongside other oral testimonies from those who escaped the terror of Nazi-dominated Europe and found sanctuary in Scotland on www.gatheringthevoices.com.

Since retiring to the USA, the opportunities to tell her story have broadened considerably.



Saskia Tepe, pictured with her book, *Surviving Brigitte's Secrets*.

Trying to make the world a tiny bit better

Craig G Telfer talks to alumnus and football pundit Pat Nevin about his time at GCU, his political motivations and life after playing.

“When I came back, I didn’t expect to feel anything,” says Pat Nevin as he takes in his surroundings. “But soon the memories began to spark. I thought, ‘This is great!’ It’s all come back to me.”

This is the first time Pat has been on the GCU campus in over 30 years. One of the University’s most well-known alumni – the former footballer studied at Glasgow Polytechnic, one of its founding institutions – he is accompanied by BBC cameras as he takes a stroll down memory lane.

Pat has spent the morning visiting his old clubs but he describes GCU as being “like home”.

“Within five minutes of being here, I met four people I knew,” he laughs. “I didn’t expect to meet anyone! Bits of the place have changed – I’ve driven past it and wondered, ‘Where’s that building come from?’ – and I know GCU is offering a lot

more. It’s a university now, apart from anything else.”

Pat has enjoyed an interesting career. He spent 20 years as a footballer, playing for Chelsea, Everton and Motherwell among others and winning 28 caps for Scotland. After retiring in 2000 he moved into the media and is now a highly regarded pundit, as well as a respected club DJ.

His association with GCU goes back to the 1970s. After being released by Celtic at the age of 17, Pat chose to study commerce at Glasgow Polytechnic. “I was very logical about it,” he asserts. “I wanted to be able to keep up with all my hobbies and I wanted to study something I could get a job in. It covered so many areas and left my options open – it was exactly right for me.”

Like many students at the time, Pat was heavily involved in activism and took part in rallies and demonstrations. He has spent

part of the afternoon with the University’s archivist Carole McCallum sifting through various badges and leaflets.

“That could have been me in there,” he says as he looks back at a photograph of a demonstration on campus before discussing his activism.

“I wasn’t politically active for a party,” he explains. “I was involved with campaigns – anti-racism, anti-Nazi league, that kind of stuff. It was as little as debating, wearing a badge or going to a rally. It was a very culturally active place.”

Pat was heavily involved in the anti-apartheid movement and he is particularly fascinated with the number of items in GCU’s archive that relate to the late Nelson Mandela, an honorary graduate of GCU.

“Nelson’s name was always involved,” he says. “He was our fight. Carole opened my eyes to some things about him I knew nothing about.”

While Pat threw himself into his studies and activism, he continued playing football with his local side Gartcosh United. His impressive performances drew the attention of Clyde’s Craig Brown, and the future Scotland manager arranged a friendly between the two teams. After another remarkable display, Pat was offered terms with the Shawfield outfit.

“I told Craig I was studying and that football wasn’t really my thing, but he just got it. He’d been in education himself and knew where I was coming from. He told me it was part-time, two nights a week and the game on the Saturday, and I’d get paid. I said, ‘Where do I sign?!’”

Pat talks about his playing career in an offhand manner – at one point he says “I didn’t want to be a footballer! I just wanted to have fun” – but he is keen to point out



Pat Nevin takes on England’s Chris Waddle and Paul Gascoigne while playing for Scotland. Pic: The Herald and Times.



how seriously he took it. "This is the bit you have to get right – I was really dedicated to it. I used to go for 10-mile runs after the game on a Saturday. I was a fanatical trainer. It might seem like I was lazy but that was not the case."

He didn't tell any of his friends he was a footballer, however. "I didn't see it as anything other than fun. I didn't think it was cool – being cool was going to see an indie band!"

I ask Pat how he managed to balance his studies with his football. "Piece of cake," he smiles. "I didn't fail any exams when I was here. I scraped through a few of them but it wasn't football that got in the way – the reason I didn't get A-grades was because I was part of the generation where we just did enough to pass."

"I knew I could cruise a bit. You can't get away with that today. If you're working through a decent degree, you have to put the effort in."

Pat's good form at Clyde had alerted Chelsea but he had little interest in playing

I've seen GCU's growth through the alumni association, who have been in regular contact

on a full-time basis.

"I wanted to continue my studies," he says. "I thought I'd go to Chelsea and take a two-year sabbatical then come back and sit my exams. But after I did my pre-season, I

thought I'd just stick with Chelsea for the time being. I never went back." Pat goes on to talk about his success at Stamford Bridge but the interview is suddenly cut short; I haven't realised we've been speaking for more than half an hour. With old friends waiting to take him for dinner, I clumsily ask a final question.

How do you feel when you look back on your career, Pat?

"I just kicked a ball around and got paid for it and had fun," he says. "I work in the media because I like doing it. But they're just jobs – what's important is friends and family. That's where satisfaction comes from. And, if you can, trying to make the world a tiny wee bit better."

"And getting the songs I want on Spotify," he grins. "That's the main thing."

GCU first in UK to win global award

Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing earns international acclaim as latest graduates arrive from Bangladesh to continue their studies. Lynn McGarry reports.

Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing graduates Lutfa Akter and Uhatuna Zakeya have made the 5000-mile trip from Dhaka to Glasgow to begin a new chapter in their studies. It's the next stage in a life-changing journey for the outstanding students, originally from remote villages in northern Bangladesh.

They are following in the pioneering footsteps of four GCCN alumna who graduated from GCU July 2014. After completing BSc Professional Studies in Nursing, Popi Bhowmik, Rokeya Bristy, Satu Mondal and Rafiqun Nesa have since returned to Dhaka to undertake research and share the cutting-edge skills learned in Glasgow with the college's 150 students - while juggling nursing careers at a city hospital.

