Inspiring internationalisation
Professor James Smith talks about his global vision for the University

Teaching & learning
Promoting and celebrating high-quality teaching

Our musical heritage
The refurbishment of St Cecilia’s Hall

The Big Leap campaign
Fundraising fun for the leap year in 2016

Competition & giveaway
Spot the difference to win a hairstyling session
The University is proud of its global community and connections, and in this edition of *bulletin* we talk to Vice-Principal International Professor James Smith about promoting internationalisation at Edinburgh.

On pages 12–13 we find out more about the ways that teaching excellence is being encouraged and celebrated to ensure that our students receive an unforgettable learning experience.

This edition also unveils the exciting refurbishment plans for St Cecilia’s Hall, home to one of the world’s most important musical instrument collections (pages 10–11) and the latest developments at the University’s commercialisation arm, Edinburgh Research and Innovation Ltd (pages 14–15).

From becoming the first institution in Scotland to hold a Silver Athena SWAN Award for its commitment to gender equality to discovering a new species of ancient mammals, the impressive achievements being made by our staff are highlighted in this edition’s news pages.

Keep up to date with the latest staff news at [www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff) or follow [@EdinUniStaff](https://twitter.com/EdinUniStaff) on Twitter.

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The University’s Talbot Rice Gallery’s latest exhibition, *Impulses Towards Life*, emphasises the reimagining of the human form in the last century. Based on the Edinburgh College of Art Collection, the exhibition includes early drawings by William McTaggart, John Bellany, Elizabeth Blackadder, Henry Moore and others, and is centred upon a work by Barbara Hepworth that has not been exhibited publicly for 65 years.

Until 19 December 2015, Talbot Rice Gallery, Old College.

[www.ed.ac.uk/talbot-rice](http://www.ed.ac.uk/talbot-rice)
Iconic Kelpies on campus

Following a world tour, the three metre-high maquettes of The Kelpies, the rearing heads of two Clydesdale horses, arrived in Old College Quadrangle in October.

The maquettes have been on display in New York’s Bryant Park, Chicago’s Grant Park, and at last year’s Ryder Cup in Gleneagles. The versions are an exact 1:10 replica of the 30 metre-high sculptures created by artist Andy Scott located at Falkirk’s Helix Parkland.

Professor Mary Bownes, Vice-Principal Community Development, said: “Since the official opening in 2014, The Kelpies have become one of the country’s most iconic landmarks, and we are very grateful to Falkirk Council for allowing us to provide the miniature versions a home this autumn. We are sure students, staff and the wider community will thoroughly enjoy these impressive new additions to the University campus.”

The maquettes have now moved to the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at Easter Bush where they will stay until the end of November.

University rankings

Edinburgh has been ranked 24th university in the world in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015 – rising by 12 places from last year when it took 36th place.

Earlier in the year Edinburgh was ranked 29th in the Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings 2015, which provides a definitive list of the top 100 most powerful global university brands. It is the first time that the University has reached the top 30 in this ranking.

Edinburgh was placed 21st in the QS World University Rankings 2015, and is consistently ranked as one of the world’s top 50 universities.
Gender equality award

Edinburgh has achieved a prestigious Silver Institution award from the Athena SWAN initiative for its promotion of gender equality. It is one of only seven institutions in the UK, and the first in Scotland, to hold this higher level of award.

Athena SWAN is a national scheme that recognises a commitment to supporting women’s careers in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine in higher education.

Professor Jane Norman, Vice-Principal People & Culture, said: “This award is a tribute to the hard work of the many staff (both male and female) in putting strategies in place to support gender equality, and the genuine institutional commitment to this endeavour.”

The University is one of the original members of the Athena SWAN Charter, launched in 2005. It holds sixteen Departmental Athena SWAN awards: ten Bronze, five Silver and one Gold.

Enhancing equality and widening participation is outlined in the University’s Strategic Plan 2012–16 as a key strategic theme.

www.ed.ac.uk/equality-diversity

Annual book and drama prizes announced

The James Tait Black Prizes have been awarded annually by the University since 1919. The winner of this year’s fiction prize, In the Light of What We Know (Picador) by Zia Haider Rahman, and the winner of the biography prize, The Valley: A Hundred Years in the Life of a Yorkshire Family by Richard Benson (Bloomsbury), were both highly praised on their release in spring 2014.

Britain’s oldest book awards were extended to include a new category for drama in 2012. Brooklyn-based playwright and bestselling sci-fi novelist, Gordon Dahlquis, won the 2015 drama prize for his play Tomorrow Come Today, set in the near future where the wealthy are able to prolong life by switching their bodies for healthier ones.

www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black

Update on Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill

A Parliamentary Committee is reviewing the Scottish Government’s draft legislation which proposes changes to the way universities are governed.

The University has put in a written submission to the Committee outlining its concerns, in particular, in relation to the new powers that would be granted to Scottish Ministers and the potential adverse knock-on effects on the University’s institutional and academic autonomy. Parliament is expected to conclude its consideration of the Bill early in the New Year.

www.ed.ac.uk/equality-diversity

Bringing Bollywood to Edinburgh

The University welcomed Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan in October. The hugely popular and influential actor received an honorary degree in recognition of his global reach as an actor and his philanthropic work, and also gave a sell-out live-streamed public lecture at the University’s New College.

“It is a pleasure to be honoured by the University of Edinburgh and tread in the footsteps of so many of the world’s illustrious thinkers, leaders and personalities. To have the opportunity to address one of the most esteemed educational institutions in the world is a special moment,” said Mr Khan.

Watch videos of Shah Rukh Khan’s visit: www.ed.ac.uk/news/2015/151005-shahrukhkhan1
Work of Alan Turing Institute begins

The University has been closely involved as the work of the Alan Turing Institute – a UK research venture promoting the development of advanced mathematics, computer science, algorithms and big data for human benefit – gets underway.

In October, Professor Andrew Blake, a graduate and former computer science researcher at Edinburgh, became Director of the Institute. Also, the Institute organised a Data Summit on Credit Risk at the University’s Business School, inviting practitioners and academics to discuss the challenges of using ‘big data’ for all aspects of credit risk.

Among the first projects to be undertaken by the Institute is an Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) project on ARCHER, the UK’s largest supercomputer for scientific research, which is housed at the University of Edinburgh.

The Alan Turing Institute is headquartered at the British Library, and involves the Universities of Edinburgh, Cambridge, Oxford, University College London, Warwick and the EPSRC.

The Institute is being funded over five years with £42 million from the UK government. The university partners are contributing £5 million each, totalling £25 million. In addition, Lloyd’s Register Foundation has become the Institute’s first strategic partner, with £10 million of research funding.

