



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

WINTER 2011

edit

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE INCLUDING BILLET & GENERAL COUNCIL PAPERS

In memory of her mother

JK Rowling's pledge
to unravel the
mysteries of MS

ALSO INSIDE

Celebrating 40 years of
ideas and innovation

Actress Genevieve Barr
steals the spotlight





THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

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Foreword

The past year has been a time of progress at the University, and in this issue we showcase a number of Edinburgh success stories. Among them is the Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic, made possible thanks to a generous gift from author JK Rowling (page 8). Edinburgh prides itself on such innovative ventures, and on page 14 we celebrate the 40th anniversary of our research commercialisation office.

With every new year comes fresh ideas, and we have also introduced some new sections to *Edit*. We hope you enjoy our extra features, covering history, the arts, food and friendships (pages 18–19, 28–31).

With best wishes for the New Year.

Young P Dawkins III
Vice-Principal, Development

Voting papers for the election of the General Council Assessors and Business Committee Members are enclosed.

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University News



An archaeologist carries out excavation work at the Old College quadrangle site

Quadrangle dig unearths Edinburgh's dark history

An archaeological dig at the University's Old College quadrangle has unearthed a fascinating chapter in Scotland's history.

The excavation was carried out prior to a £1 million landscaping makeover of the iconic quadrangle.

Archaeologists unearthed remnants of buildings on the famous Kirk O' Field site, which became widely known as the place where Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, the second husband of Mary Queen of Scots, was murdered in 1567.

The archaeologists also uncovered skeletons, coins and pottery shards that had been buried beneath the concrete for centuries.

The University was granted the Kirk O' Field site in 1583 and work began on the present-day Old College in 1789.

The landscaping project, due to be completed in April, will fulfil the vision of architect William Henry Playfair, who completed the landmark building originally designed by Robert Adam.

The makeover is being funded by a private donor and is one of several key improvement projects taking place as part of the University of Edinburgh Campaign, a five-year, £350 million fundraising initiative.

Gene find offers breast cancer hope

University scientists have discovered a gene that may trigger the spread of an aggressive form of breast cancer.

The Edinburgh team are the first to identify the key role played by the gene c35 in causing the spread of HER2 positive breast cancer, an aggressive form of the disease. It is thought the gene helps cancer cells break off from the primary tumour and move around other tissues in the body.

Director of the University's Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Unit, Professor David Harrison, hopes the discovery will help his team develop new treatments: "This is an important development because we now know one of the key triggers to the spread of this type of cancer. We now need to do more work in the lab."

DNA study puts genetics to test

Edinburgh scientists have developed a genetic test that reveals how diverse a person's ancestors were.

A Centre for Population Health Sciences study shows that an individual's DNA records a historical archive of where they come from, and that it is possible to determine whether a person's ancestors came from small, isolated communities, or from large, cosmopolitan populations.

Scientists analysed the DNA of more than 1,000 people across 51 ethnic groups.

UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR TO STEP DOWN

Buckingham Palace has announced that HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, will step down as Chancellor of the University in 2011. He turns 90 in June, and has held the post since the 1950s. He has also been Chancellor of the University of

Cambridge since 1976. Meanwhile, Edinburgh staff Professor James Garden (Clinical & Surgical Sciences), Professor Peter Sandercock (Molecular & Clinical Medicine) and Dr Euan Brechin (Chemistry) received 2010 Chancellor's Awards.

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

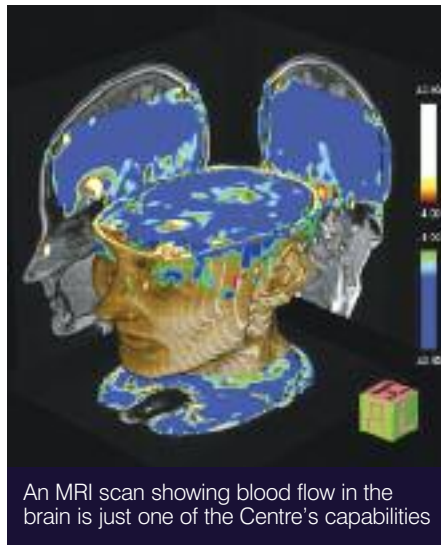
Integrated imaging facility gives insight into disease

A unique world-leading imaging centre, housed in Edinburgh, is helping researchers and doctors improve diagnoses and treatments for a range of illnesses.

The recently opened £20 million Clinical Research Imaging Centre (CRIC), a collaboration between the University and NHS Lothian, is the first fully integrated imaging facility of its kind in the UK, and is based at Edinburgh's Queen's Medical Research Institute.

The revolutionary facility enables research into illnesses including multiple sclerosis, schizophrenia, cancer and heart disease, and patients across Scotland are benefiting due to three state-of-the-art scanners all being situated under the one roof.

CRIC houses a high-strength magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner, the world's most advanced computerised tomography (CT) scanner and a CT-positron tomography scanner. The hi-tech equipment allows investigations to take place without invasive procedures and reduces the need for biopsies or angiograms. Experts can scan organs in less than a second



An MRI scan showing blood flow in the brain is just one of the Centre's capabilities

to see in detail how they function and can track blood flow through vessels, for instance in the heart.

"As opposed to simply looking at the structures of the body, we can look at how organs are functioning in real time," says Professor Edwin van Beek, the CRIC's Director. "This will help us to improve both diagnosis and treatments."

Radiochemistry laboratories and a cyclotron are also being used at the Centre to investigate cancer spread.

Pledge aids research into brain disorders

A family has pledged a six-figure sum to increase understanding of a little-known genetic condition that affects their son.

Gus Alusi and Reem Waines, whose son Kenz has Fragile X Syndrome – the leading cause of inherited learning difficulties and autism – have backed a new University research centre.

The Patrick Wild Centre for Research into Autism, Fragile X Syndrome and Intellectual Disabilities has also received support from University graduate Dr Alfred Wild, whose family has been affected by autism. The Centre was named in memory of Dr Wild's late brother Patrick, who was severely autistic.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drug cuts stroke risk

A new drug could significantly reduce the risk of strokes and blood clots in patients with irregular heartbeats. An Edinburgh study found that rivaroxaban cut the risk by one-fifth compared with existing treatments. The collaborative research with North Carolina's Duke University was undertaken in 45 countries and involved 14,000 patients.

Carbon capture project

The University is collaborating with ScottishPower and Imperial College London to develop carbon capture and storage technology. The £5 million, five-year project will seek to advance the environmentally friendly technology, which enables the collection of carbon dioxide when it is generated by power plants.

Science winner named

Professor José Torero, Director of the BRE Centre for Fire Safety Engineering, won the 2010 Tam Dalyell Prize for Excellence in Engaging the Public with Science. The annual award recognises an individual or group's work in areas such as hosting school visits, talks and other public events or publishing and broadcasting.

Canine cancer ward

A dog ward for canine cancer patients has been officially opened at the University's Hospital for Small Animals. The canine oncology support ward at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies will complement the School's £3 million Riddell-Swan Veterinary Cancer Centre, which opened in 2009.

University News

Unique research centre strengthens Russian ties

The University has opened an innovative new Russian study centre, which is the first of its kind in Britain.

The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre is the UK's first university-based centre to be supported by the Russkiy Mir Foundation, which promotes Russian culture around the world.



The Centre focuses on research, training and knowledge exchange and its Director, Dr Lara Ryazanova-Clarke, Senior Lecturer in Russian and Convener of the Research Centre for Study of Russian in Context, says it draws on the University's leading expertise in the wide field of Russian studies.

"The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre

will help Edinburgh reaffirm itself as a centre for Russian language research and for exchange between Russia and the UK," Dr Ryazanova-Clarke says.

The Centre's extensive resources include Russian literature, Russian television programmes and databases of full-text Russian media. It is named after Princess Ekaterina Dashkova, one of the leading figures of the Russian Enlightenment, who lived in Edinburgh from 1776 to 1782 while her son attended the University.

While in Edinburgh, Princess Dashkova lived at the Palace of Holyrood House and was close friends with several of Scotland's brightest Enlightenment thinkers, including William Robertson, Adam Smith and Adam Fergusson.

Merger with art college: update

The University and Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) have proposed to merge with effect from 1 August 2011. The two institutions have a long history of academic collaboration, and it is anticipated that the merger will create a world-class centre for research and education in the visual, creative and performing arts.

"Merger will enable us to enhance provision beyond the existing capability of our two independent institutions. It presents a strategic opportunity to extend the international reputation of both the University and ECA," says Professor David Fergusson, Vice-Principal with responsibility for the merger discussions.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning is expected to decide on the proposal in early 2011.

Commonwealth Games success

Two athletes with links to the University of Edinburgh took home medals from the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

Michael Jamieson, a member of the University Swim Team, came second in the men's 200m breaststroke event and Eilidh Child, an Edinburgh graduate, won silver in the women's 400m hurdles.

These latest medals have taken the tally of Commonwealth Games medals won by athletes with links to the University to 27. In all, 35 athletes, coaches and sports staff with links to the University participated at the Delhi Games. Of this number, 34 attendees were part of the Scotland squad, while one featured for the Isle of Man.

PUPS SIGN UP FOR BID TO BOOST HEALTH

Labrador Retriever owners are being asked to help find out how their dog's lifestyle affects its health.

The Dogslife study, the first project of its kind in the UK, aims to assess how factors such as diet and exercise can influence an animal's susceptibility to disease and illness.

The project is being led by University researchers at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies and the Roslin Institute, and it is recruiting the UK's most common breed of dog, the Labrador Retriever.

Owners of Kennel Club-registered Labrador Retrievers born after 1 January 2010 can take part in the study. For more information, visit www.dogslife.ac.uk.



The Edinburgh study aims to assess how a puppy's lifestyle affects its health

News Feature

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



Professor Robert Edwards with Louise Brown and her mother Lesley and son Cameron

IVF vision realised

Professor Robert Edwards, the recipient of the 2010 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, credits the University of Edinburgh for helping him turn his IVF vision into a reality. Cate MacKenzie reports.

After nearly three decades of scientific investigation, physiologist Robert Edwards made a medical breakthrough that would change the lives of millions of couples around the world.

The University of Edinburgh scholar began his pioneering work in the 1950s, and working in close collaboration with gynaecologist Dr Patrick Steptoe, he revolutionised reproductive medicine by creating human in-vitro fertilisation therapy, or IVF.

IVF is a technique in which egg cells are fertilised outside the body before being implanted in the womb, and its invention led to the birth of the world's first 'test-tube' baby, Louise Brown, in 1978. Three decades on, IVF is an established medical therapy that has helped couples to conceive more than four million children worldwide. In some countries, between one and two per cent of newborns are conceived through the technique.

In recognition of his world-changing research, Professor Edwards was awarded the 2010 Nobel Prize in

Physiology or Medicine. Due to the Nobel Foundation's stipulations prohibiting posthumous prizes, he cannot share the accolade with Dr Steptoe, who died in 1988.

"Today, Robert Edwards' vision is a reality and brings joy to infertile people all over the world."

The Nobel Assembly at Sweden's Karolinska Institutet described Professor Edwards' vision as representing a "monumental challenge", with the prize committee stating: "His achievements have made it possible to treat infertility, a medical condition afflicting a large proportion of humanity... Today, Robert Edwards' vision is a reality and brings joy to infertile people all over the world."

Manchester-born Robert Edwards undertook postgraduate and then

postdoctoral research at the University's Institute of Animal Genetics (now integrated into the School of Biological Sciences) from 1951 to 1957. His PhD investigated embryonic development in mice and he credits this early work as having laid the foundations for his revolutionary IVF techniques. "Edinburgh is where it all started – everything was in my head, but not on paper, by the time I left," he once said of his time at the University.

The physiologist became a staff scientist at London's National Institute for Medical Research in 1958, and then went to Cambridge in 1963. There, he worked first at the city's university and then at the Bourn Hall Clinic, the world's first IVF clinic, which he founded with Patrick Steptoe, a pioneer of laparoscopic or 'keyhole' surgery. The clinic has since helped more than 10,000 couples to conceive.

Louise Brown, whose parents had tried unsuccessfully for a baby for nine years before visiting the Bourn Hall Clinic, was delighted by Professor Edwards' Nobel Prize honour. "[We] are so glad one of the pioneers of IVF has been given the recognition he deserves," the 32-year-old mother told the media. "We hold Bob in great affection and are delighted to send our personal congratulations to him."

News of the prestigious accolade was also well received at the University of Edinburgh. "Professor Robert Edwards began his research career in Edinburgh and we are delighted to see the importance of his work has been recognised by the Nobel committee," said Hugh Edmiston, Registrar of the University's College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine. "The University of Edinburgh has a long history of excellence in reproductive sciences and this award demonstrates the world-leading qualities of our teaching and research staff."

In addition to Robert Edwards, 14 experts associated with the University of Edinburgh, including Sir Alexander Fleming (1945) and Sir Paul Nurse (2001), have received Nobel Prizes.

In memory of her mother

A world-class neuroregeneration research facility will open this year at the University, thanks to a gift from JK Rowling. Here, the author reveals her vision for the clinic, which is named in honour of her late mother.

