



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

SUMMER 2010

edit

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE INCLUDING BILLET & GENERAL COUNCIL PAPERS

The science of sunshine

The outlook is
bright for GMTV's
Kirsty McCabe

ALSO INSIDE

Author Ian Rankin
returns to his roots

Edinburgh's vision
for a healthy world





THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Our alumni, your Edinburgh



From the day you finish your studies at the University of Edinburgh you are a lifelong member of our international alumni community – so stay in touch and reap the benefits!

With access to MyEd, our dedicated networking portal, you'll hear about upcoming events and receive discounts on a host of services, including use of a range of University facilities. Just log on to www.myed.ed.ac.uk to find out more about these great benefits, which include:

The Alumni Benefits Card

The Alumni Benefits Card allows discounts and special offers on a wide range of services offered by the University and partner organisations. These include:

- University Main Library membership
- Centre for Sport and Exercise discounted membership
- special rates with Edinburgh University Press
- discounted rates with InterContinental and Apex hotels

- discounts at selected Blackwell bookshops

Just graduated?

If you graduated no more than two years ago, you are still entitled to receive careers advice from the University. This includes access to information resources, individual consultations with one of our careers advisers, aptitude tests and workshops.

Support us as you shop

You are eligible for the Affinity Credit Card, a unique MBNA card that donates money to the University every time it is used. To date, use of the card has raised an amazing £380,000 for staff and student projects.

Keep in touch

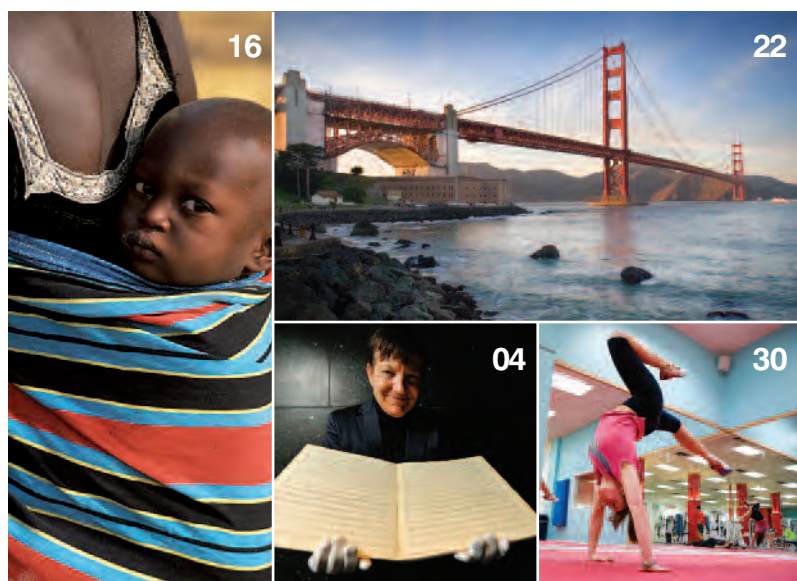
You are part of a thriving global network that allows alumni to gather for social and

networking purposes. Whether it's a Burns supper, panel debate, whisky tasting or barbecue, stay in touch and join in the fun. MyEd is the best way to reconnect with former classmates and keep us up to date with your contact details.

Your chance to win!

If you have feedback on our services, we would love to hear from you. MyEd now features an online questionnaire for alumni, so simply log in and let us know what you think. By sharing your comments you will be automatically entered into a draw for £100 worth of Amazon vouchers! For more details, visit www.myed.ed.ac.uk.

Contents



Features

10 Creative connections

Best-selling author Ian Rankin returns to the 'scene of the crime'

14 The science of sunshine

The sky is the limit for GMTV's weather presenter Kirsty McCabe

16 One world, one vision

Our Global Health Academy's aim to improve world health

Regulars

04 University News

20 Alumni Profiles

22 Alumni Network

26 Master & Apprentice

28 My Edinburgh

30 Then & Now

33 Billet

Foreword

Amid such trying economic times it is heartening to see so many of our alumni, students and staff around the world thinking of others. In this issue we share a few stories of their generosity.

Best-selling author Ian Rankin returns to his roots to workshop writing ideas with current students (page 10), and we showcase our Global Health Academy's vision for improving health around the world (page 16).

Also in this edition, geophysics graduate Kirsty McCabe talks about the highs and lows of TV weather presenting (page 14), alumni reveal how Edinburgh helped shape their unique careers (page 20), and our new section, *Master & Apprentice* (page 26), takes a look at how you inspired your teachers here at Edinburgh.

Young P Dawkins III
Vice-Principal, Development

Published by Communications and Marketing

The University of Edinburgh, Floor C, Forrest Hill Building, 5 Forrest Hill, Edinburgh EH1 2QL
Contact editor.edit@ed.ac.uk

Design White Light Media 0131 555 6494

Printing J Thomson Colour Printers

Advertising enquiries

Landmark Publishing Services 020 7520 9474

Cover photograph

Nicky Johnston/GMTV

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the prior written consent of the publishers. *Edit* is printed on environmentally friendly, Forestry Stewardship Council-accredited paper. *Edit*, the University of Edinburgh's magazine, is published twice a year. The views expressed in its columns are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent those of the University.

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336.

ON THE MOVE? If you have changed address please let us know. Contact Development & Alumni on +44 (0)131 650 2240 or email alumni@ed.ac.uk.



This publication is available in alternative formats on request.

University News

Record £1.26m donation for medical research

The University of Edinburgh's medical research has received a major boost from a record financial donation.

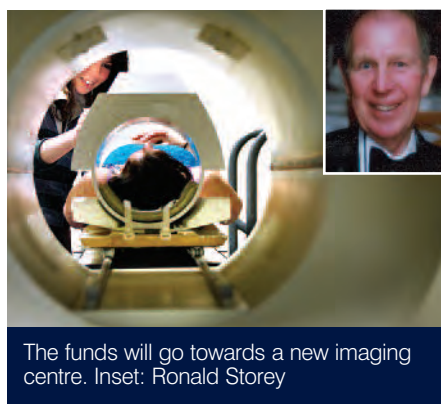
The gift of £1.26 million was donated by Ronald Storey to the University, honouring a pledge he made to a lifelong friend.

The funds, which form the University's largest gift by a living donor, will play a major part in the creation of a new imaging centre at Edinburgh.

Mr Storey, 82, was left the entire savings of a lifelong friend, Edinburgh graduate Dr George Birtwisle. The friends agreed that Mr Storey would donate the money to the University's medical school.

After graduating in medicine, Dr Birtwisle established his own general practice in London and held medical appointments with the law courts and Scotland Yard. He retired after 30 years and relocated to Spain, where he developed a property business with Mr Storey. Mr Storey took responsibility for Dr Birtwisle's estate after his death at the age of 89.

Mr Storey has now decided to make the record lifetime gift – as opposed



to a legacy in a will – from the funds. He said Dr Birtwisle would be “thrilled” to know his money was going to his Alma Mater. “Dr Birtwisle was able to join the University during the war to study medicine and he did very well there. He enjoyed it so much,” Mr Storey said.

Liesl Elder, the University's Director of Development, said: “We believe that this is the largest lump sum lifetime gift that the University has ever received. It really is wonderful.”

New centre keeps computers up to speed

A new University facility could help make the world's most powerful supercomputers a thousand times faster.

The University is launching the Exascale Technology Centre as part of a broader initiative by the Cray supercomputer company to boost processing speeds.

The step-up in computing power is seen as vital for success in many fields, including product design, medicine and preventing climate change.

Under Cray's Exascale Research Initiative, researchers will attempt to make supercomputers perform an Exaflop – a trillion calculations per second – within the next decade. At present, only a Petaflop – a thousand million million calculations per second – is possible.

The new centre, jointly funded by Cray and the University, will help Cray explore new ideas and technologies and will be located at the University's supercomputing centre, EPCC.

Major biotech deal

A biotech company launched through the University has signed a multimillion-pound deal to sell its products in China.

Burdica Biomed, a Fife-based firm that develops personal lubricant products, has formed a partnership with Sinopharm, China's largest pharmaceutical and medical device distributor.

Burdica expects to see huge product sales in China and revenues of more than £50 million.

STUDENTS AND STAFF ACKNOWLEDGED

The 2009 winners of the University's Tam Dalyell Prize for Excellence in Engaging the Public with Science and Principal's Medal have been named.

Chris Bishop, Professor of Computer Science, received the Tam Dalyell Prize for his achievements in broadening access to scientific research. Among the computer

scientist's recent public engagement activities was a presentation at the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures.

Meanwhile, graduate and Fairtrade campaigner Ben Miller has won the Principal's Medal. His involvement in local Fairtrade initiatives have played a role in helping Scotland to become one of the first Fairtrade nations.

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



Music lecturer Richard Witts with Julius Röntgen's precious musical score

Long-lost classical music tribute to city is unveiled

An acclaimed composer's long-lost musical tribute to the city of Edinburgh has been uncovered by a University music scholar.

'The Edinburgh Symphony', written by Dutch-German composer Julius Röntgen, premiered at Edinburgh's Usher Hall some 80 years ago. The piece's full score and orchestra parts were mislaid shortly after the performance and were only recently discovered by Edinburgh music lecturer Richard Witts.

Röntgen, a close friend and associate of Johannes Brahms, was given an honorary degree by the University of Edinburgh in 1930. At the ceremony he gave the then Chancellor the score of the symphony, which was one of his last major works before his death in 1932.

Mr Witts came across the lost score while he was researching the archive of Sir Donald Francis Tovey, a former Reid

Professor of Music at the University.

Professor Tovey, who once described Röntgen as "one of the greatest masters of absolute music" was founder of the Reid Symphony Orchestra, which rehearsed at the University's Reid Concert Hall. Professor Tovey conducted the only previous performance of 'The Edinburgh Symphony' in 1930.

To celebrate the discovery, Edinburgh undergraduate music student and harpist Julia Somerville performed an extract from the symphony at a special event at the University's Main Library. University experts hope to recreate a performance of Röntgen's tribute to the city at the Usher Hall in the near future.

University awarded Fulbright chairs

The University has received a major award from the prestigious Fulbright Commission.

The Fulbright-Scotland Visiting Professorship will see distinguished US academics teach, deliver public lectures and conduct research at the University from 2011.

Under the scheme, one of the world's most prestigious international exchange programmes, the College of Humanities & Social Science will host three academics, for six months each, over a three-year period.

Two thumbs up to local technology

A famous US film critic has been given his voice back, thanks to technology developed by a University company.

Roger Ebert, the most well-known film reviewer in the US, lost the ability to speak four years ago after life-saving cancer surgery. However, computer technology developed by Cereproc, a company formed in 2005 through the University, has been able to reconstruct his original voice by using recordings of television appearances and DVD commentaries.

As a result, Mr Ebert – who is famous for his thumbs-up or thumbs-down film reviews – can now communicate, by using a laptop to type sentences that are converted by a synthesiser into the sound of his own voice. He demonstrated the technology in a televised interview with Oprah Winfrey.

