

GCU ALUMNI

Winter 2018

The magazine for graduates and friends of Glasgow Caledonian University



Dr Annie Lennox OBE

GCU installs first female Chancellor - Pages 4-7

Duty calls

Scottish actor Martin Compston
honoured by GCU - Pages 14-15

Welcome



Welcome to the 2018 edition of GCU Alumni - our annual magazine for graduates, supporters and friends of the University.

It has been a truly historic year

for the University as we installed our first female Chancellor, the inspirational Dr Annie Lennox OBE. Dedicated to promoting social justice and the rights of women and girls around the world, the Chancellor's values align firmly with ours as the University for the Common Good. You can read our exclusive interview with the Chancellor as she talks about why she took on the role and the importance of being a global citizen.

This year our Common Good First Project helped to give a voice to the voiceless in South Africa, we signed a partnership to help power the oil and gas industry in Ghana and we launched Scotland's first undergraduate Paramedic Science degree.

You can read more about these initiatives, as well as exclusive interviews with Line of Duty star Martin Compston and Marie Macklin CBE.

We take a look back at some of our events, and share an update from the Glasgow Caledonian University Foundation highlighting just some of the ways our donors are helping to shape the lives of talented students at GCU.

We would like to thank our GCU community of graduates, honorary graduates, supporters and friends who continue to give back their time and expertise to support and inspire our students, and to work with us to deliver real social impact.

We hope you enjoy taking a look back at your University's highlights and we look forward to welcoming you back on campus soon.

Jillian Watt

Director, Glasgow Caledonian University Foundation, Alumni Engagement and Events
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The Big Picture

Magnificent needlework depicting an epic three-dimensional scene from the hit TV show Game of Thrones has been unveiled in the University's Saltire Centre and will remain on display to students, staff and members of the public until it's put up for auction in February 2019.

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Dr Annie Lennox OBE installed as University Chancellor

Royal Academician, singer-songwriter, social activist and philanthropist Dr Annie Lennox OBE has been installed as the fifth Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University.

The University's first female Chancellor, Dr Lennox, was joined by hundreds of guests including First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Chancellors of Oxford Brookes University, Dame Katherine Grainger, Edinburgh Napier, David Eustace, Salford, Professor Jackie Kay MBE, and of Glasgow University, Sir Kenneth Calman, and students and supporters of GCU at the event in the Saltire Centre.

Chancellor Lennox said: "I am humbled and awed beyond measure. As your Chancellor, I look forward to exploring ways of communication and engagement so we can all be part of the solution to the challenges we face in the 21st century. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to work with you in this aspirational way. I love Glasgow Caledonian University and the Common Good we stand for."

Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Pamela Gillies CBE FRSE, said: "Dr Lennox is in complete alignment

with the University's moral compass and shares our deep and abiding commitment to the Common Good.

"Annie has a strong sense of purpose rooted in a deeply-held set of values which fuel the extraordinary energy she quietly applies to promoting social justice, unlocking the talent of others, empowering the powerless and helping the most vulnerable in our world. She is serious about helping to make a difference to the lives of others. Annie has more than realised her dreams in her contribution to the world of music and by her work to make the world a safer, healthier and more just place for everyone, but especially for women and girls. The University community feels deeply privileged to welcome Dr Lennox as our Chancellor."

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon told the audience: "It is a pleasure to be at an event that celebrates the contribution that Glasgow Caledonian University makes to the Common Good.

"Annie is someone I have admired since before I even went to university. In fact, when I appeared on Desert Island Discs, I chose Sisters Are Doin' It for Themselves, which Annie sang with Aretha Franklin.

"So, this is a genuinely extraordinary moment for me. If you had told me back in 1985 when that song came out that I would one day stand here as Scotland's first female First Minister to welcome Annie as the first female Chancellor of one of Scotland's universities, I would have been thrilled. She has been a role model to women around the world and I know she will be a role model for all students here at Glasgow Caledonian University."

Professor Kay MBE, Scotland's Makar and a GCU Cultural Fellow and Honorary Graduate, read a specially commissioned poem and the Chancellor was installed by Rob Woodward, Chair of Court, the University's governing body.



Over 250 guests attended the ceremony.



Guests then enjoyed a ceremonial lunch to mark the occasion.



Honorary graduates, Martin Compston and Midge Ure met for the first time after Martin played Midge in a recent TV comedy.



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Rob Woodward, Professor Pamela Gillies, Chancellor Annie Lennox and Billy Black.

"I feel very much at home here. I feel that the language that is spoken at the University is very much in keeping with my own world vision that we are all global citizens."

Exclusive interview with Chancellor Lennox

Chancellor Lennox tells us why she took on the role, who inspires her and why she is committed to promoting the rights of women and girls around the world.

What attracted you to take on the role of Chancellor at GCU?

Professor Pamela Gillies asked if we could meet to discuss the prospect of becoming the next Chancellor. Pamela is one of the most engaging, dynamic, enthusiastic and visionary women I've ever met and I immediately felt a special bond with her. We come from the same background of hard-working Scots - 1950s and '60s tenement house families, living with strong principles and connected values. She felt that I would be a suitable candidate, and I felt ready and available to take up the position.

You are the University's first female Chancellor. What does that mean to you?

I think it's very significant for the University to have a female chancellor for the first time. It shows a willingness to embrace a contemporary approach and symbolically, it stands for progress. I have made it clear to everyone that I don't have a university degree, but I've earned my stripes through direct experience of the vast school of life, which has been rich and profound in innumerable ways. Now is the time when we must step up to the plate in terms of the UN Global Goal number 5 - global development for girls and women. I envisage tremendous potential in GCU students taking part and participating in the movement towards a fairer and more equal world.

What do you think makes GCU stand out from other universities?

GCU is 'people-centric' in outlook and

approach, with the motto 'For the Common Good' as its central ethical compass. The campus is fresh and diverse with a progressive, forward-looking approach. The students I've met were inspired - inspiring and engaged with their studies and their campus community. They feel 'seen and heard' by the University and encouraged by the positive, constructive environment.

What advice would you give to our students and graduates as they embark on their chosen careers?

Discover what really makes you 'tick'. Ask yourself where your passions and key interests lie and take time to explore all possibilities. Use your curiosity about life and the world around you to create a fulfilling future; not only for yourself, but for others who might be exposed to your sphere of influence. Try to be conscious, kind and empathetic towards yourself and others, and endeavour to become the best of your authentic self.

Live with gratitude for the apparently small things you might take for granted. And remember to bear in mind - life can often be what's happening to you while you're making other plans! PS. don't worry - be happy!!!

What has driven you to be so successful?

I honestly can't explain or describe where 'drive' comes from. I can only say that I feel profoundly and passionately about the experience of being alive on this planet - with all its complexities, cultures, traditions and social circumstances. We have so much potential to transform the world for the

sustainable benefit of all life forms, yet we seem to be on a course of continuous exploitative destruction, too often repeating the same old mistakes. I want to be part of a force for positive transformation. That's truly where my heart lies.

Is there anything you would still like to achieve in your career?

I sometimes feel a little at odds with the word 'career,' when I can't really separate my life with my creative work. To be honest, I've always lived life according to whatever drew me towards it. Sometimes I look back and reflect "What was I thinking?" but it seemed like a good idea at the time, when in retrospect it might seem ludicrous. So... I don't really think in terms of career. I tend to follow my heart, my passion and curiosity, with massive dollops of focus, effort and attention to detail for good measure. The results may or may not arrive at the place I'd expected, but the journey's usually been rich, interesting and memorable.

You inspire millions of people around the world. Who has inspired you?

I'm truly inspired by the people who no one reads or writes about in terms of acclaim, the people who more than often go unseen and unrecognised and yet are absolutely heroic in their own way. The women working in the service and garment industries who are often the sole breadwinners of their families. The factory workers, cleaners, waitresses and maids. The nurses and attendants all working long, hard hours in thankless circumstances. The

mothers I've encountered living with HIV, who, despite the fact they have often been cruelly ostracised and abused because of stigma and prejudice, have managed to survive and learn new life skills in order to bring up their children, put food on the table and send them to school.

During a recent visit you met with students who have received an award from the GCU Foundation - many of whom have gone out to work in developing countries. Why is being a global citizen and giving back so important to you?

