



**Lord Gus Macdonald**  
of Tradeston

University Chancellor  
2007 - 2012

# Introduction from the Principal and Vice-Chancellor

For over six hundred years Chancellors of Scottish universities have nourished and nurtured our universities, protected their autonomy and intellectual integrity and conferred degrees on students. Whilst primarily ceremonial in present times, the Chancellor's role is an extremely important one.

Throughout his time as Chancellor, Lord Macdonald of Tradeston has proven an outstanding ambassador for the University, with his wife, Lady Macdonald. He has been truly supportive of the University's social mission and our commitment to providing opportunities in higher education for all, and most especially for those from challenging or difficult backgrounds. This is perhaps not surprising because Lord Macdonald has never forgotten the path he travelled from his modest origins in the City of Glasgow, in a brilliant career which took him from the Clydeside shipyards to the House of Lords. Dedicated to social justice, he has been generous in praising the achievements of the

25,000 students he graduated during his time as Chancellor and in recognising the support of their families.

Lord Macdonald is a keen and steadfast supporter of our Caledonian Club which is designed to raise the aspirations of pupils aged three to 18 years. During his tenure, the Caledonian Club has worked with over 5,300 children and 2,000 families in Glasgow and is now also serving the local community of Tower Hamlets in London where our new postgraduate campus was officially launched by HRH The Princess Royal in November 2011.

Lord Macdonald's experience, expertise and industry "know-how" have proven invaluable as he has helped the University build lasting relationships with key figures in television broadcasting. Our hugely popular and successful MA course in Television Fiction Writing would not have seen the light of day without his inspiration and guidance, for which we are enormously grateful.

I believe our commissioned portrait by Scottish artist, Amy Marshall, captures the true spirit of our third Chancellor, and it has been a great privilege to serve Lord Macdonald as his Vice-Chancellor during his distinguished period of office.

The University is deeply grateful to Lord Macdonald for his sterling service, and I very much hope you enjoy the record of his tenure and contribution to the Academy and to the University.

