



The University
of Edinburgh

edit

INCLUDING

BILLET & GENERAL COUNCIL PAPERS

WINTER 07

Astronaut Piers Sellers on space and science

ALSO INSIDE

Alexander McCall Smith revisits Edinburgh's connection to Africa, and *Edit* reports on the redevelopment of the Main Library





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Foreword

Welcome to the Winter 2007 edition of *Edit*, the first issue to feature our new design; we hope that you enjoy it.

In this issue we take an in-depth look at the exciting redevelopment of the Main Library (page 12), plus there are interviews with scientist and astronaut Piers Sellers (page 14) and author Alexander McCall Smith (page 20).

The Review of the Year featured on page 16 is taken from our Annual Review, which is due to be published in January. Copies can be obtained by contacting us at the address below, or you can find it at:

www.ed.ac.uk/annualreview.

General Council members will also have received Voting Papers for the election of Assessors to the University Court and members of the Council's Business Committee.

With best wishes for the new year.

Anne Borthwick
Editor

Publisher Communications and Marketing,
The University of Edinburgh Centre,
7-11 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9BE

Editor Anne Borthwick – edit.editor@ed.ac.uk

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THE QUEEN'S
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FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION

2006

University News



The University of Edinburgh Campaign launch

The weekend of 6 to 8 October represented a milestone in the history of the University of Edinburgh as the largest fundraising campaign to support higher education in Scotland's history was launched.



The University of Edinburgh Campaign seeks to raise £350 million for more than 30 major projects at the University, including undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships, funding for a variety of chairs and fellowships and the refurbishment and restoration of several University buildings.

The financial support the Campaign generates will bring enormous benefits to the University, Edinburgh, Scotland and the UK as a whole. It will seek philanthropic support from a number of sources including former students, funding councils, major trusts and foundations, corporations and research

charities. The University aims to reach its £350 million target by 2011. Approximately £149 million has already been secured.

Scholarships are a high Campaign priority; £35 million will be earmarked to ensure that no qualified student misses out on a place at the University because of financial hardship. Other key projects set to benefit from the Campaign include new buildings for the Centre for Regenerative Medicine and the Centre for Infectious Diseases, a £40 million redevelopment of the Main University Library, a new teaching facility for the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies and initiatives to recruit and retain high calibre academic staff.

The Campaign will also create new hubs for student life, such as InSpace at the Informatics Forum, and help conserve iconic University buildings including McEwan Hall, Old College and Teviot Row House.

Young Dawkins, Vice-Principal for Development, says: "The University of Edinburgh Campaign is a way for this great and ancient University to build upon existing strengths and create new pinnacles of excellence, in a community that has cherished the values of teaching, research and public service for over 400 years."

The Campaign began with a special launch dinner held in the Old College Quad. Renowned journalist Andrew Marr served as keynote speaker, and a specially commissioned film highlighting the University's strengths was premiered.

CAMPAIGN PROJECTS

Undergraduate Scholarship Programme • McEwan Hall • Teviot Row House • Old College Quadrangle • Polish School of Medicine Chair in Emergency Medicine • Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities • Postgraduate, Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships • InSpace at the Informatics Forum • King's Buildings Library and Resource Centre and the Maxwell Building • Potterrow development • Four endowed chairs and five lectureships in Science and Engineering • Endowed chairs in Regenerative Medicine • Peffermill playing field • James Clerk Maxwell teaching • Library redevelopment project • School of Law Tercentenary Campaign • Institute for Music in Human and Social Development • Integrative Systems Biology • Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies • Confucius Institute • Scottish History • Management School and Economics • Refurbishment of the Darwin Building • New Scottish Microelectronics Cluster Centre at KB campus • Recladding of Appleton Tower • Applied Informatics • Centre for Global Health Management • Centre for Infectious Diseases • Centre for Regenerative Medicine – new building • Regenerative Medicine – Operations • Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies • Integrative Advanced Human Imaging Centre • The Disconnected Mind

For all the latest University news, visit:
www.ed.ac.uk/news

Stiglitz and Devine sell out McEwan Hall

Following Irene Khan's launch of the University of Edinburgh's Enlightenment Lecture Series, held in partnership with ScottishPower in February, Nobel Prize winner and bestselling author Professor Joseph Stiglitz entertained and informed a packed audience at the McEwan Hall.

The event, held in August, was followed in October by the equally successful Enlightenment Lecture delivered by the University's own Professor Tom Devine.

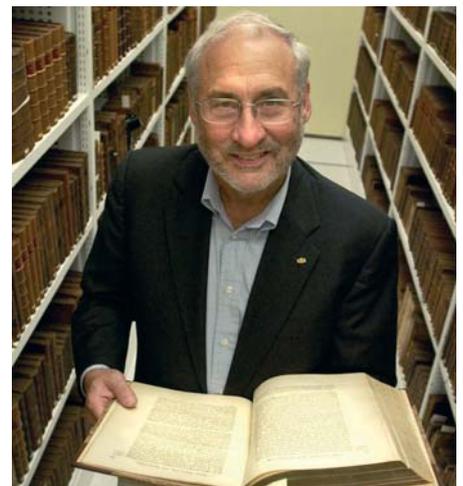
Stiglitz's lecture examined the legacy of tolerance and rationality crafted by figures such as Robertson, Hume and Smith. The lecture is available online at www.ed.ac.uk/explore/av/enlightenment2006.

Professor Tom Devine's lecture, entitled "A Puzzle from the Past: Why the Scottish Enlightenment Happened", was followed by a panel discussion

moderated by BBC journalist Allan Little on the subject "Could the Enlightenment Happen Again Today?".

Both lectures were accompanied by a seminar series, enabling discussion and talks on the Enlightenment and popular culture. The seminars were presented by members of the University's School of History and Classics and explored themes such as "18th-Century Street Theatre: Bedlamites and Buffoons", "The Performance of Sociability in the Age of Enlightenment" and "Handel in the Orient".

For more information visit www.ed.ac.uk/explore/av/enlightenment2006.



Joseph Stiglitz



Alexander McCall Smith

Alumnus of the Year

Professor Alexander McCall Smith has been named the University of Edinburgh's Alumnus of the Year 2006. He was presented with the prestigious award at a ceremony at the McEwan Hall in September. Former winners include the writer, Ian Rankin, the former Director General of MI5, Stella Rimington and Lord Steel of Aikwood.

Professor McCall Smith received the award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the fields of law and medical ethics, his achievements as an international bestselling author of fiction and the ambassadorial role he has played on behalf of the University. An Emeritus Professor of the University, he graduated LLB in 1971 and taught in the University's School of Law for many years before retiring from his post as Professor of Medical Law in 2005 in order to concentrate on his writing career.

Professor McCall Smith was also presented with a scroll and trophy at the annual Freshers' Welcome ceremony.

Nominations are now invited for the Alumnus of the Year Award 2007. The award is made annually to a former student for services to the community, achievements in arts or sciences, in business, public or academic life. To submit a nomination, please go to our website www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk, where you can also find a full list of previous winners, or contact us (contact details on page 25) to request a nomination form.

Edit talks to Alexander McCall Smith on page 20.

University News

Vision for new Vet School at Easter Bush revealed

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal revealed the first artists' impressions for a £37 million facility for the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies when she visited the University in June.

The new teaching facilities, to be built next to the cutting-edge hospitals for small and large animals at Easter Bush, Midlothian, will enable the world-renowned Royal (Dick) School to give trainee vets the best possible education and equip them to meet the challenges of veterinary practice in the 21st century. A £600,000 pledge from the Robertson Trust has recently given the project a welcome boost.

The School was founded in 1823 by William Dick and is currently based at Summerhall, in Edinburgh, and at Easter Bush Veterinary Centre. The Summerhall building will be vacated when the new veterinary school opens in 2009.



The University's Principal, Professor Timothy O'Shea and HRH The Princess Royal

University backs Scottish Executive's China plan

The University has embraced the Scottish Executive's China Strategy. The Principal, Professor Timothy O'Shea, says the initiative is important for Scotland's future as China is playing an increasingly global economic, cultural and educational role.

The University has its own highly successful China strategy, which involves research-based links with the top Chinese universities and national research institutes, joint educational programmes and strong recruitment of highly qualified Chinese students.

In collaboration with the Chinese Government and the Scottish Executive, the University is creating the Confucius Institute for Scotland in Edinburgh, part of an international network of institutes designed to promote Chinese language, learning and culture, and to act as a conduit for many Scottish-Chinese links.

Professor O'Shea says: "The Scottish Executive's strategy for China will provide an important framework for collaboration between the many groups in Scotland creating and developing links with China. The University looks forward to collaborating with the Executive and others, not least through the important Confucius Institute, in ensuring the development of strong, mutually beneficial links."

The University has a long history of engagement with China; in 1855 it produced the first Chinese graduate of any European university. Since then its Chinese alumni have included many



distinguished contributors to public life, science and medicine, most recently Professor Zhong Nanshan, who identified the SARS virus.

For all the latest University news, visit:
www.ed.ac.uk/news

University retains Fairtrade status

The University has retained its Fairtrade status after receiving a glowing report from the independent Fairtrade Foundation.



The report praised the University for its ethical purchasing policies and the advocacy of Fairtrade principles with the National Union of Students.

Tim Gee, Vice-President of services at EUSA, says: "This year it will be easier than ever for universities to commit to Fairtrade. Following the Fairtrade NUS campaign last year the student's unions' buying consortium has committed to supplying Fairtrade tea, coffee and hot chocolate as default from January 2007. The switch makes commercial, as well as moral, sense."

The University of Edinburgh became Scotland's first Fairtrade university in 2004. The renewal of this status recognises its long-term commitment to the use of Fairtrade products and contribution to better conditions for many farmers and communities in developing countries.

EUSA has introduced a wide range of Fairtrade products and the University is part of the City of Edinburgh Fairtrade

tea were served by the University's in-house team.

Mark Ballard, the University's rector, says: "It's great the University has made so much progress in selling products that ensure workers are treated fairly.

"The global trade system discriminates against the world's poorest people, and buying Fairtrade is one easy, everyday way of helping them while campaigners

"It's great that the University has made so much progress in selling products that ensure workers are treated fairly."

Steering Group. Fairtrade coffee and tea are the default choices of the University. In 2005, over one million Fairtrade cups of coffee and around 188,000 cups of

continue to push the UK Government to change these unfair trading rules. As the first Fairtrade university in Scotland, Edinburgh has set an excellent example."



Professor Stuart West with HRH Prince Philip

Chancellor honours academic innovators

Three outstanding academics received awards from HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of the University, at a special dinner in the Palace of Holyroodhouse in August.

The University of Edinburgh scholars were presented with their Chancellor's Awards in front of some 200 supporters of the University. Attendees included leaders of industry, prominent members of the financial community, key figures in public bodies and various Edinburgh alumni.

The awards, now in their fourth year, recognise innovation, creativity, personal dedication and relevance to society.

The winners were Dr Simon Bates of the School of Physics for his development of innovative teaching techniques; Professor Donald MacKenzie of the School of Political and Social Studies for his internationally acclaimed research on the sociology of information technology; and Professor Stuart West of the School of Biological Sciences, who has been described as one of the top five evolutionary ecologists in the world aged under 40.

University News

Duke of Edinburgh opens world-class research institute

HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, officially opened the University's £49 million Queen's Medical Research Institute (QMRI) in the summer.

The opening of the Institute marks a key milestone in the history of medical and scientific research at the University of Edinburgh, and the culmination of many years of fundraising for the new facility. Over 1,300 donors, including alumni, helped to achieve this vision.

The QMRI brings together hundreds of elite researchers from three major disciplines: Inflammation Research, Cardiovascular Medicine and Reproductive Biology.

All three are existing areas of international strength for Edinburgh, and uniting them in one building means that researchers are creating new work that reaches across disciplines.

The QMRI is located next to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and the University's Medical School. The



HRH Prince Philip meets researchers at QMRI

proximity to the hospital is central to the Institute's purpose. As Professor Haslett, the Institute's Director, explains: "The research is stimulated and guided by the diseases the patients are suffering from in the Infirmary, and QMRI is not about rare diseases; it's about Scotland's commonest deadly

diseases: strokes, heart attacks, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, liver and kidney failure. We can also more readily translate our discoveries into new ways of treating diseases because we are next to the hospital. Today's research is truly tomorrow's treatment."

Law Tercentenary anniversary events

The Law Tercentenary is a unique opportunity for the School of Law to celebrate its 300th anniversary year with graduates, staff, students and friends alike. We have a full programme of celebratory events throughout 2007 including lectures, receptions, honorary graduations and an alumni reunion weekend. A list of all events can be found at www.law.ed.ac.uk/tercentenary.

Highlights include:

8–10 June Alumni reunion weekend, including a gala dinner, tours and receptions

31 October House of Lords reception. A reception for our London-based law graduates hosted by Lord Hope and supported by Brodies

Our Tercentenary lecture series includes:

18 January Tercentenary lecture with Professor Sir Neil MacCormick, supported by Turcan Connell

9 February Tercentenary lecture on the origins of the School of Law with Professor John W Cairns, supported by Turcan Connell

23 November The WA Wilson Tercentenary Lecture with Lord Hope of Craighead

11 December Public Law Tercentenary Lecture with Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States

Honorary graduations:

10 February Honorary graduations with the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, The Right Honourable Lord Gill and Justice Albie Sachs of the Constitutional Court of South Africa

23 June In this special year law students will graduate separately alongside Professor Alexander McCall Smith, Professor Reinhard Zimmermann and Professor Martha Nussbaum

For all the latest University news, visit:
www.ed.ac.uk/news

McEwan and Prideaux collect James Tait prizes

Bestselling author Ian McEwan and acclaimed biographer Sue Prideaux joined the ranks of some of the greatest writers this summer when they were both presented with the University's annual literary awards.