Coming from my background, I thought I had some kind of understanding about the meaning of poverty until visits to HIV/AIDS projects in countries such as Uganda, Malawi and Southern Africa exposed me to witnessing what we describe as 'the gap' in resources between the wealthy and so-called developing countries. How I saw the world took a paradigm shift, and I realised that Western people tend to take many resources for granted - such as clean running water, sanitation, decent housing, education, health care and justice. Access to these resources is absolutely NOT a given for billions of people around the globe. So it's very inspiring to learn about the variety of projects undertaken by GCU students who are using their skills and passion to support communities less privileged than their own. Hearing from the students how their outlook on life has been affected and changed through these experiences is truly moving.

You are a huge advocate of human rights, particularly for women and girls. Why is this area so important to you?

I was privileged to take part in the launch concert for Nelson Mandela's HIV/AIDS Foundation - 46664, in Cape Town, South Africa in November of 2003. All the artists joined Mandela on Robben Island where he stood directly in front of his former prison cell to deliver a speech to an assemblage of international press. Describing the HIV pandemic in South Africa as genocide, he told everyone emphatically... "Women and children are the face of AIDS." Subsequently we were brought to visit hospitals, orphanages, townships and people's homes, so we

could witness the ravages of AIDS for ourselves. This had a profound effect on me. I was shocked and appalled by the fact that so few people seemed to be aware of what was happening - let alone taking effective action.

As a woman and mother, I resolved to contribute to supporting the cause and amplifying the virtually silent voice of women and children affected by HIV and AIDS. It was a life-changing experience and I became resolved to do whatever I could to make a difference.

In 2008 you founded The Circle. Can you tell us how that came about?

Through various organisations I was given opportunities to witness the challenges and injustices facing some of the most marginalised people across the globe. I founded a campaign called SING and became an HIV/AIDS activist and campaigner. I came to realise how girls and women most often have a massive lack of resources in terms of education, support and empowerment, and I decided to start a conversation with women regarding this issue. Over time, the group of women I spoke to became a formal organisation called 'The Circle'.

What is The Circle's vision?

Around the world, women hold the key to overcoming poverty and making change happen for themselves. The potential for women to transform their lives is unlimited. This is what drives us forward and powers our passion for a more just and equal world.

Our vision for the future? Equality for women and girls in a fairer world.

Our mission to achieve this is by inspiring and connecting women so they can come together, share experiences, harness skills, draw on resources, influence and bring about lasting change. Ultimately to support some of the most disempowered women and girls in the world as they challenge the injustice of inequality.



Find out more: <https://thecircle.ngo/>

Highlights of the year



First Minister bowled over by community science event

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was bowled over by a community science event organised by Glasgow Caledonian University.

The Glasgow Southside MSP took part in an experiment to measure the speed of a cricket ball at Meet the Researcher, held in the Gorbals, which offered school pupils the chance to meet university researchers and learn about science.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP said: "This is a brilliant initiative and shows the importance of the work carried out by universities to our daily lives.

"Science impacts on every single area of our lives. We need more young people to want to grow up to be the scientists and researchers of the future."

GCU paramedic course a first for Scotland

GCU launched Scotland's first undergraduate degree programme in Paramedic Science this year with fifty full-time students signing up for the course. The three-year programme is the first of its kind in Scotland and aims to boost the number of frontline ambulance paramedics.

Sam Paterson, the programme leader, said: "The paramedic profession is progressing at quite a rapid pace and as the profession moves forward, there is a desire that we are a degree-qualified profession. By introducing this degree we can ensure education of paramedics in Scotland keeps pace with the evolution of the profession."

Student entrepreneurs crowned UK champions

GCU's Enactus students have been named as the most effective team in the

UK for promoting entrepreneurial action and social innovation.

Enactus allows students to co-design and co-deliver entrepreneurial projects that empower people to make real, sustainable progress for themselves and their communities.

The GCU students were crowned Enactus UK Summer Action Champions 2018 for their project development, financial management and efforts to engage the University's student support network earlier this month.



GCU eyes top position

As the University for the Common Good, we extended our long-standing commitment to build capacity and skills around the world. Times Higher Education placed GCU among the top universities globally in its prestigious World University Rankings. The University was ranked number one in the UK for Optometry, Ophthalmology and Orthoptics and featured in the top 10 for six other subjects in The Complete University Guide. Social Work, Forensic Science, Building, Physiotherapy and Information Management all ranked amongst the best in the UK.

Welcome to Rob Woodward as new Chair of Court

Former STV CEO Rob Woodward joined the University as Chair of Court, taking over from Hazel Brooke MBE. Mr Woodward has extensive experience of governance in higher education and is committed to helping transform the lives of young people.

Here we learn more about his vision for the University.

Why GCU?

I worked with the team at GCU when I was Chief Executive of STV and admired the institution. I believe this University is distinct in the higher

education sector for its values and outreach work. I am very happy to give my time and support to help take GCU from strength to strength.

What drives you?

I am a very competitive person and I am driven by success. I love working with young people and seeing them thrive and flourish. I am a good listener and supportive. I make sure that everybody has a voice. I look forward to being a good ambassador for GCU.

How do you envisage the future of GCU?

GCU has a unique opportunity to be a

distinct institution in Scottish higher education and further afield. Inclusiveness, healthy living and sustainability are three great platforms to build on.

There is room for growth, in fact there is a necessity for growth. Becoming the first university to be granted a licence in New York is an amazing accolade. It's our responsibility to show that we can carve out a niche in that market.

GCU performs well for employability and is one of the very best for outreach in Scotland. Overall, it's a strong package. We should be proud of who we are and our unique role.



Women professors celebrate gender balance at GCU

Women professors at GCU are celebrating the latest figures showing the institution is a sector leader in the number of women being appointed to senior academic positions.

New figures published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency Ltd show the number of female professors at GCU was 36% of the total employed in 2016/17, compared to the Scottish average of just under 24%. Since then, recent promotions at GCU have seen the number rise to above 40%.



Grameen in the UK celebrates £1 million milestone in Glasgow

Grameen in the UK, the micro-lending initiative facilitated by GCU, expanded across Scotland after distributing a landmark £1 million worth of business loans in Glasgow. The scheme aims to alleviate economic, health and social inequalities in deprived communities by offering financial support to people to help start or develop their own business.

Honoured by GCU

Leading figures from around the world received honorary degrees in recognition of their achievements and contributions across a range of backgrounds.

International activist Bakira Hasečić was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws in recognition of her outstanding contribution to human rights and the campaign for justice for the women of Bosnia.



In 2003, she established the Association of Women Victims of War to unite and campaign on behalf of the estimated 50,000 women who were

raped and sexually abused throughout the Bosnian War. The association works alongside organisations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch to gather evidence and information about war criminals and rapists hiding in Bosnia to help secure their prosecution. It also provides emotional, legal and financial support to the country's tens of thousands of victims of rape and sexual abuse.

Receiving her award, Ms Hasečić, 65, said: "Many people in Bosnia still refuse to acknowledge what happened to us, and many survivors today have to live among the perpetrators of genocide and wartime rape who have not been brought to justice.

"I am so grateful for this recognition, not just for me, but for the women of Bosnia and all survivors of genocide and

sexual violence. We have fought so hard for so long to have our voices heard, and the honour that you give me here today sends a powerful message to the world that we will not be silenced, and that no matter where you are from, together we can fight for a better world."

Professor Pamela Gillies CBE FRSE, Vice-Chancellor of the University, said: "Today we honour Bakira Hasečić, in recognition of her truly outstanding contribution to human rights and justice for women in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Bakira boldly fights for justice for women who were victim to the most unimaginable evils, but she fights for all women, regardless of religion, regardless of nationality. It is humbling indeed to be in the presence of such a brave and principled woman, a woman who is an inspiration to us all."



Richard Brodsky
US lawyer and politician
Doctor of Laws

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to environmental and conservation policy in NYC, the promotion of corporate governance and his encouragement of the University's work for the Common Good.

Mabel van Oranje
International human rights activist
Doctor of Laws

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to human rights across the world including her work with Girls Not Brides, a global partnership striving to end child marriage across the globe, and also her commitment to non-profit organisations such as the Malala Fund, Crisis Action and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court.



Martin Compston
Actor
Doctor of Letters

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the world of television, his fundraising efforts with Ardgowan Hospice and his commitment to GCU students.

You can read more about Martin on Pages 14-15.

Marie Macklin CBE
Founder of HALO
Doctor of Business Administration

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the business world and her outstanding commitment to GCU students and the work of the University for the Common Good.