Guidance for the academic promotions process

To support the academic promotions process, the University has undertaken a programme of review of the forms and guidance available to ensure they are clear and usable, and respond to all areas of the academic role, including teaching, research and management.

Professor Helen Bond, recently promoted to a Personal Chair in Christian Origins, said of the new process: “There is a lot of guidance available, such as the Exemplars of Excellence documents which encourage you to think about what you have achieved and how to evidence it.”

Find out more about the academic promotions process:
www.ed.ac.uk/human-resources/pay-reward

awards round-up

Sport & Exercise gets gold

University of Edinburgh Sport & Exercise has achieved a prestigious Investors in People (IIP) Gold accreditation.

IIP is the most successful framework for business improvement through people in the UK. Achieving the Gold level of accreditation puts Sport & Exercise in the top seven per cent of all IIP Accredited clients.

www.ed.ac.uk/sport

Careers Service success

The University Careers Service has been awarded the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services Award for Excellence for Employer Engagement 2015.

This award is given to the university that best demonstrates an effective partnership with one or more named employers and/or for engaging employers with the work of the careers service. The aim is to improve the employability of students or graduates.

www.ed.ac.uk/careers

Creating a greener campus

A University project aiming to repair and re-use more old computers and used domestic appliances was shortlisted for Best Public Sector Initiative at the Scottish Resources Conference 2015.

This achievement is part of a wider effort at Edinburgh to encourage sustainable management of resources, which has successfully seen the University reduce the amount of its office waste sent to landfill to zero.

www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability

Nursery is ‘best education building’

The University’s Arcadia Nursery has shared the Best Education Building prize in the Scottish Design Awards.

The nursery, designed by Malcolm Fraser Architects, triumphed against competition from schools, playgrounds and other education projects. The nursery shared the top prize with Glasgow School of Art’s Reid Building.

The Scottish Design Awards judges praised Arcadia Nursery as a ‘holistic response’ to children’s needs.

www.arcadianursery.co.uk

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Find out more about the academic promotions process:
www.ed.ac.uk/human-resources/pay-reward
The latest academic studies by staff are helping advance our understanding of science, medicine and the arts.

Low income link with alcohol and tobacco

Scotland’s most deprived areas have more alcohol and tobacco shops than wealthier parts of the country, a University study suggests. These deprived neighbourhoods have higher rates of death and ill health caused by alcohol and tobacco use than more affluent areas.

Researchers used alcohol licensing data and a tobacco retail register to calculate the density of outlets. Links with deprivation were assessed using figures from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, which show the proportion of people receiving means-tested benefits and other government support.

The team hope that the study, a collaboration with the University of Glasgow and funded by the Scottish Collaboration for Public Health Research and Policy, will help influence policymakers on the supply of alcohol and tobacco in Scotland.

“We need to alter the environments in which people live, including restricting the availability of these products. Failing to tackle a broader set of factors, including retail environments, may exacerbate health inequalities,” said Dr Niamh Shortt, Senior Lecturer in Human Geography at the University.

Winning team secure bid for new Centre for Tissue Repair

Thanks to the efforts of two University professors, a £10.7 million Centre for Tissue Repair for medical research is being established.

The Centre for Tissue Repair bid was led by the Medical Research Council Centre for Regenerative Medicine Director Professor Charles ffrench-Constant and Associate Director Professor Stuart Forbes.

The new Centre will discover and deliver new therapies to repair tissue damage caused by disease and injury. It will also develop advanced imaging and sensor technologies that will enable scientists to view and measure tissue regeneration in real-time. The backing is part of a £25.7 million funding boost by the UK government, which will also see the creation of laboratory space for 350 biologists (£14.9 million).

For Professor ffrench-Constant, the benefits of the win are clear: “The two bids complement each other extremely well and I am confident it will create many cross-over opportunities for scientists and clinicians working on tissue repair, regenerative medicine, epigenetics and synthetic biology.”

Professor Stuart Forbes added: “The Centre for Tissue Repair builds upon world-leading research in stem cells and regenerative medicine, inflammation, and scarring to develop new therapies for currently incurable diseases. It will further enhance the unique research environment at the Little France campus. It is a truly exciting time for researchers and clinicians here in Edinburgh.”

Edinburgh researchers are using mathematical algorithms to create three-dimensional simulations of cancers developing over time. They studied how tumours begin with one rogue cell which multiplies to become a malignant mass containing many billions of cells.

The team found that movement and turnover of cells in a tumour allows those that are well suited to the environment to flourish. Any one of these can take over an existing tumour, replacing the original mass with new cells quickly – often within several months. This helps explain why tumours are comprised mostly of one type of cell, whereas healthy tissue tends to be made up of a mixture of cell types.

However, this mechanism does not entirely mix the cells inside the tumour, the team say. This can lead to parts of the tumour becoming immune to certain drugs, which enables them to resist chemotherapy treatment. Those cells that are not killed off by treatment can quickly repopulate the tumour as it regrows. Researchers say treatments that target small movements of cancerous cells could help to slow progress of the disease.

Dr Bartlomiej Waclaw, of the University’s School of Physics & Astronomy, who is the lead author of the study, said: “Computer modelling of cancer enables us to gain valuable insight into how this complex disease develops over time and in three dimensions.”

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Body clock cells identified in sheep

Cells that control animals’ seasonal body clocks have been identified for the first time by Edinburgh researchers. Specialised cells in the pituitary gland respond according to how much daylight there is, and help animals’ bodies adapt to the changing seasons. The activity of the cells changes dramatically throughout the year, with different proteins being produced during winter and summer months.

The three-year study, published in the journal Current Biology, was carried out in collaboration with the University of Manchester and funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. It shows that switching between proteins drives the seasonal body clock in sheep and other mammals. Until now, it was not known how animals changed the genetic make-up of their bodies to suit the seasons. The team say a similar body clock exists in other animals, and humans.

“The seasonal clocks found in sheep is likely to be the same in all vertebrates, or at least, contains the same parts list. The next step is to understand how our cells record the passage of time,” said Professor Dave Burt of the University’s Roslin Institute.

What I’m discovering

Professor Sharon Abrahams, Personal Chair in Neuropsychology, investigates the effects of brain changes on thinking and behaviour in people with neurodegenerative diseases.

“As a clinical neuropsychologist I have studied matters of the mind for 25 years. My work has focused specifically on people living with motor neurone disease, which was commonly thought to affect the system controlling movement exclusively. However, my team’s work has contributed to showing that a large number of people will experience changes in cognition and behaviour in addition to progressive physical disability. These symptoms correspond to changes in the brain in the frontal lobes, which we have demonstrated using advanced imaging techniques.