University News

Waverley Novels revamped by experts

A former University scholar has contributed to the completion of a project to rescue Sir Walter Scott's famous *Waverley Novels*.



Peter Garside, a former Professor of English Literature, has helped to correct more than 30,000 editorial errors in the *Waverley Novels*, written in the early 19th century by celebrated Edinburgh alumnus Sir Walter Scott.

The 25-year-long project saw researchers, led by Edinburgh University Press, examine 28 books.

Orienteering centre puts Edinburgh on the map

An Orienteering Centre of Excellence has been launched in Edinburgh.

The centre, dedicated to developing elite student athletes, has been created through a unique multi-partnership arrangement involving the University, British Orienteering, Scottish Orienteering and Scotland's national sports scholarship scheme, Winning Students.

It is the first of its kind in the UK and is led by Finnish orienteering coach and elite competitor Toni Louhisola.

Mr Louhisola has been appointed as Head of Performance. He has



The new orienteering centre will produce elite student athletes

competed at the World Championships and has coached two competitors to the world top 10 in addition to acting as an events consultant to British Orienteering.



Exploring the cultural significance of
informatics and new media practice

1 Crichton Street, Edinburgh EH8 9AB
T: 0131 650 2750 www.inspace.ed.ac.uk




£2m bid to tackle African poverty and cattle disease

African farmers will benefit from a £2 million grant awarded to the University to help combat poverty in Africa.

Researchers from the Centre for Infectious Diseases are to work with Kenyan and Nigerian scientists to find new ways of tackling cattle disease, which can impact farmers' livelihoods as well as human health.

The project will target two infections of domestic livestock – East Coast Fever and Trypanosomiasis – and the teams hope to develop vaccines and implement prevention programmes.



African farmers will benefit from research being undertaken at the University

"These awards give Edinburgh scientists an exciting opportunity to use their expertise to directly benefit poor farmers in sub-Saharan Africa," said Professor Tony Nash, Director of the Centre for Infectious Diseases. "We hope the research will have a tangible impact."

Speech study helps ring the changes

The days of doing battle with automated voice-recognition phone systems may soon be over thanks to Edinburgh researchers.

Computer scientists at the School of Informatics have pinpointed the most common speech recognition errors made by automated phone systems, in a bid to improve their accuracy.

The study found that speech recognition systems commonly fail to understand speech if it is peppered with 'umm' and 'err' sounds and to identify the first word spoken in a phrase. Researchers say this may be because the machine cannot put the word in context, or because the speaker inhales just before talking.

Animal scents could help pinpoint autism

Research into how animals bond with each other could shed light on the causes of autism and anxiety-related disorders, according to University researchers.

The Edinburgh scientists have shown how the key hormone vasopressin helps animals recognise each other by their smell.

It is widely believed that a failure in this recognition system in humans may prevent us forming deep emotional bonds, which may be at the root of conditions such as some forms of autism and social phobia.

Professor Mike Ludwig, who led the study, said: "This gives us a window into understanding the biological basis of social interactions."

Scientists solve chicken plumage puzzle

A puzzle that has long baffled scientists – why some birds appear to be male on one side of the body and female on the other – has been solved by a University study.

The study, which involved examining rare, naturally occurring chickens with white (male) plumage on one side and brown (female) plumage on the other, sheds new light on the sexual development of birds.

It was previously thought that sex chromosomes in birds control whether

a testis or ovary forms, with sexual traits then being determined by hormones. However, the researchers identified differences between male and female cells that control the development of sexual traits, and have named the phenomenon cell autonomous sex identity (CASI).

"This research has completely overturned what we previously thought about how sexual characteristics were determined in birds," explains Dr Michael Clinton from the Division of Developmental Biology at the Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh. "We now believe that the major factors determining sexual development are built into male and female cells and derive from basic differences in how sex chromosome genes are expressed."

The scientifically revolutionary findings, published in the journal *Nature*, may also be relevant to why male and female birds differ in behaviour and in susceptibility to disease.



Rare, naturally occurring chickens have both male and female plumage

Research News

Women better 'bachelors' than men, say scientists

Women appear to fare better than men when living alone, a University study suggests.

Edinburgh researchers say that men living on their own are more likely to experience financial, housing and health difficulties compared with women living alone.

For the two-year study, researchers examined differences in standards of living of more than 140 men and women aged 25 to 44. They found that a higher proportion of people in a one-person household in Scotland are disadvantaged in terms of finance, health and housing compared with those living with others.

They also found that men living on their own are more likely to earn a low income and experience poor health. A higher



A University study has found that men fare worse than women when living alone

proportion of women living alone are educated to degree level, in professional jobs and own their property.

However, researchers found that the majority of solo-living men and women did not feel isolated, and that most had rich social networks, which were enhanced by use of the internet.

Diabetes study offers experts new understanding

University researchers have taken part in one of the world's largest genetic studies, leading the way to new understanding of late-onset diabetes.

Scientists from 174 medical research centres around the world studied the genes and blood glucose level of some 120,000 volunteers, and have identified a set of genes that control the body's response to glucose in the blood. The results showed that nine genes influence glucose levels, several of which are associated with an increased risk of late-onset diabetes.

Dr Jim Wilson, Royal Society University Research Fellow, Public Health Sciences, who heads the Scottish cohort study, said: "The discovery is the first step."

Girls skip breakfast more often: study

Girls are more likely to skip breakfast than boys, a University survey of schoolchildren's eating habits reveals.

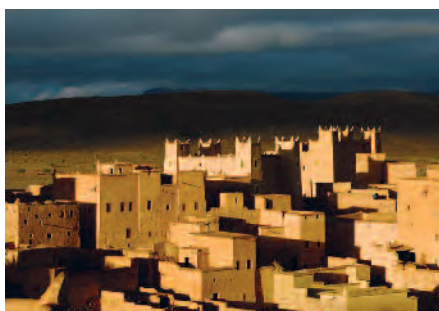
The study, funded by NHS Health Scotland, shows that although 15-year-old boys are more likely to eat breakfast every day on school days, there is a gradual decrease in breakfast consumption with age. A total of 58.0 per cent of boys and 44.8 per cent of girls consume breakfast at age 15, compared with 79.3 per cent and 75.3 per cent of 11-year-old boys and girls respectively.

The survey was carried out in 300 schools across Scotland and is part of a World Health Organization survey involving more than 40 countries.

New centre to promote cultural ties

A new University research centre is to foster deeper understanding between the Muslim world and the West.

The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World will examine Islamic civilisation and issues relating to Islam in Britain.



The new centre will foster stronger ties between the Muslim world and the West

Set up with funding from the Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation, the centre was opened by HRH Prince Alwaleed of Saudi Arabia. A second UK centre is based at the University of Cambridge.

"The University is honoured to be entrusted with the task of creating this centre, which will foster deeper understanding between the Muslim world and the West through the twin paths of effective outreach and high-quality research," said University Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea.

In addition to the opening of the new centre, the University awarded an honorary degree to Prince Alwaleed for his business and philanthropy work.

Prince Alwaleed is an internationally renowned businessman who is chairman of the Kingdom Holding Company.

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

Hotter temperatures 'cause climate change'

Rising temperatures linked to global warming are not just a sign of climate change but they are a cause of it, University research shows.

Higher temperatures on the Earth's surface are fuelling a further increase in emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas with a significant role in global warming.

Edinburgh scientists studied atmospheric levels of methane from the world's largest source of the gas – wetlands such as paddy fields, marshes and bogs – and found that emissions are increasing in line with rising temperatures.

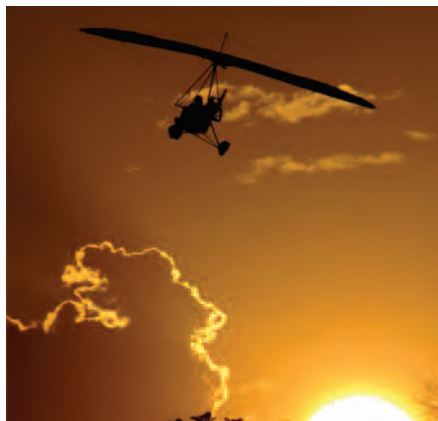
The study, published in *Science*, indicates that warmer temperatures in high-latitude regions increase the production of methane, which then exacerbates global warming.

Researchers used satellite measurements of the atmospheric concentration of methane as well as data relating to surface temperature changes and variations in surface water to work out the levels of wetland emissions of methane from different regions. This will help them predict future climate change.

The study was funded by the Natural Environment Research Council and

carried out in collaboration with the Netherlands Institute for Space research. Data was supplied by NASA and the European Space Agency.

Professor Paul Palmer, from the School of GeoSciences, said: "Our study reinforces the idea that satellites can pinpoint changes in the amount of greenhouse gases emitted from a particular place on Earth."



Higher temperatures lead to faster global warming, say Edinburgh scientists

Fresh research tracks women's fertility

Women lose 90 per cent of the eggs in their ovaries before the age of 30, new research has shown.

The mathematical model, created by the University's department of Child and Health, shows that the average woman has only 12 per cent of her eggs left by the age of 30 and only three per cent by the age of 40. It provides further evidence that women are born with a fixed number of eggs, which declines with age.

Researchers hope their findings, which are based on data from women in the

UK, US and Europe, will be useful in studying menopause in healthy women and in helping to preserve the fertility of women who undergo cancer treatment.

It is known that women are born with a supply of millions of eggs and that the number decreases until menopause. "By understanding the dynamics of ovarian reserve, we can predict which children and young people treated for cancer are most at risk of an early menopause," said Dr Hamish Wallace, Consultant Oncologist and Reader at the University.

RESEARCH NEWS IN BRIEF

Relief for asthma sufferers

A drug being tested to treat cancer could also help patients suffering from asthma, Edinburgh research has suggested. Scientists found that R-Roscovotine, which helps to kill certain immune cells, can exacerbate symptoms associated with asthma. The findings could lead to an alternative way to battle asthma in patients who are resistant to steroids, a common asthma treatment.

DNA test breakthrough

A DNA test that reveals a person's risk of certain diseases could be developed with University technology. Scientists have developed a low-cost method of pinpointing variations in a person's genetic code at critical points along the DNA chain. The method, based on chemical analysis, delivers reliable results without the need for expensive enzymes used in conventional DNA testing.

Cannabis spray: pain relief

Cancer patients could benefit from a new painkiller made from cannabis extract, Edinburgh researchers have found. The oral spray reduced pain by 30 per cent in 177 cancer patients who had not been helped by morphine or other medicines. Scientists hope the treatment could be used alongside traditional painkillers in future.

Autism treatment hopes

A University study has revealed how abnormalities in brain development may lead to autism and behavioural disorders. Research into Fragile X syndrome – a genetic condition that causes intellectual disability and behavioural problems and is the leading known cause of autism – has found that critical phases in the brain's development may be mistimed in people with the condition.