By Tara Womersley

At 45, JK Rowling is the same age as her mother was when she passed away after a decade-long battle with multiple sclerosis (MS). Anne Rowling died in 1990, just six months after her daughter started writing her first *Harry Potter* novel.

The creator of the world's most beloved boy wizard never got to share her phenomenal literary success with her mother, who was wheelchair-bound for the last two years of her struggle against the progressive and debilitating disease.

While there may be no magic wand that can unravel the mysteries of MS in an instant, Ms Rowling is helping to address the devastating effects of the condition with a £10 million donation to the University, in honour of her mother.

The donation – the most generous the author has ever given and the largest sum the University has ever received from an individual – will establish the Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic at the University.

While the cause is close to the author's heart, the donation also highlights the immense strength of Edinburgh's expertise in studying

neurological conditions. As well as investigating MS, the research clinic will also provide insight into other neurodegenerative conditions, such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease and motor neurone disease.

"I have supported research into the cause and treatment of multiple sclerosis for many years now, but when I first saw the proposal for this clinic, I knew that I had found a project more exciting, more innovative, and, I believe more likely to succeed in unravelling the mysteries of MS than any other I had read about or been asked to fund," says Ms Rowling.

"I am incredibly impressed by the calibre of clinicians and researchers that Edinburgh has already managed to attract to make this project a reality, and I truly believe that it is set to become a world centre for excellence in the field of regenerative neurology."

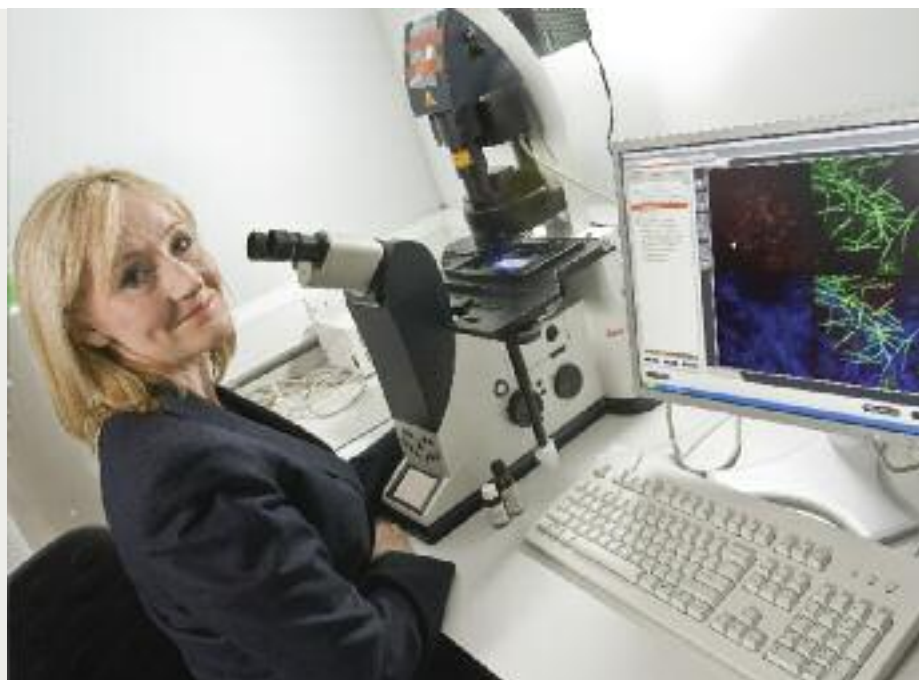
The ethos of the clinic is to put patients at the heart of research, making it a hub for patient-based studies and trials for new therapies. Its ambition: to accelerate research for treatments that will slow, stop and ultimately reverse MS and other neurodegenerative disorders. The clinic,





The mysteries of MS

Multiple sclerosis (MS) affects some 100,000 people in the UK and is one of the most common neurological disorders in young adults. Despite its high incidence, experts are unsure of the causes of this complex neurological condition. Genetics are thought to play a role, as are environmental factors, such as lack of sunlight and vitamin D, and geography, with figures linked to how far away sufferers live from the equator. Scotland has one of the world's highest rates of the disease, with 10,500 people currently diagnosed with the condition.



ABOVE: JK Rowling is "impressed by the calibre of clinicians and researchers that Edinburgh has already managed to attract"

RIGHT: Professor Siddharthan Chandran

OPPOSITE: An artist's impression of the foyer of the Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic at the University

which is envisaged to open later this year in a purpose-built facility at the University's Chancellor's Building, will also recruit and train the very best young doctors and scientists to ensure a strong foundation of expertise for the future.

Close collaboration

Staff at the research clinic will work closely with those based at other University centres, including the Centre for Multiple Sclerosis Research, which was opened in 2007 and also received support from Ms Rowling, the Medical Research Council Centre for Regenerative Medicine, the Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research and the Division of Clinical Neurosciences.

Such collaboration is essential in understanding MS and other neurological disorders, for while they may be separate conditions they share many similarities, explains Siddharthan Chandran, Professor of Neurology and Co-director of the Centre for Multiple Sclerosis Research: "In multiple sclerosis, nerve cells become damaged and die. This also happens for other neurodegenerative disorders, such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and motor neurone disease. We believe that these conditions share similar mechanisms as to how they are caused and how the disease progresses. Thus, understanding one disease could also shed new insight into other neurodegenerative disorders."

Although there has been considerable success with new treatments for early-stage relapse-remitting multiple sclerosis, there are no therapies for the disease once it has reached the progressive stage. "This is the huge unmet clinical need that we seek to address," says Professor Chandran. "If we could also eventually repair the damage caused by multiple sclerosis we would be able to reverse or repair the condition when it reaches the progressive stage."

Over the past decade, a genetic revolution has led to a much greater understanding of neurodegenerative disorders and researchers are beginning to discover more about the causes of inherited forms of these diseases. Stem cell research has also opened up new avenues of investigation.

Professor Charles ffrench-Constant, Co-director of the Centre for Multiple Sclerosis Research and Director-elect of the Medical Research Council Centre for Regenerative Medicine, explains: "The immensely generous donation from JK Rowling will help us better understand neurodegenerative diseases and the process behind



them, with the clinic working in partnership with many research teams in regenerative neurology at the University.

"The research clinic will enable trials and studies to be carried out which will inform laboratory research. This knowledge, in turn, can be translated back into treatments for patients. By putting patients at the heart of research, the Anne Rowling Regenerative



Neurology Clinic will enable us to study the causes behind neurological disorders with a view to finding improved treatments for patients."

Giving back

Ms Rowling, an Edinburgh honorary graduate, completed a teacher-training course at the University's Moray House in 1995 before working locally as a supply teacher. She views the donation as giving something back to her home city.

"The fact that it will be situated in Edinburgh, my home town, makes the project, if possible, even dearer to my heart," she explains. "Edinburgh has given me so very much that I have been looking for a way to give something meaningful back to the city for a long time."

She continues: "I cannot think of anything more important, or of more lasting value, than to help the University attract world-class minds in the field of neuroregeneration, to build on its long and illustrious history of medical research and, ultimately seek a cure for a very Scottish disease."

"I have just turned 45, the age at which my mother, Anne, died of complications relating to her MS. I know that she would rather have had her name on this clinic than on any statue, flower garden or commemorative plaque, so this donation is on her behalf, too; and in gratitude for everything she gave me in her far-too-short life."

JK Rowling: the story so far

JK (Joanne Kathleen) Rowling was born in July 1965 and grew up in Chepstow, Wales. She completed a French and Classics degree at England's University of Exeter before moving to London where she worked for a time as a researcher for Amnesty International. She moved to Portugal, where she taught English as a foreign language, then returned to the UK to complete a teacher-training course at Edinburgh's Moray House in 1995 before working as a supply teacher at Leith Academy.

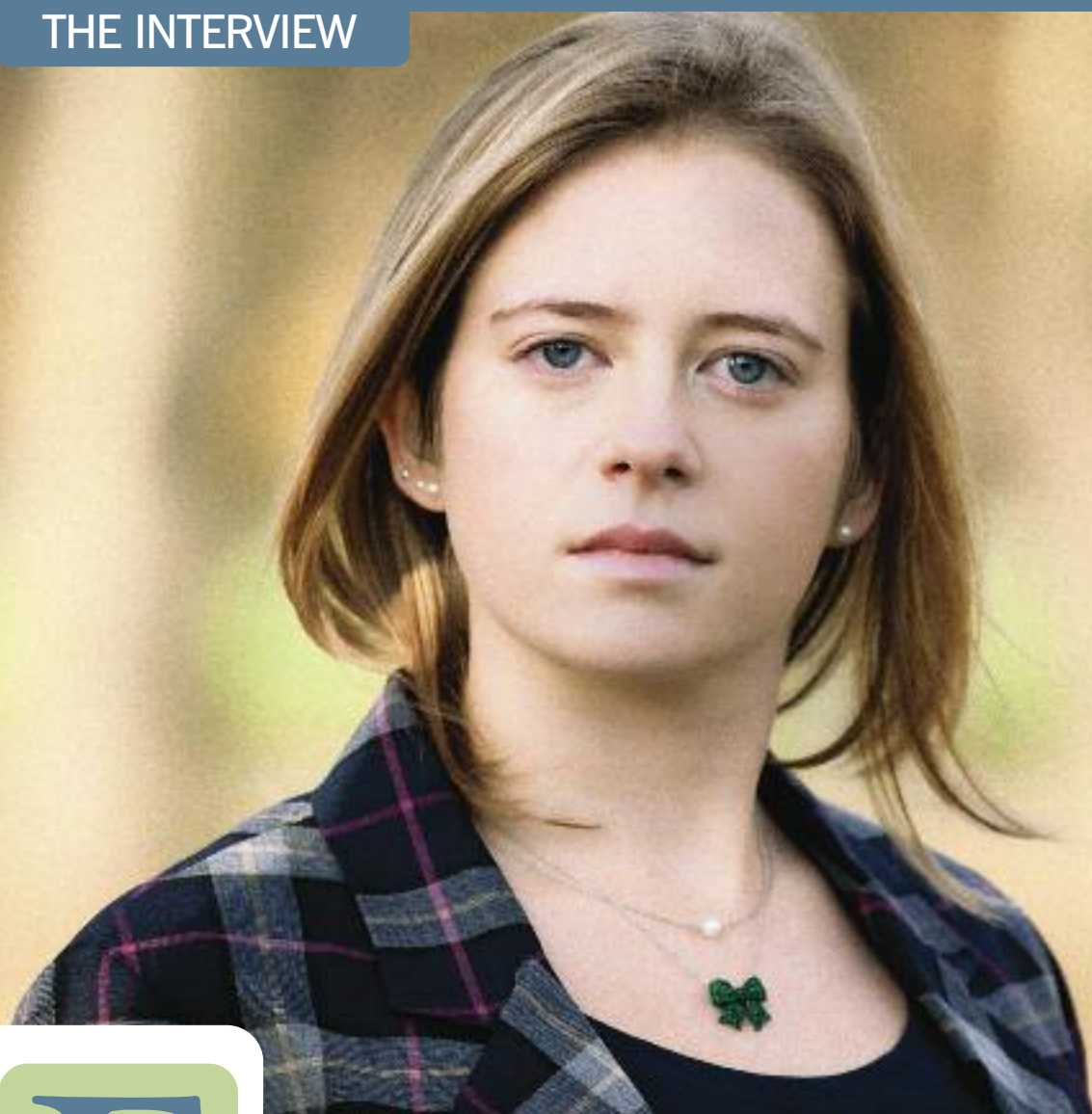
Ms Rowling was given an honorary degree (*Doctor honoris causa*) by the University of Edinburgh in 2004, and she has been recognised with a number of awards, including an OBE in 2001, the Prince of Asturias Award for Concord in 2003, the Edinburgh Award in 2008 and the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur in 2009.

She is married to Dr Neil Murray and has three children – Jessica, from a previous marriage, and David and Mackenzie.

She wrote her first book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, on a manual typewriter. It was published in 1997 and the sequel followed a year later, a Scottish Arts Council bursary enabling the author to invest in a word processor. Five further books followed, and the fifth in the series, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, was the fastest selling book in history. Her novels have been translated into 69 languages and have sold more than 400 million copies worldwide. They have also been made into films, with the final instalment due for release this July.



THE INTERVIEW



Eyes on the prize

Deaf actress Genevieve Barr took the small screen by storm in 2010 after her breakthrough role in the BBC drama *The Silence*. The English Literature/History graduate and former teacher tells Cate MacKenzie how Edinburgh helped her gain the confidence to follow her dreams.

Cate MacKenzie: What did you learn from your time at Edinburgh?

Genevieve Barr: University taught me to be more self-sufficient and proactive. I rarely attended lectures in the first two years because I struggled so much with hearing, which required me to do a lot of catch-up in the library. Professor Judith Green was a fascinating history tutor and gave me some needed confidence in my aptitude, and Dr Alan Gillis opened my eyes to some incredible poets and gave me the chance to discuss and work on my own creative writing.