Speaking before travelling home to Bangladesh, Rokeya said: "Before GCCN, I had no idea about nursing, I just dreamed of helping people. My studies there and the wonderful opportunity to come to GCU helped me see my dream career. We have all changed and learned so much at the University. All four of us want to continue our studies. I'll see where my career takes me, maybe to a PhD, maybe helping other students."

These six young women exemplify GCCN's ambitions to transform healthcare and the lives of young women across Bangladesh, where 87 per cent of mothers give birth without professional medical support and just 23,000 registered nurses serve 156 million people - compared with

the UK's 680,000 registered nurses caring for a population of 60million.

GCCN's impact on healthcare and education was recognised in 2014 when GCU became the first university to win the prestigious Unilever International Award (supported by Business Fights Poverty) for its work with Grameen to establish and support GCCN.

The business-community led charity's "Big Tick" awards recognise businesses that are making an impact on the UN's Millennium Development Goals - targets designed to promote development in areas such as education, healthcare and child poverty. Unilever's Keith Weed, who chaired the judging panel, said: "The College is run with passion, belief and complete understanding of the cultural context. It is transforming nursing in Bangladesh and adding social value to women."

Professor Frank Crossan, who took over as GCCN's Principal from founding Principal

Professor Barbara Parfitt in January, said: "Those goals absolutely reflect GCU's motto, For the Common Good, and its commitment to providing opportunities to students, whatever their background, as well as using its expertise for the practical benefit of communities around the world."

"The UN and Unilever want to break poverty and GCCN does that through education. We educate girls to get good nursing jobs and lift not only themselves but their families out of poverty, while setting an inspirational example to their peers."

"We are a social business, we are not for profit. Our profit, if you like, is our young women graduates. We have young women arriving from very poor villages looking like cowering wee girls; eyes down. By second year they are telling me how they think I should be running things. They are unrecognisable and illustrate how we are helping to break a cycle. They recognise in themselves that they can be empowered."



Rokeya Bristy



Satu Mondal, GCCN scholar, leads the way to collect the Unilever Big Tick Award, followed by Professor Frank Crossan.



"Within two years at GCCN they are bilingual, competent professionals and can demonstrate that you can achieve just about anything with the right support and the right education."

Professor Crossan has long-established links with GCCN and further international experience working on GCU projects in, for example, Kosovo, China and South America.

He is thrilled to be overseeing the College and is busy adapting to life in Bangladesh. He said: "These first months have been absolutely fantastic. I am

enjoying immersing myself in a new community, learning about a new culture, in which I have never worked before, and I'm learning Bengali. It really helps that I have been associated with the College for many years, although when I was helping establish GCCN and supporting it over the years, I never expected to become Principal. It was my long-term plan to work here; I would have done this voluntarily in my retirement.

"It's challenging, though. It is hard to be separated from my partner and children – who, like the University, have been extremely supportive. There are other challenges, too, particularly adapting to the pace at which things happen here, but my experience so far has been fascinating. Obviously there are extremes of poverty and wealth but the people of Dhaka are wonderful. They want this college so badly and are so proud to be home to an international college that keeps on winning awards."

He continued: "Our impact in some ways is still small. So far, just 138 of our nurse-midwives have graduated to serve an enormous population, but GCCN is already

having a huge impact on the nursing profession. It is showing that Bangladesh's nurses can undertake education at an international level and demonstrates that an international level of education makes a major difference. None of our nurses has a problem getting a job. They have a great reputation and employers are literally queuing at the door when they know graduations are coming.

"Our goal over the next three years is to grow to 500 students, to move to a

I want girls in my country to have this opportunity

purpose-built college in 18 months and to keep demonstrating that you can achieve just about anything with the right support and the right education."

Rokeya agrees: "My niece and the other girls in my village are copying me now. I want them, my friends and every girl in my country to have the same opportunity to change their lives that we have had."

Lutfia Akter and Uhatuna Zakeya, graduates of GCCN.



Mark returns to where it all began

Having earned his degree at GCU, it seems only fitting that Mark Saunders should return to the University to oversee its biggest transformation. Linda Robertson reports.

While he was poring over books and listening to lecturers in the classrooms of the George Moore building, Mark Saunders never imagined that one day he'd be back to oversee one of GCU's biggest transformations yet.

The former Construction Management student is at the forefront of the Heart of the Campus project and he admits it felt rather strange to return to his old university to take the lead on such a landmark development.

"I was based in the George Moore so it was quite odd to come back to work on the building," he says. "However, I've seen a couple of my former tutors since and it was like I had never been away, which was nice."

For the next two years, until the project's completion in 2016, Mark will lead a team from Robertson Construction. As senior project manager, it's his job to ensure all the pieces of the Heart of the Campus jigsaw fit together.

Every day, he's out on site liaising with tradespeople and sub-contractors and working closely with the project design team and the University's Estates department.

"There's managing the contractors who are in front of you on site and constantly thinking about what needs to be done the next day, week and month," he says. "We have something to achieve each and every day."

And, of course, there's the added challenge of working on a live campus: "The logistics, how we interface with staff and students and how we make sure we don't dilute the learning experience in any way is fundamental to every activity we plan and execute.

"We're sensitive to the workings of the University and the construction programme

is carefully structured around exam timetables."

Work started on the George Moore building in June 2014 and is expected to be completed this summer. The ground floor will be home to the University's new restaurant while the first floor is dedicated to Student Support Services.

Then, the focus will shift to the Hamish Wood building, which will be under construction until 2016. The creation of a glass pavilion will provide a gateway to the University and a clear identity for the Glasgow School for Business and Society. It will lead to multi-purpose classrooms and a 500-seat flexible lecture theatre for exams, graduations and events.

Outdoor space will also be revitalised

with the introduction of three landscaped courtyards.