“In its extreme form people can suffer from frontotemporal dementia, characterised by marked changes in behaviour. Other people may suffer from subtle changes with poor performance on neuropsychological tests of higher order ‘executive functions’ involved in planning, decision making, generating words and changes in language. We have investigated and designed tests which can detect these brain changes efficiently, such as a test of fluency where people think of words beginning with a given letter, for instance, M… ‘mind, matters, motor…’

“My team has also designed a screening measure to help assess the cognitive status of people with motor neurone disease attending clinic, which is now used across countries to help identify the needs of the individual and provide appropriate support.”

making headlines

Edinburgh music scene census

The UK’s first census of live music events, carried out by Edinburgh researchers, found that 44 per cent of the capital’s musicians who were interviewed said noise restrictions had affected their gigs. Currently, amplified music has to be inaudible in neighbouring buildings. However, experts are recommending an alternative policy that ensures live music shows meet certain decibel levels. The Edinburgh Live Music Census took place over one day in June and provided a snapshot of how many gigs had taken place, in which venues, and the economic impact of the performances. It showed that live music is worth at least £40 million a year to the capital.

Fossil of ancient mammals found

A new fossil find is giving scientists clues about an ancient group of animals that thrived when dinosaurs died out. University researchers working in New Mexico have identified a previously unknown species from a group of small mammals that resemble today’s rodents. These mammals, known as Kimbetopsalis simmonsae, survived the events that led to the extinction of dinosaurs.

New heart attack test

The Times, The Scotsman, The Herald and other UK newspapers reported on a new blood test developed by Edinburgh researchers that could rule out heart attack in people with chest pain, reducing hospital costs. The test measures blood levels of a protein called troponin that is released by damaged heart cells. The higher the level of troponin present, the more likely it is that a person has had, or is going to have, a heart attack. The study analysed troponin levels in the blood of more than 6,000 patients admitted to four hospitals in Scotland and the United States.
We have a very large international student and staff population, which is really significant in terms of diversity and cultural interest on the campus.
Inspiring internationalisation

Vice-Principal International James Smith shares his vision of internationalisation for the University with Sarah Lincoln.

What are the key areas of internationalisation at Edinburgh?
There are three important areas: Firstly, creating partnerships between Edinburgh and other universities around the world, with the private sector, and also in emerging areas, such as South East Asia and Africa. Secondly, internationalisation of the community. We have a very large international student and staff population, which is really significant in terms of diversity and cultural interest on the campus. And thirdly, promoting mobility by encouraging our students to become more international: for example, by spending a summer working abroad or a year of a degree in another university environment.

What does your role as Vice-Principal International involve?
Internally, it’s about helping the University community to think more strategically about what internationalisation means, how we can support it, and how we can celebrate it. Externally, it’s about helping the University think through which parts of the world we should be focusing on, which sort of international partners will generate transformative change, and where we see ourselves in 10, 15, 20 years’ time as one of the world’s most global universities, making a positive global impact.

Please give some examples of internationalisation projects.
The Global Academies are really interesting. Each Academy is focused on a grand challenge facing the world: development, environment, health, and justice. These academies have created spaces in which experts can collaborate across the breadth of the University. Sometimes it can be difficult to break college, school and disciplinary boundaries and one way to do it is to set up ambitious global problem-focused entities in which people can come together to work.

Another good example is the online distance learning that the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine has been leading in Africa and elsewhere. This has been important in recognising that not everybody in the world has the means to spend a year doing a masters here. For certain people, such as mid-career professionals in medicine, veterinary medicine and applied sciences, online distance learning means they can maintain their jobs, family life and responsibilities while interacting with scientists here as well as a virtual learning community. It pushes us to think about how we can create more flexible ways of teaching and learning that speak to the needs of students around the world today and tomorrow.

How can staff be more international in the way they work?
Many academic staff members at Edinburgh have an international network and attend international conferences, so they are fundamentally international in everything they do. We’ve been trying to cluster together events in, for example, India, China and Hong Kong so that academics from different disciplines who happen to be in the same part of world at the same time can meet up, and attend a wider series of events as part of a ‘pop up’ microcosm of the University. This can give staff a broader sense of what the University is and what it encompasses, as well as underlining the various ways we engage around the world.

Tell us about the other part of your University life.
I’ve been based in the Centre for African Studies for the majority of my time at Edinburgh. It’s quite a small Centre but it’s very interdisciplinary and international. We strive to build strong partnerships across the continent and try and support African students to come and study at Edinburgh. So, in many ways, my past work as Director of the Centre is what gave me the interest in the Vice-Principal International role.

Why is internationalisation important to you?
I have to say that the one thing that defined my career and world view was forcing myself at age 22 to go and study abroad in South Africa and then ending up living and working there for a while in the development sector. That’s why I’m really passionate about the transformative power of global mobility and internationalisation. It shaped me.

How do you juggle your Vice-Principal and academic roles?
I spend three days a week as Vice-Principal International and two days on my research. I’m leading on a large project looking at how we research and control zoonotic disease in Africa. Sometimes I might go on a trip to Africa on behalf of the University and also be able to conduct some of my own research while there. I’m also very lucky in that I have a really good team of postdoctoral and PhD students who push the project forward in my relative absence.

Why do you enjoy working at the University?
Every day is different and you have the ability to pursue your interests, whether they are in teaching, research or playing a role in shaping the University. I think the diversity and opportunity is fantastic. The opportunities to travel, to think and to be creative as an academic are amazing and I think there are not many other careers where you have that luxury.

www.ed.ac.uk/edinburgh-global
Building our musical heritage

As work gets underway to transform St Cecilia’s Hall into a centre for excellence for historic musical instruments, Kathryn Dunlop finds out more about the Hall’s fascinating history and the ambitious refurbishment plans ahead.

Amid the many watering holes that stud the Old Town’s atmospheric lanes lies one of Edinburgh’s most remarkable buildings.

Built in 1763, St Cecilia’s Hall is Scotland’s oldest purpose-built concert venue. Situated in the heart of the Cowgate, it was originally commissioned by the Edinburgh Musical Society and was designed by architect Robert Mylne.

Since its construction, the Georgian building has been many things – a traditional concert venue, a masonic lodge and a popular dance hall in the 1940s and 50s.

Now part of the University of Edinburgh, the Hall has most recently been home to one of the world’s most important collections of historical musical instruments. Its unique oval-shaped auditorium has also provided the stage for numerous classical concerts.

This year the venue closed its doors to begin a £6.5 million redevelopment to preserve and reinvigorate the building and its rich musical heritage.

The fresh design aims to make the building more accessible. It will create a new entrance facing the Royal Mile, while sympathetically restoring its historic frontage.