Creative

A distinguished roll-call of writers has studied at Edinburgh and, as Rob Tomlinson reports, many of these literary legends have returned to share the secrets of their success.

For a city as steeped in literary tradition as Edinburgh, it is perhaps fitting that the University's English Literature department can lay claim to being the oldest of its kind in the world.

It was almost 250 years ago that the University had the foresight to offer courses in what was then known as "rhetoric and belles lettres", led by Hugh Blair, who was eventually appointed the first Regius Chair in the subject by George III.

Under the guidance of the pioneering Blair, students were encouraged to move away from the study of solely Latin and Greek texts and introduced to a much broader range of writing, ultimately developing the academic discipline of literary criticism as we know it today.

As they prepare to celebrate 250 years of English Literature at Edinburgh in 2012, current staff and students in the department can reflect on two and a half centuries of success, distinction and innovation.

English Literature is home to the renowned James Tait Black Memorial

connections

Prizes – Britain's oldest literary awards, judged annually by staff and students from the department – and the only literary awards to be judged in this way. The department can boast many notable alumni, such as the best-selling author Ian Rankin and the artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Michael Boyd. The most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), which rates the quality of research in British universities, has placed Edinburgh in the top three in the UK for English Literature. This bears testament to the quality of the academic staff and the diversity of the work that they do. Plans are also afoot for new programmes in theatre and performance studies.

"I think what makes us special is our curriculum," says Head of English Literature, Dr James Loxley. "Students really benefit from the four-year degree in that, in the pre-honours years, they get a really good grounding in all literature from medieval to contemporary and then they can go on to specialise. Once they choose to specialise, I think we offer a greater variety of courses than almost anywhere else. Here we have staff at the cutting edge of their own areas of interest and there is an incredible range of courses on offer to students, reflecting the breadth of research carried out by our academics."

In recent years, the department has developed highly respected courses in creative writing. As a UNESCO City of Literature and with distinguished literary alumni such as Sir Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and JM Barrie, it was perhaps inevitable that Edinburgh should provide a natural home for such programmes of study.

The first Honorary Writing Fellows, including leading authors such as Ian Rankin, Philippa Gregory, Ron Butlin and Rona Munro, were appointed in 2009 with the role of delivering annual masterclasses to Creative Writing MSc students, as well as public lectures. The fellowships are supported by the Scottish Arts Council and the UNESCO City of Literature.

For Ian Rankin, creator of the Inspector Rebus series, his role as an Honorary Writing Fellow is, he feels, a slightly curious one. Despite his undoubted success as a writer, he is the first to admit that he has never studied creative writing – or taught it.

"I don't know how you do it," he says, with a touch of irony. "I've no idea how you become a writer but maybe there are tips and shortcuts I can provide and advice on working for editors – the nuts and bolts stuff. If there is talent, you can focus that talent, point it in the right direction, but if someone doesn't have the talent to begin with then it would be very difficult to turn that into something publishable."

"It's always interesting to come back and meet the students. When I was a student at Edinburgh I felt a connection to the writers who'd studied here in the past. It was a continuum, ▶

"When I was a student at Edinburgh I felt a connection to the writers who'd studied here in the past... It was a great thrill."

– iAn RAnkin

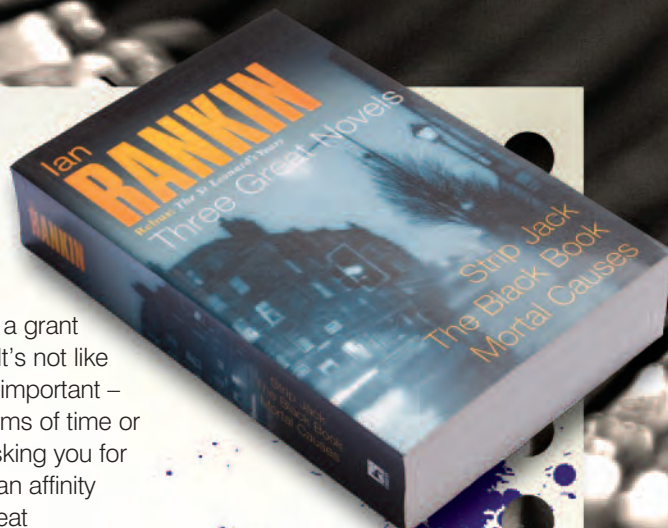


a great thrill being a student at an institution that has had so many amazing people go through it."

Aside from the practical help he can offer, Mr Rankin sees part of his role as giving something back to the university where he was a student.

"If you'd have asked me when I was a young man, I'd have said that giving something back to your university was not important," he says. "In those days,

education was free, you got a grant and you took it for granted. It's not like that now, so now I think it is important – whether you give back in terms of time or money. It's not a stranger asking you for something. You should feel an affinity with your university. I had great experiences at university – I met my wife there. It gave me the opportunity to grow up. I have nothing but positive memories of my time at Edinburgh."



Coming full circle

As a student, Kevin Macneil turned to the University's writer-in-residence for advice. Now the successful author is back where he started, sharing his skills as a creative writing lecturer.

"I feel I've come full circle, because I left the island of Lewis when I was 18 to come here and I spent very memorable, formative years at university.

"When I was in second or third year, the University's writer-in-residence [Andrew Greig] was very honest with me. He knew I could take quite stiff criticism so he taught me a lot and I've always felt a great debt of gratitude both to him and to the University.

"I came to Edinburgh to do joint honours in English Literature and Latin, and along the way I picked up classes in Scottish Literature, Gaelic and Scottish Ethnology. It felt like this was almost a degree in life itself, which I thought would be useful to me as a writer.

"I started publishing work as a student. I gave myself a goal of having my first book published by the time I was 25 – quite ambitious. But it happened. My first book, *Love and Zen in the Outer Hebrides* [Canongate Books, 2001], is a poetry collection. A lot of poems I wrote when I was a student still have this life of their own.

"Edinburgh is my favourite city in the world and the University itself is the most inspiring place for my writing – I love the energy, the creative and intellectual energy about George Square in particular, and I feel nostalgically connected to the University.

"When this job was advertised I leapt at it. I felt I would be good for the department

and it would be good for me. Because the team on the Creative Writing MSc are professional, published writers, we can advise, over and above the intellectual and creative element, if students want to know what the process is really about – on all the logistical elements of real-life work as well as the glamorous world of book signings.

"To me, my job is about sharing knowledge in a respectful manner; being generous with your time for students and being helpful in practical ways. And it's about the very diversity of knowledge that constitutes such a large and prestigious university."

– interview by Claire Simpson





THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

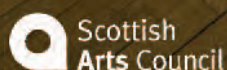
Talbot Rice Gallery

Welcome

The Talbot Rice Gallery is the public art gallery of the University of Edinburgh and one of Scotland's leading public galleries of contemporary visual art.

Established in 1975 and named after David Talbot Rice, Professor of Fine Art at Edinburgh (1934–1972), the gallery plays a key role in the cultural life of the city, drawing a local, national and international audience to a dynamic programme of exhibitions and events.

For opening times, or to become a Friend of Talbot Rice Gallery, visit www.trg.ed.ac.uk.



WHAT'S ON

JULIE ROBERTS: CHILD

30 July to 25 September 2010

For the 2010 festival period, Talbot Rice is delighted to present an exhibition of new paintings and large-scale graphite drawings by the artist Julie Roberts. One of the most talented artists of her generation, Roberts graduated from the Glasgow School of Art in 1990. For this exhibition, her highly stylised figurative paintings will concentrate on the subject of the child in contemporary and historic settings. Roberts' work has a strong feminist narrative, often showing tension between attraction and repulsion. A full programme of public events will run throughout the exhibition, and details will be available in early summer.

Visit www.trg.ed.ac.uk for further information.



The science of sunshine

After postings at NASA, *New Scientist* magazine, the BBC and now GMTV as a morning weather presenter, the outlook is bright for Edinburgh geophysics graduate Kirsty McCabe. She talks to Chris Small about how her time at university helped shape her varied career.



Chris Small: What were the highlights of your time at Edinburgh?

Kirsty McCabe: I enjoyed all of it to be honest; it's a nice friendly university and a great place to study. Edinburgh is the only place in Scotland where you can study geophysics, so it was the natural choice. I was involved in the singing society and sang mainly requiems, classical pieces and Gilbert & Sullivan operas. I lived in a flat in Causewayside with friends and we spent a lot of time in the Drouthy Neebors pub. I also used to love climbing up Arthur's Seat.

CS: After four years in Edinburgh it must have been a huge culture shock to move to America and intern for NASA...

KM: The craziest thing was adjusting to having to drive on the other side of the road! I was based at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland for three months and it was a great experience. My work focused on interpreting the coastal structure of Australia using satellite magnetic data. There's a general view that NASA's remit is entirely about space but a lot of their work is actually about researching our planet.

CS: How did you get the post at *New Scientist* magazine?

KM: After the NASA internship I started a PhD in environmental magnetism at

Oxford University, researching climate change in volcanic soils in the Greek islands. I went to the *New Scientist* initially as an intern, but ended up staying for four years. It's a great magazine – they manage to communicate scientific ideas in a very direct way. I was involved in sub-editing and production, and spent a lot of time rewriting articles written by scientists to make them clearer. My degree definitely helped me. Making complex ideas accessible to people was really satisfying.

CS: How did you then move on to weather forecasting and presenting?

KM: The BBC and the Met Office weather centre were looking for a meteorologist and I saw an advert in the *New Scientist*. You had to have a certain level of qualifications to be accepted – your maths and physics had to be up to the standard they wanted. After a screen test I had a year's training in forecasting. It was amazing how much of what I learned at Edinburgh came back to me during the training – calculus, thermodynamics, using physics to understand the sky... I went from presenting for BBC World on to the BBC News Channel – it was very intense. What's important to remember about presenting weather forecasts is that things always go wrong – there's no autocue or script. The only way we see what we're doing is by looking at the camera, which is not like a mirror. The director is chatting in your ear while you're trying to work out exactly what you need to say, and point in the right direction. There's a lot of plate spinning.

CS: You left the BBC to join GMTV as a weather presenter in 2009. What do you enjoy about forecasting, and what kind of problems have you come up against?

KM: It's been quite a challenge over the past winter because of the heavy snow. But it's exciting. The weird thing about my job is that everyone knows it's a forecast but they love telling you when you've got it wrong! Britain's weather is very interesting because of our latitude

– we're just a small island so we're subject to more extremes and low pressure. Understanding our weather conditions is quite straightforward if you know about wind direction. We need to look at the sky more and encourage people to learn from it. Our parents' generation spent more time outdoors and more people studied the sky and understood it. We're all sitting at desks looking at computers now and that knowledge is no longer there, which is a shame.

CS: How much has an interest in climate change influenced your career?

KM: Climate change prompted me to study geophysics; I wanted to understand more about the environment. At GMTV we've done some investigations into recycling, which has been fascinating; we're still such a disposable culture. I've been to landfill sites and it's quite a humbling experience to see just how much we throw away – an absolutely vast quantity. I think we can do much more to encourage and inform people, and to make it easier to recycle.

