



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDUCT News

Issue 69 September 2025

The Newsletter of the Edinburgh University Club of Toronto

In This Issue

Click the heading to go directly to the article

- Privatizing Health Services: Implications for the Protection of the Human Right to Health
- EDUCT Decennial Endowment Fund: Good News
- EDUCT Geography Centenary Fund: Mixed News
- Doctoral Research Supported by the EDUCT Geography Centenary Fund
- From the Meadows to the Maple Leaf: Edinburgh Alumni in Canada, We Need You!
- Medical Class of 1965: Sixtieth Anniversary Reunion
- Famous Alumni: Sir James Young Simpson
- Welcome to new member Madeleine Wesely
- Obituary: Len Evenden
- Book Review: Whatever Happened to Tradition?
- Treasurer's Report

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Membership fees for 2025 are due in January. If you have not yet renewed, please see [page 16](#) for details. We now take INTERAC e-transfers.

Mark Your Calendars

Check out the full events listing and details on [page 2](#)

EDUCT Outing to the McMichael Gallery

Sunday, 19 October 2025 | 11:30 a.m.

Learning What's Possible: The Philosophy and Public Mission of the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School

Sunday, 16 November 2025 | 2:00 p.m.

EDUCT Wine Tasting

Thursday, 4 December 2025 | 7:00 p.m.
Party Room, 1177 Yonge Street, Toronto

The 2026 Burns Nightcap

Thursday, 22 January 2026 | 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm.
The Duke of Kent, Yonge Street, at Roehampton Avenue

Message from the President



Our Board has been busy establishing our programme for the coming year. You can see these events listed on the next page. In this message I want to highlight the events prior to Christmas.

We start with an exciting outing to the **McMichael Gallery at Kleinburg** to enjoy the colourful leaves and connect with Edinburgh friends. It will be a great opportunity to socialize and play at the gallery grounds. Families and guests are invited, and gallery admission is free. In November, we visit the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study to hear about its pioneering work and contributions to society. EDUCT members looking for a stimulating educational environment for their children should take advantage of this event. And in December we will have more socializing with a wine tasting party.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read about the excellent talk we had from Dr. Hoekstra and Dr. Yanes on the privatization of healthcare, which was very relevant to the situation here in Ontario. And as a contribution to setting the scene for our 2026 Annual Dinner, our Famous Alumni column profiles the prominent alumnus Sir James Young Simpson.

As ever, do renew your membership if you have not yet done so ([see p.16](#) for details).

Anna Voineskos

Upcoming Club and Alumni Events

EDUCT Outing to the McMichael Gallery

Sunday, 19 October 2025 | 11:30 a.m.

McMichael Canadian Art Collection, 10365 Islington Avenue, Kleinburg

We are taking advantage of the free admission on this Sunday to socialize over lunch, chat while walking the grounds to enjoy the Fall colours, and to see whichever exhibits you prefer, at your pace. Later, visit the main street of Kleinburg and pick up some butter tarts! We start with the lunch at 11:30 a.m. The first 25 to register are guaranteed a lunch spot.

Cost: There is no EDUCT fee. Parking is \$7, lunch is your choice.

Info: Jenna Shelley, jenna.ks@gmail.com 416-816-5997

Learning What's Possible: The Philosophy and Public Mission of the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School

Sunday, 16 November 2025 | 2:00 p.m.

The Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study, 45 Walmer Road, Toronto

Richard Messina, Principal of the School, will introduce us to the history of the School, now celebrating its 100th anniversary, the context within which it operates as a laboratory school within the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, its philosophy of childhood education and development, features of its curriculum and its operation and how they differ from the traditional model of education, its notable contributions to the advancement of education in other schools and universities and, more generally, its contributions to society. Following the talk, there will be a tour of the school and playground to enable us to see how the design of the School's spaces exemplify its philosophy and understanding of how children learn best. As we tour, Mr. Messina will answer questions. Mr. Messina, who has served as the Principal of the School since 2015, was formerly a teacher within the School and, prior to that, a public school teacher. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto, and is currently an OISE doctoral student. Two of his daughters, who attended the School, are graduates of the University of Edinburgh.

Cost: There is no charge for this event

Info: Simon Miles, simon-miles@sympatico.ca 416-466-8793

EDUCT Wine Tasting

Thursday, 4 December 2025 | 7:00 p.m.

Party Room, 1177 Yonge Street, Toronto.

Use entrance on Summerhill Avenue, on north side of building.

This event is still in the planning stages. A sommelier will take us on a tour of a sample of a country's wines. Cheeses to complement the wines will be at hand.

Cost: TBA but likely \$50 for members & guests; \$55 for non-member alumni & guests.

Info: Paul Bradley, pauljfrbradley@gmail.com 416-464-9771

Promoting Your Event

If you are organizing an event or participating in an activity that would be of interest to fellow alumni in the GTA, please get in touch with our Communications Officer: Paul Bradley
pauljfrbradley@gmail.com.

You may also join us on LinkedIn or Facebook to submit your information directly to participating members through these networks.

Our Response to COVID

Although the public is still relaxed about Covid, we continue to learn of new variants that could well spread rapidly and that may not be as susceptible to control with our currently available vaccines. Given this air of uncertainty, and the history of waves of new variants of Covid and the ever-changing government cautions on public gatherings, we will decide how to stage each event about six weeks prior to that event. We shall retain the online format for a few events each year, given the ease of access this offers to those members living far from Toronto.

The 2026 Burns Nightcap

Thursday, January 22, 2026

6:30–10 p.m. (3 days before Burns)

The Duke of Kent, Toronto

On Yonge Street, east side, at Roehampton Avenue, just north of Eglinton Avenue East. Parking underground across Yonge, or surface lot on Roehampton.

All are part of the entertainment. Start thinking about what you could perform!

Cost: TBA. Likely about \$55 for members and guests; \$60 for non-member alumni.

Info: Simon Miles, 416-466-8793, simon-miles@sympatico.ca

Solar Energy: Why we need more; how to get it; and the implications for individuals and society

Sunday, 1 March 2026 | 12 Noon Zoom

Our speakers are Professor Neil Robertson, Head of Inorganic Chemistry, and Dr. Arno Verhoeven, Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Design, and ECA Director of Sustainable Development, University of Edinburgh. The backdrop to their talk is familiar: if the world is to remain livable, all countries have to intensify their efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). Currently, about 17% of global energy is derived from renewable sources. The speakers will argue that we should be looking to solar power to be the most reliable of those renewable sources for providing much of the world with the energy it needs over the long term. They will cover the development of solar energy to date and possible future trends, including discussion of the key technologies involved, and what it will take to realize a sustainable and equitable society, while providing the energy needed.