The Hall’s three galleries will be refurbished to provide a fitting home for more than 800 musical items from the 5,500 in the St Cecilia’s Hall and Reid Concert Hall collections, which will be housed together for the first time.

One of the many aims of the project is to encourage the study of these collections.

“They are musical instruments and works of art in their own right,” says Jacky MacBeath, Head of Museums and Deputy Head of the Centre for Research Collections at the University.

“Our collection spans 500 years and each instrument offers a unique insight into the culture of the people who created and used it. By offering access to these wonderful objects, we hope to engage and inspire researchers in any field, whether they are studying music theory, art history, literature, economic history or anthropology.”

The instruments originate from all over the world, including a much-treasured hand-painted 18th-century French harpsichord, a 19th-century Chinese flat drum and a 1699 Italian archlute – a large stringed instrument that resembles a guitar with an elongated neck.

St Cecilia’s Hall will re-open in autumn 2016 with a wide-ranging programme combining an eclectic array of concerts – from amateurs and professionals, University groups and internationally renowned performers – with family events and lectures.

“St Cecilia’s Hall will be the centre for excellence for the display, study, performance and enjoyment of historic musical instruments, and we want the programme to reflect this ambition. Visitors to the museum will be immersed in the sounds of our instruments, so no two visits will be the same,” Jacky explains.

The University has partnered with Edinburgh College and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra to record musicians playing instruments from the collection. These recordings will be used for audio guides and have been carefully selected to capture sounds of instruments that people may not have heard before.

The team is also working on an app to offer more information on the exhibits and to increase interactivity.

While the Hall is closed, the University is involved in numerous outreach projects. Experts regularly visit schools and
community groups throughout Scotland to talk about this unique collection, and many of the instruments have been showcased in exhibitions both on campus and internationally. Awareness-raising concerts are also being held by the Friends of St Cecilia’s Hall, an external organisation that raises funds for the venue.

Funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Dunard Fund, the Wolfson Foundation and Edinburgh World Heritage trust among others has given the project a significant boost. “This has been such a huge part of the success of the project,” says Jacky. “Over and above the financial backing, it is the day-to-day support that the organisations have offered that has been truly invaluable – partnership in the truest sense of the word.”

St Cecilia’s Hall is due to open officially in November 2016. Find out up-to-date news and information: www.stcecilias.ed.ac.uk

By offering access to these wonderful musical objects, we hope to inspire and embolden researchers in any field.

Become a part of St Cecilia’s story

Get involved
Has St Cecilia’s Hall’s story captured your imagination? If you would like to offer your time to support the project, there are a number of ways you can get involved, from volunteering at events to becoming a Friend.

St Cecilia’s memories
The University is building a bank of oral histories to create a full picture of St Cecilia’s Hall’s legacy. The team would love to hear from those who knew the building when it was a dance hall in the 1940s and 50s, and also when it returned to a concert hall in the 1960s. If you, or a friend or family member, have any memories to share from this time, please get in touch.

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We really want to generate a culture of high expectations around good teaching. It is an unambiguous priority.

Senior Vice-Principal Professor Charlie Jeffery
Teaching and learning excellence

The University has been committed since its foundation to high-quality teaching. Edd McCracken discovers more about its current plans to encourage and celebrate achievements in this area.

To this day the University’s approach to sharing knowledge and encouraging learning is recognised nationally and internationally. From the Royal Academy of Engineering – the body that accredits the training of engineers across the UK – adopting the University’s School of Engineering’s Exemplars of Teaching Excellence, to taking a global lead in developing Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), Edinburgh is awash with agenda-setting teaching.

The recent appointment of Senior Vice-Principal Professor Charlie Jeffery to oversee teaching and learning underlines the University’s ambition to prioritise, encourage and celebrate excellence in this area.

“We really want to generate a culture of high expectations around good teaching,” says Professor Jeffery. “We want that to be an emblem for the University. It is an unambiguous priority.”

“We have world-leading researchers doing the teaching, sharing discoveries with students and enabling those students to think about the process of discovery, encouraging them to make their own breakthroughs. Not every university can offer that because not every university has the distinction in research we have. I would like to see more reflection on how brilliant research can be a part of brilliant teaching.”

There are already several mechanisms that encourage such excellence, and more being developed. The promotions process is key. For example, this August, following consideration by the Central Academic Promotions Committee, the University promoted 40 employees to Personal Chairs. The Committee was pleased to see applicants present evidence of achievement in teaching, as well as other areas of the academic role.

Professor Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones, Personal Chair of Ancient Greek & Iranian Studies and Head of Classics, was promoted this year: “I have always viewed my career holistically, with a balance of teaching, research and management, and I have been really encouraged that the University recognises the importance of all these elements of the academic role in the promotions process.”

Annual reviews for staff will also have an increased focus on teaching, while new forums will be created for staff to share developments and teaching innovations. Individuals will be encouraged and supported to develop the quality of their teaching through professional development. The University’s Institute for Academic Development, for example, offers pathways to accreditation in teaching skills.

The latest National Student Survey (NSS) revealed an uplift in several areas. However, it also showed that some aspects of teaching and learning need support and development. Professor Jeffery is keen to point out that, while the NSS results and evaluation by the University’s students is “not where we want it to be”, there is a lot to celebrate.

Individuals continue to pick up teaching awards from professional associations, the annual Chancellor’s Award for Teaching uncovers a healthy glut of talent, and the Principal’s Teaching Awards Scheme supports innovation in the classroom.

And then there are the Edinburgh University Students’ Association (EUSA) Teaching Awards, which offer students the chance to celebrate those teachers that have inspired them. Nominees are sent badges, which are proudly displayed on lapels and office doors.

“The Awards have been a fantastic innovation,” says Professor Jeffery, himself recently shortlisted for the Best Course Award. “Allowing our students to specify what they think is good teaching is really important. The awards have had a tremendous effect across the University.”

Dr Lynne Copson (featured in this issue’s my nine-to-five on page 26), an Early Career Development Fellow in the School of Law, has felt that effect. She won Best Feedback at the EUSA Teaching Awards 2014/2015 and described winning as ‘a real highlight’ of her career to date. Dr Copson’s students appreciated her detailed feedback, which they felt helped them get the most out of their course.

Professor Jeffery has begun to have roadshow meetings around the University to hear directly from individuals teaching every day about what values they equate with quality teaching and how the University can best nurture them. Students are also being invited to input.

“I want this to be a conversation everyone has access to,” he says. “If we succeed in getting across this sense of high expectation and if we continue to develop the various distinctions and achievements we are seeing, I think we can continue to strengthen learning and teaching at the University, and at a more rapid pace than we’ve seen in the past.”