CS: What do you think about the recent controversies over the scientific evidence for climate change?

KM: Obviously whenever scientists put forward a view it should be thoroughly analysed and debated. But the media can tend to leap onto something and magnify anything negative that they find. We need to be even more careful about how we collect and present research and evidence from now on. There's a lack of understanding about what climate change really means, and I hope we can all become better informed.

CS: How do you think your time at Edinburgh contributed to your career choices?

KM: I come back to the city regularly, and I got married there in 2008. Studying at Edinburgh wasn't a direct path to meteorology but it gave me a great grounding. I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing if I hadn't been at Edinburgh.

ONE WORLD ONE VISION

The University's collaborative new Global Health Academy has its sights firmly set on finding solutions to complex global health problems. Anna Borthwick reports.

The contemplative quiet of Edinburgh's old medical school might at first glance seem a world away from the bustling corridors of Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. But the two settings may not be as polarised as it first appears.

In 2009, the University of Edinburgh launched its Global Health Academy (GHA) and with it set out a vision for improving health around the world.

The GHA brings together academics from across the University to share expertise and experience of health development projects. This collaborative venture aims to tackle the full range of barriers to good health around the world, such as water sanitation, childhood disease and HIV prevention.

At present, the focus of these activities is centred mainly in Africa and the University has a number of programmes running across the continent in countries including Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

Talk to those involved on the ground and you are immediately impressed by their sense of excitement, determination and awe for the challenges they face.

Take, for example, Dr Liz Grant, who recently helped to forge an official partnership with researchers at Yale University and medics at Uganda's Mulago Hospital, the teaching hospital for Makerere University School of Medicine.

"One of our aims is to enhance medical training for young specialists in Uganda," says Dr Grant.





"There's a real need because often it can be hard for young doctors to get adequate support, given that many medical specialisms are relatively new in their country.

"But technology is providing new avenues for education and so we have begun to create a new mentoring programme that will link medics in Kampala with senior specialists at Edinburgh and Yale. Using online video messaging, they will have monthly case reviews to share their expertise and discuss the different treatment options available."

Professor Steve Hillier, the University's Vice-Principal International, recently returned from Yale and believes the two medical schools make a natural partnership. "Both Edinburgh and Yale have long-standing traditions of academic and professional excellence that have informed the evolution of global healthcare policy and practice," he explains.

"This new global health link will allow both organisations jointly to commit human, intellectual and financial resources towards outcomes that most strongly benefit major quality-of-life issues in the developing world."

Another of the Academy's early achievements has been to win a \$US2 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to improve vaccination programmes for newborn babies in the developing world.

"This really could make a lot of difference," says project leader, Professor Harry Campbell. "It's quite incredible what Bill and Melinda Gates have set out to do and with their resources they really are in a position to affect massive change. It's very exciting to think about what we could achieve."

Due to the immaturity of their immune systems, there is a dangerous time at the start of every child's life when vaccines are not an effective tool against infection – their bodies simply cannot produce targeted antibodies until around six months of age. Professor Campbell and his team will ►

work on trying to minimise the risk to infants who catch infections during this time. Together with Dr Igor Rudan, he will use the funding from the Gates Foundation to develop better diagnostic tools so that ill newborns can be given help as quickly as possible.

The Foundation's ultimate aim is to create a handheld device, much like a mobile phone, which can be used to instantly analyse blood samples and help doctors to prescribe the best treatment. But first, the Foundation needs to know what information doctors require to make those decisions, and that's where Professor Campbell and Dr Rudan come in. Their initial focus is to develop a decision-making tree to identify which information can help a doctor decide on life-saving treatment.

"The Gateses have put huge resources into their health programmes, but you can only make wise policy decisions if you have the right information," explains Professor Campbell. "We hope to describe the burden of these pressing health issues, find the various courses of action and then evaluate which one is most effective. That could have a real impact with an organisation like the Gates Foundation that is so focused on solving the big problems."

For many years now, attention on African health issues has, with good reason, centred on HIV prevention and malaria. High-profile charity projects have identified condoms and mosquito nets as simple but effective tools in tackling these most common causes of death.

But with their success has come other problems. Now that treatments for malaria, tuberculosis and HIV have improved, populations are living long enough to develop other major health conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease.

"One of the ways we want to tackle this is by training the next generation of specialists through a new masters programme that looks specifically at treating non-communicable, or chronic, conditions in the developing world," explains Dr Grant.

These long-term conditions bring with them other concerns, such as end-of-life care, which resonate particularly with the health challenges



Clockwise from top: a new masters programme at Edinburgh will focus on treating non-communicable conditions in the developing world; both holistic and clinical approaches are needed; end-of-life care is a particular health challenge

of the developed world. Part of the GHA's philosophy is that Western medics have much to learn from their African colleagues when it comes to helping people cope with long-term and terminal disease.

"We've become very good in the West at coping with the clinical side of illness," says Dr Grant. "But there is a great opportunity to learn about holistic care and we hope to understand much more about how people in Africa care for the philosophical side of helping people to die well. We have many lessons to take from Africa about how to meet people's spiritual needs."

"One of our aims is to enhance medical training for young specialists in Uganda. Often it can be hard for young doctors to get adequate support."



Enjoy Clubhouses in London & Edinburgh & around the world



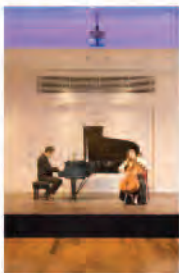
Special joining fee discount for University of Edinburgh alumni



The Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL) has a long history of welcoming members from the UK and overseas to its London and Edinburgh clubhouses and providing a network of reciprocal clubs, branches or honorary representatives around the world.



The London clubhouse, comprising two period houses, is in a prime location bordering Green Park and near the Ritz Hotel. Over-Seas House has a private garden, a fresco dining, restaurant, buttery for light meals, bar, drawing room, 80 air-conditioned bedrooms and seven conference and private dining rooms. The Edinburgh clubhouse is centrally situated at 100 Princes Street.



In addition to economical central London pricing*, the League offers a varied events programme, inter-club younger members group, quarterly journal, discounts on certain cruises and tours, in-house art exhibitions and concerts, and short term access to over 90 other clubs around the world in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Kenya, Gibraltar, Ireland, Spain, USA and elsewhere.



Specially discounted joining fees for University of Edinburgh alumni range from £57.50 to £135 depending on place of residence. 2010 half year subscriptions range from £55 to £135 (effective from 1 July 2010). The joining fee is waived for those aged 17-25.

For further information please contact the Membership Department, remembering to quote UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR

Tel: 020 7408 0214 Fax: 020 7499 6738

(Enquiries: 9.00am-5.00pm Monday-Friday - exts. 214 and 216)

Website: www.ros1.org.uk E-mail: info@ros1.org.uk

Alumni Profiles

Rachel Barrie BSc (Chemistry) 1991



As Master Blender for Glenmorangie and Ardbeg distilleries, Rachel Barrie is in the enviable position of dreaming up new malt whiskies and then sharing her creations and knowledge with enthusiasts around the world. She is also the Scotch Malt Whisky Society's Malt Whisky Manager.

"I loved working in the organic chemistry labs at university, making new substances and compounds, creating wonderful smells like, say, chocolate, orange and Christmas cake. The balance between that sensory experience and the analytical side of chemistry, understanding what is going on at a molecular level, fascinated me then, and still does now.

"Dr Lesley Yellowlees [now Professor of Inorganic Electrochemistry and Head of Chemistry] was my greatest role model and certainly inspired me to succeed; she was so positive and energetic and she made learning colourful and entertaining.

"As a student I was very sporty – every day I'd cycle from the New Town to King's Buildings, stopping for the first lectures at George Square, and back again. I was very involved in the University's Gourmet Food Society and the Hot Air Balloon Club, and I got into dance and shukokai karate.

"Coming from the Highlands, I always appreciated and savoured Scotch whisky and I also got into the Water of Life Society [the University's whisky enthusiasts' club].

"Having a first-class honours degree from the University of Edinburgh really opened doors for me; the world was my oyster. I was offered job opportunities in England but I wanted to stay in Edinburgh; it is such a vibrant city and there is so much to do.

"My first job was in brewing, and then a job came up at the Scotch Whisky Research Institute, which I found through the University's Careers Service. For three

years I visited Scotland's whisky distilleries, and did research into barley, oak and the sensory side of whisky.

"Now I work as Master Blender at Glenmorangie and Ardbeg and I'm also the Malt Whisky Manager for the Scotch Malt Whisky Society. I source and select whisky from 125 distilleries and bring the single cask samples to the Society's tasting panel.

"HAVING A FIRST-CLASS HONOURS DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH REALLY OPENED DOORS FOR ME; THE WORLD WAS MY OYSTER."

"I've sampled about 80,000 whisky samples so I've had good training. To do my job, you need to have a good nose and memory, to place all these casks in a 'sensory database', and then be very patient to wait and keep sampling and know when a whisky has reached perfection. You should also have a creative streak; distilling allows my inventive side to experiment and come up with new exciting tastes that will surprise and delight drinkers around the world.

"So much care, time and attention goes into making malt whisky and to have people sit down and spend time really getting to know a whisky is very rewarding. Finding the perfect whisky for a person is a case of tapping into the tastes they enjoy in life – food, perfume, aromas – and then guiding them to a particular malt and then a specific whisky in the range.

"I feel like I have the best job in the world – nothing quite comes close to being able to enjoy the finest spirit in the world every day of your working life!"

Catch up on the latest alumni news and stay informed. Visit www.ed.ac.uk/alumni

Anna Clyne

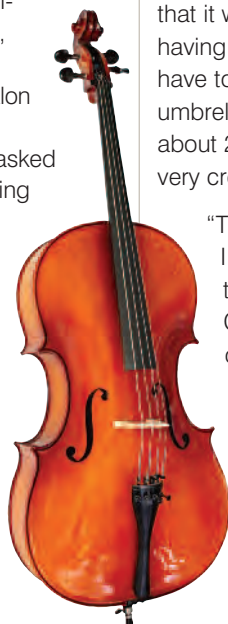
BMu (Music) 2002

London-born acoustic and electro-acoustic composer Anna Clyne has collaborated with cutting-edge choreographers, film-makers, visual artists and musicians and has had her works commissioned and performed worldwide. Later this year she will join the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as Mead Composer-in-Residence.

"My passion is collaboration; I love exploring new territory and working with artists in different fields. I recently wrote a double laptop concerto, which was commissioned and premiered by the American Composers Orchestra at New York's Carnegie Hall in 2008. Two artists were performing on laptops – live visuals from one were projected onto a large screen above the orchestra and live electronics from the other were amplified through speakers around the orchestra. The challenge was to find an organic dialogue between the orchestra and soloists within a traditional setting.

"I live in Brooklyn, New York, where there's a really supportive network for new music and young artists, and even though it's a big city, it's very much a word-of-mouth community. For example, I had an opportunity to have a piece on an afternoon music salon in SoHo with [Icelandic singer-songwriter] Björk because she asked a friend if she knew any interesting young composers; her friend gave her some of my recordings. Subsequently, a friend of mine and I performed a piece.