The James Tait Black Memorial Prizes, which are the UK's oldest literary prizes, are awarded annually by the University for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous year.

At a ceremony in the Playfair Library Hall, Ian McEwan was awarded the fiction prize for his novel *Saturday*, while Sue Prideaux was the recipient of the best biography for her work *Edvard Munch: Behind the Scream*. The prizes were presented by leading novelist Ian Rankin.



Ian McEwan; Ian Rankin, Sue Prideaux

Alan Bundy wins IJCAI Award

The School of Informatics is proud to announce that Professor Alan Bundy has won the IJCAI Award for Research Excellence. This award is given to a scientist who has carried out a programme of research of consistently high quality yielding several substantial results.

Polish School of Medicine anniversary

In June 2006, the Polish School of Medicine (PSM) held a triple celebration to mark the 65th anniversary of the founding of the PSM at the University of Edinburgh, the 20th anniversary of the PSM Memorial Fund and the opening of the new Polish Room at the Chancellor's Building. This was a truly memorable occasion, with a wonderful atmosphere and a camaraderie which demonstrated that the spirit of the PSM is as alive as ever – indeed flourishing.



Dr Sobol and Professor Kulczycki

This was a truly memorable occasion, with a wonderful atmosphere and a camaraderie which demonstrated that the spirit of the PSM is as alive as ever – indeed flourishing.

On Monday 19 June, following the meeting of graduates and friends, the official opening of the Polish Room took place at the Chancellor's Building. Professor Savill invited the youngest and oldest graduates present, Dr Sobol (aged 80) and Professor Kulczycki (aged 95) respectively, to cut the three-tiered cake. The cake was topped with a fondant icing replica of Rostowski's 'Maternity', a bronze sculpture which had been presented to the University by PSM graduates.

Presentations of gifts were followed by an official photograph and lunch before the party made its way to the City Chambers, where they were piped into a Civic Reception hosted by the Lord Provost, the Right Honourable Lesley Hinds. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of University medals by the Principal to Dr Durkacz, the PSM's last remaining Edinburgh-based former student, graduate and member of staff of the PSM, and to Dr Sobol, initiator of the Memorial Fund.

The following morning graduates, friends and guests enjoyed a tour of the Chancellor's Building and a presentation on the contribution of e-based technology and information to the undergraduate medical curriculum. The celebrations concluded with a reception and buffet lunch hosted by Vice-Principal of Development Young Dawkins, who thanked the graduates and friends for their magnificent fundraising achievements on behalf of the University and for their continuing support. He reminded everyone that the University was their home, and that they would always be welcome to visit.

This is the third award to an Edinburgh artificial intelligence pioneer, Donald Michie and Geoffrey Hinton being past recipients. Alan Bundy is the only researcher to have won both the IJCAI Award for Research Excellence and the IJCAI Donald E Walker Distinguished Service Award. IJCAI is the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, the main international gathering of researchers and practitioners in artificial intelligence.

University News

The Carmichael Watson Project

An update by Dr Domhnall Uilleam Stiùbhart,
Celtic and Scottish Studies

In the University of Edinburgh Library strongroom are nine metres of shelving filled with notebooks and paper bundles composed by the pioneers of early Scottish Gaelic scholarship: the Carmichael Watson collection. Pride of place goes to the manuscripts of the famous folklore collector and editor, Alexander Carmichael (1832–1912).

An exciseman who came from the island of Lismore, for over 50 years Carmichael collected and transcribed a wealth of lore from his native Highlands: tales, ballads, historical narratives, archaeological and natural history observations, proverbs, riddles and unusual words, as well as the hymns and charms which made him famous. His two-volume *Carmina Gadelica* (1900) has since become a world-renowned 'bible of Celtic Christianity'.

For the past year the Carmichael Watson Project, with major funding from the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, and administered by the

Library Special Collections and the Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies, has been investigating this collection. Carmichael's original field notebooks have been located, allowing us to peer over his shoulder as he scribbles down a plethora of lore in both Gaelic and English. By studying the hitherto un-catalogued reverse side of the papers, we can identify the recycled original *Carmina* drafts, and trace how Carmichael edited his material for publication.

The latest findings of the project were circulated at a summer conference, sponsored by the University's Library and the Islands Book Trust, held on the island of Benbecula, where Carmichael lived and worked for nearly 20 years.

Much cataloguing and research work remains to be done, as does the dissemination of results to the wider community. Conference proceedings will appear shortly, while a biography and radio and television programmes



Celtic letters designed for *Carmina Gadelica*

are planned for next year. With the Carmichael Watson papers, and the vast collections of manuscripts and tapes preserved in the School of Scottish Studies Archives, Edinburgh has one of the best folklore resources of any university in the world. Thanks to the funding and promotion of online access to catalogues and priceless sound recordings already underway at Edinburgh, people throughout the world will be able to investigate the wealth of Scotland's heritage for themselves, to trace its transmission down through the generations, and to preserve it for generations to come.

A bilingual website for the project can be found at:

www.carmichaelwatson.lib.ed.ac.uk.

Mint painkiller takes leaf out of ancient medical texts

A new synthetic treatment inspired by ancient Greek and Chinese remedies could offer pain relief to millions of patients with arthritis and nerve damage, according to a new study from the University.

The Greek scholar Hippocrates treated sprains, joint pains and inflammation by cooling the skin, and traditional Chinese remedies used mint oil to the same end. Now scientists have discovered that cooling chemicals, which have the same properties as mint oil, have a dramatic painkilling effect when applied in small doses to the skin. Unlike conventional

painkillers, these compounds are likely to have minimal toxic side effects, especially because they are applied externally to the skin. This should mean they are ideal for chronic pain patients for whom conventional painkillers often do not work.

The Edinburgh study sets out exactly how the 'mint oil' compounds (and related, more powerful chemicals) work. They act through a recently discovered receptor (a protein which is capable of binding with these chemicals) which is found in a small percentage of nerve cells in the human



Ancient Greece inspires new remedy

skin. The scientists have found that when this receptor, called TRPM8, is activated by the cooling chemicals or cool temperatures, it inhibits the 'pain messages' being sent from the locality of the pain to the brain. Thus, the new treatment makes good use of the body's own mechanisms for killing pain.

For all the latest University news, visit:
www.ed.ac.uk/news

Geophysics alumnus picks up Geological Society Young Explorer Medal

Bryan Ritchie, who graduated from the University with a BSc in Geophysics in 1997, has been awarded the Geological Society's Young Explorer Medal for his outstanding contribution to both UK and international exploration. The Petroleum Group of the Geographical Society awards this prize annually to under-35s who have made a significant contribution to the discovery of hydrocarbons, or to an emerging talent who is making a significant impact on production.

The award recognises the significant contribution Bryan has made to the industry during his time working for BP. In his initial role, Bryan's work led to the generation, and subsequent drilling, of a major satellite discovery to the giant Magnus field in the UK sector of the

North Sea. Bryan is one of the few people in the industry to have a field named after him, and the 'Ritchie Channel' underpinned the need for additional well capacity on the platform and extends the field's life.

Bryan's career in exploration continued with Angola Block 31 where he worked on regional and prospect work, including the maturing of the Ceres prospect, which has also proved to be a discovery. His "golden touch" continued in the Sakhalin team, which he joined just before the first of the two discoveries and he worked to open up another "frontier" in the Shmidts where he was lead geoscientist responsible for interpreting the Medved prospect in the West Shmidt licence.



Bryan Ritchie

Bryan's career has not always been about exploration. He spent time in the Middle East and Pakistan Business Unit, where he made a significant contribution to the Sharjah underbalanced coiled tubing drilling campaign, which resulted in increased field production. The project reached the finals of the 2004 Helios awards.

Bryan is currently project leader for the SE Illizi exploration block in Algeria.

University awarded grant for sleep apnoea research

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) has awarded funding to the University of Edinburgh for research into the connection between sleep apnoea, high blood pressure and heart disease.

Breathing problems during sleep occur in up to four per cent of middle-aged people. The condition, known as 'sleep apnoea', can cause high blood pressure, which is a major risk factor for developing heart disease.

The first signs of disease can be detected in the aorta. The BHF grant will enable University researchers to investigate whether stiffening of the aorta – a warning sign for disease – is associated with varying extents of sleep apnoea conditions. The research may help to identify which people should be proactively treated to reduce their risk

of heart disease.

The awards are made every two months by the BHF's Project Grants Committee to fund research into the causes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart disease, Scotland's biggest killer.

The research may help to identify which people should be proactively treated to reduce their risk of heart disease.

Professor Jeremy Pearson, Associate Medical Director at the BHF, says: "The BHF funds over £50 million of heart research every year and our project grants make up a major part of this research. This latest round of grants will advance our knowledge further so

we can better understand, prevent, diagnose and treat Britain's biggest killer. We're delighted scientists at Edinburgh are helping our efforts to beat heart disease."



The link between sleep apnoea and heart disease is explored

University News

Newsweek ranks Edinburgh in top 50

The University has been ranked as a top 50 global university in a new list compiled by *Newsweek*. Edinburgh was placed 47th in the list and was the only Scottish institution to appear in the top 100.

The top five spots were awarded to American universities: Harvard, Stanford, Yale, California Institute of Technology and Berkeley, respectively. The University

of Cambridge was ranked sixth, while Oxford was positioned eighth.

The list took into consideration openness and diversity, as well as distinction in research. Institutions were evaluated using some of the measures used in well-known league tables such as Shanghai Jiaotong University and the *THES*.



MBA alumni reunite for 25th anniversary celebrations

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the MBA, all alumni and current students from the MBA programmes were invited to a packed three days of events in June.

Two half-day seminars, entitled 'The Latest Thinking', marked the start of the celebrations. Over 40 alumni, students and staff attended each event to hear a range of speakers from academia and industry debate topics of particular relevance to businesses today. Day one focused on the issue of resource shortages, including the threats and opportunities faced by businesses, while day two looked at the subject of innovation, knowledge assets and intellectual property.

Anyone undertaking an MBA is bound to have a competitive streak, so perhaps it was inevitable that a quiz should form part of the celebrations. Teams of students, alumni and staff competed against each other in this challenging but light-hearted event on



MBA alumni exercise their competitive streak

Friday evening. 'The Misfits', a team made up of University staff, were the overall winners. They were: Liz Welch (MBA 1993), Ken Baird (MBA 1995), Gordon Martin (MBA 1995), Ben Wood, Shona Williamson and Kate Crichton.

There was an early start the following morning for those who had opted to take part in the MBA 'Highland Games' out at Peffermill playing fields. Over lunch attendees were entertained by four Highland dancers from the Scottish Official Highland Dancing Association before the event was brought to a close with all 'clans' competing in a traditional tug-of-war.

The highlight of the celebrations took place that night at the Balmoral Hotel, a fitting venue for the 25th Anniversary Ball. Over 200 MBA alumni and partners attended the event, joined by past directors including Simon Coke, Jenny Rees and Jamie Fleck, and other staff, students and invited guests of the School. Many MBA classes from the past 25 years were represented, including some celebrating their own landmark anniversary.

A special mention should be made to the first group, the Class of 1981, who had made a particular effort to get back together for the event.

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Jennifer Baird reports on the redevelopment plans for the University's Main Library.

Booking a ticket to the 21st century

A look at the future of the Main Library



For over 400 years the University Library has been a source of information and inspiration for students ranging from Charles Darwin and Arthur Conan Doyle to Ian Rankin and Gordon Brown. For the last 40 of those years, the Main Library has been housed in the distinctive, A-listed Sir Basil Spence building overlooking the Meadows.

As part of the recently launched University of Edinburgh Campaign fundraising initiative, it is undergoing its first major redevelopment since its opening in 1967. Ultimately, it will provide world-class information services for the 21st century for students, staff and members of the public. The Main Library, which stands on the southwest corner of George Square and has stunning views on

several sides, will undergo extensive internal redesign over the next five to eight years. This will preserve the Library's historic treasures and reaffirm its status as the intellectual heart of the University, while also providing for the requirements of today and tomorrow's students. Helen Hayes, Vice-Principal for Knowledge Management, and Librarian to the University since 2003, is enthusiastic about the changes: "The Library is very important in many people's lives, and we want to ensure that the redesign is sympathetic to this. The programme of renovation is going to change the ground floor quite significantly, making it a modern, welcoming space for students in the future. There will be a café and updated reception and help points which are integrated into the environment. We want to welcome not just our own students, but also members of the community who

want to come in and use parts of the Library or research collections, or just have a cup of coffee."

One of the factors that helped get the Main Library project off the ground was student campaigning. Sarah Nicolson, who was President of the Student Union in 2003, held a major student survey to try and get changes made, producing a report on how students' working and learning were changing the way that libraries were being used. This report became the basis for the year-long consultation that took place before the redevelopment began. Being an A-listed Basil Spence building, much of the exterior (and parts of the interior) cannot be radically altered. Spence, famous for such buildings as the new Coventry Cathedral and the New Zealand parliament building, will be the focus of several commemorative events in 2007, the centenary of his birth.