"There have been so many changes since I was here and the Heart of the Campus will make a huge difference to the University and how it operates — it will look amazing," says Mark.

The campus has grown substantially since Mark graduated in 1999.

"The grass in front of where we're sitting now, in the staff social space, used to be the student





An artist impression of how the finished campus may look (subject to change).

union and the Saltire Centre hadn't been built. A smaller, lower-level building was in its place. I think the Arc was being built at the time. It's also a much busier place since I was here."

The landscape may have changed but does having that familiarity with the campus make his role easier?

"Definitely," he says. "There's a bedding-in period at the outset of any project but it's helpful when people mention certain places and you know exactly where they are."

Dad-of-three Mark joined Robertson Construction Group two years ago and prior to that, was with Miller Construction for 13 years.

"I always knew I wanted to work in construction and enrolled on the Building Engineering and Management course at GCU. The programme changed its name

to Construction Management in my second year."

The Robertson team has become a familiar sight on campus - they're in the blue cabins at the rear of the Saltire Centre.

"Everyone has made us feel welcome and the number of dissertation students I now know is staggering," laughs Mark. "They chap the door and come in to the site offices."

"Having access to a contractor on their doorstep gives them great research

We're really keen on getting placement students on stream

material and I would have done exactly the same. That's what it's all about."

Mark, and Robertson, recognise the importance of developing links with students and giving them the opportunity to gain practical experience in their chosen field.

"One of the things we're really keen on is getting placement students on stream," says Mark.

"I remember being a student here and one of the things that made me immediately useful to an employer was the industrial placement on my course. A who's who of every contractor in Scotland would

come in to the University and pick students from the Construction Management course.

"Half of my second year, and right through the summer of my break into third year, I was lucky enough to get a placement at Henry Boot construction."

While he said the cash came in handy, it was an invaluable experience that made him more rounded and employable.

"When I started at Henry Boot, an older gentleman, who was the site manager, could see that I was being bogged down with all the jobs like paperwork and racking the drawings, and he said, 'stop what you're doing, for three hours every day, you're walking about with me'.

"I'll never forget that, it was the best experience I could possibly get, so we're keen, as a business, to offer youngsters the same chances that we all had."

It's almost time for Mark to return to the site and do one of his daily walk-rounds to ensure that everything is moving as it should be. How does it feel when a project, especially one that takes up two years of his life, comes to an end?

"Relief!" he says with a smile.

"The pressure is so intense in the run up to a handover, so it's a mixture of emotions. The immediate one is relief and once the dust settles, we begin to reflect on what we've achieved.

"The most rewarding part is when the people who use the space move in and seeing the difference it makes to them and the way they do business. It's the greatest comfort you take."

Busy times at GCU

NEW YORK ALUMNI RECEPTION - APRIL 2015

GCU alumni attended a Scottish Government Alumni Reception at the GCU New York campus along with alumni from other Scottish universities. The event was hosted by Keith Brown MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities and afforded the alumni attending a first-hand look at our latest campus as well as letting them enjoy a great networking opportunity.

SINGAPORE ALUMNI EVENT - MARCH 2015

Around 20 alumni and prospective students got together at the Carlton Hotel in Singapore. Alumni enjoyed the chance to network with each other as well as to pass on their experience of attending GCU to the prospective students who were in attendance. Many of the prospective students said they were giving much more serious consideration to attending GCU as a result.

LONDON FASHION ALUMNI RECEPTION - MARCH 2015

GCU alumni who graduated from one of our fashion-related courses and are living in the London area had the chance to network as well as hear from Maggie Smart and Karinna Nobbs (two of our Fashion Lecturers at GCU London) about two new and exciting MSc programmes they have just launched - MSc Fashion Business Creation and MSc Digital Fashion Strategy.

DENISE RESTAURI MASTERCLASS - MARCH 2015

Author and CEO of GirlQuake Denise Restauri presented a masterclass at the University, where almost half of the audience was made up of alumni.

Entitled 'In Business, it's Personal: Brutally Honest Tales of Successful Women', the inspirational masterclass told stories from female professionals, providing a perspective on the challenges they face, along with their advice on how to succeed professionally and personally. Ms Restauri said: "I am really excited to be here at GCU. I love innovation and the University is filled with innovation, doing things differently and it is filled with success. GCU really helps its students to make their future a reality."

Ms Restauri has since been appointed an honorary professor by GCU.



NIGERIA ALUMNI EVENT – MARCH 2015

A group of 12 alumni got together in Abuja to reminisce about their time at the University, to network and to discuss future ideas for events they can hold in Nigeria to help to build a useful network going forward.

WELLPARK (TENNENT'S) BREWERY TOUR – OCTOBER 2014

GCU alumni had the opportunity to see behind the scenes at the iconic Tennent's Brewery in Glasgow's east end. During the 90 minute tour, 34 alumni heard the history of the brand, saw the sophisticated production process and sampled some export products.



GATHERING THE VOICES EXHIBITION LAUNCH – AUGUST 2014

Our Alumni Relations Team supported the launch of the Gathering the Voices Association Mobile Exhibition Stand to over 100 invited guests. The event featured GCU alumna Saskia Tepe introducing her book, *Surviving Brigitte's Secrets*, and a team of four recent graduates showcasing a game they have designed based on the story of a holocaust refugee. To find out more about Gathering the Voices, visit www.gatheringthevoices.com

GLASGOW SHERIFF COURT TOUR – JUNE 2014

A group of 16 graduates experienced a fascinating tour of Scotland's busiest court – Glasgow Sheriff Court. They were given a behind-the-scenes insight into the workings of the court and had the opportunity to sit in the public gallery and watch some of the trials taking place.