The talk should enable EDUCT members to be in a stronger position to assess Canada's plans to become an energy superpower. While those plans have yet to be fleshed out, they will presumably be designed to enable Canada to attract manufacturing and services that are major consumers of energy, and to export energy. But to the extent that such domestically generated energy or exported energy is derived from coal, oil and natural gas, it will still be contributing to the continuing rise in emissions of GHGs. If Canada is to contribute to a rapid lowering of global GHGs, it should be giving far more attention to how it can help the world, including Canada, to move to renewables and, in particular, solar energy.

Cost: \$5 for members and guests; \$10 for non-member alumni.

Info: Simon Miles, simon-miles@sympatico.ca 416-466-8793

EDUCT Annual Dinner

Friday, 17 April 2026 | 6:30 p.m.

The Great Hall, The Arts & Letters Club – 14 Elm Street, Toronto

Professor David J. Argyle, William Dick Chair of Veterinary Clinical Studies, Vice Principal, and Head of the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, The University of Edinburgh, will be our after-dinner speaker. Dr Argyle's theme will be *300 years of Medicine at Edinburgh: past landmark achievements; recent breakthroughs; and current challenges*. 2026 is a major landmark date for the University of Edinburgh, as it marks 300 years of the Edinburgh Medical School and is thus an excellent time to reflect on the School's place in the world, the impact that it has had, and the vision for the future. Dr. Argyle will look back to the beginning and the rise of the Medical School, and the benefits of being part of a civic university rather than one that was heavily influenced by religion. This allowed medical advancement at a pace, through anatomy and comparative anatomy. He will touch on many of the characters who have played a major role, such as Lister and Simpson in earlier times, through to more contemporary times and the impact of people like John Crofton in tuberculosis and Iain Wilmut and the impact of Dolly the Sheep on modern day regenerative medicine. This will also tie into the School's close links across comparative medicine and the 200 year old vet school intertwined with medicine. And he will articulate the School's future vision, the growth of the health innovation campus at Bioquarter, the building of a new medical school fit for 21st century medical education, and how the School is tackling the major challenges that face humanity both locally and globally.

Cost: TBA, but likely about \$110 for members and guests; \$115 for non-member alumni.

Info: Simon Miles – simon-miles@sympatico.ca, 416-466-8793

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 31 May 2026 | 1:00 p.m.

Location TBA (likely on Zoom)

Cost: There is no charge for the AGM.

Info: Anna Voineskos – avoineskos@bell.net, 416-826-6655

Privatizing Health Services: Implications for the Protection of the Human Right to Health

by Alan Pearson

EDUCT was fortunate to have two highly knowledgeable speakers from the Edinburgh Law School (ELS) to address the above topic in the EDUCT Zoom lecture on 23 February 2025.

The idea of a talk by ELS faculty arose during discussions with Professor Nehal Bhuta while he was visiting Toronto to teach at the U of T Law School. Professor Bhuta, in addition to being the Professor of International Public Law at ELS, is also Co-Director of ELS' Advancement and Alumni Relations programme. He reached out to EDUCT as part of the alumni relations initiative and, in that context, kindly offered to arrange a talk for EDUCT.

Our speakers were Dr. Johanna Hoekstra, who is a lecturer in commercial law at Edinburgh, and Dr. Luis Felipe Yanes, who is an international human rights lawyer currently working within the Scottish Human Rights Commission, and a part-time lecturer in international human rights law at ELS. Together, they have published research on the impact of the privatization of health services and on the human right to health.

Although the topic of health care was eclipsed by tariffs in the most recent federal election in Canada, it has been very close to the surface in many federal and provincial elections as the baby boomers age and as the level of dissatisfaction with the current system increases.

Although there are many solutions proffered, most require increased funding (either short or long term), and governments are hesitant to commit to an increasing healthcare budget. This has led to various strategies to involve the private sector in the provision of healthcare services with a view to improving efficiency and/or reducing cost.

The speakers' work has been focused on the UK's National Health Service and its broader system, in which there are parallels and similarities to the Canadian situation. Both countries operate a public healthcare system in which the provision of most medical services is managed by government-run bodies (the UK's private healthcare sector is very small). And in both countries, elements of the medical care are provided by businesses (both for profit and not-for-profit) while being paid for by the government agency. An example, in both Canada and the UK, is physiotherapy services. And a key common factor is that care is free at the point of usage.

Dr. Hoekstra observed that governments have increasingly been contracting out healthcare services. However, she noted there is no clear evidence that this strategy has in fact increased efficiency or reduced cost. Partly that is because of the difficulty of measuring the quality of "soft" services (e.g., a doctor's consultation) as opposed to "hard" services (e.g., running a bus service to a specific timetable). Although there are successful examples of this contracting-out, there are many cases of failures. Indeed, in the UK, the major Private Finance Initiative programme, that was launched in 1992, ceased to be used for new projects from 2018 on because of those failures.



Dr. Luis Felipe Yanes



Dr. Johanna Hoekstra

Dr Hoekstra went on to explain that the focus of the work she and Dr. Yanes are pursuing jointly has been to explore how the realization of social rights to healthcare can be achieved when governments contract out part of the system.

Dr. Yanes noted that the right to health is one of the basic human rights (cf. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, and the supportive International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1967). Further, the right to health is enshrined in the charter of the World Health Organization. He also emphasized that businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights independent of the obligations of the state and that this is set out in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

As an aside, the right to health in Canada is more nuanced. A paper published in 2022, in the context of the Covid epidemic, makes the point that a right to health is not expressly enumerated in the Canadian constitution, but that the rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms “have been significant drivers of access to medically necessary services and the protectorate of health-related values.” ([The right to health, a comparative law perspective](#)).

Thus, governments have obligations, at least under international human rights law, even if not directly under the legislation of their own country, and the contracting out of a service does not mean that the state can contract out its human rights obligations. However, as Dr. Hoekstra observed, contract law may suffer some shortcomings in this respect, in that contract law aims to protect the parties to the contract and to preserve the contract, all of which means that only the parties to a contract have rights and obligations under that contract. The citizens, not being party to the contract, may have no rights.

Dr. Yanes made the point that, as far back as Roman law, rights were meaningless if there were no consequences when the rights were breached. However, whereas government-provided remedies may be stipulated under international human rights law, they are not typically incorporated into domestic legislation (e.g., Canada). And yet remedies under a contract are readily available to the contracting parties. Provider-based remedies, enabled by the private contractor setting up a grievance procedure, would likely be the practical solution.