Floors five and six, where Special Collections is housed, are currently in the process of being upgraded. Special Collections holds a host of valuable treasures such as illuminated Islamic manuscripts, fine Shakespeare quartos and an extensive collection of material

Basil Spence
Image courtesy
of RCAHMS



on the Scottish Enlightenment, as befits this leading Scottish university. Rare artefacts such as these will soon be more readily available for public view, with new showcasing and exhibition space allocated to displaying more of the University's intellectual heritage. "We have collections that people aren't even aware that we own," says Helen Hayes. "The fifth and sixth floors will be partly dedicated to showcasing these objects, and the rooftop will be transformed into a feature garden." The garden will be inspired by Scotland's geology, and is set to provide a stimulating study space on warm days, or one for hardy individuals in January!

Alumni worldwide have always shown a huge interest in the Library's activities and, along with many Edinburgh citizens, have been generous in their financial support. In 1667, "the pious and virtuous matron, Isobell Mitchell," widow of the city treasurer, donated "one hundred merks Scots" to the University Library (see picture), and Dr Henry Adam, medical scientist at the University and a great lover of rare books, left a legacy of £400,000 in 2004. Sheila Cannell, Director of Library Services, explains where the money from future fundraising successes will go: "It will be used to enhance the collections as well as to support the building redesign. The sixth floor will be altered to allow much more to be put on permanent display than previously. The redevelopment that we're undertaking is both to serve what the students need now, which is very different from what students may have needed in the past, and also to reinforce the fact that this is a research library, the intellectual warehouse of the University." Raising funds to continue with the redevelopment is an ongoing task, and the Library is fortunate to have support already from various funders who have made generous donations towards its future.

In terms of new technology, the redevelopment gives an opportunity to provide more convenient access to books, particularly for undergraduates.

Helen Hayes says: "Most people would prefer not to stand in a queue, so the course book (short loan) collection, for example, is being expanded so that any student, between lectures, can run in quickly and find the book they want, without actually having to go up three floors and search along the shelves to see if someone's got the book out! The plan is to preserve and enhance many of the features of the building through, for example, better use of lighting and appropriate colour schemes. Lewis and Hickey Architects and the design team have some exciting and innovative plans including terrific ideas for the use of glass to ensure that spaces look open; potentially with glass ceilings and floors and so on. The view from the rooftop is absolutely gorgeous anyway, very inspirational."

The redevelopment is one of the most significant changes to be made to the University's estate for many years. As Sheila Cannell points out: "the emphasis is on balancing the preservation of the great historic collections of the past with meeting the needs of current and future students." From Psychology to Philosophy, the Main Library has meant many different things to different people over the years, and in the future will meet the needs of many thousands in the University and the wider community. When the redesign work is complete, the new building will be the place for students to come for a whole range of facilities and services: a place to work in a peaceful atmosphere; somewhere to peruse and borrow the books, journals and other printed materials; and a high-tech focus for group study, student services and e-learning ... not forgetting somewhere to get a cup of coffee and meet with friends!

At the same time, it should not be forgotten that this is very much a research library, and will be fully equipped for the cutting-edge research for which Edinburgh is renowned. As the redevelopment progresses, students, staff and the wider community can look forward to all these things, and to celebrating the intellectual past, present and future of the University in the new Main Library.

For my final undergraduate year in 1976, the top floor of the Library became my home. Having enjoyed a very extracurricular first three years, I had to study hard in my final year to catch up with my more studious colleagues, and to respect the effort the University had made to develop my potential. Having a quiet, book-lined safe haven was a vital component to my enjoyment and enrichment – and I still use the library for moments of peaceful retreat and reflection!

SHEENA MCDONALD, TELEVISION PRESENTER

*My main memory of the University Library is photocopying my first book, *The Flood, on the Library copiers. There is a good chance that the first Rebus novel, *Knots and Crosses, was also copied here, although the exact details have faded somewhat over the years ...***

IAN RANKIN, NOVELIST

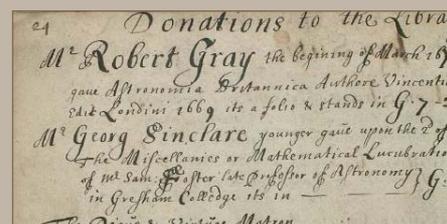


Ian Rankin in Main Library building.

My memories of the library are:

- *the second floor being a completely social space populated by History of Art students arranging their social lives (loudly); and*
- *spending far too much time in the coffee shop in the basement eating Kit Kats rather than studying.*

JENNY COLGAN, NOVELIST



An illustration from Henderson's Donation book, 1667, showing the first donations to the Library

Fresh from his second space mission, Edinburgh alumnus and astronaut Piers Sellers talks to Claire Simpson

SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL

“The clock ticks down. The turbo pumps way below you, winds up and then starts howling at 80,000 rpm. The rocket explodes off the pad and you are shaking violently in the cockpit. Once you’ve shaken, rattled and rolled, the sky changes from blue to black, you’re travelling five miles per second, and you can see Africa and Asia as you’re floating around the cabin.”

Edinburgh alumnus Piers Sellers speaks animatedly about his work – and by most people’s standards it certainly beats a day in the office. Sellers, who returned from his second space mission in July last year, is only the third Briton to have ever travelled into space.

Memories as a six-year-old boy of watching Yuri Gagarin undertake his historic adventure clearly left an impression upon Sellers. Inspired by the early space programme of the 1960s, his childhood fantasy of becoming an astronaut became a reality more than 40 years later.

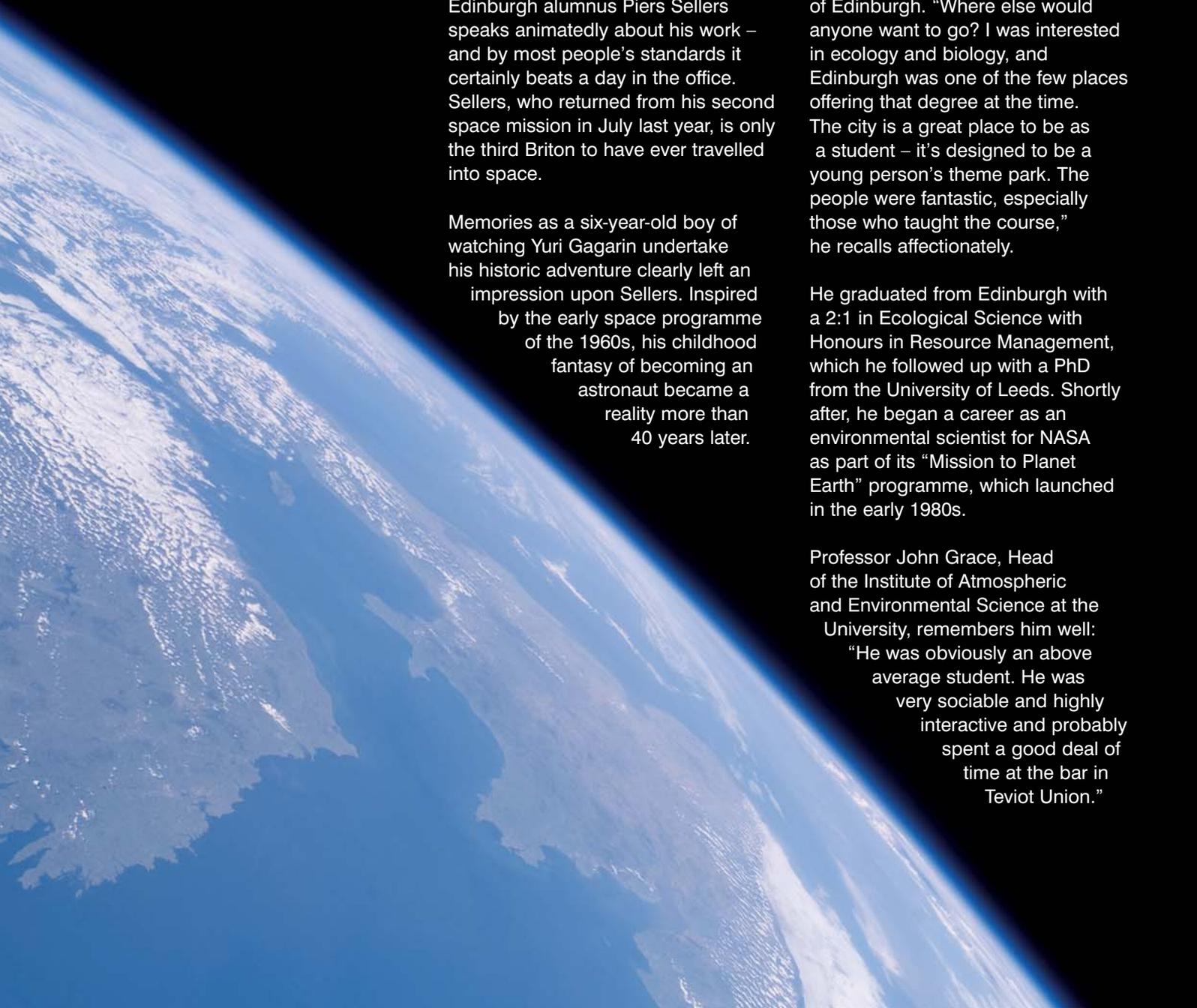
“I was born at the right time,” he modestly claims. “[The early space programme] was a background adventure to my childhood. It was exciting. You genuinely didn’t know if it was going to happen or not.”

Sellers’ enthusiasm for space travel was apparent early, but it was his passion for biology and ecology that led him to pursue a degree in Ecological Science at the University of Edinburgh. “Where else would anyone want to go? I was interested in ecology and biology, and Edinburgh was one of the few places offering that degree at the time. The city is a great place to be as a student – it’s designed to be a young person’s theme park. The people were fantastic, especially those who taught the course,” he recalls affectionately.

He graduated from Edinburgh with a 2:1 in Ecological Science with Honours in Resource Management, which he followed up with a PhD from the University of Leeds. Shortly after, he began a career as an environmental scientist for NASA as part of its “Mission to Planet Earth” programme, which launched in the early 1980s.

Professor John Grace, Head of the Institute of Atmospheric and Environmental Science at the University, remembers him well:

“He was obviously an above average student. He was very sociable and highly interactive and probably spent a good deal of time at the bar in Teviot Union.”





Photograph Alasdair Smith

“I’ll do anything and everything I can to persuade young people to become interested in science and engineering... Careers in science and engineering are mobile and can take you everywhere in the world, from Hong Kong to Australia, from underwater to space.”

He adds that it was throughout his scientific career that he emerged as an “amazing leader”.

Professor Paul Jarvis, who also taught Sellers at Edinburgh, echoes this. He worked with Sellers on the Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study (BOREAS), a massive international interdisciplinary experiment in Canada involving more than 250 scientists. Sellers co-led the project and it was this high-profile managerial role that Professor Jarvis says was the acme of his scientific career.

“Piers was the bright, young, dynamic leader. He would organise gatherings, in which we would drink beer and discuss our progress. He would run these meetings wearing his army fatigue gear. He was a good coordinator but he wasn’t just a manager – he’s a damn good scientist and has top scientific credentials,” he relates.

Professor Jarvis credits Sellers with the mushrooming of similar integrated projects and the development of the scientific instrumentation required to carry out the remote sensing they were involved in. “What didn’t exist in 1990 can now be bought off the shelf. Piers was at the heart of these developments through BOREAS,” he says. It was shortly after the BOREAS project that Sellers was selected for NASA’s astronaut programme in 1996 and, in an age where scientific subjects are declining in popularity, surely there is no better advocate for scientific careers.

Sellers says: “I’ll do anything and everything I can to persuade young people to become interested in science and engineering. I don’t think young people know enough about what careers in science and engineering can offer. They think too much about the image of a man with short hair and a white coat who

listens to bad music. Careers in science and engineering are mobile and can take you everywhere in the world, from Hong Kong to Australia, from underwater to space. You can choose where you want to go, because the skills are transportable.”

And what young person wouldn’t be inspired by a man who has been able to “watch the world go by” from outside a space vehicle? “[Space] is a beautiful place. It’s addictive,” says Sellers. And while it’s a place that he is unlikely to revisit, his work involves more than gathering breathtaking memories.

He reveals: “Professionally, the highlight is being where I am, part of a bigger programme, and working with people who have amazing ideas and the genuine belief that they can happen. It’s incredible to work in an environment where amazing things happen for the first time ever.”

Review of the Year 2005/06



The University will publish its Annual Review for the financial year 2005/06 in January. The Review focuses on the University community's contribution to excellence, and the abbreviated version below covers some of the highlights. The full Review will be available electronically at www.ed.ac.uk/annualreview/, and can also be made available in Braille and large print format, or on CD, disc or audio cassette.

If you are attending the General Council meeting on Saturday 3 February 2007, and would like a copy in advance, please contact the Publications Team:

Communications and Marketing, The University of Edinburgh Centre, 7-11 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9BE; email Communications.Office@ed.ac.uk; telephone 0131 650 2252.

AUGUST 2005

- Scientists at the University develop a new technique which can rid surgical instruments of the infectious agents that cause Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) in humans. The project is funded by the Department of Health and could soon be developed commercially.
- HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of the University, presents awards to Professor Jean Beggs, from the School of Biological Sciences, for her work on molecular genetics, and Professor Jane Dawson for her development of innovative e-Teaching techniques in the School of Divinity.
- Scientists at the Universities of Edinburgh and Milan make a major breakthrough in tackling neurological conditions like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. They are the first in the world to develop a new technique to grow pure brain stem cells, helping to discover more about these diseases.

SEPTEMBER 2005

- A trial led by Professor Keith Fox produces landmark results, revealing that more than 5,000 lives could be saved in the UK each year by changing the way Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) is treated. Professor Fox's research, funded by the British Heart Foundation, is the first large long-term study to show that early specialist assessment and procedures to repair or bypass damaged arteries can save lives of people with ACS.
- The Economic and Social Research Council's Genomics Policy and Research Forum launches at the University. The Forum aims to help further our understanding of the use of genomics-related science and technologies.