You can read more about Marie on Pages 18-19.



Phil Differ
Comedian, script writer and journalist
Doctor of Letters

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the world of television scriptwriting and his commitment to GCU students.

Phil has written and co-produced iconic shows such as Naked Video, City Lights, Rab C Nesbitt, Scotch and Wry, Only an Excuse and Still Game, working with the cream of Scottish comedy talent.

He said: "I am so proud, so humbled by this. This is a day I will never forget. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."



Sir Eric Peacock
Serial entrepreneur and philanthropist
Honorary Professorship and Lifetime Achievement Award, GCU London

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to luxury and international trade.

He said: "Little did I think when I graduated so many years ago that I would be recognised by a university from my home city. Glasgow Caledonian University has a very proud legacy and a great commitment to the social good and I think it's always great when your home city recognise what you've achieved on an international stage. I'm deeply humbled."



Hazel Brooke MBE
Former Chair of Court at GCU
Doctor of Science

In recognition of her outstanding commitment and contribution to GCU.

She told GCU's new graduates: "We have been part of an exceptional university at an enormously exciting time. If you reach out to help others achieve a better life, you'll be real ambassadors for GCU and the Common Good and will be happier people."



Yvonne Strachan CBE
Former Head of Equality, Scottish Government
Doctor of Laws

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to equality and human rights and her work with the Third Sector for the Common Good.



Owen Sharp
CEO of Movember Foundation
Doctor of Science

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the world of healthcare and his inspirational leadership as CEO of the Movember Foundation.

David Duke MBE
CEO and Founder of Street Soccer
Doctor of Science

In recognition of his commitment to social enterprise in line with the University's mission for the Common Good.

He said: "My mission today is to help people who have fallen on hard times. Street Soccer provides a platform for people to come together, to build relationships. The solution to people's problems is other people.

"Glasgow Caledonian is arguably the best university in the world because it's for the Common Good."



Doddie Weir
Former international rugby player and founder of My Name's Doddie Foundation
Doctor of Science

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the sporting community and his commitment to fundraising for the Common Good.

He said: "Life's about enjoying yourself. Don't wait for tomorrow, do what you can do today and have no regrets.

"I am extremely honoured and surprised to receive such a prestigious honour. I dedicate the award to the trustees and thousands of people who have come together for my charity to help raise funds and awareness of this horrific disease. Together we can make a difference and hopefully find an elusive cure.

"Thank you GCU for this great honour. I'm looking forward to working together and forging a wonderful relationship."



Janet Harvey
WWII shipyard electrician
Doctor of Engineering

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the war effort with the Glasgow shipyards, and her commitment to the values of our University mission for the Common Good.

Murray Rowden
Regional Managing Director, Americas and Global Head of Infrastructure at Turner & Townsend
Doctor of Engineering

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the construction industry and his commitment to GCU students.



Gary Lewis
Actor
Doctor of Letters

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the TV and film industry and the support he has provided to GCU students.

Making their mark

We meet the recipients of GCU's **Alumnus of the Year Awards**, an annual honour that celebrates the successes and contributions of graduates.



Pedro Santos

MSc Social Business and Microfinance

2018 GCU Alumnus of the Year
Founder, ReMake Up

In recognition of his entrepreneurship and contribution to the Common Good through ReMake Up as a social business.

When recovering from the loss of hair due to alopecia or cancer, or nipple and areola reconstruction, it can lead to a spiral of poor overall wellbeing, social isolation and depression. ReMake Up provides permanent makeup services as an allied health solution, helping people to regain their confidence and build their self-esteem.

Pedro said: "I am truly honoured and humbled for being considered as a worthy representative of the quality and brilliance of Glasgow Caledonian University alumni. This award is also recognition to all involved in the pioneering MSc Social Business and Microfinance course of 2014-2015, a true demonstration of the University's commitment to the Common Good. It changed my life and ReMake Up would not exist without it."

Isla Hillyear Hill

BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying

2018 GCU Alumna of the Year
Senior Quantity Surveyor, BAM Richies
In recognition of her work as a female leader in engineering and contribution to the Common Good through her schools initiatives.

Isla joined GCU as a mature student, and during her 3rd year placement, she



got thrust into the industry for some valuable experience. She has been involved in blasting tunnels and drilling holes with BAM ever since!

She won the 'Women in Construction and Engineering' Top Female Quantity Surveyor at the 2017 WICE Awards and was nominated to the Confederation of British Industry's 'Future Leaders' group in 2017, presenting recommendations on Digital Construction to the UK government.

Erika Alvarez

MSc International Fashion Marketing

2018 GCU London Alumna of the Year
Founder and Creative Director Koua Mexico and Mexzik Home
In recognition of her early career achievements and entrepreneurship in fashion and design.

With the dream of setting up her own fashion business, Erika went back to Mexico for a year to research and get in touch with local communities for potential products. She came back to

London and built two successful brands: Koua (fashion) and Mexzik (home decor), both founded in late 2014, immediately after graduating from GCU London.

Her brands are top quality, bringing Mexican style to the UK, with elegant and impressive marketing. The businesses also aim to be Fairtrade, as Erika strives to give back to communities in Mexico.



Duty calls for BBC star

Martin Compston added to his accolades with a Doctor of Letters in our summer graduations. We reflect on some of the roles that have propelled Martin to become one of Scotland's best loved actors and hear what receiving an Honorary Degree from GCU means to him.

Multi-award winning actor Martin Compston was thrust into the limelight in his acting debut in Ken Loach's *Sweet Sixteen*. Set in Martin's home town of Greenock, the film was hugely successful, winning an award at Cannes and earning the teenage actor a Bafta Scotland Best Actor award, British Independent Film Awards Best Newcomer Award, Critics' Circle Best Newcomer Award and nominations at the Cannes and European film festivals.

He went on to serve his apprenticeship in TV, starring in the BBC's *Monarch of the Glen* for three years, and in 2006 he acted in Cannes Jury Prize-winner *Red Road*, which was shot in Glasgow. The same year, Martin starred alongside Robert Downey Jr, Channing Tatum and Shia LaBeouf in *A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints*, which won the Jury Prize and Best Ensemble Cast at the Sundance Festival, and garnered Martin a Best Actor Award at the Gijon Film Festival.

In 2009 he joined a stellar cast including Timothy Spall and Jim Broadbent in the football movie *The Damned United*, before going on to appear in *Filth* alongside James McAvoy.

Martin has received critical acclaim for his lead performances in *The Wee Man* in which he played Paul Ferris, one of Glasgow's most feared gangland figures, and for his performance as a serial killer in 1950s Lanarkshire in the three-part Scottish television drama series *In Plain Sight*, alongside Douglas Henshall.

Most notably, he is known and loved for his role as Anti-Corruption Unit Detective Sergeant Steve Arnott in the BBC's record-breaking and critically acclaimed *Line of Duty*. Winner of a Royal Television Society Award and a

Broadcasting Press Guild Award for Best Drama Series, *Line of Duty* has become one of the best BBC shows of all time. After an explosive end to the fourth series, audiences are eagerly awaiting series five and the return of the show that is known for some of the most gripping cliffhangers in TV.

"Nerves can be a great thing because more often than not it means you really care."

Now based in the US with his wife, actress Tianna Chanel Flynn, Martin's glittering career certainly hasn't gone to his head. Whilst he may be known for playing more gritty characters, this is quite far from his own personal character. Dedicated to giving back and making a difference, particularly in Scotland and his beloved hometown of Greenock, his real passion lies in his patronage of Inverclyde's Ardgowan Hospice. Offering care and support to people with life-limiting illnesses for 36 years now, the hospice is close to Martin's, his family's and friend's hearts. He organises an annual fundraising gala for the charity raising tens of thousands of pounds each year.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the world of television, his fundraising efforts with the Ardgowan Hospice and his commitment to GCU students, Martin received a Doctor of Letters from the University during the summer graduations.

On receiving his Honorary Degree, he said: "I am absolutely delighted; it's a

genuine honour. Huge thank you to everyone at Glasgow Caledonian. Believe it or not if acting or football hadn't worked out I was on my way to university to become an accountant.

"And as much as I've loved every crazy step of becoming an actor, I always regretted missing out on the university experience. The thrill of opening yourself up to a world of new ideas. The excitement of discovering your craft amongst a sea of new faces. Learning from mentors you'll never forget, making friends for life."