"In October I start a residency with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. It's a real honour to be working with such an excellent organisation and musicians, and with their new conductor, Riccardo Muti.



"I never thought it would be possible to be a composer but I realised in my third year of university, while I was on exchange to Queen's University in Canada, that this was what I wanted to do.

"The degree at Edinburgh was unique in that it was very broad, and rather than having to specialise as you sometimes have to at a conservatory, we got an umbrella education. There were only about 20 of us in my year and it was a very creative, collaborative environment.

"There were so many opportunities: I played in an orchestra and the University's Music in the Community programme gave us opportunities to teach music in different contexts, like running workshops for students with special needs and younger children. I also went to Mostar and Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina to do workshops with local children.

"THE DEGREE AT EDINBURGH WAS UNIQUE IN THAT IT WAS VERY BROAD, AND RATHER THAN HAVING TO SPECIALISE AS YOU SOMETIMES HAVE TO AT A CONSERVATORY, WE GOT AN UMBRELLA EDUCATION."

"All these experiences were part of my education and that community involvement I had at Edinburgh is still really central to what I'm doing now. For example, the Music in the Community programme is relevant to my work now as Director of Making Score, a young composer's programme with the New York Youth Symphony Orchestra, and when I go to Chicago I will be part of a programme that takes music into prisons. So that educational thread that started in Edinburgh has continued."

Alumni Network

Community News

LET'S GET TOGETHER



Traditional Scottish music was a highlight of the Burns Night in Washington DC

SPECIAL OCCASION

US groups honour Scots poet Burns

US alumni relished the opportunity to 'toast the haggis' and honour Scots poet Robert Burns at their annual January Burns Night celebrations. In Massachusetts alumni joined graduates of other ancient universities for dinner and drinks, while in Washington DC alumni gathered for an evening of Scottish food, drink, music and, of course, an obligatory 'wee dram'.

RECRUITMENT

Shared insights

In March, staff from Development & Alumni worked alongside colleagues in the University's International Office on a new joint venture to deliver a series of international recruitment events in North America. Past and potential students gathered at events in New York, Boston, Washington DC, Toronto and Palo Alto,

where alumni talked about their experiences of the University and the city of Edinburgh with individuals who had been offered a place at the University of Edinburgh. The shared insights proved invaluable to potential students who were eager to hear about student life at Edinburgh.

INTERNATIONAL

European alumni gather in Brussels

More than 80 alumni came together recently for an event hosted by the University and the Edinburgh University Brussels Society. The inaugural European Alumni Dinner was held at the historic Cercle Royal Gaulois and welcomed guests from all over Europe. The evening proved to be a great success, with alumni enjoying the opportunity to find out how the University is evolving while also helping them to tighten bonds with their Alma Mater. Commenting on the international reach of the University, Professor Steve Hillier, Vice-Principal of Internationalisation, said: "As a flagship international university we celebrate the valuable



Gabriel Goldberg, University of Edinburgh Brussels Society, with guests

contributions our students and staff make to life in Europe and beyond." Alumni are already looking forward to the next event, which will take place on 17 November.

Club focus:



San Francisco Bay Area

Organisers of the newly formed San Francisco Bay Area alumni network have been steaming ahead, with a number of successful events already under their belt.

At the Network's first event, alumni Bill and Pat Russell (BSc 1975 and BSc 1976 respectively), opened their home to 34 fellow alumni for a claret tasting and quiz.

The second gathering saw alumni showcase their musical talents with a Celtic-themed evening, hosted by Sophie Muller Stockholm (BSc 1999).

For more information about upcoming events in the San Francisco Bay Area, email group coordinator Evelyn Bealby (BSc 1974) at evelyn@bealby.com.

Catch up on the latest alumni news and stay informed. Visit www.ed.ac.uk/alumni

A weekend of Hong Kong events



To coincide with the General Council's next half-yearly meeting, to be held in Hong Kong in June, a full programme of alumni events and activities will take place. Full details on page 39.

The listing of events, to be staged over the weekend of 11–12 June, includes:

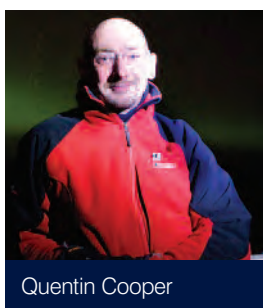
- a half-day conference addressing 'High Growth – Low Carbon Leadership: The Economics of Climate Change'
- an evening reception and honorary degree ceremonies
- a tour of the University of Hong Kong campus
- Professor Tom Devine lecture on 'An Empire of Commerce: Three Centuries of Scottish Enterprise in the East'
- a reception at Hong Kong Shanghai Bank followed by dinner at the China Club.

Science guru hosts London event

Science & Engineering alumni gathered recently in London to hear a presentation by fellow Edinburgh graduate and science journalist Quentin Cooper.

Mr Cooper, who presents BBC Radio 4's science programme *Material World*, discussed science and the media and touched on the public's perception of the 'stereotypical scientist'. His lively and engaging talk dealt with a serious subject in a highly entertaining manner.

The lecture, hosted by the University's School of Informatics, was followed by a spirited debate, which continued into the evening over a glass of wine.



Quentin Cooper

Keep in touch

Do we have your current contact details, including your email address? If not, you might be missing out on social event invitations as well as our bimonthly e-newsletter, which keeps you updated on the latest alumni benefits, club activities and news.

If your details need to be updated, please visit the Alumni Portal or email us at alumni@ed.ac.uk.



For a memorable reunion
.... choose a memorable
setting!



Peebles Hydro

Choice of venue plays an important part in any successful reunion. At Peebles Hydro you can relax in the knowledge that you are looked after by highly experienced professionals, creating just the right atmosphere for success!

01721 720 602

 sales@peebleshydro.co.uk 

www.mcmillanhotels.co.uk

Alumni Network

Memory Lane

Reunions round-up

Feedback from you, our alumni, is that your years at the University of Edinburgh were memorable and life changing. Reunions provide the ideal opportunity for former classmates and colleagues to reconnect, reminisce and revisit the campus.

Whether you're thinking of an informal gathering or a full weekend of activities, we can advise you on how to organise a reunion. We can contact your classmates on your behalf, share past success stories to give you ideas and suggest activities and venues, such as Old College rooms, which can be hired out for free for special anniversaries. No two reunions are the same and we want to work with you to ensure yours is enjoyable.

For more information contact Development and Alumni's Liz Everett:
+44 (0)131 650 2242 or elizabeth.everett@ed.ac.uk

Reunions in 2010

1950 MBChB

28 September

Anne Lambie

1955 BVM&S

4–6 June

Professor Anthony (David) Weaver
Edinburgh

1955 MBChB

5 October

Dr Roy Sutherland
Braid Hills Hotel

1960 BDS

tbc

Tom Muirhead
& Ian Duncan

1960 Chemistry

4 September

Anne Buchan
Raeburn Room

1960 MBChB

10 September

Tom Kennedy &
Martin Eastwood
Playfair Library

1963 and various 'drouthy cronies'

25–26 September

Fred Lawson
New Club

1964 Geography

15–17 October

Anne Campbell
(Sauszek)

1965 MBChB

27–28 August

Mike Dixon
Edinburgh

1970 Agriculture

25 June

David Pollock
Braid Hills
Hotel

1970 BDS

8–10 October

John McConnachie
Peebles Hydro
Hotel

1970 BV&MS

17–18 September

Pam Meldrum

1970 MBChB

3–5 September

Udi Chetty

1975 BDS

tbc

Dorothy Arthur

1979 MBChB

8–10 October

Janet Wilson
Roxburghe Hotel

1980 Biological Sciences

tbc

Avril Henney

1980 MBChB

12–14 November

Tricia McPhail
Peebles Hydro Hotel

1980 Nursing

tbc

Maria Dewar

1985 MBChB

18 September

Doris MacLeod
& Trish Gallacher
Caledonian Hotel

1985 Agriculture

tbc

Margaret Hall

1990 Agriculture

tbc 2010 or 2011

Caroline Lang

1990 Politics

3 July

Dan Ellingworth
Edinburgh

1994–96 Politics & International Relations

tbc

Sonya MacEachron

2000 Archaeology

tbc

Jeremy Birkett-Jones

Contact Liz Everett

Development & Alumni

T: +44 (0)131 650 2242

E: elizabeth.everett@ed.ac.uk

W: www.edinburghcampaign.ed.ac.uk

Reader letter

Braving the cold

In 1947 I was a student living on Edinburgh's south side, in the East Suffolk Road Hostels. Back then we had government regulations and rationing.

Carlyle Hostel had central heating, but we weren't allowed to have a bath until the washing up had been done. Although the bedrooms were cold we had fires in the library and common room in the evenings and we were permitted to wear trousers at the formal evening meal.

Food was rationed: we each had a space in a cupboard to keep our weekly ration of two ounces of butter, a cup of sugar and a monthly jar of either marmalade or jam. For our suppers we could collect eight bread 'units' and by negotiating with friends we could share our purchases over the week, so to avoid stale buns.

Then there were clothing coupons. I had a school coat that had been let out in all possible directions but it was heavy and didn't dry out like today's Anoraks. And we all had University scarves, one of our first purchases on enrolment.

We were much better off than many living in 'digs' and most of us enjoyed our years in Edinburgh, in spite of the cold!

Sheila Tennant MA History (1945–49)



Back in the day: a study bedroom in the East Suffolk Road Hostel, Newington

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

Ever wondered what your **former classmates** are up to? Here's a snapshot of who's doing what, where and why...

1950s

Mr Derek Pugh MA 1953, MSc 1956 is Emeritus Professor of International Management at the Open University. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate (DLitt) from Aston University, and was given a British Academy Lifetime Achievement Award. He is currently working on a new edition of his co-authored best-selling book *How to Get a PhD* (Open University Press, 2010).

1960s

Rev Alexander J Shaw MA 1964, BD 1967 has just returned from his fifth teaching and lecturing visit to Kenya. His activities there included prayers, religious services and seminars for groups as diverse as car mechanics, orphaned school children, prison inmates and university students.

Professor John S Mackenzie BSc 1965 has retired from his position as Professor of Tropical Infectious Diseases and inaugural Premiers Fellow at Curtin University in Perth, Australia. He remains employed part time at Curtin University and under contract to the World Health Organization.

1970s

Dr Susan Craig-James MA 1970 has published a two-volume history about the Caribbean island of Tobago, *The Changing Society of Tobago, 1838–1938: A Fractured Whole* (Cornerstone Press, 2008).

Mr David Andrews BSc 1973 has been working as an agricultural and transport economist for a number of organisations in the UK, Papua New Guinea and Australia. He currently works for consultant Mott MacDonald in traffic modelling, economic appraisal and in the ex-post evaluation of transport schemes.