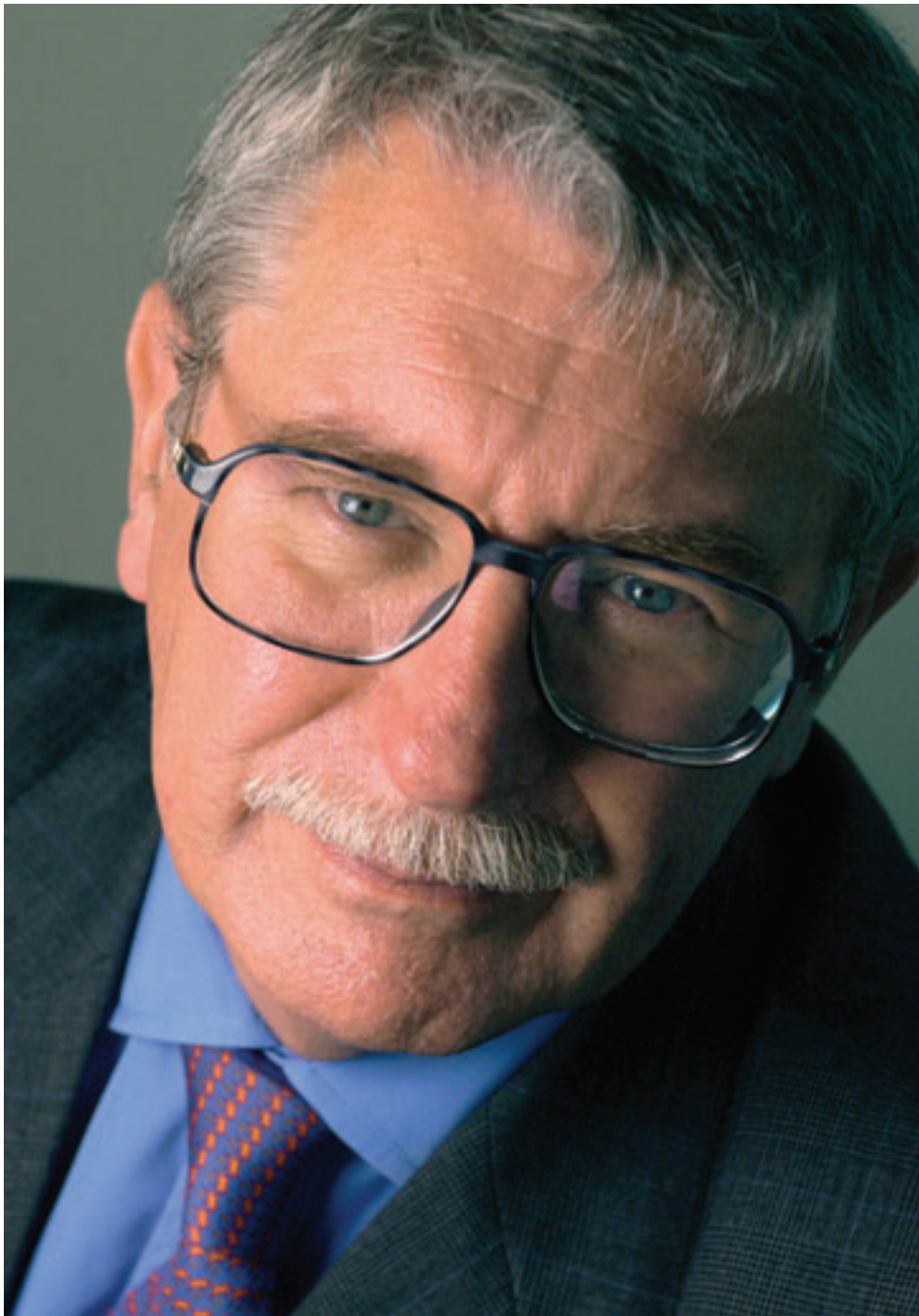


**Photographs**  
Professor Pamela Gillies  
[Opposite page](#): Lord Macdonald

October 2012

Professor Pamela Gillies  
BSc PGCE MEd MMedSci PhD FRSA FFPH AcSS Hon  
FRCPS(Glasg) Principal and Vice-Chancellor

# Lord Gus Macdonald University Chancellor 2007 – 2012



Lord Macdonald of Tradeston was appointed as the third Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University in October 2007, succeeding the late Magnus Magnusson.

Gus Macdonald grew up in Glasgow, leaving school at 15 to work in the Clydeside shipyards before moving into journalism, first on *The Scotsman* newspaper and then as a member of the Insight team on *The Sunday Times*. He began his television career as a researcher with Granada Television, where he was soon appointed as joint editor of *World in Action* with John Birt. He has also presented Granada's *What the Papers Say* as well as *Right to Reply* and *Union World* on Channel 4.

He spent 18 years with Granada Television as reporter, editor and then senior executive before returning to Glasgow in 1985. In 1990 he became Managing Director of Scottish Television and later Chairman of the Scottish Media Group.

In 1998 he was elevated to the House of Lords and held ministerial positions at the Scottish Office and the Department of Transport. After the 2001 election Lord Macdonald was appointed Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. He stood down from the government in 2003 and in the following year became an advisor to the Australian bank, Macquarie.

At his installation Lord Macdonald spoke of how he was attracted to the inclusive agenda of the University and his admiration for its work in attracting pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds into education. "A lot of people because of their circumstances don't go to university but have qualities of emotional intelligence, social skills, and other attributes which are sometimes not picked up. When I left school in the 1950s only one pupil in 20 went to university. More than half now go into further education."

The University commissioned Scottish artist Amy Marshall to paint a portrait of Lord Macdonald in his role as Chancellor.

# Portraying Lord Macdonald



Amy Marshall graduated in 2003 from the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh College of Art with a first class MA (Hons) Fine Art degree. She is now an established portrait and landscape artist, currently based in Biggar.