CM: What about out of the classroom?

GB: I captained the second team in lacrosse in my third year, and playing lacrosse four times a week teaches you dedication and perseverance. The standard at Edinburgh is incredible, and I loved playing for Scotland U21s – the patriotism, despite not being Scottish (I'm from Yorkshire), was amazing.

CM: Did having a disability hold you back at university at all?

GB: To be honest, it took me two years to face up to the fact that I was really struggling and that it was impacting on my studies. The staff at the University's Disability Office were great – they went out of their way to show me a number of options to help me deliver my full potential academically.

CM: How did you get your first job?

GB: I was the first person with a disability to qualify for the Teach First graduate scheme, which provides six weeks training before sending you to a challenging school. I wanted to pick the toughest job I could find, and the one that terrified me the most, because I wanted to prove to future employers that I could do anything.

CM: And did that experience prove to be enjoyable as well as confronting?

GB: Lip-reading was difficult sometimes, and occasionally the pupils got

frustrated when I didn't hear what they said, but there were some hilarious situations where I tried to guess what they said and got it completely wrong. But I was acting as an example of how even if you're born with a disadvantage, it doesn't have to dictate your life.

Having students visit you in your lunch hour because they want to confide in you about something is rewarding, as is knowing that you're building their trust and respect and helping them change their lives. These pupils come from families who have never studied at university, some whose parents barely speak English. I'll never forget the experience; it's made me a stronger person and I was hugely inspired by the people I met.

CM: How did you switch from teaching to TV acting?

GB: I loved acting when I was at school but I never got any big parts and I gave it up, not having the confidence to persevere with it. After a year of teaching, a university friend asked me if I'd audition for a deaf role for a television pilot called *The Amazing Dermot*. I got the part and filmed that for a week and then three weeks back into school I was contacted about *The Silence*. [Genevieve plays the lead role of Amelia, a deaf teenager who witnesses a murder.] The production company auditioned both deaf and hearing actresses to ensure that the job was given to the person who had the potential to handle such a huge role. Luckily, that person was me!

CM: Was it challenging with such little acting experience? And you had to learn sign language for the role...

GB: It was daunting but I'm incredibly grateful to have been able to work alongside and benefit from the experience and talent of such a stellar cast. I'd tried to take up sign language several times but I never had the time to follow it through. Learning it was difficult – we were filming in Dublin and my interpreters communicated using Irish sign language and yet were

If you care about something enough, no matter how long you have to wait or how hard you have to work, you can achieve whatever you set your mind to.

teaching me British sign language. But I was grateful to have the opportunity to learn such an expressive skill.

CM: Has your life changed since you landed that role, and what lies ahead for you?

GB: My life has changed dramatically. It's odd having people recognise you on the street. Having said that, it's a huge struggle to get more work, particularly given that I'm deaf and don't speak as coherently as a hearing person. I go to speech therapy three times a week to improve my voice so that I can start to win parts on merit of my acting regardless of my disability. I've been working on a documentary and going to auditions. I'm hoping to start working in America as well.

CM: It sounds like you're ready for anything life throws at you...

GB: My parents had a lot of people telling them when I was younger that my options would be limited, and they've been an inspiration to me in encouraging me to dismiss those doubts by achieving 'the impossible'. If you care about something enough, no matter how long you have to wait or how hard you have to work, you can achieve whatever you set your mind to. Life should be hard. Life should be a challenge, because it helps you develop into the most capable person you can be.



FROM IDEAS TO INDUSTRY

The University continues to build on its history of invention by collaborating with industry, often with world-changing results.

The year was 1969 – and it was proving to be something of a landmark one. As one of the most exciting and tumultuous decades in the 20th century drew to a close, millions of people joined together in the US to protest against the Vietnam War, a man walked on the moon and a generation made history at the Woodstock Festival.

Over in Edinburgh, researchers at the University were hard at work creating their own little piece of history in the shape of a robot called FREDDY – a character that would unwittingly launch the start of one of the most successful university commercialisation projects in the UK.

FREDDY was the first physical manifestation of the University's formal plan to commercialise its research. Earlier in the decade, Prime Minister Harold Wilson had famously referred to the "white heat" of the scientific and technological revolution and the need to embrace it – in Edinburgh FREDDY was proof that the University's scientists were doing just that.

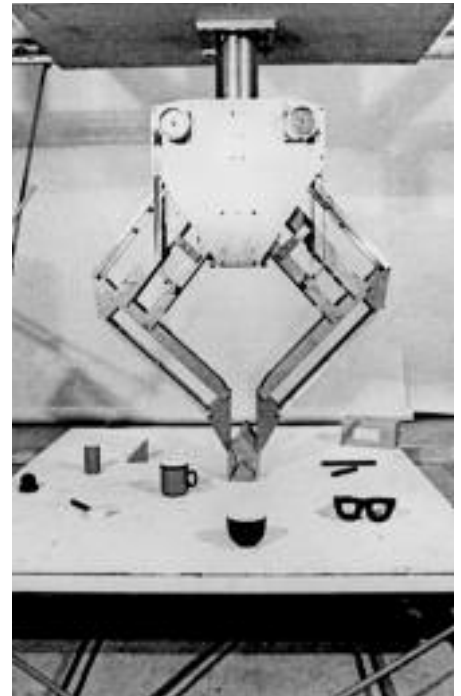
Staff have helped entrepreneurs to create more than 200 new companies, several of which are global players.

Developed in the University's Department of Machine Intelligence & Perception (now Artificial Intelligence within the School of Informatics), FREDDY was the first

automated industrial robot to integrate perception and action and it became the forerunner of the machinery used in industrial plants today. That early robot signalled the beginning of more than four decades of the promotion and encouragement of collaborations with industry at Edinburgh. Through the University's research commercialisation arm, Edinburgh Research and Innovation (ERI), staff have helped entrepreneurs to create more than 200 new companies, several of which are now global players, and ERI marked its 40-year milestone in 2009.

Innovation and invention at the University of Edinburgh is nothing new – for more than four centuries researchers have been making discoveries in science and medicine that have helped to shape the modern world. Perhaps FREDDY's creators took inspiration from the likes of alumni such as James Clerk Maxwell whose work more than a century earlier had such an impact on innovations as diverse as microwave technology and colour photography.

What's different now is that this tradition of creativity and invention can be harnessed in a commercially professional way for the benefit of society while at the same time having a very positive impact on the economy, in terms of start-up businesses and job creation. Translating laboratory ideas into industrial realities has meant that in recent years Edinburgh can lay claim to having introduced to industry the world's first miniature digital camera, the smallest television screen and the first genetically engineered hepatitis B vaccine, to name but a few innovations. ▶



Edinburgh's FREDDY was a forerunner of the machinery used in industrial plants today

Edinburgh's innovation

- Before 1980, only 4 per cent of universities in the UK and 14 per cent of universities in the US had a comparable commercialisation office to that of the University of Edinburgh.
- In the past five years, 132 new companies and businesses have been formed at the University, employing 350 staff members.
- More than 400 patents have been filed in the past five years for new discoveries made at the University with market potential.
- Since 2005, more than £55 million of research and consultancy has been funded by business and industry to develop innovative solutions.

In the past academic year alone, 40 companies were created at the University of Edinburgh – a record for a Scottish institution.

“We’ve put a lot of effort into generating a culture of enterprise at the University,” says Grant Wheeler, ERI’s Head of Company Formation and Incubation. “Students and staff believe that if they come up with an idea for a business or a piece of technology, they will get the support here to test it and find out if it will work.”

In addition to patenting new technology, ERI also seeks to help academics create their own companies. Today, it puts University entrepreneurs in touch with its network of experienced professionals, who provide advice on challenges such as writing business plans, filing tax reports and avoiding potential legal issues. It also provides fledgling businesses with office facilities within the University, allowing academics to remain close



The world’s smallest TV screen was created in 1999 by MicroEmissive Displays Group plc

to their research while also working to get their new ventures up and running.

The approach has helped numerous firms get off the ground, including Vision Group, a company – formed in 1990 – whose technology pioneered the miniaturisation of video cameras. In 1995, Vision Group became the first Scottish university company to be publicly listed on the UK Stock Exchange.

MTEM, a company that uses electric currents to locate oilfields, also found

We’ve put a lot of effort into generating a culture of enterprise... Students and staff believe that if they come up with an idea for a business or a piece of technology, they will get the support here to test it.

success with the help of ERI. After its formation in 2004, MTEM was bought by Norwegian firm Petroleum Geo-Services for \$275 million in 2007. Anton Ziolkowski, Co-founder of MTEM, says ERI’s assistance allowed the company to make the necessary connections to secure its initial funding. “That allowed us to prove that our idea worked – and that’s what we needed at the start,” he explains.

Today, ERI doesn’t just help its academics to seek commercial

Making a difference

Here, we showcase just a few research commercialisation success stories from Edinburgh Research and Innovation that are helping to improve people’s lives around the world.

Skoogmusic



Fast facts:

- Developed by Ben Schögler and David Skulina
- The Skoog went on sale in March 2010
- Plans are in place to sell it in America and Europe

Skoogmusic is bringing music to children who are unable to use traditional instruments with its invention, the Skoog. A brightly coloured soft cube that is robust enough to resist strong handling, the invention allows severely disabled children to play music in an expressive and creative way.

When squeezed, hit or even thrown against a wall, technology within the instrument’s tactile surface converts the impact into the sound of different pre-programmed instruments, such as a flute, trumpet or drums. As a result, users can play a variety of sounds and alter pitch, timbre and volume with a very small range of movement.

Hundreds of children in schools in the UK are now using the Skoog.

Wolfson Microelectronics



Fast facts:

- Created by David Milne and Jim Reid
- Employs 125 people in Scotland and has a market value of £280m
- Produced its billionth microchip in 2008

Products such as Apple’s iPod and Microsoft’s Xbox owe some of their technical wizardry to the microchips produced by Wolfson Microelectronics, one of the largest firms to be started at the University.

Created in 1984, the company has become a global leader in supplying circuits to the world’s biggest producers of consumer electronic products.

In 2003, Wolfson undertook the largest technology flotation in the UK for three years, becoming the second company created at a Scottish university to be listed on the UK Stock Exchange.

The company retains close links to the University, offering scholarships to informatics and engineering students.

opportunities. In the past four years student entrepreneurs have taken advantage of LAUNCH.ed, an initiative to encourage undergraduates and postgraduates to form new companies.

"This gives the students commercial opportunities and also career options that they wouldn't have had before," says Mr Wheeler. "Forming and running your own company gives you skills that are very attractive to other employers."

With University researchers continually coming up with innovative ideas in fields as diverse as engineering, informatics, geosciences and music, the prospects for more companies and new technology being created at Edinburgh are bright. We may have moved on significantly from the technology of Harold Wilson's "white heat" revolution, but the creativity and appetite for invention born of that age seems certain to remain a driving force for University staff, students and alumni.

To find out about working with the University, email research.innovation@ed.ac.uk or visit www.research-innovation.ed.ac.uk.

40 years of bright ideas

Since 1969, innovative applications of Edinburgh-based research have led to the creation of inventions that many of us, possibly without knowing it, wouldn't be able to live without. Here's a snapshot of just some of our innovative achievements...

- 1969** the first automated industrial assembly robot
- 1972** amniocentesis tests in pre-natal screening
- 1979** a new generation of deep-sea diving communications systems
- 1980** the first genetically engineered hepatitis B vaccine
- 1987** a prototype sensor-assisted wheelchair for children with severe and multiple disabilities
- 1990** technology that miniaturised video cameras, including digital cameras in mobile phones
- 1992** the UK's first research centre, the Fujisawa Institute of Neuroscience at Edinburgh
- 1999** the world's smallest TV screen
- 2002** discrete element modelling software for the engineering sector
- 2004** multi-transient electromagnetic survey technology that saves the oil industry billions of dollars



CereProc



Fast facts:

- Founded by Matthew Aylett and Nick Wright
- Voices sound real rather than robotic
- Roger Ebert showcased his new voice on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*

- Created in 2005, CereProc developed the world's most advanced text-to-speech technology.

Computerised systems that take text and convert it into voices usually sound flat and robotic, but CereProc's technology enables it to impart character, regional accents and even emotional variation into its output.

One convert to CereProc's system is renowned film reviewer Roger Ebert, who lost the ability to speak after life-saving cancer surgery. CereProc was able to reconstruct his original voice by using recordings of TV appearances and DVD commentaries. As a result, Mr Ebert can now communicate, using a laptop, by typing sentences that are converted by a synthesiser into the sound of his own voice.

Smart wheelchair



Fast facts:

- Invented by Paul Nisbet
- Prototype developed at the CALL Scotland unit
- ERI assisted Smart to negotiate a licensing deal with manufacturer Smile Rehab

- Since its invention in 1987, the Smart wheelchair has improved the lives of severely disabled children by giving them more independence.

The electric wheelchair has a computer-based controller and special motion sensors, allowing operators to move around a preset path by pressing a single switch.

The wheelchair – developed at the University's CALL Scotland unit, which uses technology to help people with communication or physical difficulties – is now supplied to children with special needs across the UK.