The University of Edinburgh staff magazine
Turning bright ideas into big business

As Edinburgh Research and Innovation Ltd celebrates a year of record-breaking achievement, Rob Tomlinson meets the Chief Executive Officer of the University’s commercialisation arm.

“The future looks bright…” That’s the upbeat view of Dr Pete Hotten (pictured left), the new man at the helm of Edinburgh Research and Innovation Ltd (ERI), which commercialises the world-class research and academic expertise at the University of Edinburgh.

And there is good reason to be optimistic – it has been another year of success for the team, with the news that a record number of companies was formed by the University over the past 12 months. It supported the formation of 44 companies, of which 41 were start-ups and three spin-outs – a total that supersedes the previous best of 40, five years ago.

Investment in University-founded companies has also hit a record high, with a total backing of £237.4 million invested in the past year. This level of activity demonstrates the impact that the University’s company formation activities, in which ERI plays a central role, can generate.

This all makes for a strong base for Dr Hotten from which to assess the future
direction of ERI, having taken over as interim Chief Executive Officer in the summer. “ERI has been remarkably successful across the many functions and services it provides the University of Edinburgh,” he says. “For example in the last financial year the ERI-based Research Support Office played a pivotal role in generating £305 million of research funding; the best year yet.”

Dr Hotten has more than 25 years of experience in starting and running companies as well as running technology transfer and spin-out activities from universities and government institutions. His goal at ERI is to maximise value for the shareholder, University of Edinburgh, by increasing the company’s focus on ‘industrial engagement (IE)’: the process of forming strategic partnerships where academia and industry create closer links for mutual interest.

“The key to maximising the benefits of industrial engagement lies in developing strategic partnerships in which both partners (universities and companies) not only understand each other’s skills, resources and capabilities but also how these attributes can be integrated so that both partners create a sustainable competitive advantage,” he says.

“Universities compete by having the best research credentials, providing the best student experience and being known globally as the place to go to. Companies create sustainable advantage by, for example, recruiting the most talented people and applying the new science, technology and business insights that emanate from academia.”

The new companies created by the University contributed more than £140 million to the Scottish economy each year, and helped to support a further 2,300 jobs, according to the independent consultancy BiGGAR Economics.

Since Edinburgh’s first recorded spin-out, Reynolds Medical, was established more than 40 years ago, the University has created more than 400 start-up and spin-out companies (see below panel for examples of recent commercial success).

“We are in a truly global competitive environment,” says Dr Hotten. “To provide the greatest value to shareholders ERI needs to focus on building its industrial engagement capability and in particular develop a strongly proactive and global operation. With its highly efficient business development and intellectual property commercialisation teams, in addition to its company formation skills, ERI has a strong nucleus from which to build; and this is exactly what it is going to do.

“The diversity of functions ERI currently supports will reduce as the focus on industrial engagement and commercialisation sharpens. ERI will work with other University units and teams that have globally recognised strengths; for example, the International Office, Business School, and Development & Alumni, as well as thematic areas of University research excellence such as ‘energy’ and ‘big data’.

“The combination of increasing in-house ERI industrial engagement skills, together with collaborating with other teams throughout the University, will result in an increasing number of global partnerships between the University and industry.”

With its highly efficient business development and intellectual property commercialisation teams, in addition to its company formation skills, ERI has a strong nucleus from which to build; and this is exactly what it is going to do.

Dr Pete Hotten

Find out more about ERI: www.research-innovation.ed.ac.uk

Edinburgh Research and Innovation Ltd’s recent commercial successes

pureLiFi – the company’s light-enabled internet technology, developed in the University’s School of Engineering, is being incorporated at the home of the Golden State Warriors basketball team in San Francisco. It has also been backed by the University’s venture investment arm, Old College Capital.

Krotos – was set up by sound design graduate Orfeas Boteas (pictured above right) and has developed Dehumaniser sound effects software for film, television and video games. It was recently used as the voice of the character Ultron in the latest Marvel’s Avengers: Age of Ultron movie.

FanDuel – the global leader in daily fantasy sports, with roots in the University’s School of Informatics, recently secured US$275 million of investment. FanDuel now joins travel search engine Skyscanner as Edinburgh’s second ‘Unicorn’ company – one worth more than US$1 billion.
The BIG leap
A new campaign is being launched to encourage staff, students and University friends and businesses to have fun while raising funds during the leap year in 2016. Gareth Overton finds out more.

This year, after a 365-day journey through space, the Earth will fall short of a complete circuit of the Sun by about half a million miles. We had the same problem last year and the year before.

So in 2016 the Gregorian calendar provides an extra day, so we can catch up and prevent the seasons slipping by about a month each century.

If the leap year can be considered to give us a bonus day – 24 hours in addition to the conventional year – then should we set that time aside and do something special with it?

The University is encouraging staff to do just that, with the Big Leap campaign. The Big Leap encourages people both inside and outside the University to do something extraordinary with their bonus day, by raising money for good causes while also having fun.

Staff are invited to take part in one of several events being organised by the University – including a firewalk, a charity ball and a cake bake that aims to set a world record – or to organise an event of their own choosing.

As a charity the University is putting forward six of its own projects that benefit the local community or wider society as suggested beneficiaries of the Big Leap. Staff can raise funds for these projects or for another charity of their own choice.

The six ‘spotlight’ causes offer a wide choice for staff, many of whom may have a personal reason for supporting one or other of them. They range from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Medicine, which has two animal hospitals and a farm animals veterinary practice, to the Hope Park Counselling Centre, which provides counselling services to the local community.

The six are: Access to Sport, the Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic, the Free Legal Advice Centre, the Hope Park Counselling Service, the Muir Maxwell Epilepsy Centre, and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

“The hope is that people who have never thought of charitable donations to their employer beyond an awareness of student bursaries will think ‘actually, free legal advice, active health, or animal welfare does mean something to me’,” says Gordon Cox, Head of Integrated Fundraising at the University.

The University is organising a series of mass-participation events, including a bid to set a Guinness World Record for the biggest cake bake – the most cakes ever made for a single fundraising cake sale. It will take place on the ‘leap day’ itself, 29 February, but other events take place throughout the year, and staff are encouraged to carry out fundraising on any date.

There will be a firewalk on 4 March where participants will receive two hours of training before walking across hot embers outside Teviot Row House, with proceeds going to University projects of participants’ choice. And for fundraisers who would prefer to risk blisters by dancing, the Edinburgh Emerald Ball will raise money for the Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic on 5 March.

Participants in the Edinburgh and London marathons, plus the annual Texas Scramble golf tournament in Ballater, Aberdeenshire, will devote their efforts to the Big Leap, and plans are in place for various additional events, including a abseil from one of the University’s tall buildings.

The Big Leap will be officially launched on ‘Giving Tuesday’, the growing global annual celebration of charitable giving, which falls on 1 December this year.