Dr. Yanes emphasized that he and Dr. Hoekstra had been deliberately neutral in terms of their view of public-private partnerships.

They believe that if these partnerships cannot be constructed in a way which protects the right to health, then perhaps it is not appropriate for them to be used.

However, they do see a way for making public-private contracts effective in protecting the right to health. Indeed, they have recently published model contract clauses which they recommend be used in the contracting out of the provision of health services. ([From_Rights_to_Contracts.pdf](#)).

Dr. Hoekstra summarized their conclusions by saying that the current framework for public-private partnerships creates an accountability gap and that there is an inherent mismatch between how public-private partnerships are constructed and what the right to health demands. Their model contract clauses are designed to address these shortcomings and thus protect the right to health.

The challenge will be to get government procurement departments, which are used to purchasing “things”, to start looking at the procurement of services as something completely different and to recognize that there are stakeholders beyond the contracting parties. Again, the model contract clauses would be a good place to start.

The talk was followed by a lively discussion. EDUCT thanks Dr. Hoekstra and Dr. Yanes for their most stimulating and thoughtful talk, which is so pertinent to the current discussions on the provision of health services in Ontario.

EDUCT Decennial Endowment Fund: Good News

by Simon Miles

The EDUCT Decennial Endowment Fund enjoyed a healthy increase since our last report in May. As of the end of July 2025, which happens to be the end of the University's financial year, the total investment in the Fund stood at £237,189, which is up from the £228,191 reported at the end of April 2025.

As ever, we remind all who are interested that the Fund remains open for further contributions. For details on how to donate, and to receive the appropriate form for donors from your country, please contact me at simon-miles@sympatico.ca

EDUCT Geography Centenary Fund: Mixed News

by Simon Miles

The EDUCT Geography Centenary Fund, like the EDUCT Decennial Fund, experienced healthy growth since our last report. As of the end of July 2025, the total investment in the Fund stood at £132,843, up from the comparable figure of £125,161 for April 2025.

As promised in our last newsletter, we are now able to bring you more information on the research Patrick Miner, an American, who was named the recipient of the EDUCT Geography Centenary Fund Award for 2025. This report is in the next article below.

The sad news, which we mentioned in our last newsletter, is that EDUCT lost Len Evenden, another long-time member, just as we were going to press in May. His obituary appears in this issue.

All interested are reminded that the Fund remains open for further contributions. Any assistance you can give to help us get to the next very important milestone of £140,000 would be much appreciated by all in Edinburgh. For details on how to donate, and to receive the appropriate form for donors from your country, please contact me at simon-miles@sympatico.ca

Doctoral Research Supported by the EDUCT Geography Centenary Fund

by Simon Miles

This year, the thirteenth year for awards from the EDUCT Geography Centenary Fund, the award was made to Patrick Miner, who is in the final year of his doctoral studies. I have worked with Patrick to provide the following capsule summary of his life and doctoral research in order to give donors to the Fund a good sense of what they are helping to make possible. Support for Patrick brings to 24 the total number of students who have enjoyed support from the ECGF.

Patrick Miner is an American who is interested in making the case for fewer cars in the lives of especially city dwellers. Patrick was born in the United States and grew up in Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, Michigan. He attended public high school there until his final year, which he spent at Interlochen Arts Academy, a boarding school with a beautiful campus of about 500 hectares of woodland and lakes, in rural Michigan. Notably, there were no cars! The prime reason for choosing the school was his interest in creative writing, but he also benefitted from his fellow students who were there to take advantage of the rich array of arts courses. Patrick was very conscious that he was able to focus much more on his education and that the school helped give shape to his values and interests. After Interlochen, Patrick attended Lawrence University in Wisconsin. A small university, Lawrence has a reputation for music and other arts. He pursued his B.A. in Linguistics and History with a minor in Maths, and graduated, summa cum laude, in 2011.

His first foray into the world of work led him to spend six years at the Chicago Architecture Centre - a museum focused on architecture and urban planning. His research there on urban planning led him to contemplate a masters degree with a research focus.

The University of Edinburgh caught his eye for several reasons: it had a Geography department, something not found in many universities in the US; that department had a very broad reach; and he liked the option of a one-year research masters degree. He was accepted and found himself being the only masters student, of about 100 that year, who had opted for the research masters rather than the taught masters degree.



Patrick Miner

His thesis title was "Why is Car Use Lower in Edinburgh than Other UK Cities?". His thesis adviser, Bruce Gittings, was leading a programme on geographic information science (GIS) and, in addition to interviews, Patrick employed GIS in his analysis of census data pertaining to the UK's 75 largest cities. Among other things, the analysis revealed that Edinburgh and Brighton have the highest concentrations of people resident within a one-mile radius of the city centre. This translates into having lots of people walking to work. This concentration is explained in part by the fact that lots of people in Edinburgh live in flats. Indeed, in Scotland, as compared with England, one finds, say, ten owners of ten flats in one building, whereas in England one may find one owner of a building with ten flats. Also contributing to the low number of people who drive to work is the low availability of parking spaces. And then, for those who live further away from their workplace, there is the high availability of affordable bus services. Edinburgh has the highest proportion of commuters using buses in the UK. That high usage of the bus service is also due, in part, to the fact that the service is publicly owned and that a policy of charging low fares prevails. Thus, it is not so surprising that Edinburgh has one of the lowest levels of car ownership in the UK. Patrick was pleased to note that, upon graduation with his M.Sc. in 2018, he had the opportunity to brief Edinburgh City Council staff on his findings.

In 2019 Patrick returned to Chicago, this time to work on several consulting projects and then for IFF, a not-for-profit with a mission of shaping more equitable and vibrant communities through lending, development, and research. There, he conducted research involving the mapping and analysis of data to inform the provision of targeted support for specific communities.

And then, in 2021, Dr. Fraser MacDonald, at the Institute of Geography, at Edinburgh, connected him to a research project being run by staff at Edinburgh, Oxford and Coventry. He was offered research funding, via the Natural Environment Research Council (part of the UK government), to conduct research on the space that cars consume and alternative uses for that space. Later that year, Patrick commenced his Ph.D. While he is based in the Institute of Geography, it happens that none of his four supervisors are geographers, but a mix of ecologists and health experts. Those supervisors are: Alfred Gathorne-Hardy (Edinburgh); Barbara M. Smith (Coventry and University of the Arts London); Anant Jani (Oxford); and, Geraldine McNeill (Edinburgh). They proposed that Patrick look at a hypothetical scenario in which 90% of cars are removed from Edinburgh. After modifying that slightly, to respond to the difficulties of obtaining exact data on street surfaces, while taking advantage of the opportunities arising from the availability of geographic Ordnance Survey data for the whole of Britain, Patrick ended up with a thesis that would have the working title of "From Cars to Commons: Repurposing Car-Allocated Land to Improve Health and Well-being in UK cities".