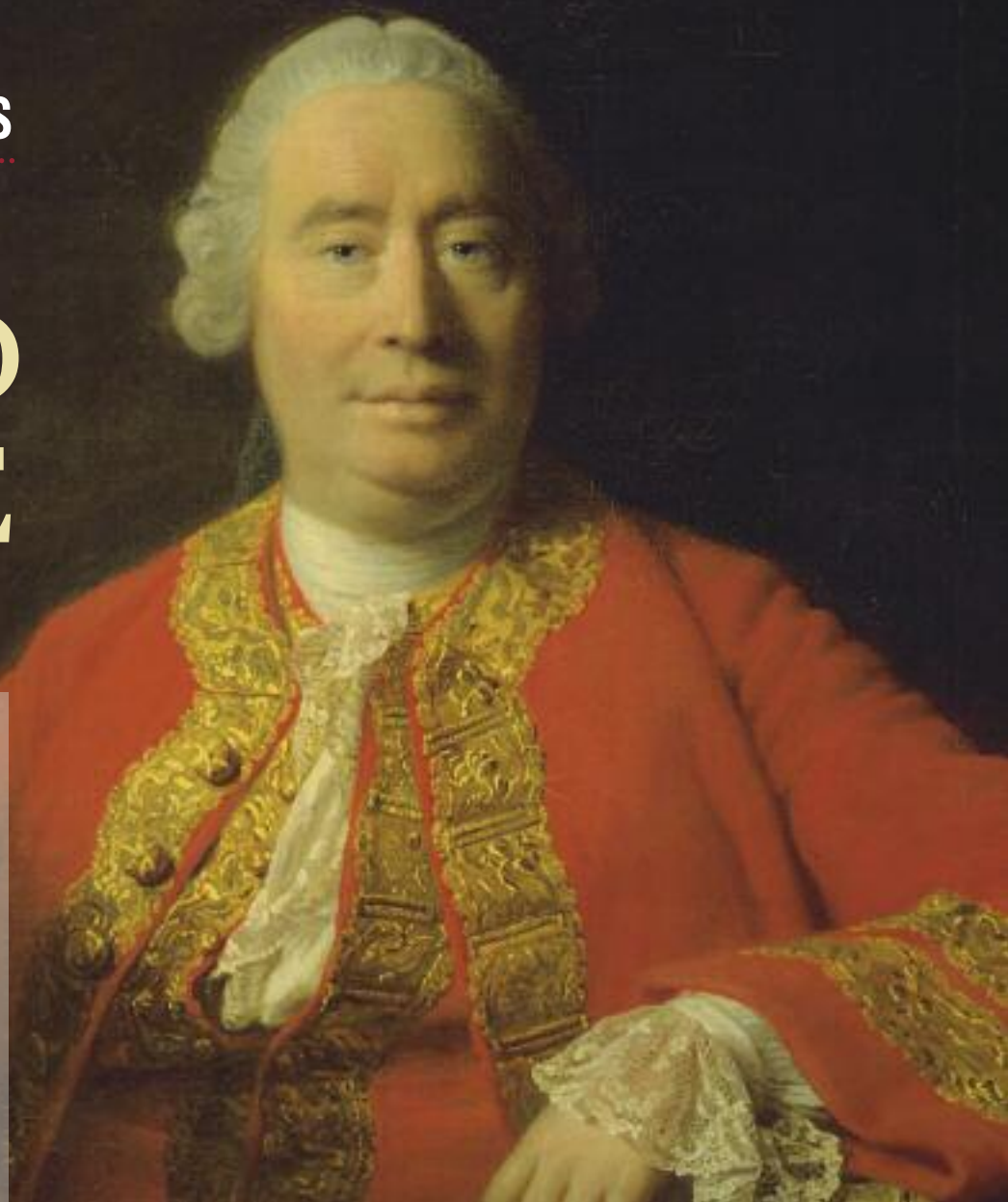
"It gives the children the chance to be mobile, and that's tremendously good fun for them," says the wheelchair's creator, Paul Nisbet.

HIDDEN HISTORIES

DAVID HUME

1711–1776

In the first instalment of this new series, Chris Small examines the ideas and influence of the Western world's most prominent philosopher.



Most Edinburgh students wait until they are in their late teens to attend the University, but in 1721 classes included a child aged 10. The young scholar was David Hume, who would go on to be recognised as a critical figure in the Scottish Enlightenment and one of the greatest philosophers the West has ever produced.

Hume sought to create a new science of humanity. His works, including *A Treatise of Human Nature*, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* and *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, have informed philosophical thought, economics, religion and politics for three centuries. Dr Alasdair Richmond, lecturer in the University's School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, describes Hume as "a key product of the

free enquiry fostered by the Scottish Enlightenment, the source of an enduring willingness to view human beings as natural phenomena and an ongoing, inspiring challenge to dogmatism."

Hume was born in a tenement in Edinburgh's Lawnmarket area, though the family home was in Chirnside near Berwick. His father died when Hume was two and, until enrolling at the University, he was educated by his mother in a strict Calvinist household. At University his approach to studies hinted at an unorthodox relationship with academia; he informed a friend that, "There is nothing to be learned from a professor, which is not to be met with in books." Initially drawn to law, a passion for the works of classical authors such as Cicero pulled him instead to philosophy.

Pages recovered from a notebook Hume wrote in his early twenties suggest

a fascination with atheism and the existence of God. A letter describes a "New Scene of Thought" opening up to him, and an intense period of study in France fed into his first major work, *A Treatise on Human Nature*, two volumes of which were published in 1739, when Hume was 27.

In the *Treatise* Hume argues that human nature is mainly guided by instinctive belief rather than reason. The work established him as an empiricist who viewed knowledge as being informed only by what we directly experience. The *Treatise* was poorly received in Britain – Hume said it "fell dead-born from the press" – but it ultimately earned him a place in history, and seeded his reputation as an atheist in the minds of his critics. As Dr Richmond explains: "Hume broke radically new ground in considering human reason, ethics and

history as natural phenomena, and thus amenable to scientific explanation."

Dr Peter Millican, Illumni David Hume Fellow at the University's Institute for Advanced Studies of the Humanities, feels that this first work, though flawed, offers a precious perspective on Hume's early thinking: "The *Treatise* was too difficult for people to digest – it was a bit confusing and he published it too soon. It would have benefited from a couple of years' reflection. But it's a wonderful resource, showing a philosophical system in progress; in effect, the working drafts of a great genius."

Hume's *Essays, Moral and Political* were published in the early 1740s and in 1748 followed his *Enquiry*, which presented the mature heart of his theoretical philosophy. He had adapted his style and these works were met more positively, but by this point Hume's notoriety had earned him enemies. In 1745 the Chair of Ethics and Pneumatical Philosophy was advertised at the University of Edinburgh. Hume's application for the post was vetoed by clerics, influenced by a pamphlet that had used excerpts from the *Treatise* to portray him as a religious infidel. "Hume's reputation as an atheist made him an enormously controversial figure, to the extent that Edinburgh didn't recognise him with an academic appointment when he was alive," explains Dr Richmond. Later his bid to become Professor of Moral Philosophy at Glasgow University was also rejected. Despite these disappointments and the vilification of some of his philosophical views, he was widely praised for being benevolent and virtuous, and friends were loyal.

Both Dr Millican and Dr Richmond agree that one of Hume's most distinctive qualities is the elegance of his writing, a skill that allowed him to communicate contentious ideas with great subtlety. "He is a master of philosophical prose," says Dr Millican. "He wrote beautifully. But on religion he had to be circumspect, and as a reader you sometimes have to read between the lines. He writes very carefully, conveying messages to those who are able to see them."

In the early 1750s, Hume worked as a librarian to the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh, a post that allowed him to cultivate his historical research, culminating in *The History of England*. Running to six volumes, it was a critical

"Hume's reputation as an atheist made him an enormously controversial figure, to the extent that Edinburgh didn't recognise him with an academic appointment."

and commercial success, but it helped to define Hume as a historian rather than a philosopher during his lifetime. Following a spell as Secretary to the British Embassy in Paris, Hume returned to Edinburgh and became a champion of the city's green spaces, while continuing to write and finesse his published work. He died in the capital in 1776.

His *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, published posthumously, questioned the belief that a sense of order in nature pointed to the existence of God, with Hume thought to be represented mainly by the work's sceptical character Philo. "The *Dialogues* are Hume's attempt to survey what reason can uncover about God and human nature," says Dr Richmond. "Increasingly they are seen as developing the most articulate philosophy of religion ever, and their impact on the sceptical tradition can't be underestimated."

Part of an intellectual firmament that included his friend, the economist Adam Smith, Hume foreshadowed thinking on science, ethics, psychology and religion that was to take flight 150 years after his death. "John Stuart Mill, Bertrand Russell, Immanuel Kant and Albert Einstein are all in some way indebted to him," says Dr Richmond. "It's difficult not to encounter

him across all branches of philosophy. He also anticipated insights later developed by another Edinburgh alumnus, Charles Darwin."

2011 is the tercentenary of David Hume's birth, and the University will mark it with a series of international events. Perhaps the irony of the anniversary is that, while failing to recognise him while he was alive, the University keenly feels his influence on the teaching of philosophy three centuries on.

"Hume has a profound influence on philosophy at the University today," says Dr Richmond. "He informs core teaching in moral philosophy and ethics, theory of knowledge, philosophy of science and probability, philosophy of religion, aesthetics, political philosophy and philosophy of law. In all these and other fields Hume made a central contribution that we still recognise. He is incontrovertibly the greatest philosopher to emerge from Scotland and the greatest to write in English."

The University's Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Philosophy department are seeking philanthropic funding to establish a permanent David Hume Fellowship and David Hume Chair. These two positions seek to attract outstanding scholars and underpin Edinburgh as the natural centre for the study of David Hume. Phone James Clayton-Jones on +44 (0)131 651 4403 or email James.C.Jones@ed.ac.uk.

2011: The Year of Hume

To celebrate David Hume's legacy, the University of Edinburgh is staging a number of international events throughout 2011. Highlights include:

- 26 APRIL -

Birthday Party Event, chaired by Sheena McDonald

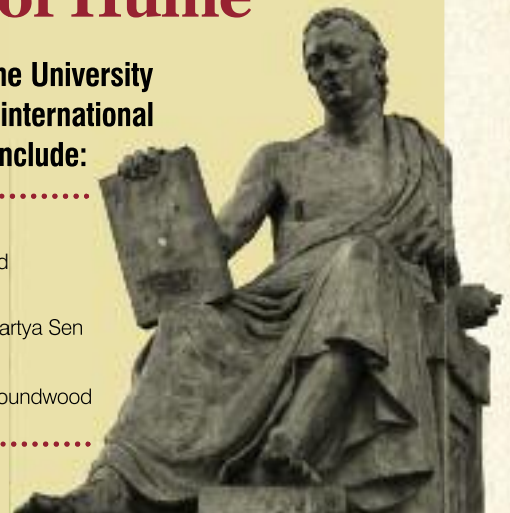
- 18 JULY -

Enlightenment Lecture, delivered by Professor Amartya Sen

- 25 OCTOBER -

Gifford Lecture, delivered by Lord Sutherland of Houndwood

For more information, visit www.ed.ac.uk.



Alumni Profiles

Gordon Bennett LLB, 1969



Barrister Gordon Bennett shares his time between his London chancery practice and Survival International, an organisation that defends the rights of tribal peoples, including Botswana's Central Kalahari Bushmen.

"I enjoyed my time at Edinburgh but we all took ourselves frightfully seriously! It was a case of off to university you went and we all worked jolly hard. I was in DramSoc from time to time and played hockey, which was a source of huge enjoyment and great danger.

"There were some stimulating and entertaining people in the law faculty. John Moffatt, who was tragically killed shortly after I graduated, was enormously interesting and gave us the impression that there was a world outside; and Ian McGibbon, an urbane and sophisticated man, was an observer at Nelson Mandela's trial in Pretoria in 1963 (the Rivonia Trial), again a reminder that there

was a world out there that was altogether less comfortable than Edinburgh.

"When I left Edinburgh I went to the University of California, Berkeley, to which I got a scholarship. I went from one extreme to another: Edinburgh was still in those days a rather staid and respectable place and California was at the other end of the spectrum. It was the year after Nixon had invaded Cambodia [1971] and a time of immense revolutionary activity in California.

"I decided to go to the English bar and applied for and got a scholarship to Cambridge. My postgraduate dissertation on 'primitive' peoples or indigenous peoples as we now call them, was published and then picked up by Survival International, and I've been going away with them off and on for the past 30 years or so.

"My chancery work at Lincoln's Inn is mostly commercial/commercial fraud work. My work with Survival is quite

different, and there's satisfaction to be derived in helping people protect their way of life – something you don't get from helping people protect their bank balance.

"Through my work with Survival I have met extraordinary people. In Guyana, South America, I flew to a settlement in a tropical rainforest in a single-seat aircraft – there was no seat for me, I sat on a drum. I also went in a dugout canoe up a tributary of the Mazaruni River to talk to the local people [Akaio Indians].

