

Tartan Day Dinner Speech
by
Dr. Mordechai Rozanski
President, University of Guelph

Granite Club
Toronto, April 16, 2003

Thank you for the warm welcome! By the way, in honour of the Tartan Dinner and to feel more comfortable, allow me to inform you that tonight I am assuming the name of MacRozanski.

And, in my new persona, I bring greetings from the University of Guelph to each of you and particularly to all those associated with the Scottish Studies Foundation.

We are very appreciative of the wonderful partnership we have had with the Scottish Studies Foundation and proudly participate in the festivities surrounding the announcement of the Scot of the Year.

I am delighted to congratulate Alastair Gillespie and Iain Ronald on their selection as Scot of the Year. As you will hear later in greater detail, this designation honours their outstanding achievements, and places them among a distinguished company of previous honorees, several of whom are with us, tonight including Michael MacMillan, Kathie Macmillan and Alastair MacLeod.

Among their many accolades, one has a special meaning for me and my colleagues at Guelph. As with their predecessors, Iain and Alastair exemplify a profound commitment to education - a deeply rooted Scottish value that has been woven into the fabric of Canadian life. As we well know, Scots were the founders of many of our country's great universities and schools and have played key

roles in their on-going success. Simply put, the influence of Scots on education has been enormous, especially at the University of Guelph.

Over the years, many Scots have served as faculty and administrators at the University and from this group emerged the founders of our Scottish Studies program in the late 1960s. Since then, the program has grown substantially, achieving international stature thanks to our talented faculty and staff and to the great and generous help of the Scottish Studies Foundation.

Consider that Guelph has the only graduate program in North America devoted to the study both of Scotland and the achievements of people of Scottish descent around the world.

Consider also that our program boasts a special Scottish library collection, which is not only the largest outside Scotland, but is an unrivaled treasure on this continent.

Crucial to our ambition to sustain our position as one of the world's foremost centres of Scottish Studies is the creation of an endowed Chair - the first dedicated exclusively to Scottish Studies in North America.

As you have heard, the Scottish Studies Foundation has generously and magnificently pledged \$ 750,000 to establish this Chair.

This outstanding contribution was a giant step in the march to our two million dollar goal.

Other donors joined in the drive to support this important cause, and, as a result of their very typical Scottish generosity, we are now merely a stone's throw from fully funding the chair.

Tonight, building on the strength of this remarkable advance to our funding goal, I am delighted to announce that a generous donation from Michael MacMillan now makes it possible for us to proceed to establish the endowed Chair.

Michael, on behalf of the University of Guelph and everyone here, profound thanks. We're on our way. Let me tell more. This



Scots of the Year 2003 Alastair Gillespie and Iain Ronald

endowed chair, to be held by a world-class scholar, will allow us to expand our Scottish Studies curriculum, help attract talented faculty and promising new students, and will greatly increase the creative and reflective energy of our people in Scottish Studies. It will also serve as a magnet for more research funding.

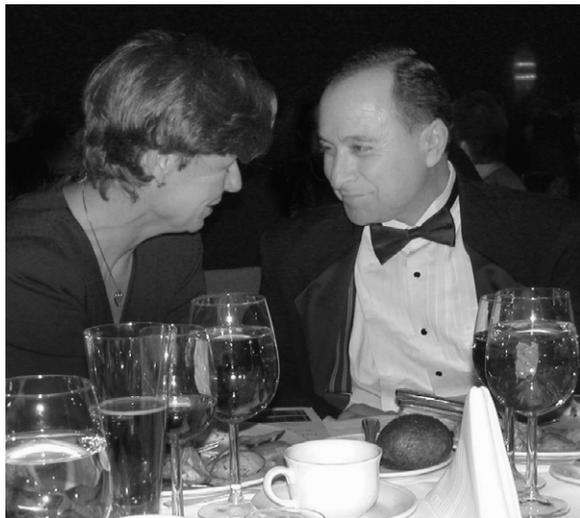
With this Chair we will demonstrate, on an international basis, the success of the Scots, their enduring legacy and their many contributions to Canada and the world.

Our ability to share these messages through the creation of the chair and the further development of our Scottish Studies Program is largely the result of the diligence, devotion and relentless persuasiveness of our Scottish Studies campaign committee, namely, Iain Ronald, Alastair Gillespie, Ed Stewart, and Murray McEwan.

They have been assisted by dedicated volunteers including, Alan McKenzie, Ian Craig, Roy MacLaren, Sir Neil Shaw, John Cleghorn and Red Wilson. And, of course, I would like to thank their leader, chair of the Scottish Studies Foundation, David Hunter. Thank you all so much for your terrific efforts and great success.

In closing, allow me to say that while more always remains to be done, the generosity of all our donors, particularly, the Scottish Studies Foundation, has made the study of Scotland relevant to a new generation of Canadians, and provides a locus of pride for Canada's Scottish community in the contemporary cultural mosaic.

Please accept our University community's profound gratitude for your support, your inspiration and your vision.



Dr. Mordechai Rozanski and Scot of the year 2000 Kathie Macmillan