There are three major chapters to his thesis:

- a global overview of the negative impacts of cars and associated infrastructure on society and the environment;
- the measuring of spaces allocated to car use in about 75 cities in Great Britain;
- an assessment of alternative uses for the spaces used by cars.

Much of the research for the first chapter of the thesis has already been published in a paper of which Patrick was the lead author: "Car Harm: A Global Review of Automobility's Harm to People and the Environment". The objective of that paper is to serve as a reference for those seeking to reduce harms from automobiles and to improve environmental and human health and well-being. While the authors of the paper recognize there are benefits derived from cars that cannot be dismissed, the paper does not explore such benefits of cars, or of other socio-technical systems for mobility, such as aviation and railways. The focus on harms is seen as justifiable in that there has been inadequate attention to harms in past policy making and there is a need to challenge the current system of automobility. The paper does an excellent job of reviewing the externalities of car use that manifest themselves in the form of deaths, injuries, ill-health, noise pollution, lack of exercise, social injustices, time spent earning money to finance car ownership, and environmental damage. It also provides a very brief commentary on some interventions that have been considered or taken. In this context, the comment on the electric vehicle is that it is unlikely to result in large reductions in deaths, injuries, injustices, or key environmental damages. In sum, the paper discusses the effects of a world organized around the movement and storage of cars and suggests that space and budgets be moved away from private cars to walking, cycling, and public transit.

To read the paper, go to:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0966692324000267>

The second chapter, devoted to the measurement of space allocated to cars, is given some useful context in that Patrick is also measuring the spaces allocated to buses, trains, walking and cycling. One interesting, but unsurprising, finding is that the space allocated to buses in the UK is less than one-tenth that of space allocated to cars.



A simple illustration of an optional use for space allocated for cars

The third chapter discusses the merits of using various types of car spaces for alternative land uses. Two obvious examples are the replacement of a car parking lot with recreational park space or housing.

Patrick hopes that the argument he provides, in the first chapter, on the cost of the car to society, will lead decision makers to think more rigorously about alternative ways of structuring cities.

However, he recognizes that, in order to get his findings and recommendations incorporated into public policy, he will need to do one or more post-docs in the UK and, if possible, spend some time sharing his thinking with policy makers and leaders of non-governmental organizations, such as Sustrans and Living Streets.

Patrick looks back on his time in Edinburgh as having been very rewarding. He is particularly appreciative of the encouragement given to those who wish to pursue interdisciplinary research. The Institute of Geography has been outstanding in this regard, with its mix of geographers and their collaboration with persons from other disciplines – as exemplified in his panel of advisers. And recently, the emergence of the Edinburgh Futures Institute, with its stated objective of promoting interdisciplinary work, has brought more of a formal push for interdisciplinary research. Then there is also the informal element contributing to one's interdisciplinary thinking: the chance encounter in the corridor; and, the seminars offering exposure to a broad array of subjects.

Patrick is very grateful for the support he received from EDUCT's Geography Centenary Fund. It enabled him to attend the annual conference of the Royal Geographical Society, in late August, in Birmingham. He was busy there. He presented a paper and chaired three sessions for Ph.D. students. He found the experience helpful. The paper was on the possibility of replacing car parks with public housing. He received useful comments during its discussion. The three sessions for fellow doctoral students were organized around the conference theme of creative approaches to geography. Altogether, there were 15 presentations from students from around the UK and Europe.

Patrick expects to defend his thesis in late 2025.

EDUCT wishes Patrick every success in both completing his doctorate and in finding the first post-doc position.

From the Meadows to the Maple Leaf: Edinburgh Alumni in Canada, We Need You!

By Robin McLernon

Editor's Note: When your Editor learned that Robin McLernon, long-time member of EDUCT, had joined the Board of the Saltire Foundation Canada and was promoting a programme of great relevance to Scottish students, we first arranged for Robin to make an announcement at our Burns Night event last January. That was very well received. Since then, Robin kindly offered to prepare this article to reach a wider audience.



Do you remember your first steps onto George Square? The buzz of festival season spilling down the Royal Mile? That unmistakable pride when you graduated in McEwan Hall?

Now, thousands of miles away, you're part of a vibrant network of University of Edinburgh graduates in Canada - a community that carries Scotland in its heart while contributing to the growth and innovation of Canadian business. And, today, you have a unique chance to give back by opening doors for the next generation of Scotland's brightest students.

The Saltire Scholars Programme in Canada

The Saltire Foundation Canada, a registered Canadian charity, is on a mission: to give Scottish students life-changing work experience in Canada while helping Canadian companies access fresh, ambitious talent.

Through the Saltire Scholars Internship Programme, penultimate and final-year students from Edinburgh (and 15 other Scottish universities) spend 10–12 weeks (June–September 2026) working with Canadian companies—bringing energy, innovation, and a global entrepreneurial mindset.

Since 2007, Saltire has placed over 2,000 students in 500+ companies worldwide, from Boston to Sydney. Now, the Canadian chapter is growing, and we are hoping that EDUCT can support the movement.

Why It Matters to You

As an Edinburgh alumnus, you know what makes Scottish graduates special - curiosity, creativity, and the drive to make a difference. Hosting a Saltire Scholar in your company (or introducing us to someone who can) means:

- Supporting transformational opportunities for students walking the same cobbled streets you once did.
- Enriching your company with fresh perspectives and ideas.
- Strengthening the ties between Scotland and Canada's entrepreneurial communities.

It's not just business—it's heritage, pride, and paying it forward.

Scotland in Canada

With 4.4 million Canadians claiming Scottish heritage, our country is already rich with Scottish influence. By supporting SFC, you help deepen that legacy while giving Canadian companies access to world-class talent.

Imagine: the next great leader, innovator, or changemaker may just start their journey in your office.

A Call to Edinburgh Alumni

We're looking for Canadian companies and leaders - especially those with an Edinburgh connection - to host Saltire Scholars in 2026. Placements can be in-person, hybrid, or virtual, with full support from our team on logistics.

If interested, please visit the Saltire Foundation Board website for more details: <https://www.saltirefoundationcanada.com/host-an-intern>

Or reach out to me at robin.mclernon@pl-consulting.com. I am a member of the Board of Saltire Foundation Canada and can provide additional marketing materials, as well as answer any questions you may have about the programme. My company has successfully hosted at least two interns to date.

Whether you can host an intern, connect us with your company, or help spread the word, your involvement matters.