"THERE'S SATISFACTION TO BE DERIVED IN HELPING PEOPLE PROTECT THEIR WAY OF LIFE – SOMETHING YOU DON'T GET FROM HELPING PEOPLE PROTECT THEIR BANK BALANCE. THROUGH MY WORK I HAVE MET EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE."

"Not surprisingly, you learn that of course other people's ways are just as valid as our own, and some might say even more valid. These people have found a way of living with their own environment without spoiling or destroying what has been given to them.

"One of the frustrations of this kind of work is that disputes and problems tend to fester for many, many years. You don't have a lot of control – you fly in, do your stuff and then fly out again, but it's the local organisations that are keeping the movement going.

"In Botswana very few Bushmen can speak English, so you are often dependent upon translators. But you can get by if you have a sense of humour and you can make people laugh – it helps a lot to make people feel you have something in common."

We are happy to forward correspondence to graduates for whom we hold current address details. Email us at alumni@ed.ac.uk.

Ysolda Teague

MA (Hons) English Literature, 2007

Scottish knitwear designer Ysolda Teague sells thousands of patterns a month, is about to publish her third book and enjoys celebrity status in America's online world, where knitting is a multimillion-dollar industry.

"The nice thing about the English Literature degree at Edinburgh is that there's a lot of freedom in what you can study; it's a big subject and there's a lot of diversity. I really enjoyed my courses on the history of the book and the development of printing, and I got to play with the printing press in the Main Library. I now publish books myself so it was very helpful.

"I had piles of lecture notes but I never looked at them and always ended up researching things online. So I stopped taking notes and started knitting, writing down the occasional idea, and I found that I could process what had been said a lot better. I didn't knit in small tutorials as it was distracting for other people but I got away with it in a lecture hall.

"I learnt to knit when I was young but really fell in love with it while I was at university. I taught a lot of students how to knit and started to make up my own patterns. In my third year I came across a how-to-submit-a-pattern page online and started selling pdfs and created a website.

"When I graduated I gave myself three months and decided if I wasn't making at least the equivalent of the minimum wage, then I would put my degree to work and get a 'real' job. It took six weeks so I figured I'd just keep going. Now I'm working on a third book and I sell around 400 to 500 patterns a day – it can jump up to 1,000.



"I STOPPED TAKING NOTES AND STARTED KNITTING, WRITING DOWN THE OCCASIONAL IDEA, AND I FOUND THAT I COULD PROCESS WHAT HAD BEEN SAID A LOT BETTER."

"Sometimes I have an insane amount of work to do – I haven't been home for longer than a month in the last year and I've recently travelled for work to America, London, Shetland and then Iceland, teaching at a retreat.

"I teach a few classes a year and I try to show people things they couldn't necessarily learn from someone else. I spend most of my time putting my ideas into designing. I like to focus on things that are fun to make rather than something that looks perfect but is tedious and takes six months to finish. I also

make patterns in big size ranges and do a lot of fitting and shaping for your body.

"People say knitting is the new yoga – it's relaxing but it can be horribly frustrating! It's like anything physical, like bike riding or swimming or handwriting – you need to build muscle memory and that takes practice.

"It's pretty surreal that I have this one world where I'm really famous and the rest of the world doesn't have a clue who I am. My dad keeps telling people he has a famous daughter! Blogging is so one-sided – I meet so many people who know all this stuff about me and I don't even know their name.

"I wouldn't have seen this coming at all. Most of us spend, say, from the time we're 16 until we graduate from university, focussing on what we're going to do with our lives – it's really stressful and you feel you have to make the right choices. At Edinburgh I learnt a lot about research skills and being able to work independently but the university experience is also about all the things you learn that aren't necessarily obvious at the time how helpful they might be later. In the end, things fall into place."

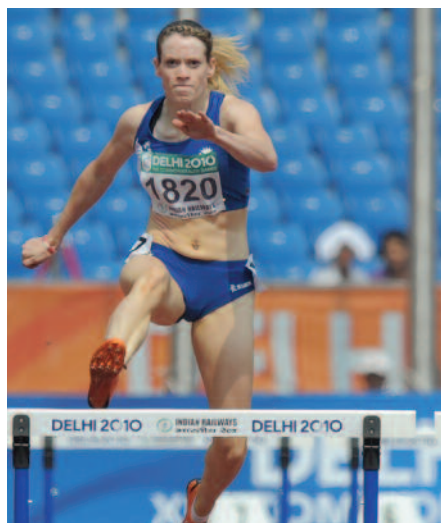


Alumni Network

Have you ever wondered what your former classmates are up to? Here's a snapshot of who's doing what, where and why... Visit www.ed.ac.uk/alumni to keep up with the latest alumni news and stay informed about events happening in your area.

Athletes and alumni celebrate Games success

Alumni, students, staff and senior members of the University came together in Delhi to celebrate Edinburgh's success at the 2010 Commonwealth Games. More than 90 people, including alumna and silver medallist Eilidh Child (pictured) and a group of India-based alumni, attended a reception hosted by University Principal Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea. Other guests included representatives from various Scottish organisations and Indian universities. For details on University activities in India, email Amrita.Sadarangani@ed.ac.uk.



Hong Kong events reflect historic links

More than 100 alumni based in Hong Kong, China and other East-Asian regions, together with a contingent from all the continents, gathered in Hong Kong recently to enjoy a series of events organised by the University and its General Council. Guests learnt about the life of the University in 2010 and were given the opportunity to influence the institution's development in the coming years. Events included a conference on the business of climate change and a lecture on Scotland's historic links with the East, reflecting past and present commercial and educational collaborations with China.

European graduates gather in Brussels

Graduates from all over Europe came together in Brussels recently for Development & Alumni's second annual European Alumni Dinner. The event, jointly hosted by University Principal Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea and the Edinburgh University Brussels Society, was held at the prestigious Cercle Royal Gaulois, Brussels. A follow-up to the inaugural event held in December 2009, the evening was another success, with attendees enjoying a reception, intimate formal dinner and address from guest speaker Dr Andy Kerr, Director of the Edinburgh Centre on Climate Change (ECCC).

A gala reunion

Save the date: 20–22 May, Edinburgh

Edinburgh University Savoy Opera Group 50th Anniversary Reunion

A sing-through of *The Mikado*, complete with a full orchestra and principals from 1961 to the present day, is just one of the events planned for the 50th anniversary reunion of the Edinburgh University Savoy Opera Group (EUSOG). Other tentative activities planned for the weekend of celebrations include dinner and entertainment for Savoy members from 1960–1964 at the New Club, a tour of the University's world-renowned musical instrument collection, a gala 50th reunion ball at the George Hotel and a Thanksgiving service at Greyfriars Church. Full details of the event will be confirmed early in 2011. For event and ticket information, visit www.eusog.org. To pre-register for events, email 50th@eusog.org.

Note: There is a limit of 250 tickets for the gala reunion ball, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Let's get together

Whether you're thinking of an informal gathering or a full weekend of activities, we can advise you on how to organise a reunion. For more information, or to find out about reunions in your area, contact Development & Alumni's Anna Moslow:

T: +44 (0)131 650 2240
E: anna.moslow.ed.ac.uk
W: www.ed.ac.uk/alumni



EUSOG members perform their first production, *The Mikado*, in 1961

We are happy to forward correspondence to graduates for whom we hold current address details. Email us at alumni@ed.ac.uk.

Rising star

Hamish Robertson

MA (Hons) Business Studies, 2005

From serving local businesses out of his student bedroom to running his own IT support firm, graduate Hamish Robertson is a young entrepreneur on the ascent.

"Robertson Technologies provides computer support services to companies – we basically act as a virtual IT department for small to medium businesses.

"I started the business in 2005, while I was at university. I didn't back up my work and thought there must be a way to copy automatically my files from one computer to another, across the internet, so I created a piece of software that did that. I thought if I benefit from this, then surely other people would want to pay for it. I started doing online backup for Edinburgh businesses from a big server in my bedroom in a student flat.

"I expanded into computer support, and in 2009 I franchised the business across the UK, which has taken it to a completely different level. We now have five franchises operating and will award a further 10 in the next 12 months. I've always wanted to run my own



business. I have a vision of creating something that I can pass on to different generations. Already I have achieved a sense of satisfaction that I've created something from scratch. In five years, from nothing, we've created this nationwide business and maybe in another five years it will be bigger."

Memory lane



Julia with her grandchild, and on her graduation day

New horizons

"I sometimes think back on the whirl of being a fresher where everything was new. There were books to be bought, societies to join, people to meet, classes to find out about – it was all go but here was the city where I wanted to be. I was just plain happy, and I don't know what I'd have done if I hadn't been accepted for Edinburgh.

"Possibly topping the list of my fondest memories was the sense first of surprise, then relief, and finally happiness when at last I saw the long-awaited finals results posted up.

"Coming to Edinburgh gave me the chance to achieve what I wanted, a degree in history. It opened up so many new horizons and instilled in me an academic discipline that has always stood me in good stead.

"I loved Edinburgh's dramatic beauty, its atmosphere of 'oldness', and perhaps most because even yet when I return, it's a place where almost everyone you meet knows someone you know.

"I live in Kenya, where my three children were born. I arrived in 1955, newly married, and have been here ever since."

Julia Lawrence (née Edwards)
MA (Hons) History, 1950–1954

Club focus

Edinburgh University Club of London

The Edinburgh University Club of London was founded in June 1864 when 21 graduates came together to establish the first club of its kind at the University. Now boasting 210 members, drawn from many academic disciplines and occupations, the club provides a forum for Edinburgh graduates living in and around London and the Home Counties. Regular

events include an annual general meeting, annual dinner, visits to the theatre, art collections and buildings and areas of architectural and historical interest, lectures and Burns Night suppers. An investment networking event is planned for early 2011. For details, visit www.dev.ed.ac.uk/clubs/London.



Master & Apprentice

Every graduate can name a mentor who gave them advice and encouragement. But have you ever wondered if you inspired your teachers in return? Here, we talk to one of your role models about their experiences.



THE MASTER

Harry Dickinson

School: History, Classics & Archaeology

Title: Emeritus Professor and Honorary Professorial Fellow

Are you an Edinburgh alumnus?

Yes. I was awarded a DLitt in 1986.

When did you start work at Edinburgh?

I came to the University as an Assistant Lecturer in History in the summer of 1966.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

I have always found lecturing, teaching and supervising very satisfying. Research can be a very lonely business and academic life would not have been half so rewarding without personal contact with students. I have also taken great satisfaction in publishing every single year from 1964, more than 20 books and 180 articles and essays.

... and the most challenging?

Trying to improve and assess the quality of teaching, administration and research across the whole university sector or across the whole discipline of history in the UK.

What has changed over the years?

Undergraduates undoubtedly face greater financial problems, are under greater pressure to get a good degree and are taught in larger and less frequent seminars, but they get more expert advice and more opportunities to do good work than before.

Postgraduate students are more closely supervised than before and are less isolated because of the far greater student numbers.

Is it satisfying to see graduates excel in their careers?

I take great pleasure in noticing the achievements of former students who have made successful careers. One of the really exciting things about Edinburgh graduation ceremonies is seeing how we have taught students from so many different countries – you appreciate that Edinburgh really is an international university.

Can you name a student who made your role as mentor particularly satisfying?

I taught Hugh Langmuir as an undergraduate. He was the most independent-minded and inquisitive undergraduate I have taught. He later did an MBA at Harvard and has had a distinguished non-academic career.

After a 40-year career, Professor Dickinson retired in 2006 but remains active in supervising MSc and PhD students.



THE APPRENTICE

Hugh Langmuir

Hugh Langmuir studied History (MA Hons, 1978) under Harry Dickinson's tutelage. Hugh is Managing Partner at London-based investment firm Cinven.



“I remember Harry as an accomplished but humble teacher. He had the relatively rare gift of being a deservedly popular teacher of undergraduates and a respected researcher and publisher. Aside from knowledge, which he imparted in an interesting and colourful way, Harry left me with intellectual skills that have served me well to this day: evidence-based, critical reasoning; capacity for cogent, tight synthesis of swathes of facts; discipline and work ethic; and, very importantly, honesty and humanity.”

My Edinburgh

Send your photographs of your student days to editor.edit@ed.ac.uk

Coming to Edinburgh means a lot of memories are enhanced by the stunning location, breathtaking weather and all-round cosmopolitan experience. We invite you to share what made your student days so memorable.



Heidi Rettig
Social Anthropology MSc, 1998

Where do you live now and why?

I live near Glacier National Park, in north-west Montana, in the US. My husband and I love the natural beauty and the relaxed lifestyle. Because we both run our own companies (I own my own consultancy firm), we had the flexibility to choose where we live.



When did you live in Edinburgh?

From 1995 to 2000.

What did the University do for you?

It was rare to be a part of the rich tradition of social anthropology at Edinburgh under the guidance of contemporary scholars doing some of the most interesting work in our field.

What do you miss most about the city?

I loved walking through different parts of the city – particularly along the Water of Leith, and also near New College and the Royal Botanic Garden.