Support offered to those raising funds for University causes includes advice, online promotion and a fundraising pack, including sponsor forms. Stories of those dedicating their time to the Big Leap will be shared in a supporters’ section of the Big Leap web pages.

“If people can encourage friends and family to sponsor them and do something unique and fun, it can raise awareness and add up to a lot of money,” says Mr Cox. “It really will help people all around the world.”

Find out more and get involved:
www.ed.ac.uk/big-leap

If people can encourage friends and family to sponsor them and do something unique and fun, it can raise awareness and add up to a lot of money.

Gordon Cox

A new way to donate to a preferred charity: payroll giving

The University's payroll giving scheme enables staff to give to any charity, tax free. Money is deducted from an employee’s salary before tax is paid, so the donation includes money that would otherwise have gone to HM Revenue & Customs.

The University is aiming to raise the profile of payroll giving as it launches the Big Leap, and is aiming to gain Bronze or Silver accreditation from the Charity Aid Foundation, which would mean one per cent or five per cent of staff, respectively, giving to charity in this way.

www.ed.ac.uk/staff/giving
Research does not always travel in straight lines, but therein lies its interest.

I am an academic dermatologist and moved to Edinburgh in 2003 from the USA. I had been studying the role of the small molecule nitric oxide (NO) on the skin’s reaction to the ‘evils’ of sunlight, to see if this would give an insight into skin cancer development. The Nobel Prize for medicine in 1998 was awarded for the discovery of NO. At the time a growing number of effects of NO were being discovered and the NO synthase enzyme that makes it had been found in increased levels in skin after sun exposure.

In Pittsburgh, working with knock out mice that lacked NO synthase, I had published some interesting cellular effects of NO, and hoped to move this research into humans on my return to Scotland. Unfortunately, things did not go as I had expected. Working with Dr Megan Mowbray, a very able MD student, we found that we were unable to turn off NO release in human skin whichever way we blocked the NO synthase.

This was depressing stuff. Two years’ work had led to nothing, as we were unable to see what happened to skin in the absence of NO. We set about analysing why this was, and to our surprise, discovered that the skin contains large stores of NO, as stable oxidised forms. In the chemical conditions of the skin, ultraviolet radiation – as found in sunlight – can convert these back to NO. There was some satisfaction that we had worked out why our experiments hadn’t worked, but, initially, I am ashamed to admit, no realisation that this might be important.

At a meeting in Bregenz about six months later, I was talking over this data with colleagues, and the possibilities began to dawn on me. Maybe this mechanism might link sunlight and the skin with other aspects of physiology. Working with a succession of masters and PhD students, I have been able to show that irradiating human volunteers with ultraviolet A moves NO from its stores in the skin to the circulation, where it dilates blood vessels and lowers blood pressure.

High blood pressure is now the leading cause of premature death and disease in the world, so any steps that reduce it are immensely important. It is grudgingly accepted by the dermatology world that sunlight has some benefits, but these are all put down to vitamin D. We know for instance that people with high vitamin D levels have lower blood pressure, as do populations living closer to the equator. Blood pressure is lower in summer than winter. Unfortunately, taking vitamin D tablets has no effect on blood pressure, thus refuting any causal link between vitamin D synthesis and blood pressure control. This UV-skin-NO pathway suggests another mechanism by which sunlight may have health benefits.

Leading dermatologist at the University Dr Richard Weller has been making some interesting discoveries that could change our perception of the sun.
The story now has started to broaden. Colleagues in Australia, working with the knowledge that obesity is commoner and pre-diabetes is more severe in winter than summer, developed a mouse model of these conditions (known as metabolic syndrome). Using this, we showed that UV irradiation reduces metabolic syndrome in mice, that vitamin D plays no part in this, but that the UV-skin-NO pathway is again responsible.

Here in Edinburgh, with my own research group, we have found a new NO mediated immune regulating effect of NO in humans, which we are due to publish. We suspect this may also account for some of the anti-inflammatory effects of sunlight.

My clinical half of my life as a dermatologist involves giving patients advice on prevention of skin cancer by limiting sunlight exposure. My findings on a novel beneficial mechanism of the sun’s actions are at odds with the standard dermatology teaching about this. I have had to go back and look at the epidemiology of sunlight and all-cause mortality, realising that this is a far more important outcome measure than skin cancer alone, even though this has been the standard dermatology approach.

 Remarkably, there is no worthwhile data showing that sunlight exposure shortens life, although undoubtedly it is a risk factor for skin cancer. Several epidemiological studies from Scandinavia now show that increased sun-seeking behaviour correlates with increased life span – even at the expense of more skin cancers.

To find out what this means to our own UK population, I have teamed up with Dr Darren Shaw at the University’s Roslin Institute to analyse the UK Biobank data and find how sunlight exposure affects all cause mortality closer to home, which we hope to be publishing later this year.

This has been, and continues to be, a fascinating research journey. The frisson of a slightly controversial message seems to catch the public interest and I have found myself giving talks for TED, the BBC, and even the Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. These certainly feel a little different to the usual medical conference.

The breadth and depth of research going on in Edinburgh mean that I have been able to rapidly scale up what started as a project focused on keratinocyte behaviour into a much broader collaborative effort, working with chemists, immunologists, epidemiologists, obstetricians and cardiologists among others. With a mechanism and some promising epidemiology under my belt, I have now got funding from the British Heart Foundation to start a clinical trial on the use of daily UV as a treatment for high blood pressure.

Let’s see what the official public health advice will be on sunlight ten years from now.

The frisson of a slightly controversial message seems to catch the public interest.

Dr Richard Weller is a Senior Lecturer in Dermatology at the University of Edinburgh.
Since opening to the public in 1975, the Talbot Rice Gallery has built a strong reputation for harnessing the talent, knowledge and research that exists within the University.

At the same time it has sought to maximise opportunities for wider audiences to enjoy, debate and be inspired by local and international contemporary art.

As the gallery celebrates its 40th anniversary, we look at some of the exciting, eclectic and intriguing exhibitions and events held there in recent years.

Get involved

To hear about future events at the gallery, please send us your details and we'll add you to our email list.

Email: info.talbotrice@ed.ac.uk

Find out more about the gallery:

www.ed.ac.uk/talbot-rice
photo story

1 Anton Henning (2011).
2 James Cumming (2011).
4 Live performance.
5 Transmitted Live: Nam June Paik Resounds (2013).
7 accepting anything among everything (2015), Hanne Darboven.
9 Transmitted Live: Nam June Paik Resounds (2013).
10 A Fortunate Space, Steven Anderson (2015), Live Performance.
12 False Memory Archive (2014), A R Hopwood.
Three new Assistant Principals recently took up posts to lead on specific aspects of building the student experience.