DAMIAN HUGHES MASTERCLASS – JUNE 2014

Professor Hughes, a Sports Psychology Consultant and Professor of Human

Resource Management and Organisational Behaviour at Manchester Metropolitan University, spoke to an audience of over 70 alumni at his motivational masterclass.

Damian provided an insight into the practices and methods used by elite sportspeople and entrepreneurs in the world of business, and how these can be applied in academia as well as in life. He shared anecdotes from his experiences of shadowing Sir Richard Branson, drawing on his mind-set and the positive psychology and culture Branson applies to business.

ABU DHABI/DUBAI ALUMNI NETWORKING – MAY 2014

Graduates based in the UAE got the chance to meet up with students and staff who were in the country on the KAR Scholarship Study Tour, hear the latest news from GCU and do a spot of networking.



GCU FASHION SHOW – MAY 2014

It was VIP treatment for the alumni who attended the drinks reception prior to GCU's annual Fashion Show. With front-row seats, our guests got to enjoy show-stopping designs from the BA (Hons) Fashion Business programme, who launched their 2014 collection in the University's Saltire Centre. On the catwalk, there was a bold 'upcycled' collection, a range of gowns designed for leading luxury retailer Eleganza Sposa, and a collection of shirtdresses, which drew inspiration from childhood memories.



MARK MILLAR MASTERCLASS – APRIL 2014

Seventeen lucky alumni got the chance to meet comic book and film writer Mark Millar at a drinks reception before his sold-out GCU masterclass. They had the opportunity to have a chat with him and ask questions about his successful career.

An honorary graduate of GCU since 2012, Mark is the award-winning creator of the Kick-Ass comic book and movies, the creative consultant for 20th Century Fox in Los Angeles and is responsible for one of Marvel's most successful series.

GRAMEEN CALEDONIAN COLLEGE OF NURSING (GCCN) ALUMNI DINNER – FEBRUARY 2014

The first GCCN Alumni dinner took place in February with distinguished guest Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chairman of GCCN and Chancellor of GCU. The dinner was well attended by alumni as well as all staff of GCCN and several guests from the Grameen family. The event also saw the election of alumni association members.



UPCOMING EVENTS

For further details on upcoming events please visit www.gcu.ac.uk/alumni/events. New events are added regularly. You can also follow our Facebook and Twitter pages for up-to-date event information.

 www.facebook.com/CaledonianAlumni

 [@CaledonianAlum](https://twitter.com/CaledonianAlum)

To ensure that you are kept informed of local events, please update us with your current email address (most event invitations are via email) by registering your contact details at www.gcu.ac.uk/alumni/update



Inspiring projects

Magnusson Awards allow GCU students to make a difference at home and abroad.

Each year the Magnus Magnusson Awards support and cultivate the ambitions and dreams of talented young people at GCU, such as MSc Public Health student, Gillian Murray. Gillian was just one of the 2014 Magnusson Award winners, selected by a panel of judges including Sally Magnusson.

The Awards were established in 2008 in honour of the late Magnus Magnusson, former Chancellor and Ambassador of the University to recognise his passion for learning and knowledge, his contribution to Scottish education and in particular his contribution to GCU.

Last summer, Gillian travelled to Tanzania as part of the Kangaroo Mother Care project where she taught mothers how to keep their babies warm through continuous, 24 hours per day, skin-to-skin contact. This form of care has been used to save preterm and low birth weight babies in low-income areas by regulating temperature, breathing and brain activity as well as preventing infections.

It was a truly life changing experience for both Gillian and the families she worked

with: "When I think back to Tanzania, I am still overwhelmed with emotion even months on; it was an experience that has certainly humbled me by the kindness and hope of the people, and the resilience and determination of the staff and mothers. Without the funding from the Magnusson award, I would not have been able to go out to Tanzania to help implement this technique."

Magnusson projects have included travel to Zambia to provide vision screening training, being part of the press team at the

Olympic Games and delivering a cookery project for families in Glasgow. In 2015 alone, eleven student projects are being supported by the Magnusson Fund, including an expedition to the Peruvian Amazon rainforest to promote the protection and welfare of rescued wildlife and a project to help children to develop leadership skills at an early age to equip them for future career success.

To find out more about the Magnusson Awards visit: www.gcu.ac.uk/alumni/magnusmagnussonfund

Generous donors

To date, almost £300,000 has been raised for the Magnusson Fund thanks to the kind contributions of alumni, friends and organisations who have supported more than 50 awards so far.

The Merchants House of Glasgow is one such supporter. Their generous donation is sufficient to fund at least five Magnusson winners over the next five years, allowing many talented students to realise their dreams.

Making a difference

Morgan Stanley supports new family-focused Caledonian Club Project.

Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU)'s widening access programme the Caledonian Club launched a ground-breaking family-focused engagement project 'Families Learning Together @ GCU' thanks to a £60,000 donation from Morgan Stanley.

The Caledonian Club works with nursery, primary and secondary school pupils and their families to help raise aspirations and address perceived barriers to education by providing positive and rewarding experiences in a University setting.

In the first week of July, the Families Learning Together @ GCU project brought together 100 pupils from the Caledonian

Club's five partner primary schools along with parents and family members to GCU's campus for a week of educational activities, designed to encourage positive family relationships and healthy life choices.

Families benefited from free educational activities such as cookery and nutrition, as well as social activities such as a family and child sports day.

Eleanor Wilson, Director of Outreach and Community Engagement at GCU said: "Family engagement is a vitally important element of Caledonian Club activity, with parents playing an integral role in raising children's aspirations.

"Thanks to funding from Morgan Stanley,

we're now able to work even closer with some of the families who need our support most."

John McGrory, General Manager of Morgan Stanley's office in Glasgow, said: "Giving back is a core value of Morgan Stanley and its employees, and we are proud to be able to provide this vital funding and support to the Caledonian Club's Families Learning Together @ GCU programme."