Mr Andrew Kennedy BSc 1975 has published *Essential Personalities* (Gravity Publishing, 2009), an original take on the recent evolution of the human personality.

Mrs Helen Fraser BSc 1978 is busy with her Edinburgh-based business, Afternoon Tea Tours, which offers single travellers and small groups a personalised guide around Edinburgh and Scotland.

1980s

Dr Julie Gustanski Dip 1987, PhD 2000 co-founded the PenMet Foundation in 2006 and has served as its president since 2007. The Foundation's work is centred on the enhancement of the general health and well-being of people in Washington State's greater South Puget Sound's Peninsula region.

Ms Susan O'Malley Hall JYA 1989 and her husband Robert Scholz announce the arrival of their son, Bryson Wynn O'Malley Scholz, born on 27 September 2009.

1990s

Mr Julian H Chapman MA 1990 recently set up Indiground, which provides architectural design and a range of services for the architecture and property sectors.

Mr Andy Arends MSc 1993 and his wife Christy announce the birth of Benjamin John Arends on 31 December 2009. He joins big sister Abigail at home in Geneva, Illinois.

Mr Erwin Losekoot MBA 1995 is a Senior Lecturer in Hospitality at New Zealand's Auckland University of Technology, where he is also working on his PhD on the management of service operations at airports. On the way to New Zealand he and his family stayed in Hong Kong and met up with former classmates Mr David Wu and Ms Joice Poon.

Mr Anastassios Karpodinis BMus 1999 has written music for the pianist Veronica Yen, released in Taiwan in February 2010. He is also setting up a five-member acoustic band to perform his songs in Greece.

2000s

Mr Neil McLennan MA 2002, PGCE(Sec) 2003 is Head of History at an Edinburgh secondary school. His second Scottish history textbook, to be released later this year, will support the implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence in Scottish Schools.

Miss Rebecca Feng MSc 2006 plans to move back to the UK after three years in Beijing working at Xinhua Finance Media Ltd.

Mr Jim Dolan MSc 2007 joined Scottish Development International (the international

economic arm of the Scottish Government) in 2009 as Assistant Vice-President of the Eastern US operation, based in Boston. He joined former classmates Mrs Bethany Smith and Mrs Jean Borman (nee Rowan) for the recent wedding of Miss Anna Tudor in Delaware.

Miss Sandhya Prabhakaran MSc 2008 is a PhD student at the University of Basel, Switzerland. Her specialist area is medical informatics and the application of machine learning concepts to this domain.

Miss Yvonne Rae BVM&S 2009 is a small animal and exotics vet in Wigan, England.

60 seconds in the spotlight



Dr David Jackson (PhD, 1991)

Alumnus Dr David Jackson will curate an upcoming exhibition at the National Galleries of Scotland. The exhibition, entitled 'Christen Købke: Danish Master of Light', brings together the most exhaustive collection of Købke's paintings ever shown outside Denmark, and has been organised in conjunction with London's National Gallery. The exhibition will run in Edinburgh from 5 July to 3 October 2010.

After gaining a BA from Aberystwyth University in Wales, David came to Edinburgh to undertake a PhD in Russian Art. He is currently Professor of Russian and Scandinavian Art Histories at the University of Leeds.

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

Hector MacQueen

School: Law **Title:** Professor of Private Law



When did you start work at Edinburgh?

I was a part-time tutor in Commercial Law in 1978.

What is the most satisfying part of your job?

Engaging with very able people at all stages of their careers... students, colleagues, lawyers and judges, policy-makers, lobbyists and business people alike.

And the most challenging?

Probably the first contract lecture to the first-year LLBs every year – their first exposure to law.

What has changed over the years?

There is now a much better environment for the development of young colleagues. When I started it was embarrassing on both sides for a junior colleague to seek

guidance on career development from a senior. Now it's commonplace.

Are you an Edinburgh alumnus?

Yes. I have an LLB Honours (1974–1978) and a PhD (1985).

... and what has changed since your student days?

The student body is much more diverse, in terms of age, background

and nationality. Computers were an unknown back in the 1970s, never mind mobile phones, iPods etc. Although we got lecture handouts, they were mostly very skimpy. But there was some great teaching – I hope that at least hasn't changed.

Is it satisfying to see graduates excel in their careers?

I am occasionally amazed to find that former students are now judges or Cabinet ministers, but it isn't that much of a surprise to see them do well at whatever it is they turn their hands to. We just have to get them to believe in themselves.

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

Philip Sutherland was a PhD student of mine in the early 1990s. He was from South Africa and although he was working mainly on South African law, with Scots law as a comparator, his research and analytical skills made me realise fully what an understanding you could get from a comparative approach. I learned a lot about what being a PhD supervisor meant through my relationship with Philip.

Professor MacQueen, a Scottish Law Commissioner, is currently on a leave of absence from the University. He continues to teach and supervise Edinburgh PhD students.

THE APPRENTICE

Philip Sutherland

Hector MacQueen supervised Philip Sutherland (PhD Law) from 1992 to 1996. Philip is now Professor of Commercial Law at Stellenbosch University, South Africa.



“Hector was an excellent supervisor and I always left his office inspired. He emphasised simplicity and clarity in writing and thinking. He will always be my role model and mentor. He illustrated to me that it was possible to have a cluttered office as well as a clear mind. I certainly know I can match him on the first issue though never on the second!”

THE NEW avalon collection

Whether you run your business from home or simply need an occasional office, our **NEW** Avalon collection offers a stylish solution to working from home.

NEVILLE JOHNSON

www.nevillejohnson.co.uk/edit



Avalon is Neville Johnson's latest furniture collection illustrated here as a contemporary home office in Walnut and white. However, as bespoke furniture specialists we are able to offer our customers innovative solutions for almost any area of the home, in a huge range of finishes to suit any personal taste or style.

As well as beautifully crafted home studies, our brochure has 96 pages of ideas for bedrooms, lounges, libraries and home cinema furniture. So, if you're looking for a wise investment call us today for your free copy of our brochure or to book a free consultation with a member of our design team. Whatever stage your project is at we'll be happy to help and advise.

* Buy now pay in 12 months, finance offer is available on orders over £3,000 + VAT placed between 17/5/2010 and 30/6/2010. Finance offer is subject to acceptance, terms and conditions apply. Typical finance example: total cash price £7,500, £1,875 deposit, balance £5,625 and nothing to pay for 12 months. Option 1 pay balance in full £5,625. Option 2 pay 48 monthly repayments of £154.07. Total amount repayable on option 2 is £9,270.30 (inc. deposit), finance charge £1,770.30. Typical APR 9.9%.

Alternatively, complete and return the coupon to the address below.

Mr / Mrs / Miss:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel:

Email:

Please tick if you do not wish to receive information concerning other Neville Johnson products ☐ Neville Johnson Ltd, Broadoak Business Park, Ashburton Road West, Trafford Park, Manchester, M17 1RW. Fax: 0161 873 8335.

free 96 page brochure
bespoke design & craftsmanship
free local design service
lifetime guarantee
available throughout Europe
BUY NOW PAY IN 12 MONTHS*

CALL TODAY FOR A **FREE BROCHURE**

0161 873 8333

QUOTE CODE EDIT12 LINES OPEN 7 DAYS

EDIT12



The mark of responsible forestry
Cert no. 11-COC-003195

STUDIES

BEDROOMS

LOUNGES

LIBRARIES

CINEMA

DINING

My Edinburgh



Everyone has special memories of their university years. Coming to Edinburgh means a lot of memories are enhanced by the stunning location, breathtaking weather and all-round cosmopolitan experience. Here, *edit* invites alumni to share what made their student days so memorable. If you would like to contribute to My Edinburgh in future, email us at editor.edit@ed.ac.uk.



Pilar Luque Carrasco
French/European History Honours, 1992

Where do you live now and why?

I live in Madrid, where I was born. After 10 years in Edinburgh I came back to my roots.

When did you live in Edinburgh?

From 1987 to 1997.

What did the University do for you?

I was taught how to develop and defend a point of view. I also learnt how to live on my own.

What do you miss most about the city?

I really miss those summer evenings when one could sit outside a garden pub and savour a beer until it got dark around 11pm. But I don't miss the cold weather and the really early autumn and winter nights!



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

The Victoria Street teashops, like the Cuttea Sark, and the shops on Princes Street during sales time.



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

That particular brewery smell and being in the midst of George Square with lots of people who were all feeling as lost as I was.

What is your fondest memory of your time at university?

The rehearsals and after-parties for plays put on by the Spanish history department, and the medics' Ball.



Which book influenced your life the most when you were here?

Othello – I had to read it in Spanish, then in English, then watch the video before feeling up to writing an essay on it!

What is your favourite view of the city?

The one from Arthur's seat on a summer's evening.



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

A visit to the Georgian House in Charlotte Square in the New Town, the Old Town, and going to a ceilidh.

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



David Mangnall
Postgraduate Diploma Outdoor Education, 2003

Where do you live now, and why?

I live in Anakiwa in the Marlborough Sounds, New Zealand. I'm the Training Manager at Outward Bound there.



When did you live in Edinburgh?

From 2002 to 2003.

What did the University do for you?

It gave me the opportunity to be surrounded by fellow students who had quite different experiences to mine, and it gave me a world view on many issues. I also gained the ability and confidence to present and write in an academic environment.



What do you miss most about the city?

The history. Edinburgh just oozes it, and it seemed like around every street corner there was something to see.

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

I loved all the interesting shops around the Lawnmarket area.



“Peter Higgins, Pete Allison and Robbie Nicol were all inspiring in their broad and multidisciplinary approaches and perspectives on outdoor and environmental education.”

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

That it was a thriving, modern city in an almost medieval setting. Coming from such a young country as New Zealand, the architecture and history of the Old Town was something quite different.

What is your fondest memory of your time at university?

Having the time to read widely on a variety of subjects. Something you just don't have the time to do outside an academic environment.

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

Peter Higgins, Pete Allison and Robbie Nicol were all inspiring in their broad and multidisciplinary approaches and perspectives on outdoor and environmental education. They were passionate and committed, put students' needs first and above all they were always up for a good chat!

What is your favourite view of the city?

The view from Calton Hill takes a bit of beating.



What would be your advice to a tourist visiting Edinburgh?

Don't rush... give yourself plenty of time to explore. I was always horrified at the number of people who thought they could 'do' Edinburgh in a day.

Then & Now Sport & Exercise

From Eric Liddell's 400m sprint to Olympic glory in 1924 to Sir Chris Hoy's phenomenal success on today's cycling stage, our alumni have long been producing impressive results on the sports field as well as in the examination hall. Here, we provide a photographic snapshot of sport and exercise at Edinburgh over the years – be it for socialising or serious training, our facilities and clubs have catered for beginners and elite athletes alike.