Professor Lesley McAra, Chair of Penology and former Head of the School of Law, has been made Assistant Principal Community Relations. Her areas of responsibility in this new role are to provide academic leadership in the field of social responsibility and to co-ordinate and further develop opportunities for community engagement and experiential learning.

Professor Allan Murray, Chair of Neural Electronics in the School of Engineering, has been made Assistant Principal Academic Support. His role will be to lead on developing academic support services across the institution, including the Personal Tutor system.

Professor Susan Rhind, Chair of Veterinary Education in the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, has been made Assistant Principal Assessment & Feedback. She will lead on developing strategies to improve the timeliness and quality of feedback across the University.

All three posts commenced in October and are due to run for an initial period of three years until the end of July 2018.

Assistant Principals are responsible for progressing the University’s strategic objectives and developing University policy in specific areas. The University Court designates them on the recommendation of the Principal.

The University has honoured three members of staff with Chancellor’s Awards for their teaching and research excellence.

Dr Angus Bancroft, Professor Brian Walker and Louise Horsfall were congratulated by the Chancellor, HRH The Princess Royal, at a gala dinner held at the Palace of Holyrood House.

The Award for Teaching was given to Dr Angus Bancroft, who is co-Director for Research Programmes in the Graduate School of Social & Political Science, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to innovative teaching, including peer learning, use of technology in the classroom and new forms of assessment.

Professor Brian Walker received the Rising Star Award, which honours early-career colleagues who demonstrate great potential. Louise was commended on her work in synthetic biology, ranging across research, industrial impact and postgraduate teaching.

Established in 2003, the Chancellor’s Awards reward staff in three categories for teaching, research and showing great potential in early career research.

www.ed.ac.uk/principals-office/assistant-principals

www.ed.ac.uk/chancellors-awards
Researcher is new Geographer Royal

Professor Charles Withers, who holds the Ogilvie Chair of Geography, has been appointed to the ancient post of Geographer Royal, which has been vacant for 118 years.

The world-leading historical and cultural geographer (pictured right) was awarded the title by HRH The Princess Royal at a ceremony at the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in Perth.

"I am honoured... but this honour is for geography. After a period in which the title of Geographer Royal for Scotland has lain in abeyance, the subject again has this recognition of its standing," said Professor Withers.

The Geographer Royal is a national and international ambassador for geography, helping to promote the subject in research, education and in society. It is the second oldest such honorific post in Scotland. The oldest is that of Her Majesty’s Historiographer Royal, which was created a year earlier in 1681.

In memoriam: Jeffrey Collins (1930–2015)

The College of Science & Engineering remembers Professor Jeffrey H Collins, electrical engineer and pioneer in analogue signal processing.

Jeff Collins was recruited to the University in 1970, bringing expertise in the field of surface acoustic wave (SAW) devices and securing significant financial support for the University.

The ultimate success of Collins’ early vision to establish signal processing at the University is still in evidence today. A 140-person joint research institute in signal and image processing between the University of Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt University remains the largest such research activity in the UK.

As Chair of the University’s Wolfson Microelectronics Institute (1977–84), he laid the foundations for it to become a spin-out company with 400 staff.

In 1981 Collins was one of the founding directors who helped to raise £10 million to set up Advent Technology Venture Capital Group to invest in established companies with high-tech products. In 1987, Collins moved to America to take up a position as the founding director of the Automation & Robotics Research Institute at the University of Texas at Arlington.

On returning to Scotland in 1991, the Professor chaired the University of Edinburgh’s Parallel Computing Centre (EPCC). The Centre attracted the UK National Supercomputing Service in 1994, a service EPCC still runs today.

Two Principal’s Medals awarded

Two members of staff have been named as winners of the 2015 Principal’s Medals.

Maire Cox, Communicator at the OPENspace Research Centre, received the Exceptional Service medal, in recognition of her notable contribution in raising the profile and enhancing the impact of academic research at the Edinburgh College of Art. She did this among non-academic audiences through an extraordinary level of personal commitment and initiative.

Dr Andrew Gardiner, Senior Lecturer at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, received the Service to the Community award in recognition of his innovation and practitioner skills in the field of public engagement and community outreach work. He provided veterinary services to the pets of homeless people in Edinburgh and offered students the opportunity to gain valuable experience in practicing their subject in the community.

The Principal’s Medals are one of the most important ways in which the University recognises both support and academic colleagues or current students who have made outstanding contributions to both the University and wider communities.

As well as the Principal’s Medals, there is also the Principal’s Teaching Award Scheme, which aims to encourage and support activities that will make a significant contribution to the enhancement of learning and teaching at the University, at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

www.ed.ac.uk/principals-office/principals-awards-medals
look & learn

From professional development to personal interest, the University offers a range of learning opportunities for staff.

Enhance your professional skills

The University’s Learning & Development Team has the professional expertise to support and work in partnership with you to plan, design, deliver and broker individual and team development.

There is a wide range of opportunities available, including workshops, webinars, and one-to-one and team development, which are open to all staff across the University. We recommend exploring the most appropriate options with your line manager.

We have expertise in topics including communicating and working with people, leadership and management, change and annual review.

Let us help you unlock your potential.

www.ed.ac.uk/hr/learning-development

Support for academic staff

As teachers, researchers, leaders and communicators, academic staff balance many challenging roles and responsibilities. The Institute for Academic Development (IAD), along with other University support services, Colleges and Schools, provides a wide range of staff development workshops, online resources and other support to help colleagues meet these challenges.

Our Continuing Professional Development Framework for Learning & Teaching offers a number of routes to Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. This includes options tailored to different points in an academic career, with the flexibility to respond to disciplinary differences, individual interests and priorities. Our website includes online resources, staff networks (for example, Online Distance Learning Community of Practice) and workshops linked to specific roles (lecturer, tutor, demonstrator, course organiser, personal tutor). We offer workshops and resources for early career staff, alongside briefing events and guidance for doctoral supervisors and principal investigators.

We work with Schools to develop bespoke versions of IAD courses and can provide materials and advice for local training sessions. We offer funding, fellowships and secondments for staff wishing to dig deeper into specific areas of learning, teaching, research and curriculum development.

Further information on the training and support offered to staff in their learning, and teaching and research roles: www.ed.ac.uk/staff/teaching-staff

More information about IAD support for staff and students: www.ed.ac.uk/iad

Learn online with a MOOC

The University of Edinburgh offers a range of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) – freely accessible and open-licensed short courses delivered to large cohorts of learners fully online.

More than 1.5 million people have signed up to Edinburgh MOOCs in subjects ranging from music theory to the evolution of life, and they form part of the University’s commitment to knowledge exchange and community outreach.