OCTOBER 2005

- The *Sunday Times University Guide* ranks Edinburgh as the Scottish University of the Year.
- The University joins a ground-breaking international alliance that will work towards the development of new drug therapies. The Scottish Centre for Genomic Technology and Informatics (GTI) at the University is one of nine centres around the world to have been chosen by US genetics company Dharmacon to form a new Genome-Wide RNAi Global Initiative to advance biomedical research.
- The Edinburgh Research Partnership (ERP) is launched. The £24 million initiative will make Scotland's capital a magnet for international funding and will support postgraduate talent working in key areas of engineering and mathematics.

NOVEMBER 2005

- The University wins one of the prestigious Queen's Anniversary prizes for the Virtual Hospital Online, a learning support environment developed in the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine. The Virtual Hospital allows students to access a vast range of online resources and services, tailored specifically to their studies.
- Scientists from the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, together with scientists from a pharmaceutical company, identify a new gene linked to major mental illness that links back to a previously discovered gene known to increase the risk of schizophrenia and depression.

DECEMBER 2005

- New research by University scientists shows an important breakthrough in understanding how animals with complex nervous systems, such as humans, achieve rapid signalling between their nerve cells. The discovery may lead to new ways to help treat patients with multiple sclerosis.
- The University's Management School wins the inaugural Scottish Financial Enterprise Innovators Award for its new MSc in Finance and Investment, beating off entries from leading banks and finance and investment houses.



- University scientists discover a potential new treatment for rheumatoid arthritis. They identify a new class of compounds which could lead to the production of a cheaper but equally effective version of an existing treatment of rheumatoid arthritis called anti-TNF therapy.

JANUARY 2006

- The University's annual turnover exceeds £400 million for the first time, making it the largest university in Scotland, and sixth in the UK, in terms of overall income.
- The University is the first institution in Scotland to take part in the National Student Survey, which asks final-year students for their views on the quality of their degree programmes and universities.

FEBRUARY 2006

- The University collaborates in Generation Scotland, an ambitious and ground-breaking project looking at the ways genetic and lifestyle factors can cause cancer, heart disease and mental illness.
- The University signs an agreement with the Systems Biology Institute in Tokyo which will enable multidisciplinary research to take place, bringing together biologists, mathematicians and computer scientists.

MARCH 2006

- The University's eScience Institute is awarded funding of over £2.7 million through an Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council grant which will enable it to continue its programme of support for the UK eScience community.
- The Student Barometer Project sees the University rated highly by international students for reputation, friendliness and teaching quality. The study is considered to be a global benchmark of expectations and experiences among international students.

APRIL 2006

- Major funding is announced to enable researchers at the University to tackle some of the most difficult challenges facing biological science. The £8.5 million award, from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), will support a new centre for research into integrative systems biology.
- A major donation by *Harry Potter* author JK Rowling enables the University to form a Scottish Multiple Sclerosis research centre – the first of its kind in the UK.

- The University of Edinburgh is to participate in the world's first Translational Medicine Research Collaboration. The collaboration is the result of an investment, worth up to £50 million, by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies.

MAY 2006

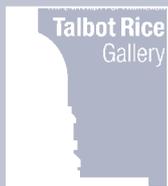
- Professor Tom Devine, the pre-eminent authority on the history of modern Scotland, delivers his inaugural lecture reviewing the Anglo-Scottish Union, in the approach to the 300th anniversary of the Union of the Parliaments.
- The University appoints two new Vice-Principals. Professor Steve Chapman will take up the position of Vice-Principal of Planning and Resources in September 2007, while Professor Lorraine Waterhouse will take up the position of Vice-Principal for Equality and Diversity in January 2007.

JUNE 2006

- The University launches a major five-year energy reduction campaign internally. The scheme aims to save money, reduce the University's carbon dioxide emissions, and contribute to the global fight against climate change.
- The University will join a £22 million research initiative set up to help scientists better understand the planet's environmental problems. The Scottish Alliance for GeoScience, Environment and Society (SAGES) will focus on subjects such as climate change, soil erosion, floods and greenhouse gases and their wider impact.
- Edinburgh researchers devise a new means to identify groups of people genetically more at risk from bowel cancer, potentially leading to new measures to prevent the disease for thousands of people in the future.
- Graduations proceed almost entirely to plan despite industrial action by some staff.

JULY 2006

- The University forms a partnership with its neighbour the Royal College of Surgeons to offer a degree in Surgical Science. The collaboration is thought to be their first ever formal agreement.
- Scientists at Edinburgh discover primitive liver cells in the human body that have the potential to mature into different cell types and help repair a failing liver. The findings suggest alternative methods to liver transplants in treating liver diseases.



The University of Edinburgh's

Talbot Rice Gallery

Talbot Rice Gallery is the public art gallery of the University of Edinburgh. Established in 1975, it is named after David Talbot Rice, Professor of Fine Art (1934–1972). The Gallery is rooted in an academic situation. It plays a key role in the cultural life of the city, drawing a local, national and international audience to a dynamic programme of exhibitions and events.

Exhibition spaces

The White Gallery is the main exhibition space at Talbot Rice, showing five major changing exhibitions per year. The round room is a unique architectural space, which links the White and Georgian galleries. The permanent collection is on show in the Georgian Gallery, a fine room originally designed by William Playfair. The display consists of Old Master paintings, sculptures and Renaissance bronzes.

Friends of the Talbot Rice Gallery

The Friends were formed in 1976. By organising fundraising activities, lectures and visits, Friends help support the Gallery. With invitations to exhibition previews and events as well as a programme of special lectures and outings throughout the year, the Friends group is a vital part of your cultural diary. Why not join? Contact the Gallery for membership information.

Supporting the Gallery

Talbot Rice receives funding from the University of Edinburgh and the Scottish Arts Council. Donations through sponsorship, trusts and foundations, Friends of the Talbot Rice Gallery and individuals enable the Gallery to further develop and strengthen the programme.

There are a number of ways you can help to support us. For example:

- £10 will buy one year's membership to Friends of the Talbot Rice Gallery
- £25 will help to print an exhibition guide
- £100 will provide materials for a children's workshop
- £5,000 will fund a year of round room projects

For information on how to make a donation, and how you can support the Fine Art Collection, please contact the University's Development Office on 0131 650 2240.

Talbot Rice Gallery

The University of Edinburgh
Old College
South Bridge
Edinburgh EH8 9YL

T: 0131 650 2210

E: info.talbotrice@ed.ac.uk

W: www.trg.ed.ac.uk

Opening hours

Tuesday–Saturday 10am–5pm,
admission to all spaces is free.

Exhibitions

JAMIE SHOVLIN - AGGREGATE 20 January–10 March 2007

A touring project of Jamie Shovlin's work. Part of the project is the visual study of multiple copies of Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, each edited to show the text most relevant to each individual reader. It is pertinent that the exhibition be held in the University's Talbot Rice Gallery; 180 years earlier Darwin whiled away his free time in the same space – what was then the Natural History Museum – surely inspiring his revolutionary thought on evolution of humankind.

ALEX POLLARD 21 April–2 June 2007

Predominantly a sculptor, Pollard's working methods involve taking familiar objects, breaking them down and rebuilding them as precarious fictions. Recently he has formed sculptures, from what appear on first glance to be rulers and pencils, but are actually painted *trompe l'oeil* plaster casts.

Images

Main image

Alex Pollard, *Figures*, 2005.
Image courtesy of Sorcha Dallas

Inset images (left to right)

Jamie Shovlin, stack of multiple editions of Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species* (1859), 2006

The Torrie Collection, After Domenihino, *Martyrdom of St Andrew*, James Erskine 1823

Robert Hughes reception, Festival 2005



Ronald Kerr talks to Alexander McCall Smith about his connection with Africa and plans for Edinburgh to revive its ties with the continent.

Out of Africa

When the writer Alexander McCall Smith talks about Edinburgh Law School's ambitious plans to reinvigorate its long-standing ties with southern Africa, you can imagine Botswana's No. 1 sleuth, Precious Ramotswe, beaming with pride. Mma Ramotswe would detect genuine enthusiasm in the voice of her literary creator as he speaks of a new venture which will enable African law graduates to complete their postgraduate studies in Edinburgh.

The initiative is part of a programme of activity, beginning this year, which marks 300 years since Edinburgh's first chair in Law was established – a milestone of more than passing interest to Alexander McCall Smith, who retired as Professor of Medical Law at Edinburgh in 2005 to concentrate on his writing career.

A Tercentenary appeal aims to raise £4.1 million to enhance the continuing standards of excellence in law at Edinburgh, and a key part of that initiative is attracting the brightest students from the UK and around the world.

The School's ambitious scholarship fund is particularly close to the heart of the best-selling author. Professor McCall Smith played a key role in a pioneering scheme in the 1970s which saw the then Faculty of Law transformed by a regular annual intake of undergraduate law students from southern Africa.

It is a time of which Professor McCall Smith speaks fondly, as he taught dozens of law students from the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland – the forerunner of the present-day University of Botswana, where he helped to set up the Law Faculty in 1981.

Edinburgh was a less cosmopolitan place in the seventies and Professor McCall Smith is full of admiration for the way the young African students responded to the challenge.

"The students spent two years of their undergraduate law programme at Edinburgh, and they made a very important contribution to the life of the University. They brought an interesting perspective and it proved to be a

valuable link which was a very positive influence on the Law faculty.

"You can go to those parts of southern Africa today and find senior figures in the legal profession and judiciary who have an Edinburgh background – people who were exposed to, and took an interest in, Scots law.

"I remember many of the students from those days, and I still see them now when I am in Botswana. They remain very loyal to Edinburgh and have a strong affection for the University."

The same could be said of Professor McCall Smith's attachment to Africa. Just as the great Scots writer, Lewis Grassie Gibbon, wrote brilliantly about his native Kincardineshire when he was an adult exiled in the Home Counties, so too has distance helped the Edinburgh-based McCall Smith evoke, with simplicity and clarity, the landscape of southern Africa where he grew up.

"My writing reflects the parts of the world that I know, and Africa is where I spent my childhood. It's impossible not to be moved by its impressive and



affecting landscape, and its people. I very much hope that the reader will get a glimpse of the remarkable qualities of Botswana.”

It is also easy to detect in his series of Detective Agency novels a benign legal mind at work – though, of course, less so than in his earlier specialist texts such as *The Criminal Law of Botswana* and *Forensic Aspects of Sleep*. It is a mind which has created an appealing character in Mma Ramotswe who is, at once, inventive yet steeped in convention, practical yet soft-hearted but, most of all, wise.

An initiative such as the new scholarships programme will, it is hoped, help to transform that world for the better, but the Dean of the University of Edinburgh’s School of Law, Professor William Gilmore, believes that the programme will also enhance academic life at Edinburgh.

He says: “The international perspective, which this scheme brings, is of invaluable benefit to the School and its students: it promotes diversity in teaching and research and the students ultimately take the legal knowledge gained back to their country.”

“I remember many of the students from those days, and I still see them now when I am in Botswana. They remain very loyal to Edinburgh and have a strong affection for the University.”

“Perhaps it’s inevitable that my fiction writing will be affected by my professional interests. But when I write about Precious Ramotswe, I try to get across the justifiable sense of pride which the people of Botswana have in their country.

“By the time it became independent in 1966, Botswana had been rather neglected by the British – there wasn’t very much in terms of roads and schools, for example – but the people of Botswana have built it up very successfully. They are proud of those achievements and they have a great love of their country, which Mma Ramotswe is not ashamed to talk about.”

Professor McCall Smith returns each year to that remarkable country – most recently to set up a music scholarships programme and a literary prize – and he has been delighted to find that his books are as popular there as at home.

“I was worried that they might have reservations about an outsider writing about their society, but they appear to like the way in which their world is portrayed.”

The Tercentenary scholarship fund has already received £15,000 in donations, but Professor Gilmore hopes that more donors will support the initiative. A gift of at least £10,000 per year is needed to enable one African student to study for a one-year law masters degree at Edinburgh.

The Dean’s sentiments are echoed by Professor McCall Smith: “The scholarships initiative is a wonderful idea and, if people could support it, that would be marvellous because there are long-established ties between Scotland and southern Africa.

“Edinburgh has a great deal to offer the next generation of southern African students at postgraduate level. It is one of the great law schools of western Europe, and I know that those students from Africa who studied here in the 1970s took a great deal from their time here.”

Professor McCall Smith believes that the programme could produce lasting benefits which are evident far beyond the precincts of Old College: “Academic links such as this are very important, particularly in law, because the development of good government and a stable legal system is crucial if African countries are to develop and change.”

Alumni News



Veterinary alumni homecoming weekend

In June 2007, the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies will celebrate 50 years of the BVM&S degree, which has been awarded since the Dick Vet College joined with the University of Edinburgh.

To mark this anniversary, all Vet alumni are being invited back to Edinburgh for a homecoming weekend from 22 to 24 June. The weekend's programme will include the William Dick Memorial

Lecture, a day of CPD, tours of the animal hospitals at Easter Bush, a gala dinner and a Sunday brunch at Summerhall.

We hope many classes will consider holding reunions to coincide with the homecoming weekend, and a number of groups are already considering this.

If you would like to get together with your classmates, please contact Development & Alumni at the email address listed on page 23 – we'd be delighted to help you.

1957 BVM&S

The class of BVM&S 1957 are planning to meet up in Edinburgh at some point during the homecoming weekend to celebrate their 50th anniversary of graduation.