The Story Behind EDUCT

"EDUCT" is intended to form the acronym for the Edinburgh University Club of Toronto. "Educt" is a word which means, in the language of chemists: "A body separated by decomposition from another." In addition, there is "e-duct", an electronic channel, which seems appropriate for all of our members receiving EDUCT News via e-mail.

Medical Class of 1965: Sixtieth Anniversary Reunion

by Noel Wright

2025 marks the 60th anniversary of the graduation of my Edinburgh medical class. We have enjoyed several splendid reunions over the years and, once again, this reunion was expertly organized by outstanding colleagues together with help from the University administration. In all, 23 members and partners attended and a further 19 sent regrets due to ill-health or distance. Together, they accounted for approximately one third of those graduating. Though the numbers are small, the survivors represent a greater proportion in their age group than the average for the UK. Perhaps our medical education gave us a survival benefit!

We had a “meet and greet” evening meal at the Hotel du Vin on Bristo Street, and on the following day a lunch in what had been the Accident and Emergency department of the old Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Before lunch, a presentation was given by Dr. Marti Balaam, Director of Professionalism at the Medical School, on the current medical curriculum and teaching methods. She was accompanied by two articulate students and they all responded to audience questions. The audience was clearly very interested but somewhat surprised at how much had changed. My impression was that the audience was a little concerned at how far the curriculum had moved towards emphasizing the ethical and professional dimensions of medical practice and away from the hard science basics.

However, to put the difference into context these students were answering questions from people who were students 60 years ago. If we the reunion attendees had been given the same opportunity, we then undergraduates would have been answering questions posed by doctors who had graduated in 1906! That thought confirmed my belief that it was a good thing that I am fully retired!

Later in the afternoon we were given a conducted tour of the old Royal Infirmary building. It was closed as a hospital in 2003. The old medical portion has been converted into up-market apartments and is private. The surgical portion has been converted into a public multi-function education area with different facilities available in the different ex-ward areas. One notable exhibit was of sketches and short messages written by people who had contact with the patients, nurses, doctors etc. during the last hundred and twenty years. The area was quiet when we were looking around in early September, but we were assured that during the academic terms the space is heavily used. My overall impression is that the change in function from an old hospital has been very successful.

This is possibly the last reunion for the class of 1965, a sad reminder. Next year is the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Medical School and plans are underway for it to be extensively celebrated by the University and City of Edinburgh. Doubtless, we will hear much more about that at EDUCT's Annual Dinner in April 2026, when our speaker will be Dr. David Argyle, Head of the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.



*Members of the medical class of 1965 on the steps
of the old Royal Infirmary building*

Famous Alumni

Sir James Young Simpson

by Simon Miles

Editor's Note: As in our January newsletter, we have dedicated this column to a famous alumnus from the School of Medicine as a way of recognizing the upcoming tercentenary of the School in 2026, and of encouraging EDUCT members to attend the Annual Dinner on 17 April 2026 when Professor David Argyle, Head of the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, will be our speaker.

James Young Simpson's greatest contribution to society was his introduction of the use of chloroform as an anaesthetic. This led to his being appointed one of Queen Victoria's surgeons in Scotland in 1847 and to his being made a Baronet in 1866. A graduate of the School of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, he later became a Professor of Medicine and Midwifery at the School.

James Young Simpson was born in 1811, in Bathgate, west of Edinburgh. His father was a baker and young James went to the local school. As was often the case in those days, by the time he was 14 he was entering the University of Edinburgh. For the first two years, he studied for an arts degree, but switched to medicine for his third year. He was obviously a bright young thing: he was the recipient of the prestigious Stewart Bursary which he applied for in his second year. And by the time he was 18 he had completed all his medical exams for the College of Surgeons. By 1832, he had completed his MD thesis on inflammation, which impressed his professors and he was able to graduate.

However, somewhat strangely, he became a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1830, which presumably allowed him to practise medicine. He first practised as a local doctor in Stockbridge. However, with his degree in hand, he rose rapidly. He began to teach at the University and by the age of 24, in 1835, he had become the President of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh, a body which today is run by students at the Medical School. In 1840, at the age of 28, he was appointed to the Chair of Medicine and Midwifery at the University. At that time, the term 'midwifery' embraced all that encompassed obstetrics and gynaecology.



Sir James Young Simpson

Simpson's interest in making childbirth safer and less painful led to his interest in anaesthesia. Chloroform had been invented in 1831 by a French chemist, Jean Baptiste Dumas, by reacting acetic acid with chlorine. However, it was Simpson who had the idea of using it in medicine. He had already been testing the use of ether in January 1847, but it happened that, in November 1847, he and two of his students had been experimenting with inhaling various substances to test their anaesthetic properties. They tested chloroform, and, quite fortuitously, with just the right amount. They passed out, but did not kill themselves. On waking the next morning, Simpson realized the utility of the drug as an anaesthetic. Four days later, he had delivered a child whose mother had been given chloroform. Fifty more patients were safely subjected to its use in the next month. It began to be applied in surgery. Of course, something was bound to go wrong at some point, and in 1848 the first death was recorded – that of a young girl. Not surprisingly, this fed the opposition that had been led primarily by religious groups. However, the number of successes far outweighed the few deaths. Simpson was swift to document and publish his experience with chloroform in his classic work of 1847: *Account of a New Anaesthetic Agent, Substitute for Sulphuric Ether in Surgery and Midwifery*. The news spread rapidly, via pamphlets and newspaper articles. By 1853 Queen Victoria had been successfully sedated with chloroform by a Dr. John Snow, while giving birth to her eighth child, Prince Leopold. That royal stamp of approval led to the widespread uptake of the use of chloroform. Although chloroform is no longer used in surgery and childbirth, Simpson's successful application of the drug, at a time when there were few anaesthetics available, established his reputation.

Simpson also made other contributions to obstetrics. He modified the forceps used in childbirth to provide the form in which they are still used today. They carry his name. In 1838, he invented the Air Tractor which was designed to aid childbirth through the creation of a vacuum that would ease the extraction of a child from the womb. It was not widely used and was replaced many years later by the ventouse, which places a suction cup on the head of the baby in the womb.

Not surprisingly, this contribution to the reduction of pain experienced, not just during childbirth but in any form of surgery, brought much recognition to Simpson. He was highly regarded by fellow surgeons and assumed positions of leadership in various medical societies. He became President of the Harveian Society of Edinburgh in 1848. It functions largely as a social club for medics. In 1850, he was elected President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and President of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh. That same year he was elected a member of the exclusive Aesculapian Club – a dining club for a small number of surgeons and physicians. He was also recognized by medical societies in Europe and America with honorary memberships.