*"This was a particularly interesting portrait to paint. As Gus Macdonald sat for his portrait over three days in my studio I had the opportunity to hear about his remarkably diverse career.*

*"He gave me glimpses of life in the Glasgow shipyards, insights into the making of television programmes that I had loved as a child, and tales of the challenges of being a cabinet minister. He has experienced politics and journalism from every angle: from behind the camera to in-front, from interviewer to interviewee, from journalist and researcher to decision-maker of the highest degree. Conversation with Gus, who has been in tune with politics and culture for the past six decades, and who is still involved in steering the way through some of Britain's most pressing problems, was an enlightening experience.*

*"As Gus sat patiently for me and chatted, his likable and engaging manner shone through. I hope I have captured in the portrait this warmth and openness, as well as a hint of his toughness and determination – some of the many qualities that have seen him through his extraordinary career."*

# A memorable ceremony

Lord Gus Macdonald was installed as Chancellor in a memorable event on October 29, 2007 when the University and the City came together to celebrate.



The installation ceremony at Glasgow City Chambers was a vibrant and colourful affair which brought together students, staff and well known figures from beyond the University in celebration.

Before the ceremony Lord Macdonald led a procession from the University through the streets of Glasgow.

Music was provided by the Glasgow Caledonian University Choir and the Alba Brass Quintet. The closing address was given by the Rt Hon the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Councillor Bob Winters.



# Celebrating graduation

“Presiding over graduation ceremonies was always a pleasure – welcoming thousands of happy students and proud families from all over the world to Glasgow.”



Lord Macdonald has graduated more than 25,000 students.

In his five years as Chancellor, Lord Macdonald has presided at eleven graduation ceremonies, including two with students from GCU London, which was established during his tenure. He has been responsible for conferring awards on no fewer than 25,000 students.



#### Photographs

Opposite page: Lord Gus Macdonald, former Chairman of Court, Martin Cheyne, and Professor Gillies with honorary graduates Armando Iannucci and Anne Donovan; Lord Neil Kinnock; Nicola Benedetti.

# Roll of honour

Lord Macdonald has conferred degrees on 50 honorary graduates.

As Chancellor Lord Macdonald has conferred honorary degrees on outstanding people in recognition of their remarkable achievements.

## 2007

Phil Cunningham, Aly Bain and Eddi Reader (Scottish songwriters and performers); Nicola Benedetti (classical violinist); Jim McColl (businessman and entrepreneur); Belinda Dickson (founder of luxury cashmere label Belinda Robertson) and Sheena MacDonald (broadcaster).

## 2008

Louise Martin (sportswoman and Chair of sportscotland); Mel Young (Big Issue founder); Tommy Smith (jazz musician); Professor James McEwen (Chair of Scottish Health Protection Advisory Group), Allister Boyd (inspirational GCU student fundraiser); Midge Ure (musician and Live Aid co-founder); Judith Weir (composer) and Donald Macdonald (hotelier).

## 2009

Jack Bruce (founder of Cream and Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winner); Sally Magnusson (journalist, broadcaster and writer); Eileen Gallagher (Chief Executive of Shed Warner Productions); Betty Kyle (Chair of the Institute of Biomedical Science in Scotland); Peter Finch (Senior Assistant Principal and former interim University Secretary of GCU); Professor Chen Xin (eminent construction materials academic); Lord Neil Kinnock (politician and statesman); Azeem Ibrahim (entrepreneur and scholar); Bob Cleland (Chief Executive of global engineering company, Howden) and Allan Alstead (former chairman of Mercy Corps Europe).

## 2010

Ian McLeod (former Celtic chairman); Jackie Kay (poet, playwright and novelist); Norman Drummond (Chaplain to her Majesty the Queen in Scotland); David Gartry (ophthalmic surgeon); Lena Cooper Wilson (Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise); Ronald Ferguson (minister, columnist and author) and Don McCarthy (Executive Chairman of House of Fraser).