During his acceptance speech, Martin also gave some good advice to new graduates. He said: "I've been acting for 16 years now and auditioning still terrifies me. Nerves can be a great thing because more often than not it means you really care about the thing you're going for. You need to have that fire, the determination and confidence to show people you belong where you set out to be.

"Just because you're about to enter the working world doesn't mean the fun has to stop. You only get one life so you better enjoy it. Days like today when you're surrounded by your family and friends who are all immensely proud of you, cherish it, I know I will."



Dr Martin Compston with his wife, Tianna Chanel Flynn.

Martin stars alongside Saoirse Ronan and Margot Robbie in *Mary Queen of Scots* in January 2019.

Research with impact

The impact of GCU's research is felt locally and internationally by communities facing some of our generation's greatest challenges. Firmly aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, our research is focussed on addressing three global societal challenges - inclusive societies, healthy lives and sustainable environments.

Around £1 in every £6 of the University's turnover is invested in research and innovation. At any one time, the University is responsible for over 500 postgraduate research students and much of our current research is funded by grants from prestigious funding bodies such as the Economic & Social Research Council, the European Commission, the Medical Research Council, National Institute of Health Research and the Wellcome

Trust. Here are just a few examples of how GCU is delivering research with real impact.

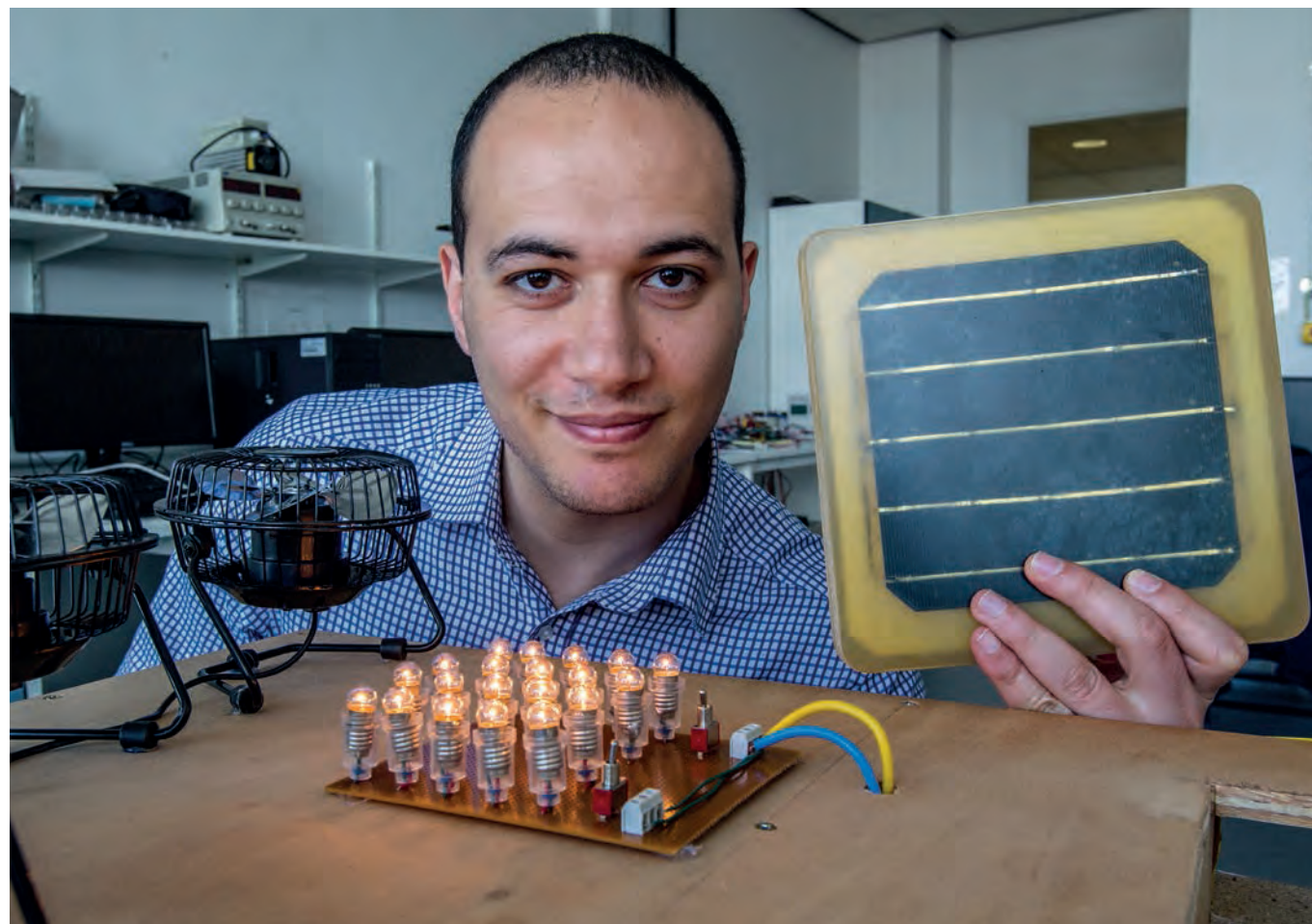
Researchers walking on sunshine at Qatar World Cup

Solar power is moving from the rooftops to the streets for football's greatest carnival – thanks to innovative research from GCU.

Dr Azmy Gowaid, pictured below, and his team have created solar tiles

that allow outdoor pedestrianised areas to generate electricity virtually anywhere there is daylight – including public squares, pavements, schools and even outside stadiums.

Organisers of the 2022 World Cup, to be held in Qatar, were on the lookout for innovative designs and invited competitive pitches from researchers to demonstrate their products as they look to provide an environmentally friendly and sustainable tournament.



Dr Azmy Gowaid and his team have created solar tiles that allow outdoor pedestrianised areas to generate electricity.



Dr Gowaid and his team secured \$100,000 of funding from the organisers to build prototypes of the tiles, to be developed further before being installed around one of the stadiums in Qatar before the global football tournament kicks off.

The solar tiles are epoxy based, as opposed to glass, and are supported by a recycled plastic frame, an embedded concentration lens and photovoltaic cells. The tiles also feature an innovative cooling mechanism, which could prove useful as surface temperature in Qatar can go as high as 80°C.

It is currently planned that a walkable area capable of generating power will be in place around one stadium in time for the World Cup, where the tiles can be tested in a real environment, allowing the researchers to collect operational data and market their product on the world stage.

GCU launches Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit

More than a hundred policy experts, social campaigners and leading academics attended the launch of GCU's Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit (SPIRU) back in March.

SPIRU, which is partnered with the Poverty Alliance, aims to bring academics across Scotland together to strengthen links between researchers

specialising in poverty and inequality, campaign groups and policymakers.

SPIRU will look to build on the legacy of the Scottish Poverty Information Unit and is led by co-directors Professor John McKendrick and Professor Stephen Sinclair.

Recent analysis from Professor McKendrick discovered that intense child poverty can be found in some of Scotland's most affluent areas, with income deprivation affecting some households in every local authority.

Following the passing of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill, councils are compelled to publish local Child Poverty Delivery Plans with the aim of eradicating child poverty in Scotland by 2030.

Speaking at the launch, Professor Sinclair said: "It is a crucial time for social policy.

"This is a great window of opportunity to have an influence on the policy process and welfare reform."

Stigma around healthcare associated infections highlighted by GCU

A major new review carried out by the School of Health and Life Sciences at GCU has found that many patients living with healthcare associated infections (HAIs) report feeling "dirty", "like a leper" or like "having the plague".

The study, led by Professor Kay Currie, revealed that the consequences of HAIs – such as MRSA or surgical wound infections – reach well beyond a patient's physical health, impacting their relationships and causing healthcare providers to distance themselves from patients carrying organisms that can lead to infection.

The team examined 17 studies from five different countries and their conclusions have led to a more in-depth study of how patients with HAIs cope with their infections, thought to be the first of its kind in Scotland.

This new research is part of the ECONI (Evaluation of Cost of Nosocomial Infection) study, led by Professor Jacqui Reilly, and will examine the cost of HAIs to hospitals, the community and wider society.

The national Patient Prevalence Survey, published in May 2018, indicated that HAIs affect one in 22 patients at any one time or 55,000 infections each year and that this rate is the lowest Scotland has achieved in the last five years.

GCU is the top modern university in Scotland for research power. To find out more about research at GCU and how you can get involved, contact alumni@gcu.ac.uk

Let your heart sing

GCU alumna and honorary graduate Dr Marie Macklin CBE tells us how dreaming big has had a HALO effect on her career.