What was in your “little black book” when you lived in Edinburgh?

John Knox House – on sunny days it was lovely to have lunch in the garden – and I was a regular at Henderson’s.

What was your first impression of Edinburgh when you arrived as a fresher?

I was very taken with the views – on a clear day you can see the Firth of Forth – and with how quickly the weather can change.

What is your fondest memory of your time at university?

I was able to secure a private viewing of the medical specimens at the pathology museum at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. I felt lucky, as an anthropologist-in-training, to learn about plagues and diseases that had altered the course of history in Scotland and abroad.



Which academic staff member influenced you the most when you were here?

Tony Cohen, Neal Thin, Jonathan Spencer and the late Charles Jedrej were exceptional guides. They honed my observation skills and advised that I write it all down. My office is filled with tiny, battered spiral notebooks.

What is your favourite view of the city?

The view up to the Castle from Princes Street Gardens – from the West End near St Cuthbert’s Church.



What would you recommend as “unmissable” to a tourist when they visit Edinburgh?

The penguin parade at Edinburgh Zoo never fails to impress. And the Lothian Buses 23 route is an excellent tour of the city – sit in the upstairs front window!

“Tony Cohen, Neal Thin, Jonathan Spencer and the late Charles Jedrej were exceptional guides. They honed my observation skills and advised that I write it all down.”

Then & Now Veterinary Studies

Founded in 1823 by William Dick, the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies was Scotland's first vet school and is now part of the University's College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine. Affectionately known as the 'Dick Vet', the School is one of the world's most innovative and influential centres for clinical care and student education, with graduates going on to become leaders in their fields as teachers, researchers and clinicians.



01 The anatomy lecture theatre in Clyde Street, c1905. **02** A 1930s class takes a closer look at bacteria slides. **03** The Dick Vet's 1913 rugby team. **04** Dr Peter Jackson shows a student vet the ropes. **05** J Matheson puts his charge through his paces in 1961. **06** A new generation carries on the William Dick legacy, c1895. **07** Servitor Hubert CN Peapell (Joe) is ready for work at Summerhall in 1937. **08** Clyde Street's physiology and pathology laboratory, 1905. **09** Hands-on learning during the 1980s.

Send your photographs of your student days to editor.edit@ed.ac.uk



10 A new home for the School's founder, William Dick. **11** A Labrador Retriever puppy gets an MOT. **12** Specialists treat a polar bear at Edinburgh Zoo. **13** A pet cat gets checked out. **14** Exotic species like snakes benefit from Dick Vet expertise. **15** Our vets at the operating table. **16** The official opening of the £3 million veterinary cancer care centre. **17** Farm call-outs are all in a day's work. **18** Feathered friends are cared for too. **19** The new Hospital for Small Animals building at Easter Bush.

Arts Review

Whether for work or play, the arts have always featured prominently in our alumni activities. Here, we showcase just some of your artistic endeavours and feature a few favourite cultural escapes.

60 SECONDS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MARTEL MAXWELL



Born: London, 09.03.77

Educated: The High School of Dundee 1982–1995, the University of Edinburgh 1995–1998 (LLB), the University of Dundee 1998–1999 (PGDip, Legal Practice), City of London University 1999–2000 (PGDip, Newspaper Studies)

Current home: London

Current job: Novelist, journalist

Favourite book: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

Favourite film: *Braveheart*

Favourite song or piece of music:

Nina Simone's "Feeling Good"

The place that most inspires you:

Lochinver, the Scottish Highlands

Greatest influence: My mum, Anne

Skill you'd most like to learn: Discipline

Scandalous by Martel Maxwell (Penguin, £6.99)

www.martelmaxwell.com

At school Martel set her sights on a legal career but her time at the University of Edinburgh developed her sense of fun, which stood her in good stead for a career as an entertainment reporter. Martel was the *Sun* newspaper's first graduate trainee, and her celebrity insights have manifested in her debut novel *Scandalous*, as has her love for the city of Edinburgh, which is the birthplace of one of the book's key characters.

"I always thought I'd be a lawyer but university is a time for learning who you really are and what you want. I found doing law at Edinburgh pretty tough but it taught me that not everything comes easily."

THE HIT LIST



To watch...

Starring Simon Pegg and Andy Serkis, *Burke & Hare* tells the tale of Edinburgh's notorious murderers who found a lucrative business providing cadavers to the University's Medical School in the 1800s. You'll recognise familiar Edinburgh landmarks in this black comedy, which was partly filmed in and around the city. – **Burke & Hare (15)**, John Landis, Ealing Studios



To read...

Edinburgh graduate Caroline Irby travelled around the UK for 12 months to photograph foreign children who now call Britain home. She visited schools, councils, hospitals, refugee camps and embassies to track down youngsters from 185 countries, and the book includes their views on life in Britain. – **Caroline Irby, A Child from Everywhere** (Black Dog Publishing, £14.99)



To listen to...

From William Byrd on a 16th-century Venetian harpsichord to Haydn on an early 19th-century Kuhlör's grand pianoforte, this informative demonstration recital reveals the diversity of the historic keyboard instrument collection at the University of Edinburgh's St Cecilia's Hall. – **John Kitchen, Instruments from the Rodger Mirrey Collection**, (Delphian, £11.99)

Masterpieces on show

Together with the University of Glasgow and the National Galleries of Scotland, the University staged a viewing for alumni of Venetian Renaissance masterpieces at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

Alumni viewed the collection of 13 paintings and 12 drawings, on loan from the National Galleries of Scotland.

University representatives also travelled to Boston, New York and Washington DC to hold annual east coast alumni events.



If you would like to contribute to *Arts Review*, email your suggestions to editor.ed@ed.ac.uk.

AS Byatt and John Carey win prestigious book prizes

Authors AS Byatt and John Carey have been awarded the 2010 James Tait Black Memorial Prizes.

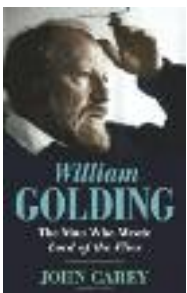
Alumnus and best-selling crime writer Ian Rankin announced the winners during Edinburgh's International Book Festival, and 100 alumni enjoyed a National Trust for Scotland reception at Charlotte Square before attending the awards ceremony.

AS Byatt received the fiction award for *The Children's Book* (Vintage, £7.99) and John Carey (pictured) won best biography for *William Golding: The Man who wrote Lord of the Flies* (Faber and Faber, £10.99).



Established in 1919, The James Tait Black Memorial Prizes are Britain's oldest literary prizes, and are awarded annually by the University of Edinburgh and judged by a panel of its scholars and postgraduate English Literature students. The awards have acquired an international reputation, and previous winners include DH Lawrence, Ian McEwan, Beryl Bainbridge and Lytton Strachey.

Visit www.ed.ac.uk/about/people/tait-black for more information.



THE FAB FIVE Can you name your all-time favourite film? Tough, isn't it! Here, five alumni provide their pick of the flicks.

01 *Manon des Sources* (1986)
It's a wonderful retelling of several mythic themes and I love the accent from that part of France because my family lived there.
Tim Maguire, MA History 1977

02 *The Godfather* (1972)
It's a gripping story with great actors, music and a fantastic script. It takes the American gangster film to a new level.
Paul Weighand, MA History 1998

03 *In the Loop* (2009)
Very amusing. **James Hunter, MA English Language & Literature 1973**

04 *GiGi* (1958)
I adore the clothes and the music and the whole spectacle of it, and the wonderfully nonsensical romantic story.



Philippa Gregory, PhD 1985

05 *Moon* (2009)
It's a brilliant low-key, eerie sci-fi directed by David Bowie's son, Duncan Jones. It's original, funny, creepy and a refreshing change from Hollywood blockbusters.
Tim Johns, MA Geography 2007

WHAT'S ON AT THE TALBOT RICE



ROSEMARIE TROCKEL Drawings, Collages and Book Drafts

29 January to 30 April

Rosemarie Trockel came to prominence in the mid 1980s with her drawings, sculptures and intermedia works. *Drawings, Collages and Book Drafts* is the most comprehensive presentation of her works on paper to date. A creative partnership between the Talbot Rice Gallery, Kunstmuseum Basel and Kunstmuseum Bonn, this exhibition will provide a fascinating glimpse of her wide-ranging graphic output over the past 30 years and feature a record of her outstanding achievements in drawing.

Image: © Rosemarie Trockel, *Vorstudie (Preliminary Study)*, 1989 Rosemarie Trockel, VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2010. Image courtesy of Sprüth Magers Berlin London and Centre Pompidou Paris

Visit www.trg.ed.ac.uk for details.

Food for Thought

Most of us have honed our cooking skills somewhat since we were students, but in case you're in need of a little inspiration, here are some culinary and cultural insights from a fellow graduate, who hails from Mumbai, India.

Edinburgh graduate Rashneh Pardiwala is a member of Mumbai's Parsi community, whose social traditions are based on a fusion of Iranian, native Gujarati and British influences. Here, she shares some secrets of Parsi cooking and her favourite recipe, passed on to her by her mother.

"While I was at Edinburgh, I survived on pizzas, pasta and curries like most students! Sometimes I would cook *Iranian Kesari Murghi* (Saffron Chicken), which is very simple. I ate haggis once at a Burns Night party, but let's just say I wouldn't have spent my hard-earned money on more!

"Parsi food is a unique blend of Middle Eastern and Indian cuisine, with bold and rustic flavours ranging from sweet, spicy and sour to nutty and fruity. Parsi cuisine isn't for the faint hearted as it revolves around copious quantities of fish, lamb, chicken, mutton and eggs! Cooking techniques are fairly standard but time-consuming – slow roasting, steaming and baking – and children are rarely allowed into the kitchen, where a hierarchy exists.

"Meal times are special for Parsis. As a child, I remember spending most weekends with relatives at my grandparents' home. First came an elaborate lunch, followed by a long, leisurely afternoon siesta, evening snacks and drinks (Parsis love their whisky!) and then dinner late at night.

"In India, most religious ceremonies, festivals, weddings and social occasions are centred around food. Parsi weddings are grand affairs, with no less than 1,000 guests and a sit-down dinner with a bare minimum of six courses. Parsis love celebrating and guests are constantly prodded to keep pace and eat more!"



Reader Recipe *Iranian Kesari Murghi (Saffron Chicken)* Serves 4

- 1 medium-sized chicken
 - ½ cup salad oil
 - 3 onions, sliced into rings
 - 1 small tsp saffron, gently roasted
 - Juice of 1 large lemon
 - 1 tbsp tandoori masala
 - Salt, to taste
- 1** Cut the chicken into medium-sized pieces. To make a marinade, mix the remaining ingredients together in a large bowl, then add the chicken pieces and coat well.
 - 2** Cover, then refrigerate overnight or for at least four hours.
 - 3** Transfer the chicken and marinade to a baking dish and bake in a preheated oven (200°C/400°F/gas mark 6) for 45 minutes, turning the pieces after 30 minutes, or until cooked (to test if ready, pierce the skin with a skewer – if the juices run pink leave it in for longer).
 - 4** Serve with crusty bread.



Meet the chef:
Rashneh Pardiwala
(MSc Environmental Protection & Management, 1997)

Dr Rashneh Pardiwala is Founder and Director of the Centre for Environmental Research & Education, a Mumbai-based non-profit environmental sustainability organisation.



If you would like to feature in *Food for Thought*, email us at editor.edit@ed.ac.uk.

The Two of Us

Many a lifelong friendship is forged during our university days, and we want to hear how you met your partner or best pal. In the case of Neil McRoberts and Catriona McPherson, it was love at 'second sight'.

Neil McRoberts

BSc (Hons) 1987, PhD 1992

"It was love at 'second sight'. A friend of mine was having a party at her new flat. When Catriona came into the kitchen she was wearing her work clothes and I didn't pay much attention. She went off to her room, got changed and came back – she was the most captivating, interesting and striking girl I'd ever seen!

"After that first meeting I got cold feet – there was no way I would get to have such a great girlfriend... I was a KB nerd, complete with corduroys and heavy metal T-shirts; Catriona was a George Square girl, with a style all of her own. But by the time term started in October 1985 we were inseparable.

"We spent a lot of time in the Old Bell Inn quietly sorting out the world, but we didn't go in for clubs or societies. In fact, I forsook the University Curling Club for a year or so to spend Wednesday afternoons with the girl I love.

"We got married after we'd been together for years. We ran away to Gretna and asked a couple of local women who were out doing their shopping to act as witnesses. After a wedding lunch of a can of ginger beer and a pie from the baker's we took off for our honeymoon in the Lake District. We sent everyone postcards.

"In June 2010 we moved to Davis, California. Catriona's career as a writer means we were able to uproot. I only hope we'll be able to adjust from gardening in the cold and wet of Scotland to gardening in the heat of California!"



"I was a KB nerd, complete with corduroys and heavy metal T-shirts; Catriona was a George Square girl, with a style all of her own."

Catriona McPherson

BSc (Hons) 1988, PhD 1996

"Ours is a mixed marriage, love across the barricades. I was an arts student, all dressed in black, and Neil was a science student, all dressed in cords.