Members of that first 1952 year are invited to contact:

John Dawson (01928-714546);
or Peter Moody (01823-490537,
email peter@allsunny.co.uk).

Classics 1956

Seven students who matriculated at the University of Edinburgh in 1952 graduated with Honours in Classics 50 years ago on 5th July 1956. Sadly one of our number died many years ago, but the remaining six have all kept in touch throughout these 50 years and have lunched together in the city on various anniversaries of the graduation date. Most recently, on 5 July 2006, all six with four spouses, including one Edinburgh Classics graduate of a later date, met in Old College, our

academic home, to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Recent years have robbed us of nearly all our mentors; Dr Theodore Cadoux (Ancient History) alone survives of those who greeted us in 1952. We were delighted that he accepted our invitation this year to join us with his wife, and to find that, although recently retired from hill-walking and country dancing, he is still, at 89 years old, engaged in academic research. We were pleased also to welcome Mr Alan Hood, who looked in to bring greetings from the present Classics staff.

As we enter our 70s, we haven't been wholly immune to physical frailties, but these are easily forgotten as we revive the spirit of our youth. The essence of the bond forged by four years of shared experience in a small group seems to return immediately we enter the Old Quad. We thank the University for the foundation it gave to our lives all these years ago, and for the lasting friendship, support and companionship of our fellow graduates.

And the tradition continues; 2006 saw the graduation at Edinburgh of two sons of the 1956 graduates.

Edinburgh University Music Society 140th anniversary celebration

Edinburgh University Music Society (formally the Reid Orchestra and Edinburgh University Musical Society) proudly announces its 140th anniversary. To commemorate the occasion, we will perform a series of concerts throughout the year. Highlights include:

10 March: Sinfonia & Chorus, St Cuthbert's Church, 7.30pm: programme

likely to include Puccini's "Messe di Gloria" and competition winner's composition.*

18 March: Symphony Orchestra, Greyfriars Kirk, 7.30pm: Neilsen Symphony No.4; MacMillan The Confession of Isobel Gowdie; Revueltas Sensemaya

11 May: EUMS Gala Concert, Greyfriars Kirk, 7.30pm (programme TBC)

November: (venue & date TBC) Symphony Orchestra & Chorus: Verdi Requiem

Former members who want to be involved are urged to get in touch. We'd love to see as many of you as possible at the performances we have lined up.

If you want to find out more, please email eums.alumni@gmail.com or take a look at our website: <http://musoc.eusa.ed.ac.uk>.

* We are holding a competition to compose a fanfare to be played by Sinfonia. Please see our website or contact eums.secretary@gmail.com for more details.

For all the latest Alumni news, visit:

www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk

Does 2007 mark a significant anniversary of your graduation from the University of Edinburgh? Perhaps five, ten, 25 or even 50 years? Maybe your class is already planning a reunion – that's great, and hopefully we already know about it, but if not please let us know. If you haven't started organising your reunion yet, then don't worry, it's not too late. Development & Alumni can help you to contact your former classmates, find a venue and give other general advice and assistance. Simply visit our website at www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk or email beth.munro@ed.ac.uk to request a copy of our Guidelines on Organising a Reunion. We look forward to hearing from you.

Reunions in 2007

1947 MB ChB

John Loudon
25/26 July 2007
New College of Surgeons Hall

1957 MB ChB

Graham Meikle
26–28 September 2007
Peebles Hotel Hydro

1957 BDS

Andrew Ross &
Stewart MacGregor

1957 LLB

Michael Wallace
Date and venue Tbc

1962 MB ChB

Dr Hamish Polson
6–8 June 2007
Peebles Hotel Hydro

1962 MA French

Jim Inglis
6 July 2007
Braidwoods Restaurant,
Dalry, Ayrshire
Contact: jtandu-inglis@tiscali.co.uk

1960–1964 EU Yacht Club

Tom Taylor
14–16 September 2007
Contact: thomastaylor_217@hotmail.com

1972 BVM&S

Helen Franklin
21–22 September 2007
Edinburgh

1967 MB ChB

Dr Gilmour
5–7 October 2007
Peebles Hotel Hydro

1971/1972 LLB

Alan Sharp
21–22 September 2007
Edinburgh

1972 BSc Agriculture

Mr John Marshall
Oct/Nov 2007

1976 BSc Engineering

Keith Raeburn
2 June 2007
Teviot Row Union

1977 MB ChB

James Garden
31 August –
2 September 2007
Gleneagles Hotel

1982 BSc Chemistry

Dorothy Welch
23 June 2007

1987 MB ChB

Dr Peter McCalister
27–28 April 2007
Caledonian Hotel,
Edinburgh

1992 BVM&S

Michael Stevenson
7 July 2007
Balmoral Hotel,
Edinburgh

1992 MB ChB

Dr Drummond Begg
23–25 March 2007
Peebles Hotel Hydro

2002 BVM&S

Sarah Gasper
June/July 2007
Edinburgh

Reunions in 2008

1988 MB ChB

Clare Livingston
6–8 June 2008
Peebles Hotel Hydro
Contact: clarelivingston@doctors.org.uk

1987/1988 BVM&S

Ali Cullum

1988 BSc Agricultural Economics

Harry Elwin

Reunions in 2011

MB ChB 1966

Ruth Mackenzie
2–4 September 2011 Scotland
Contact: ruth@surrendenlodge.com

reunion (ri:'ju:njən) *n.*
A gathering of relatives, friends
or former associates.

Sounds like fun! And that's what reunions should be – enjoyable, individual, memorable. But like all successful meetings there's a great deal of planning and organisation involved, and that's where we come in.

At the Peebles Hydro we've a wealth of experience in working with universities, arranging and holding a variety of reunions. This enables us to provide you with plenty of ideas, take a lot of the burden of organisation off your shoulders, and ensure everything is 'alright on the night'. In fact, we can take care of all the details from programmes and place cards to menus and themed events.

On top of that, the Hydro is the perfect venue – a stunning Borders location and a range of leisure facilities that has something for everyone.

If you're planning a reunion why not give us a ring? We'll be delighted to use all our experience to ensure your event is something just that little bit special, and also less work for you.



Please contact:
Gerard Bony, Peebles Hotel Hydro,
Peebles EH45 8LX.
Tel: 01721 720602. Fax: 01721 722999.
E-mail: info@peeblehydro.com
Website: www.peeblehydro.com

For details of alumni clubs or reunions, or to make contact with a reunion organiser, please contact Beth Munro, Development & Alumni, tel +44 (0)131 650 2240, email beth.munro@ed.ac.uk or visit www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk.

Alumni News

Forthcoming Club events

Edinburgh University Club of London

Burns Supper 2007 (joint event with the Aberdeen Club)

Friday 2 February, 6.30 for 7.00 pm
St Columba's Church Hall,
Pont St, SW1

This year the Edinburgh and Aberdeen London Clubs are organising a joint Burns Supper. The evening's entertainment will include a full three-course sit-down meal with haggis and a nip and dancing to the Wrangle Taggle Band.

A cash wine bar will operate for additional drinks. Tickets £42 per head.

Club quarterly dinners

First Thursday of every March, June, September and December 7.00 for 7.30 pm at the Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1

This dinner is an informal event (although men need to wear a jacket and tie). Payment is by cash at the end of the evening. No need to book, but if you are coming please let Peter Stephenson know in advance so we know how large a table to book.

The cost is normally around £35 per head.

For details of both the Burns Supper and quarterly dinners, please contact:

Peter Stephenson
Tel: 01754 89 6622 (24hr)
Email: sunningdale8@hotmail.co.uk



Glenmorangie – a history of whisky



David Blackmore, an enthusiastic representative of Glenmorangie, did a fine job giving the Atlanta Chapter a history of whisky, and of his company, and answering all manner of questions, always with a smile. We are already talking about a return visit! The photograph depicts the people involved in Round 2 of the tasting. Each group took about an hour to savour six varieties of single malt!

Edinburgh University Club of Toronto (EDUCT)

The 2007 Burns' Nightcap

Thursday 25 January, 6.30pm–9.30pm,
Bow and Arrow Pub,
1954 Yonge Street, near Yonge
and Davisville, Toronto
Haggis and other delectable goodies
will be presented.

Talk by Mayor David Miller

Sunday 25 February 2007, 3pm–5pm
The Arts and Letters Club, 14 Elm
Street, Toronto

The current Mayor of Toronto, David Miller, will join EDUCT members for tea and a cash bar. He will give a talk on future plans for the City of Toronto.

Talk by Dr David Wood

Sunday 25 March 2007, 3pm–5pm
The Arts and Letters Club,
14 Elm Street, Toronto

David Wood, Historical Geographer, graduate of the University of Edinburgh, Professor Emeritus at York University, will give a talk on 'Scots in the Settlement of Ontario'. Coffee, tea, cookies and cash bar.

EDUCT Annual Dinner

Friday 4 May 2007, 6.30pm
Great Hall of the Arts and
Letters Club, 14 Elm Street, Toronto

Another fun-filled evening is being planned promising to surpass last year's successful event. The President of the Sir Walter Scott Society, Harry Ferguson, will speak at the dinner on the subject of Sir Walter Scott.

For further details of all these events contact:
Anna Voineskos at agvoineskos@rogers.com or on 416-964-6319.

For all the latest Alumni news, visit:
www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk

Edinburgh University History Graduates' Association – the David Horn Prize

The Edinburgh University History Graduates' Association (EUHGA) has regrettably been wound up after 23 years of service.

(Something of its history can be found in its October 2005 Newsletter.) At a General Meeting in March 2006 the members decided to donate the assets of the Association, amounting to more than £7,000, to fund a prize in memory of David Horn, who held the chair of Modern History from 1954 until his death in 1969. (For more on David Horn, see 'A fortunate life' in the April 2004 Newsletter.)

Dr Frank Cogliano writes: "The History Subject Area is profoundly grateful to the EUHGA for its generosity in establishing the David Horn Prize. In honour of the Association's long and distinguished tradition of cooperation with the History department, the prize will recognise annually the most deserving History graduate who continues to do postgraduate work in the subject at the University ... a fitting tribute to the fine work of EUHGA and the distinguished colleague for whom the prize is named."

50 years of Applied Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh (6-8 September 2007)

To mark the 50th anniversary of academic Applied Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh, the 40th Annual Meeting of the British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL) will be held in Edinburgh in 2007, hosted by the University.

Details of the conference will be posted on the BAAL website (www.baal.org) after this year's conference. As part of the

BAAL Meeting, a Pit Corder Colloquium will be held in celebration of the Edinburgh contribution to Applied Linguistics. There will also be a jubilee feast.

Former students and staff who would like more information about the reunion are encouraged to contact Jean McCutcheon at jubilee07@googlemail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

New Scotland Country Dance Society's 60th anniversary

New Scotland will be holding their 60th anniversary celebration next year. The main event will be a ball on Saturday 19 May 2007 in South Hall, Pollock Halls (provisional). The ball programme is being written by Alex Gray which, along with a hot buffet and top-notch band, guarantees a good night. Band, ticket price, time and venue are to be confirmed. See our website (www.newscotland.org.uk) for information or, alternatively, contact Yoshimi Kuroda (see below) nearer the time.

A reception, held on the afternoon of the 19th, with tea and coffee will allow reflection on 60 years of New Scotland. If you wish to contribute any photos,

videos etc, please let us know.

We are also publishing an anniversary dance book. If you wish any dances considered for inclusion please send us cribs before New Scotland's Annual Dance (27 January). Other limited edition merchandise, such as CDs, kilt pins and brooches, will also be available.

We'd like to see as many people as possible celebrate New Scotland's 60th so please pass this information to any ex-members you know to spread the word! For more information please contact: Yoshimi Kuroda on suiren96@hotmail.com or visit www.newscotland.org.uk.

The University of Edinburgh Campaign website:

www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk

The University of Edinburgh Campaign website is a great place to discover more about how you can continue to be a part of the University of Edinburgh community worldwide. You'll find details of forthcoming class reunions and alumni groups and clubs in the UK and overseas; information about

exclusive benefits for University of Edinburgh alumni, including discounted room hire and access to sports facilities here at the University, as well as special rates on a programme of educational cruises; and much more. The website also enables you to keep up to date with the progress of the Campaign, and provides a straightforward and secure way for you to make your own contribution to the largest fundraising

campaign for higher education ever launched in Scotland.

For further information, please contact:

Development & Alumni
 The University of Edinburgh,
 Charles Stewart House,
 9-16 Chambers Street
 Edinburgh EH1 1HT

Tel +44 (0) 131 650 2240

Fax +44 (0) 131 650 2239

Email edinburghcampaign@ed.ac.uk

World Service



1950s

Dr Heather Day (née Douglas) MB ChB 1957 Retired from the Cambridge Health Alliance (formerly the Cambridge Hospital) in Cambridge, MA, USA.

Dr Margaret Grant (née Abel) MB ChB 1958 Semi-retired. Does locum appointments in rural hospitals in Kwazulu Natal.

Mr George M Luke BSc 1959 Came to Scotland for two months' holiday in July and August 2006.

1960s

Mr Ian M Malcolm MA 1960 His book, *Dundee Memories*, was published by Birlinn in 2005.

Professor Ian Halliday MA 1961 MSc 1962 CEO of SUPA.

Professor Dr N S Sidhu PhD 1963 Retired Senior Professor and Head of Indian Veterinary Research Institute.

Mr Michael Macmillan LLB 1964 Retired and now a Highland Councillor.

Dr John Alexander MB ChB 1965 Retired and now raising second family.