If you would like more information on the projects we support, or would like to contribute, please contact the Development and Alumni Office on 0141 331 8769 or alumni@gcu.ac.uk



Families Learning Together @ GCU brought 100 pupils and family members from the Caledonian Club's five partner schools on to campus during the first week of July.

Putting engineers in the driving seat

Khalid Mohammed Abdulrahim credits GCU with helping him deliver Bahrain's F1 circuit. Chris Fitzgerald moves through the gears of the honorary graduate's fascinating story.

The fact that Khalid Mohammed Abdulrahim owns the Mini Cooper driven by Peter Sellers in the Pink Panther film shouldn't come as a surprise. The man is as obsessive about collecting cars as he is about construction and philanthropy.

And while it is the latter two that resulted in him being awarded an honorary degree by GCU in June last year, the point serves to highlight that Khalid applies the same level of dedication to anything he pursues.

Founder and chairman of the KAR Group headquartered in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Khalid is predominantly concerned with the property and construction industries.

With a string of inspiring projects under his belt, it is the £100million construction of the Bahrain Formula 1 circuit in 2004 that he counts as his most impressive.

"I submitted the tender in 2002," he recalls. "The project was 10 times larger than anything I had done before. In fact, people said it was too big for me to take on, that I would fail. I took this as a challenge. I find nothing more motivating."

Despite the complexity of the project, Khalid decided simultaneously to study a Masters in Construction Management at GCU, to help him better understand the

theory behind the process he was already so familiar with. This proved invaluable when his F1 project hit a potential skid.

"The brief stated the project had to be completed by May 2004," says Khalid. "It had to be ready for the first race of the season. The penalty for being late was £30million. So when F1 suddenly told me

I am beholden to GCU for all it has taught me

they now wanted the circuit ready for April instead of May, I was faced with a crisis."

The project was the brainchild of the Crown Prince of Bahrain, who had sought advice from another GCU honorary graduate, Sir Jackie Stewart, on how to promote the circuit.

"His Highness asked me outright, 'can it be achieved, yes or no?'," Khalid remembers. "He gave me one week to answer."

Late nights of scheduling, planning and productivity followed, all of the things Khalid had learned while studying his

Masters. Applying his learned theory, he was able to go back to the Crown Prince to give a confident 'yes'. Needless to say, he went on to deliver.

"The Bahrain government had even asked international contractors to prepare a report on the project and all of them said it could not be finished on time. The word they used was impossible.

"When I collected my Award for Services to the People of Bahrain from the King, I smiled at that word impossible. That success has now become my brand."

It is a success he says he owes to one place. Glasgow Caledonian University.

"A friend of mine told me it was the place to go. Thank God I listened to him. My education at GCU allowed me to take that calculated risk with the F1 circuit. It gave me the confidence to commit because I had considered all eventualities in a structured and methodical way. I am beholden to GCU for all it has taught me."

As a token of gratitude, Khalid has been a generous contributor to the University for the past decade or so. His donations have helped fund prizes, study trips and even an Arabic language and culture course for students planning to study in Dubai.

"I want to give students every chance. I





Khalid Abdulrahim and some of the GCU students who have benefited from the KAR Scholarship scheme he supports.

was not so fortunate,” Khalid says, referring to his first attempt at studying a degree, which was cut short when he was asked to return from St Edwards University in Austin, Texas, to Bahrain and the family business.

“My father owned a company that was concerned with earthworks and roadworks. In 1979, he left the company to me and my three brothers. The two elder brothers took over but there was family pressure, so I had to return. I worked with my brothers as I wanted to expand into construction, but they didn’t. They said it was too risky. I wanted to do something big, so I took my share from my brothers and started my own company. That is how the KAR Group eventually came into being.”

Perhaps the most significant use of Khalid’s donations has been the establishment of the KAR Construction Scholarship Programme within the School of Engineering and Built Environment, which enables GCU students to experience

international construction first hand. Now entering its fifth year, the KAR Scholarship continues to enhance students’ preparation for the working world and create new networks for GCU.

“The KAR scholarship helps keep my relationship with the University active,” Khalid says.

“It helps create the engineers of tomorrow. Engineers who may one day come to work for me.”

Away from his business, Khalid is something of a philanthropist, supporting charities, societies and sports development, all of which chimes with the University’s commitment to the common good.

“I believe in giving back,” he says. “I support the Red Crescent Society, Al Noor Institute of the Blind and several other medical-related societies, as well as the development of places of worship – Muslim, Hindu and Christian, among a great many others.”

What little spare time he has, he devotes to his car collection, which includes unique and rare vehicles from supercars to the aforementioned Peter Sellers Mini Cooper.

“My chief executive [ironically, also called Peter Sellers] read an article on the most famous Mini Coopers in the world,” Khalid explains. “One of these belonged to the late actor Peter Sellers. My chief executive joked, ‘Wouldn’t it be cool if you owned this’. I said, ‘Yes it would, buy it’.”

Khalid’s collection also boasts an Aston Martin DB5 that belonged to Mark Knopfler of Dire Straits; a Lamborghini that belonged to Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the late Shah of Iran; and a Jaguar that belonged to Phil Hill, the only American-born F1 champion.

“I’ve always had a passion for cars, but working with F1 people really increased my education and love of these vehicles. It’s not frivolous, though. They are an investment as well as a hobby.”

Significant KAR projects

- Abu Dhabi F1 - £700million
- Bahrain F1 - £100million
- Bahrain City Centre Mall - £200million
- Durrat Highway - £30million
- 2000 Bahrain social housing units and infrastructure - £176million

Matching creativity with business skills

As co-founder of leading fashion wholesale agency Macandi Showrooms, GCU alumna and new GCU London senior lecturer Maggie Smart talks fashion and family with Linda Robertson.