In July 2009 I marched hand in hand with over 20,000 people in an attempt to save the Johnnie Walker bottling plant in my home town of Kilmarnock.

Many people in Kilmarnock campaigned tirelessly to prevent the closure so it was heart breaking when the decision to close the factory was confirmed – ending the historic 192 year link between Johnnie Walker whisky and Kilmarnock.

The closure had a devastating impact on my local community, with 700 job losses and knock-on effects felt throughout the town.

However, shortly after the announcement I decided to dream big for an innovative and inspirational regeneration initiative that would revitalise Kilmarnock.

For the last eight years I have been planning a truly unique project, located just across the road from Ayrshire College. It is called The HALO Kilmarnock.

The HALO project will support the growth and resilience of not just the Ayrshire economy but that of Scotland as a whole and will create a dynamic commercial, educational, cultural, leisure and lifestyle quarter in the East Ayrshire town of Kilmarnock. The focal point of The HALO will be an Enterprise and Innovation Hub that will stimulate digital and cyber learning, inspire innovative thinking and provide

students with a unique environment for practical education.

My life is committed to young people and I am adamant that they must have an opportunity to access the training and education needed to excel in tomorrow's world. As the fourth industrial revolution – the digital and cyber age – gathers pace, it is not only changing the way we live our lives but also the skills we need to excel in a working environment. I do not want our young people to be left behind.

At The HALO I believe it is vital that we seize the moment and we are on a creative social, entrepreneurial and educational mission which Ayrshire's young people will be at the heart of.

My own journey since my time at Glasgow Caledonian University has seen me work in Glasgow, London and even as far afield as New York. But it is in Kilmarnock that I plan to build a legacy.

Although my heart has always been in Kilmarnock (and I'll say more about that shortly) I left to pursue my dreams working in these three major, but very different, cities: Glasgow, a city built by some of the great entrepreneurs; London, the financial capital of Europe; and New York, the city that never sleeps.

I started work in financial services and banking which gave me a great grounding and it was in this sector where I saw first-hand what it takes to

be successful in business but I was also able to learn from a young age how it is that businesses can fail.

After acquiring my father's construction business in 2003, I used what I had learnt to remodel it as the KLIN Group, an entrepreneurial company engaged in economic and social transformation in Scotland.

The KLIN Group was our inspired and creative approach to investment and economic regeneration. The company's foundations were set in revitalising land and property and the aim was to invest in challenging and demanding initiatives to help transform communities. I was proud to be the first developer to locate a Morrisons supermarket in Scotland in an £85m regeneration development.

I will never forget where I came from and the KLIN Group allowed me to really change things for the better, transforming derelict properties in Kilmarnock into thriving places for people to live and work in.

A few years later I launched Macklin Enterprise Partnerships (MEP) which invests in entrepreneurs and their businesses and takes the lead in identifying potential partners and providing start-up and management advice to selected entrepreneurs.

MEP has allowed me to be involved in one of my biggest passions -

supporting people who have that all-important entrepreneurial spirit. I love working with creative people who have the ideas, drive and resilience to create and grow successful businesses.

When I worked at MJ Marketing and Management Consultants, it was a dream come true to work from their offices in New York and also Glasgow. The experience of working across different cultures meant I found out early on that, no matter where they came from, the most successful people all over the world have the same business traits: integrity, energy and enthusiasm. These traits were instilled in me from a young age and I have utilised them throughout my career.

And it doesn't really matter where you come from – it's where you're going that counts and having heart on the journey.

You need to let your heart sing. Use your heart when making key decisions. If you can lead with your heart while making sure that the people you work with have that all-important integrity, energy and enthusiasm then you won't go far wrong. And don't be afraid to think big. Having a dream is essential and will drive you through the hard moments which you will inevitably have – everyone does.

As we begin Phase One of the HALO Kilmarnock on the site of the old Johnnie Walker bottling plant, it's that dream that spurs me on every day.

GCU and The HALO to bring work-based education to communities

The first HALO project, in Kilmarnock, a £65m regeneration of the former Johnnie Walker bottling plant in the town, aims to create up to 1500 jobs through a new commercial, educational, cultural, leisure and lifestyle quarter.

The concept has already spread to Belfast and other communities will be regenerated in a similar way over the coming years.

Under a new partnership, GCU will identify the potential for graduate apprenticeships and accredited qualifications, in sectors such as financial services, cybersecurity, energy and renewables, building technology, fashion business, and engineering design and manufacturing, on behalf of The HALO.

Marie Macklin, Founder and Executive Chair of The HALO Urban Regeneration Company, said: "GCU provides a world-class education to thousands of students every year so I am really pleased that this partnership will support The HALO's vision of providing young people with the skills needed to make an impact in tomorrow's world."

"The collaboration with GCU will see The HALO provide access to industry aligned and optimised work-based education that would not otherwise be readily accessible, particularly in disciplines such as cybersecurity and digital innovation."

"I want the young people who are educated in partnership with The HALO to be the best that they can be, and working in partnership with GCU we will ensure they are more than ready for full-time employment."

Professor Pamela Gillies said: "We are delighted to have found a partner that resonates so powerfully with GCU's mission for the Common Good and distinctive philosophy of work-based education."

"We are keen to get started on our creative social, entrepreneurial and educational mission with The HALO and corporate partners to bring opportunity, skills, knowledge and transformational change to people and businesses at the heart of this project."

GCU volunteers go back to school

The first ever World Access to Higher Education Day took place on 28th November 2018 to raise global awareness around inequalities in access to higher education and to act as a catalyst for action. A leader in widening access, we take a look at our Caledonian Club's Literacy Programme and how it is helping to address the attainment gap.

The Caledonian Club is GCU's multi-award winning widening participation and community engagement initiative, working across our local communities in Glasgow, London and New York. Working with pupils from aged three, their families and schools we seek to help raise aspirations, build key life skills and challenge perceived barriers to higher education in communities with below average progression rates.

The link between deprivation and lower literacy and numeracy levels has been well documented. The results of the 2016 Scottish Survey of Literacy and Numeracy, which reviews performance in Primary 4, Primary 6 and Secondary 2, showed a fairly stable position in literacy performance between 2014 and 2016 and a concerning drop in writing performance for S2 pupils.

Literacy skills are vital in providing young people with the best platform from which to engage fully with learning as well as being essential in every day work and life. The consequences of a low level of literacy can severely impede a young person's ability to succeed and thrive, and prevent them from reaching their potential.

The Caledonian Club's Literacy Programme was launched in 2015, with challenging the attainment gap at its core. Building on the Club's core P2 Digital Storybook Project, the P2 Literacy Programme works with selected pupils to help improve literacy levels, as well as building confidence and enjoyment in reading. Developed

with our partner schools the programme is delivered over two eight-week blocks to provide additional support that consolidates and reinforces the work undertaken in class.

Sessions are led by trained Literacy Mentors and the team consists of Student Mentors and alumni of the University who visit pupils at school, delivering one-on-one paired reading before working together with a group of three pupils on phonics-based lessons. Literacy Mentors work with the same pupils each week and aim to build a positive and supportive relationship that encourages engagement with learning.

This project has given me that goal.

One such alumni volunteer is Farhana Khan. "I came to Scotland when I was eight years old. With English as my second language I struggled with speaking, reading and writing. So this is an opportunity for me to help kids who have similar issues to me."

David Ormiston, another volunteer, explains why the Literacy Programme is so rewarding. He said: "As well as seeing the improvement that you've been able to bring to young people's lives, it's helped me develop new skills, think about where I want to go and actually, I'm now considering taking it forward to do the postgraduate

education training to become a primary school teacher. That isn't something I set out to do, but over the last year my involvement with this project has given me that goal."

Nathan Tagg, Caledonian Club Manager, said feedback from partner schools and pupils has been positive and the project's benefits go beyond the educational gains. "The sessions focus on storytelling and the joy of reading to encourage engagement in learning. The one key takeaway, above and beyond the impact on their actual reading ability, is the confidence that pupils get from taking part in the project."

Eleanor Wilson, Head of Outreach at GCU, said: "This project was made possible thanks to the generosity of the Bill and Margaret Nicol Charitable Trust. The late Bill Nicol CBE was a former Member of Court at GCU who was awarded an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his lifetime's contribution to, and passion for, education."