Throughout his professional career he continued his private practice. Much of it focused on childbirth. Over time, not surprisingly, he had moved from serving primarily the indigent in his early days to attending to the wealthy residents of Edinburgh.

Later in his career, he gave more attention to hospital infection and surgical sepsis, with an emphasis on puerperal fever, which is manifested in part by a bacterial infection of the female reproductive tract and a high fever after childbirth. He also championed more sanitary conditions in hospitals, pushing for surgeons to wash their hands more frequently. Amazingly, in those days, a blood-spattered gown was regarded as a 'uniform' for the job.

Simpson also made contributions to the fields of leprosy and syphilis, writing papers on the symptoms of the diseases, and working to ensure the provision of separate spaces to treat patients with these diseases.

Outside of medicine, Simpson had a number of other interests. As an antiquarian he served as Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland from 1860 to 1870. The Society promotes the cultural heritage of Scotland; its members collect artifacts of relevance to this objective. Amazingly, he dedicated considerable time to this interest. Indeed, in 1867 he published what is regarded as an important work on prehistoric rock art: *Archaic Sculpturings of Cups, Circles, &c. Upon Stones and Rocks in Scotland, England, & Other Countries*. Two volumes of his essays on antiquaries were published posthumously.

In 1869, one year before he died, he took up the cause of women who wanted to study medicine. To his credit, he persuaded the Medical School to allow Sophia Jex-Blake "to attend the class of any professor who was willing to teach her."

Alongside his successful professional career, he enjoyed an equally successful family life. In 1839, he married Janet Grindley, the daughter of a shipping magnate Walter Grindley. The Grindleys were landed gentry and the availability of money in the family made life easier for Simpson. He is reputed to have been able to call upon his father-in-law for assistance from time to time. He had numerous children, by some accounts eight – with two girls dying young. He and his wife were very attached to them all and the loss of the two young girls left its mark.

Simpson died in 1870. His family was offered a burial plot in Westminster Abbey, but they declined and he was buried in Warriston cemetery in Edinburgh. However, there is a bust of him in Westminster Abbey. He was so popular a figure that the day of his funeral was declared a public holiday in Scotland. Over 100,000 lined the route to his grave. He is remembered with a statue in West Princes Street Gardens, a street called Simpson Loan, that runs west from Middle Meadows Walk to Chalmers Street, a hospital building that underwent several changes and that today exists as the Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh's new site in Little France, and a plaque in the entrance to the old Medical School Building at the University.



The statue of Simpson in West Princes Street Gardens

*EDUCT acknowledges the following sources for the completion of this article: Jean Grier and Mary Bownes, *Private Giving, Public Good: The Impact of Philanthropy at the University of Edinburgh*; Wikipedia; Britannica; McGill – Office for Science and Society; Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh; Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology; The University of Edinburgh.*

Do you know of other Edinburgh alumni in Toronto?

Please pass this newsletter on to anyone who might be interested.

Welcome To Our New Members

by Simon Miles

Madeleine Wesely

Madeleine Wesely is a Consultant, Corporate Intelligence, in the Forensic Accounting Group, at KPMG, Toronto. Although Madeleine could not be too specific about the types of issues her group is asked to investigate, listening to her conjures up images of such famous sleuths as Inspector Maigret and Hercule Poirot. Suffice to say that it embraces all forms of fraud, money laundering, the associated regulations, and much more. Although this is not what Madeleine would have seen herself doing when graduating with her M.Sc. in International and European Politics from the University of Edinburgh, she is thoroughly enjoying the challenges of the job.

Madeleine was born in Toronto and attended North Toronto Collegiate Institute before moving to the University of Ottawa in 2018. There, she pursued an Honours Bachelor of Social Science in International Development and Globalization, with a minor in Conflict Studies and Human Rights. The University offers a co-op programme for the latter part of this degree, which involves spending four months in classes, followed by four months on a work assignment. Madeleine opted for this, only to have her plans upset with the onset of Covid in 2020. Since Covid came to dominate much of student life at the time, it led to some creative responses by students. Madeleine, who had moved back to Toronto to study online, was one of those creative geniuses. She was one of the founding members of a digital academic blog that enabled students to share their views on international development issues.

Although initially designed for students at U of Ottawa, the blog, called Ignio, soon became Canada-wide in its membership. From the start, the founders had partnered with the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development (CASID) and it continues to operate today.

For more, see: <https://casid-acedi.ca/ignio>

In 2021, with Covid still very much dominating our lives, Madeleine was contemplating a masters degree after her anticipated graduation from U of Ottawa in 2022.

Edinburgh and Dundee came forward with offers, and Edinburgh won out. Scotland featured strongly in her choice of universities simply because her mother was Scottish and had maintained strong ties with frequent visits back to Scotland. Madeleine had the good fortune to have been taken along on these trips, so she was familiar with Edinburgh. The University had made the choice easier too by enabling students with a firm offer to postpone their studies if they so wished. But by September 2022 Covid was no longer preventing in-person classes.

Madeleine's student residence was Deaconess House, in the Pleasance. The building was originally a Victorian hospital. Although the original façade has been retained, the rest of the building is modern. Madeleine struck lucky in being given a flat for three behind that original façade – which came with outsize windows. Intriguingly, one of Madeleine's two flat-mates was convinced she had seen a ghost and decided to leave. This gave the two remaining occupants plenty of space to share with the ghost, which very kindly never made its presence known to them!

Madeleine really enjoyed the academic environment. Her class in International Relations was of just 15 students: all being international students except for two from England. This made for productive relationships with the faculty members and for students to be given the opportunity to select some of the issues to be covered in the classes. Her dissertation, which occupied her time from April to mid-August, was titled "Shaping Security: A Comparative Analysis of EULEX Kosovo and EUAM Ukraine's Contributions to Regional Stability and Effective Security Governance". In essence, it enabled her to delve into the extent to which the efforts of the European Union were contributing to stability and security in non-member states (e.g., efforts to enhance adherence to the rule of law and to reduce corruption), and to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy. Amazingly, being given a word limit of 15,000 words, Madeleine somehow was able to edit her own work down to 14,998 words!!

Beyond her studies, Madeleine was also able to find time to become the post-graduate representative of the Women in Politics Society, and act as an Ambassador of the Europa Institute, which organizes a programme of guest lecturers on European politics.

Following her graduation in November 2023, Madeleine found some time to add to her previous trips to Madrid and Brussels by visiting Copenhagen and then relatives in the Scottish borders, before returning to Canada and joining KPMG.

EDUCT welcomes Madeleine and wishes her the very best in what looks like fascinating career. As she wryly observed: one cannot imagine why people think they can get away with some of the schemes they come up with!