01 Eric Liddell wins gold for Great Britain in the Men's 400m at the 1924 Paris Olympics. **02** Anne Cook is ready for a day out at Glenshee in 1939. **03** The University's 1929-30 shinty team. **04** Rifle shooters compete in the 100 yards event at the Scottish Open Championships. **05** J G M Hart goes for glory in the hurdles. **06** Edinburgh's 1878 Inter-University XI cricketers. **07** Members of the University's ski club set out in 1938. **08** A mountaineering club enthusiast. **09** Diver Peter Heatly shows off his form from the high tower.

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



10 Kick-boxers in training. **11** A women's eight rowing crew strives for the finish line. **12** Ultimate Frisbee enthusiasts compete in tournaments all over the UK. **13** The Pleasance sports training complex's new climbing wall. **14** A gymnast makes use of the Pleasance studios. **15** Archer Jenny Jeppson takes aim. **16** Swimming competitions range from informal meets to British University Championships. **17** The state-of-the-art 100-station CV gym. **18** Olympians Sir Chris Hoy and Katherine Grainger celebrate their Beijing medal haul. **19** Stephen Dick was selected for Team GB's men's hockey team at Beijing.



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Visitor Centre



Our showcase of student and staff life at Edinburgh

Next time you're in Edinburgh, drop in and see us at the University's new Visitor Centre.

Full of great gift ideas and University merchandise, there's also a bookshop, free information and a great exhibition packed with interesting facts about the history of your University. We're just next to Potterrow, between Bristo Square and George Square, at:

2 Charles Street
Edinburgh EH8 9AD

T 0131 650 2252

F 0131 650 2253

E university.centre@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 well-being. For more information on the work of the General Council, visit www.general-council.ed.ac.uk.



My first duty is to report that Dr Simon Cunningham, Secretary of the General Council, has been in hospital for some weeks and has resigned from his post on health grounds. In his short time with us Simon did excellent work for the General Council. We thank him for his commitment and wish him a speedy return to full health.

The work of the General Council has continued effortlessly due to the professionalism and dedication of the Assistant to the Secretary, Mrs Mary Scott, for which we are very grateful. My thanks also go to Dr Frances Dow, Vice-Convener of the Business Committee, who has been an invaluable help during this busy time.

At the Convener's Christmas Party last December, Victoria Crowe's portrait of the past Secretary of the General Council, Dr Ann Matheson, was unveiled by the Principal. The painting had been commissioned jointly by the General Council and the University. Our financial contribution was most generously given by present and past members of the Business Committee, senior University staff

and the University of Edinburgh USA Development Trust, all of whom had worked with Ann. The amount we received exceeded the required figure so the excess sum with the consent of a major donor will be deposited in the General Council Scholarships Fund, which was successfully launched recently. These Scholarships give many students who would otherwise have financial difficulties the chance to take up their places at this University. Please turn to page 38 for information on how to contribute.

The Business Committee is concerned with many important issues at present, and it is necessary for experienced advice to be available to us. Dr Ann Matheson has very kindly agreed to come back to help on a locum basis and this is much appreciated.

Last February's Half-Yearly Meeting was an outstanding success. Once again it was webcast live and the Principal's detailed and masterly account of the robust state of the University stimulated a wide range of questions from those present and, for the first time, by email from members elsewhere. The after-Lunch speaker was Dr Anthony d'Offay, art collector and philanthropist, whose gift to the nation of his modern art collection is managed by the National Galleries of Scotland and Tate. He described the concept of Artist Rooms, exhibitions devoted to individual artists, which tour art galleries throughout the UK. It has the special purpose of being a UK-wide resource that aims to inspire young people, as he was himself while an undergraduate in the University of Edinburgh.

Professor Richard Thomson, who holds the Watson Gordon Chair of Fine Art, gave an excellent vote of thanks. He described how Dr d'Offay had recently received a trio of Edinburgh awards: an honorary doctorate from this University, the Paolozzi Medal from the National Galleries of Scotland and now lunch from the General Council. Video Clips of this meeting and lunch may be seen on the General Council website. I encourage members to attend the Half-Yearly Meetings and the Lunch afterwards, which always includes an interesting address from a distinguished graduate.

The work of the Business Committee continues to be of interest and it is greatly enhanced by the reports we receive from the Court Assessors, Mr Douglas Connell, Professor Ann Smyth and Mrs Margaret Tait, who draw to our attention key issues concerning the Court.

The Standing Committees are very active: the Constitutional Committee is taking forward proposals for online voting for General Council elections; and I am grateful to the Academic and Finance and Services Standing Committees for engaging with senior academic and professional staff across the University, something that enables us to keep well informed about strategic developments. The Public Affairs Standing Committee has been deeply involved in the arrangements for the forthcoming General Council Meeting in Hong Kong in June. Members who are unable to attend are reminded that a live webcast will be available online at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/livewebcasts.htm.

Billet

General Council Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday 12 June 2010

3.30pm: Loke Yew Hall Auditorium, Main Building, University of Hong Kong

12.15pm to 12.45pm: Tour of the Campus escorted by Green Gown Guides

1pm to 2pm: Joint General Council and University of Edinburgh Lecture by Professor T M Devine
'An Empire of Commerce: Three Centuries of Scottish Enterprise in the East'

2pm to 3.15pm: Buffet Lunch in the Convocation Room and Gallery (please see page 39 for details)

3.30pm to 5pm: General Council Half-Yearly Meeting and Honorary Degree Ceremony

*** Please note that the Half-Yearly Meeting will be webcast.**

For details, please visit www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/livewebcasts.htm.

AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 1 | Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in Old College, Edinburgh, on 13 February 2010 (PAPER A) |
| 2 | Matters arising |
| 3 | Report of the Business Committee |
| 4 | Dates of future meetings of the General Council |
| 5 | Notice of forthcoming elections |
| 6 | Presentation by Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor |
| 7 | Any other competent business |
| 8 | Adjournment |

PAPER A

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in Edinburgh on 13 February 2010

Present:

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

Mr Melvyn Cornish
University Secretary and Registrar of the
General Council

Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

Dr Alan Brown
Convener of the Business Committee

Dr Frances Dow
Vice-Convener of the Business Committee

59 other members

Dr Di Williams
Chaplain to the University

- 1. Result of the Election of Members of the Business Committee**

The Chairman announced that the five new members of the Business Committee elected to serve for a period of four years from 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2014 were: Miss Luise Locke, Dr Elizabeth Morris, Dr Bruce Ritson, Mrs Ann Sutherland and Dr Charles Swainson.

- 2. Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in the Informatics Forum, Crichton Street, Edinburgh, on 20 June 2009**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 June 2009 were approved.

- 3. Matters arising**

The Chairman reported that there were no matters arising from the Minutes.

- 4. Report of the Business Committee**

Dr Alan Brown, Convener of the Business Committee, presented the Report of the Business Committee. He began by wishing a speedy and full return to health to the Rector, Mr Iain Macwhirter, and the Secretary of the General Council, Dr Simon Cunningham, who were unable to attend due to illness. He thanked the Assistant to the Secretary of the

General Council, Mrs Mary Scott, for so ably and professionally keeping the work of the General Council Office continuing satisfactorily.

The Business Committee and the Standing Committees continued to be very active and their reports were available in the Annex to the Billet. The Constitutional Standing Committee was taking forward proposals for online voting for General Council elections, and the Academic and Finance and Services Standing Committees were regularly engaging with senior academic and professional staff across the University. This enabled the Business Committee to keep abreast of strategic developments. The Public Affairs Standing Committee along with University colleagues were finalising arrangements for the Half-Yearly Meeting in June in Hong Kong. He thanked all Committee members for their dedication and hard work.

The Convener drew attention to the article in the Winter 2010 issue of *Edit* on the launch of the General Council Scholarships. The aim was to build an endowment substantial enough to support these scholarships in perpetuity and further details about them were available on the website.

The portrait of Dr Ann Matheson, the recently retired Secretary of the General Council, had been unveiled in December by the Principal. The painting was jointly commissioned by the University and the General Council and, as the amount generously given to the General Council had exceeded the required figure, it was intended to put the extra funds in the General Council Scholarships account.

The Convener concluded by welcoming the new members of the Business Committee in 2009 who brought a wealth of varied experience. They were: Mr Ruthven Gemmell, Mr Shields Henderson, Mr Neil Hynd, Ms Jane Kille and Professor Ian Sutherland.

The report of the Business Committee was approved.

The full text of the Convener's remarks are contained in the Annex to the Billet.

5. Dates of future meetings of the General Council

The next Half-Yearly Meeting would take place on Saturday 12 June 2010 in the University of Hong Kong. Any motions for discussion at that meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 24 March 2010. The following statutory Half-Yearly Meeting would be held on Saturday 12 February 2011 in Old College, University of Edinburgh. Any motions for discussion at the meeting on 12 February 2011 should be received in the General Council Office by 24 November 2010.

6. 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.

7. Presentation by the Principal of the Annual Report of the University

The Principal said that it was a pleasure to present the *Annual Review*, which had been so ably produced by Dr Ian Conn, Head of Communications and Marketing, and his colleagues. He commented first on the University's standing in the world league tables: it had moved from two years at 23rd to 20th, which was good for staff and for students. The ranking came from the opinions of world academics (40 per cent), international employers (10 per cent) and other elements from the international nature of the student and staff body. The Principal restated the University's mission: to produce graduates fully equipped for employment who were able to make significant, sustainable and socially responsible contributions. He mentioned that the University was attracting much attention

— for example, the previous day, the Leader of the Conservative Party, David Cameron, had visited King's Buildings and viewed carbon capture projects, while at around the same time, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had toured the Informatics Forum. Both had appeared before television cameras with the University as the backdrop.

Concerning the *Annual Review*, Appendix 4 showed that the University's competitive research grant income had increased to £249 million, which was a massive success against fierce competition. It represented more than 1,000 awards, 40 of which were for more than £1 million. The source of this funding was significant as about a quarter of it came from overseas governments, charities and industry, and much more came from the UK Research Councils, all of which was good for the University. This substantial achievement would be echoed back to the Scottish Government because as less than 30 per cent of the turnover of around £600 million formula funding was from the Government, it could be said that for every £1 they provided the University generated another £4 that was spent in Scotland.

Attention was drawn to the *Review's* Appendix 3, which highlighted the range of benefactors, trusts and individuals who contributed funding; the Carlyle Circle was also important as it illustrated how members took a long-term view of the University.

In terms of student data, Appendix 2 showed there were 50,000 applications for 5,000 undergraduate places, which made Edinburgh one of the two or three most popular universities in the UK. There were currently 27,000 students, 19,000 of whom were undergraduates. Of the 8,000 remaining students, half were undertaking doctorate degrees, which was very important as in the future they would be holding positions of responsibility in universities, research laboratories, in industry and governments around the world, but they would remain connected to the University. The other 4,000 students were engaged in Masters degrees

Billet

and the hope was that more would be recruited to these courses. The highest number of overseas students came from the United States (1,500). The second largest group came from China, then Germany (particularly law), and Greece, where there was less opportunity for university study. India was expected to reach the top 10 soon.