## 2011

Armando Iannucci (writer and director); Blythe Duff (actor); Denis Vaughan (founder of the UK National Lottery); Bob Winter (Lord Provost of Glasgow); Anne Donovan (novelist); Michael Marra (musician and songwriter); Toby Paterson (artist); Ethel Hofman (food writer and culinary consultant); Dr Kofi Annan (Nobel Peace Prize winner); David Maclennan (actor); Professor Ruth Lister (poverty, inequality and social justice campaigner); Professor Marilyn Waring (feminist economist) and Martin Cheyne (former Chair of GCU Court).

## 2012

Walter Smith (former Rangers FC manager); Sir Harry Burns (Scotland's Chief Medical Officer); Mark Millar (film producer and comic book writer); Stephen Craig (former CEO of All Saints); Margie Moffat (co-founder of the Moffat Charitable Trust) and Tessa Hartmann (founder of the Scottish Fashion Awards).



# Pioneering TV fiction writing in higher education

“With my background in media, I am delighted that GCU has pioneered a Masters degree in television fiction writing. My former colleagues at STV, Eileen Gallagher and Ann McManus of Shed Warner Productions, have ensured widespread support for this groundbreaking initiative across the TV industry.”

During his time at GCU Lord Macdonald oversaw the introduction of the hugely successful MA in TV Fiction Writing course, which has flourished with the support of his former industry colleagues.

The University created the MA, the first full-time university course in fiction writing for TV, in collaboration with Shed Warner Productions, the company behind some of television's most popular dramas including *Footballers' Wives*, *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *New Tricks*. The MA has attracted widespread industry support and Talkback Thames, Scottish Screen, MG Alba, BBC Writersroom, Shed Warner Productions and Shed's CEO, Eileen Gallagher, are all supporting scholarships for students.

Lecturers include Ann Marie di Mambro, who has written extensively for shows including *EastEnders*, *Casualty*, *Taggart*, *Holby City* and *River City*, and award-winning local writer and playwright, Chris Dolan. Talks by leading professionals such as Stuart Murphy, Director, Sky entertainment channels, give students an exciting and inspirational insight into the industry.

Graduates have gone on to write for major TV dramas, including BBC's *Waterloo Road* and online spin-off *Waterloo Road Reunited*. The recent relocation of this popular show to Scotland will result in even greater opportunities for students. Graduate and former journalist, Mark Stevenson, earned a place in the prestigious BBC Writers Academy to write for top television dramas, *EastEnders*, *Casualty*, *Holby City* and *Doctors*, where he will learn from Britain's top writers such as Jimmy McGovern, Steven Moffat and Tony Jordan.

In 2009, GCU awarded Eileen Gallagher an Honorary Doctorate of Letters.





# The Magnus Magnusson Fellowship



Lord Macdonald is a Fellow of the University's Magnusson Fellowship, formed following Magnus Magnusson's death in 2007.

The Fellowship first met at the University in December 2008 to discuss the role of education in the alleviation of poverty. The other Fellows are Dr Sally Magnusson; Professor William Storrar; Professor Brenda Gourley; Professor Muhammad Yunus; Raja Shehadeh; Dr Vigdis Finnbogadottir; Sir Tom Hunter; Will Hutton; Dr Mary Robinson and Professor Renata Salecl.

The inaugural Magnusson lecture was given by Nobel Laureate, Professor Muhammad Yunus. Since then Lord Macdonald has presided over three further Magnusson lectures, delivered by: climate change campaigner and former President of Ireland, Dr Mary Robinson; writer, columnist and Principal of Hertford College, Oxford, Will Hutton; and philosopher, sociologist and legal theorist, Professor Renata Salecl.



#### Photographs

[From top:](#) Lord Macdonald, Professor Gillies, Dr Sally Magnusson and Will Hutton; Dr Mary Robinson.