"I came home from my summer job to my new flatshare in Mayfield Road, on Midsummer's Day, 1985, and Neil was in the kitchen talking to my flatmate. We were having a party but Neil had really come to stay the night before setting off early on a field trip the next day. We talked into the night and by the time he left the next day I knew he was the one.

"I think we arranged for him to come back the next weekend after the field trip; *he* thinks we left it open. *I* stayed in all day waiting; *he* went to the pub with the lads! We bumped into each other again at the Pear Tree pub during the Festival Fringe, and after that we spent every minute together, it seemed.

"We moved into a flat in Buccleuch Place in 1987 but after three years there, we started 20 years of weekly commuting (between Ayr and Edinburgh, Galloway and Leeds and then Galloway and Edinburgh). So we've always been together every weekend but we've had to do a lot of driving.

"Last summer we finally escaped commuting – but we had to move 7,000 miles to do it! Neil started on the faculty at the University of California, Davis. Now we live in – basically – paradise!"

Neil McRoberts is Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology at the University of California, Davis. Catriona McPherson is an author, whose latest book, *Dandy Gilver and an Unsuitable Day for a Murder* (Hodder & Stoughton, £19.99), is out now. If you met your partner or a lifelong friend at the University of Edinburgh and would like to share your recollections, email us at editor.edit@ed.ac.uk.

Billet

The General Council of the University of Edinburgh

Report By Alan Brown, 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.



Since my last Report we have had the highly successful out-of-Edinburgh meeting of the General Council and the University in Hong Kong in June 2010. The weekend was well attended, and for the first time we had members from four continents together. There was also a strong representation of Business Committee members. The General Council meeting was preceded by a lecture by Professor Tom Devine on 'An Empire of Commerce: Three Centuries of Scottish Enterprise in the East'. This was followed by the award by Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Vice-Chancellor, of an honorary degree to Dr Ann Matheson, Secretary of the General Council. Many members attended the meeting by webcast and sent live questions by email from many locations including Afghanistan, Malta and Atlanta. Please enjoy the video-clips and the questions and answers on the General Council website.

The Business Committee continues to address important issues affecting the University on your behalf. The current debate on the funding of higher education is being closely followed; and the Committee has been kept well informed about the proposed merger with Edinburgh

College of Art, and is supporting the University. Our new General Council Scholarships Fund initiative has reached two important landmarks: the first Scholarship has been awarded to Gordon Clark, who is studying for an MA in Archaeology; and the Scholarship Fund is also now endowed, thanks to a generous contribution from the Principal's recent Appeal. Business Committee members are taking a lead in supporting the Fund, and I encourage all General Council members to contribute to this worthwhile cause.

The work of the Standing Committees is fully recorded in the Conveners' Reports in the Annex to the Billet, which is available on the website or from the Office. The preparatory work for online voting in General Council elections is well advanced, and I strongly encourage you to register your email address on the Portal (details on page 38). Introducing online voting has required alterations to the University Ordinance, and in consultation with the University the Business Committee proposes a new simpler Ordinance with the detailed procedures for elections inserted in the Constitutional Arrangements. It is also proposed that General Council terms of office should be unified as two consecutive four year terms. The Business Committee's proposals, which are intended to bring the Council's procedures into line with current practice, are set out in the Motion for the February 2011 Meeting in Paper B in this *Billet*. The associated documentation may be consulted on the website or requested from the Office.

A Search Committee was set up by the Business Committee to seek a Secretary of the General Council for the next four years. At its October meeting, the Business Committee

recommended the appointment of Dr Michael J. Mitchell, and a Motion to this effect is set out in this *Billet*. Dr Mitchell graduated BSc and PhD in the University of Edinburgh, and has held senior management positions in the life sciences. He was a member of the Business Committee from 2006 to 2010, and Chairman of the Public Affairs Standing Committee and the Media Group.

Mr Melvyn Cornish, Secretary of the University and Registrar of the General Council, stepped down in September 2010. To mark his retirement a dinner was held in St Leonard's Hall in October. Our thanks go to Melvyn for his significant contribution to the success of this University and we wish him a happy retirement. Melvyn's successor is Dr Kim Waldron from Colgate University, New York. She has kindly agreed to be Registrar of the General Council. We welcome her warmly.

The Rev. Di Williams, Chaplain to the University, also moved on in September. She was a dedicated contributor to our meetings and will be greatly missed. Di's successor is the Rev. Dr Harriet Harris, who comes from Oxford. We wish her every success in this important post.

We have said farewell to five highly committed members of the Business Committee: Mr Francis Brewis, Ms Helen Campbell, Mr Finlay Marshall, Mr James Murray and Dr Mike Mitchell. They have all contributed greatly to the work of the Business and Standing Committees for which they have our thanks and appreciation. We warmly welcome to the Committee Ms Luise Locke, Dr Elizabeth Morris, Dr Bruce Ritson, Professor Charles Swainson and Mrs Ann Sutherland.

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General Council Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday 12 February 2011 10.30am: Room LT175, School of Law, Old College

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

10.30am: General Council Meeting in Room LT175, School of Law, Old College*

After the meeting: Lunch in the Playfair Library Hall (see page 38 for details)

***Members are invited to submit questions to the meeting in advance by email to general.council@ed.ac.uk or live during the meeting via the General Council website link at http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/forthcoming_meetings.htm. Please note that the meeting will be filmed.**

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 12 June 2010 (PAPER A)
3	Matters arising
4	Report of the Business Committee
5	Motions (PAPER B)
6	Dates of future meetings of the General Council
7	Notice of forthcoming Elections
8	Presentation by the Principal of the Annual Report of the University
9	Any other competent business
10	Adjournment

PAPER A

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in Hong Kong on 12 June 2010

Present:

Lord Cameron of Lochbroom
Chairman

Mr Melvyn Cornish
University Secretary and Registrar of the General Council

Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

Dr Ann Matheson
Acting Secretary of the General Council

Dr Alan Brown
Convener of the Business Committee

37P + 81V = 118 members
(P=Physical; V=Virtual)

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

- Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in Old College, Edinburgh, on 13 February 2010

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 February 2010 were approved.

- Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

- Report of the Business Committee

Dr Alan Brown, Convener of the Business Committee, gave the Report of the Business Committee. He said that it was a

special privilege to give his report in Hong Kong, which he and his wife had visited more than 20 years earlier. It was a great pleasure to greet members from Asia, Australia, North America, continental Europe and the UK, the first time that members from so many continents had gathered together in one place at a General Council meeting. He also welcomed those attending the meeting by webcast and reminded members that video-clips would be available on the General Council website.

Another step towards connecting better with members was the facility for voting online in General Council elections. Good progress was being made with the preliminary work and

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current plans were to begin to offer online voting in 2012. It would still, of course, be possible to request a postal vote.

The Convener highlighted the General Council Scholarships which had just been launched to provide assistance to students. The goal was to build an endowment substantial enough to support these scholarships in perpetuity. Members of the Business Committee were giving a lead and it was hoped that it would soon be possible to award the first scholarship, which would be an exciting landmark. He strongly encouraged members to contribute to this most worthwhile scheme: details of how to do so were in *Billet* within *Edit* and on the website.

The Convener noted the impending retirement later in the year of Mr Melvyn Cornish, University Secretary and Registrar of the General Council. On behalf of the General Council he thanked him and wished him well in his retirement. Sadly, the Rev. Di Williams was also leaving the University in the autumn. The Convener thanked her for her assistance at General Council meetings and wished her well in the next stage of her calling.

The weekend events in Hong Kong were the result of hard work by many people behind the scenes. The Convener thanked them all for their professional skills and dedication, especially Mrs Mary Scott, Assistant to the Secretary of the General Council, who was absent because of a family bereavement, and Ms Mariana West from Development & Alumni, for her assistance. Sincere thanks were due to the University of Hong Kong for kindly hosting the meeting, and to Ms Monica Wong, Mr Wai-kay Pang and Ms Emily Shek for their special help. He thanked Professor Kam-Fai Wong, who had been a most accomplished Mace-bearer, for his assistance.

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. Dates of future meetings of the General Council

The next Half-Yearly Meeting would take place on Saturday 12 February 2011 in Old College, University of Edinburgh. Any motions for discussion at that meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 24 November 2010. The following Half-Yearly Meeting would take place on Saturday 18 June 2011 in King's Buildings, Edinburgh. Any motions for discussion at this meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 31 March 2011.

5. Notice of forthcoming Elections

There would be elections for two General Council Assessors to the University Court and five Members of the Business Committee in February 2011. Nominations on forms available from the General Council Office should be received in the General Council Office by 24 November 2010.

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

The Principal said that it was a great pleasure to address the General Council in Hong Kong. He expressed the University's appreciation of the work of the General Council and commended the General Council Scholarship initiative. He intended to present a personal recent history of the University focusing on the last decade and to highlight internationalisation since the meeting was being held in Hong Kong. In 2000 the University had been through a period of very considerable growth and student numbers had doubled, but the level of state support had been eroded and from 1980 to 2000 had come to be worth 60 per cent of what it was. In 2000 the University was in good heart and had very good plans, and he proposed to mention some highlights over the decade.

In 2000 the Scottish Micro-Electronics Centre opened at King's Buildings. In 2001 the Research Assessment Exercise was introduced. In 2002 the new Medical School at Little France

opened in August. In 2003 the Edinburgh Stanford link opened with funding of £5.3 million; and Wolfson Microelectronics was spun out at an initial value of £240 million. In 2004 the first Chancellor's Award was made at Holyrood Palace, the University became the first Scottish university to receive Fairtrade status and Lord Sainsbury opened the Centre for Science at Extreme Conditions. 2004 was also the first time the General Council crossed the border and met very successfully in London in that year. In 2005 the G8 Summit met in Scotland and there was a 160,000-person Make Poverty History demonstration. Many from the University supported the march and academic debates were also provided. Research pooling was introduced in 2005 with the University in the lead; and the spin-out company MTEM was sold to a Norwegian company for £138 million, while retaining high-quality jobs in Scotland. It also saw the accreditation of Edinburgh College of Art for University of Edinburgh degrees; the launch of the Advanced Computing Facility at Easter Bush; and the opening of the University's Beijing Office.

In 2006 the University was out of clearing for the first time and filled all the places in its 600 programmes at the first stage, important both for planning and for reputation. The 'Enlightenment in the 21st Century' Campaign was launched; the University won the Queen's Anniversary Prize for its work on veterinary e-learning; and the Queen's Medical Research Centre opened. In 2007 the Centre for Regenerative Medicine was launched; the University was designated the UK Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World; and the Confucius Institute in Scotland was launched. The new University tartan was also produced that year. In 2008 the Informatics Forum opened with 600 researchers in an iconic building that has attracted many architectural awards. A Research Assessment Exercise also took place in 2008. The University received a gift of £8 million from Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal for the Centre for the Study of Islam in the Modern World. In 2009 the Students' Association Teaching Awards were awarded for the first time; the University was ranked 20th in the world in the Times Higher World Rankings; the Scottish

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Centre for Diaspora Studies was launched; and the University developed its internationalisation strategy, focusing on Global Academies. In the present year 2010, the University would open the refurbished Business School in Buccleuch Place; and would also open an office in Mumbai in India. The University had remained out of clearing and the signs for postgraduate teaching and international recruitment were good.

The Principal acknowledged the support of his excellent senior management team of Vice-Principals, Assistant Principals and Heads of School, and paid warm tribute to Melvyn Cornish as University Secretary. He underlined that the University had grown strongly over the last seven years and was in robust financial health. Looking to the future there was some anxiety about core funding from the Funding Council but the University had a strong management team and there continued to be a strong interest in studying at the University of Edinburgh. The top 10 student locations were the US, China, Canada, India, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore. The University also had a proven track record in commercialisation: seven years ago it had created eight companies a year; and 30 had already been created in 2010. All in all over the last decade the aim had been to develop long-term strategies for growth and this would continue in the future. The Principal concluded that notwithstanding current financial challenges, the University would continue to recruit strong academic colleagues and strong students, and that it would succeed in completing its current projects and new buildings.

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.

7. Any other competent business

No matters were raised.

8. 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, Chaplain, 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 12 June 2010. General Council members may either collect the Annex from 30 minutes before the Council Meeting or request it by post from: Mrs Mary Scott, General Council Office, Charles Stewart House, 9–16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT. Tel (0131) 650 2152; email: general.council@ed.ac.uk

PAPER B (MOTIONS)

Motion:

Preamble

The Business Committee on the advice of the Constitutional Standing Committee has agreed to introduce online voting for General Council elections; and to unify existing periods of office for General Council Assessors, Conveners and Vice-Conveners of the Business Committee and members of the Business Committee as two consecutive four year periods of office; and has further agreed that the detailed information currently held in Ordinance No. 198 (amended by Ordinance No. 205): Election of Chancellor and General Council Assessors should be moved from new Ordinance No. 210 to the General Council's Constitutional Arrangements and Regulations. The objectives are to encourage participation in General Council elections; to bring General Council practice in line with recent reports on governance; and to make the process for dealing with necessary amendments to the Ordinance less time-consuming.