Appendix 1 illustrated the wide range of professorial appointments made and the high quality of appointees. It was very pleasing to note the Knighthood for Professor Neil Douglas of the School of Clinical Sciences & Community Health. The range of honorary graduates reflected well on the University and included, for example, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Sir David Murray, and Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham. The posthumous award to Professor Sir Neil MacCormick had been marked by a very emotional ceremony.

The Financial Review section showed the University's turnover had moved from £555 million to £592 million, a growth rate of 6.5 per cent. The Principal said that about seven years ago the University was the size of three average British universities; now it was about the size of four. Last year there was £54 million of capital expenditure, with the key projects being the continuation of the Main Library refurbishment, the initiation of work in the new Vet School and the campus infrastructure at Easter Bush and the Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine at Little France. However, trying times were ahead and funding would be under fierce pressure, as was seen in the Higher Education Funding Council for England's reduction of its allocations. There would also be pressure on pensions, but it was of some comfort that the University was one of the three or four strongest universities in Britain in terms of financial situation and reputation.

Other highlights included good support from Banco Santander, which had pledged funding for 20 additional scholarships for Latin

American students to study in Edinburgh, and further funding to support the movement of students and staff between the University and high-quality institutions in the Iberian Peninsula. The University was also pleased with the visionary support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation concerning childhood pneumonia in Africa.

In terms of the carbon footprint, three of the University's Schools had a leadership role. GeoSciences has been concerned with climate change, including Professor Stuart Haszeldine's work which initiated the concept of carbon sequestration. The School of Engineering & Electronics is undertaking work on carbon engineering and the University now has the strongest UK team under Professor John Gribbin, who joined the University with his team from Imperial College. In addition, the Business School has a buoyant Masters course on the economics of carbon trading. The University had also achieved the Carbon Trust Standard for controlling its carbon dioxide output.

Articles in the *Annual Review* described Dr Jim Wilson's work on genetic factors influencing the disease process; and Professor Michael Zaiser and his team, who had made a significant breakthrough in understanding avalanches. The Students' Association was doing important work and of the nearly 200 societies, a good quarter of them were directly philanthropic. The Dirty Weekenders cleaned up countryside areas and significant older properties needing attention and other students helped small charities with their skills in accountancy, planning and computing. The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, on a visit here, found that 200 of our students helped the homeless by making food, doing their washing, helping them apply for benefits or to get on to job registers. These students deserved our praise and thanks. This was the second year of the Student Teaching Awards and there would be even more nominations than last year. Congratulations were due to the students for recognising the highest quality of teaching provision in the University.

The Principal highlighted the contribution to the Universities Allied for Essential Medicine, which was about controlling the intellectual property-related cost of medicines particularly for the Third World. This had a direct impact on the affordability of key medicines in, for example, areas like sub-Saharan Africa. The University's Internationalisation Strategy, led by Vice-Principal Stephen Hillier, was going well, and his concept of Global Health Academies showed promise. Also important would be the opening of the University of Edinburgh India Office later this year.

The Research Assessment Exercise had ranked Edinburgh top in hospital-based clinical medicine in the UK, and this was an important marker for status. It was also top in Veterinary Studies, Linguistics, Informatics and Computer Science. In volume terms, the University's work rated as having high international importance had increased by 23 per cent from 2001 to 2008. There were important partnerships with Heriot-Watt University in Mathematics, University of St Andrews in Chemistry and the association with Edinburgh College of Art in Architecture had resulted in a third place in the UK rankings. All of these were very important partnerships.

Finally, the Principal thanked the General Council for its support and for the valuable input of the Business Committee; and he looked forward to the Hong Kong meeting, which he was sure would be a tremendous success.

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

8. Any other competent business

There was no other competent business.

9. Adjournment

The Motion by the Convener of the Business Committee that, for the purpose of considering

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

Dr Di Williams closed the meeting with a benediction.

The Annex to the Billet contains supporting papers for the Agenda, including communications from the University Court, full Standing Committee Reports, a transcript of the presentation, and the Business Committee's Report to the meeting on 13 February 2010. General Council members may request it by post from Mrs Mary Scott, General Council Office, Charles Stewart House, 9–16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT, UK. Tel: +44 (0)131 650 2152; email general.council@ed.ac.uk. Alternatively, members may collect a copy at the location of the Council Meeting from 30 minutes before.

General Council Online Elections

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, University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT. Email: **general.council@ed.ac.uk**.

Officers

Chairman:	His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT	
Secretary:	Ann Matheson, OBE, MA, Dip. Scottish Studies, MLitt, PhD, Hon DLitt	(locum)
Registrar:	Melvyn D Cornish, BSc, PGCE, 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, FRCSE	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: Michael J Mitchell, BSc, PhD	2010
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	Francis R MacT Brewis, MA	2010
A	Helen M Campbell, MA, BA, MNCHM, RSHom, BSc	2010
F	T Finlay Marshall, MA, FFA	2010
F	James Murray, BSc, MS, MIEE, MIHT	2010
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
F	Mary M Swarbrick, MA, PGC	2012
C	Bruce L K Rae, LLB	2012
C	William Ruthven Gemmell, LLB	2013
A	William Shields Henderson, MA, CA	2013
P	Neil R Hynd, LVO, BArch, FRIAS, FSA Scot	2013
P	Jane E Kille, MA, MBA	2013

Assistant to the Secretary: Mary T Scott, BA

Billet

Festival Reception and Exhibition Viewing

Thursday 26 August 2010
5.15pm to 7pm

The General Council and the Graduates' Association will hold a Reception and Exhibition Viewing for members and their guests on Thursday 26 August 2010 in the Talbot Rice Gallery's Georgian Room.

Ms Pat Fisher, Principal Curator of the Gallery, will introduce two notable exhibitions, which will celebrate the art of painting. These exhibitions feature work by Julie Roberts and by Craigie Aitchison.

Tickets may be ordered at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/festivalevent.htm or by post on the request form, opposite.

The February 2010 General Council Lunch



Before the General Council Lunch on 13 February 2010, from left: Dr Anthony d'Offay, art collector and philanthropist; Mr Melvyn Cornish, University Secretary and Registrar of the General Council; Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor; Dr Alan Brown, Convener of the Business Committee; Dr Frances Dow, Vice-Convener of the Business Committee; and the Rt Hon. Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, Chancellor's Assessor.



Hong Kong Tourism Board

June 2010 General Council Meeting and Alumni Events, Hong Kong

Friday 11 June to Sunday 13 June 2010

The General Council's Half-Yearly Meeting will take place in the University of Hong Kong on Saturday 12 June 2010.

An exciting weekend programme of events has also been organised for the weekend of 11 to 13 June 2010, in association with Development & Alumni.

Tickets may be purchased online by following the link at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/HongKong2010.htm. Further details of all

events can be found here, and also in Development & Alumni's bimonthly e-newsletter (email: alumni@ed.ac.uk).

Online bookings can be made up to Monday 31 May 2010 at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/HongKong2010.htm. If you do not have web access, please telephone **+44 (0)131 650 9168**.

For Hong Kong tourist information, please visit www.discoverhongkong.com/uk/index.jsp.

The General Council Scholarships

The General Council of the University is proud to launch the General Council Scholarships. They will provide support for students who would otherwise be unable to afford to go to university. The goal is to build an endowment substantial enough to support these scholarships in perpetuity. A typical award provides £1,000 of support each year for qualifying and deserving students. These new Scholarships will be in addition to the existing Edinburgh Fund Access Bursaries, and it is hoped that together they will give many students the chance to take up their well-earned places at the University.

If you would like to contribute, you may do so online at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/GeneralCouncilScholarships.htm.

Contributions however large or small are very much appreciated, as are annual donations for a period of four years.

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.



'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

Programme of Events

Friday 11 June 2010

Conrad Hotel, Admiralty,
Hong Kong

Morning

Free time

1.30pm–5.30pm

Half-Day Conference on the Economics
of Climate Change

'High Growth – Low Carbon Leadership'

Key speakers from Hong Kong, China
and the University of Edinburgh

Cost: £40

6pm–7.30pm

Evening Reception and Honorary
Degree Ceremony

Cost: No charge



Professor Tom Devine

Saturday 12 June 2010

Morning

Free time

12pm

Arrival at Main Building, University
of Hong Kong, and refreshments

12.15pm–12.45pm

Green Gown Guides Campus Tour

Cost: No charge

1pm–2pm

Joint General Council and
University of Edinburgh Lecture

Loke Yew Hall Auditorium, Main Building,
University of Hong Kong

'An Empire of Commerce: Three Centuries
of Scottish Enterprise in the East'

Professor Tom Devine (pictured left),
OBE BA PhD DLitt Hon DLitt (Queen's
Belfast and Abertay Dundee) Hon DUniv
(Strathclyde) FRHistS FRSE HonMRIA FBA;
Sir William Fraser Professor of History and
Palaeography, University of Edinburgh

Cost: No charge

2pm–3.15pm

Buffet Lunch in the Convocation Room
and Gallery

Cost: £25

3.30pm–5pm

General Council Half-Yearly Meeting and
Presentation of Honorary Degree to Dr Ann
Matheson, Secretary of the General Council
Loke Yew Hall Auditorium

Cost: No charge

7.30pm

Evening Reception and Gala Dinner
HSBC Building and China Club

Cost: £70

Please note: *space at the China Club is limited,
so do make sure to book early.*

Sunday 13 June 2010

Free day to explore Hong Kong. Please
see [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/
ProgrammeInformation.htm](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/ProgrammeInformation.htm).

Live Webcast from Hong Kong

Please note that the General Council
Half-Yearly Meeting in Hong Kong on
Saturday 12 June 2010 will be a live
webcast from 8.30am to 10.30am UK
time. Click on the link at [www.general-
council.ed.ac.uk/livewebcasts.htm](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/livewebcasts.htm)
and you will be able to follow the
proceedings from anywhere in the world.



Festival Reception and Exhibition Viewing

Thursday 26 August 2010

Please send me _____ tickets (£12 per person) for the Festival Reception and Exhibition Viewing.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Name(s) of guest(s) _____

Tickets may be purchased online through the link at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/festivalevent.htm. Alternatively, please return this form to:
Mrs Mary Scott, Assistant to the Secretary of the General Council, General Council Office, The University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House,
9–16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT, Scotland, UK. **Closing date for applications: Thursday 19 August 2010.**

“I want to help
future generations
of researchers
continue our work.”



THE UNIVERSITY of
EDINBURGH CAMPAIGN

Kath Melia is Professor of Nursing Studies at the University of Edinburgh. This year, she took the significant step of making a gift in her Will to help continue the work and research of the University.

Kath explains, “I was touched to find that a former colleague, who had played a pivotal

role in developing nursing at Edinburgh, had remembered the University in her Will, a gesture which is helping the important work we are doing today. This has inspired me to do the same.”

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

Please complete and return this form

Name

Address.....

.....

.....

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 Joanne Finnie-Jones and Morag Murison of the Legacy Team:
Tel: +44 (0)131 650 2240,
email joanne.finnie@ed.ac.uk
or morag.murison@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.