"So it is very fitting that this truly generous donation has enabled us to develop and deliver a project that focusses on one of the biggest barriers in pupil attainment today - literacy skills. These skills are vital for pupils to progress through their educational journey and beyond, so we are extremely grateful to the Nicol family for helping us to offer some added support to pupils who need it most."



Drama Leader Neil Francis was playing the friendly giant in our storytelling forest.

To find out more about the Caledonian Club and how you can get involved, contact alumni@gcu.ac.uk

The Baobab doesn't fall far from the tree

GCU alumna Isatou Njai tells James Cairney how her soft drink business is starting to bear fruit and how she just made a meeting with Sir Richard Branson on time.

In Africa, it's known as 'the tree of life'. Dating back tens of thousands of years, the Baobab tree and its fruit has been an integral part of life in The Gambia and it's easy to see why. The superfruit's extraordinary nutritional health benefits have been used in Africa for thousands of years, and now GCU graduate Isatou Njai is bringing Baobab to the UK to help tackle some of the health challenges associated with our modern diets.

Isatou, with help from her business partner Paul Blackler, founded Hippo and Hedgehog, a company based in Scotland, and have developed Baotic – a healthy Baobab-based drink for the gut health market.

Growing up in the small village of Mansajang in The Gambia, Isatou has come a long way to bring Baotic to the UK and credits her parents as strong influences.

"My parents were entrepreneurs, but not by choice really. It was the only option available to them. There aren't many jobs or other forms of security to fall back on," Isatou says. "You could say my dad was an engineer by trade - he operated a successful water-well

construction business that has helped many rural communities - and my mum worked for an orphanage and loved business and sold Baobab drinks."

After finishing school, Isatou began researching universities in the UK as she looked to continue her education and selected GCU.

"The main thing that stood out was the diversity of people," says Isatou. "It was so international and that connected with me."

Although moving to Glasgow brought new difficulties, Isatou graduated from GCU in 2017 with a First Class in International Business with Risk Management, and says that the University has unique benefits that are now helping her business grow.

"Things like the Common Purpose leadership programme, which I'm still very connected to, gave me confidence and early leadership skills that I'm now putting into practice.

"To date I still have to navigate the difference in culture but there's a lot around understanding how people think, behave and work. When you're running a business that's very important and I think that's really helped."

Isatou began developing Baotic in her third year at GCU and was soon rewarded with a product development grant and a position in the Entrepreneurial Spark incubator.

"We created a very minimal viable product, took it to farmer's markets and tested customer reaction. We started with small numbers but were constantly selling out! It was encouraging and every step along the way makes you a little bit more confident, ambitious and motivated."

Once Isatou and Paul had their product, the awards soon followed.

"We won a Scottish Edge Wildcard award, which helped us build our network.

"Through GCU and UHatch we received amazing support from Professors John Lennon and Bruce Wood, as well as seedfunding via the GCU Foundation from Santander Universities, the retailTRUST and Hammerson. That has made a big impact."

Isatou then wooed a Virgin Media Voom Tour judging panel to collect an award of £5,000 business funding, as well as securing a meeting with Sir Richard Branson.

"Due to a flight to London being cancelled, Richard Branson got to the venue before we did. I have no idea how, but we made it just in time.

"Richard was very calm, very chilled. We shook hands and explained who we are, discussed our Baotic drink products

Due to a flight to London being cancelled Richard Branson got to the venue before we did.

and business vision to inspire and empower healthy communities through growing our Gambian development work.

"He then said 'Actually, the Baobab is my favourite tree'. Fittingly, we had Baotic Baobab bonsai kits for his grandchildren, which he kindly shared on social media," adds Isatou.

I later applied for the Royal Society of Edinburgh enterprise fellowship, which I never thought I'd get - at first it appeared very academic, very science-led with very innovative projects but I was over the moon to be accepted!", grins Isatou.

"It made a huge difference because it enabled me to focus full-time on the business and I probably would have gone down the graduate route if it wasn't for the fellowship award. It has been instrumental to be part of its network and training, and GCU made it happen by hosting me on Campus and providing the necessary support."

At GCU Isatou also supports students and entrepreneurial societies such as ENACTUS and EEE3 modules to develop entrepreneurial skills.

"The best advice I can give is to invest in yourself and develop practical skills and experience whilst still at university. If you have a business idea, just give it a go and you will learn so much from it."

Health is core to the Baotic brand, and Isatou has since won a Food Innovation Award (FIN) and funding from the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to continue gut health research in collaboration with GCU Life Sciences.

As well as providing customers with a healthy drink, there is a strong focus on social enterprise as Isatou is determined to improve the lives of Gambian communities. All of their Baobab is sourced through a charity supply chain and the business pledges a minimum of ten percent of profits to fund community projects - focusing on nutrition, education and empowering women.

"It's very hard to put into context just how disadvantaged these rural areas are," says Isatou.

"Children in those communities die of dehydration and malnutrition, and that's not right. We have worked hard to develop a number of successful co-operative start-up gardens and our latest community was able to secure larger EU funding to grow. When we started Baotic, improving communities in The Gambia was a key driver. It is what keeps us going through the difficult times, and motivates us every day."

Baotic's early success means that they now have interest from larger retailers and distributors, so are moving to higher volume production, starting to raise investment, and to build a team to grow.

You can read more, try their drinks and support their inspiring journey at www.drinkbaotic.co.uk



Putting the Common Good first

A voice will be given to the voiceless in South Africa thanks to Glasgow Caledonian University's Common Good First project.

Nelson Mandela University (NMU) launched the first of a number of digital laboratories in Port Elizabeth – to tell the stories of the voiceless and provide opportunities for effective and targeted partnerships to deal with social problems in communities.

The programme, to be introduced at five other South African universities soon, aims to link community projects to one another and to higher education institutions around the world using a web-based knowledge bank and innovative digital storytelling.

It aims to identify community projects and work with them to promote their objectives online and to investigate how the academic network can fashion innovative approaches to social change

in response to the challenges facing the projects.

GCU is the developer and primary co-ordinator of the project, with NMU being the lead South African partner and co-ordinator.

Common Good First is funded by EU programme Erasmus+, a funding stream for education.

Julie Adair, Director of Digital Collaboration at GCU and Common Good First Project lead, said the programme was already working in five of South Africa's nine provinces and is being developed for use on mobile phones.

She said the aim was to build a cohort of up to 90 community projects at the outset and then grow this to

include partners around the world.

GCU Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Pamela Gillies said that the need for social innovation within communities is now more important than ever.

She said: "Our fractured world sorely needs social innovations that build trust and increase social capital in communities on the way to solving local problems. The Common Good First initiative led by Julie Adair has created a unique partnership of universities across South Africa and Europe which are helping local interventions share their stories of success across national and cultural boundaries through the simplest of technologies."



NMU Chancellor, Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, NMU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sibongile Muthwa, GCU Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pamela Gillies and NMU Chair of Court, Ms Nozipho January-Bardill.



Masters of Science Degree Programmes at GCNYC

GCNYC's research-based Master's degree programmes are designed for students to enter as experts in their sectors and graduate as globally minded corporate statesmen and women. GCNYC delivers unique degrees in International Fashion Marketing (with a focus on Fair Fashion), Impact-Focused Business and Investing, and Risk, Resilience and Integrity Management, which can be completed in one year (full-time) or 16 months (part-time) at our campus located in the heart of SoHo, Manhattan.

Find out more at www.gcny.com

GCU's expertise to power Ghana's oil and gas industry

GCU has signed a partnership with Ghana's Petroleum Commission to design and deliver work-based education programmes for the African country's growing energy sector. Currently, less than half of the technical and management positions in the oil and gas sector are held by Ghanaians, with the project's aim being to increase this figure.

The partnership has the potential to help thousands of young Ghanaians and Egbert Fabille Jnr, CEO of the Petroleum Commission Ghana, was delighted to announce the project.

He said: "Our hope is that this collaboration with GCU will expedite the implementation of a work-based vocational and apprenticeship programme for a lot of Ghanaian youth.

We expect many of our youth to sign up to the programme."

Fiona Stewart-Knight, Director of GCU's School for Work Based Education said: "Our pioneering approach to work-based education,

delivered from Scotland to Ghana, and our substantial industrial experience across Africa should ensure the Petroleum Commission's progress in meeting its objectives for upstream oil and gas."



Professor Valerie Webster, Egbert Fabille Jnr and Fiona Stewart-Knight were joined by colleagues for the partnership signing.