While a teenage Maggie Smart may not have saved much money from her first Saturday job, it did spark a lifelong love affair with fashion.

A generous staff discount in the Glasgow clothing store Ichi Ni San meant her wages were blown on labels such as John Galiano and Vivienne Westwood.

"I spent every penny I earned on clothes – which was probably £2.65 an hour back then," she laughs.

"I remember buying a John Galiano t-shirt and thinking I was the coolest thing ever. Then it got stolen off my mum's washing line in Cumbernauld!"

Her older brother, Cathal McAteer, designer at fashion label Folk, which he and Maggie launched in 2001, worked in the Merchant City shop and got her the job when she was just 13.

"I loved how clothes could make you feel and how they could change your mood. I loved going to work."

Fashion, it seems, is woven into Maggie's life. Her grandmother was a seamstress and her uncle a tailor. Yet it was hospitality that she studied at GCU, graduating with her degree in 1996.

"A module in entrepreneurship in my third year made me interested in owning my own business."

She spotted an advert in the University for a job-training scheme with a London company with restaurants and franchises around the world. They took on 12 people a year – including Maggie.

"It was an amazing grounding in how to run a business. I was about to be fast-tracked but after 18 months in London I came home because my mum was

terminally ill. My dad had died just before my mum, so I lost both parents in the same year.

"I'm a big believer that good things came out of bad, and, while we were not wealthy, we were left a little bit of money. Cathal and I went to our favourite restaurant one night and he wrote a business plan on a napkin and said, 'Do you want to start a business together?'. I thought, 'Why not, what's the worst that could happen?' The worst had just happened."

Macandi Showrooms was established in 1999 and is now one of the UK's leading

The dream? To see our alumni with really successful businesses and we can say 'They're one of ours'

wholesale agencies for contemporary fashion labels. Then came Folk, which began as a menswear brand and has grown to include footwear and womenswear.

"I've always been the more businessy, organisational person, while Cathal is creative and has a really strong sense of style."

Maggie, who joined The British School of Fashion in October last year, is developing a Masters programme which will launch in September. It will prepare students for a career in the fashion industry, whether helping them to launch their own businesses, giving established brands the tools to grow, or supporting those who wish to develop e-commerce.

"The programme will appeal to a variety of people including those who have studied design, who are creative, but want the business skills. The harsh fact of our industry is that some people go in to business too early.

"Every day at my agency I receive emails from brands saying they'd like us to represent them but 50 per cent aren't able to produce an order."

Talented designers, she says, are often not equipped with the tools to move into the business world.

"While they're producing beautiful, out-there creations, they don't know how to price a garment or create a timeline for production. The British Fashion Council has identified a huge gap in that area – the business of fashion. What we're doing at the British School of Fashion is niche but it's responding to a definite industry need."

There will be classes in the Macandi showroom, where students can work with Maggie's team, and she'll also bring Macandi on to campus to enhance student experience and industry links.

"When I look at some of the people who have worked with us, and the roles they're in now, I want the same for our students. I want them to leave with the ability and knowledge to get a fashion company off the ground."

Maggie's relationship with GCU London stretches back to its launch in 2010.

"The *Alumni* magazine had a piece about the London campus and they wanted to hear from former students. I emailed and Professor Christopher Moore got me involved in mentoring and masterclasses with students."



Maggie Smart on the roof of GCU London with Professor Christopher Moore, Director of the British School of Fashion.

Maggie's son, Finlay, came along 18 months ago. "I was chatting to Christopher, saying how having a baby had changed my perspective and how I wanted new experiences.

About a month later, he said, 'Do you know that chat we had...' I have so much respect for him and it's an amazing opportunity to work with him. The team at GCU London is superb and so supportive."

Maggie will spend three days on campus and two days in her own business.

"I've only been in the role a few months but the way I think about my business is different. So much in the fashion industry is done on a whim, so I love the research and

evidence gathering, which I'm taking back to my own business."

She can't wait to get started on helping to shape the fashion business leaders of the future, preparing them for one of the most dynamic – yet hugely competitive – industries. The dream? "To see our alumni with really successful businesses and we can say 'They're one of ours'."

Students on Maggie's programme will also benefit from a GCU partnership with retailTRUST, which provides £100,000 of scholarships at the British School of Fashion and an additional £50,000 in seed-funding loans to help students develop and launch their own businesses.

Charity to support BSoF students

retailTRUST, a leading UK charity, will fund annual awards of £20,000 for the next five years to support students on the MSc Fashion Business Creation programme, which begins at GCU London in September 2015.

In addition, retailTRUST is committing £10,000 each year for five



years in seed funding loans, which is being matched by GCU. MSc Fashion Business Creation students who will be invited to pitch for a share of the annual £20,000 investment pot before a panel of leading industry figures.

The partnership is the first initiative to be launched under the retailENTERPRISE banner developed by retailTRUST to support the industry's rising stars and innovators.

"The retail sector depends upon innovation, creativity and inspiring ideas," says Richard Boland, Chief Executive of retailTRUST.

"This programme is a core part of our commitment to put resources behind those individuals aspiring to create an inspiring retail scene."

Professor Christopher Moore, Director of the British School of Fashion, adds: "The new MSc Fashion Business Creation is an exciting addition to the British School of Fashion portfolio and it is a real honour to have retailTRUST partnering with us and providing this generous support."

Where are they now?

The complete list of all those who contributed updates is available on our website:
www.gcu.ac.uk/alumni/keepintouch/tellusyourstories

1970s

Derek Elder

HNC Civil Engineering 1977

Varied career from engineering to policy, to public affairs to semi-retired consultancy. I've been able to visit some interesting parts of the world in the process.

1980s

Stephen Kerridge

BSc (Hons) Applied Biology 1981

I am a corporate adviser to a Japanese pharmaceutical outsourcing company, which is very interesting work.