The Business Committee proposes:

- (i) That the detailed information currently in Ordinance No. 198 (amended by Ordinance No. 205) shall be inserted into the General Council's Constitutional Arrangements and Regulations.
- (ii) That the relevant Ordinance be amended to the extent that the period of office in respect of General Council Assessors under the relevant Ordinances shall be two consecutive terms of four years after which time a period of one year shall elapse before that member may be proposed for re-election.
- (iii) That the necessary amendments to the relevant Ordinance should be made to facilitate the introduction of online voting at General Council elections as set out in paragraphs 2 (2) and 3 (1).
- (iv) Accordingly, the Business Committee invites the General Council to recommend that the University Court approve the terms of Draft Ordinance No. 210 to alter the arrangements for the election of the Chancellor and for the election of Assessors nominated by the General Council to serve on the University Court as presently governed by University of Edinburgh Ordinance No. 198 as amended by University of Edinburgh Ordinance No. 205.

Proposed by the Convener of the Business Committee

Seconded by the Vice-Convener of the Business Committee

The full text of amendments and associated documentation are mounted on the General Council website at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/businesspapers.htm; and may be requested from the General Council Office (general.council@ed.ac.uk). Copies will also be available at the Half-Yearly Meeting on 12 February 2011.

Motion:

That the General Council appoints Dr Michael J. Mitchell, BSc PhD, as Secretary of the General Council for a period of four years.

Billet

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 2015.

Candidates for General Council Assessors



Mr Ian James Miller
MA LLB 1962

Proposed by Sheriff John Douglas Allan, BL 1962, DMS

Seconded by Dr Bruce Ritson, MB ChB 1961, MD 1967

My professional life was spent mainly in the public sector, having been involved at senior level in local government and University administration for over 30 years. I was a non-executive Director of Edinburgh Healthcare Trust and Lothian Primary Care Trust before chairing the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland for 8 years. I was a Governor of Morrison's Academy, Crieff, served for 4 years on the Business Committee of the General Council and was Convener of the Finance and Services Standing Committee. I have detailed knowledge of the operation and corporate governance of complex public bodies including the University.



Mr Alan McDougall Johnston
MBA 1989

Proposed by Ms Doreen Davidson, BA 1977
Seconded by Dr Alan David Gillespie Brown, MB ChB 1963

I completed a term as elected Convener of General Council Business Committee in 2008 and now seek to build on the constructive relationships I established within and beyond the University. I wish to

contribute actively to current issues in University Governance, including Access, Funding and Student Experience. Having retired early from my post of Commercial Director in a large International Public Company engaged in Biomedical Research, I currently hold voluntary and Non-Executive Director posts in Charitable, Public and Private Sector Organisations. I live in Edinburgh, and undertake to apply my experience, energy and enthusiasm to University Court, if elected.



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

Proposed by Dr Alan David Gillespie Brown, MB ChB 1963

Seconded by Ms Doreen Davidson, BA 1977

Since 2007 I have served as General Council Assessor on the University Court, three of its committees and two strategic project boards (estates). During this time the University has flourished. I have thereby gained experience and understanding of this complex institution and of the wider University sector to enable an effective contribution to university governance in the exceptionally challenging times ahead. In 2010 I served on the group which reviewed Court's effectiveness. I should like to see through the implementation of its recommendations. I should feel honoured to be re-elected by the General Council to serve for a second term.

Candidates for Members of the Business Committee



Mr Waverley Duncan Cameron
BSc 1966

Proposed by Dr William Hugh Salvin Rampen, PhD 1993

Seconded by Dr Uwe Bernhard Pascal Stein, PhD 2003

More than 40 years of experience working for and with technology companies in the UK and USA, with an emphasis on patent

licensing. Most recently this has been as Chairman of an Edinburgh University spin-off company developing enabling technology for renewable energy applications.



Mrs Kirsty Joan MacGregor
MA 1981, Dip.Ed 1982, MBA 2001

Proposed by Dr Alan David Gillespie Brown, MB ChB 1963

Seconded by David Martin Scott Steel, The Rt Hon. Lord Steel of Aikwood, MA 1960, LLB 1962, LLD 1997

Three times graduate of Edinburgh University, MA, MBA, Dip Ed, I bring extensive experience in the design and delivery of high-level strategic projects and leadership development programmes. Currently representative for the MBA year of 2001, I am committed to the world-class vision and success of the university.



Mrs Morven Islay Helen Gibson Brown
MA 1972

Proposed by Professor Ann Smyth, BSc 1970, PhD 1974, MPhil 1975

Seconded by Mrs Hilary Vandore, MA 1968, MBA 1984

I graduated from the University on three occasions. I am an educational psychologist in a large independent school where I set up and developed the learning support department. I sit on the Academic Policy and Directors of Study Committees and wrote the school policies on literacy, numeracy and learning support.



Mr Francis Roger MacTaggart Brewis
MA 1972

Proposed by Mr Neil Robertson Hynd, BArch 1969

Seconded by Professor Ann Smyth, BSc 1970, PhD 1974, MPhil 1975

I graduated in Economics in 1972. In the Civil Service I have worked on Health,

Cultural Heritage and Environment policy issues. This has involved a wide range, including finance, human resources and instructions for legislation. I served on the Business Committee from 2006 to 2010, and hope to return.



**Mr Stuart James
Ritchie Walker**
BSc 1968

*Proposed by Alan McDougall Johnston,
MBA 1989*

Seconded by Mrs Christine Reid, LLB 1969

From teaching maths as a VSO in Africa to promoting equal access as a guidance teacher to students from adverse circumstances, I fervently believe in the opportunities of education. As Vice-President of the Graduates' Association, I am keen to encourage closer liaison with the General Council to benefit our University.



**Mr Charles Michael
Arber Lugton**
MA 1973

*Proposed by Dr Alan David Gillespie Brown,
MB ChB 1963*

*Seconded by Mr Neil Robertson Hynd,
BArch 1969*

Career in public administration in the Scottish Office, the Scottish Executive and latterly as Chief Executive of the Scottish Law Commission. I would aim to bring experience of leadership, management and strategic thinking at senior levels to the maintenance and development of the University's impressive reputation at home and abroad.

Officers

Chairman:	His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT	
Acting Secretary:	Ann Matheson, OBE, MA, Dip.Scottish Studies, MLitt, PhD, Hon DLitt (St And.), Dr h.c. (Edin)	
Registrar:	Kim Waldron, PhD, University Secretary	ex-officio

General Council Assessors on the University Court:

Douglas A Connell, LLB	2011
Ann M Smyth, BSc, PhD, MPhil	2011
A Margaret Tait, BSc	2013

Business Committee:

Convener: Alan D G Brown, MB ChB, FRCOG, FRCS Ed	2012
Vice-Convener: Frances D Dow, MA, DPhil	2012

A	Convener of Academic Standing Committee: Ian W Sutherland, BSc, PhD, DSc	2013
F	Convener of Finance and Services Standing Committee: Doreen Davidson, BA, AIPD	2012
P	Convener of Public Affairs Standing Committee: Neil R Hynd, LVO, BArch, FRIAS, FSA Scot	2013
C	Convener of Constitutional Standing Committee: Ralph V Parkinson, MA	2011

Members:

'A'	denotes a member of the Academic Standing Committee,
'C'	a member of the Constitutional Standing Committee,
'F'	a member of the Finance and Services Standing Committee, 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	Gordon D Cairns, LLB	2011
A	Alan D Simpson, BSc, PhD	2011
P	Frank I Stewart, MB ChB, MA	2011
F	Hilary A Vandore, MA, MBA	2011
A	R E Asher, BA, PhD, DLitt, FRSE	2012
P	Michael C Conway, MA	2012
C	Bruce L K Rae, LLB	2012
C	Mary M Swarbrick, MA, PGC	2012
A	William Ruthven Gemmell, LLB	2013
F	William Shields Henderson, MA, CA	2013
P	Jane E Kille, MA, MBA	2013
F	Luise Locke, BA, MA	2014
P	Elizabeth Morris, MB ChB MRCP	2014
A	Bruce Ritson, MD, FRCPE, FRCPsych	2014
C	Ann M Sutherland, MA, FBCartS	2014
F	Charles P Swainson, MB ChB, FRCPEdin, FRCSEdin, FFPHM	2014

Assistant to the Secretary: Mary T Scott, BA

Billet

The February 2011 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 12 February 2011 in the Playfair Library Hall, Old College. The Very Reverend Dr Gilleasbuig Macmillan CVO FRSE, Minister of St Giles' Cathedral, will give the after-Lunch address.

If you would like to attend the next General Council Lunch, please complete and return the form opposite no later than Monday 31 January 2011.



Tickets at £18 include pre-lunch wine reception and a buffet lunch in the Playfair Library Hall. Table wines will be available for purchase at the meal.

Dr Gilleasbuig Macmillan

The Chancellor

His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, has intimated his intention to stand down from his position as Chancellor of the University. The General Council expresses its sincere gratitude for his loyal and unstinting service as Chancellor from 1953. The process for the election of a successor is being put in hand by the General Council. For further information, please contact the Secretary of the General Council, Charles Stewart House, 9–16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT (email: general.council@ed.ac.uk).

Contribute to the General Council Scholarships Fund

The General Council Scholarships were launched in 2010. They will provide support for students who would otherwise be unable to afford to go to the University of Edinburgh. An endowment has now been created with the aim of supporting these scholarships in perpetuity. An award provides £1,000 of support each year for qualifying and deserving students. These new Scholarships are in addition to the existing Edinburgh Fund Access Bursaries. Together, it is hoped that they will give many students the chance to take up their well-earned places at the University.

If you would like to contribute as a General Council member, you may do so online at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/GeneralCouncilScholarships.htm. Contributions large or small are very much appreciated, as are also annual donations for a period of four years.



"I strongly commend to you the General Council Scholarships, which is one of the most important initiatives the Business Committee of the General Council has implemented. I am particularly grateful to Mr Douglas Connell, a General Council Assessor on the University Court, who proposed the scheme."

Alan Brown, Convener of the Business Committee

If you prefer to send a cheque, please print out the donation form that is available at the link above and send it with your cheque to:
Development & Alumni
University of Edinburgh
FREEPOST EH565
Edinburgh EH8 0BR

Register for General Council Online Elections

From 2012 the General Council is preparing to introduce online voting in a secure website. To enable you to vote online, you need to register for the MyEd Alumni Portal and provide us with your email address. To do this, please go to www.myed.ed.ac.uk and complete the EASE registration process if you are a new Portal user.

If you have already used the Portal as a student, you can use your student username and password to access the Alumni Portal.

If you experience any problems registering for, or accessing the Alumni Portal, please email dasusers@ed.ac.uk.

If you require a postal vote, please send your request to the General Council Office, Charles Stewart House, 9–16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT, email: general.council@ed.ac.uk.



Half-Yearly Meeting in the University of Hong Kong on Saturday 12 June 2010 Attendees at the Meeting included, front row, left to right: Professor John Smyth; Vice-Principal Young Dawkins; Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea; Lord Cameron of Lochbroom; Dr Ann Matheson; Mr Melvyn Cornish; Dr Alan Brown; Rev. Di Williams; and Professor Kam-Fai Wong.

The February 2011 General Council Lunch

Playfair Library Hall, Old College, on Saturday 12 February 2011, 12.30pm for 1pm

Please send me _____ tickets (£18 per person) for the General Council Lunch.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Name(s) of guest(s) _____

Please complete and return this form to Mrs Mary Scott, Assistant to the Secretary of the General Council, University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9–16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT, or alternatively you may order online at: www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/events.htm.

Closing date for applications: Monday 31 January 2011

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* THES – Reuters Ranking Annual Review 2008/09

**2008 UK-wide Research Assessment Exercise





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Leaving a pledge for scholarships and bursaries is an excellent way to ensure that young people and mature students, who may not otherwise be able to afford to attend the University of

Edinburgh, can fulfil their potential.

Legacies also help us to continue our vital and innovative research by uncovering the breakthroughs of tomorrow.

By making a gift in your Will, you, too, can help shape the future of Edinburgh.

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH CAMPAIGN

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Postcode Tel No.

Email



Return to: The University of Edinburgh Development Trust,
FREEPOST EH565, Edinburgh EH8 0BR

Please tick one of the following (you do not need to return the form if you have already notified us of your pledge)

☐ I have already included a gift to the University in my Will

☐ Please send me information on how to make a gift in my Will

or contact Morag Murison and
Gillian Blake of the Legacy Team:
Tel: +44 (0)131 650 2240,
email morag.murison@ed.ac.uk
or gillian.blake@ed.ac.uk
www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk

DATA PROTECTION: Your data may be used by the University, its agents and recognised alumni clubs, for a range of alumni activities including sending publications, offering benefits and services, organising reunions and in our fundraising activities. If you would prefer not to be included in any of these activities, please tick this box ☐. We will contact you to establish and record your wishes. The University of Edinburgh Development Trust is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC004307. The University of Edinburgh is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC005336.