Mr Bruce Mackenzie MA 1966 Retired but still involved with The Langbridge Partnership: www.langbridgepartnership.com

Dr Robert Sutherst BSc 1966 Retired from his position as a Chief Research Scientist with CSIRO Australia in March 2006. He is now an Honorary Reader at the University of Queensland, writing up past research on tick ecology, and on biological responses to climate change.

Mrs Hilda Dick (née Henderson) MA 1969 Retired Assistant Director of Education. Now working as Educational Consultant for West Lothian Council. Member of additional support needs tribunal for Scotland.

1970s

Dr Christina Trotter PhD 1971 Intends to spend from April to November in France and the rest of the year in Florida.

Professor Santiago Ortuzar MSc 1973 Book *Idealism and Utopia in Town Planning of the 20th Century* was launched in September 2006 at Mayor University.

Professor Catherine Warwick CBE (née Blackett) BSc (SS) 1973 Honorary Professor of Midwifery, Director and General Manager of Women and Children's Services, Kings College Hospital, London. Awarded CBE for Services to Healthcare in the Queen's Birthday Honours, June 2006.

Dr Shahpur Patell BSc 1974 Home Bursar at Jesus College Oxford since July 2006.

Dr Carey Singleton Jr BS MA PhD 1974 Poet and writer.

Ms Zoe C Capernaros MA 1978 Part-time Consulting Medical Herbalist with practice in Haymarket, Edinburgh.

Dr Katharine Cooper PhD 1979 Now growing crops of the varieties she developed on a 500 hectare farm and finding, to her relief, how strong and reliably productive they are.

1980s

Dr Anne Woodfine née Messer BSc 1980 Currently working for the United Nations food and agriculture organisation.

Mr Richard Watt MA 1984 Has now given up his IT career and moved to British Columbia (Canada) in search of time and space to do some writing and be a house spouse!

Mr Robin P Lim LLB 1985 Dip 1986 Currently on sabbatical in Switzerland.

Dr Katherine Varvill BSc 1985 Currently living in Houston, Texas, due to husband's work.

Professor A Coyle CMG PhD 1986 Received the Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in 2003.

Mr Ian Brown NGU 1987 Board Member, One North-East.

Mr Joseph Dube LLB 1987 After 13 years in private practice in New Brunswick followed by two years with the New Brunswick Legal Aid Commission, has returned to Ottawa where he is working at the Legal Aid Ontario Criminal Law Office as Defense Counsel.

Mrs Johanna E McDowell (née Stowell) BSc 1987 Housewife, farmer, volunteer at riding for disabled, special needs assistant four mornings at playgroup. No financial remuneration for any of the above!

Dr Alan Riley LLM 1987 PhD 2003 Currently writing a book on due process in competition law for OUP.

Miss Angela Cunliffe LLB 1988 On a career break raising children.

Miss Mandy Davidson BCom 1988 Works for PricewaterhouseCoopers but is currently on a two-year career break.



Mr Martin Sinclair BSc (Computer Science & Electronics) 1988 Won a Silver medal for the Men's 50m Prone Rifle Pairs event at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. He also managed fourth places in the Mens' 50m Prone Rifle Individual event and in the Men's 50m Three-Position Rifle Pairs. This is the third Commonwealth Games that Martin attended; in 2002, he and his wife competed for Scotland in the 50m rifle events. Still based in Edinburgh, working as a software engineer and coaching at the University rifle club.

Mrs Olivia Mae Wemyss Brown BSc (N) 1989 Sold her nursing home – felt unable to function as a care professional in an increasingly pen-pushing society.

1990s

Mr Kenneth Leslie BEng 1990 Married to Clare. Two daughters, Hannah (4) and Suzanne (2). After nine years working for Miller Civil Engineering, is now a project manager for a local contractor in Dundee.

Mrs Elizabeth L Yule (née McCance) Dip 1991 Part-time commissioned artist.

Dr Jane George MA 1993 Research Fellow at the University of Stirling Department of Sports Studies. Tutor at the University of Edinburgh.

Dr Emily Williams Kelly PhD 1993 Co-author of *Irreducible Mind – toward a psychology for the 21st century*, published in November 2006.

Mr Conrad C Bona LLB 1994 NGU 1995 Married in 2005; expecting first child in August 2006.

For all the latest Alumni news, visit:

www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk

Miss Serenella Flackett MA 1994

Worked in publishing and web media for 10 years. Now a full-time mother.

Mrs Susan Jackson (née Bell) MA (SS)

1995 Won silver medal for shooting – women's 50m prone pairs rifle – at Commonwealth Games in Perth, 2006.

Mrs Susan Miller (née Anema) BSc 1995

Stay-at-home mum and part-time business consultant for Australian Customs Service.

Mrs Lynn M Young MEd 1995

Currently supply teacher of PE and self-employed activity coach. Wants to set up own physical activity business.

Mr Ian Wilson BSc 1996

Has now become a resident of Australia!

Mrs Judith Bergmann (née Lang) NGU

1997 Daughter Mairi Elisabeth born on 4th December 2005.

Mr Markus J Koechling LL.M 1997 January

2006– June 2007: Executive MBA-Program BI Norwegian School of Management, Oslo/Norway and ESCP-EAP Paris/France.



Mrs Kirsty Stewart BSc 1997 On 27

May 2006, after almost 11 years together, Kirsty Sencicle and James Stewart tied the knot at St John's Church, Edinburgh. Tristan Marini and Stuart Stafford, also from their Geography degree course, acted as ushers, and Matthew Perris, another fellow geographer, was best man.

Mrs Elizabeth Croft (née Senior) BSc 1998

Raising child, Fred Croft, born 05/10/04.

Mr Gordon Jones MA 1998 Moved to

Paisley in 2006 to do a BD at the Scottish Baptist College.

Miss Kim Karam MA 1998 Recently

honoured in the US for excellence in educating US students about Scottish culture.

Mr Christopher Hoy MBE BSc 1999 Dr hc

2005 Won bronze medal for cycling – men's 1km time trial – at Commonwealth Games in Perth, 2006.

Miss Pamela McGregor MChem 1999

Recently honoured in the US for excellence in educating US students about Scottish culture.

Mr Alan Thompson BEng 1999

Currently in Finland.

2000s

Mr Christopher Bisping LL.M 2000

Married Anona Mitchell in 2006.



Mr Kenneth Swan MA 2000 Mr Kenneth Swan and his wife Catherine celebrated their Golden Wedding on July 6th 2006.

Mr Sasha Yarwood BSc 2000 Recently

moved to Melbourne, Australia. Working as an analyst in the Victorian Government, on public transport.

Mr John Egbuniwe MSc 2001

Currently reading for a PhD in Law at the University of Birmingham.

Miss Hazel Morris BSc 2001

Currently a Research Officer for the Association of Medical Research Charities.

Miss Helen Turner BSc 2001

Studying medicine at Bristol University.

Miss Sylvia Vandenbussche MSc 2001

Currently job-seeking. Goal: to set up a study in the zoo relating to human-animal interactions.

Miss Francesca Fereday MA 2002

Living in Bournemouth with boyfriend Matt, working at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. Quite a bizarre change of career, but thoroughly enjoying it.

Miss Jennifer Hanson BSc 2002

Studying Veterinary Science at the University of Liverpool.

Mr Bryan Thompson BEng 2002

Currently in New Zealand.

Miss Charlotte Woodcock BSc 2002

Studying for an MSc in performance psychology at Edinburgh.

Mr Luke Teacy MSc 2003

PhD student at Southampton University.

Mr William Foote BSc 2004

Still at Edinburgh University doing an MEng Electronics and Electrical Engineering.

Miss Joanna Halfacre BSc 2004 Studying

for BVM&S – due to complete 2009.

Miss Pamela Richardson BSc 2004

Currently a student at the University of Oxford.

Mr Kevin Emerson MSc 2005 Presented

a paper based on MSc dissertation at a conference in Arizona, US, entitled "The Role of Higher Education in Creating a Sustainable World", October 2006.

Miss Caroline Kimber BSc 2005

Currently doing part time work at Income Tax Office, Guernsey.

Mr Ryan McGuffie BSc 2005

Played for Gretna (v Hearts) in Scottish Cup Final (football) in May 2006.

Miss Victoria Robinson BSc 2005

Still studying Veterinary Medicine and Surgery here at the Dick Vet School as BSc was an integrated degree.

Mr Andreas Tsiamis BEng 2005 BSc 2005

Currently a postgraduate research student at the University of Edinburgh.

Mr Robert Harris LLB 2006

Living in Calgary. Enjoying outdoor activities and spending quite a bit of time in the mountains. Also enjoys automobile restoration and travelling.

Miss Anne Johnstone BSc 2006 Started

a PhD at Southampton in September 2006. Title is "Finding links between poverty and remotely-sensed indicators of environmental stress in a development context".



1

2

3

Alumni Profiles

Nicola Ferguson MA 1972, PhD 1975

1

Author of the best-selling gardening manual *Right Plant, Right Place*, which has sold over 360,000 copies since it was first published in 1984. A second edition was produced in 2005.

"A research degree really encourages you to think for yourself, to question the world..."

I started my Psychology degree in 1968, on what was a new course. I had been sent details

of the old course by mistake. To be honest, I probably wouldn't have chosen the new course at all if I'd known, but as it was, it did me a lot of good. It involved more biology, for instance, and altogether it broadened my mind considerably.

A research degree teaches you how to acquire and organise information, of course, and it really encourages you to think for yourself, to

question the world and to be self-critical. It was a very good basis for producing my books. Producing a PhD thesis gave me the confidence to embark on something unfamiliar.

The University in general gave me much and I could see it in others around me as well. It changed my life. I'm sure that, otherwise, I wouldn't have had the confidence to do what I'm doing now.

Ranald MacPherson MA 1993, LL.M. 1995

2

Ranald Macpherson is a partner at Edinburgh-based law firm Simpson & Marwick.

"I suppose I became a lawyer, because I'm a failed pop star."

I first went to Edinburgh to do a degree in Philosophy. It was pretty relaxed. I studied as much as I had to, leaving time to enjoy myself, playing in a band. I went to America to study at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, but when I returned I dropped out of university to pursue a musical career.

But after a couple of years, when international stardom failed to beckon, I decided upon a

sensible return to Edinburgh and finished my Philosophy degree. Initially I had no intention of becoming a lawyer and didn't even know what I wanted to do.

While many of my contemporaries changed city, I wanted to stay in Edinburgh and chose the two-year law degree at the University of Edinburgh. Law appealed to me because I already knew people who were lawyers, and I was interested in the workings of court.

Edinburgh's an excellent place to study because of its history, and of course the School of Law is very good. I was very involved in the Mooting Society, and in my second year took part in a national competition, the

Observer Mace mooting competition. Teams from all across the UK take part and my partner and I were the first Scottish team to win it.

I got my diploma in 1995, and my career progression was pretty straightforward. Straight away I got my traineeship at Simpson & Marwick and became partner there in 2002.

The University has probably helped my career because I recognise that being in Edinburgh's Law School is useful for knowing the firms and courts in Edinburgh. You are definitely at an advantage at Edinburgh as there is a clear connection between the School of Law and the city's legal community.

Tom Ring MA 1998

3

Recently returned from being a consultant to the British Embassy in Baghdad.

"If you've studied Arabic or Persian, life's never going to be boring."

The Middle East is, and will always be, a fascinating place to be. I grew up in Oman, where my dad was a vet, and that encouraged me to learn Arabic.

After university I joined the Army and in 2002 I went to Afghanistan where I had the opportunity to use my Persian (or 'Farsi'). It's very similar to the Dari language spoken throughout much of Afghanistan. I was working with the local

people, running various projects and also interpreting for the General in charge of the UN-mandated International Security Assistance Force.

In 2003 I deployed to Iraq where I used my Arabic on a daily basis. Again I was in a liaison role, working with the local townspeople and the headmen of the villages, finding out what the problems were and how the British Army might be able to help.

Then, up until a few months ago, I was a consultant to the British Embassy in Baghdad. My role was to help run the security of the

Embassy in a constantly-changing environment, in particular by coordinating the roles of the static guards and mobile protection units as well as overseeing staff training.

Undoubtedly my degree from the University of Edinburgh really gave me an excellent knowledge of Arabic and Persian as well as a real appreciation of Middle Eastern society and culture. If you've studied Arabic or Persian, life's never going to be boring - there are such huge opportunities. I'm hoping my next project will take me to Yemen or back to Afghanistan conducting international development work.

Billet

The General Council of the University of Edinburgh

Report By Alan Johnston, Convener of the Business Committee of the General Council

The General Council is the means by which graduates have a continuing voice in the management of the University's affairs, and every graduate automatically becomes a member. Academic staff and members of the University's supreme governing body, the University Court, are also members of the General Council, which meets twice a year and has the right to comment on matters affecting the University's prosperity and wellbeing. For more information on the work of the General Council, visit www.general-council.ed.ac.uk.



Membership of the General Council now stands at more than one hundred and thirty-six thousand, and members are to be found living and working in practically every part of the world. This year has been a special one in that the General Council took another step towards closer links with its membership by holding its very first ever meeting overseas, when the June 2006 Statutory Meeting of the General Council was held in France in the Cité Internationale Universitaire in Paris. The splendid location, excellent arrangements and the fine June Parisian weather combined to make it a most memorable occasion. We are indebted to Professor Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, for his outstanding discourse on the progress of the University, and to the Chancellor's Assessor, The Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, for chairing the Meeting, and for giving us an eloquent and illuminating history lesson in his after-Lunch address. We were also most grateful to Mme Pamela Lintingre, President of the Association des Alumni de l'Université d'Edimbourg en France, who contributed such invaluable enthusiasm and support throughout the planning and during the events; to her husband, M. Jean-Claude Lintingre, our photographer on this occasion; and to colleagues in Development & Alumni for organising the most enjoyable seminar, reception and dinner as associated weekend events.