Sandra Cayless (née Stronach)

BSc (Hons) Applied Biology 1984

I worked in cancer research and then wrote two science-fiction books. Now back at GCU working on a short-term research project. Next book is on the back burner!

Craig Paterson

BA Risk Management 1986

If there are any risk management alumni here in Singapore let me know and we can meet up.

1990s

June Grindley (née MacBain)

BA (Hons) Business Studies 1990

I did various jobs before taking a career break to have a family. I moved back to Scotland, completed an MSc in Autism and have recently set up a social enterprise supporting families who have children on the autistic spectrum.



Mary Sheerin McLuskey

MBA 1993

Now leading a national charity, I bring all of my learning to this exceptionally important role with, I hope, humility, knowledge and fun. Without doubt GCU is a place to explore your ability.

Paul Scott Newman

BSc Quantity Surveying 1994

As I enter my sixth year in the Middle East, I have recently taken up a new role as the Director of Commercial Properties for DMCC. One of their most challenging projects is the construction of the Burj 2020, a tower launched to commemorate the award of Expo 2020 to Dubai. It's targeted to be the world's tallest commercial tower.



John Keeman

BA Law with Administrative Studies 1995

I graduated as a mature student in 1995 and I went on to work with the BBC Radio Helpline until I retired in 2006. Now, at the age of 70, my first novel is to be published.



Robert McAllen

BA (Hons) Marketing & Communication 1998

Manager for Blackbaud in Austin, Texas. Led products to success across geographies for the past 15 years.

Adam Gordon

BA (Hons) Social Sciences 1999

In 2009, I started my own social-media services company, helping clients use LinkedIn for business development, strategic networking and recruitment. I took the business into a joint venture with Norman Broadbent plc. Three years later and we've grown to 20 people in London and Glasgow, servicing some of the world's biggest organisations.

Kamli Almawaali (née Rashid)

BSc (Hons) Applied Biosciences 1999

In 2000 I became a senior biomedical scientist in Oman, in charge of the immunohistochemistry section. During that time, I have been involved in eight research projects at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences. In 2012 I was appointed as laboratory superintendent.



2000s

James Tait

BSc (Hons) Computer Studies 2001

Now self-employed as an IT contractor. I have great memories of GCU and look back fondly at my time there.

Sandra Ostermann (née Wienarick)

MBA 2002

I took time out of my career due to my little daughters and my current maternity leave. I was a manager with Lidl in the UK, Amazon in Germany and Airberlin in Berlin.

Eilidh Fleming

BA (Hons) Psychology 2004

I have worked my way up through the ranks at the Scottish Prison Service to manager level and hope to one day be known as 'Governor'.

Neil MacDonald

BA (Hons) Social Sciences 2005

Being a college lecturer in sociology and politics (my Hons Degree subjects) was obviously a direct result of gaining my degree and it definitely beats warehousing! Going to GCU was the best decision I ever made.

Callum Urquhart

BSc Computing with Interactive Multimedia 2006

In 2009, I took a risk and began contracting. It has its up and downs, but the flexibility and variety suits me. I owned a Nissan GTR super car for a while, so I must be doing something right!

Christos Matskas

MSc Advanced Computer Networking 2007

An entrepreneur of sorts, I run my own software consultancy that provides tailor-made solutions to clients. I blog, tweet and try to help the community as much as possible.



Fiona Reynolds (née Craig)

MSc Biomedical Science 2008

I work as the Laboratory Operational Manager in Clinical Microbiology at the new South Sector Laboratory medicine building at the Southern General Hospital.

Lewis John McGibbney

BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying 2009

I now work at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, where I work as an engineering applications software engineer on projects relating to earth and planetary science as well as defence and research.

2010s

Lucy Rothwell

BA (Hons) Business Management 2010

I was promoted to global head of production of the company I work for, responsible for the entire production department - four managers and 16 producers. I directed the launch of the business in Argentina, Colombia and China and helped grow the business by 300 per cent.

Firas Al Issaei

BSc (Hons) Electrical Power Engineering 2011

After graduation from Caledonian College of Engineering, Oman, I worked for a construction company then moved to Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), the biggest oil and gas company in Oman, to work as a power generation engineer.

Vipul Modak

MSc Clinical Microbiology (Des) 2012

After completing my MSc, I opted for a PgD course in Clinical Microbiology at GCU. After completing the course, I joined UOP as a junior research fellow, and I am currently undertaking a PhD.



Lorna Grant (née Jain)

MSc Advanced Nursing 2013

I currently work as a therapist with eating disorders in an inpatient service undertaking individual therapy and group work. I won the Therapist of the Year Award at Scottish Health Awards 2014.

Jan Breytenbach

BSc Railway Operations Management 2014

I am a full-time shop steward for the United National Transport Union, working for Transnet Rail Operations in Ermelo Mphumalanga, South Africa. Currently, my focus is to enhance safety within Transnet.

Due to the overwhelming response we are unable to publish all updates in the magazine. To view all updates from the past year or submit an update of your own please visit: www.gcu.ac.uk/alumni/keepintouch/tellusyourstories

Obituaries



Dr Jack Bruce

Scottish musician Jack Bruce, bassist in blues-rock group Cream, died in October 2014 aged 71. He received an honorary doctorate from GCU in 2009. Principal Professor Pamela Gillies CBE said: "Jack Bruce crafted and performed some of the most memorable rock songs of all time. He was also a gentle, warm, modest and humorous family man. A wonderful role model for our students, he will be sorely missed."



Dr Margie Moffat OBE

Margie Moffat, founder of AT Mays travel agents chain and supporter of GCU's travel and tourism scholarships, passed away peacefully in October 2014. Margie was awarded an honorary doctorate by GCU in 2012, in recognition of her outstanding charitable giving and support for a range of causes via the Moffat Charitable Trust.