Find out about studying a MOOC: www.ed.ac.uk/moocs

For advice on making a MOOC, email: online.learning@ed.ac.uk
Get connected with our mentoring programme

The University’s Mentoring Connections programme provides all staff with time and space to meet with a mentor/mentee to talk through a variety of career-related issues, such as work-life balance or promotion paths.

We offer matching across the University and aim to match mentees with mentors who are one grade above and who work in a broadly similar field. We also provide training and guidance to all matched participants.

The closing date for the next round of applications is Friday 18 December, 2015. Matching will happen in January 2016, and all applicants will be contacted then.

Find out more information on the requirements, application and time commitments: www.ed.ac.uk/hr/mentoring-connections or email: mentoring@ed.ac.uk

Innovative learning

Innovative Learning Week (ILW) is a week-long festival which inspires, supports and celebrates creative learning at the University. ILW encourages staff and students to collaborate and explore their teaching and learning experience in a new way. Under the theme of Ideas in Play, this year’s programme runs from 15 to 19 February, 2016.

Since it started, ILW has hosted more than 1,000 events across the University including the student-led TEDx University of Edinburgh, the Smart Data Hack and a Maths’ Makers Fair.

More information or get involved: www.ed.ac.uk/innovative-learning

Kick-start next year with a short course

The short courses we offer at the University’s Office of Lifelong Learning are as diverse as the people who enrol on them, and the tutors who teach them. We create a vibrant learning environment, and one which thousands of members of the public, University staff and students participate in every year.

With starting points in January, April and July, and a wide range of study options and progression routes, we reflect the diversity and ambition of the University as a centre for public engagement.

For 2015/16, our subject areas include Art and Design, Creative Writing, Science and Nature, Psychology, Philosophy, Politics, Literature, History, Music and, through Languages for All, we offer the greatest number of foreign languages of any institution in the country.

Here are just some of the courses starting in January 2016:

Vampire Fiction; Español Actual; Contemporary Sculpture at the Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop; Animated Cinema; Russian 1:1; Ten Centuries of Classical Music; Thinking Through Film.

Our short courses are taught by expert teachers, researchers and award-winning practitioners from all over the world. In addition to using the University’s own facilities, we are proud to offer courses with partner organisations including the National Museum of Scotland, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Filmhouse, Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop and Historic Scotland.

A discount scheme is in place for University staff and students.

Find out more information: www.ed.ac.uk/short-courses

To subscribe to the Short Courses mailer, email: oll@ed.ac.uk
I’m a member of academic staff in Criminology based in the School of Law. In a nutshell, my job involves teaching undergraduate and postgraduate taught students undertaking a variety of criminology courses, doing the administration that goes along with that and conducting my own research.

I’m responsible for a full-year honours course in gender and justice, which is also double-streamed, so that takes up the biggest proportion of my teaching time. I’m co-Director of the University’s Centre for Law & Society, and am involved in finalising our seminar programme for the year. I’m also working on writing a book exploring the concept of harm and finishing writing a book chapter which looks at utopianism and public engagement – all of which is keeping me quite busy.

During semester time, I spend a good chunk of time dealing with students either face-to-face or via email. All year round, I deal with academic colleagues and professional services staff largely within the School of Law but, equally, every so often something comes up which takes me outside the School.

Generally, my day starts with a cup of coffee on my walk into work and I spend the first hour either reading or preparing for teaching or marking (depending on what I’ve got on) before checking my emails. Then, the day will usually be some combination of reading, writing, teaching and marking (not necessarily all at once)! On Thursday afternoons I can quite often be found attending seminars and I try to keep Fridays free for research and writing, but other than that, although the days can feel quite similar they’re rarely exactly the same.

I joined the University in August 2011 as a Teaching Fellow and have been in my current role since February 2014. Without a doubt, the people are the thing I enjoy most about working here. This was my first academic post and I’ve been really lucky in being surrounded by a group of very supportive and encouraging colleagues. I also think we have fantastic students and working with them is a real pleasure.

Winning the Edinburgh University Students’ Association Teaching Award for Best Feedback 2014/15 was a real highlight for me.

I get a lot of satisfaction from the interaction I have with students and from getting to watch them graduate. It’s very rewarding seeing someone realise their full potential and thinking that you might, in some small way, have helped them to achieve that by giving them the tools to enable them to do so. The nicest thing is when parents come up to you at graduation because a student wants you to meet them as they feel that you’ve had a positive effect on their experience.

Get organised…

Desk: organised or a beautiful mess?
It varies between the two – starts off organised, descends into a beautiful mess so I tidy it and the whole process starts again!

Routine, or take it as it comes?
I’m a routine person stuck in a take-it-as-it-comes body.

Are you a list person?
I try to be.

Daily staples?
Coffee and fizzy water.

Favourite lunch spots?
Spoon, Dovecot Café, the Potting Shed and Tapame.

...and now relax

Favourite pastimes?
Going to the cinema, reading and travelling.

Best time of year, and why?
Spring – the days are getting longer, it’s warm (hopefully!) but not too hot, and you’ve still got the whole year ahead of you.

Perfect Sunday afternoon?
A pub lunch with friends, then a board game or pub quiz.

Ideal holiday?
A city-break somewhere warm with plenty of history and culture to indulge in.

Dr Lynne Copson is an Early Career Development Fellow whose research interests lie in crime, harm and justice. She won the Best Feedback Award in the Edinburgh University Students’ Association Teaching Awards 2014/2015. Here she shares her day.
competition

Can you spot the difference?
The prize on offer in this edition is an Electric Style Experience plus a friend at Electric Hairdressing Edinburgh, based in Harvey Nichols in St Andrew Square.

To enter, compare the illustration on the right to the one on the left. You’re looking for five differences. Circle each one and send us your entry no later than 7 December 2015 to the address on page 2.

Correct entries will be entered in a draw and the winner will be selected at random.
In every edition of *bulletin* we highlight a piece of history from the University of Edinburgh Library and Collections.

**Civitates Orbis Terrarum**

This image of Parma is taken from the *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*, a city atlas edited by the geographer Georg Braun and engraved by the painter Franz Hogenberg between 1572 and 1617. This fantastic work contains 546 prospects, bird’s-eye views and maps of cities from all over the world. The images also record domestic life during the period: figures in local dress were added to the maps, along with heraldic coats of arms, rural and urban scenes, public buildings and pictures of land and water transport.

The image is included in the *Library and University Collections Calendar, October 2015 to December 2016*, available from the University’s Main Library help desk, Centre for Research Collections reception (6th floor of the Library), Visitor Centre and Blackwells.

[www.collections.ed.ac.uk](http://www.collections.ed.ac.uk)