It was clear in the discussion in Paris that continental European members very much appreciated that the meeting was being held there, and this response from members who attended from more than ten countries, coupled with similar views in London in 2004, encourages us in taking forward the policy of holding every fourth Statutory Meeting of the General Council outside Edinburgh, so that more members may have an opportunity to participate directly. The Business Committee is beginning to consider the location for the June 2008 meeting of the General Council, and early indications are that a venue in North America is likely to be selected.

Other social events arranged during the year included a reception held in Old College on 18 August to coincide with the Edinburgh International Festival. This was linked with an opportunity to view the Festival exhibition on the work of young Nordic painters in the Talbot Rice Gallery, Old College, with an introduction from Pat Fisher, the Principal Curator.

As previously announced, the date of the February 2007 Statutory Meeting has been altered to Saturday 3 February in order to accommodate the celebrations in the University to mark the Tercentenary of the Chair of Public Law and the Law of Nature and Nations the following weekend. We are delighted to welcome Sally Magnusson, the well-known journalist and broadcaster, to address us after Lunch in the Playfair Library Hall on Saturday 3 February.

Your Business Committee has continued to be very active, and a total of six meetings were held during the year. The full reports of the four Standing Committees are published in the *Annex to the Billet*, which is available on the General Council website and in printed format

on request. Your office-bearers take an active representational role in University and City services, and I am glad to report that the General Council also provided representatives at the summer 2006 pre-graduation receptions and graduation ceremonies.

The following Statutory Meeting will take place on Saturday 16 June 2007 in the School of Veterinary Studies at Easter Bush, when there will be an opportunity to see some of the outstanding work being carried on in the School. Further information about the location, and the transport links to Easter Bush, will be made available on the General Council website, and will be published in the summer 2007 issue of the *Billet* within *Edit*. You will notice that the next issue of the magazine (Winter 2007) will have a new look after a recent review and additional design work. We hope that you will like the new version.

I record my grateful thanks to Mr Roger Windsor, outgoing Convener of the Public Affairs Standing Committee; and to Business Committee members Professor Ron Asher, Mr Michael Conway and Mr Graham Rule, who completed their terms of office in 2006. Mr Ralph Parkinson, Convener of the Constitutional Standing Committee, was co-opted for a further year; Mr Fred Lawson (Finance and Services) and Dr Frances Dow (Academic) continue as Conveners; and Mrs Marjorie Appleton has been appointed Convener of the Public Affairs Standing Committee in succession to Mr Roger Windsor.

I am also pleased to welcome to the Business Committee Mr Francis Brewis, Miss Helen Campbell, Mr Finlay Marshall, Dr Michael Mitchell and Mr James Murray, and we hope that they will enjoy the work of the Business Committee.

Billet

General Council Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday 3 February 2007 10.30am: Room G175, School of Law, Old College

10am to 10.30am: Coffee, tea and biscuits in the Moot Court Room, School of Law, Old College

10.30am: General Council Meeting in Room G175, School of Law, Old College

After the meeting: Lunch in the Playfair Library Hall (see page 36 for details)

AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

1	Result of the Election of General Council Assessors and Members of the Business Committee
2	Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on 17 June 2006 (PAPER A)
3	Matters arising
4	Report of the Business Committee
5	Dates of future meetings of the General Council
6	Notice of forthcoming Elections
7	Presentation by the Principal of the Annual Report of the University
8	Any other competent business
9	Adjournment

PAPER A

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on 17 June 2006

Present:

The Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom
Chancellor's Assessor, in the Chair

Mr Melvyn Cornish
University Secretary and Registrar
of the General Council

Professor Timothy O'Shea
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

Dr Ann Matheson
Secretary of the General Council

Mr Alan Johnston
Convener of the Business Committee

50 other members

The Rev. Di Williams
Chaplain to the University
opened the meeting with prayer

1. Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held on 11 February 2006

The Minutes of the Meeting on 11 February 2006 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

The Convener reported that the University currently had 43 female professors in post, and that this figure was continuing to increase.

3. Report of the Business Committee

Mr Alan Johnston, Convener of the Business Committee, gave his report and welcomed members to the General Council's first meeting in Paris. It was the culmination of planning and a great deal of behind-the-scenes work by many people, led in

Edinburgh by the Secretary, Dr Ann Matheson, and her assistant Mrs Jean Gibson, supported by many other members of Council and staff; and in Paris by Mme Lintingre, President of the University's Alumni Association in France. The Meeting in Paris was particularly notable as it was the first to be held outside the United Kingdom in the history of the General Council, which was established in 1858; and it continued the plan to hold every fourth statutory meeting in a major centre other than Edinburgh, providing an opportunity for groups of distant members to participate more easily from time to time. At the meeting in Paris the Convener was pleased to welcome members of the General Council living in France, England, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand and, of course, Scotland.

The Convener expressed thanks to the Chancellor's Assessor, The Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, for chairing the meeting in the absence of the Rector, Mr Mark Ballard MSP, on account of Parliamentary commitments. He noted that he had been pleased to represent the General Council at the Rectorial Installation Ceremony in the Playfair Library Hall the previous week, in the presence of the Chancellor, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The General Council continued to be represented at major public events, and he expressed his gratitude to his fellow Officers, the Vice-Convener, Mr Neil Hynd, the Secretary, Dr Ann Matheson, the Court Assessors and Standing Committee Conveners for sharing these duties, and for their valuable support of the work of the General Council.

The Business Committee had met twice since the last statutory meeting in February, and one further meeting was planned during this academic year, maintaining the pattern of meeting six times per year. The detailed reports of the Standing Committees were published in the *Annex to the Billet*, which was available on the Web and in printed form on request. At the most recent meeting of the Business Committee, a progress report on the University Development Trust had been received from Mr Robert Fleming, Director of Development, during which he had given an update on the forthcoming launch of the University of Edinburgh Campaign in October 2006. The Standing Committees continued to be very active, with Constitutional investigating the introduction of online elections; Public Affairs and Finance and Services respectively considering events, the upgrading of the General Council website and support for the Development Office; and Academic examining a wide range of issues in regular meetings with small groups of Heads of Schools, and other specialists, to hear how the General Council might help with identifying common issues, and indeed provide the opportunity for Heads to share interests and goals.

The Convener reported that there had been an opportunity to thank the retiring Rector, Dr

Tam Dalyell, for all his hard work and support for the University, for the General Council and in particular the students, at the meeting in Edinburgh in February 2006. Dr Tam Dalyell was an outstanding and committed Rector, and the Secretary had written to him on behalf of the General Council with gratitude and best wishes.

In regard to future events, it was planned to hold a reception for visiting and local members and guests in Old College and the Talbot Rice Gallery during the Edinburgh International Festival on Friday 18 August at 5pm, for which full details and an application form were published in the current issue of *Edit*. The date of the February 2007 meeting had been changed to Saturday 3 February 2007, as already notified, in order to avoid a clash with the Tercentenary celebrations of the Law School.

The report of the Business Committee was approved.

The full text of the Convener's remarks, and the record of the discussion that followed the presentation, are contained in the Annex to the Billet.

4. Motion

The Convener presented the Motion. He explained that the Constitutional Arrangements made provision for a Regulation covering the conduct of General Council Elections, and that the Business Committee on the advice of the Constitutional Standing Committee had agreed to recommend to the General Council a proposed Regulation governing the conduct of General Council Elections for Assessors to the University Court and members of the Business Committee. Mr Ralph Parkinson, Convener of the Constitutional Standing Committee, outlined the proposed Regulation, which was based on standards recommended by the Electoral Reform Society. In the debate that followed a number of detailed points were made. It was agreed to approve the text of the Regulation so far as it was available, and to confirm that the full text as approved would

come before the General Council at its next or first meeting of the new year when in terms of the Constitution that would be the appropriate time to allow all to consider its terms in the knowledge that it had been approved by General Council at this meeting.

A full record of the discussion is contained in the Annex to the Billet.

5. Dates of future meetings of the General Council

The next Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council would take place in Old College on Saturday 3 February 2007: any motions for discussion at that meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 15 November 2006. The following meeting of the General Council would take place in Edinburgh on Saturday 30 June [subsequently altered to Saturday 16 June] 2007.

6. Notice of forthcoming Elections

Elections for two General Council Assessors to the University Court and five members of the Business Committee would be held in February 2007: nominations on forms available from the General Council Office should be received in the office by 15 November 2006.

7. Presentation by Professor Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor

The Principal said that it was a tremendous pleasure to be in the Maison Internationale of the Cité Universitaire de Paris.

He proposed to speak about some of the University's historical international activity and its international agenda today. He would begin with links with France and the 'Auld Alliance'. Historically, France and Scotland had a centuries-old special relationship; and Scottish scholars and teachers were frequently found in French universities in the Middle Ages. Scottish thinkers had made a very significant contribution to French philosophy in the 18th and 19th centuries,

Billet

and it was pleasing to reflect that the University's most distinguished Principal, William Robertson, had had such an impact on French thinking. The University's first Principal came from Fife: Principal Robert Ruddock had been recruited from St Andrews, and he set up his teaching on an explicitly Parisian model. Later, the University had played a key role in the Franco-Scottish Society, and towards the end of the 19th century, Patrick Geddes, together with a number of his academic colleagues, arranged the first meeting of the Franco-Scottish Society in the Court Room of the University. The Principal noted that France was by far the most popular country for University student exchanges at present. The University was also quite popular with French students, and there were 204 students from France currently studying at Edinburgh. In addition, 44 University staff members were from France as well.

The Principal went on to talk about the context and the role of international collaboration. The world of higher education research had become increasingly globalised, and universities operated in a highly competitive marketplace for both teaching and research. For a leading university to be effective, it had to engage internationally. The most able students were increasingly moving from place to place to get the best education and the strongest contribution to their future careers. Business depended increasingly on international links, and knowledge was the raw material of successful business. The Principal noted that the three alumni presentations at the business seminar the day before had been outstandingly good. Throughout Europe there was a move to a knowledge-based economy in which innovation was the main engine of growth, and that was reflected by the emergence of the league of European research universities of which the University of Edinburgh was a member. In addition, Scotland was one of three small countries in the world (the other two were Switzerland and Singapore) that had a university in the world top 50.

The Principal referred to the history of the

University's international links and its historically international character. One of the great benefits had been that the University of Edinburgh (unlike Oxford and Cambridge) had never required its students to subscribe to the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Anglican Church, and from the outset it had opened its doors to a broader cross-section of society including many from overseas. As the first post-Reformation university in Scotland, and with City support, the University of Edinburgh was positioned extremely nicely in terms of having a more relaxed attitude to welcoming students of all faiths and also to advances such as medical dissection. This was one of the key reasons why international students came, and why the reputation of the University's medical school rose, since anatomy was still a theoretical subject at Oxford and Cambridge in the 17th and part of the 18th century, whereas in Edinburgh, with its strong connexions to Leiden, it was a deeply empirical subject.

Later, the close association of the Scottish Enlightenment with the University helped to strengthen its reputation. The University also had very strong links to the United States, and had in its collections a copy of a letter from Thomas Jefferson, signatory and part author of the US Declaration of Independence and Constitution, advising a friend about the education of his son: 'Send him to Edinburgh: they are better endowed with professors of the best sort than any place I know and the ferment of ideas there will send him back to us a better man, though a more difficult one'. This wonderful tradition of intellectual improvement, with a certain amount of edge, was still a key part of the University. Another major international link for the University was with Poland. Following the invasion of Poland in the Second World War, the University housed the Polish Medical School as a refuge for doctors from occupied Poland, and, today, the Polish School Medical Memorial Fund enabled able young Polish doctors to spend a term at Edinburgh.

The University also wished to compete at an international level to attract the very best international staff, and the best opportunities

to collaborate with leading universities around the world. The aim was to attract more international students; by 2004-05 the total of the University's student intake had increased by about 65% compared to 1999-2000. The University had a small but excellent international office, which visited 14 countries a year, mainly across the Asia-Pacific region but also with a lot of engagement with China, the US, Malaysia, India and Canada. The University was a little bit unusual since in most British universities the largest cohort of international students came from China, but at Edinburgh it was North America, again reflecting the historical tradition. The University community was wonderfully diverse with students and staff from a huge range of different backgrounds from all over the world, including members of staff from 77 different countries, and students from 143 different countries. There was also a wide range of overseas exchanges to allow students to spend time abroad, and there were 20 exchange partners in China, Singapore, Hong Kong, the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and also in Europe, through Erasmus.

In the context of Asia, the first Chinese student to attend the University, and indeed to graduate from any European university, was Wong Fun, who graduated as a Doctor of Medicine in 1855. The University had a number of very eminent Asian graduates, and would shortly host the first Confucius Institute in Scotland. It was an aim to develop much better links with India and to open an office there. There was a tremendous capability in India, and the University had valuable prospects of working there. There were also very good links with Africa, where educational connexions dated back to 19th-century missionaries who trained at New College. The University's first black African graduate, James Horton of Sierra Leone, graduated with a medical degree in the middle of the 19th century, and, today, the University had a very powerful Centre for African Studies. There was also the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, which collaborated with a whole range of international agencies particularly in the Gambia and Zimbabwe. The Principal also drew attention to Norwegian students who

came to study at the School of Veterinary Studies, the nearest one to Norway. There were very strong links with North America, where one of the key links was with Stanford University. In the same way as Cambridge had a close partnership with MIT because of very similar research agendas, there were three major centres of Artificial Intelligence research in the world apart from Edinburgh, and they were MIT, Stanford and Carnegie Mellon. Stanford was the one to which the University of Edinburgh was closest. Links with Australia were also good, and there would shortly be support for joint research work between the University of Melbourne and the University of Edinburgh. In terms of the Middle East, the University had the absolute top rating for research in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, and as part of a consortium with Manchester and Durham, an initial £5 million had been secured to create a British Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World, which would be based in the University of Edinburgh.