Since 2000, the Trust has donated more than £1.4million to the University and supported more than 160 students. The Trust also supports the work of the Moffat Centre, a unique University-based consultancy for Travel and Tourism Business Development and research centre.

Helping inspire others

Philanthropist and GCU Honorary Professor Eva Haller is inspired by the University's work to raise educational and social aspiration.

Internationally renowned activist, Honorary Graduate and Honorary Professor of GCU, Professor Eva Haller made a couple of poignant visits to the University last year.

Now living in the US, where she and her husband work with organisations dedicated to helping young people across the world, she was keen to meet Caledonian Club and GCU London Club members to find out more about the University's work to raise educational and social aspiration.

Accompanied by her husband and fellow honorary graduate Dr Yoel Haller, Professor Haller, 83, spent a busy week at GCU, including a day at GCU London. During their time here, they met members of staff, students, children and parents from the Caledonian Club.

Professor Haller also took centre stage at a Magnusson Fellowship event, hosted by honorary graduate and BBC presenter Dr Sally Magnusson. Students, staff and guests were enthralled with stories of Professor Haller's childhood experiences working for the Hungarian Resistance, her escape from SS officers and the incredible career success that has enabled her to devote herself to philanthropy throughout her life.

But it was a trip off campus that was to provide one of the most unforgettable moments of the visit.

Eva was 12 years old in 1942 when she, along with her brother John, joined the Hungarian Resistance and helped to print and distribute anti-Nazi leaflets in Budapest. She was forced into hiding when German forces occupied the city and was taken into an orphanage and protected by the famous Dumfries-born Church of Scotland missionary Jane Haining, who later died in Auschwitz for helping Jewish children.

Eva believes that Jane's courage saved her from the terrible fate that awaited so



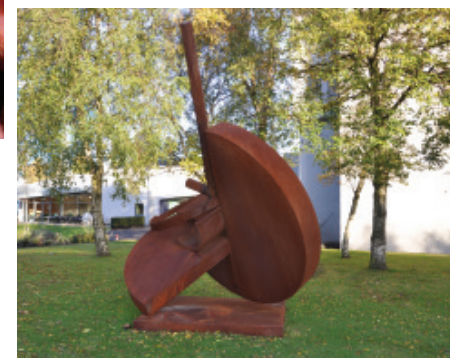
Professor Eva Haller: stained-glass window helped put past into perspective.

many Jewish people. During her visit to GCU, Eva made a quiet pilgrimage to Queen's Park Church in Glasgow, which features a stained-glass window dedicated to Jane. There she met Morag Reid, a church elder, who shares Eva's admiration for Jane.

Morag has been fascinated by Jane since she was a child. She has carried out extensive research, helped a successful campaign for Jane to be recognised with a place among the Righteous Among the Nations in Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Memorial in Jerusalem, and continues to deliver talks to organisations and church groups.

Professor Haller listened as Morag gave her details of the Scotswoman's fate and showed her a copy of the last letter ever written by Jane.

Morag said: "Jane was taken to Auschwitz and sent to work in the mines,



This sculpture, by American sculptor and painter Fletcher Benton, was donated to GCU by the Hallers.

where she and other women worked 14 hours a day in terrible conditions. It is widely presumed that Jane died in the gas chambers but, according to a death certificate later sent by German legation in Budapest, she died of 'cachexia following intestinal catarrh'."

Professor Haller said: "I had no idea about the stained-glass window and I never really knew what had happened to Jane. The revelations that have come with each new piece of information have become another way of mourning for her, and being grateful to her. I am enormously moved by the experience."



Glasgow Hotels Discount

GCU has corporate rates with a number of hotels in Glasgow, including the five-star Blythswood Hotel, and we are happy to offer these rates to our alumni. For more information on the hotels and rates, please visit:

www.gcu.ac.uk/alumni/alumnibenefitsservices

Additional Alumni Benefits

- Dedicated Career Coaching platform
- Discounts on conference facility hire at GCU Glasgow and London
- Discount on GCU library membership
- Discount on membership at the Arc Gym, Glasgow campus
- Two years' free careers support, post-graduation
- Purchase graduation merchandise including DVDs
- GCU credit card
- Discounted theatre tickets in Glasgow and London
- Discounts at florists, car rental, airport parking, cottage holidays and more

For more information: www.gcu.ac.uk/alumni/alumnibenefitsservices

20% Alumni Discount on Postgraduate Programmes

A discount of 20% off taught or research postgraduate programmes is available to students starting in 2015/16 who have received their undergraduate or postgraduate taught or research degree qualification from GCU (or one of our founding institutions). You are entitled to a 20% discount off the privately-funded part of your fee for every year of study.

How to apply:

Simply mention you are a **GCU graduate** when applying for your course and the discount will be deducted from any fee you are charged (after any third-party funding has been deducted). The fee applies to taught/research masters programmes and PhD programmes, both full-time and part-time.

Please note:

- CPD and all short courses are not eligible for this discount.
- Qualifications gained through INTO do not qualify as an undergraduate qualification from GCU, in relation to this discount.
- Where a student is eligible for both an Alumni Fee Discount and another Scholarship, the highest discount applies.
- Discounts cannot be backdated.

For more information:

www.gcu.ac.uk/alumni/alumnibenefitsservices/20alumnidiscount

New programmes for September 2015:

MSc in Fashion Business Creation

MSc Digital Fashion Strategy

MSc Climate Justice

MSc Water Resource Engineering and Management

MSc Sustainable Urban Environments

MSc Big Data Technologies (Jan 2016)

University for the Common Good



Development and Alumni Relations
Glasgow Caledonian University

+44 (0) 141 331 8769
alumni@gcu.ac.uk



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