One weekend to save the planet

Applied Games students from Glasgow Caledonian University helped negotiators at a global conference understand climate events that could dramatically change the planet.

The third-year students have designed a game along with scientists from Purdue University in the US. The game was played by climate change experts at the Conference of Parties negotiation in Bonn, Germany.

The game, Earth Remembers, focuses on climate "tipping points" – thresholds which dramatically change the planet in a way that can't be reversed when crossed.

Professor Tahseen Jafry, Director of GCU's Centre for Climate Justice, said: "We have already crossed one such tipping point. By increasing one degree above the pre-

industrial target, the most immediate areas of concern are the melting of Arctic Sea ice and the collapsing of coral reefs as oceans warm and become too acidic. Even if we reduce the temperature it will take hundreds of years to re-establish the reefs.

"There are other tipping points. If we head into three-degree territory, we may lose our sea ice sheets forever. At higher thresholds, we risk Amazon forest dieback."

The game sees 30 players controlling ten negotiation alliances, who are to decide how large a commitment they should make to climate mitigation, green technology and the international climate fund.

The players' decisions simulate the next few decades and demonstrate the effects of their choices on global temperatures and tipping points.

Sporting success at GCU

Our students enjoy a huge range of sporting activities both on and off campus. GCU is passionate about honing and supporting sporting talent and providing access to the best possible facilities for our students.



The Talented Athlete Programme

The Talented Athlete Programme has been supporting GCU's most promising athletes for almost 20 years, with around 25 successful students on the programme each year. Operating in partnership with Glasgow City Council, Glasgow University and Strathclyde University with kind support from individual donors, the programme has been designed to assist the athletes in developing their sporting potential during their studies.

Students from a wide range of sports have benefitted, including baton twirling, motor cross racing, athletics, boxing, rowing and curling. In addition to financial assistance to help with training and competitions, the programme offers students access to a physiotherapist, sports masseur, nutritionist, coach, and training facilities.

Jessica Corby, BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy

"I first got involved in fencing aged 8 at a 'come and try' session arranged by a fencing club in Dunfermline. I was hooked almost immediately.

"My fencing has taken me to many areas around the world, including all over Europe, parts of North America, South Africa, Russia and even Uzbekistan.

"I have managed to maintain a top 5 position in the UK rankings and my goal is to raise my world ranking, hopefully qualify for the World Championships, and ultimately aim for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

"All this also relies on the understanding and support of the University and the team running the GCU Talented Athlete Programme. I am really grateful for the support I have received."



GCU Sportsman of the Year 2018



Ciar Pringle, BEng Electrical Power Engineering

"I loved badminton from when I was young because I felt good when I played it. When I started competing I loved the thrill you got when the games got close and the rallies got faster and everyone's best shots are played. I love the fast pace of the game.

"I won gold in the men's badminton doubles and men's singles bronze at the Scottish Universities Championships earlier this year, also reaching the quarter finals of the men's doubles at the British Universities Championships.

"My biggest goal just now is to make it into the Scotland team for the European Mixed Team Championships in December. I have a massive dream to make it to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in 2022. It is a massive goal for the future and I'm definitely on the right track for it."

GCU Sportswoman of the Year 2018

Jill Cherry, BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy

"I started athletics when I was 8 and went along to my local athletics club.

"It can be difficult at times to juggle athletics and university but through good time management and creating a routine which allows both aspects to be prioritised it is possible to do well in both.

"I am a member of the Great Britain under-20 4 x 400m relay team and competed at the under-20 European Championships in Italy last year. I also won the Senior Scottish 600m Indoor Championship in January and the British under-20 indoor 400m in February 2018.

"I am really happy to have been selected from so many athletes at GCU to win the award. It is an honour. The support I have received has been really good, helping with travel to competitions, funding training and equipment, and helping me to perform to my best ability. It has been an amazing year."



Busy times at GCU

We organise a series of events at our campuses in Glasgow, London and New York, as well as facilitating reunions and networking events around the world. Here are some of the highlights over the past year.



Dr Mary Robinson Masterclass

Former Irish President, Dr Mary Robinson, addressed students and staff on the importance of climate justice education and the necessity of adopting a 1.5 degree mindset when planning and carrying out climate policies across the planet.

“If we don’t address climate injustice now – the poorest and most vulnerable people affected will be left behind.”

The importance of psychology in sport

Sport needs to pay more heed to psychology, says former SFA Chief Executive Gordon Smith.

Gordon’s masterclass focused on the role psychology plays in all sports, including football, tennis and golf.

Gordon said: “There are three important elements in the development of young people in sport; athleticism, technique and psychology.”



Global Entrepreneurship Week

GCU celebrated Global Entrepreneurship Week with a special masterclass by Dr Brian Williamson who has over 36 years’ experience running companies at Board level.

Brian delivered an interactive masterclass titled ‘Money is the biggest barrier to my company growing’ - find out why that is not true and why discovering and tackling your biggest problem will deliver results and give you great satisfaction.



Jane Shepherdson GCU London Masterclass

Awarded a CBE for services to UK retail business in 2015, and described as the most influential person on the British high street, Jane Shepherdson shared her 30-year career journey in the fashion industry.

Her talk offered great insight into her success as well as offering words of advice to the audience of students and graduates. Encouraging them when choosing a place to work to ensure that your values align, she said: “Have the courage to leave what you are doing if it doesn’t feel right with you. Do the right thing and the success will follow.”

Jane also talked about her passion for sustainable fashion and helping to create The Fashion Circle. Established by GCU’s Chancellor, Dr Annie Lennox, The Circle seeks to create a network of women working together to achieve equality for women and girls in a fairer world.



Diploma 1 Home Economics 50 Year Reunion

We were delighted to welcome back 10 former students to celebrate their 50th anniversary reunion since graduating from the Dough School.



GCU Afternoon Tea

Over 140 alumni from GCU’s founding institutions The Queen’s College and The Glasgow and West of Scotland College of Domestic Science, affectionately known as the Dough School, attended the annual GCU Afternoon Tea.

At this prestigious event we took a trip down memory lane and heard from the University Archivist, Carole McCallum, who talked about GCU’s founding institutions.



The secrets to my success

Alumni speaker series ‘the secrets to my success’ has proven really popular with audiences, providing the chance to get some inspiration and advice for the future, as well as a fantastic chance to network with fellow graduates and reconnect with the University. Events have taken place in Glasgow and London and will be coming to New York soon. A few of our recent events are featured below:

Glasgow event featuring:



Colin Stone
Senior Reporter at Radio Clyde News

Margaret Gibson OBE
Deputy CEO, EY Foundation

Phil Differ
Comedy Writer and Comedian

Pauline Houston
Head of Partnerships, TEDxGlasgow

London event featuring:



Rachael Fulton
Editor, Netflix Millarworld

Sahil Jaidka
Chief Sub Editor, Sky Sports News

Josephin Meyer
Publicist, Syco Entertainment

Glasgow event featuring:



Ronnie Charters
Sports Journalist, Radio Clyde

Joanne Spence
Director, Beattie Communications

Craig Macfarlane
Finance Director, City Facilities Mgt.

Umer Ashraf Malik
Founder and Owner of iCafe

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/GCUConnect

www.twitter.com/gcu_connect

To ensure 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

Making a difference

Education has the power to change lives. It provides people with the knowledge, skills and qualities needed to help shape and inform their own future. The Glasgow Caledonian University Foundation ensures that all of our students, regardless of their circumstances, have access to a variety of opportunities, experiences and support during their time at GCU.

Supporting STEM talent at GCU



GCU has been announced as one of the first UK universities to benefit from a STEM scholarship programme

designed to help school and college leavers. Twelve talented engineering students will receive funding, as well as the opportunity to access support from a mentor employed by a GFG Alliance company to help guide their academic and career progression.

The Gupta Family Group (GFG) Foundation was founded by Sanjeev and Nicola Gupta in 2017 to help develop the skills needed to progress in STEM industries, notably engineering, metals and renewable energy.

Receiving a £60,000 donation, GCU joins the University of Cambridge as one of the first UK institutions to sign a formal partnership with the GFG Foundation.

Students use Magnusson Awards to support the Common Good

Each year the Magnusson Awards enable talented students to fulfil their dream projects whilst making a positive impact on society. In 2017/18 awards helped our students rehabilitate Thai elephants abused by tourism, bring clinical expertise in tackling diabetes to rural Ghana, support and mentor vulnerable young people in Rwanda, research the impact of climate change in Nepal, and support a community clothing enterprise in Uganda.