[Opposite page:](#) Eileen Gallagher receives her degree from Lord Macdonald; Eileen Gallagher and Lord Macdonald with Shed Warner Productions co-founder, Ann McManus; Lord Macdonald presents Mark Stevenson with a Shed media scholarship.

# Supporting the University's work



As Chancellor, Lord Macdonald has been deeply committed to helping GCU achieve its ambitious vision for the common good.

The philanthropic support of alumni and friends is vital to the University, and Lord Macdonald has played a key role in building relationships with donors and welcoming them to the GCU community.

In 2009 the Chancellor's Circle, a donor recognition club, had its first meeting at the House of Lords to thank two major donors for their generosity. The event, which included a tour and lunch, was organised for alumnus Khalid Abdulrahim, CEO and Chairman of Cebarco (the multi-billion dollar construction company responsible for the Abu Dhabi F1 circuit at Yas Island) and honorary graduate Gordon Masterton OBE, Vice President of Jacobs, a global engineering consultancy.



Lord Macdonald has also contributed to the University's knowledge base. He presented the MacMillan Memorial Lecture to the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland. In 'Bridging the Infrastructure Gap' Lord Macdonald, who began his career by serving an apprenticeship as a marine engineer in Stephen & Sons shipyard on Clydeside, explored the challenges faced by governments and investors in bridging a growing infrastructure gap.

The annual Chancellor's Dinner, a highlight of the University's social calendar, brings together leaders from university, business, political and city communities. At the 2009 dinner, Scotland's Makar and GCU cultural fellow, Liz Lochhead, delighted the audience with a poetry reading.



The award-winning Caledonian Club, GCU's widening participation and community engagement initiative, came into being during Lord Macdonald's tenure and has enjoyed his steadfast support. Pupils and their families from across Glasgow benefit from the activities and support of the Club, which is part of the University's mission to promote the common good.

Finally, as Chancellor, Lord Macdonald has supported the many successes and achievements of students and has always encouraged them to excel at what they do and to achieve their dreams.

## Photographs

[From top:](#) Chancellor's Dinner; Lord Macdonald with Khalid Abdulrahim; Liz Lochhead at the Chancellor's Dinner.

[Opposite page:](#) Guests at the Chancellor's Dinner; Lord Macdonald enjoys a Caledonian Club performance with The Princess Royal at GCU London; Lord Macdonald and Professor Gillies meeting The Princess Royal.



# GCU London

In 2010, GCU became the only Scottish university to have a campus in the UK when GCU London opened its doors to the first cohort of postgraduate students. Based in the fashionable Spitalfields area, the graduate campus offers a range of MBA and MSc courses in fashion, marketing, retailing and finance, which includes the UK's first MBA in Luxury Brand Marketing. It also enjoys links with international businesses and numerous industries.

The campus celebrated a royal opening in November 2011, when HRH The Princess Royal visited the campus. The Princess Royal met staff, students and schoolchildren at the campus in Spitalfields and unveiled a plaque to mark the official opening. Guests were entertained by a brilliantly funny and assured performance, by Glasgow and London schoolchildren.

As Chancellor, Lord Macdonald conducted the first two graduation ceremonies at GCU London. Five students who gained distinction were presented to The Princess Royal at the November ceremony. In June 2012, Lord Macdonald conferred a Lifetime Achievement award and an Honorary Professorship on Derek Lovelock, Executive Chairman of Aurora Fashions.

Lord Macdonald oversaw the launch of the GCU London Club, which brings the mission of community engagement through the Caledonian Club to the Tower Hamlets area of London.

GCU London has already attracted respected and inspirational figures to share their expertise with students. President and Chief Operating Officer of Polo Ralph Lauren Europe, Brian Duffy, delivered a professorial masterclass on both campuses, while Stephen Quinn, the Publishing Director of Vogue, gave a fascinating talk to students about the business behind one of the world's most successful and glamorous publications.



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