Madeleine Wesely

OBITUARY

by Simon Miles

Len Evenden

Len Evenden, Friend of EDUCT, died on 22 May 2025, just days before his eighty-eighth birthday. A Professor Emeritus of Geography at Simon Fraser University, Len had been a stalwart supporter of the EDUCT Geography Centenary Fund (EGCF). Indeed, it was Len and his fellow doctoral student friend, Bill Howard, from the US, who convinced me to expand the remit of the EGCF to include support for a public lecture, to be given every other year, that would honour the famous Canadian geographer, J. Wreford Watson.

Len had a fascinating, but challenging, childhood. He was born in China in 1937, where his Canadian parents were serving as Salvation Army missionaries. During World War II, his family became civilian internees in the Weihsien Camp. Len returned to Canada in 1946 and attended school in St. Catharines and Hamilton, Ontario. He had a deep love and appreciation for music and, while at school, performed trombone in Salvation Army bands as well as high school and city orchestras. He went on to study geography at McMaster University (B.A. Hons 1960), the University of Georgia (M.A. 1962), and the University of Edinburgh (Ph.D. 1970).

Len had been attracted to Edinburgh for his doctorate because of its reputation in both human and physical geography and, in particular, the presence of Professor J. Wreford Watson, the departmental head. Watson was a prominent figure in British academic geography, a pioneer of the then-emerging field of social geography and Dean of the then School of the Built Environment.

It was when Len was pursuing his undergraduate degree, in the late 1950s at McMaster, that he had first met Watson, who was a visiting guest lecturer at the University. Indeed, Watson had actually founded the Department of Geography at McMaster in the late 1940s before assuming the role of Canada's Chief Geographer in Ottawa and then returning to Edinburgh to assume the Ogilvie Chair in Geography there. Len's son Matthew, also a Professor of Geography, believes that his father was the president of the geography student society at McMaster at the time, which may explain why Len and Watson had some good discussions during the visit. And there was another connection between Len and Watson, in that Watson was also the child of Canadian missionaries in China. Matthew surmises that this also helped the two to connect and understand each other.



Len Evenden

Len was ever appreciative of Watson making it possible for him, and Bill Howard, to take part in the teaching side of the department's work: experience that was to stand Len and Bill in good stead on returning to, respectively, Canada and the United States.

Thus, not surprisingly, Len and Bill saw the naming of the Lecture in honour of Watson as being particularly appropriate, given Watson's interest in Canada, the place of his own early career, and a country on which he had written extensively as a regional specialist. Both Len and Bill were very generous donors to the EGCF. And when the Institute of Geography celebrated its centenary in 2008 Len was delighted to serve as EDUCT's representative and to speak on behalf of our club as we announced our initiative in recognizing 100 years of Geography at Edinburgh.

Another feature of Edinburgh that had attracted Len to the City was the fact that it was, in Len's words, "the home place of Sir Patrick Geddes, the brilliant late nineteenth century biologist-turned-planner, whom some refer to as the 'father of town planning'. His son, Arthur, had been Professor Watson's mentor, and was still a member of the Geography Department when we arrived. Within a ten-minute walk of the department, then located in High School Yards at the foot of Infirmary Street, you can still see traces of Sir Patrick's work. His experimental urban renewal projects of High Street neighbourhoods, and the Outlook Tower, designed to instruct the public in 'seeing' the townscape in a holistic way, are still pilgrimage destinations for planning students. Edinburgh was the place to be!"

While working on his dissertation, Len received an offer to join the new Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Burnaby, BC, as its first urbanist. In 1966 he returned to Canada to take up the position and then completed his PhD in 1970. Over his career he pursued research on housing and suburban development. He was also a strong advocate for Canadian Studies. He remained at SFU until his retirement in 2002.

It was while I was putting together the EGCF in 2008, that I was introduced to Len. He was extremely generous with his time and provided me with many introductions to geographers who had Edinburgh connections. They were spread across Canada and the US. They, in turn, introduced me to yet more geographers who became donors to the EGCF. Thus EDUCT is incredibly indebted to Len for his contribution to the success of our first Fund.

Len was a delightful human being. We got to know each other well over our 17 years of friendship. He was always so positive in our chats. He had a good sense of humour and was always a good source of sage advice.

Sadly, he had experienced a bout of cancer in 2021 and, although he recovered from this, another followed in 2023 and then a third in the autumn of 2024. He was subjected to immunotherapy but developed a rare autoimmune response that led to a rapid decline. Throughout the time he was suffering from cancer, he was open about how depressing it was, and yet, all through this, he was remarkably positive.

Len is survived by his wife, Polly, his three children, Kirstin (Chris), Maya (Steve) and Matthew (Kirsty), and four grandchildren, Hannah, Ben, Nyssa and Maggie, to whom EDUCT extends its condolences.

He will be greatly missed.

Are you a fan of Scottish writing?

Do you enjoy reading novels and non-fiction by Scottish authors? How about books about Scotland or Scots? If so, EDUCT would welcome your views and opinions for publication in EDUCT News.

Please contact the EDUCT News Editor, Simon Miles at simon-miles@sympatico.ca.

Books

Whatever Happened to Tradition?

by Ann Wilkie

Tim Stanley, *Whatever Happened to Tradition?: History, Belonging and the Future of the West*, London: Bloomsbury Continuum, 2022 (ppbk.), 266 pp. US\$16.80. ISBN: 9781399404877

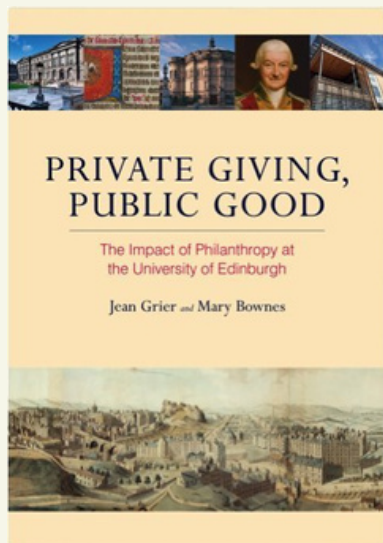
What does tradition mean for you and me? Imagine this. It was July 1, 1958, and with grand “weans” in tow, granny took the train into Glasgow, transferred to the connection to Ardrossan and herded us onto the ferry for Arran. Sandwiches, flattened in the voluminous bag, were distributed, the thermos came out, and the seagulls swarmed overhead diving for the thrown away crusts. Then the lumbering bus across the island: who did we know? Would we see red deer on the hills? Exhilaration, excitement and anticipation! It was part of the traditional exodus of central Scotland to the isles and coasts for the summer holidays. It happened every year. The significance of daily swims, the sausage sizzles, the helping with hay or the milking of cows, the annual trek up Goat Fell, the highest peak on Arran, and the constant presence of several generations ... it all reverberated this summer as I enjoyed the Acadian Shore of New Brunswick. Grannies and grandpas, fathers, mothers, aunts, uncles and cousins were on the beaches, in the water, throwing frisbees and enjoying barbeques; the bunting was up, and all were readying for the Festival Acadian de Caraquet.