Shocked by the living conditions of kids he met while volunteering at a primary school in rural Rwanda, Aloys used his Magnusson Award to support academically talented children.

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



"The funding changed me as a young passionate leader who wants to drive positive change in my community, my teammates who are also passionate like me and especially the kids who are experiencing the education they've dreamed about."

Aloys Muhashyi
Magnusson Award Winner



On the road to recovery

Staff and students across the University are thrilled to hear of the amazing progress our Foundation Donor, Sir Alex Ferguson CBE, has made over the past few months following his health challenges earlier in the year. Passionate about providing opportunities to young people, the Sir Alex Ferguson Scholarship and Awards Fund has already supported nearly 100 students at GCU.

"I would like to thank everyone at GCU for their messages of support and your good wishes which resonate very strongly with me, so thank you. I get great pleasure from seeing the progress of the students I support, watching their confidence grow and hearing about the various experiences and opportunities they have been exposed to as a result of the Awards Fund. I hope to see you all very soon and all the best!"

Sir Alex Ferguson CBE

retailTRUST and Hammerson support aspiring entrepreneurs

Ambitious young entrepreneurs at GCU are to share up to £30,000 worth of funding to help launch their own retail businesses in Glasgow and London.

Building on their scholarship programme at GCU, trade charity retailTRUST has joined forces with property owners Hammerson to support the next generation of retail entrepreneurs.

The initiative is open to GCU students and alumni who have an early stage business idea and need support to develop their idea or to help set up their retail business.

Following successful pitches to a panel of leading retail experts, four graduates will benefit from this year's £30,000 awards fund. The aspiring entrepreneurs will also have access to training, mentoring and retail space providing a truly incredible package of support to help kick start their businesses.

Emma Russell, 23, an International Fashion Branding graduate, is one of the first designers to benefit from the

awards. She's received £5,000 to develop her business pplrstrange which aims to empower girls and boys who are bored of the high street, mainstream brands and crave something different in their wardrobes and to hang on their wall.

This year also saw retailTRUST extend their scholarship programme to include both undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships across the University's Glasgow and London campuses.

Chivonne Gray received a scholarship to study for an MSc in International Fashion Marketing, she said: "This scholarship makes the world of difference to me. For as long as I can remember I have always been obsessed with the fashion industry. Now, with support from retailTRUST I am in a position to follow my dream career choice."



"The grant will enable me to grow my business a lot quicker than anticipated. It will help me bring out a new collection and fund extra stock, which I will launch at a pop-up store at the Barras Art and Design Centre in Glasgow next year. The funding will also help me pay for a studio, which will give me a place to work and stay focused on the business. I really appreciate the faith that retailTRUST, Hammerson and GCU have in me and my business idea, it honestly means the world."

Emma Russell, pplrstrange
retailTRUST and Hammerson Seed Funding Award Recipient

Celebrating 10 years of writing talent

Leading figures from the television industry joined graduates, students and staff to celebrate 10 years of GCU's pioneering MA TV Fiction Writing programme thanks to £700,000 industry support.

Scots actor David Hayman hosted the event at Oran Mor in Glasgow, held to mark a decade since the University launched the UK's only master's programme dedicated to writing TV drama.

Taught by leading industry professionals, Professor Ann Marie Di Mambro and Chris Dolan, graduates from the course have gone on to work on some of the most popular long-running shows on British television, including *EastEnders*, *Casualty* and *Holby City*, and have also diversified into film, books and theatre.

Actors Blythe Duff, John Michie, Juliet Cadzow, Gavin Mitchell and Colin McCredie joined TV executives, including Robert Love and Brian Park at the celebration.

Professor Pamela Gillies, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of GCU, said: "It's hard to believe it has been over 10 years since we were approached by Eileen Gallagher and Ann McManus who

came to us with a vision to help nurture new television writing talent.

"Working together we have created a truly unique programme that has helped to hone the skills and ideas of over 100 new writers.

"The success of graduates is down to the fact that not only do we have fantastic talented academic staff, who themselves are still working writers but that the course is truly co-created with industry.

"Tonight we are here to share with you and celebrate the achievements of

our graduates and of our current students and also to pay thanks to our fantastic industry donors and supporters."

Amy Hawes, who graduated from the MA TV Fiction Writing programme in 2014, said:

"The year I spent on the MA TV course was pivotal in my career.

"It gave legitimacy to my dream of screenwriting, it gave me confidence and it gave me a scholarship from Warner Bros. which I will treasure forever."



Dr David Hayman and Professor Pamela Gillies CBE FRSE.



Dr Phil Differ and Gavin Mitchell.



Dr Eileen Gallagher, Kevin Walls, Dania Rodriguez and Ann McManus.

GCU takes Taggart scripts into custody

Taggart star Blythe Duff has donated all of her scripts from the iconic detective show to the archives at Glasgow Caledonian University.

Scripts from 95 episodes will be made available to the public along with a collection of memorabilia from the much-loved Scottish series, which ran for 27 years and was screened in more than 80 countries.

The actress, who played Jackie Reid, made her first on-screen appearance in the episode *Death Comes Softly* in 1990 and was part of the final cast in the last episode screened by STV, called *Ends of Justice*, in 2010.

The scripts are part of a treasure trove of material amassed by Blythe, which includes books, press cuttings, still photographs, awards and rare Taggart memorabilia.

Students from GCU's MA TV Fiction Writing, the only master's course dedicated to writing television drama, will use the scripts as part of their studies.

Blythe, who received an honorary degree from GCU in 2011, said: "The archive is open to everyone.

"The public can come in and spend an afternoon browsing through the scripts.

"There is a real warmth towards Taggart among the public and a fondness for Mark McManus, in particular.

"There are landmark episodes in there, such as the 50th and 100th Taggart, but also ones that had to be rewritten after Mark passed away.

"Everyone has a Taggart story, whether it's their auntie's house being used to film in or their street being featured in an episode, and it's not just in Glasgow, we filmed all over Scotland.

"It would be great, in the future, if the

public could add their own papers and photographs to the archive, to collate more evidence of the show."

Blythe was joined by Taggart co-star John Michie at the handover of the collection.

She added: "I remember my first day on the Taggart set very well. It was in a church in Govan with the chorus from Scottish Opera. James MacPherson, who played Mike Jardine, talked me through it. I worked in theatre for years and had no idea about the basics, like hitting a mark.

"The old studios used to be up in Port Dundas, which is close to GCU, so it seems fitting that the archive will be here.

"The fact that students from the MA TV Fiction Writing course will also be able to benefit from having access to the scripts is brilliant. TV is changing so quickly and, as everything goes digital, it's important to retain a link with the past."

Carole McCallum, GCU's archivist, said: "The collection tells the story of Taggart but it also tells the story of Blythe Duff, of a female breaking into a male-dominated industry.

"Taggart and Glasgow go hand in hand. Having the archive here brings the scripts to life and returns the show to the people."



To find out more about the Archives at GCU, contact alumni@gcu.ac.uk



20% off *postgraduate fees* for GCU graduates

Studying a postgraduate degree at GCU can be an excellent career move. Our range of professional Masters programmes at our Glasgow and London campuses will help you to shine in your chosen field, and as a GCU graduate you will qualify for a 20% fee discount with our Loyalty Scholarship*.

Find out more at: www.gcu.ac.uk/postgraduate

*International students are eligible for discounts up to £5,000

Alumni words of wisdom



Joanne Spence
Communication and
Mass Media, 2001
Director, Beattie
Communications

When an opportunity presents itself make sure you grab it with both hands. If the opportunity doesn't exist go out and create your own. I've had several mentors over the years who have taught me so much and I made it a priority to watch and learn so I could find ways to improve myself. Make sure you choose a career that you love and one that will let you flourish. University is just the beginning of your learning journey so aim big and don't ever be afraid to take the shot.

Have a plan, it gives you a focus and resilience when hurdles are in your way. Your plan will be fluid so never ever worry about it changing, which at times may be frequent! It will also allow you to properly celebrate your successes and be proud of yourself as you start to achieve targets that are important to you.



Craig Macfarlane
Accountancy and
Finance, 1997
Finance Director,
City Facilities Management



Jane Milton
Home Economics, 1986
Food Industry Expert

Stretch yourself, operate just outside your comfort zone because by doing this, you can become your best self.

University for the Common Good



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