In conclusion, the Principal stressed that the University was international in its students, in its staff and in its research. It was international in its origins, and it was very international in its character today.

A full text of the Principal's remarks, and the record of the discussion that followed the presentation, are contained in the Annex to the Billet.

8. Any other competent business

No matters were raised.

9. Adjournment

The Motion by the Convener of the Business Committee that, for the purpose of considering matters which may be transmitted to the General Council by the University Court or any other business of a competent nature, the Business Committee be empowered to act on behalf of the Council, and that this meeting be adjourned to a date to be fixed by the Business Committee, was approved.

The Rev. Di Williams closed the meeting with a benediction.

The Annex to the Billet contains supporting papers for the Agenda, including communications from the University Court, full Standing Committee reports, a transcript of the presentation, and the Business Committee's report to the meeting on 17 June 2006. General Council members may either collect the Annex from half-an-hour before the Council meeting, or request it by post from:

*Mrs Jean Gibson,
General Council Office,
Charles Stewart House,
9-16 Chambers Street,
Edinburgh EH1 1HT.*

*Tel. 0131 650 2152
Email: General.Council@ed.ac.uk*

Postal Election

Candidates for Postal Election of General Council Assessors and Members of the Business Committee

The following nominations have been received for the election of two General Council Assessors and five members of the Business Committee to serve until 31 July 2011.

CANDIDATES FOR POSTAL ELECTION OF TWO GENERAL COUNCIL ASSESSORS

Mr George Lawrence Allen
MA, LL.M, BL 1961, BSc, MSc, DipLP, CertRP,
FLS, FRMS, FRSM, FRIPH, FRSA, NP

*Proposed by Professor Francis McManus,
MLitt, LLB (Hons) 1984, FRIPH, MREHIS
Seconded by Mrs Caroline Ruth McManus,
BSc (Nursing Studies) 1982, RGN, DN, SCM*

As Assessor, I would continue steadfastly to champion the interests of my fellow Members of the General Council of our University without fear or favour, just as I have had the privilege of doing over many years serving as a Member of the Business Committee,

Constitutional Standing Committee, Curriculum Committee, and Quatercentenary Committee, as a Member of Staff teaching Scots Law and International Law, as Researcher with Scotland's Cultural Heritage, and as Treasurer of our University and College Union. Will you give me your vote? Either way, please consider giving your generous support to our current University of Edinburgh Campaign.

Mr Douglas Andrew Connell

LLB 1974

Proposed by Mr Neil Robertson Hynd, BArch 1969

Seconded by Mr Alan McDougall Johnston, MBA 1989

Having greatly benefited from not only my University education but also from acting after graduation as a part-time tutor in Scots Law, I would very much value the opportunity some 30 years on to give something back to the University. I hope to bring to the service of the University the experience I have gained through serving in a voluntary capacity on a broad range of boards and governing bodies including the Scottish Arts Council, the Edinburgh Book Festival, the Edinburgh International Festival, the Unemployed Voluntary Action Fund and the Court of the University of St Andrews.

Mr Ralph Valentine Parkinson

MA (Hons) 1964

Proposed by Mr Alan McDougall Johnston, MBA 1989

Seconded by Mr Neil Robertson Hynd, BArch 1969

Member of the Business Committee 2002-06, and also Convener of its Constitutional Standing Committee. In a career in university administration I gained considerable first-hand experience of policy formulation, decision-making at a senior level and of the legal, fiscal and regulatory framework within which universities now operate, invaluable tools to any Assessor to the Court. I am very familiar with the structures within the University and of

the important role that 'lay' members and students should play in governance. In this exciting period of development of the University and its infrastructure, I would love to play an active part.

Professor Ann McIntyre Smyth
BSc 1970, PhD 1974, MPhil 1975

Proposed by Mrs Patricia Janet Spark, MA 1963
Seconded by Dr Fiona Skinner, MB ChB 1971

Having graduated from three of its former faculties I have much to thank the University for in my own education. My professional and research career in clinical psychology, together with my current role in commissioning education for Scotland's largest employer (NHS Scotland) have given me insight into the political, economic and academic challenges facing universities in this country. I am keen to support the continuation of Edinburgh's tradition of excellence in its proposed developments and future plans. I should be proud to serve the Court in its governance of the University in the face of such significant contemporary challenges.

**CANDIDATES FOR POSTAL ELECTION
OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS
COMMITTEE**

Mr Gordon Douglas Cairns
LLB (Hons) 1979

Proposed by Mr Alan McDougall Johnston, MBA 1989.
Seconded by Mr Neil Robertson Hynd, BArch 1969

Senior partner for 15 years. Part-time Chairman of Tribunal Service, and senior tutor in conveyancing diploma at University, combine to provide legal, financial and personal skills in many areas of business and learning. Enthusiasm, endeavour and sense of perspective complement appreciation of this important and historic University role.

Mr Lorimer David Maurice Mackenzie
MA 1964

Proposed by Lady Anne Burtholme Mackenzie-Stuart, BL 1951
Seconded by Mr Iain G Mitchell, LLB (Hons) 1973

Our University's reputation in a globalised world continues at traditional high levels. Our standing in today's world owes much to our centuries-old relationships with Europe. After 28 years working at senior level in Europe I believe I can help the University reinvigorate and broaden these relationships.

Mr Ralph Valentine Parkinson
MA (Hons) 1964

Proposed by Mr Alan McDougall Johnston, MBA 1989
Seconded by Mr Neil Robertson Hynd, BArch 1969

Member of the Business Committee 2002-06, and also Convener of its Constitutional Standing Committee. Following a career in university administration I was able to use my expertise in these committees. I would like to be elected to serve a further period in order to be of even greater service.

Dr Alan David Simpson
BSc 1988, PhD 1992

Proposed by Mr Alan McDougall Johnston, MBA 1989
Seconded by Mr Neil Robertson Hynd, BArch 1969

My current University role includes leadership of both strategic projects promoting world-leading computational research and successful knowledge transfer initiatives benefiting the Scottish and European economies. I am convinced that this combination of academic and industrial experience would enable me to contribute effectively to the Business Committee.

Dr Frank Ian Stewart
MB ChB 1965

Proposed by Professor Jonathan Usher, School of Literatures, Languages & Cultures
Seconded by Mr Guy Edward Michael Puzey, MA (Hons) 2006

I worked as a family doctor for 30 years, and took part in undergraduate and postgraduate medical teaching. After retiring, I returned to Edinburgh University as a full-time undergraduate student of modern European languages, due to graduate in 2007. I offer a useful combination of relevant experience.

Mrs Hilary Ann Vandore
MA 1968

Proposed by Mrs Marjorie Duncan Appleton, BArch (Hons) 1969
Seconded by Mr Waverley Duncan Cameron, BSc 1966, SM (MIT)

After graduation, I worked in general management, specialising in management accountancy for seven years. Returning to university to do an MBA with my dissertation in finance, I then worked for 20 years as an investment manager running the Far East and US portfolios, analysing companies for investment.

Mr John Douglas Ballantyne Wood
LLB 1968

Proposed by Mr Robert John Elliot, LLB 1969
Seconded by Dr Alan David Gillespie Brown, MB ChB 1963

After reading law I pursued a career in merchant banking and investment management in London and Scotland. I gained a wide understanding of finance, business and commerce and the relevance of education to their development. With my business commitments now reduced I now have time to devote to the General Council.

Voting Papers are enclosed and should be completed and returned in the enclosed addressed envelope to the Secretary of the General Council. Details of all candidates appear on pages 33 and 34.

Half-Yearly Meeting in Paris on Saturday 17 June 2006



Members of the General Council outside the Maison Internationale, Paris.

Photograph by courtesy of Jean-Claude Lintingre

The General Council held its June 2006 Half-Yearly Meeting in Paris on Saturday 17 June 2006. This historic Meeting, the first outside the UK since 1858 when the General Councils were founded, took place in the prestigious Maison Internationale of the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris. The Meeting was chaired by the Chancellor's Assessor, The Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, and the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Timothy O'Shea, gave an inspiring address on the progress of the University. The General Council Mace was transported from Edinburgh to Paris, and Mme Pamela Lintingre, President of the Association des Alumni de l'Université d'Edimbourg en France, acted as Mace-Bearer. The General Council was delighted to welcome to the Meeting members living in France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand and the UK. After the Meeting, a reception and lunch

was held in the Salon Honorat, at which The Rt Hon Lord Cameron of Lochbroom gave an outstanding after-Lunch address. The Association des Alumni de l'Université d'Edimbourg en France organised a guided tour of the Cité Internationale Universitaire and its distinguished architectural buildings after lunch.

A number of associated events over the course of the weekend were organised by Development & Alumni for alumni and guests to enjoy. On Friday 16 June there was a networking seminar, 'Let's Talk Business', chaired by journalist Allan Little, in the British Embassy, Paris, followed by a Drinks Reception. On Saturday evening, the Principal hosted a Reception and Dinner for alumni and guests in the wonderful setting of Les Salons Pourpre et Napoléon in Le Sénat in the Palais du Luxembourg, when the after-Dinner speaker was broadcaster and writer, Dr Sheena McDonald.



Photograph by courtesy of Jean-Claude Lintingre

Before the General Council Lunch in Paris on 17 June 2006, left to right: Mr Alan Johnston (Convener of the Business Committee), Professor Timothy O'Shea (Principal and Vice-Chancellor), The Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom (Chancellor's Assessor), who gave the after-Lunch address, Dr Ann Matheson (Secretary of the General Council), Mr Melvyn Cornish (University Secretary and Registrar of the General Council), and the Rev. Di Williams (University Chaplain).

The February 2007 General Council Lunch

Following the Half-Yearly Meeting, members of the General Council, other alumni, partners, family and friends are cordially invited to the General Council Lunch on Saturday 3 February 2007 in the Playfair Library Hall, Old College.

Ms Sally Magnusson, journalist and broadcaster, will give the after-Lunch address.



Sally Magnusson

If you would like to attend the next General Council Lunch, please complete and return the form on the rear inner cover no later than Monday 29 January 2007.

Tickets at £16.00 include pre-Lunch wine reception and a three-course meal in the Playfair Library Hall. Table wines will be available for purchase at the meal. Tickets can be obtained from:

The General Council Office
The University of Edinburgh
Charles Stewart House
9-16 Chambers Street
Edinburgh EH1 1HT

Officers

Chairman: His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT
Secretary: Ann Matheson, OBE, MA, Dip. Scottish Studies, MLitt, PhD, Hon DLitt 2009
Registrar: Melvyn D Cornish, BSc, PGCE, University Secretary ex-officio

General Council Assessors on the University Court:

A Margaret Tait, BSc 2009
Robin O Blair, LLB, MA 2007
Gavin W T Scott, BCom, CA, MBA 2007

Business Committee:

Convener: Alan M Johnston, MBA, CSci, CChem, FRSC, CBiol, FIBiol 2008
Vice-Convener: Neil R Hynd, LVO, BArch 2008

A Convener of Academic Standing Committee:
Frances D Dow, MA, DPhil 2008
F Convener of Standing Committee on Finance and Services:
Charles F Y Lawson, BSc, CA, FSI (co-opted) 2008
P Convener of Public Affairs Standing Committee:
Marjorie D Appleton, BArch (Hons), RIBA, FRIAS 2009
C Convener of Constitutional Standing Committee:
Ralph V Parkinson, MA Geography (Hons) (co-opted) 2007

Members

'A' denotes a member of the Academic Standing Committee,
'C' a member of the Constitutional Standing Committee,
'F' a member of the Standing Committee on Finance and Services, and
'P' a member of the Public Affairs Standing Committee:

Chancellor's Assessor:
The Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, MA, LLB, QC, FRSE, FRIAS ex-officio
C George L Allen, BSc, MSc, MA, LLM, BL, DipLP, FLS, FRSM,
FRMS, FRIPH, FRSA, NP 2007
F William R B Bowie, BSc, CEng, MICE, FIHT 2007
C Gavin Douglas, RD, QC, MA, LLB 2007
F Anne Paterson, BSc (Social Science), Diploma in Social Study 2007
C Patricia J Spark, MA 2008
P Diana C F Webster, MA, Dip Lib, MCLIP 2008
A Ian Wotherspoon, MA, MBA, PhD, FSA (Scot), MCMI 2008
P Alan D G Brown, MB ChB, FRCOG, FRCS Ed 2009
F J Ewan Jeffrey, BSc, CA 2009
C Ann M Sutherland, MA, FBCartS 2009
A Charles P Swainson, MB ChB, FRCPE, FFPHM 2009
P Mr Francis R M Brewis, MA 2010
A Miss Helen M Campbell, MA, BA, MNCHM, RSHom 2010
F Mr T Finlay Marshall, MA, FFA 2010
P Dr Michael J Mitchell, BSc, PhD 2010
A Mr James Murray, BSc, MS CEng, MIEE, MIHT 2010

Assistant to the Secretary: Jean Gibson

The February 2007 General Council Lunch

Please send me tickets for the General Council Lunch.

A cheque for £ is enclosed, payable to The University of Edinburgh.

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