Now let us check with the Oxford English Dictionary. What does it have to say? Tradition: the action of transmitting or “handing down”, or fact of being handed down, from one to another, or from generation to generation; transmissions of statements, beliefs, rules, customs or the like, esp. by word of mouth or by practice without writing*.

One needs to have this understanding in mind as one reads Tim Stanley. His book is divided into two parts. In the first, Stanley defines what he means by tradition, which includes a diatribe that “liberalism, the political inheritance of the Enlightenment”, has emasculated western values. In part two, he explores how tradition serves as the “basis of identity, order, liberty, fairness and faith”. He is sometimes exasperating, but always sincere.

He suggests that there are three facets underpinning tradition: first, it must create a linkage between the individual and a collective such as family, community or faith. Second, it should provide both a context to transfer “social knowledge”, e.g., how boys and girls behave towards each other and their elders, and the conditions by which to transfer smaller, everyday norms, such as how to greet friends and new acquaintances, all actions that are transmitted by repetition rather than by explanation. Third, Stanley references the importance of how the individual experiences time. He suggests that in western societies, “we are encouraged to live for the moment, because tomorrow may never come”.





A Special Offer to EDUCT Members

Would you like to own a copy of the latest book on the University of Edinburgh?

Jean Grier and Mary Bownes, Private Giving, Public Good: The Impact of Philanthropy at the University of Edinburgh, (Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh Press, 2014), 224 pp., £30.

EDUCT would like to make it possible for every member to own a copy of this magnificent book on our University. We have arranged for a slight discount to be offered to members. Just how much we can offer off the market price of £30 depends on our shipping costs. If you would like to purchase a copy, or if you are planning to visit Edinburgh soon and can help with the transport of a few copies at no charge, please contact Simon Miles at 416-466-8793 or simon-miles@sympatico.ca.

For a review of the book, see EDUCT News, September 2014, p.19.

I think we must question him on this latter position as it is not universal. Canadians are aware, for example, that Indigenous societies think in terms of seven generations, venerating the achievements and remembering the traumas of the past, their influence on the present and their relevance to the future. These truths are embedded in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. Canadians may have gleaned a more nuanced appreciation of time than have those in the old country.



Tim Stanley

Stanley also gives inadequate weight to the fact that western leadership in the late 'Forties and 'Fifties recognized the importance of democracy, rule of law, due process and need for checks and balances. International collaboration enabled the initiation of war tribunals; the establishment of the United Nations; the creation of NATO; and the endorsement of treaties protecting human and environmental rights. An international regime, based on principles emanating from the Enlightenment, was established that supported economic growth, scientific research and technological innovation. Through trading mechanisms and international initiatives prosperity soared. Despite the persistent negativity of current news cycles, progress continues. A recent WHO-UNICEF publication on water, sanitation and hygiene reports on achievements: homes with taps, schools with toilets, clinics where soap and water are available. Such progress slips by unnoticed, but represents real children playing rather than succumbing to disease, mothers spared the burden of carrying water and communities freed to focus on more than survival. Much remains to be done, but what has been achieved owes much to the systems established post WW II. A conservative correction may be warranted, but what has been achieved must also be recognized.

The author has read and researched widely. Many of his anecdotes are illustrative and challenging. For the stability and well-being of society, a balance must be sought between freedom and order, between rights and responsibilities. It is at this interface that Stanley argues that tradition has a greater role to play. He references the role of the monarchy, the relevance of Christian principles and the need for hierarchy; he argues that western liberal culture has scorned deference, undermined authority and that there is too much emphasis on personal liberty while responsibility is denigrated. He does acknowledge that individual liberty is a facet of the common good, but argues that if such liberty erodes, or jeopardizes, the common good, the latter should take precedence. Based on his readings and travels, he contends that tradition can adapt to changing circumstances and provide reference as to how society itself might best evolve. His book is relevant on two levels: firstly, it is a romp through a cacophony of facts and ideas; secondly it is a well written introduction to important concepts worthy of debate. Read it twice.

**The Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary, Volume II*

Treasurer's Report

Our Treasurer reports that EDUCT's accounts, as of 31 Aug 2025, show a balance of \$13,155.71. We are also happy to report that, further to our announcement at our Annual Dinner that EDUCT's annual donation of £1,000 would be given to the Department of History as a way of thanking Professor Cogliano for his talk at the Dinner, we have identified a specific fund to receive our donation. The donation has been made to the Nancy McEwan Student Experience Fund. The Fund supports undergraduate students who undertake part of their studies abroad and require some financial assistance for travel, materials and access to additional resources in conducting their studies.

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Membership Dues

Annual membership fees are due in January of each year. If you have not yet renewed for this year, please send \$35 to our Treasurer, Fiona Bruce either by Interac e-Transfer, via **educt.treasurer@gmail.com** or by cheque, payable to EDUCT, and marked "membership". For mailing details, please call Fiona at 416-728-4254.

Your promptness in this regard greatly lightens the load on our volunteer Board and is thus much appreciated. Thank you, in advance, for your payment.

Friends of EDUCT

Friends of EDUCT are recognized by virtue of the generosity they demonstrated when, as nonmembers, they donated to the University of Edinburgh through an EDUCT-initiated special fund.

Carlyle Circle Members in Canada

EDUCT wishes to acknowledge the generosity of alumni and friends of the University of Edinburgh who have decided to leave a bequest to the University in their wills. They are recognized by the University as Carlyle Circle members. We extend our gratitude to each of them. If you are a member of the Carlyle Circle or know of such members, you are encouraged to contact us.

Honorary Members of EDUCT

Recipients of Honorary Degrees from the University of Edinburgh who reside in Canada are invited to become Honorary Members of EDUCT.

Are you on our list?

We know of over 240 alumni in the Toronto area. As of 31 August 2025, we have 171 members, most of whom are in the Toronto area. If you would be interested in joining EDUCT, please do not hesitate to contact the EDUCT President or the Club Treasurer.

EDUCT News is published three times a year in January, May and September. Please send submissions or ideas for articles to the Editor: **simon-miles@sympatico.ca**

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